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91201



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 Classical Studies 2023

### 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 (X). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

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

Merit

TOTAL 05

# Page 1

## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ONE of the questions below with reference to one or more **classical art works or buildings**.

You must answer using paragraphs.

## QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Explain how the features of a classical art work or building reflected the societal ideal of beauty.
2. Explain how an artist communicated one or more beliefs through a classical art work.
3. Explain how the purpose of a classical building was enhanced by its design and decoration.
4. Explain how a classical art work or building influenced a later culture.

## SELECTED QUESTION

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

1. Explain how the features of a classical art work or building reflected the societal ideal of beauty.

## CLASSICAL ART WORK(S) OR BUILDING(S)

Perseus and Andromeda

## PLANNING

### Narrative

- The Myth and how its shows societal ideal of beauty through the way gender roles are reinforced etc.
- Queen Cassiopeia's daughter was punished for her mothers arrogant boasting, and was chained to a rock to become sacrifice to a sea monster. Perseus fell past on winged horse Pegasus and killed the sea monster, saving the princess and later marrying her
- Shows Medusa's head, winged feet, sea monster, Andromeda's arm chained

### Depth

- Shows societal ideal of beauty through how the human figures are main focus and the naturalistic effect and highlighting and shadowing
- The background is minimal, hazy and indistinct
- The shading and light shows a realistic effect of Andromeda's drapery
- The artist has made Perseus look 3D which resembles sculpture

### Colours

- The beauty standards of women and men and how its reinforced
- Pale women, shows they are indoors protected and away from temptation and danger
- Suntanned man, shows that men are to lead full and vigorous outdoor existences (military)

### Not using

#### Heroic and Romantic

- Shows societal ideal of beauty through the way the story is portrayed and how heroic and romantic is a societal ideal and that it can be seen as beauty through the way the myth is depicted.
- Perseus is naked which is conventional portrayal of a hero
- Eye focus
- Romantic can reflect societal ideal of beauty in the way they are both depicted as beautiful and the romanticness of how she isn't showing much skin or anything is a societal ideal

## 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 response is more important than its length.

Support your answer with evidence from one or more classical art works or buildings.

B I U    

In the Roman Wall Painting of Perseus and Andromeda, from 70AD and found in Pompeii, we can see many different features that reflected the societal ideal of beauty. The painting of Perseus and Andromeda is depicting their first meeting when Andromeda was in need of help and Perseus saved her, being the hero that he is. Andromeda was in need of help because she had been chained to a rock in order to be sacrificed to a sea monster,

this was because of her mother, Queen Cassiopeia's, arrogant boasting. Perseus was flying home on his winged horse, Pegasus, when he saw Andromeda was in need of help, so he killed the sea monster and saved her. The many different features we can see in the painting that reflect the societal ideal of beauty is the narrative, depth, and the use of colour.

The feature of narrative reflects the societal ideal of beauty in the way of how the gender roles are enforced and how Perseus and Andromeda is a well known myth which shows the Greek beauty ideals of how men and women are meant to look. It also allows to create visual appeal for a classical viewer through the use of Greek societal ideals. The narrative is about how the myth is portrayed in the painting and how you can clearly tell the painting is about the myth of Perseus and Andromeda. The myth is about Queen Cassiopeia's daughter who was punished for her mothers arrogant boasting, and was chained to a rock to become sacrifice to a sea monster. When Perseus fell past on winged horse Pegasus, after killing the Gorgon; Medusa, and killed the sea monster, saving the princess and later marrying her. We can see in the painting that the artist has used certain things to showcase the myth, these are things like Medusa's head, winged feet, sea monster and Andromeda's arm chained to the rock. We can see that Perseus is holding Medusa's head in one hand and shielding her away from Andromeda, while we can also see that he has winged feet, which is a known way to identify Perseus. We can also see the sea monster in the bottom corner, and how Andromeda still has her left arm chained to the rock, this shows the viewer what has just previously happened and allows to show the story. The narrative reflects the societal ideal of beauty by how the two figures have been depicted as beautiful, and you can see the romantic storyline between the two and how they stick to the beauty ideals through how Perseus is portrayed as the hero and Andromeda clearly isn't outside much and sticks to her princess role. This also allows to create visual appeal to a classical viewer as they see their societal ideals which captivates them and allows to create a visually appealing painting.

Another feature in the painting of Perseus and Andromeda that reflects the societal ideal of beauty is the depth. The depth reflects the societal ideal of beauty by how the human figures are the main focus and the naturalistic effect and highlighting and shadowing the artist has created. The background in the painting is very minimal, hazy and indistinct, this is done in order to show of the action of the hero and the two human figures. If there were to be a distracting background, then it would take away from the story behind the two figures and make them look less important. The use of shading and light allows for Andromeda's drapery to look realistic and it gives a naturalistic effect to the painting. The artist has also used the shading and light on Perseus and his muscles, this gives him an almost 3D effect and makes the painting resemble sculpture. This all reflects the societal ideal of beauty because it allows for the human figures in the painting to look beautiful and that also captivates the viewer. The use of shading and light on Perseus' muscles allows to show the societal beauty ideal of men are meant to be muscly and working hard outside. The minimal background allowing the human figures to be the main focus shows how Greek society ideals of beauty are shown in Perseus and Andromeda by how they are depicted to be known. The story of Perseus and Andromeda reflects beauty ideals because of how the gender roles are used and how Perseus is naked which is a conventional portrayal of a hero but Andromeda is not revealing much skin at all which shows modesty and innocence which was how women were seen as with Greek societal beauty ideals.

Another feature in the painting of Perseus and Andromeda that reflects the societal ideal of beauty is the use of colour by the artist. The use of colours reflects the societal ideal of beauty in the way the flesh tones are shown and how it reinforces gender roles within Greek society. The colour is done in the way of the strong contrast between flesh tones, we can see that Andromeda's skin is very pale while Perseus' is suntanned. This reflects the Greek ideal because women were meant to stay indoors where they were protected and away from temptation and danger. While men were meant to live full and vigorous outdoor lifestyles, which is shown in Perseus because he is a hero. These Greek ideals show in the painting and it would allow for a young Greek boy to look up to Perseus as a hero and one day want to be like him, in the way of becoming a hero themselves or fighting for their country in military services. The use of colour reflects the societal ideal of beauty because the flesh tones are part of the beauty ideals for Greeks, pale skin on women and tanned skin on men was their beauty ideals because it reinforced their gender roles and the way men and women were meant to act and look.

In conclusion, the painting of Perseus and Andromeda has many different features that reflect the societal ideal of beauty. These features being the narrative, depth and use of colour, they reflect the societal ideal of beauty through the way the two human figures are depicted and how they reflect societal beauty ideals. The viewer can see the beauty ideals in how Andromeda is depicted as a princess who fulfills her duties of staying inside and being protected from any danger or temptation. While Perseus shows the beauty ideals in the way he is depicted as a conventional hero who lives a full and vigorous outdoor existence. In the way the painting reflects the societal ideals of beauty also allows for the painting to be aesthetically pleasing for a classical viewer as they respect and value these societal ideals.

1133 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

## Merit

**Subject:** Classical Studies

**Standard:** 91201

**Total score:** 05

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	M5	<p>This response exemplifies a sound understanding that is mostly informed and detailed knowledge of the art work. Beauty has been linked to societal ideals in an implied manner: through narrative, depth, and colour in the response. A more balanced and consistent response would have unpacked the concept of beauty in a more considered way. For example, why is this painting or its component aesthetically pleasing to the classical viewer? Why is that important? This would have allowed for development of firmer conclusions.</p>