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91203



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 Classical Studies 2023

### 91203 Examine socio-political life in the classical world

Credits: Six

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine socio-political life in the classical world.	Examine, in-depth, socio-political life in the classical world.	Examine, with perception, socio-political life in 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 answer ONE of the questions in this booklet.**

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

Check that this booklet has pages 2–11 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (DO NOT WRITE). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

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

Merit

TOTAL 05

## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ONE of the questions below with reference to a **classical civilisation**. This may include, but is not limited to, a city-state, republic, or empire.

You must answer using paragraphs.

## QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Explain the impact a social or political conflict had on a classical civilisation.
2. Explain how social classes and/or political groups participated differently in a classical civilisation.
3. How was the celebration of festivals used to create a sense of belonging in a classical civilisation?
4. Explain the outcomes of reforms made by one or more important leaders in a classical civilisation.

conflict: Death of Caesar

Impact: Roman republic → Roman Empire

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## PLANNING

- ✓ Caesar's death was a prelude to the battle of phillipi and the establishment of the second triumvirate. It was a turning point in Roman history. - Plutarch
- ✓ ~~The~~ Caesar's death produced the same spark as one which falls upon dead leaves: it spread swiftly and set the whole state ablaze. - Suetonius
- ✓ The head of Cassius had secretly fallen... throwing himself upon the sword at once. - Vellius Paterculus
- ✓ The armies of Antony and Octavian defeated those of the liberators, Brutus and Cassius. - Appian Civil Wars
- ✓ I would rather die a thousand deaths than surrender to Octavian - Antony - Appian Civil Wars
- ✓ I found Rome a city of bricks and left it a city of marble. - Augustus - Suetonius.

political conflict of the  
Intro: the<sup>1</sup> death of Caesar immensely impacted Rome by leading to the fall of the Roman republic & the rise of the Roman empire

Paragraph One:

- initial political response

Paragraph Two:

- 2nd Triumvirate
- Battle of phillipi / civil war

Paragraph Three:

- Battle of Actium
- Fall of Roman republic → rise of Roman empire

Conclusion:

You should aim to write a concise answer of no more than 4–5 pages. The quality of your response is more important than its length.

Support your answer with primary-source evidence.

Question number: 1

Classical civilisation: Ancient Rome

Begin your answer here:

The political conflict of the death of Gaius Julius Caesar immensely impacted Ancient Rome by leading to the fall of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire. The rise of the Roman Empire can be traced back through a series of events: the death of Caesar and the initial political response afterwards, the establishment of the Second Triumvirate, the Battle of Phillipi, and the battle of Actium. According to Plutarch, these events forever altered Roman history: "Caesar's death was a prelude to the battle of Phillip and the establishment of the Second Triumvirate. It was a turning point in Roman History." This evidence shows the impact Caesar's death had on Ancient Rome. His assassination in 44 BCE, was carried out by a group of Roman Senators, including prominent figures such as Brutus and Cassius. Up until this point, Caesar had become immensely powerful as the Dictator of Rome. Feeling threatened by Caesar's ambitions, these Senators assassinated him in hopes of restoring the traditional Roman Republic. However, according to Suetonius, Rome spun into chaos: "Caesar's death

produced the same spark as one which falls upon dry leaves; it spread swiftly and set the whole state ablaze." This shows the initial ways Caesar's death impacted Ancient Rome. Octavian, Caesar's Great-Nephew and adopted heir entered the political scene relatively unexperienced. However, with his inheritance of Caesar's name, wealth, and loyal supporters, he became a key player in Roman Politics. He joined forces with his Allies Antony and Lepidus, ~~forming~~ establishing the Second Triumvirate in 43 BCE. This was a political and military compromise aimed at avenging Caesar's assassination and gaining power and Gloria. In a city full of tension and armed conflict, the ~~the~~ Battle of Phillipi broke out in 42 BCE between the Second Triumvirate and ~~the~~ the combined forces of Brutus and Cassius. This outbreak of civil war, ~~the~~ ~~the~~ According to Vellius Paterculus, led to the suicides of Brutus and Cassius: "The head of Cassius had secretly fallen... throwing himself upon the sword at once." This shows how Cassius would rather commit suicide than give up his dignitas. According to Appian Civil Wars, the Second Triumvirate had emerged victorious: "The armies of Antony and Octavian had defeated those of the liberators, ~~the~~ Brutus and Cassius." This shows another event that impacted Ancient Rome, and ultimately led to the rise of the Roman Empire.

Even though they had defeated ~~themselves~~ their main enemies, tension was boiling in the Second Triumvirate due to the power struggle between Antony and Octavian. ~~Not only~~ Antony was married to Octavian's daughter Octavia but was having an affair with the Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra. This raised questions about Antony's loyalty to Rome by having an affair with a foreign Monarch, as well as his loyalty to Octavian's family. This tension ended up getting so high that it turned into another civil war, known as the Battle of Actium. This was a naval battle where Octavian's troops, led by his admiral Agrippa, faced the combined fleet of Antony and Cleopatra in 31 BCE. Octavian emerged victorious, leading to the suicides of Antony and Cleopatra in 30 BCE. According to Appian Civil Wars, Antony would rather die than give up his dignitas to Octavian: "I would rather die a thousand deaths than surrender to Octavian - Antony." This shows another event caused by Caesar's death that led to the Roman Empire. ~~Octavian was~~ ~~was~~ ~~now~~ Having defeated all of his enemies, Octavian was ~~now~~ now the sole ruler of Rome. According to Suetonius, in 27 BCE Octavian was granted the title "Augustus" and effectively became the first Roman Emperor: "I found Rome a city of bricks and left it a city of marble - Augustus." This evidence marks the

transition between the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. Overall, the political conflict of the death of Caesar immensely impacted Ancient Rome. It caused many suicide's political alliances, ~~and~~ the outbreak of civil wars, and the fall of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire, ~~the death of Caesar~~ under Augustus's rule. The death of Gaius Julius Caesar forever altered the course of Roman history.

## Merit

**Subject:** Classical Studies

**Standard:** 91203

**Total score:** 05

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	M5	<p>The candidate has an informed and detailed (correctly used dates and names) response that links the conflict between Julius Caesar and the Roman Senate. Use of quotes is relevant to the point being made, although not really explained. For an M6 more detail could have been provided about the battles of Phillipi or Actium.</p> <p>Missing from the response is any perception or insight. While the impacts are mostly short term, and the long-term consequence of the founding of the Roman Empire is mentioned, no understanding of why these conflicts mattered in a wider cultural context is explained. For instance, underlying reasons why the Republic collapsed into an Empire are never discussed, or how Octavian managed to create the Empire while maintaining the illusion of the Republic. Likewise, Caesar's death given more context by the struggle between the populares and optimates might have produced the necessary insight.</p>