

PART - II

QUESTION 2 PRECIS

Humans believed that divine power monitored and determined people's faith. However, in ancient Greece, Oracles interpret wishes that were performed by soothsayers who had knowledge of signs sent by gods. Soothsayers interpret oracles by interpreting thunder, fire and entrails of animals. Tiresias, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiaraus and Cassandra were respectable soothsayers. Moreover, gods communicate directly to an intermediate "divine mania". Where as, prophet and prophetess transit the messages from the gods to the suppliants. Besides this, Greek oracles predicted the future. While, each oracles were interlinked with other gods. Like Apollo was archetypal soothsayers who was asked for communicate the mortal decisions, dictated by Zeus. Oracles transferred the messages with interference of Apollo and Zeus.

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

Title:- Greece Soothlayers and
their knowledge about
Oracles

Total words in Precisi:- 365

Total words Targeted:- 122

Total words Attempted:- 116

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

(20)

102 The fear of human being when faced with 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 sings or signals sent by the gods.

85 The soothsayers uttered their oracles by interpreting flashes of lightening, roll of thunder or the flights of certain birds of prey (omen), 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.

85 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 state of ecstasy in which he or she delivered the message from the gods to the suppliants.

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102 The practices for foreseeing the future were the basic 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 soothsayers for the Greek, 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.

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