

91021



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
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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.

Merit

TOTAL

6

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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: One

Classical literary text: Antigone - Sophocles

Begin your answer here:

In the tragic play *Antigone*, written by Sophocles in 442 BC, an important theme discussed throughout the text is the divine law being greater than state law. In Ancient Greece, it was a very common and popular practice to worship and obey the Olympian gods, as the Ancient Greeks believed that everyone, no matter their status, was at the mercy of the gods. Antigone, despite being at risk of losing her life, believes so heavily in the will and law of the gods that she commits a crime illegal in the eyes of the state. Her dedication to serving the gods over her government reflects heavily on the Ancient Greek idea that the gods are the ultimate holders of power in the universe. (

An example of Sophocles ^{discussing} ~~communicating~~ the idea of divine law being greater than state law can be found in the prologue. Antigone is telling her sister Ismene about her plans to bury their dead brother, Polynices, an act that has been forbidden by their ~~egrios~~ (male head of house) and king, Creon. Ismene, who does not share Antigone's belief of divine law overruling state law, tells her

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sister that she cannot help & when Creon has expressly forbidden it". Antigone is angered by this statement, and tells her that not burying Polynices would be ~~to~~ "defying" the holiest laws of heaven. In Ancient Greece society, everyone was allowed full rights as they believed a proper burial acted as a passageway for the dead to come into the afterlife and made the dead immortal in the afterlife. The beliefs were followed as it was also common belief that everyone was at the mercy of the gods, and if they did not obey the gods, they would face punishment and misfortune. Whilst Creon is king and therefore all powerful over his citizens, Antigone knows that the Olympian gods are the highest powers in the universe, and her ^{own} fate lies with them, so she chooses to bury Polynices at the risk of her life. ~~Sophocles~~ In this passage from the text, Sophocles is reflecting on the Ancient Greek beliefs of worship and religion, and through Antigone's actions communicates to the audience how divine law is greater than state law, especially in Ancient Greek society. (

Another example in the text of Sophocles ~~communicating~~ the theme of divine law being greater than state law is in Episode 2, where Antigone and Creon argue over who is right in the burial of Polynices. Creon expresses his anger at Antigone's actions and disobedience to his ^{laws} ~~will~~, and Antigone tells him

that she "did not think [his] edicts strong enough to override the unaltered law of the gods and heaven, ^(him) ~~man~~ being only a man." This quote reflects on the idea that although Creon is king and able to establish laws and punishment, his power is no match to that of the gods, who were believed in Ancient Greece to ~~decide~~ control a person's fate. Antigone is aware of this, and although she is facing certain death by ~~a~~ disobeying the law of the ^{state} ~~gods~~, she knows her true fate and judgement lies in the hands of the gods, and thus would rather become a martyr ~~for~~ them than go against their will. Antigone's actions in this episode reflect on the Ancient Greek ~~beliefs~~ beliefs of the Olympian gods controlling fate and punishment, thus ^{proving} the idea that divine law is greater than state law. (H)

A final example of the theme of divine law being greater than state law discussed ~~through~~ ⁱⁿ the text is when Creon and his son Haemon (who is also Antigone's lover) argue over Creon's power. Haemon is trying to convince his father to accept that Antigone is right, and that the gods possess more power than he does. Haemon claims that the people of Thebes "believe in the will of the gods," which Creon retaliates to by saying "when did I ever listen to the people of Thebes?" This conversation

highlights the popularity of the gods and how much more their laws are respected over the state. The people of Thebes, the town over which Creon is king, recognise that Creon is wrong to go against ~~these~~ laws of the gods, as their power is unmatched by his. Though the people of Thebes are aware that disloyalty to the state could be seen as a crime, the "Ancient Greek values of worshipping and obeying the Olympian gods over any other ~~power~~ power in their lives, ~~as~~ as well as their fear of being at the mercy of the gods, convinces them to abandon their support of Creon for the gods. Sophocles' choice to have the people of Thebes ~~support~~ worship the gods over their king reflects on the social ideals of Ancient Greece, and further shows that in Ancient Greece, divine law ~~was~~ greater than state law." (H)

Merit (M6)

In this response the candidate has consistently demonstrated in-depth understanding of the idea 'divine law vs state law' as explored in the text. Relevant examples are consistently provided and interpreted to reveal a sound understanding of the ideas and values of classical society. More awareness of the wider cultural context is needed for excellence. The candidate begins to show this at the end of the essay but it is not quite enough.

- 1) The introduction addresses both parts of the question and outlines the argument to follow. The belief in the importance of worshipping and obeying the Gods due to the fact that they are the 'ultimate power' demonstrates informed understanding of classical society.
- 2) Evidence from the text shows a sound understanding of plot events and the significance of the conflict between Antigone's beliefs and the beliefs of other characters. Quotes are well-chosen and their relevance is clearly explained and connected to the theme of divine law vs state law.
- 3) The explanations regarding the importance of burial and the reverence with which the gods are held by classical society demonstrates in-depth and informed understanding of classical values.
- 4) Another example of how 'divine law should be respected before state law', is provided. Again, the quote from the text is well chosen and the accompanying explanation demonstrates informed, in-depth knowledge of the values of classical society.
- 5) Further examples of the importance of divine law over state law with well-chosen quotes which are expanded on, demonstrate an informed and in-depth understanding of both the text and the issues the conflict creates within the play. The candidate begins to address Sophocles intentions and the ideals of the classical audience, there is potential for excellence in these ideas but the explanation is not taken far enough.