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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.**

**TOTAL**

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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: 2

Classical text: *Antigone by Sophocles*

Begin your answer here:

In *Antigone by Sophocles* a character's response to a difficult situation is when Antigone responds to Creon's decree by burying Polynices. This shows Antigone challenging social roles by disobeying her *kynos*, head of state and head of family, Creon. But also supporting the religious beliefs of the classical society in which this text was produced by performing correct burial rights on Polynices.

A difficult situation that is present in *Antigone* is when Creon makes a decree that Polynices (Antigone's brother) will have no burial and will be left out side the walls of Thebes to be eaten by animals after he died in battle against Thebes. Creon believes he is a traitor and should not deserve proper burial rights. Creon also declares that anyone willing to disobey his order will be sent to death by stoning. Antigone's response to this is that she is furious. "It is against me that he has made this decree". She ~~desides~~ decides to disobey the state and support the gods and religious beliefs of the classical society and perform proper burial rights to her brother no matter

the consequences

Antigone challenges ~~and~~ Creon's decree by performing proper burial rights on Polynices. This is viewed badly as Creon is the head of state, ~~head of family~~ (*kynos*) Creon is also male and during the time in the classical society in which this text was written it was strongly believed that women should always obey men. "It is not for us to go against men". Women were not allowed to leave their homes without a brother, father or husband and it was viewed very badly to disobey them.

Antigone's response to Creon's decree supports religious beliefs and the beliefs of the gods. The women of the family are supposed to perform proper burial rights for their dead family member such as prayer, offerings and rituals. If rights are not performed the gods will get angry as they are not receiving proper offerings. Antigone believes that "it is my duty" to perform the proper rights as she is female and because of her religious beliefs.

Antigone responds to a difficult situation in the play "Antigone" by Sophocles as she performs proper burial rights for her brother Polynices after Creon declares a decree that he shall not be buried. By doing this Antigone challenges state law and her kynos Creon but she supports the laws of the gods and her religious beliefs.

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Annotations

**Merit 5**

*This response demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the text and includes specific, relevant supporting evidence. They also provide some informed explanations as to how the situation reveals ideas and values of the classical world.*

- 1) Introduces the question, the difficult situation (burial of Polynices) and how the response to the difficult situation both challenges and supports beliefs of the time.
- 2) Candidate demonstrates a solid understanding of the plot and includes specific details.
- 3) Antigone's response (first part of the question) is stated briefly. More specific detail about what she actually does would be beneficial.
- 4) The candidate makes some informed (if general) comments about how Antigone's response challenges the role of women in society and includes some relevant evidence from the text to support the idea.
- 5) The role of women with regards to burial is explained briefly – 'prayer, offering and rituals'. Mention is made to the fact that it is Antigone's responsibility on both religious and family grounds and the importance of appeasing the gods is stated. Relevant evidence from the text is included, 'It is my duty'.
- 6) Concludes by summarising the main points using key words from the question.