

## **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.



Poor title. Indent the paragraph.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Precis 2022

## Bridge between masses and Gods

Humans <sup>feared</sup> the uncertainty of life and the future which persuaded them to have a connection with gods. ~~This chase~~  
~~pursuit is always chased by man.~~ In Ancient Greece, ~~Prognosticator~~  
conveyed divine messages to people. The priests used various  
methods to understand and interpret the sacred message.  
These include determining the direction of smoke of fire or  
examining the remains of sacrificial animals. Major figures  
of that time ~~were Tirsis, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiarus, and Cassandra.~~  
Occasionally, priests or priestess conversed directly with gods  
through a state of ecstasy and delivered the message of  
gods. These activities were organized in sanctuaries and each was  
dedicated to various gods including Delphi and Dodona.

Passage words = 339 words

Precis words = 114 words

Do not include examples in precis. Just write their essence.