



ENGLISH (PRECIS & COMPOSITION)

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS	PART-I (MCQS)	MAXIMUM MARKS = 20
PART-I (MCQS): MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES	PART-II	MAXIMUM MARKS = 80
NOTE: (i) Part-II is to be attempted on the separate Answer Book. (ii) Attempt ALL questions from PART-II. (iii) All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places. (iv) Write Q. No. in the Answer Book in accordance with Q. No. in the Q Paper. (v) No Page/Space be left blank between the answers. All the blank pages of Answer Book must be crossed (vi) Extra attempt of any question or any part of the question will not be considered		

PART-II

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 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 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.

Soothsayers : Communicating with Gods

The mysteries of life compelled humans to engage with super-natural Power of the universe.

Thus, the knowledge of gods intentions was important for the good of humans, which was used to be done by soothsayers in ancient Greece. They used to uncover intentions of gods by analyzing thunder flights of birds, sacrifices of animals and especially dreams. However, on most occasions gods did not show their wishes through mentioned signs instead they used to send their message to humans by an intermediate. In conclusion, the purpose of oracles was to predict future and each oracle had its connection to gods. Apollo was one of them, who used to forward the decisions made by Zeus.

Words given in the Passage = 335

Words Attempted = 114

