

No part of the candidate's evidence in this exemplar material may be presented in an external assessment for the purpose of gaining an NZQA qualification or award.

SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

2

91201



Draw a cross through the box (☒) if you have NOT written in this booklet

+



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 Classical Studies 2025

### 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.**

**Achievement**

**TOTAL 04**

# Page 1

## 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)

- How did the stylistic features of a classical art work help communicate a message(s)?
- Explain how the design and / or decoration of a classical building served society's needs.
- How did an artist communicate classical ideals through the depiction of the human body?
- In what ways was a later culture influenced by a classical art work?

## CLASSICAL ART WORK(S) OR BUILDING(S)

Perseus and Andromeda

## PLANNING

Identify  
Describe  
Purpose  
Significance  
World

Nicias - Hellenic artist  
Pompeii

Heroic nudity  
Andromeda pose  
Composition - The way your eyes move through the painting. Colour background - setting -

## 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.

B I U ☰ ☷ ↶ ↷ ⌚

The Perseus and Andromeda fresco was found in Pompeii and has a width of 93cm and a height of 106cm. This artwork depicts Perseus after he has saved Andromeda. The fresco highlights the end of Perseus's quest and shows him in a very powerful way. The fresco was a copy of an earlier artwork done by Nicias a Hellenic artist. The fresco depicts Perseus and Andromeda as the ideal classical figures through the depiction of their bodies. The depiction of their bodies shows us what the ideal Greek body type for men and women was.

A very important way we see classical ideals is through Perseus's heroic nudity. In the fresco Perseus is wearing nothing but a cape. This is exposing his body completely to the viewers. This is considered heroic nudity as it depicts Arete the Greek idea of excellence in all things. The muscles are carefully shaded to make them look bigger and more realistic. Heroes in ancient Greece were considered to be closer to gods than mortals we see evidence of this in this fresco as Perseus is depicted with a perfect body. Gods were considered perfect beings in every way especially their bodies. The idea that Perseus's body is similar to that of a god shows us that Perseus had the ideal male body. This is significant as it shows us what the ancient Greeks believed the ideal body looked like. Perseus's ideal body is similar to the ideal body in today's society. This shows that though there has been a lot of time some things stay very similar.

Andromeda in this fresco is depicted standing on a rock slightly turned away from Perseus. Andromeda is depicted in light yellow drapery that is covering most of her body besides the top left. This is significant because it shows Andromeda in a modest way while also showing her as a very beautiful woman of the time. Andromeda's pose and clothing is what would have been expected of an ancient Greek woman. Andromeda is considered to be the ideal woman of her time and this is shown through her depiction. The clothing, her pose and the slight nudity all work together to depict her as the idealised Greek woman. It is also important to note that she is a helpless woman being saved by the hero. This plays into the gender roles of the time allowing the ancient Greek woman to see her as a role model of sorts as she is the ideal woman all Greek men would have wanted. I find it very interesting how the artist has managed to depict her in a very modest ideal way while also showing intimate parts of her body. In today's society there isn't considered one ideal body type. This depiction of Andromeda can teach modern day society about healthy bodies and empower women with different body types.

The colours and background in this fresco helped highlight Perseus and Andromeda's bodies. The striking darker colours on Perseus and the lighter colours on Andromeda are a direct contrast to the dull somewhat colourless background. Perseus is very tan in this fresco as would be expected for a hero of his time. This dark colouring draws our eyes to him as he stands out the most. This makes us as the viewer pay more attention to Perseus and his body. On the other hand Andromeda is depicted in bright yellow drapery with milky white skin. This also creates a contrast with the dull setting. The colours used to paint Andromeda make her stand out and bring her to our attention. This makes her stand out from the background showing her in detail. The contrast of Perseus's dark brown skin and Andromeda's milky white skin is also significant. This contrast tells us a lot about what was considered the ideal skin colour for men and women of the time. Women were portrayed as very white this is because women in ancient Greece considered white milky skin to be ideal. On the other hand men who had tan skin were considered to be ideal. The colours and contrast used in this fresco highlight the two main focuses of the artwork and highlight their ideal bodies. This fresco went on to influence many other works of art of the time and you can see similarities between this fresco and paintings that would come to be in the future. This fresco is still widely considered to be very powerful and important in our understanding of the ancient world. Many people still go to view this fresco as it is shown at a museum in Naples Italy.

In conclusion the artist depicted Greek ideals through Perseus and Andromeda's bodies by using heroic nudity, Andromeda's pose and colouring and contrast. All four of these techniques were executed perfectly by the artist showing the figures as having the perfect Greek bodies. Ultimately this fresco taught us about what the ideal physique, skin colour and pose was for people in ancient Greece. By studying this artwork I have gained a greater appreciation for artists and their work. Every feature in this fresco has a meaning and a purpose. By understanding the artwork I began to see the story the artist was creating.

872 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

## Achievement

**Subject:** Classical Studies

**Standard:** 91201

**Total score:** 04

Grade score	Marker commentary
A4	<p>This response demonstrates general understanding of the significance of the Perseus and Andromeda Fresco. An understanding of the ideas related to the art work are shown through discussion of Perseus' figure and the role of gender in ancient society.</p> <p>The response includes some points well, such as the use of colour to reflect gender roles. However, minor errors interfere with flow, and some sections are brief and superficial.</p>