

Underline 4 - Select 5 - Essential points - Point Wise - First draft (Word count)  
English (Grammar & Composition) note / compartmental - Second draft (Word count)

## SOLVED PRÉCIS FROM PREVIOUS PAPERS

5 times read!

### Précis 1: CSS 2022

2: Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: - grammar - sequence - language - neat (20)

The fear of human being when faced with the mysteries of life and their weakness by comparison with the vastness of nature created in them a need to communicate with the divine. With the supervisor powers which they believed regulated the universe and determined their own fates. Knowledge for wishes of the gods was always a sure guide for human behavior. In ancient Greece, the precise nature of these wishes was 'decoded' by the art of giving oracles, practiced by soothsayers who had the gift of understanding the sings or signals sent by the gods. 94

The soothsayers uttered their oracles by interpreting flashes of lightening, rolls of thunder or the flights of certain birds of prey (omens), alternatively, they might observe the direction in which the fire burned when a sacrifice was made, examine the entrails of animals which had just been scarified, or base judgments on the sacrificial beast's willingness to approach the altar. The interpretation of dreams was popular too, and so was palmistry. The most notable soothsayers of ancient Greece were Tarsiers, Calchas, Helenus, Amphioxus and Cassandra. 180

However, there were abundant instances in which the gods did not manifest themselves to the faithful in the forms of signs but spoke directly to an intermediate who for a short time was overcome by a 'divine mania' and transcended his own human essence. Here the prophet - or more usually the prophetess - entered a state of ecstasy in which he or she delivered the message from the gods to the suppliants. 25

These practices for foreseeing the future were the basis on which the ancient Greek oracles operated. Each oracle was located within a properly - organized sanctuary and was directly associated with one or other of the gods. Apollo was the archetypal soothsayer for the Greeks, the god who was responsible for conveying to mortals the decisions pronounced by Zeus. The most important of all the oracles, that at the Delphi, delivered the message with the intervention of Apollo, while the oldest that of Dodona, functioned with the assistance of Zeus. 340

#### How to make précis? Procedure:

The following 4-steps detailed method / efficacious procedure may be adopted for making précis of the given passage. 2

**1. Reading & Compartmentalization:** First go through the passage carefully at least thrice and compartmentalize the whole précis by underlining sentences containing one idea/concept as shown below:

The fear of human being when faced with the mysteries of life and their weakness by comparison with the vastness of nature created in them a need to communicate with the divine. With the supervisor powers which they believed regulated the universe and determined their own fates. Knowledge for wishes of the gods was always a sure guide for human behavior. In ancient Greece, the precise nature of these wishes was 'decoded' by the art of giving oracles, practiced by soothsayers who had the gift of understanding the sings or signals sent by the gods. [1]

The soothsayers uttered their oracles by interpreting flashes of lightening, rolls of thunder or the flights of certain birds of prey (omens), alternatively, they might observe the direction in which the fire burned when a sacrifice was made, examine the entrails of animals which had just been scarified, or base judgments on the sacrificial beast's willingness to approach the altar. The interpretation of dreams was popular too, and so was palmistry. The most notable soothsayers of ancient Greece were Tarsiers,

linked to one of the gods. Apollo was the prominent god who used to convey to men the edicts of Zeus. The oracles of Delphi and Dodona functioned with the assistance of Apollo and Zeus respectively.

Total Words in Passage = 340

Words in prec = 121

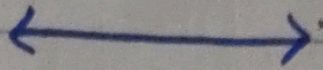
Title: Practices of Soothsayer in Ancient Greece

Final Draft

## Title: Practices of Soothsayers in Ancient Greece

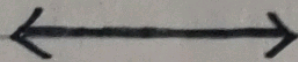
Man's fear for mysteries of life and universe led him to believe in super natural powers as regulators of universe and controller of his fate. It required knowledge of gods desires which was unearthed by the soothsayers, using signs. They used to interpret instances of lightning, thunder, bird movement, fire direction and those related to sacrificial animals. Moreover, the interpretation of dreams and palmistry were famous. Usually, the message of gods was delivered to people through prophets. In ancient Greece, each oracle was linked to one of the gods. Apollo was the prominent god who used to convey to men the edicts of Zeus. The oracles of

Delphi and Dodona functioned with the assistance of Apollo and Zeus respectively.



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leads) 2 Compare (4-5) 3 Pointwise dra-  
12 English (Grammar & Composition)  
delivered the message to  
students