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91396



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Classical Studies 2025

91396 Analyse the impact of a significant historical figure on the classical world

Credits: Six

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse the impact of a significant historical figure on the classical world.	Analyse, in-depth, the impact of a significant historical figure on the classical world.	Analyse, with perception, the impact of a significant historical figure on 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 03

Page 1

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ONE of the questions below with reference to a **historical figure of the classical world**.
You must answer using paragraphs.

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

- Discuss the extent to which a significant classical figure's leadership could be described as strategic.
- Discuss the extent to which a significant classical figure's status was challenged by others.
- Discuss whether a change(s) introduced by a significant classical figure was for the better or for the worse.
- Discuss how a significant classical figure's reputation was impacted by their involvement in a conflict(s).

HISTORICAL CLASSICAL FIGURE

Socrates

PLANNING

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 primary-source evidence.

B I U

Socrates was a classical Greek philosopher, well known for his work in reinventing the way we learn and perceive information, he had a very post-classical ideology on many subjects and his work is well documented under the scriptures of his pupils. He was born to a Midwife and a Stonemason, and throughout his life went from being a stonemason, to a soldier in the pelloponesian war, to a philosopher towards the end of his life, he at one point was put to death via hemlock for his "crimes" which were said to be "Corruption of the Youth of Athens" and "Defiance of the Gods" and over time after his death his words and ideologies were immortalised and studied, as his theories were some of the first examples of western philosophy.

He was challenged by others for his status very often, some examples of this include his treatment of Women and Slaves, his Socratic method which was completely outlandish for the time, his critique on the Athenian democracy system, his idea of philosophy being more about the mental state than the physical state and of course the trial in which resulted in his death.

To begin speaking about how he was challenged you must first realise how different his ideologies were, he had completely separate ideas on morality, knowledge, death and life itself. He is well regarded to have said things such as "Knowledge is Virtue", a testament to his belief that people who are moral and who treat everybody with the respect a living being deserves, they are intelligent, in this period in Athens women and slaves were treated extremely poorly and were refused an education by many. This resulted in a large amount of scrutiny from the general public of Athens and was a large critique of him in his years.

His "Socratic method" teaching style was very ahead of its time also. He instead of lecturing and not letting his student have a chance to speak, he would question everything, almost to an annoying point and would let them come to conclusions or come to a point where they don't have the knowledge to answer the question and he would help them. An example of this is within Plato's Dialogues, where it states that during a conversation whilst Socrates was in captivity leading up to his trial, he asked the question "Is something pious because the gods love it, or do the gods love it because its pious". This question left the interlocutor (person Socrates was teaching/talking to) completely stunned and he couldn't actually develop his own answer to that question. The main critique of this was just the annoyance it caused, he was known to be a figure you would ignore if you saw him walking around the agora (marketplace in Athens). The Socratic method was also challenged in his court hearing that will be spoken about later.

He was also an avid critique on the democratic system of Athens, he did not believe that the jury system and the council with many members was an efficient way to run the judiciary and management of Athens, and openly criticised it on many accounts. The critique on this was one of the factors that caused Socrates' trial to happen in the first place.

The thing that made Socrates so influential, was his way of going about philosophy. He was the first philosopher on record to theorise on the mental and spiritual state of humans, instead of the physical body. Philosophers before his time are now referred to as "Pre-Socratic Philosophers" and they spoke more on the physical body and what they believed their soul to be, this is also why the myth of Prometheus has him having his liver eaten every day by a raven, because popular belief was that the liver is where the soul was stored. Obviously, once the public heard his theories he was challenged and critiqued because they were so out of the ordinary for the time.

The final large challenge he received his life, was the trial. He was taken into captivity and given a date to face the judiciary system for his crimes. He did not respond to this trying to avoid death, escape or even accepting a plea to go free if he pleads guilty, he completely stood by himself and was not afraid of dying for his own words. During the trial, he did not attempt to defend himself, but actually he questioned the thinking of the jury, just as he had with so many people using the Socratic method, he was certainly intelligent enough to argue his way to being a free man, yet he chose to stick to morality and avoid conflict, which enraged the public who eventually sentenced him to death by hemlock. His death was attended by his pupils except for Plato, who was ill on the day.

Socrates defied a society that had many flaws, and rightly so. He was a complete visionary in philosophy and never got to experience the respect he deserves. In modern day, many recent changes to society such as abolishment of slavery and segregation, women's rights and the ideas of morality being knowledge all seem to match up with Socrates ideologies from around 2000 years ago. And as expected, every time something so innovative comes along critique and challenge is expected, and the example of Socrates' ideologies did not differ.

Achievement

Subject: Classical Studies

Standard: 91396

Total score: 03

Grade score	Marker commentary
A3	<p>The response addresses the question by describing how Socrates was challenged. The argument is basic and not consistently developed. The introduction provides background information, but the argument is vague and does not clearly outline a sustained line of reasoning.</p> <p>The response is largely descriptive. Events such as Socrates' trial, his teaching method, and his critique of democracy, are explained. Further exploration of causes, consequences, or wider significance would have provided more depth. There is minimal attempt to evaluate why these challenges mattered or how they impacted Socrates' status.</p> <p>Some relevant examples are included, such as references to Plato's dialogues and the trial, but these are used in a narrative way rather than integrated into analysis.</p> <p>The response has an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion, but ideas are not always logically connected or link back to a central argument.</p>