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91200



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 Classical Studies 2024

91200 Examine ideas and values of the classical world

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine ideas and values of the classical world.	Examine, in-depth, ideas and values of the classical world.	Examine, with perception, 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 answer ONE of the questions in this booklet.

If you need more room for any 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 the margins (//////). 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.

Excellence

TOTAL 08

Page 1

INSTRUCTIONS

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

You must answer using paragraphs.

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Explain how classical values were demonstrated by a hero.
2. In what ways was a relationship harmful to a character's goals?
3. Explain how a cultural tradition created conflict between characters.
4. Explain how the ideas and values demonstrated in a classical literary text have influenced a later culture.

SELECTED QUESTION

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

Explain how a cultural tradition created conflict between characters.

CLASSICAL LITERARY TEXT

Antigone by Sophocles

PLANNING

burial
Antigone and Ismene
Antigone and Creon
Creon and Haemon

pride does not sit well upon subordinates

let not your first thought be your only thought
i hear voices of pity for this poor girl, doomed to the cruelest death, the most unjust, that ever a woman suffered for
an honourable action - burying a brother killed in battle

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.

Support your answer with evidence from a classical literary text.

B I U ☰ ∨ ☰ ∨ ↶ ↷ ?

Explain how a cultural tradition created conflict between characters.

In the play *Antigone*, written by Sophocles, the cultural tradition of burial created a conflict between characters in the play. In classical times burial was an important tradition, as it was considered an offence to the Gods' to leave a body unburied upon the earth, and to ignore this rule was to show hubris (pride, arrogance and ignorance to the gods laws). In the play two brothers had ruled over Thebes together, until Eteocles exiled Polynices, resulting in Polynices retaliating in an attack and resulting in the two brothers killing each other. The new ruler of Thebes Creon, ordered that the body of Polynices will not be buried but Eteocles will, and this causes conflict between characters like Antigone, Ismene, Creon and Haemon, over this controversial law.

In the play the banning of the tradition of burial ordered by Creon, creates conflict between the sisters of Polynices and Eteocles, Antigone and Ismene. Antigone is outraged by this order as it goes against her culture and she wants to give her brother peace, so she decides to go against the law and bury the body, risking the penalty which is death by stoning. Antigone attempts to get Ismene to help her bury the body, but Ismene is adamant that they follow the order as she says 'Antigone we are women, it is not for us to fight against men, our rulers are stronger than we ... I can do no other than as I am commanded, to do more is madness' showing that because they are women Ismene believes they should follow the order, as women in classical times were expected to obey men, particularly the head of the family which is Creon, who is their king, a man, and their head of family so his rule should be obeyed. Antigone disagrees with her saying 'I will bury my brother, and if I die for it, what happiness? Convicted of reverence, I shall be content to lie beside a brother whom I love' and she gets angry at her for refusing, saying 'Live if you will; live and defy the holiest laws in heaven' showing that Antigone is willing to die to bury her brother with or without Ismene's help, as she believes that it is their duty to the gods to uphold this tradition and to leave the body unburied is showing hubris. Ismene refuses to help even when she cannot dissuade Antigone, and mourns her as she knows she will die, saying to her 'remember those that love you, love you still.' Ismene believes that they should obey the order despite it going against a sacred tradition because they are women, and therefore they must obey Creon as he is a man. But Antigone believes it is their duty to their brother and to the Gods to bury his body and uphold the tradition as the Gods come before any order from a mortal, man or not. Because of their opposing views the ban of the burial creates conflict between the characters, with Ismene mourning for her sister and Antigone getting mad at her refusal to help, and burying Polynices anyway.

The banning of the burial also creates conflict between Antigone and Creon, as she openly disobeys his order resulting in him punishing her with death and getting mad that she disobeyed him. Because it was Creon's order that made her outraged, she is naturally angry at him, and openly disobeys his order and tells him how he is wrong when she is caught. So when Creon discovers it was her that buried Polynices, this creates conflict between the two characters as they are both mad at each other. In her confession she says to him 'That order did not come from god. Justice, that dwells with the gods below, knows no such law. I did not think your edicts strong enough to overrule the unwritten, unalterable laws of god and heaven, you being only a man.' Showing how she is outraged at him for believing he has the power to overrule the sacred tradition of burial, and in doing so is defying their culture and showing hubris. She believes that she has done nothing wrong and that he is the guilty one, not her, for banning a tradition that will make the gods angry and expecting people to listen to his rule that directly goes against their culture. Creon refuses to see that he is being ignorant to the gods and dismisses her as being too proud, saying 'pride does not sit well upon subordinates. This girl's proud spirit was first in evidence when she broke the law.' Showing that he is actually too proud to see that he is being ignorant to the Gods, partly because he is angry that a woman in his family has disobeyed his order when they should be the most compliant to his orders. He expected it to be a man that buried the body as he refers to the culprit as 'he' before Antigone is found out, showing that his pride is partly the reason for his anger, not only that his law has been broken, as he has been defied not only by a woman, but a woman in his family. The anger that Creon and Antigone have for each other is created by Creon's outlawing of the burial, and his pride results in him not listening to Antigone's reason, saying that he is overruling the Gods which will result in him being punished for his hubris. This pride results in him ordering her to be entombed in a cave for breaking the law and showing pride as a woman. Therefore Creon's law that outlaws the tradition of burial created conflict between Creon and Antigone, because Antigone disagreed with the order and broke the law, resulting in them being mad at each other and Creon sentencing her to death in a cave.

Creon's outlawing of the burial of Polynices also creates conflict between Creon and his son Haemon, who is also betrothed to Antigone. The law creates conflict between them because Haemon believes that Creon's law is wrong and goes against their culture so he should let Antigone go. He tries to calmly show Creon that he has made a mistake and there is still time to correct it, but Creon is too proud and still refuses to believe he is wrong, creating conflict between the characters as they both get mad at each other. To try and calmly show that Creon has made a mistake Haemon says to his father 'I hear voices of pity for this poor girl, doomed to the cruellest death, the most unjust, that ever a woman suffered for an honourable action'. Haemon is attempting to show Creon that the people of Thebes believe his law is overruling the Gods, and that he has made a mistake sending Antigone to her death because he is defying the Gods and losing favor with his subjects over the outlawing of this tradition. He further says to him 'therefore I say, let not your first thought be your only thought', attempting to show him that he can right his wrong and regain his stature with his people and the gods by allowing Antigone to live and allowing the burial of Polynices. This creates conflict between the characters because Creon gets mad at him for disagreeing with his father, and is too proud to accept that Haemon is right, saying 'The people of Thebes! Since when do I take my orders from the people of Thebes?' To which Haemon responds 'Isn't that a rather childish thing to say'. Creon's pride results in their conflict and leaving one another in anger, and Creon's refusal to see the error of his ways results in a prophet coming to him with the Gods punishment of his hubris 'you shall have given a son of your own loins to death, in payment for death, two debts to pay. One for the life you have sent to death ... one for the dead still lying above ground' which blames him for the wrongful death of Antigone and Polynices unburied body, and his punishment will be the death of his son. This makes Creon see he has been wrong, rushing to the cave for Antigone, where he sees Antigone's suicide and Haemon kill himself before Creon, blaming him for her death. Therefore Creon's refusal to see the error of his ways towards their culture's sacred tradition of burial resulted in conflict between Creon and his son Haemon, as they disagree over his law and Antigone's fate, which results in Haemon killing himself because of Creon's actions that made him at fault for Antigone's death. Haemon's suicide also results in Creon's wife killing herself, cursing Creon for the death of her son. Therefore Creon's outlawing of the tradition of burial resulted in conflict between himself and his son Haemon as they got mad at each other, and resulted in Haemon's suicide because of their anger towards each other over Antigone's fate.

In the play Antigone written by Sophocles, Creon's outlawing of the tradition of burial for the body of Polynices, creates conflict between Antigone and Ismene, as Ismene believes they should obey the order because they are women and Antigone disagrees with this. It also creates conflict between Antigone and Creon because Antigone disobeys Creon's order, and Creon and Haemon because Creon refuses to see his ignorance towards the Gods when Haemon tries to show him. The play shows that the tradition of burial was sacred to their culture, and it was so sacred that Antigone was willing to die for it, and Creon was punished by the Gods with the suicides of Antigone, Haemon and his wife for his hubris. Therefore the tradition of burial created conflict between the characters in the play, which resulted in tragedy.

1649 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

Excellence

Subject: Classical Studies

Standard: 91200

Total score: 08

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Three	E8	<p>This response is assessed as a 'high' Excellence. The candidate answers the question thoroughly and clearly. Context for the reader to understand the cultural tradition is provided, and the candidate demonstrates perceptive understanding of the wider implications and impacts of not following the cultural tradition (burial).</p> <p>The response includes strong use of primary source evidence (quotes) that are integrated into the explanation, and shows how the selected evidence supports their explanation.</p>