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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.

Excellence

TOTAL 07

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)

Prima Porta

PLANNING

Discuss the extent to which political and / or religious beliefs influenced the form and function of the Prima Porta.

Intro

ATFQ with discernment

Relevant primary source information

Introduce art work

- Prima Porta, Bronze 15-20BCE

- Marble copy, 15AD

- Height: 2.08m - Larger than life, "Augustus appears less as a man and more of an image of power constructed through symbolism." Paul Zanker

- Where: Found just North of Rome, in Prima Porta, hence name.

Body 1 - Cuirass (Breast plate)

Topic sentence relating to question

Detailed + Specific primary source information

- "The cuirass relief functions as a manifesto of imagery for Augustan ideology."

- Return of the Standards 20BCE, one of Augustus's first and important diplomatic victory's, to show he's a great political leader.

- Sol (Sun) and Clairo (Sky) gods depicted on Cuirass, showing Heaven's support

- Tellus, Apollo, Diana all depicted to furthermore show divine approval

- Personificatio, groups of different people depicted on Cuirass to show they can live in harmony under Augustus

- Overall message, Political propaganda: Augustus is strong leader, all different types of people can live in harmony under Augustus, divine favour.

Analysis - Historical context

Relate back to question

Body 2 - Orator's pose, *contrasposito*. (*Aldocutio* pose)

Topic sentence relating to question

Detailed + Specific primary source information

- Orator's pose, only great military leaders do so
- *Aldocutio* pose, addressing troops
- Sole leader of the Roman world
- Political propaganda of strength and power

Analysis - Historical context

Relate back to question

Body 3 - Idealistic style/ Youthful physique

Topic sentence relating to question

Detailed + Specific primary source information

- Idealistic style as a nod to the "Golden Age" of Greece, copied the 'Doryphorus'
- Was built during Roman Republic "realistic," change from that
- Youthful physique to show stability in the empire
- Youthful physique to show that he is strong leader
- Important as Rome is so huge, political message that Augustus will not be overthrown
- Sole leader of the Roman world
- 'Godlike.'

Analysis - Historical context

Relate back to question

Body 4 - Cupid/Dolphin at right foot

Topic sentence relating to question

Detailed + specific primary source information

- Cupid is son of Venus
- Augustus is in Jullian family through Adoptive father Julius Ceasar
- Jullian family claim divine lineage through Aeneas, son of Venus god of love and beauty
- Augustus has divine lineage
- Dolphin represents Augustus's decisive and important naval victory, Battle of Actium 31BCE
- Beat Mark Antony and Cleopatra
- Shows once again Augustus is sole leader of Roman world
- Shows great military leader
- Overall message, strong military leader, divine lineage

Analysis - Historical context

Relate back to question

Conclusion

Topic sentence relating to question

NO repeating, NO summary

Hit the marker with something insightful.

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 Prima Porta's form and function was influenced by political and religious beliefs significantly, as the sole purpose of the artwork was to promote political propaganda for Augustus's leadership in the Roman world and how he was reason for Pax Romana. It's form was a statue, and the function was to deliver political propaganda of Augustus's leadership. The Prima Porta's original Bronze copy was believed to be created around 15-20BCE, shortly after the Return of the Parthian Standards, whereas the Marble copy (the one we are most familiar with) was believed to be created in 15AD and was found just North of Rome in the small town of Prima Porta - hence the name of the artpiece - in 1852. The Prima Porta stands at 2.08m which is an important detail, as the statue is 'larger than life.' This is to give the effect that Augustus is 'godlike,' and not like the Roman people who would've seen the statue. Paul Zanker, a leading Augustan art historian, backs up this claim as he stated "Augustus appears less as a man and more of an image of power constructed through symbolism." Overall, political and religious beliefs influenced the form and function of the Prima Porta significantly, which is represented through the different stylistic features. The Prima Porta today remains as one of the most prominent and important artpieces from the Roman world.

The first stylistic feature that shows that the Prima Porta's form and function was influenced by political and religious beliefs was the Breastplate (Cuirass). The Cuirass, located on Augustus's breast, functions as a manifesto of imagery for Augustan ideology, and depicts different gods, important victory's, and people. There is not a single piece on the Cuirass that does not serve immense visual purpose. Arguably the most important depiction on the Cuirass is the Return of the Parthian Standards, 20BCE, which was one of Augustus's earliest and most important diplomatic victory's. The Return of the Parthian Standards is such an important victory for Augustus as it laid the groundwork for his reign and presented the idea of 'Augustan Ideology,' a belief that idealised 'Pax' (peace) and excellence (as Augustus believed that's what his empire was built on). Again, it was so important to have this victory on the Prima Porta as it showed the Roman world that Augustus was a strong leader, one whom was fit to lead Rome. This political idea of being fit to lead Rome directly influenced the form and function of the Prima Porta, as it was pivotal for people to see that their leader was strong and it was important for Augustus to know that people wouldn't challenge him or his ideology. Additionally the Prima Porta was directly influenced by religious beliefs, which is shown by certain depictions of gods, such as Sol (the sun god) and Clairo (the sky god) on the Cuirass. The depictions of these two gods in particular were so significant as it showed that Augustus was not only divinely favoured, but heavenly favoured. The religious belief of being heavenly favoured was so significant in the Roman world, as it meant that you were protected by the gods. This was so important for leaders at the time as it meant going into battle (or just in general) you would have support and be protected by divine powers. Additionally, it also meant you'd have more support from mortals as they'd place more trust in you as, if their leader was divinely favoured, they would be protected too. To furthermore show divine approval, Tellus, Apollo, and Diana are all depicted on the Cuirass of the Prima Porta. Finally, there is personification on the Cuirass to show that all different types of people could live in peace under Augustus, proving Pax Romana was not just a goal, but a reality. Overall, the Cuirass on the Prima Porta was significantly influenced by political and religious beliefs as these two factors entirely shaped it's function; to promote that Augustus could uphold Pax Romana for all in Rome, he was a strong leader, and that he was divinely supported and protected. These three factors were some of the most important ideas for a leader in Rome, as it is exactly was Augustan ideology was.

The second stylistic feature that conveys that the Prima Porta's form and function was influenced by political and religious belief was the idealistic style and youthful physique. Augustus wanted his statue to replicate perfection and was heavily inspired by the Doryphorus from Ancient Greek Art and its idealistic style. Despite statues and busts from the Roman Republic using the realistic style, Augustus, wanted his statue to be a mirror of the "Greek Golden Age," as that closely aligned with the Augustan ideology. The idealistic style of the Prima Porta was directly influenced by political beliefs as Augustus's ideals of excellence was what he wanted to convey through his statue. Although he was aging, the idealistic style promoted the propaganda message that Augustus was godlike and that the Augustan ideology was the perfect way to live. Combining with the idealistic style was the youthful physique. The youthful physique of the Prima Porta was purposefully done to furthermore show the idea that Augustus was a strong leader and his empire was stable. This was so significant as the Roman Empire was huge, ensuring stability was a top priority. Overall, the idealistic style and youthful physique on the Prima Porta was influenced by political beliefs, as by Augustus having a youthful physique and idealistic style it promoted immense political propagandal messages of power and how he is godlike, ultimately meaning that the form and function of the statue was influenced by these beliefs too.

The third stylistic feature that shows that the Prima Porta's form and function was influenced by political and religious beliefs was the Orator's or 'Aldocutio' pose. In Roman times, the Orator's pose was only used for statues of great military leaders, so immediately we can understand that this pose was influenced by political ideals as it was used as propaganda to show that Augustus was a

The third stylistic feature that shows that the Prima Porta's form and function was influenced by political and religious beliefs was the Orator's or 'Aldocutio' pose. In Roman times, the Orator's pose was only used for statues of great military leaders, so immediately we can understand that this pose was influenced by political ideals as it was used as propaganda to show that Augustus was a strong and a great leader. More specifically, Augustus's arm was raised in an 'Aldocutio' pose, which is a pose to show he is addressing the troops. This was important for the function of the Prima Porta as it delivered propaganda that Augustus was a strong military leader and that he was the sole leader of the Roman world. Again, this was important as the Roman empire was so huge, so Augustus had to show that he was the sole leader, so no one else would overrun or take his place. Overall, by having Augustus in a strong military leader's pose, it continues to implement and deliver the idea of strength, power, and control. As by running a huge empire like Augustus did, holding these three ideals were so pivotal to keep stability. So, the Orator's and Aldocutio pose shows to a significant extent that political beliefs influenced the function of the Prima Porta as it proved that no one else would be able to lead as greatly as him.

The fourth stylistic feature that illustrates that the Prima Porta's form and function was influenced by political and religious beliefs was Cupid riding a dolphin at Augustus's right foot. The Julian family which Augustus is a part of through his adoptive father, Julius Ceasar, claimed divine lineage through Aeneas, who is the son of Venus the god of love and beauty. Cupid is also the son of Venus so immediately this feature shows that Augustus has divine lineage, as he is standing right by him, visually showing that he is protecting him. This religious belief of having divine lineage directly influenced the function of the Prima Porta as it proved to everyone that if you supported Augustus, you too would be divinely favoured. So, by having Cupid present on the Prima Porta it was not only a religious standpoint, it promoted propaganda that since Augustus has divine protection and lineage, he is a leader to trust to keep us safe, as he and the heavens will protect us. Combining with Cupid is the dolphin, which is a feature directly influenced by political ideals. The dolphin represents Augustus's comprehensive and decisive Naval victory over Mark Antony and Cleopatra in the Battle of Actium 31BCE, proving that he was the sole leader of the Roman world. The naval victory was important to include in the Prima Porta as it showed people that Augustus was a man of power and the sole leader of the Roman world. This political idea of power directly influenced the Prima Porta as the dolphin is the embodiment of victory and that if Augustus is challenged, he will always find a way to overcome you. Overall, Cupid riding the dolphin furthermore shows that the Prima Porta's form and function was directly influenced by political and religious beliefs as it promotes the overall message that Augustus was a strong political leader, and that he has divine lineage meaning that you wouldn't just be fighting him and his army, but the protection from his divine lineage.

Each and every stylistic feature on the Prima Porta holds visual significance in promoting propaganda of how great Augustus was. In a time where the majority of people were illiterate, artwork and statues held so much significance in giving information, as this was the main way to learn about things, so it was important to for the Prima Porta to deliver manifestos of imagery for Augustan ideology, as he needed people to know how to live under his rule. Additionally, with how great the size of Rome was, not many people would've ever seen Augustus in person, so it was so important for Augustus to have a powerful statue showing how great he was and delivering all these messages. Augustus was one of the most influential leaders and impacted his world greatly, it is truly an honour that the Prima Porta provides us the opportunity to learn about his rule as he was one of the most progressive and powerful leaders in human history. So, finally, political and religious beliefs of power and divine lineage influenced the form and function of the Prima Porta incredibly, to the extent where the majority of the messages were either political or religious on the Prima Porta.

1718 WORDS / 900 RECOMMENDED

Excellence

Subject: Classical Studies

Standard: 91395

Total score: 07

Grade score	Marker commentary
E7	<p>The candidate consistently addresses the question throughout the response, fully addressing both parts of the question. A broad range of detailed and relevant evidence from the art work is included, supported by analysis that clearly connects back to the question. The writing is thorough, perceptive, and integrates conclusions into the discussion.</p> <p>Overall, this is a balanced response that provides consistent relevant evidence and analysis that connects to the question. There is a clear understanding of the art work's historical context, which adds depth and insight to the discussion.</p>