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91394



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 3 Classical Studies 2025

### 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.**

**Achievement**

**TOTAL 04**

## Page 1

### 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)

- Discuss the extent to which one or more characters used their power to restore peace and / or order in a time of crisis.
- Discuss the extent to which one or more characters was a leader or a follower.
- Discuss the ways in which the identity of one or more characters was shaped by a sense of duty and / or obligation to others.
- Discuss the extent to which one or more character's adherence to traditional beliefs and / or values was challenged by others.

### CLASSICAL LITERARY TEXT

The Aeneid by Virgil

### PLANNING

#### QUOTES

Rage, and anticipation of a noble death, drove me on. (DONE)

No one was safe from Aeneas' fury or the whirling of his sword. (DONE)

Ablaze with fury. (DONE)

Save yourself and your household gods. Do not stay to defend the walls, it is all lost. Carry out your destiny and establish a new Troy afar. (DONE)

When emotions or other violent forces are allowed to run uncontrolled. (DONE)

This was a Greek reaction, not a Roman one, and definitely not something a 'pius' Roman should do. (DONE)

My poor boy, you have lived nobly -- what can I do that would be worthy of your death? (DONE)

Associated with self-control, compassion, tolerance and good leadership. (DONE)

Aeneas embodies 'pius' throughout the epic, demonstrating his devotion to the gods, family and following his destiny to found Rome. (DONE)

For the Romans, 'pietas' was the highest character trait to aspire to, and to be known as 'pius' was the highest honour. (DONE)

Aeneas was the archetype of the Roman hero, made not by impulsive heroics but by a sense of responsibility, restraint and pious loyalty to gods and homeland. (DONE)

Spent a whole dissolute winter together, wallowing in their lust and thinking nothing of their proper responsibilities.  
I sail for Italy not of my own free will, but by fate.  
Such a figure in Roman society would be hopelessly out of place.  
A national poem, a picture of Roman character and ideals that Augustus wanted propagated.  
Provided credibility and reinforced the divinity in Augustus -- pietas is not just personal, but a public and imperial duty.

## ANSWER

Type your answer in the space below. You should aim to write a concise answer of no more than 800–900 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 ☰ ∨ ☰ ∨ ↶ ↷ ☺

Aeneas' identity was shaped throughout the Aeneid through his sense of duty and his obligation to the people around him. The Aeneid is a classical Roman epic written by Virgil in the 1st century BC and follows the Trojan hero, Aeneas, on his journey to found Rome. Throughout the epic, Aeneas' sense of duty and obligation to his people grows and adapts due to his different experiences, shaping his identity to change from more Homeric furor to Roman pietas. By contrasting these two examples of Aeneas acting with duty and obligation versus without is able to link to how these impact and shape his identity. It is also able to portray the key ideas and values of classical Roman society such as religion, family and following fate as well as how having certain identities can impact Aeneas' journey both in terms of how it impacted people around him as well as his destiny. Overall, the Aeneid is able to show how Aeneas' sense of duty and obligation to the people around him shapes his identity.

At the beginning of the epic, Aeneas' sense of duty and his obligation to his people is overclouded with furor, causing his identity to become more violent, and focused on himself rather than the key values of classical Roman society. Furor is "when emotions or other violent forces are allowed to run uncontrolled, it is presented as irrational and hate-filled." Aeneas' furor impacted his sense of duty and obligation to others, instead of fulfilling these key roles, he acted with revenge, violence and self-glory, wanting only for himself and forgetting about his duty and obligation to Troy. During a dream where Trojan hero Hector visited Aeneas, Hector told Aeneas to "save yourself and your household gods. Do not stay to defend the walls, it is all lost. Carry out your destiny and establish a new Troy afar." This clear message spoke to his duty, what he needed to do for Troy and his obligation to his people to found a new Troy. However, Aeneas ignored Hector's message, instead leaving his family and friends alone to fend for themselves to instead follow glory and vengeance into battle. Not only did this violate his duty and obligation to the state, but also many of the key Roman values and ideals. This can be seen during the Trojan battle in book 2, Aeneas stated that "rage, and anticipation of a noble death, drove [him] on" and that "no one was safe from Aeneas' fury or the whirling of his sword." This clearly shows how he got lost in his anger, in his furor, causing him to run "ablaze with fury," rather than thinking of his family, obeying the gods, and following his destiny. This shapes his identity into someone that leads to violence, no duty and obligation. Furthermore, a quote by R.D. Williams states that during the battle, "this was a Greek reaction, not a Roman one, and definitely not something a 'pius' Roman should do." This highlights that by acting with furor instead of pietas, Aeneas lost his sense of Roman identity, and no longer upheld the key Roman values of religion, protecting family, and following fate. This shows how during the beginning of the epic, Aeneas' identity was shaped to lead with furor due to him losing his sense of duty to Troy, and his obligation to his family, and the Trojan people.

Throughout the epic, however, Aeneas learns how corrupt acting with furor is, and begins to learn the importance of duty and fulfilling his obligation to his people, causing him to shift his identity to be more pius. Pietas is "associated with self-control, compassion, tolerance and good leadership." Aeneas can be shown acting with pietas during many of the later books, such as during the final battle, "my poor boy, you have lived nobly -- what can I do that would be worthy of your death?" This quote is able to show how Aeneas no longer acted with vengeance and furor, but with pietas, respecting his opponents, and thinking everything through. This was because through his experiences with many of the gods, and other people throughout his journey, Aeneas was able to understand that his priority should be fulfilling his duty to Troy and his obligation to both his family and the Trojan people by his side and those killed in the battle, which would be done by fulfilling his destiny to found a new Troy. Gretel Hattel states that "Aeneas embodies 'pius' throughout the epic, demonstrating his devotion to the gods, family and following his destiny to found Rome." This shows how Aeneas learns a true sense of duty and obligation to Troy, which is what shifts his identity to be pietas, following his destiny instead of acting with only his own goals in mind. Furthermore, "for the Romans, 'pietas' was the highest character trait to aspire to, and to be known as 'pius' was the highest honour." Pietas was a key value of the Roman identity, and by fulfilling this new identity, Aeneas was able to meet several of the key Roman values such as duty to the gods, family, and following fulfilling this new identity, Aeneas was able to meet several of the key Roman values such as duty to the gods, family, and following fate. "Aeneas was the archetype of the Roman hero, made not by impulsive heroics but by a sense of responsibility, restraint and pious loyalty to gods and homeland."

This key message of the importance of duty and obligation to your state was created by Virgil to portray the current Emperor, Augustus' want for a clear imperial identity. The contrast of Aeneas in the beginning of the epic, leading with no sense of duty and obligation to his people; to Aeneas later on, leading with this duty and obligation, was added to show that "such a figure in Roman society would be hopelessly out of place." Virgil wanted to make it clear that the Roman identity needed a sense of duty and obligation, and needed to uphold many of these key Roman society values. The epic is "a national poem, a picture of Roman character and ideals that Augustus wanted propagated." Virgil used Aeneas as an example of what would come from acting with furor and not upholding this Roman identity, causing Troy to fall; and then contrasting it later on, when Aeneas does act with pietas, allowing him to reach his destiny to found Rome. This creates a key idea that upholding such a powerful state such as Rome, needs duty and obligation, and needs this Roman identity that values religion, values family, and values following fate.

Overall, the Aeneid uses Aeneas' identity which is shown to be shaped by his sense of duty and obligation to the people around him to portray the ideal Roman identity, and the importance of upholding Roman values.

1123 WORDS / 900 RECOMMENDED

## Achievement

**Subject:** Classical Studies

**Standard:** 91394

**Total score:** 04

Grade score	Marker commentary
A4	<p>This response demonstrates sound knowledge of the text and remains generally focused on the question. The candidate identifies relevant values and ideas, such as duty and obligation, and provides accurate examples from the text to support their discussion. The response shows understanding of key events and concepts and remains largely on task.</p> <p>The response relies primarily on explanation rather than analysis. While duty and obligation are discussed in detail, the character's identity is implied rather than explicitly defined. The candidate explains how the character behaves under the influence of duty, but does not clearly articulate <i>what the character's identity is</i> or how this identity develops over time.</p> <p>The response draws mainly on earlier sections of the text, with little or no reference to the later parts of the work. This limits the candidate's ability to show development or change and reinforces a descriptive rather than analytical approach. As a result, identity is presented through isolated examples rather than traced across the text as a whole.</p> <p>Links between examples and the question are present but often asserted rather than explored. Contextual material is included but tends to support explanation rather than deepen interpretation. Overall, the response demonstrates understanding of ideas and values but does not sufficiently analyse how identity is shaped across the text, limiting it to Achievement.</p> <p>To move beyond Achieved, the response would need to clearly state the character's identity, track how this identity develops across the whole text (including later sections), and explain how duty or obligation reshapes who the character becomes, rather than simply describing actions or values.</p>