

Candidate 2 evidence

Introduction

A comparison between ancient and modern-day Roman and Greek marriages. Arranged/Forced marriage, marital duties, age and suspicions. Point, Analyse, Use quote to show, Compare to modern.

Main Points

Transition the girls endured:

Girls 14, Men 30.

3 Phases for young girl. Separation from family, new home and becoming wife and daughter.

At wedding offered toys to Artemis to separate from past life.

Also makes evident lack of rights. Women weren't seen as humans. Used to breed.

Drastic change. Compare to modern. Less stress

"Just as the boy gave up childhood at 16, the girl did so the night before her wedding when she dedicated her 'bullae' and toys to Lares." (Second hand) Course booklet

Wedding ceremonies and processions:

Could last several days.

Feast at the house of bride's father.

Sacrifices to Artemis

Loutron numphikon- bridal bath which induced fertility. Athens 4th Cent

One of few events which females could attend.

Long tunic with tola on head.

Analyse

Similar attire to modern-day.

Priest now used.

"During the fifth century its purpose seems to have been confined to ritual uses, such as weddings (where it was frequently used to carry the water for the bridal bath) or the funeral of an unmarried person."

Marriage superstitions:

Shouldn't wear dress before wedding.

Can't wear both engagement and wedding ring at same time.

Seeing each other before wedding still happens. Was for forced marriage. Changed mind.

Large number of superstitions gravitated around bride.

Marital Duties:

Common for men to go to work, fight etc

Woman stayed at home, raised children and cleaned.

Gives more evidence that women weren't treated equally. Sexual inequality

Modern comparison. Women work at home etc

"About our plight I will say no more.

But I grieve for the unmarried women who

are growing old in their bridal chambers." Aristophanes, Lysistrata

Forced Marriages:

For 3 things: size of dowry, fertility and skills e.g. weaving.

Were often done to form alliances

Women had little to no say.

Manipulated for others' gain.

E.g. marriage by abduction. Central Asia.

Conclusion

Similar but some aspects have changed.

Age different, Forced marriage and superstitions are the same

*Removal of a dowry in which
Pythodorus had assigned a dowry
of two drachmas to his daughter.*

Higher Classical Studies Assignment

A comparison between ancient Roman and Greek and modern day marriages.

There has been a drastic change in the ways in which marriages are conducted. I believe this is mainly down to the fact women now have many more rights than they used to. Marriage in ancient Greece could often be used as a merger to bond two families.

Marriage for a girl could often be highly traumatic as many had to endure the process in their early years. The girl had to go through three main phases before her transition into a new family was complete. At first she was separated from her family, having no contact with her parents or siblings. Then after moving into a new home, she had to focus on becoming a good wife and daughter. To enforce the separation from her old family, the bride is required to offer her childhood toys to Artemis. This cut her off completely from her old family. It is evident through this that women must of had little to no rights. She often had no say in the wedding. It is almost as if they weren't seen as humans and were merely used to produce a healthy child for the male. Now obviously this is drastically different to what a bride must go through today. In modern marriages the bride now often has a complete say as to whether she wants to participate or not. She will also endure less stress as now the bride remains in contact

with her family." Just as the boy gave up childhood at 16, the girl did so the night before her wedding when she dedicated her hair and toys to heres. This is a second hand source from my course booklet so it may not be entirely accurate.

Another aspect which has undergone a large change is the actual wedding and procession. Getting married in ancient Greece could have lasted up to several days. A feast was held at the house of the bride's father. During which there were often sacrifices to Artemis thought to increase the bride's fertility. On the night before the wedding the bride sat in the *hannon* *nuptialiter*, a bridal bath also thought to induce fertility.

"During the fifth century its purpose seems to have been confined to ritual uses, such as wedding

Though the various attempts in which the bride's fertility is thought to have been improved it is evident marriage was often used just so a son or daughter could be brought into the family. The bride would often wear a long light-colored tunic with a *stola* on their head. This attire is similar to the white modern day dress.

A lot of superstitions which we have surround weddings actually originated in ancient Greece and Rome. A large number of the superstitions gravitated around the bride as it was believed that

She came out of the process unharmed and able to have children. Some superstitions we have in common with ancient Greece would include not wearing the dress before the day of your wedding, not allowing the bride and groom to see each other on the day of the wedding and even finding a spider on your dress. ~~One of the most interesting western~~ ~~and~~ ~~superstitions~~ ~~would~~. Not being able to see your significant other on the day of your wedding is actually a result of forced marriages, where it was thought the bride and groom may change their mind if they saw each other.

The marital duties performed by both husband and wife is perhaps one of the most obvious areas of change. In ancient Greece the man went to work or fight in order to support the family, whilst the woman often stayed at home to cook, clean and raise the children. This gives more evidence to support just how bad the sexual inequality in ancient Greece and Rome was. It is now normal for the woman to go off and work whilst the man stays at home. This advance in woman's rights has allowed woman more freedom than ever. It is also now common for woman to get married later on in their life as they pursue their career instead.

"Apart our plight I will say no more,
But I grieve for the unmarried who
are growing old in their bridal chambers."

~~Exa~~
Aristophanes portrays clearly through his quote that women were heavily dependant on men. It was thought that without a husband a woman would be useless and defenceless.

Although forced marriage does still occur in some parts of the world, it used to be common in Rome. A forced marriage was often dependant on three things. The size of the dowry offered by the bride's family, the bride's fertility and the bride's ability to weave, and perform other similar skills. A forced marriage was also often used to merge two families together. Almost like using the bride and groom as chess pieces to gain your family more power or wealth. Both the bride and groom had little to no say.

"Renewal of a document in which Pythodorus had assigned a dowry of 4000 drachmas to his daughter."

The closest modern example of this is probably a practice called "marriage by abduction". This is found in central Asia where a man simply abducts which ever woman he wants to be his wife.

In conclusion I think marriages have drastically changed since times, in ancient Greece and Rome even though some aspects are still the same, for example, a lot of the superstitions surrounding marriages today originated in Ancient Greece and Rome.