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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.**

Merit

TOTAL 06

## 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.

3. Explain how a cultural tradition created conflict between characters.

### CLASSICAL LITERARY TEXT

Antigone

### PLANNING

Quotes:

- 'Save two luckless brothers.. and in one death laid low.'
- 'I know my duty where duty truly lies'
- 'Go your own way then, I will bury my brother, and if I die for it, what happiness? I shall be content to lie beside the brother whom I love.'
- 'That order did not come from god. Justice, who dwells with the gods below, knows no such laws. I did not think your edicts strong enough to overrule the unwritten unalterable laws of god and heaven, you being only a man.'
- 'Let it be secret... I will not betray your secret.'
- 'Your heart burns! Mine is frozen at the thought.'
- 'Fine, I will not ask you for your help, nor would I thank you if you gave it.'
- 'We have only a short time to love the living, but all eternity to love the dead.'
- 'I did it, I do not deny it.'

conflict between Ismene  
conflict between Creon.

## 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     

The play 'Antigone', written by the Greek tragedian Socrates, displays a cultural tradition that creates conflict between characters. A tradition of ancient Greece was burial rights which were used to honour both the dead and the gods, this includes burying them. It is the duty of the relatives of the deceased, usually the women, to prepare, bury and honour the dead. Antigone, the protagonist, displays the cultural tradition to honour her fallen brother, which causes conflict between her sister, Ismene, and her uncle, King Creon of Thebes.

Antigone is a character that enacts a cultural tradition which causes conflict between her and other characters. She is shown as a character who loves her family and the gods and would risk her own life to honour them. The reason that the cultural tradition of burial rights causes conflict between Antigone and other characters is because of the contradicting laws that the King enforces. Before Creon, Antigone's uncle, became King there was Eteocles and Polynices who were brothers to Antigone and both fought for their father's crown. During the battle, both brothers were killed by the other. 'Save two luckless brothers... and in one death laid low.' Ismene and Antigone were to honour their brothers and provide their corpses with their burial rights while Creon took the place of King. However, the play starts with Antigone meeting Ismene in secret to tell her of the new order that Creon had passed. 'Eteocles has been buried in state with all the honours the dead deserve, but Polynices is to be left unburied, unmourned.' This law contradicts the 'laws of heaven' where the cultural traditions of burial rights are needed in order for the souls of the dead to pass over to the underworld, and to not honour the dead with these rights is to also dishonour the Gods. Antigone began to ask for her sister's help to bury Polynices, and give him his rights and burial, to honour him, to honour the gods, and to fulfil their duties. Ismene argued that as women that they could not interfere with the will of King Creon. 'Fine, I will not ask for your help, nor would I thank you if you gave it... I know my duty, where duty truly lies.' Despite Ismene's pleas, Antigone holds strong on her beliefs and her love for her brother. She believes that the tradition of burial rights are honourable and that Polynices is just as deserving of them. 'Go your own way then, I will bury my brother. And if I die for it, what happiness? I shall be content to lie with the brother whom I love.' Antigone shows a love not only to her family but also to the cultural traditions of ancient Greece. She is strong in her beliefs and will not waver them to please her sister, nor King Creon. 'We have only a short time to love the living, but all eternity to love the dead.'

Antigone is a character that enacts a cultural tradition which causes conflict between her and other characters. The cultural tradition of burying and honouring the dead causes conflict between the characters Antigone and Creon because of the law that Creon has enforced. When Antigone is found disobeying his will and law, she is brought to him. When asked whether it is true she simply, and shamelessly states: 'I did do it, I do not deny it.' Antigone is rightfully proud of what she has done because she had honoured her brother with the cultural tradition of burying him, but this causes conflict between her and Creon as he had forbidden the act to Polynices. Antigone is a strong character whose morals are unwavering, even in the face of her own demise. Creon is the King of Thebes and is displayed as a narcissistic and self-righteous character. He holds himself of high esteem and without faults and often pushes blame on every other person. She argues that he has no right to dishonour the will of the gods. 'This order did not come from God. Justice, who dwells with the Gods below, knows no such laws. I did not think you edicts strong enough to overrule the unwritten, unalterable laws of heaven and God, you being only a man.'

The play 'Antigone', written by the Greek tragedian Socrates, displays a cultural tradition that creates conflict between characters. A tradition of ancient Greece was burial rights which were used to honour both the dead and the gods, this includes burying them. It is the duty of the relatives of the deceased, usually the women, to prepare, bury and honour the dead. Antigone, the protagonist, displays the cultural tradition to honour her fallen brother, which causes conflict between her sister, Ismene, and her uncle, King Creon of Thebes.

**797 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED**

## Merit

**Subject:** Classical Studies

**Standard:** 91200

**Total score:** 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Three	M6	<p>Context for the cultural tradition is woven throughout this response, though could have been explained in more depth. Primary source evidence is used throughout the response.</p> <p>The candidate describes the conflict between Ismene and Antigone well, but the explanation of why it is a conflict is not as strong. Briefly, and in lesser detail, the conflict with Creon is included.</p> <p>Though the answer is unbalanced, this response demonstrates an informed understanding.</p>