

## Précis 1: CSS 2022

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

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.

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

Please give me marks out of 20.

Name: Attia Altaf.

Subject: English (Precis & Composition)

## ~~Precis~~ Title here

The vastness of nature created questions

among people. The ancient Greeks believed

that divine powers governed the universe

and human fate. They considered knowledge

of the gods' wishes essential for guiding

human behaviour. These divine intentions

were interpreted by soothsayers skilled

in reading the signs sent by the

Gods. Ancient Greek soothsayers delivered

their oracles by interpreting various

signs and practiced additional methods of

divination. Dream interpretation and

Palmistry were also common and

several figures became renowned for

their prophetic abilities. The gods

sometimes communicated directly through an

~~intermediary~~ intermediary who, briefly overtaken

by a 'divine mania', transcended human

limitation. In this state of ecstasy, the

prophet or prophetess conveyed the

divine messages to the faithful.

Ancient Greek oracles, located in organized sanctuaries, operated through the gods to foretell the future, conveying divine messages to mortals.

Title: Role of Soothsayers

in ancient Greece.

main idea is picked and discussed over all content is fine  
there is too much unnecessary information of the main passage  
need improvement in expression  
over all average 6/20  
write title at top and word count at the end