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91394



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Classical Studies 2024

91394 Analyse ideas and values of the classical world

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse ideas and values of the classical world.	Analyse, in-depth, ideas and values of the classical world.	Analyse, 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 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.

Excellence

TOTAL 07

INSTRUCTIONS

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

You must answer using paragraphs.

Characters in classical literary texts may be mythical, fictional, or historical.

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Discuss the extent to which leadership demonstrated by one or more characters reflected qualities valued by classical society.
2. Discuss the extent to which the **power*** of one or more characters was enhanced or diminished by their friends and/or family.
**Power means authority, status, or influence over others.*
3. Discuss the extent to which one or more characters failed in their responsibilities.
4. Discuss the extent to which the identity of one or more characters was strengthened by the challenges they faced.

PLANNING

- ① B power enhanced as his father is corrupted/weakened - roles reversed - extent of power shown in comic restraining of the father
 ↳ donkey animals.
- ② B power still enhanced by father who is corrupted but not cured of his service → fantasy courtship, son instructing/leading the father
 ↳ cheese grater
 Lycus?
- ③ B power diminished by father who is now cured, a true Marathon man at the height of his power, old vs. new. Best values
 ↳ once I was in a state museum...
 Spartans.

You should aim to write a concise answer of no more than 5–6 pages. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your answer.

Support your answer with evidence from a classical literary text.

Question number: 2

Classical literary text: *The Wasps*

Begin your answer here:

The Wasps is an Attic Old Comedy play written by Aristophanes in 422 BC. At this time Athens had no shortage of political drama. They had been at a costly war with Sparta ~~with~~ for nine years, a conflict largely due to a ~~corrupt~~ ^{corrupt}, pro-war politician named Cleon, whom Aristophanes believed was also responsible for abuse on the judicial system. He had raised the jury pay from a measly two obols a day to three, training the elderly, ~~and~~ uneducated and dependent older generation to "know the hand that feeds them", thus ensuring Cleon's own political power. ~~the~~ Aristophanes also addresses how the older, true Athenian values are being replaced by frivolous values of the younger generation, which he believes is weakening Athens at this crucial time. Corrupt politics and intergenerational conflict are issues that continue to plague even modern day, and the humorous way in which Aristophanes addresses these ever relevant issues in the play mean *The Wasps* remains a powerful and relevant text today. ~~the~~ ~~serious~~ As a satire the *Wasps* comedically comments on issues within society as a means of bringing about positive change. The father-son relationship of power between father and son, are tools utilised by Aristophanes to address tensions in the play.

conflicts and restrict within his society.

The play begins unusually with the son, Bdelycleon, having his power enhanced by his father, Philocleon, a reversal of roles within the ~~free~~ classical Greek household as typically the older male is the head of the house. Bdelycleon's power is enhanced by his ^{father's lack of} power to an obvious extent, comedically shown through a chaotic attempt to keep the old man restrained to the house. There is a huge net over the house, every crack sealed shut and every exit blocked to prevent Philocleon from escaping to satisfy his addiction to jury service. At one stage of his escape plan, Philocleon's head pops out of the roof, dirt falls down and hits a slave on the head. They initially presume the commotion was caused by a mouse, before saying 'some mouse! somebody's pet jurymen more like.' The physical humor of Philocleon's head protruding from the roof immediately amuses the audience and degrades any nobility that may have been associated with his character. The comparison to a rodent like a mouse and referral as a pet further dehumanises Philocleon to a messy animal. Bdelycleon is tasked with keeping in check. As Bdelycleon bosses slaves around to restrain his animalistic father, his own power is enhanced by this relationship as he is clearly more serious and in control. His power is enhanced by his father to a greater extent when Philocleon attempts to escape the house clinging to a donkey's under hide, an imitation of the legendary hero Odysseus escaping the cyclops. This doesn't nearly match up in power and

Bdelycleon

prestige however, as he is caught and ~~Philoctetes~~ says "I never thought we'd see our old donkey discharge a pygmy." This bawdy and physical humor hilariously clashes with the impressive myth of Odysseus being alluded to. Philocleon is no great hero, he's a fat old man addicted to corrupt jury service and a slave in Cleon's pocket. As the stark difference between Philocleon and Odysseus becomes obviously apparent, Bdelycleon's power is enhanced as his character is far less foolish than his father. As Bdelycleon sends the donkey and his father back into the house ~~to~~ the great extent of his enhanced power is obvious and undeniable. These comic allusions that are accurate to animals but inaccurate to great men and heroes are used by Aristophanes to highlight the fact that corrupt jury courts make a mockery of men. The father should be in power, but he instead enhances his low power through the degrading of his own as he is addicted to jury service. The message Aristophanes wants portrayed here is obvious in their names. Philocleon - "Cleon-lover" is weak because he loves Cleon and the ~~cor~~ court, Bdelycleon - "Cleon-louder" is strong because he recognizes the corruption of court and the demagogue Cleon. These comic scenes and enhancing of Bdelycleon's power through Philocleon tells the audience that Cleon and his corrupt politics diminish the power of good Athenian men, making them more animal than hero. Aristophanes makes this comic critique so that Athens will not fall for Cleon's speeches, just as foolish Philocleon has.

After the Agon Philocleon has finally been convinced that he is a slave to cleon and the corrupt court, but though he is convinced he is not cured of his addiction. In this comic episode, the trial of the dogs, the extent of Bdelycleon's power being enhanced by his father's lack of a skill apparent. This is shown through Bdelycleon's attempt to cure his father's sickness by creating a domestic court scenario at home. One feature of the court room is a water clock, used to measure the time of the trial. When Philocleon asks where their waterclock is, his son gestures to the potty he has hung up for the old man's use. Rather than blanch at such a ridiculous imitation of a water clock Philocleon celebrates, commending the replacement, saying his son even used "local resources." This labratory humor is universally understandable by all in the audience and the surrealism of Philocleon adjusting to this fantasy court scene only further demonstrates Philocleon's power as he appears child like, playing imaginary games. This enhances Bdelycleon's power as he now seems to fill the father figure role, entertaining and playing with his "son" who is the actual father. The fantasy court scene is taken further when Philocleon sits behind the bar and Bdelycleon calls "Citizen cheese-grater, will you come up and testify?" This ridiculous question would have had the audience laughing, but Philocleon's face remains serious as he plays along in this scenario that is very serious to him. The whole fantasy court case is an excellent example of satire as it mocks the court system and all the rituals within it. By placing a

normal looking man in a scene of dogs and kitchenware playing court, it becomes obvious how foolish court cases are. By ~~keeping~~ putting Philocleon in a playtime court room, Aristophanes is showing how the corrupt courts are now just a place for children to be entertained. Justice doesn't exist in Athens anymore, it's just ~~old men~~ children in old men's bodies playing power in a court system that has been corrupted and makes a mockery of Athenian politics. Not only is Bdelycleon's power enhanced ^{to great extent} as he runs playtime for his delusional father, the power of those in the audience who are against Cleon and his corruption of the court have their power enhanced too. They're not fools using potties as water clocks and talking to cheese graters, they recognise the courts as fake and merely public entertainment, and they recognise that only children would truly believe in the jury system having true justice.

However, after the trial of the dogs, Philocleon has been cured of his sickness and addiction to jury service, and the power roles are reversed. ~~Having both~~ As both father and son are free from the weakness of jury service, Philocleon's power is now enhanced by his son's lack of power in comparison, as this is now a comparison of old versus new. When Bdelycleon attempts to take his father out to dine and party with sophisticated men, Philocleon's pomeia comes out in full force. ~~he~~ he is uncontrollable, unrestrainable and undefeatable. His character energy cannot be subdued and he represents the vitality of

old Athenian virtues as he craves out the party having victoriously ~~and~~ abducted the flute girl. He drags his prize through the streets, attacking anyone in his path because he can. When Bdelycleon comes to stop him, Philocleon says "once I was on a state mission..." then, with a telling punch, he floors the young man... like so" and punches his son to the ground. The extent of Philocleon's power being enhanced by his son is obvious partly through physical humour as he has literally knocked his son to the floor. But also because the beginning of his statement "once I was on a state mission..." alludes to earlier in the play when Bdelycleon told him how to handle any victims he'd upset whilst drunk. By partly starting with this ~~tragic~~ ironic opener, then ending with a jab to the face, Aristophanes is highlighting through Philocleon that in the end it is the sturdy old ways that will triumph and not the namby-pamby trends of the new generation. As Philocleon beats his son his power is enhanced, he is no longer a sick ^{pet} "purgeman", but an old Marathon man who fought for his home and his country. Representing the older generation, Philocleon's power is enhanced by his son who is now weaker as he is of the younger generation whose values of sophisticated talk and latest dress fashions do Athens no good. Rather than sit in symposiums and discuss concepts of heroism like the young generation do, Philocleon was a soldier who earned Athens tribute money during the Persian invasions. As the Greek lyric poet Simonides said, "fighting in the forefront of the Hellenes, the Athenians at

Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

QUESTION
NUMBER

Marathon destroyed the might of the god-bearing Medes." The play ends with Philodemus's power enhanced by Sdelydemus to show how it was the old Athenian values that saved Athens, and it is those same values that can save Athens again now.

Aristophanes ~~stops~~ and enhances and demystifies the power of father and son in the Wasps to highlight the politics and values that Athens needs during this time of war and crises. The ^{goalless} ~~purposeless~~ nature of comedy means it is universally understandable and an incredible medium for conveying issues within not just Athenian society, but our own too.

Excellence

Subject: Classical Studies

Standard: 91394

Total score: 07

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Two	E7	<p>This response conveyed a fluent understanding of <i>The Wasps</i>. There is clear understanding of both the ideas and values seen in the Ancient Greek world of Aristophanes and is linked well to the wider historical / political / social context. The question is frequently referred to, and the keywords “enhance” or “diminish” are used throughout the response. The knowledge of use of humour, and the conventions of comedy are referred to, although not expected. While this is an Excellence response, it can be noted that the candidate could get to the point quicker. Context could also be woven throughout the response, rather than blitzed to a page.</p>