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91395



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 3 Classical Studies 2025

### 91395 Analyse the significance of a work(s) of art in the classical world

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse the significance of a work(s) of art in the classical world.	Analyse, in-depth, the significance of a work(s) of art in the classical world.	Analyse, with perception, the significance of a 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 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 one or more **classical art works or buildings**.  
You must answer using paragraphs.

### QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

- Discuss the extent to which idealism could be used to describe the style of one or more classical art works.
- Discuss the extent to which conflict was a focus of one or more classical art works.
- Discuss the significance of narrative as a feature of one or more classical art works.
- Discuss the extent to which political and / or religious beliefs influenced the form and function of one or more classical art works.

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

Ara Pacis Augustae

### PLANNING

Aeneas pouring a drink-offering to the gods with a sacrifice of a sow to the gods and household gods in the background

Romulus and Remus suckling she-wolf with Mars on the left and the farmer who adopted them on the right

Lower register showcases floral decorations of acanthus leaves that bursts in leafy tendrils and flowers. Among the vegetation resides animals such as birds, insects, frogs, lizards and snakes. Demonstrates fertility and abundance within Augustus' reign.

North and south frieze are 11m in length and demonstrate a historical procession highly likely of the consecration of the Ara Pacis. Features Augustus' future heirs, Gaius, Lucius, Germanicus Caesar and family. He is situated in a procession of lictors, high priests and consuls. His veil shows similarities to the image of Aeneas in the west entrance. Suggesting a connection between the pious character and Aeneas.

East entrance portrays Roma, personification of Rome and the Roman state sitting on top of confiscated weapons showing the peace and dominance of the Roman empire during Augustus reign. Fertility and promoting matrimonial fidelity.

On the left, shows mother Earth, Tellus sitting alongside two children within the abundance of vegetation and floral decoration. Two nymphs surround her riding on top of a swan and a sea dragon possibly an allegory of emperor Augustus' victory at the Battle of Actium

## 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 one or more classical art works or buildings.

B I U ☰ ∨ ☷ ∨ ↶ ↷ 🗨

The Ara Pacis Augustae was an imperial relief altar commissioned by the Roman senate on July 4 13 BC to celebrate the return of emperor Augustus from Hispania and Gaul. It was consecrated on January 30 9 BC and located on the Field of Mars (Campus Martius). Political and religious beliefs have influenced the form and function of the Ara Pacis. Such political beliefs was the dominance and superiority of the Roman empire and the legitimacy of Augustus reign as emperor. Political beliefs such as the reign of Augustus has led to Pax Augusta and the golden age of Rome which resulted in peace and civil society after the Roman civil wars. Religious beliefs that influenced the form and function of the Ara Pacis is the geneological relation of Augustus and deities such as Venus and and mythological heroes such as Aeneas.

Throughout the lower registrar of the external relief and internal alter of the Ara Pacis, floral decorations of leafy tendrils burst into acanthus leaves, and within the vegetation resides animals such as birds, insects, frogs, lizards and snakes. The presence of floral decorations and animals symbolises the abundance and fertility during the golden age of Rome brought about by emperor Augustus. This demonstrates influence of political beliefs of the reign of emperor Augustus establishing the belief that Augustus has promoted familial values and matromonial fedility, during his reign, he also promoted large families and the revival of traditional family values after the Roman civil wars.

The right panel of the west entrance features the pious hero, Aeneas pouring a drink-offering to the gods alongside sacrificing a sow in his newly established city in Lavinia. The background features household gods of the Trojans. This feature of Aeneas demonstrates a familial connection of the hero to Augustus. By establishing this relation to the mythological hero, this shows influence of political and religious beliefs that Augustus is related to a mythological hero and therefore Venus and thus, Augustus is also a model and promoter of piety and traditional roman values that Aeneas exuded. On the left panel of the west entrance features the founding story of the city of Rome in which Romulus and Remus are suckling the she-wolf. On the left features the Roman god of war, Mars and on the right features the farmer who adopted Romulus and Remus. The feature of the founding story of Rome is important as it communicates the influence of political beliefs - that to unite the Roman empire and Roman people together a founding story is necessary in order to promote a collective identity within Romans.

Influences of political beliefs are also seen on the east entrance through the personification of Rome or the Roman State through the goddess Roma. Roma sits in peace on top of confiscated weapons. Once again, showing influence of the political belief that emperor Augustus is the bringer of the golden age of Rome and has established Pax Augusta and established dominance of the Roman empire over the whole world. On the left panel of the east entrance features Earth Mother or Tellus sitting within the abundance of vegetation and floral decorations with two children within her lap. Alongside her are two nymphs one riding a swan and the other riding a sea dragon possibly referring to Augustus victory over the Battle of Actium. These also reestablish the influence of political beliefs that Augustus has revived traditional family values and has promoted matrimonial fedility.

The north and south frieze total 11m in distance and likely feature the historical procession of the consecration of the Ara Pacis. The procession features Augustus in priestly attire with a veil over his head displaying simalarities to the image of Aeneas on the west entrance, also suggesting influence of political and religious beliefs that Augustus demonstrates Roman values of peity and is related to Roman heros such as Aeneas. High priests, lictors and consuls surround Augustus and family members demonstrating a geneological lineage of Augustus' rule. Although Roman society was against the idea of a monarchy, Augustus uses the Ara Pacis as a form of propaganda promoting the idea that his reign will be carried on by his heir. His children Gaius, Lucius and Germanicus Caesar are featured in the consercration procession promoting the Julio-Claudian dynasty.

The form and function of the Ara Pacis are influenced by poltical and religious beliefs that Augustus is the bringer of Pax Augustae, and has created a new golden age for Rome through the revival of traditional family families and the establishment of civil duty within society. The form and function of the Ara Pacis has been influenced through the features of the reliefs and the figures in which they portray. In a poem from Ovid dated January 30 "Let the whole world fear the sons of Aeneas, let the lands who feared Rome too little, love her." This line demonstrates the influence of political and religious beliefs had on the creation of the Ara Pacis, untimately this art work was created to establish the divine connection of Auugustus and the Roman gods and mytholoqy. to celebrate and

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866 WORDS / 900 RECOMMENDED

## Achievement

**Subject:** Classical Studies

**Standard:** 91395

**Total score:** 04

Grade score	Marker commentary
A4	<p>The candidate attempts to address the question and shows an understanding of the art work. While examples from the art work are included, some lack sufficient detail. The candidate demonstrates awareness of the context in which the art work was created however, this is not consistently supported with specific evidence.</p> <p>Overall, although the response contains some relevant and detailed discussion, the lack of detailed supporting evidence prevents it from achieving a grade higher than an Achieved.</p>