

What is *Pietas*? What Do We Learn About Aeneas and *Pietas* from the First Four Books of Vergil's Aeneid? Discuss the Contemporary Relevance of this Concept.

Intro

Start with a definition of what *pietas* is

Aims

You are trying to show the following

- How Aeneas' behaviour demonstrates *pietas*
- How Aeneas takes retrograde steps and the significance of these
- How Aeneas' behaviour is linked to what the reader is supposed to think of Augustus. What specific ideas and aspects of Augustus' regime are illustrated / alluded to?

Take the following episodes and for each one consider how it illustrates the above. Try to be as specific as possible. It is not enough to say "Aeneas has *pietas*. This is shown by..." – go for more like "this particular temple scene demonstrates Aeneas' religious values and also makes us think implicitly of Augustus' religious reforms."

***Exordium* (i. 1-33)**

- How is Aeneas described and summed up?

Book 2

- Instructions of Hector's ghost and how Aeneas reacts to it when he awakes.
- Early fighting scenes – what are Aeneas' sentiments?
- Priam's palace – what does he see? What change of heart does he have?
- Seeing Helen and forgetting everything else
- Reaction back at home when Anchises refuses to leave
- Ultimate filial image of taking his father onto his back
- What does he do when he realises Creusa is missing?

Book 3 – places where he demonstrates:

- Religious values
- Respect and obedience to Anchises
- Mercy (Achaemenides)
- Human frailties and despondency

Does he always think things through properly in this book?

Book 1

- Storm passage at the start – how does Aeneas react?
- What does he say to his men when they land? What does he do?
- First concerns when he is safely with Dido

Book 4

- Getting involved with Dido
- Reaction to Mercury's speech – what does he immediately accept?
- Speeches to Dido and what they reveal about his attitudes and priorities? What contrast is there between Aeneas and Dido?

Conclusion

What have you learned about *pietas*? How has Aeneas developed over the first four books of the Aeneid? What room for development is there still?

Overall picture of how Augustus factors in –

NB – these plans are rough guidelines with ideas. They are not exhaustive and they are NOT designed to do the essay and the thinking for you.

General Essay Writing Premises

Introduction

- Plan out exactly what you are going to discuss
- Be very snappy and to the point (i. e. relevant to this **particular** title) in the opening lines
- State what are you going to show and how you are going to show it

Each Main Paragraph

- State what you are discussing at the top, why it is relevant and how it fits into the bigger picture of your hypothesis
- Make the points clear and straightforward
- **Quote** from the text (or closely paraphrase what happens if more appropriate) to back up every point you make
- If it isn't relevant to the title, it will gain precisely 0 marks

Conclusion

- Sum up what you have shown
- Any more broad / general reflections at the end can be useful
- Make the last few lines to the point and snappy / catchy – the examiner will remember them

I hereby swear for my grade's sake to answer the question, the whole question and nothing but the question