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91200



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 Classical Studies 2025

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.**

**Achievement**

**TOTAL 03**

# Page 1

## INSTRUCTIONS

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

You must answer using paragraphs.

## QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

- In what ways did a hero exemplify the expectations of a classical society?
- Explain the significance of a custom in a classical text.
- In what ways was the role of an individual challenged by others?
- How has the portrayal of a classical hero influenced a later culture?

## CLASSICAL LITERARY TEXT

Antigone

## PLANNING

our country our life only when she rides safely will we have any friends at all- creon  
i will bury my brother and if i die for it what happiness- antigone

## 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 ☰ ∨ ☰ ∨ ↶ ↷ 🌐

In what ways did a hero exemplify the expectations of a classical society?

Intro

Antigone by Sophocles is a classical text that is believed to be written around 441 BCE. The main characters are Antigone and Creon. Creon is the king of Thebes and an uncle to Antigone. Antigone exemplified the expectations of classical society by doing the complete opposite and contrasting to what a hero was supposed to do. For example, Creon had certain laws that were put in place that may have offended and gone against the gods laws but in thebes society it was normal to listen to the king instead of the gods. However Antigone was a stubborn character and only followed the gods laws if Creon's clashed with them, further leading to Antigone's hubris causing her death.

Antigone demonstrates the expectations of a classical society by doing the complete opposite of what is expected. When Antigone's brother died, Creon believed that no one was allowed to give him his burial rights. Antigone highly disagreed and believed that no matter what rules were happening between humans, you must always follow the gods and Zeus for the law. She states "We have little time to please the living and all eternity to love the dead." She is basically explaining that her loyalty to the gods is more important due to the little time spent with people on earth compared to the eternity in after life. This is the complete opposite from what the rest of society was expected to follow. Everyone followed the gods orders but human laws always overruled them. Therefore Antigone's loyalty and stubbornness led her to breaking the law and was a good example of what society did not expect. Antigone's stubbornness and loyalty exemplify the expectations of a classical society. By ignoring the law and burying her brother she showed the complete opposite of what societies expectations were. She demonstrated the opposite of what societies expectations were at the time so well because she ended up getting killed in the end because of her hubris emotions towards the gods. Although, she seemed satisfied about her death from her quote, "I will bury my brother, and if i die for it, what happiness." Typically back in those days society didn't want to die but this shows the faith that Antigone had in the gods. She went against the king where the king of thebes certainly didn't agree with her. He believed "our country our life only when she rides safely will we have any friends at all." That you cant have friends or spend time with others until the country law and order is perfectly set in place. Overall, even though she wasn't a hero who exemplified the expectation of classical society in a traditional light, she managed to be seen as a reminder for the people for what not to do in that day and age.

Although her beliefs in the gods were controversial, her acts of feminism were more so at the time. Antigone stood up for what was right in her eyes, confidently, and strongly even though she was one of the very few girls to have not only stood up but also up against man and a male leader. This demonstrates the opposite to the expectations that society built at that moment in time. Although it scared the women that they'd die for standing up for themselves, its inspired heaps of of women in the present day to stand up against toxic social expectations. Stubbornness can be a gift and a curse and back in classical society, stubbornness was a curse in women.

Overall, Antigone was a strong, stubborn, and loyal character who would be a highly valued hero in our current society but would be the complete opposite in classical. This is why her contrast is so important because it shows exactly what classical society did not accept and the consequences of it. She believed in following what was right, not what was easy which wasn't very appreciated back then.

**673 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED**

## Achievement

**Subject:** Classical Studies

**Standard:** 91200

**Total score:** 03

Grade score	Marker commentary
A3	<p>The response demonstrates some understanding of the text and the classical world. The candidate implicitly discusses how the role of the individual was challenged by others but does not explicitly discuss the challenges faced by an individual's role. For example, it is clear that they understand that it was Antigone's role as a woman being challenged, but this is not directly discussed in sufficient detail. Understanding of the text has been demonstrated, and some primary source evidence provided. The response contains inaccuracies that are problematic, for example people following human laws overruling the rule of the gods and feminism. As the standard asks candidates to examine the ideas and values of the classical world, discussion of ideas such as feminism are not appropriate for most questions.</p>