

Candidate 1 evidence

Classical Studies Resource Sheet			
Candidate Name	<input type="text"/>	Scottish Candidate Number	<input type="text"/>
Question: To what extent were people's lives in Ancient Greece governed by their views in the afterlife?			



Krater depicts Odysseus as he waits to consult Teiresias. There are two sacrificed rams underneath his sword - dead souls must drink blood to speak (c. 380 BC)
390 BC-380 BC, the Dolon Painter, Academus Education

[107a] that the soul is immortal and imperishable, and our souls will exist somewhere in another world."
360 BC, Plato, Phaedo 107a

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/atomism-ancient/#LeucDemo>

While in the Greek tradition, atoms were held to be eternal and indestructible particles that persist through changes in the visible world of experience, that is not always a feature of ancient atomist theories

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CORRECT, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT COMMITMENT AN
ORDINARY GREEK OF THE ORPHEUS INITIATION, INVESTED
IN THIS ALTERNATIVE WORLD VIEW.
ROBERT PARKER, ON GREEK RELIGION, 2011.

Exam: Higher Classics Assignment 2024-25

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To what extent were peoples lives in Ancient Greece governed by their views on the afterlife?

Where you went after death was a common debate in the Classical Greek period, there were multiple different beliefs into what happened in the afterlife. The underworld was a widely known prospect in Ancient Greece, those who believed this claimed that the afterlife came down to the God Hades. Hades underworld was one of which judges decided how you spend your afterlife depending on how you lived your life . However some believed in not as main stream views such as those of the strict Orphic cults who believed in the transmigration of souls. Lastly some followed the ideas of Greek philosophers like Plato and Democritus . Although each view is different they all surround the same belief that the good will be rewarded and the bad will be punished, this contributed to why and how Greek citizens lived their lives.

One of the most traditional and popular beliefs about the afterlife in Greece was in Hades underworld. It was believed that after death the soul left the body and made its way down to the underworld, they travelled down the river Styx and were met with three judges; Minos, Aeacus and Rhadamanthus. Although entry into the underworld was preferred it was not guaranteed and there were multiple reasons why you could be refused entry into the underworld such as treason against the state, murder and suicide. It was also believed that you had to be buried with a gold coin in order to gain entry into afterlife and remain a ghost on earth. This governed the way people lived as they were scared to not gain entry into the underworld, it also meant the importance of keeping up the ritual of putting a gold coin in somebody's casket to ensure entry had to be kept up so loved ones could have their afterlife. There were three different outcomes as to where you could end up once you had made it into the afterlife. The worst of the worst Greeks, who had personally wronged the gods would end getting personally punished by Hades himself in Tartarus for eternity. The Elysium fields a place of light and happiness, which was originally reserved for Heroes and Demigods eventually opened up to those who were very good and those who had been hard done by in their lives. The most common place to end up was the Asphodel meadows which took everyone who didn't make the cut for the other two, the souls who ended up there were forced to wander aimlessly for eternity until they had lost all sense of reality and personality. The afterlife was meticulously difficult to get into if you were not dead and few were ever able to do so linking to the image on the resource sheet which depicts Odysseus as he waits to consult Teiresias. There are two sacrificed rams underneath his

sword - dead souls must drink blood to speak. This source is useful as it shows Odysseus who journeyed into the afterlife and experienced it first hand... The source is also useful as it is a primary source made in 390 - 380BC, made by someone alive at the time relevant to this essay which makes it relevant as they are a witness to the events. The traditional view of the underworld links to the modern world through the view in Christianity of heaven and hell which links again to the good being rewarded and the bad being punished.

A more alternative and less common view on the afterlife was that of the philosophers. Plato did not just have one belief on what happened he questioned other views and brought different ideas such as reincarnation and even that there might just be nothingness after death. Although his idea of afterlife jumped around one thing stays moderately the same and that is his view on the soul, Plato believes that it is only your body that dies but your soul lives on, what happens next is up to interpretation but the soul will not die, this is backed up by his book; *Phaedo* (107a) "the soul is immortal and imperishable, and our souls will exist somewhere in another world" this source is helpful because it shows us what Plato's views on the soul were. The source is also helpful because it is a primary source, written in 360BC by Plato himself which makes it trustworthy as it is a quote taken from the philosopher himself. Another Philosopher who brought ideas of the afterlife to the table was Democritus, who believed that we were all made up of atoms which were indestructible and that after death our body's would disperse those atoms back into the ground.

Both philosophers views have crossovers and gaps but actually link to the modern worlds common views of the afterlife

Lastly, some beliefs in afterlife stem from the writer and musician, Orpheus. Orphic cults believed in the transmigration of souls, they believed that one life was not enough and that you would live many until you have fulfilled your soul. The really good would be reincarnated back into humans and the good would come back as social creatures like bees and the bad would incarnate as wolves and donkeys which were seen as bad and unsocial creatures.

One of the reasons Orpheus is so famous is because of the story of him travelling down to the underworld to bring his wife Eurydice back to the living world
Orpheus's tale about Eurydice made his beliefs in the afterlife more trustworthy as he had seen the underworld first hand.

"but even if that view of the content of the books is correct, we do not know what commitment an ordinary client of the Orpheus initiators invest in this alternative world view" this source is useful as it shows us that although those in the cult of Orpheus had some ideas of afterlife, we don't know how many properly believed in these views, so it is difficult to know the importance and relevance of these beliefs.

In conclusion people in Ancient Greece's lives were governed by their views on the afterlife

to a certain extent. a lot stems from the same grounds that the good were rewarded and the bad were punished