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91201



912010



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Level 2 Classical Studies 2022

91201 Examine the significance of features of work(s) of art in the classical world

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine the significance of features of work(s) of art in the classical world.	Examine, in-depth, the significance of features of work(s) of art in the classical world.	Examine, with perception, the significance of features of work(s) of art 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 answer ONE of the questions 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 2–11 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (XXXX). This area may be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Excellence

TOTAL

08

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

Copy and paste the question you have chosen into the space below.

CLASSICAL ART WORK(S) OR BUILDING(S)

PLANNING

ANSWER

Type your answer in the space below. You should aim to write a concise answer of no more than 750–800 words. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.) The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your answer.

In the fresco of Perseus and Andromeda, uncovered in the ruins of Pompeii, the artist uses a variety of methods to create visual appeal within the work. While deeper meaning is of course important within an art work, ultimately it is the artist's goal to create a work that is appealing to look at visually, that provides the viewer with entertainment, transporting them through a variety of methods. In the fresco of Perseus and Andromeda, the artist achieves this through depiction of colour, narrative and form, creating a work that is visually appealing, inviting the viewer into the mythical world of the two figures.

The use of colour and depiction of human form within the fresco helps to create visual appeal, with the figures of Perseus and Andromeda representing the ideals of beauty in classical society. The use of contrasting skin tones firstly appeals to classical standards of beauty. Andromeda is depicted with very pale skin, highlighting her desirability as a woman of great status, not having to work outdoors in the sun. To women in classical society, this was highly idealised, showing Andromeda as the highest form of beauty for a classical woman. Additionally, her pale skin and the radiant light of her golden clothes implies a sense of purity, a quality that adds to her visual appeal as the ideal woman in classical antiquity. In contrast to this, Perseus is depicted with very dark, sun-tanned skin, implying a vigorous outdoor existence, with the artists use of colour in this instance marking Perseus as the ideal man of the classical world. In addition to this, the use of highlighting and shadows helps to define Perseus' musculature, showing his bulging calf muscles and defined abs. To the classical viewer, this use of colour would have added great visual appeal, with Perseus representing the ideal form of a man, one who has great physical strength and is therefore of greater standing in classical society. The artists use of colour on the figures of Perseus and Andromeda creates visual appeal in this way, appealing to the classical standards of beauty. The depiction of the two figures also establishes them as the ideal man and woman of the classical world. The contrasting skin tones very much represent the expectations of men and women, with the man being expected to show strength physically, while the woman stayed indoors and tended to domestic affairs. To the classical viewer, adhering to the ideals within their society would create immense visual appeal, with Perseus and Andromeda becoming an ideal depiction of gender expectations in classical antiquity.

The artist's use of narrative and movement of form within the fresco creates visual appeal by adding entertainment to the work, with the fresco becoming much more than simply the depiction of two forms. Depicted within the fresco is the narrative of Perseus and Andromeda, a famously romantic and heroic story in Greek mythology. The myth follows the hero Perseus after he defeats the gorgon, Medusa. In his travels through Greece, the hero comes across the Princess Andromeda, daughter of King Cepheus of Ethiopia, chained to a rock. Andromeda was there as a sacrifice to the god Poseidon after her mother Cassiopeia boasted that Andromeda was more beautiful than the sea nymphs. To try and appease the god, Andromeda was sacrificed to the sea monster, however, before her death, Perseus arrives and defeats the monster, freeing the Princess and taking her as his bride. The depiction of this narrative within the fresco is done effectively and with appeal through the artist's inclusion of small features, such as the decapitated Medusa head hanging at Perseus' side and the drowning sea monster, making the myth easily recognisable to the viewer. This adds immense entertainment and therefore visual appeal within the fresco, bringing to life the two figures and making the work truly captivating. Additionally, entertainment is created through the movement of form, adding a sense of drama within the work. This sense of movement is conjured in the fabric of Andromeda's dress, with the catenary folds giving a poised grace and movement as she steps off the rock. The use of shadow under her foot, and the highlight placed on her knee also implies her movement as she is helped off the rock by the hero Perseus. This, along with sinking sea monster in the bottom left-hand corner creates great dynamicism and drama within the work, bring the fresco to life as the viewer sees the events of the narrative unfold. Through these methods, the artist creates visual appeal within the fresco, bringing the work to life and creating entertainment for the viewer.

Lastly, the artist creates visual appeal within the fresco through a variety of methods by conjuring a mythical atmosphere that transports the viewer to the myth of Perseus and Andromeda. This is firstly done through the use of colour and background, with the artist applying an almost impressionistic approach in their depiction of colour. The glazed and smoky background and colour within the work help to give create an atmospheric perspective that gives the fresco its appropriately mythic quality. The figures are not overly defined, and the background seems to be faded, giving an other-worldly feel to the fresco that allows the viewer to be transported to the mythical setting. Additionally, the light on Andromeda and her golden clothes gives a radiant, ethereal quality to her form, with the use of colour again helping to create the mythical quality within the fresco. This use of colour adds to the visual appeal within the fresco, creating an atmosphere that aligns with the depicted narrative and allowing the viewer to be transported to the story. The artist's use of composition also helps to convey this mythical atmosphere, allowing the viewer to focus on the forms of Perseus and Andromeda, making the fresco more captivating. The pyramid/triangle composition within the fresco places the most importance on the two central figures, both placed on either side of the 'triangle.' By doing this, the viewer is able to be totally focused on the two forms, transported to the myth of Perseus and Andromeda. This kind of captivation and conveyal of atmosphere was especially important for the classical viewer, creating immense visual appeal. While today, we are able to access fast paced action, and be transported from our lives easily through advancements in technology, to the classical viewer, this was not possible. It was therefore important for artists to implore methods such as use of colour to convey atmosphere and myth to captivate the audience and create a work that was visually appealing.

The careful and deliberate use of various methods within the fresco of Perseus and Andromeda creates visual appeal to the classical viewer. This is done through the use of colour and depiction of form to adhere to the gender ideals of beauty in the classical world, as well as the use of narrative to create entertainment and drama within the work. Ultimately, the artist sought to produce a work that was captivating to the viewer, that created visual appeal through the mythical atmosphere conjured within the fresco.

1184 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

Excellence Exemplar 2022

Subject	Level 2 Classical Studies		Standard	91201	Total score	08
Q	Grade score	Annotation				
3	E8	<p>The candidate's answer demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the features of an art work and its significance in the classical world. All parts of the answer include well-selected detail. Supporting evidence is relevant, accurate, and in-depth. Informed, relevant, and developed conclusions are consistently drawn, e.g., how the aesthetic features of this fresco reflect the ideals of beauty held by the Romans, and this is then linked back to nature of the visual appeal the artwork conveyed to the viewer at the time. The response makes several articulate and insightful comments. The skilful integration of the mythic tale into the response, rather than as an add-on, is something for students to develop at in this standard. Overall, a thoughtful and confident response to the question.</p>				