

Q. 2. Write a précis of the following and suggest a suitable title:

(20)

The fear of human beings 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 superior powers which they believed regulated the universe and determined their own fates. Knowledge of 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 signs or signals sent by the gods.

The soothsayers uttered their oracles by interpreting flashes of lightning, 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 sacrificed, 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 Tiresias, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiaraus and Cassandra.

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.

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 messages with the intervention of Apollo, while the oldest that of Dodona, functioned with the assistance of Zeus.

Precis - 2022

Title : The Communication of Greeks with Their Gods

The vastness of universe compelled humans to communicate with the divine, who regulated the universe and controlled their fates. Human behavior was always guided by gods' wishes. In ancient Greece, soothsayers - by understanding signals sent by gods - used to convert gods' wishes into oracles. Practices such as, utterance of oracles, interpretation of dreams and palmistry, were used to decode gods' signals. Sometimes, gods used to convey their messages through prophets, when they were in divine mental state and the prophets then passed those messages forward. Greeks used these practices to predict future. Each oracle was associated with one god. Apollo was the soothsayer, who conveyed the message of Zeus to living beings.

Total words : 330

Precis Words : 112*

Q. 2. Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title:

(20)

On the question of freedom in education there are at present three main schools of thought, deriving partly from differences as to ends and partly from differences in psychological theory. There are those who say that children should be completely free, however bad they may be; there are those who say they should be completely subject to authority, however good they may be; and there are those who say they should be free, but in spite of freedom they should be always good. This last party is larger than it has any logical right to be; children, like adults, will not all be virtuous if they are all free. The belief that liberty will ensure moral perfection is a relic of Rousseauism, and would not survive a study of animals and babies. Those who hold this belief think that education should have no positive purpose, but should merely offer an environment suitable for spontaneous development. I cannot agree with this school, which seems to me too individualistic, and unduly indifferent to the importance of knowledge. We live in communities which require co-operation, and it would be utopian to expect all the necessary co-operation to result from spontaneous impulse. The existence of a large population on a limited area is only possible owing to science and technique; education must, therefore, hand on the necessary minimum of these. The educators who allow most freedom are men whose success depends upon a degree of benevolence, self-control, and trained intelligence which can hardly be generated where every impulse is left unchecked; their merits, therefore, are not likely to be perpetuated if their methods are undiluted. Education, viewed from a social standpoint, must be something more positive than a mere opportunity for growth. It must, of course, provide this, but it must also provide a mental and moral equipment which children cannot acquire entirely for themselves.

Précis - 2023

Title: Theories about Freedom in Education

There are three main theories regarding freedom in education. One demands absolute freedom, and other supports absolute control over children, irrespective of their moral standings. The first theory sets children free but ~~they should~~ demands their good moral character. Author finds this theory illogical, as moral perfection can not be achieved with full liberty. The only purpose of this approach, is to provide suitable environment for children's growth. According to author, this theory is individualistic and undermines the importance of knowledge. This approach is only successful in case of self control and intelligence, which is impossible if every impulse left unchecked. From societal lens, education must provide moral framework along with growth opportunities, that children can not achieve, by completely relying on themselves.

Total words: 311

Précis words: 104

Q. 2. Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: (20)

In the heart of bustling cities, urban green spaces stand as oases of tranquility, providing respite from the hustle and bustle. Parks, adorned with vibrant flora, become havens for relaxation and recreation. The greenery offers a sanctuary for diverse wildlife, creating a delicate balance between urban development and environmental preservation. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, city parks play a crucial role in fostering community bonds. Families gather for picnics, friends engage in sports, and individuals find solace amidst nature's embrace. These communal spaces serve as venues for cultural events, open-air concerts, and art installations, enriching the urban experience. The benefits of urban green spaces extend beyond leisure. They contribute to improved air quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and promote overall well-being. Access to nature within city limits becomes a vital aspect of mental health, offering a refuge for introspection and rejuvenation. However, the challenge lies in balancing the increasing urbanization with the preservation of green spaces. Sustainable urban planning becomes imperative to ensure the coexistence of concrete jungles and natural havens. Efforts to create and maintain parks, tree-lined avenues, and green rooftops become integral components of shaping cities that prioritize both human and environmental health. As cities evolve, the preservation and enhancement of urban green spaces become a shared responsibility. The vision is to cultivate urban landscapes that seamlessly integrate nature into the tapestry of city life, fostering a sustainable and harmonious cohabitation between human progress and the environment.

Precis - 2024

Title: Urban Green Spaces: Benefits and Challenges

Urban green spaces not only boast human creativity but also serve as a break from monotonous city life. Along with, protecting wildlife, parks give a pleasant visual appeal. These communal spaces strengthen community bonds between families and provide space ^{for} cultural events. They also contribute to combat the impacts of global warming. However, the challenge lies in sustainable urban development, that can be overcome by prioritizing both human and environmental health. Protection and enhancement of urban green spaces is a shared responsibility. The ultimate goal is to maintain a balance between increasing urbanization and preservation of green spaces.

Precis words: 80

Total words: 235

Despite complaints from viewers, television commercials are not getting any more realistic. Their makers continue to present idealized people in unreal situations. The wide gaps between their fanciful depiction and the mundane realities of life in most cases make them appear funny as well as repulsive. A footballer suddenly starts scoring goals after consuming a particular energy-drink. A would-be groom avoids hugging his father-in-law because he recalls not having used a particular shampoo that morning. A busy manager leaves an important meeting to grab a dozen packets of his favourite cookies, and so on. The advertisers also persist in showing a version of male-female relationships that can hardly exist in two households in an entire city. A wife panics simply because a meddlesome neighbor points out that her husband's shirt is dirty, while another fears for her marriage because her finicky husband doesn't like her coffee. What do the advertisers know about us, or how we see ourselves, that make them continue to plunge millions of dollars into these kinds of commercials? They probably do not know that these glamorous and noisy clips in no way promote the product for which they are aired. The reported number of viewers may be heartening and tempting for the manufacturers of the products. It might also be the main reason for them to keep on hiring the advertisers for promoting these products. In fact, however, these advertisements are mostly watched either to laugh at, or because the viewers are unable to skip them by changing the channel as soon as they start.

Precis - 2023 (special)

Advertisers, despite viewers' complaints, continue to make unrealistic TV commercials, that are funny and repulsive. From a footballer scoring a goal after having an energy drink to a wife fearing him from her husband, if he doesn't like the taste of her coffee, the advertisers are showing irrelevant content. Such adds are unable to promote the product effectively, but still they are making money due to the viewership. Most viewers watch them to laugh or they can not easily skip them.

Title : The Reality of TV Commercials

Total words: 256

Precis words: 72.