

91394



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## Level 3 Classical Studies, 2015

### 91394 Analyse ideas and values of the classical world

9.30 a.m. Tuesday 17 November 2015  
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse ideas and values of the classical world.	Analyse, in-depth, ideas and values of the classical world.	Analyse, with perception, ideas and values of the classical world.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

**You should attempt ONE question in this booklet.**

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–10 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

TOTAL

**Merit**

**06**

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ONE of the four questions below.

Make sure the question you choose suits a classical text that you have studied.

You may answer using short and/or extended paragraphs, and may support your answer with bullet points, diagrams, and/or annotated sketches.

**You must support your answer with relevant evidence from the named classical literary text, and other primary sources as appropriate.**

Space for planning has been provided on page 3. Begin your answer on page 4.

### **EITHER: QUESTION ONE**

With reference to a named classical text:

- analyse the ways in which the **beliefs** of a character(s)\* affected his or her actions
- discuss the extent to which these actions helped the character(s) achieve his or her aim.

*\* Characters in classical literary texts may be mythical, fictional, or historical.*

### **OR: QUESTION TWO**

With reference to a named classical text:

- analyse the personal and/or cultural **identity** of a character(s)\*
- discuss how the identity of the character(s) affected his or her actions.

*\* Identity may refer to the social, political, religious, environmental, philosophical, and/or military characteristics of people. It includes how people view themselves, and how they are viewed by others. Characters in classical literary texts may be mythical, fictional, or historical.*

### **OR: QUESTION THREE**

With reference to a named classical text:

- analyse the ways in which the author used a range of **literary conventions**\*
- discuss the ideas and values the author aimed to communicate using these literary conventions.

*\* Literary conventions should be appropriate to the genre, and may include language techniques and/or features, both verbal and non-verbal.*

### **OR: QUESTION FOUR**

With reference to a named classical text:

- analyse a **relationship(s)** between characters\*
- discuss the positive and/or negative effects this relationship(s) had on the lives of the characters.

*\* Characters in classical literary texts may be mythical, fictional, or historical.*

Remember, you must support your answer with relevant evidence from the named classical text.

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Question number: Three //

Classical text: Aristophanes' "The Wasps" //

Begin your answer here:

The playwright Aristophanes was well known in Athenian society for his humour, but he was also known for his ability to put across important political messages through his works. In his play "The Wasps", he brought forth his belief that Athenian society had become corrupted and was breaking down as a result. He presented this idea through the literary techniques of symbolism in animal imagery, Metaphor, Parody/Satire of a court case and showing the Generation gap present in Athens at the time. //

The first technique that Aristophanes uses to show the corruption of the city is symbolism in the form of animal imagery. Using symbolism, he presents the jurymen of Athens as being wasps. Comparing the members of the jury to these insects is done both for comedic effect ~~but also~~ and more importantly to show the effect of corruption. The jury should have been the most just of all Athenian citizens, but the power that they had been given had corrupted them and turned them into harsh creatures that seek only to cause pain in others (by finding the innocent guilty and the guilty innocent). "If you provoke"

That gang of old geezers it'll be like stirring up a wasps nest. They've all got sharp stings in their behinds - and they know how to sting too!" The jury themselves even know of their cruelty; "Wasps. About, turn Present, stings." Through this we are shown that the very heart of society, Justice and democracy have become corrupted. Appointing the wrong people to positions of power has caused the heart of the city to become a literal wasps nest, leaving Athens as a place that lacks real justice. ||

Aristophanes also uses the technique of metaphor to show that the wilderness is reclaiming the city. As the chaos of nature takes over, society breaks down at a faster rate. Early in the play we discover that Philocleon is addicted to being a jurymember to the point that "he's so afraid of running of of voting - pebbles that he keeps a whole beach of them inside the house." Corruption has broken society down to the point that a beach has formed inside the home of a wealthy Athenian statesman. This is coupled with the fact that to prevent his father from going back to the corrupt jury, Bdelycleon locks his father in the house like a caged animal and throws a net over the top for good measure; "Don't you know what kind of monster you're guarding." Through this use of metaphor we are meant to see that Athenian society - famed for how civilized it was, is being transformed into a chaotic wilderness by its ||

corrupt leaders (such as Cleon). As the city has become more corrupt, men have had to look out only for themselves and their own wishes. This only speeds up the rate of ~~the~~ civilization breakdown as it turns people into dangerous monsters and forms brutal wilderness within the homes of the city. The city has been plunged into the wild chaos from which it escaped when it was formed. ||

In the Agon of the play Aristophanes reveals the very person who he believes to be the source of Athens' corruption by parodying a famous <sup>political</sup> trial that occurred in Athens. In the play, "The Trial of the Dogs" tells of the mock court case that occurs when a household dog is tried for stealing cheese; "It's that dog Labes, comes streaking into the kitchen, snatches a fresh Sicilian cheese and wolfs the lot." However, the other household dog is not ~~was~~ angry at Labes for stealing but for refusing to share his ill gotten meal; "Upon being asked by me for a share, he refused." The whole ordeal bears a striking resemblance to the trial of Laches, a politician who stole state funds and was tried by Cleon (Athens leader) not for theft but for refusing to share the money. Couple this with the fact that Cleon had earned the nickname 'The Dog' and it is clear that Aristophanes is making a statement through satire. In both trials a thief is tried by the dog for not sharing their stolen goods, in this we are shown just how corrupt Cleon is. The man who is leading Athens should be noble ||

and just, ~~but~~ Cleon is not looking out for the best of the city but for his own personal gain. He has done nothing that deserves reward but claims it as if it were his by right. In this way, Aristophanes is showing us that the widespread corruption within Athens did not merely appear overnight but has littered down from the very top, it entered the city through the likes of Cleon; corrupt leaders and politicians. //

The last ~~technique~~ <sup>way in which</sup> that Aristophanes believes that Athens is breaking down is the generation gap that exists between old and young. The Older generation were men of action who fought the Persians and Spartans, they went out and made their own glory and wealth. In contrast, the younger generation were politicians and public speakers, who fought with their words and worried about social graces. This clear difference was creating division in the city as the old resented the young for being ~~the~~ too soft and the young resented the old for being too hard. Aristophanes shows his age in that he sides with the older men of Athens and blames the young for ruining Athens; "The whiteness of our locks does the city better service, than the ringlets and the fashions and the pederastic passions of the mamby-pamby youngsters of today" He sees the young as soft and feminine, more worried about fashion than the things that really matter. The old also blame the young for bankrupting the city. //

"If money still flows into the Imperial hill (from which the young now take their fill), It's due to our exertions."

In this matter Aristophanes was not helping to prevent society's breakdown by picking sides. Neither side was fully to blame but rather the conflict between the two was crippling the city. A wedge had been driven down the middle of the city which was ruining Athens, for a house divided against itself cannot stand. //

All throughout "The Wasps" Aristophanes shows his audience the flaws that he says must be fixed in Athenian society. He constantly wants us to see that Athens had become corrupted and as a result society was breaking down around him.

He successfully brought across this message by using a number of literary conventions that include symbolism in animal imagery of jurymen wasps, metaphors to show the reclaiming of nature, parody of political trials and the generation gap in Athens. Through these he not only created a humorous play but a piece of work that challenged his audience to question the morality and health of their society. //

<b>Merit exemplar for 91394 2015</b>		<b>Total score</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Q</b>	<b>Grade score</b>	<b>Annotation</b>	
1	M6	<p>The candidate has analysed the ideas and values of 4th century BCE Athens evident in Aristophanes' Wasps. The candidate can select appropriate literary conventions and analyse the ideas and values inherent. They have clear understanding of the context of the play and use relevant supporting primary source evidence throughout. The strength of this response lies in the candidate's ability to analyse the ideas and values (more detail on the comparisons, specifics around the imagery etc.). Some ideas are repeated but not necessarily developed to a perceptive understanding. If the candidate had analysed the literary conventions themselves in more depth, they could have gained an E7.</p>	