

Candidate evidence

Classical Studies Higher Resource Sheet				
Candidate Name		Scottish Candidate Number		
Intro - Domestic religion other as well vital aspect to Roman life				
Aspects - Gods, who's involved, Daily worship, Special occasions.				
Comparisons - Gods; Hinduism, shrine who's involved; Grace - paterfamilias Daily worship; prayer, Islamic religion Special occasion; Marriage - carry over door Funeral - procession/eulogy				
Sources -				
"She prays to me ... brings me daily gifts of ... other offerings." - Plautus, The pot of Gold, prologue 2-27 Aspect ① - gods (Lares) (2nd century BC)				
"it was custom ... while an offering was ... and put on the fire." - Servius, Commentary on Virgil, Aeneid 1.73 (4th century AD) Aspect ③ - worship				
"... your door-posts, ... your door with a ... laurel wreath..." - Juvenal, Satires, 6.70 (1st century AD) Aspect ④ - Birth				
① Lares = most important Genius = personal guardian > only dad genius worshipped precautions. Highly respected. want to please	② Paterfamilias Grace after the boys COA 16 Toga praetexta Toga virilis Bulla to Lares Girls - before wedding Points in life marked	③ disadvantage without Prayer sacrifice silence - great respect. seriously	④ Juno/Lucina wreaths. 4th day 8th - girls garland of lucky flowers. orange/yellow veil firewater Purify	⑤ 8 day mourning procession Torches Worn off evil Speech Professional mourners, Actors

Title of your Classical Studies Topic or Issue

To what extent was religion in the home important to the people of the classical Roman world?

Religion in the home was important to the people of classical Rome to a large extent. At this time domestic religion was a vital aspect of Roman citizens lives.

~~Therefore~~ Religion was a huge part of their lives, and both in and out of the home.

The intention of this assignment is to examine how important religion in the home was to the Roman people through exploring the following aspects; Gods, who's involved, daily worship and special occasions.

The Gods involved in domestic religion is a key aspect to religion in the home. The household Gods were; Janos, Vesta, the Lares, Penates and the Genius. Each god had a specific role in looking after the family of the home. Janos was the household spirit

of the door and watched over all who entered and left. Vesta was the god of the fire and ensured the family was always warm. The lares ~~was~~ was the spirit that watched over the family and could be seen as the most important household god. The penates watched over the store cupboard and ensured there was always food for the family to eat. Only children could look after the store cupboard as no impure person could and children were seen to be the purest. Finally, the Genius was a crucial god to the family. Each person in the home had a Genius, it was seen to be a guardian angel. However, only the genius of the paterfamilias was worshipped. ~~The gods involved in domestic religion shows the importance of it to the people of the classical Roman world.~~ The lares had a shrine dedicated to it in the home and would be worshipped daily at meals, along with the penates. To worship these gods they would burn part of their meal on the hearth so that

the gods ~~couldn't~~ would have ~~em~~ taken part in a meal with them. The Gods involved in domestic religion shows the importance of it to the people of the classical Roman world as the gods are highly respected. They worship them daily and create shrines dedicated to them to show their appreciation. If it was not important to the people of Rome they would not go to such lengths to ensure that the gods were respected.

Also they want to please the gods which shows the importance of domestic religion to them. This ^{is} shown by Plautus, *Pot of Gold*, Prologue, 2-27 (2nd century BC):

"She prays to me constantly brings me daily gifts of incense and wine and other offerings." As she prays to her gods 'constantly' and brings a variety of offerings it shows that she wants to please her household gods so that in return her home will be looked after. Finally, the importance is shown through the precautions the family take to ensure things are done properly, for example; the children looking after the store cupboard. As they make sure

to follows the penalties wished then it is shown how important religion in the home is to them. A comparison that can be made between the Classical Roman world and the modern day is some aspects of the worship. In today's world in ~~some religions~~ ~~and~~ the Hindu religion of Hinduism a shrine is created in the hall of the home to worship their gods, just like the Romans did for the Lares.

Moreover, who's involved in domestic religion also conveys the importance of it at this time. In domestic religion all of the family were involved but some members had a greater role to play than others. ~~The head of the household~~ The 'paterfamilias' had the most important role to play within domestic religion. The 'paterfamilias' was the head of the household, ~~and~~ was the oldest male and had control over everyone else in the ~~household~~ family's participation in domestic religion. The 'paterfamilias' key role emphasises the importance of religion in the home as he uses his power of head of the

household to encourage the whole family to participate, thus showing that religion in the home was important to the people of classical Rome. One comparison that can be made between classical Roman times and today's world is the role of the 'paterfamilias'. In today's world many families say grace before eating their meal and this prayer is most likely lead by the father ~~at~~ ^{or} head of the household, which is similar to that of Roman times. Children also ~~play~~ have great involvement within domestic religion. When a boys turns 16 he goes through a coming of age ceremony. At this ceremony he trades in his 'toga praetexta' for a 'toga virilis' to signify his new found manhood and dedicates his Bulla to the Lares. A bulla is ~~the~~ a necklace type given to the child at birth. The girls in the family also have a coming of age ceremony but this happens the night before their wedding. The girl will dedicate her bulla and toys to the Lares to show her becoming a woman by marrying.

The children's involvement with religion in the home shows how important it was to the Roman people as the ceremonies mark stages in life, that may not be marked if religion in the home was not as significant, thus emphasising the importance of it.

Furthermore, Daily worship was a vital aspect of religion in the home and greatly shows its importance to the Roman people.

The people of Rome worshipped their household gods on a daily basis through a variety of ways. The main ones being prayer and sacrifice. The family would pray to their gods (mostly the lares) daily to ask for good fortune and to ensure the gods would provide the family with what they needed to survive. The family would also make sacrifices to the household gods to show their appreciation. The sacrifice would be made when the family were having a meal and the food would be burned on the fire as a sacrifice to the most commonly the lares. This is shown by Servius, commentary on Virgil, Aeneid

1.73 (4th century AD): "it was custom for silence to be ordered while an offering was brought to the hearth and put on the fire."

The importance of religion in the home is shown here ~~was~~ through daily worship as it shows there was high respect towards it.

As "silence it was custom for silence to be ordered" great respect is shown towards the worship and it shows that it was taken very seriously. As the worship was taken very seriously and was respected then the importance of ~~the~~ religion in the home is greatly shown. Daily worship also emphasises the importance of domestic religion as without the worship the family ~~be~~ would be at a great disadvantage, as if you do not ~~effectively~~ worship your gods then they will not reward you. A comparison that can be made between religion in the home in the Roman world and in today's world is the daily worship. In the modern day world many religions have daily worship. For example in the Islamic religion, prayer takes place many times each day to worship their god.

Additionally, special occasions also play an important part in domestic religion and emphasise its importance to the people of the classical Roman world. In religion of the home the special occasions that take place are birth, marriage and death. When a child was born Romans would pray to Juno/Lucina ~~to~~ to keep the mother and baby safe at the crucial period. A prayer was made to Juno as she was seen to be a carer of women. When a child was born the family would hang a wreath on their door to show that a child had safely arrived. This is confirmed by Juvenal, Satires, b. 79 (1st century AD) "Adorn your door-posts, adorn your door with a huge laurel wreath..." The hanging of the wreath shows the importance of religion in the home as it is a way to make announcements and celebrate something that has happened. On the 9th day of the child's life, 8th day if it is a girl, ~~the first~~ a ceremony would be held and the father would accept the child into the family and give the child a name.

Marriage is also a special occasion that is key to religion in the home. The wedding would happen at the bride's home where both families and others would attend. The night before the wedding the girl would give her dolls and toys to the lares to signify her becoming a woman. On the day of the wedding the bride would get ready with a woman already married. The bride would wear a garland of lucky flowers and a veil that would be orange/yellow in colour. This was for good luck and to ward off evil. After the ceremony she would walk to her new home with a procession carrying torches to ward off evil spirits. At the new home her husband would carry her over the threshold of the home to prevent her offending the ~~gods~~ household gods. She would then drink water to purify her and she would be accepted by the gods in her new home. A comparison between the Roman world and today's world can be made on marriage. Similarly, in the modern day husbands will carry their new wives

wife over the door of the first room they enter, just like in Roman times. Death also played an important part in religion in the home. After a person died there would be an 8 day mourning period for the family. ~~For~~ the funeral the body would be washed and dressed appropriately for the ceremony. At the funeral a procession of mourners would follow the body to be buried. Some mourners would carry torches to stop evil spirits getting to it. At some funerals there would be professional mourners, who were actors paid to be there and mourn. At the ceremony a family member would make a speech about the deed and the loss they faced. A comparison can be made between today's world and the classical Roman world on death. Similarly, in the modern day the family still follow the dead in a procession and a speaker at the funeral with ~~perform~~ or perform a eulogy, just like ~~at~~ ^{at} a classical Roman funeral. Special occasions show the importance of religion in the home as they mark special stages in life.

As religion in the home has a ceremony for each occasion people are brought together and can properly celebrate ~~or~~ or mourn, thus making religion in the home important to the people of the classical Roman world.

In conclusion, religion in the home was important to the people of classical Rome to a large extent. Religion in the home allows the family to all play an important role and to celebrate together. The ~~above~~ aspects mentioned throughout clearly convey the importance of religion in the home. However, other aspects of religion is also important i.e. state religion, but ~~does~~^{did} not have as much importance as domestic religion.