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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.

Merit

TOTAL 06

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

PLANNING

Book I - complain then kills stags + searches for boats and rouses crew
Book II - was giving into furor/ going to stay with family but gods reminded him of his greater goals
Book IV - wanted to stay in carthage with Dido but Mercury reminded him
Book VI - inspired by his future lineage in passage of heroes
Book VIII - form ally with Evander who is distantly related and shares common enemy of latins
Book XII - avenge Pallas by killing Turnus

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     

In Virgil's *The Aeneid* we follow the rightful journey of the Trojan prince Aeneas, as he overcomes the trials and tribulations on his path to found Lavinium, and secure the future of Rome. The poem was written by Virgil during the time of Augustus, as a means to establish the importance of Roman social values within the public, so it is no surprise that within our main character, Aeneas, we see to a great extent his identity being shaped by his duty to others. Using Aeneas' immense sense of duty he upholds, Virgil is able to build upon the idea of Pietas, a key Roman value that should be upheld by leaders and the public alike. Throughout his journey, we see that the identity of Aeneas is shaped entirely around his duty, and is ensured that it remains on track whether it be through important lessons from others, or divine intervention. Aeneas' identity becomes his duty to others.

Book I, although not being the true beginning of Aeneas' story as the book begins *in media res*, is where we are first introduced to the idea that Aeneas' identity is shaped by his duties to his men, rather than his personal desires. Aeneas is destined to destroy Carthage, a city which Juno, queen of the gods loves, thus she hates Aeneas, and attempts to halt his journey by convincing Aeolus to cast his ships in a deadly storm. When Aeneas is finally able to guide his ships to land, he realises he has lost many of his fleet of Trojans, and is greatly apathetic to his duty, stating '*those who died on the high walls of Troy were many times more fortunate than me*'. In this moment, we are seeing the true desires of Aeneas, as he wishes to give up on his destiny, as death seems easier. This, however, is not Aeneas' fate, and his true identity shows as despite his personal grievances, he continues to climb to high ground in order to sight his lost ships, spark a fire, and hunt for his men until he '*laid on the earth seven weighty carcasses*'. He cooked and fed his men, and gave them a rousing speech, saying they have '*had worse than this to bear*', and this shows Aeneas' true identity, and what it is truly shaped by. Rather than displaying what Virgil would have considered the values of a poor Roman, and following his own personal desires, Aeneas is demonstrating that he has a duty to his men, and ensuring that they are safe and fed, and ready to continue along the journey. This is a great example of Aeneas' identity being shaped by his obligation to others, rather than his personal desires. In this moment, Aeneas is introducing us to the concept of Pietas, a Roman value that, although foreign to Aeneas, is exactly as the hero acts, and is something that Virgil wants to establish as key within the people of Rome who follow the story of Aeneas. It is because Aeneas' identity is to follow his duty to others first, rather than himself, that Virgil is able to develop for those reading that a good leader puts others before himself, because had this not been the case, Aeneas would still be stuck on the island, and the great state of Rome would never exist.

Book II, the true beginning, adds to the idea that Aeneas' identity is determined by his duty to others, but adds how there are still occasions where he is distracted, which allowed Virgil to show a good leader may have flaws, but will always make the right choice in the end. Book II follows the sacking of Troy, in which the Greeks invade the strong walls, and Aeneas is visited by Hector in a dream who tells him Troy is burning and he must '*find your own walls...build your own great city*', beginning Aeneas' fate to find Lavinium and begin the destiny of Rome. Despite this divine warning, Aeneas is shocked by the scene, saying '*I had no time for decisions...I remembered only that death in battle is glorious*', proceeding to take a band of Trojans out to battle the Greeks, even after the warning of Hector. In this moment, Aeneas has forgotten his duty, however he is quickly reminded of it when he witnesses the death of King Priam and was '*reminded of my own dear father*', to which he returns in order to guide out of Troy so they can continue onwards to find Lavinium. In this moment, we can see that although being flawed, Aeneas still managed to make the correct decision, and did not allow himself to become distracted, proving his identity is tied to his duty to the future people of Rome, as well as protecting his family. Once again, Pietas is the Roman value which represents one's duty to their family, the nation, and the gods, so in Aeneas halting his personal battle to return to his family and bring them alongside him to his great destiny, not only has Virgil written a character whose identity is so strongly bound to their duty, but has also demonstrated that a good leader may veer off course, but will always return to the correct outcome. Not only this, but Virgil shows that Aeneas, and thus a good leader, will be supported by the divine, as Anchises (Aeneas' father) refuses to leave Troy. With the aid of divine intervention from Jupiter, who sends a comet across the sky and lights up Lulus as '*a harmless flame illuminated his cap*', Aeneas is able to prompt his father to escape Troy alongside him. Book II shows that not only is Aeneas shaped by his obligation to his family and destiny more so than personal desires, but also that he is supported by the divine to be successful in his duty. Thus Virgil has created the image of a good Roman leader being not only duty-bound, but also receiving the support of the divine, a fact that allowed the poet to establish the ruler of the time - Augustus, as successful and divinely determined to be so.

Book IV places Aeneas in the lovely city of Carthage, where the capable queen Dido has captured Aeneas' heart with her queenliness. It is in this book that Virgil confirms that even when faced with the most promising alternative, Aeneas' identity is to always follow his duty, as he is willing to give up his love to do so. Aeneas sees Dido '*announcing new laws and statutes... deciding by her own balanced judgement, or by lot*', and can relate to her queenliness. The people of Carthage are described as '*they were like busy bees in a sunny meadow*', and Aeneas is momentarily distracted by the scene in Carthage, forgetting about his duty, and eventually becoming wed to Dido. Mercury, however, divinely intercepts this path, catching Aeneas '*dressed in Tyrian purple*' and exclaiming '*An ideal husband! The shame!*'. This snaps Aeneas back to his senses, and he is ashamed to have forgotten about his duty, so quickly decides to leave and return to his fate. For Aeneas to have fallen in love, and found a place that would have been much easier for the Trojans to safely settle in, but still proceed to give this easy option up in preference of following his duty to find Lavinium, this proves that Aeneas' identity is entirely shaped by his obligation to correctly follow his destiny, not find a shortcut around it. Had he settled in Carthage, the Trojans would be no longer, and he wants to ensure that they continue to live onwards until the foundations of Rome have been set up. Aeneas acting in this way is a way for Virgil to show the people of Rome at the time

that a good leader will always choose the correct path, not the easy path, and is destined, with the support of the divine, to succeed.

In Book VIII, Aeneas is told by the river god Tiberus that he must find allies with King Evander, who guides him onwards with trust and teaches him important lessons in leadership, it is in this book that we can see that in his duty to succeed in his divinely driven fate, Aeneas has been shaped into a better leader. Aeneas greets King Evander saying they are *'two branches from the same original stock'* acknowledging that they are distantly related, but also adds that he *'risked my life'* in order to meet up with the King. This moment shows that by following his duty to establish the basis upon which Rome can be founded, Aeneas has learnt that he will have to risk his life, and make difficult decisions, in order to guarantee his success (such as he did when he left the safe land of Carthage). King Evander graciously tours Aeneas around his land, showing him capitoline hill, which is destined to be the home of Augustus, and thus further connects the successful leader of Aeneas, to Augustus, causing him to seem more legitimate as well. The two feast together, and Evander teaches Aeneas important lessons such as to *'live modestly'* and *'scorn wealth'*, which Aeneas takes to heart and follows as his journey continues. As Aeneas leaves, Evander offers him his son Pallas, saying *'I give to you Pallas...who is my one hope'*. This moment shows us that Aeneas has been shaped into a more successful leader with each step in his journey, and is continuing to learn important lessons that allow him to be successful in achieving his fate. Virgil has established that Aeneas' duty has led him to become a strong and independent leader, who is moral, and understands he must live a life of balance, and find allies in those with similar interests, this is another way his identity has been shaped by his obligations. Not only this, but Virgil has established more moral lessons through Aeneas, to remind the people of Rome how they should act, allowing him to further promote good Roman social values as was intended in this poem.

Finally, Book XII recounts the death of Turnus, which shows us that Aeneas' identity has truly been shaped around his duty to others, and that he will put the good of others before his personal intuitions. Turnus and Aeneas are locked in an intense battle, however with the gods on his side, Aeneas is able to overpower Turnus, who begs him to have mercy as he lays wounded on the ground. Aeneas remembers his father telling him *'spare the defeated'*, and begins to take pity on Turnus, however he notices *'on his shoulder the accursed baldric of Pallas... my fury kindled'*. Turnus had killed Pallas, whose safety Evander had entrusted to Aeneas, at this moment, Aeneas' initial belief that he should take mercy is overcome by the duty he has to Pallas and Evander, and so he slays Turnus saying, *'it is Pallas who exacts his revenge'*. This proves that Aeneas' identity revolved around others, it is in his morals to be forgiving, but because he has a duty to avenge Pallas, he puts this above his morals, showing how his duty shaped his identity. This moment very clearly shows how Virgil has written Aeneas as a character whose identity entirely is shaped by his duty, and has completely become this final goal, sacrificing his personal thoughts in order to achieve that. Virgil is showing that a leader is someone who is able to let themselves move past their prior feelings, and immerse themselves in their duty, becoming the person that they must be, in order to see the success that they desire.

Throughout the poem, Aeneas proves himself and his identity to be thoroughly shaped by his duty to found Rome. While in the beginning he may have desired to have an easier life, he showed that he learnt to always take the right path, and that at times he would have to make decisions that perhaps he disagreed with, or were difficult, but he knew would ensure he achieved his destiny. Aeneas is a character whose identity is so deeply woven into his duty, that he cannot make his own choices without the gods redirecting him or his fate being reiterated, he is the best example of a character whose identity has completely been shaped by his duty to the destiny of Rome, and its future people. It is because of this that Virgil was able to use the Aeneid as a method to not only remind the people of Rome at the time of the values they should uphold, but also to connect their leader, Augustus, to the successful leadership of Aeneas, and thus establish him as the rightful emperor of Rome during a challenging political period.

2133 WORDS / 900 RECOMMENDED

Merit

Subject: Classical Studies

Standard: 91394

Total score: 06

Grade score	Marker commentary
M6	<p>This response demonstrates clear analytical understanding and addresses the character's identity in relation to the question by focusing on how duty and obligation shape who the character becomes. Rather than naming specific identity roles (such as warrior, father, or leader), the candidate frames identity through the character's sense of responsibility and obligation to others.</p> <p>The response demonstrates a sustained and coherent line of argument, making effective use of relevant textual evidence from across the work. Importantly, the candidate draws on both the early and later books of Virgil's epic, showing awareness that Aeneas' identity continues to develop beyond Books 1, 2, and 4. Evidence from the later half of the <i>Aeneid</i> is used to reinforce how duty increasingly defines Aeneas' sense of self, rather than limiting the discussion to his early emotional struggles.</p> <p>Key moments are explained in terms of how obligation influences the character's sense of self, rather than simply describing actions or events.</p> <p>Contextual understanding is evident and appropriately integrated, particularly in relation to Roman ideology, such as <i>pietas</i> (duty to gods, family, and state), loyalty to fate, and the expectation that personal desire must be sacrificed for the future of Rome. Context is used to support interpretation rather than replace it, and references to Roman expectations and values are generally accurate and relevant. However, identity is treated in a generalised manner. While the response explains how duty shapes identity, it does not state <i>what that identity is</i>, or fully explore the difficulties, conflicts, or personal cost involved.</p> <p>There is limited discussion of competing roles or moments where different identities clash. Overall, the response reaches a strong Merit but does not move into the evaluative depth required for Excellence.</p>