

## Passage 9

## Ancient Money

Money as a medium of exchange in barter and trade has always in all times found expression in some form or other from necessity thereof. In the remotest periods, before gold or silver were generally in use, it took the form of animals, oxen, sheep, lambs, shells, etc. Thus people find used cattle in Germany, leather in Rome, sugar in the West Indies, shells in Siam, lead in Burma, platinum in Russia, tin in Great Britain, iron and nails in Scotland, brass in China, and finally copper, silver and gold the world over.

Gold and silver were originally in lumps, nuggets and bars, and in this manner weighed out in the making of payments for commercial



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## Questions 1–10

to make payments in trade transactions. Later, 2 <u>smaller</u> amounts and portions were made and a die stamp was used to 3 <u>attest</u> to the purity and value. That is how coinage originated. It is generally believed that gold was first coined in 4\_Lydia\_, and silver on the island of Aegina. The techniques of coinage were promoted by 5 the Greek nations, and then Roman. But as the Roman Empire fell, the coin lost its 6 <u>artistic</u> value and became crude again. Until Queen Elizabeth of England introduced the first experiment of milling money, the 7 gradual improvement and 8 symmetry of coinage work revived. In ancient China, people used 9<u>strings</u> to store coins with holes because there were no pockets in their clothes. The study of ancient coins has a 10 <u>historic</u> meaning since some are the only record of ancient civilisation.



























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