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91203



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 Classical Studies 2024

91203 Examine socio-political life in the classical world

Credits: Six

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine socio-political life in the classical world.	Examine, in-depth, socio-political life in the classical world.	Examine, with perception, socio-political life 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.

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 civilisation**. This may include, but is not limited to, a city-state, republic, or empire.

You must answer using paragraphs.

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Explain the impact class and / or gender had on an individual's education.
2. In what ways did public and private religious observance reflect cultural identity?
3. Explain how class structure determined people's actions in a classical society.
4. Explain how authority was gained and / or maintained during a social and / or political conflict.

SELECTED QUESTION

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

Explain how class structure determined people's actions in a classical society.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Ancient Rome

PLANNING

Patricians - elite, tied to birthright
Cicero - rule by the best men

Equestrians (Equites)

Plebeians

Freedpeople

Slaves

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 primary-source evidence.

B I U ☰ ☷ ↶ ↷ ?

In Ancient Rome, the strict social hierarchy rules the political, social and economic structure. The actions of each social class determines the growth of these structures. Each class participates differently and all hold significant roles that allow Ancient Rome to progress, whether it be - Patricians, Equestrians, Plebeians, Freed-people or Slaves. Ancient Rome thrives on the status of wealth, without wealth it was hard to be deemed as important. This led to major actions from the classes, such as Councils, Revolts and Rebellions which all impacted Ancient Rome differently, without this strict social hierarchy, Ancient Rome, wouldn't have maintained such strict orders which allowed it to develop into a strong empire.

The Patricians, the pinnacle of Roman society, played a large role in maintaining the strict social hierarchy within Rome as well as determining the roles of the Patricians as well as the classes below. The Patricians developed and maintained the social, economic and political structure of Ancient Rome. The Patricians were always tied to birthright - they were seen as the rightful rulers of the state. Since patricians were exclusive to only the most influential families of Rome, this shows their top-down approach to making sure that the political roles were kept out of the hands of the lower classes. This assertion is corroborated by Cicero, who asserts that Rome must *"rule by the best men."* Cicero believed that the political, social and economical structure could only be withheld by the Patricians due to their intelligence, decision-making, and education. Cicero clearly stated that he believes that the rest of the population of Ancient Rome, or the 'masses' were incapable of withholding political influence and positions due to their lack of these attributes. Patricians occupied many different roles in Ancient Rome, this varied from, court-in-orders, military leadership, and running in the political office. The wealth within the Patrician class was typically generational wealth which allowed only the best most influential individuals to run for the political office, however, in some cases the lower classes were able to amass enough wealth to climb the social ladder, but this tended to be a very slight chance. The Patricians determined people's actions in Ancient Rome, because, due to their influential roles they were able to influence and rule the lower classes and build the Ancient Roman, political/social structure, while keeping a strict social hierarchy. The next class is the Equestrians (*Equites*), were very similar to the Patrician class yet didn't hold as significant roles in Ancient Rome. They gained their wealth into this class through landholdings, and tax holders. The Equestrian class had significant wealth which allowed it to have lucrative business careers, this allowed Romans who had been in the military to have successful careers even after their roles in military and allowed them to amass significant wealth without being involved politically.

The Plebeians, the backbone of the labour force, they were the class that held the most political imbalances compared to the Patricians and Equestrians, they helped determine people's actions in Ancient Rome due to their ability to fight for their political rights, as well as bringing an aspect of continuity and change to Ancient Rome. The Plebeians were known for their actions in regard to their political rights. In 5th century B.C. the formation of The Council of the Plebs, which later led to the establishment of the Conflict of Orders, this was where the Plebeians were able to elect a magistrate to veto the decisions that weren't in favour of the political rights of the Plebeians. This was used as an opportunity to have the same political rights as the Patricians, however, the Plebeians didn't have enough wealth amongst their class to be able to have full political rights to the same extent as the higher elites. This shows that their push for political reforms was important but was not revolutionary. Since the Plebeians didn't hold the same amount of education as the Patricians and Equestrians, they would occupy one skill which would then be used through Ancient Rome, this skills included, labourer, artisan, these skills were highly need to maintain the flow of everyday life in Ancient Rome. Overall, Plebeian's actions were determined in Ancient Rome, due to their lack of political rights, the formation of Councils, shows that they pushed for reform that would provide them with more political drive when it came to decisions regarding the Plebeian Class, so it wasn't just in favour of the elites.

Freed-people, slaves freed through manumission, freed-people in Ancient Rome were a prime example of marginalisation in the classical world. Freed-people once freed were able to gain back their political rights, however, they were forbidden from running for political office, although, the son of a freed-person would be allowed to run for the political office if they were able to amass enough wealth which was highly unlikely. Majority of freed-people struggled with finding work or positions due to the stigma regarding their prior enslaved by the higher echelons, this shows that Ancient Rome not only were fixated on your wealth status but also the status of your origins. Due to the stigma surrounding their prior enslaved many freed-people had to lean on client-patron relationships, this where the freed-person relies on their former master/patron to provide them with political security as well as overall security. This is a major reason as to how this determines freed-people's actions in Ancient Rome, freed-people would not be required to lean on their former masters for help if it wasn't for the stigma that surrounded them due to the preconceptions that are formed by the higher classes. Cicero, highlights this ideal through stating, *"They expect everything was us with nothing in return... they can't pledge our security or invite us into their homes ... but they expect that we will only accept their acts of service in return."* This expresses the inequality that lingered within the freed-people class which requires them even with larger amounts of freedom in comparison to an enslaved person to still have to expect their former master/patron to provide for them, which shows how these actions determined their actions in Ancient Rome.

The lowest rung of Ancient Rome, was the enslaved people, they were the key class that helped to grow the economical structure of Ancient Rome. Slaves occupied various jobs throughout Ancient Rome, this included domestic service, construction and agricultural labour. Slaves would build the infrastructure for Ancient Rome, such as bridges, roads and buildings. The type of jobs that Slaves occupied in domestic service was either, the kitchen, cleaning or gardening. Many of Roman slaves came from Greek descent due to the Romans occupying large amounts of Greek land, as well as, the majority of Slaves were Prisoners of War, and were only captured if they didn't amass enough wealth to be able to pay for freedom. This assertion from Diodorus Siculus, highlights this idea, he states, "*if they could pay two minae they would be granted freedom, if not they would be sold as booty alongside the loot.*" This shows that slaves were only seen as an object and could not hold any political rights or freedom, and were merely seen as symbol of wealth amongst the elites. The number of slaves a master would keep signified the amount of wealth he had amassed, in some cases in Ancient Rome, there were slaves masters with hundreds of thousands of slaves, just so he would be able to be seen as wealthy amongst the other elites. Slaves were unable to be run for political office due to their lack of wealth as well as their lack of education, many slaves that were born into slavery were unable to read or write, this left them with no other role apart from acts of service. There were also many different reasons that a person could be enslaved, this could be sold by their family, or punishment for fraud, or as a punishment for criminal activities, and if they were a child of an enslaved person. The treatment of slaves varied, overall, slaves received harsh punishments. The treatment of slaves in domestic services tended to be more humane than those in constructions or agriculture. Many slaves in the coal mines would be made to stay in the mines with no ventilation for hours with no remorse from their masters. Slaves were also made to wear collars around their necks that stated who their master was and where to return them to if they had escaped, this was the more humane version, after the ability to tattoo their owners name and state of residence of their forehead was abolished. Due to their poor treatment, this lead to many slaves revolting, this could be from a household revolt to a widespread revolt. A known household revolt, was when a large number of slaves tried to burn their master to death by pouring copious amounts of boiling water, the master pretended he was dead, and as the slaves began to realise what they had done they had fled, with many of them being caught and killed. A largely known widespread revolt was, The Third Servile War, this was led by Spartacus, a former enslaved person. Spartacus gathered large amounts of slaves and began to fight amongst the elites. Ultimately, he was defeated and the elites decapitated each enslaved person that fought and stuck their heads on pitchforks along the road leading to Rome, as a warning symbol for the enslaved people not to revolt again. Overall, slaves' actions were determined in Ancient Rome due to their unfair treatment, the revolts and the inability to have freedom all stemmed from the harsh punishment from the elites which ultimately led the slaves to rebel and cause chaos amongst Ancient Rome's strict social hierarchy.

In conclusion, the class structure in Ancient Rome was strict, as well as allowing the classes to occupy different roles amongst Ancient Rome. The different classes - Patricians, Equestrians, Plebeians, Freed-people, and Slaves all played a massive role in the political, social and economic structure. The treatment of the different classes, whether it be harsh corporal punishment for the enslaved class or unfair political injustices for the Plebeian class, this enabled the different actions for each class which shaped Ancient Rome, into have we see it today. If Ancient Rome, didn't have such a strict social hierarchy would it have progressed as well as it did?

1728 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

Merit

Subject: Classical Studies

Standard: 91203

Total score: 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Three	M6	The response is consistently focused on discussing how the social structure shaped the actions of different classes. It also utilises a range of specific and relevant evidence. In order to reach E7, the explanation of the evidence needs to move from being generic to being more specific. The conclusions drawn are sound but not insightful. A broad range of areas of the wider context are touched on but only discussed superficially. Greater elaboration on contextual elements or the significance of cultural expectations would ensure that some developed conclusions are drawn.