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Level 1 Classical Studies, 2015

91021 Demonstrate understanding of ideas and values of the classical world

2.00 p.m. Tuesday 1 December 2015
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of ideas and values of the classical world.	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of ideas and values of the classical world.	Demonstrate perceptive understanding of 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 2–8 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.

Excellence

TOTAL

07

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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 text.

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

EITHER: QUESTION ONE

With reference to a named classical text:

- explain in detail ONE significant **leadership decision** that a character makes, and why he or she makes that decision
- discuss in what way(s) this decision would or would not have been typical for a leader of the classical society for which the text was produced.

OR: QUESTION TWO

With reference to a named classical text:

- explain in detail ONE character's **response** to a difficult situation
- discuss in what way(s) this response shows the character challenging and/or supporting accepted social and/or cultural roles* of the classical society for which the text was produced.

** Roles may be, but are not limited to, gender, class, religious, or political.*

OR: QUESTION THREE

With reference to a named classical text:

- explain in detail ONE significant religious, social, or cultural **belief** held by a character
- discuss the impact the belief had on the decisions and/or actions of your chosen character.

OR: QUESTION FOUR

With reference to a named classical text:

- explain in detail ONE **literary convention*** used by the author
- discuss the way(s) this literary convention communicates ideas and/or values of the classical society for which the text was produced.

** Literary conventions may include, but are not limited to, theme, characterisation, style, narrative / subject matter, structure, imagery, techniques, conventions of oral poetry, staging, or rhetorical features.*

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

Question number: Two

Classical text: Antigone

Begin your answer here:

In the play 'Antigone' by Sophocles the character Creon who is King of ~~Thebes~~ Thebes (where the play is set) responds to a difficult situation that goes against social and cultural beliefs of ancient Greece. Creon does this by making a decree that Polynices is not allowed a burial, because he is a traitor to the state. According to religious beliefs of ^{the} classical society all citizens ~~the~~ bodies should never be exposed to rot, and should have performed burial rituals, to honour the gods. By making this decree Creon contradicts himself because he is acknowledging that Polynices was a Theban citizen, and therefore should be given a burial. Creon also commits hubris ~~which~~ ^{is} (the act of putting yourself equal or superior to the gods) by denying Polynices a burial meaning that the gods were not receiving the proper rituals because Creon is saying that his law is above divine law.

The main character Antigone is used to help show Creon's response to the situation as she goes against Creon's decree, and buries Polynices who is her brother. As ^{part of social customs} ~~the~~ ~~women~~ Antigone

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claims that it ^{is} ~~his~~ her duty to bury her brother as it is a women's job to bury family dead. Antigone says, "I know my ~~best~~ duty, where true duty lies... when I have tried and failed, I shall have failed." This showed how Antigone believed that divine law was superior to human law, and didn't care about the consequences as long as she honoured the gods and her brother. This puts Creon into a ^{more} difficult situation as he is new to the throne and doesn't want to be seen as weak. So, that the people of Thebes will respect him as King. Creon's pride (his fatal flaw) gets in the way of his decision-making and sentences her to death for disobeying him.

Another character that is used to help show Creon's response to the situation is his son Haemon. ~~As son to the King Haemon has the job of being an advisor which Creon should listen to and make actions based on his advisors advice~~ As King Creon has a group of advisors known as the chorus ~~who~~ that give advice with which Creon should make his decisions. Creon refuses to listen to the advice he is given and doesn't mend his mistakes. Haemon ~~as well~~ who plays the part of a good, obedient son (how a son should behave according

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to classical, ~~gr~~ Greek social customs) is also one of the advisors to the King. Haemon says to Creon, "So pause, father, ~~and~~ and put aside your anger ... the next best thing is to be willing to listen to wise advice." Creon still refuses to listen to the advice he is given and cannot see Haemon as an advisor, just as a son. Creon also responds aggressively back to Haemon and says, "since when do I take orders from the people of Thebes ... I am King and responsible only to myself." As King Creon is supposed ^{to keep} the city and its citizens safe but, instead acts on his own behalf, ~~By acting for himself~~ ^{which} ~~Creon~~ breaks social customs.

'Antigone' was written in ~~the~~ fifth century BC after the Persian Wars against Athens. At this time ~~people~~ Athens was ruled by democracy which was run by an Assembly, because of this ~~Athena~~ the citizens of Athens were happy. Sophocles wanted to show ~~that~~ through 'Antigone' that tyrants ~~were~~ were bad and would destroy the peace. In 'Antigone' Creon is the tyrant who destroys the peace, ~~and~~ ~~he~~ commits hubris and as a consequence for his actions is punished by ^{the gods with} ~~his~~ the death of his son and wife. Creon said, " ... is there no sword for me to end this misery." The Chorus replied by saying, "ask nothing."

"What will be no mortal can escape." This showed how Creon could not escape his punishment and had to continue living, even though he had nothing left to live for. ~~Sophocles also shows the outcome~~

Annotations

Excellence 7

This response shows a thorough knowledge of the text. Evidence from the text has been interpreted to reveal perceptive insights into the ideas and values of ancient Greeks. The candidate has answered both parts of the question fully and has considered a range of aspects of ancient society.

- 1) The difficult situation is introduced as is Creon's response to it.
- 2) The candidate's discussion of the situation shows an in-depth understanding of the text and beliefs and values of classical society are integrated into the answer (*burial rites, honouring the gods, hubris*).
- 3) A major theme of the text is discussed (divine law vs human law) which also helps to address the second part of the question.
- 4) The candidate has used other character's actions and dialogue in their answer to help to demonstrate Creon's response to the situation and to highlight how he is acting outside of the accepted cultural/social roles.
- 5) Perceptive comments such as '*he is new to the throne and doesn't want to be seen as weak*', '*so that the people of Thebes will respect him*' help to explain the difficulty of the position Creon faces and show an awareness of the values of classical society.
- 6) Conventions of tragedy are mentioned which also show a thorough knowledge of classical ideas.
- 7) Another character (Haemon) is used as above to highlight how Creon's response is challenging social and cultural roles. The roles and responsibilities of fathers and sons in classical society are also touched on.
This paragraph is perceptive and shows insight into the classical society in terms of how a Kingdom should be ruled and the conventions of tragedy (the role of the chorus in this case). Supporting evidence is integrated into the answer.
- 8) The candidate shows an awareness of the wider cultural context by discussing events occurring at the time the play was performed – the discussion about the author's intentions shows some perception and an awareness of classical ideas and values of the society at the time.