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91395



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Classical Studies 2023

91395 Analyse the significance of a work(s) of art in the classical world

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse the significance of a work(s) of art in the classical world.	Analyse, in-depth, the significance of a work(s) of art in the classical world.	Analyse, with perception, the significance of a 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 attempt ONE of the questions in 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 (କ୍ଷତ କ୍ଷତ କ୍ଷତ). 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.

Achievement

TOTAL 04

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. Discuss the extent to which one or more classical art works reflected behaviour typical of the society in which it was produced.
2. Discuss the extent to which mood was effectively conveyed in one or more classical art works.
3. Discuss the extent to which techniques* enhanced the visual appeal of one or more classical art works.
**Techniques means painting / decoration processes, materials, sculptural styles, and construction.*
4. Discuss the extent to which one or more classical art works had a social and / or political function.

SELECTED QUESTION

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

Discuss the extent to which one or more classical art works had a social and / or political function.

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 800–900 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.

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

B I U    

The Ara Pacis Augustae is an altar of peace that was commissioned by the Roman senate to commemorate Augustus' return from Gaul and Hispania. In this essay I will discuss how the Ara Pacis had a political function of helping Augustus to maintain his grip on power to a large extent.

The Ara Pacis features vegetal friezes which show plants that do not appear together in nature thriving and growing simultaneously. This suggests that people from different backgrounds could live together harmoniously and prosper in Rome under Augustus' rule. This in turn links back to the political divide between the Optimates and Populares parties when Augustus came into power. The Optimates believed that the traditional families should continue to rule Rome, whereas the Populares wanted to replace the traditional families with one great, ostentatious monarch. This political divide was of great concern to Augustus because he was the leader of the Populares party, a position he inherited from his adoptive father, Julius Caesar. The Optimates initially thought that Augustus was diminishing the power of the senate and taking it all for himself. The last person who the Optimates believed to be doing this was Julius Caesar and he was assassinated. To avoid the same fate as his predecessor, Augustus carefully manipulated his public image to win over the Optimates, which led to the unification of Rome. So by making connections to how he unified Rome, Augustus showcased the peace and stability he spread over Rome and how his leadership style was about being accommodating and considerate of his people. This in turn helped him to maintain his grip on power.

Roma, the personified deity of Rome, is shown sitting atop the weapons of her fallen enemies in another frieze that covers part of the Ara Pacis. This showcases how Augustus successfully led Rome in military conflicts and in turn helped Rome to gain a reputation of strong and mighty empire. As a result, Rome no longer needed to engage in

military conflicts, but was still prepared to do so nonetheless. So by showcasing the fact that during his rule there came a time where Rome was no longer involved in any military conflicts, Augustus presented himself as a strong militaristic leader which would have appealed to the people of Rome, as successful military campaigns resulted in a great amount of loot and riches being brought back to the empire which could be used to further develop the empire. In addition to this, military conflicts require a lot of valuable resources and result in many deaths. In addition this, military conflicts diminish peace and create instability. So by highlighting the fact that during his rule there came a time where Rome was no longer involved in any military conflicts, Augustus showcased the peace and stability that he brought over Rome, which in turn helped him to maintain his power, because the people of Rome would have craved a sense of peace and stability as Rome had been involved in a civil war.

In one of the friezes of the Ara Pacis, Tellus, also known as Mother Earth, is depicted with two chubby babies and fruits in her lap. In addition to this, personified forms of wind and water can be seen on either side of Tellus, who also has a goat and a sheep at her feet. By featuring chubby babies in this frieze, Augustus was able to showcase that under his rule, the people of Rome are able to raise lots of strong and healthy children, who when older will be able to contribute to the growth of the empire. By featuring animals and fruits in this frieze, Augustus was able to showcase that under his rule, there is plenty of food to go around. The personified forms of wind and water suggest that nature is on Augustus' side. This in turn may have helped Augustus to reassure the people of Rome that nature would not cause destruction to their crops, but would instead spread fine weather over Rome that would aid the growth of the crops. This in turn would lead to prosperity, as crops were the main source of income for many families. There being no personified form of fire, on the other hand, suggests that there is no war and destruction. The themes of fertility, abundance and prosperity would have therefore appealed to the people of Rome and in turn helped Augustus to strengthen his grip on power.

In conclusion, the Ara Pacis had a political function of helping Augustus to maintain power to a large extent. This is evidenced by the vegetal friezes which link back to how Augustus was able to unify Rome. The Roma frieze shows how there came a time during Augustus' rule where Rome was not involved in any military conflicts. The frieze that features Tellus conveys themes of fertility, abundance and prosperity, which would have all appealed to the people of Rome.

821 WORDS / 900 RECOMMENDED



Mana Tahu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

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Achievement

Subject: Classical Studies

Standard: 91395

Total score: 04

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Four	A4	The candidate attempts to respond to the question and demonstrates a sound understanding of the art work. Examples of the art work are provided, but some lack specific detail. The candidate demonstrated they understand the context for which the artwork was created, however it is not consistently supported with detailed, specific examples. Though a basic conclusion linking back to the question is included, the response lacks analysis of the artwork and does not address "to what extent", thus is unable to gain higher than an Achieved grade.