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91203



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Level 2 Classical Studies, 2017

91203 Examine socio-political life in the classical world

2.00 p.m. Thursday 23 November 2017
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 attempt ONE question 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 2–10 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.

Merit

TOTAL

06

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INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ONE of the four questions below, **with reference to a named classical city-state or civilisation**.

Make sure the question you choose suits a classical city-state or civilisation that you have studied.

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

You must support your answer with relevant primary source evidence.

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

EITHER: QUESTION ONE

Explain how a conflict* led to social and/or political change.

** Conflict may refer to class, religious, social, or political conflict, and/or war between states.*

OR: QUESTION TWO

Explain how a citizen's social and/or political role(s) reinforced the beliefs he/she held about his/her society.

OR: QUESTION THREE

Explain how aspects of social life* reflected the differences between social/political classes.

**Aspects of social life may include housing, education, religion, entertainment, roles held by men and/or women, and employment.*

OR: QUESTION FOUR

Explain how leaders used public events* to influence the people.

** Public events may include festivals, processions, triumphs, legal proceedings, state funerals, and victory celebrations.*

Remember you must support your answer with relevant evidence from a named classical city-state or civilisation.

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Question number: 2

Classical city-state or civilisation: Athens

Begin your answer here:

Solon's political role as Archon of Athens demonstrated his beliefs regarding ^{the} unimportance of individual opinion within Athenian society. Solon's reforms implicate his belief that the society of Athens had to be improved in order for the city to truly thrive and grow, and that to do this, changes had to be made ~~regardless~~ ~~in spite~~ of how the citizens would feel about them.

As ~~an~~ Archon, one of Solon's most effective reforms upon Athenian society was the Seisaktheteia, meaning 'relief of burdens'. Prior to his reforms, Athens had been undergoing economic depression, as ^{most of} the land was ~~in the possession of the wealthy~~ ^{owned by the wealthy}, while the larger sector of the population worked under them. Thus the society was solidly divided into rich and poor, with the poor being so indebted to the rich that they often sold themselves into slavery. This was bad for the economy, as the massive amounts of debt stunted ~~the~~ any growth. Solon's 'relief' of burdens' was the first step towards reconstructing ~~the~~ the social classes and creating a more functional economy. ~~His~~ His actions as written by Aristotle state that "[Solon] cancelled all debt, public and private." Such a thing shows his belief in the possibilities for Athenian society, as such a bold reform would not have been laid down if he did not believe Athens could be helped. Removing debt meant that the 'poor' could now work, no longer forever in debt to the rich. ~~To the rich, Solon~~ To maintain this "Solon liberated

the people once and for all by prohibiting ^{all} loans on the security of the debtor's person," meaning that he ruled out slavery. Solon also constructed new social classes for his fellow citizens to fall into, assigning ~~duties and~~ political and societal duties to ^{each} ~~them~~. Wealth had previously been determined by land, but he made it so that it was ^{now} based on income earned. ~~For the~~ To the rich, he granted special political privileges, but neither rich nor poor were satisfied with his changes. The poor wanted redistribution of the land, while the rich felt as they had lost too much. "He found himself beset by people ~~causing~~ harassing him concerning his laws; criticizing here and questioning there." This quote from the Athenian Constitution goes to show how neutral Solon's laws were, equalling displeasing both ~~the~~ parties. His neutrality illustrates the fact that Solon does not care for approval from his citizens, and did not change his laws when individuals came to him unhappy. His changing of society shows how ~~he~~ believed in a better society, and that to achieve the ideal economy he should not bother to please the masses but to help them. //

To further ^{improve} ~~assist~~ Athenian society, Solon used his ^{poli} authority as Archon to ^{rechannel} ~~transfer~~ his beliefs of a better city into ^{profit} ~~profit~~ the citizens. One of the most profitable things he did ~~was~~ for his city included ~~the~~ boosting the trade for olive oil. Solon believed that the society ~~could be~~ ~~as~~ had room to grow, so to push it along he banned most exports. "of the products of the soil he allowed ^{olives} ~~oil~~ to be sold ^{abroad} ~~abroad~~, but forbade the exportation of others." Solon knew that Athens did not have a surplus of grain, and henceforth the society did not have enough food within the city as it was being

exported, creating inflation in food prices due to ~~there being more~~ ^{scarcity} demand than supply. However, due to Athens's suitable climate, olives were in abundance and their olive oil was of high quality. From Solon's law, olive oil grew into the main export for the city, heavily profiting the economy financially. The ~~society~~ ^{people} also had more grain at more affordable prices, showing how Solon believed that the Athenian society ~~had to~~ could be better if things changed. Another ~~the~~ ^{thing} changed were ~~the~~ ^{the} citizenship rights. Plutarch states "He permitted only those to be citizens who were permanently exiled from their ~~own~~ country or who had removed to Athens with their entire families to ply a trade." By doing this, Solon invited more trades into society with the promise of citizenship ~~and helped~~ which would have meant more people with specific skill sets and crafts. This brought about the phenomenon of Athenian pottery being a profitable export alongside trade. Both exports were distributed throughout the Mediterranean, ~~yet~~ but pottery was more advantageous in that its' outer decoration was a tool of subtle propaganda. Athens could carefully construct a positive portrayal of itself through the artworks, and pottery has also endured to be what historians ~~used~~ ^{use} to decipher life back in ancient times. Solon's reforms laid down as Archon ~~thus~~ ^{by profiting} prove how he believed in the ~~growth of~~ ^{potential of} Athenian society as he ~~profited~~ it financially and ~~caused~~ ^{causing} the city to be well perceived by ~~civilisations~~ ^{surrounding} ~~not as well as~~ ^{and} future ones both surrounding and future civilisations.

Solon's impact on the future via Athenian society does not stop there. The constitution he established and the decisions he made lead into eventual democracy and ~~is~~ reflected his

beliefs ~~about~~ about societal opinion. Although his was not a system of democracy, his ~~per~~ pre-democratic constitution served as the crucial foundation to the world's first ever ~~system of~~ democratic system ~~democracy~~, of which without our own world would be extremely different. "There are three features of Solon's constitution that appear to be its most democratic..." Solon was not aiming for democracy, but ^{his} belief ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ for a more functional society let him pave the way for ~~others, such as like~~ ^{namely} Cleisthenes, who would establish democracy in times to come. Though not alive during Cleisthenes' rule, had Solon not believed in the city and brought it out of its crisis, Athens likely would have crumbled under its economic failings, never ~~gett~~ getting the chance to prosper and reach a level where democracy could be developed. Solon's belief ~~in~~ that a better society could be made is additionally shown through his defiance to rule as tyrant. ~~¶~~ "He might have made himself despot by attaching himself to whichever party he chose..." This evidently and undoubtedly states the true beliefs and intentions of Solon ~~not~~ were associated with the betterment of ^{the} Athenian society. Solon did not assume ultimate rule, but instead ~~const~~ constructed a system that worked well for Athens and was effective enough to be ~~marked~~ ^{as} the origins for our world's system ~~at~~ today. He ~~neither chose~~ ^{did not choose} a single party to please to attain power, his beliefs going beyond that of winning approval of the citizens and to creating a society of such prosperity that it affected ~~civilise~~ societies in generations to come.

In conclusion, Solon's reforms of Archon reinforced his beliefs

about the ~~At~~ Athenian society having the ability to grow and thrive when the personal opinions of its citizens were not a factor. Solon showed his belief through his changes, and reinforced his beliefs furthermore by subsequently marking Athens down in history ~~to be~~ ^{as} a great society.

Merit exemplar 2017 Classical studies 91203

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| Subject: | Classical Studies | Standard: | 91203 | Total score: | 06 |
| Q | Grade score | Annotation | | | |
| 2 | M6 | <p>The candidate specifies Solon as the 'citizen' and cites Solon's political role as Archon. The candidate argues that the reforms of Solon reinforce his belief in the city as a whole rather than the rights or needs of individuals. The reforms of Solon are discussed individually (Seisachtheia, redistribution of classes, economic reform), and are consistently detailed. Primary source evidence is used throughout the response and is relevant to the context. The latter part of the question (beliefs) is addressed, but lacks the depth and specific examples that could warrant an Excellence. Beliefs are accurate but generalised. On page 7 the candidate develops an argument around Solon's contribution to democracy that fails to capitalise on previous examples and adds limited value in relation to beliefs. The synthesis of these two parts would have provided the candidate the opportunity to demonstrate perception.</p> | | | |