

91021



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## Level 1 Classical Studies, 2016

### 91021 Demonstrate understanding of ideas and values of the classical world

2.00 p.m. Thursday 1 December 2016  
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 your 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**

**7**

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ONE of the four questions below, **with reference to a named classical literary text**.

Make sure the question you choose suits a classical text 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 evidence from the named classical literary text.**

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

### **EITHER: QUESTION ONE**

Describe in detail ONE **theme**\* used by the author.

In what ways does this theme reflect the ideas and values of classical society?

\* *E.g. fate, revenge, hospitality, conflict, power, love, etc.*

### **OR: QUESTION TWO**

Describe in detail ONE **relationship** between two characters\* of **different social status**.

What does this relationship communicate about the ideas and values of classical society?

\* *The relationship may be between individuals and / or groups, and characters may be historical or mythical.*

### **OR: QUESTION THREE**

Describe in detail the actions of ONE character who is motivated by a sense of **personal and/or societal responsibility**.

In what ways does this character's sense of responsibility meet or oppose the expectations of classical society?

### **OR: QUESTION FOUR**

Describe in detail the actions of ONE character who demonstrates **leadership**.

In what ways do this character's acts of leadership reflect or challenge the ideas and values of classical society?

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

Question number: 1

Classical literary text: Antigone

Begin your answer here:

In the play "Antigone" written by Sophocles between 442 and 411 BCE, a main theme used by the author was the conflict between Divine and state law. During the play there are more examples in which the audience can see why this theme reflects the views of classical society at the time. ①

The first ~~episode~~ <sup>episode</sup> in which this conflict is established is during the prologue. This is when Antigone is talking to her sister Ismene, about burying their brother Polynices. Immediately Antigone's strong belief in ~~the~~ divine law is highlighted as she believes that, despite it being against the law made by King Creon, giving her brother proper burial is the right thing to do. When she reveals her intentions to <sup>her sister,</sup> Ismene ~~she~~ replies by saying "How could you dare, when Creon has expressly forbidden it?" This shows us that Ismene's character

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is much more submissive than Antigone's as she isn't willing to break the state law in order to honour the gods' will. Antigone later says to Ismene "Live and defy the holiest laws of heaven". This phrase reflects ancient Greek values as leaving a body unburied was believed to be an insult to human dignity. It was also believed the gods would leave an unburied body to wander the banks of the river Styx for 100 years in the afterlife before being able to ~~properly~~ enter the under world, so it was important to properly prepare a body for burial. //

The theme developed in the play is again shown during the argument between Creon and Antigone in Episode 2. In this episode Creon clearly states that Antigone is to be punished for what she has done and he isn't willing to take into consideration the fact that she did what was right by Zeus. He instead tries to tell Antigone she had no right to bury Polynices as he was a traitor of the city of Thebes. This shows us that Creon believes his will is to be observed and he also wants it to have a higher priority and value than the word of the gods. To this Antigone replies "Even so we have

"a duty to the dead". The statements from Creon and Antigone further highlight the conflict between divine and state law as the beliefs of the two characters are opposite. The fact Creon says that Polynices shouldn't be buried and, the fact he wants his word to be respected more than the one of the gods, shows hubris. This reflects the views and values of ancient Greece because showing hubris (think you were better or superior to a god) was believed to be one of the most severe crimes one could commit towards a deity. //

The constant conflict that is shown in "Antigone" is also ~~shown~~ by Creon himself, a reflection of the situation in Greece at the time Sophocles wrote the play. The revelation Creon has at the end, once Teiresias warns him of the prophecy, is that not honouring the gods is punished severely. By not listening to people around him such as Antigone telling him she was simply carrying out her ~~duty~~ religious duty, he ends up losing his

Son Haemon who commits suicide after Antigone dies innocently. This is important as it served as an example for Sophocles to show people in Athens that worship was important and vital. The author did this because at the time he wrote the play, a ~~was~~ group of people called Sophists were starting to question whether or not the gods existed or if their laws were to be observed. The example of Creon carrying the responsibility for the death of Haemon and Antigone, shows us that Sophocles was trying to send the message that divine law is more important than the will of a king, and that people who ignore the gods are punished. //

The conflict between divine law, represented by Antigone, and state law, represented by Creon reflects the values of ancient Greek society at the time. Sophocles uses the death of Antigone and the damnation of Creon to symbolise that divine law and worship are two extremely important principles as he tries, through the theme of the play, to restore faith amongst the Athenian population. //

**Excellence (E7)**

*In this response the candidate has demonstrated perceptive understanding of the ideas and values of the ancient Greeks and has shown an awareness of the author's intentions and the cultural context in which the text was written. The explanation is insightful at times and utilises relevant quotes to help develop ideas.*

- 1) A basic introduction outlines the argument to follow.
- 2) This paragraph addresses both parts of the question well. The conflict between divine law and state law is discussed, as are Antigone's and Ismene's responses to it. The explanation includes relevant and well-chosen examples from the text and also conveys understanding of the beliefs of classical society.
- 3) The idea of state law is explained with more supporting detail from the text. Plot details are interpreted with insight and show good understanding of the issues facing Creon and his response to these issues.
- 4) Another well-chosen example from the text supports the argument for divine law and further knowledge of how ancient Greeks would view the actions of Creon as hubristic displays insight into the values of classical society.
- 5) The candidate shows awareness of the cultural context in which the text is set and discusses some of the intentions of the author. The challenge the Sophists represent in Athens is related back to the plot events and themes of the text which demonstrates perceptive understanding of ideas and values in classical society.
- 6) The conclusion further develops the purpose of the play – the characters symbolise important ideas which are used to restore faith in the Athenian population.