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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 Classical Studies 2024

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 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

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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 a classical artist depicted figures to convey messages.
2. Explain how a classical artist created a sense of action in an art work.
3. How did features of a classical building reflect the artistic ability and / or skill of its creators?
4. In what ways was a classical art work and / or building influenced by the context in which it was created?

SELECTED QUESTION

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

In what ways was a classical art work and / or building influenced by the context in which it was created?

CLASSICAL ART WORK(S) OR BUILDING(S)

The Parthenon

PLANNING

Para 1: Location and design
Para 2: Frieze- Panathenaic Procession
Para 3: Metopes: 1 depicting lapiths vs centaur, athenians vs persians
Para 4: Athena Parthenos

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 one or more classical art works or buildings.

The classical building 'The Parthenon,' is an incredibly famous and influential building. The Parthenon was built as a temple for the goddess Athena, the patron goddess of the city Athens, in which The Parthenon is located. Construction for The Parthenon begun in the year 447 BC, and was designed by the architect Iktinos. There were multiple contexts for the building of The Parthenon, and as such, there are features on the temple that reflects the influences of the context of its being built. There are two main reasons behind the building of the temple. Firstly, in order to honour the city's patron goddess Athena, and secondly, to celebrate the military victories of the city of Athens, specifically, the Athenians victory over the Persians in the years prior. The Athenians worshiped Athena greatly, and as the goddess of wisdom and war strategy, The Athenians saw her as the reason for the cities military successes. Both of these contexts influenced the decorative features both internally and externally in The Parthenon. Some significant decorative features that show the contexts of the building include the location and design of the temple, the frieze surrounding the temple, the metopes, pediments and the statue 'Athena Parthenos' located inside The Parthenon. The temple has been damaged over time, primarily in the 1600's when it was used to store explosives, and an accident caused the explosives to light, causing great damage. However, through letters discovered, scientific research on the ruins and art work from the past, scholars can confidently agree what these decorative features depicted.

The Parthenon is located in the city of Athens in Greece. The Parthenon is located in the Acropolis, at the highest point in the city. The temple is large and made primarily of Pentellic Marble, a rare and difficult to attain material. These features of the temple give significant insight into the context in which The Parthenon was created. The Parthenon, as a temple to Athena, being located at the highest point of the city shows the superiority of the goddess in the eyes of the Athenians. Additionally, the Parthenon is exceptionally large, larger than other temples built in that time. The size of The Parthenon and the location at the highest point in the city made it so that the temple was able to be seen from all angles of the city, and that it would be the first thing travelers would see when entering the city. These features show the purpose of the temple to honour Athena, as constantly seeing the temple would have been a constant reminder to the citizens of Athens that they should thank her for giving them their victories. The temple being made of Pentellic Marble was an additional way to honour the city's goddess. By creating the building out of a fine and expensive material, it was signifying the cities devotion to Athena.

The frieze located around The Parthenon further shows how the context of honouring the goddess Athena influenced the building. The continuous frieze around the temple depicts the Panathenaic Procession, a religious festival held on the birthday of the goddess Athena. The Panathenaic Procession was a time dedicated to honouring and celebrating the goddess. The frieze depicts the celebrations taking place during the festival, such as musicians playing, sacrifices to Athena being made and celebratory contests such as chariot racing. The depiction of this festival in such a prominent part of the temple further shows the influence of the context of honoring Athena on the building. The inclusion of this frieze further displays the purpose of honouring and worshiping the goddess Athena.

A decorative feature that was influenced by the context of the building is the metopes, specifically the metope depicting the Lapiths vs Centaurs. A context to the building of The Parthenon was in order to celebrate the military victories of Athens, especially the victory over the Persians. In the metopes, a battle between Lapiths and Centaurs is depicted. This battle of the Lapiths vs Centaurs is representative of the battle between the Athenians and Persians. In the metope the Athenians are depicted as the calm and divine lapiths, whilst the Persians are depicted as the 'sub-human,' barbaric centaurs. The metope shows the difficulty of the battle between the Athenians and Persians, as the Persians who came to take over Athens were a much larger and feared army. One such aspect that showed the difficulty of the battle is a moment depicted in the metope which shows a centaur using a hoof to hold down a lapith. However, even whilst being held down, the Lapith maintains a calm and collected facial expression, whilst the Centaur has a barbaric and wild expression. This aspect of the metope being included shows the difficulty of the battle, but that The Athenians are a more 'perfect' being, remaining calm and collected, whilst The Persians are wild and barbaric. The inclusion of this metope represents how the context of the Athenians wanting to celebrate their victory influenced this design feature on the The Parthenon.

An additional decorative feature of The Parthenon are the pediments located on the East and West side of the temple. The inclusion of these pediments further shows the influence of the context of the building of the temple being to honouring the goddess Athena. On the Eastern Pediment, the birth of Athena is shown. The pediment shows Athena emerging fully armored from her father Zeus' head. The inclusion of this shows the Athenians dedication to honouring Athena, done by remembering the story of her birth and celebrating her birth. The Western Pediment shows the contest between Poseidon and Athena to decide who was to be the patron of the city of Athens. The story of the contest would have been well known to Athenians, and it would have been well known that Athena won this contest. The inclusion of this contest on the Western Pediment shows the Athenians pride of having Athena as their patron. Both of the pediments on The Parthenon show important moments of the goddess Athena. The inclusion of these pediments show the influence of the context of building the Parthenon.

Another design feature of Parthenon that was influenced by the context of wanting to celebrate Athens victory and to honour Athena, is the Athena Parthenos statue that was located inside The Parthenon. The Athena Parthenos was a large statue of the goddess Athena. The statue stood at approximately 12 metres tall, and was made of ivory and gold. She stood in a pool of water which helped to keep the ivory moist, and to reflect light onto her. Her hand was outstretched and in her hand stood a small statuette of the goddess Nike, the goddess of victory. The inclusion of this statue shows the influence of the context of the building of The Parthenon. The Parthenon was built to honour Athena and to celebrate Athens victories, and the inclusion of this statue represents both of these purposes. The grandeur of the statue, being made of gold and ivory which are both extremely expensive shows the Athenians devotion to Athena, the pool of light reflecting light onto her again shows the goddesses superiority, majesty and divinity. The goddess Nike that is located in her hand is representative of the victories that Athens has achieved. The goddess Nike is the goddess of victory, and her being placed in Athens outstretched hand is a metaphor for Athena 'giving' the Athenians victory through her help. The inclusion of this statue was clearly influenced by the context of the building of The Parthenon, as both honouring Athena and celebrating the military victories were main purposes behind the temple being built.

The decorative features of The Parthenon were influenced by the context behind the construction of the building. The context of the building was the honour Athena and the celebrate the victories of the Athenians. The features of the pediments, frieze and statue all show the context of the purpose behind the building of The Parthenon, which was to honour and worship the Athenians patron goddess Athena. Additionally, the metopes and statue also show the other context of The Parthenon which was the celebrate the military strength of Athens. Both of these contexts work together, as the Athenians whilst celebrating their victories, ensure to also celebrate Athena, as they believe it is because of her that they won their victories in the first place.

1399 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

Merit

Subject: Classical Studies

Standard: 91201

Total score: 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Four	M6	A consistently focused and detailed response to the chosen question indicates this candidate has an informed knowledge of the work discussed. The question is well-selected as a match for the solid understanding evidenced by the candidate who provides an in-depth response. Rather than giving more of the same level of detail, the candidate may have considered insights that go beyond the primary source, such as further historical and / or art historical sources, deeper links to wider society, or conclusions drawn about the scholarly debates or propagandistic nature which are implied in the response but not developed.