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Candidate session number

Candidate name

School name

Examination session (May or November)

MAY

Year

2015

Diploma Programme subject in which this extended essay is registered:

LATIN

(For an extended essay in the area of languages, state the language and whether it is group 1 or group 2.)

Title of the extended essay:

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR
DIDO'S DEATH IN VERGIL'S AENEID

Candidate's declaration

This declaration must be signed by the candidate; otherwise a mark of zero will be issued.

The extended essay I am submitting is my own work (apart from guidance allowed by the International Baccalaureate).

I have acknowledged each use of the words, graphics or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

I am aware that the word limit for all extended essays is 4000 words and that examiners are not required to read beyond this limit.

This is the final version of my extended essay.

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Date:

1/15/15

Supervisor's report and declaration

The supervisor must complete this report, sign the declaration and then give the final version of the extended essay, with this cover attached, to the Diploma Programme coordinator.

Name of supervisor (CAPITAL letters)

Please comment, as appropriate, on the candidate's performance, the context in which the candidate undertook the research for the extended essay, any difficulties encountered and how these were overcome (see page 13 of the extended essay guide). The concluding interview (viva voce) may provide useful information. These comments can help the examiner award a level for criterion K (holistic judgment). Do not comment on any adverse personal circumstances that may have affected the candidate. If the amount of time spent with the candidate was zero, you must explain this, in particular how it was then possible to authenticate the essay as the candidate's own work. You may attach an additional sheet if there is insufficient space here.

HAS WRITTEN A STANDARD PIECE OF PHILOLOGICAL INQUIRY BASED ON HIS PERSONAL IDEAS AND OPINIONS FORMED WHILE PREPARING FOR HIS LATIN SL PAPER 2 READINGS. ✓

This declaration must be signed by the supervisor; otherwise a mark of zero will be issued.

I have read the final version of the extended essay that will be submitted to the examiner.

To the best of my knowledge, the extended essay is the authentic work of the candidate.

As per the section entitled "Responsibilities of the Supervisor" in the EE guide, the recommended number of hours spent with candidates is between 3 and 5 hours. Schools will be contacted when the number of hours is left blank, or where 0 hours are stated and there lacks an explanation. Schools will also be contacted in the event that number of hours spent is significantly excessive compared to the recommendation.

I spent hours with the candidate discussing the progress of the extended essay.

Supervisor's signature:

Date: 2-16-15

Assessment form (for examiner use only)

Candidate session number

Achievement level

Criteria	Examiner 1		Examiner 2		Examiner 3	
	Score	maximum	Score	maximum	Score	maximum
A research question	1	2		2		
B introduction	0	2		2		
C investigation	2	4		4		
D knowledge and understanding	2	4		4		
E reasoned argument	2	4		4		
F analysis and evaluation	1	4		4		
G use of subject language	2	4		4		
H conclusion	2	2		2		
I formal presentation	4	4		4		
J abstract	0	2		2		
K holistic judgment	2	4		4		
Total out of 36	18					

Name of examiner 1:
(CAPITAL letters)

Examiner number:

Name of examiner 2:
(CAPITAL letters)

Examiner number:

Name of examiner 3:
(CAPITAL letters)

Examiner number:

IB Assessment Centre use only: B: _____

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Who is to Blame for Dido's Death in Vergil's *Aeneid*?

May 2015
Word Count: 3,733



Abstract

Book four of Vergil's Aeneid is a detour from Aeneas's journey to Italy and from the future founding of a new Troy, Rome. In book four, Aeneas spent time in Carthage with Queen Dido. When Aeneas leaves, Dido kills herself and curses Aeneas and all of his descendants. Dido blames Aeneas for her misfortune, but there are many other factors at play which could be the cause of her death. This paper explores the five possible factors which could be blamed for Dido's death and ultimately answers the question: who is to blame for Dido's death? Aeneas leads Dido on for several months by caring for her and allowing her to think they are married. However, his actions are justified so he is free of blame. The Fates control everything in Roman life and a simple decree from them could lead to Dido's death, but the Fates never decree for Dido to die. Anna supports Dido's feelings and aids Dido in her pursuit of Aeneas's love. Dido cannot control her actions and cannot face the future that awaits her because of her decision. However, due to her insanity, she does not consciously make the decision for death and therefore cannot be responsible. Venus causes unsuspecting Dido to fall helplessly in love with Aeneas. The lack of control that Dido has in her love for Aeneas and in her life is what leads to her eventual death.

imprecise, vague

Research question 1

Abstract Ø

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Introduction

Book four of Vergil's Aeneid is a detour from Aeneas's journey to Italy and from the future founding of a new Troy, Rome. Aeneas and his men are shipwrecked in Carthage; they are befriended by the Queen, Dido, and end up spending a long time in Carthage. While staying in Carthage, Aeneas forms an intimate relationship with Dido. Eventually Aeneas is told by the gods that he and his men must leave, this angers the queen. She is so enraged with him and his men for leaving her, that she decides to kill herself. With her last words, she curses Aeneas and his descendants and blames him for her death. Aeneas is unaware that she has killed herself, but when he learns of her death later, he does not believe he is to blame for it. Aeneas is saddened by her death but takes no responsibility for causing it. Aeneas is not the only one who can be blamed for Dido's death. There are five possible forces that could be the cause of her death: Aeneas, the Fates, Anna, Dido herself, and Venus. Since no one took responsibility for causing Dido's death, it raises the question: who is to blame for Dido's death?

Aeneas

Dido kills herself and blames Aeneas for it because he left her. In order to prove that Aeneas is not to blame for Dido's death, his reasons for leaving Dido and his actions must be justified. If Aeneas was not justified in leaving Dido, he can be blamed for her death. To clear Aeneas of blame for Dido's death, his actions towards Dido and his reasons for leaving must be reasonable.

Aeneas follows the will of the gods and of the Fates. His initial reason for leaving Carthage is due to an order from the king of the gods, Jupiter. The Fates decreed that Aeneas

Little or no attempt is made to set the passage in question in context. ☹

will go to Italy, and it is Jupiter's job to make sure the will of the Fates is followed. To make sure the Fates are obeyed, Jupiter sends Mercury down to Aeneas with a message: "Alas, you are oblivious of your kingdom and your duties. He himself the director of the gods sends me to you from bright Olympus, who sways the sky and the earth with his divinity, he himself orders me to bear these commands through the quick breezes." (Vergil 217). Due to the order from the gods, Aeneas begins preparations to depart from Carthage.

*Mercury approaches to
Aeneas!*

Aeneas has a loyal obligation to his son, Ascanius, to go to Italy. Along with his desire to follow the will of the gods, Aeneas has a responsibility to his son to go to Italy. Since the Fates decree that Aeneas will go to Italy, Ascanius has claim to land in Italy. Thus Aeneas has a legal obligation to go to Italy for Ascanius's sake. Aeneas must show that he is not reluctant to give Ascanius the citadels of Rome (Vergil 215). Aeneas is referred to as "pious Aeneas" and to keep in sync with his piety, he must fulfill any obligation he has to his son.

Aeneas's interactions with Dido are not malicious; he enjoys the time he spends with Dido and cares for her. He has no control over leaving her because he is never allowed to live in the moment; Aeneas is forced to always be looking forward (Pöschl 38). This is evident because when Aeneas is forced by the gods to leave Dido, he pities her and the situation she is in. She wants for him to stay with her in Carthage which he cannot do because of the Fates. (Quinn 43). Aeneas has nothing he must remain loyal to in Carthage, but he has a responsibility to go to Italy. He justifies his actions to Dido, saying that he cannot defraud Ascanius of the land owed to him in Italy (Vergil 223). Aeneas takes responsibility in following the will of the gods and bringing his son to Italy. He leaves Carthage to complete his fate in Italy (McLeish).

Mercury approaches - ✓

narrative approach

Aeneas is unaware of how his actions affect Dido. He does not realize that for every action he makes, Dido interprets it differently than how he meant it. While in the cave together, Dido sees signs that make her believe that Aeneas and she are married (Vergil 210). However, Aeneas does not see this as a marriage; he believes that the two of them happen to enter the same cave while the storm comes in and there is nothing more to it. Aeneas believes that he never entered a marriage with Dido and says he never had plans to (Vergil 222). He is compared to a shepherd who unknowingly struck a deer, Dido, with an arrow and left the deer to wander. (Vergil 202). In this simile, the deer, like Dido, knows it has been struck and sees everything one way. However, the shepherd, like Aeneas, is unaware of what happened and views everything differently. Aeneas has wounded Dido with his love when he displays care for her, but he does not realize how much his actions have wounded Dido. Dido has been wounded by love for a long time and nourishes the wound with her veins (Vergil 197). Aeneas is unaware how long she has been in love with him and what her love is doing to her. Aeneas's lack of knowledge works in his favor when he must leave.

Aeneas acts in a way that is appropriate for the time period. Although it is looked down upon in today's society to spend an extended period of time with a person, then to abruptly leave them, what Aeneas does is acceptable at that time. This is an important fact to remember when analyzing Aeneas's actions. "To a Roman . . . the act (seducing Dido) would not have seemed one that need lie heavily on the conscience" (Quinn 141). Even if his actions are less acceptable by today's standards, his actions were common at the time. Although Aeneas slept with Dido then left, he should not be viewed in a negative way by people who are analyzing his action because this was an acceptable way to have a relationship during the time period. Since

what Aeneas does is not uncommon and his treatment of Dido is not malicious, the way he treats Dido is justified and should not be held against him. - *Superficial analysis* -

Aeneas acts in a pious and reasonable way with Dido. Aeneas wishes he could stay with Dido longer, but he shows his commitment to the gods and Fates by yielding to destiny (Pöschl 53). Aeneas was unaware of how his actions affected Dido and he also acted in a way that was suitable for the time period. For all of these reasons, he was justified in leaving Dido and Carthage. Since he was justified in leaving Carthage and in his actions towards Dido, Aeneas cannot be held responsible for Dido's death. ✓

The Fates

The Fates control everything in Roman times and in Roman epics. Whatever the Fates decree will happen, happens. The Fates decreed that Aeneas must go to Italy to found a new Troy and their will must be obeyed, no matter what. Although Dido does not blame the Fates for her death, they play a role in everything which points to their involvement in her death. The Fates can be blamed for Dido's death if there is evidence that they decree she is to die and they have prepared for her death.


The Fates started a chain reaction which ended in Dido's death. It is because of the decree of the Fates that Aeneas ends up leaving Dido in Carthage and going to Italy. If the Fates have not made this declaration, Aeneas would stay in Carthage with Dido because he is enjoying himself there and Dido would not kill herself. Nevertheless, the Fates decree that Aeneas must go to Italy, and as a result of Aeneas leaving, Dido kills herself. However, things can happen without the Fates decreeing them to happen; Dido's death is an example of this.


Dido chooses to kill herself, without the Fates proclamation. When Dido kills herself, the Fates are not ready for her to die. Proserpina has not yet taken a golden lock from her hair to send her to Stygian Hades. Dido dies neither by a deserved nor a fated death; she dies before her time (Vergil 246). Since the Fates have not taken a golden lock from her hair, they are not ready for her to die. In this case Dido made an action that was outside the will of the Fates. As a result, the Fates cannot be held responsible for Dido's death.

plot

Anna

Anna can be blamed for her sister's death if she purposefully steered Dido in the wrong direction and knowingly aided Dido in killing herself. When Dido first has feelings for Aeneas, Anna encourages her to pursue her relationship with him. At first Dido is unsure how she should react to her love for Aeneas. However, Anna tells her that she should pursue her feelings for him. Anna points out that if Dido marries Aeneas, she will not only be satisfying her love for him, but also she will fulfill the obligation she has for her city. Anna tells Dido that a marriage to the Trojan will provide protection from the neighboring tribes as well as from her brother in Tyre. (Vergil 201). Anna admits that there are two obstacles that must be overcome for Dido and Aeneas to be together. The first is that Dido must get the gods to approve of her abandoning her vow to Sychaeus. The second obstacle is that Aeneas does not feel the same way about Dido as she does about him. Nevertheless, Anna convinces Dido that the obstacles can be overcome (Quinn 137-138). Anna is eventually proven wrong; both of these obstacles are not overcome. Anna shows a situation that is pleasing to Dido as a lover and to Dido as a Queen of a city. Dido is unable to ignore this advice because these words come from a "tender,

loving sister" (Pöschl 76). It is due to this encouragement from her sister that Dido pursues Aeneas. If Dido had not labored after Aeneas's love, she would not have killed herself because she never would have had the feelings of dishonor and anger. Anna encourages Dido to pursue her feelings and aides Dido in her pursuit of Aeneas. 

Anna plays as an ambassador to Aeneas for Dido. When Aeneas leaves Dido and tells her that he is going to Italy, Dido asks Anna to beseech Aeneas one final time and ask him to stay with her a little longer. Anna delivers Dido's message and says that they have never done any harm to him or to Troy, so he has no reason to hastily flee. Dido knows their marriage cannot be restored but asks him to wait a little while longer to allow her anger to subside. Aeneas will not bend to her pleas; he is determined to leave. Here Aeneas is compared to an oak tree. The pleas of Anna and Dido are like winds that try to uproot the tree. As the tree resists the wind, Aeneas resists the pleas of Anna and Dido. He is steadfast and stays strong through everything. Aeneas feels pain for the situation that has come about, but stands resolute with his eyes fixed on his purpose and his goal (Vergil 228). By delivering the message, Anna further encourages Dido's love for Aeneas because she continues to feed Dido with false hope. Dido's anger is fueled by all of the hopes she has of Aeneas being with her, which would never be. 

Anna unknowingly helps Dido prepare for her death. After Aeneas refuses to stay in Carthage, Dido tells Anna that she learned of a ritual from a witch. Dido says that this ritual will either return Aeneas to her or free her from her love of him. She says that it is only as a last resort that she turns to magic, but Dido convinces Anna to build a funeral pyre to conduct this ritual (Vergil 233). Anna builds the funeral pyre because she believes Dido is going to put all of Aeneas's clothes and all the items that remind Dido of him on the funeral pyre and will burn the

bed. When Anna builds the funeral pyre, she does not realize that her sister is going to kill herself. Anna becomes distraught when she realizes that she helped her sister kill herself.

Everything Anna does is out of love for her sister. Anna never means to do her sister any harm; she wanted to make her sister happy. When she encourages Dido to go after Aeneas it is because her sister has a great love for him and it makes sense strategically for the new city. When Anna beseeches Aeneas for Dido, it is once again done in an attempt to make her sister happy. Anna's final attempt to please her sister ends in Dido's death. Anna is not aware of Dido's plan to kill herself and only does what she thinks is best for her sister. Anna cannot be held responsible for Dido's death because she acts out of love for her sister and was unaware of Dido's true intentions.

plot

Dido

Dido can be blamed for her own death if she knowingly killed herself because of the situation she was in. Dido is wrongly pitied by people of present day. Dido is often pitied because she is seen as a round character who comes alive. In the time that the Aeneid was written by Vergil, moderation was seen as good and excess was seen as bad. Dido's character was elaborate and excessive. She shows development of feelings and conscious thought of her actions. Dido is outspoken and has great parties. In today's society these things are often seen as good. However, the opposite was true in the time of Vergil. Dido should not be pitied because she is a well developed character. Instead she was meant to be thought of in a more negative way because of her extravagance. Aeneas does not say much, which was a great characteristic of the time (McLeish). Aeneas is more reserved and quieter than Dido. Dido

should be seen in a negative light due to her elaborate characteristics. The idea of Dido being excessive in what she says and does works against her because she does so much that she ends up in a bad situation.

Dido creates a situation which cannot end well for her. Dido begins her relationship with Aeneas having unrealistic expectations. She wants to love him and have him to herself. She is unable to recognize that he must follow Fate and meet his destiny in Italy. Dido could not understand that Aeneas could love and care for her even if he could not stay with her (Hornsby 96-97). There is no way for Dido and Aeneas to remain in Carthage together; Dido refuses to accept this. As Dido's love grows, she begins to have trouble controlling it. Her own lust and desire are what put her in such a precarious situation. Dido begins to lose control of herself and her feelings as her love grows and she slowly loses her sanity.

Dido loses touch with reality. As her love grows larger and larger, her concept of reality grows smaller and smaller. She runs wild through the city like a Bacchant. Dido is compared to Orestes and Pentheus, who are possessed by demons and become mentally deranged due to visions of furies advancing (Vergil 230). The difference between these men and Dido is that the men's insanity was caused by the gods while Dido brought it upon herself. Her interaction with Aeneas is evidence of her losing her sanity. She talked of their marriage, even though Aeneas never believed they were married (Hornsby 94). She sees everything in a different way than he does, and the lack of similarity enrages her; Aeneas becomes the target of her rage and anger.

Dido is angered by Aeneas's actions. As their relationship advances, Dido changes from caring deeply about Aeneas in a loving way to having very strong hostile feelings towards him. This is noticeable in the change of the words she uses when she addresses him. Early on she

refers to him in a loving way, with words such as "husband". As she loses touch with reality, she no longer calls him husband but resorts to names such as "traitor". Dido goes even farther and discredits Aeneas's parentage, saying he was not born of a goddess. (Vergil 224)). Her rage continues to build up until it cannot be contained; at this point, Dido decides to kill herself.

Throughout her interactions with Aeneas, Dido shows she is impious in her actions. She puts Aeneas and lust before her old husband, the gods and her city. She was negligent and forgetful of her duty to everything that has meant so much to her before. Impiety to the extent that Dido shows can only lead to madness and eventually death (McLeish). Dido's life ends because she cannot control herself and cannot face what she has done, so she kills herself. ✓

Dido's journey towards death begins when Aeneas prepares to leave Carthage. When Dido is telling Aeneas of her anger, the word "Dixerat" is used (Vergil 221). "Dixerat" is the pluperfect of finality, meaning no response is expected. This point is the beginning of Dido's end because "Dixerat" is used again when Dido is dying (McLeish). The two "Dixerat"s show where the journey towards death begins and goes all the way until the end, Dido's death, where it is used again to show that it truly is final and no more response is needed or can be given. Dido knows that she is going to kill herself starting when she first uses "Dixerat". It is when Aeneas says he will not stay that Dido makes the decision to commit suicide (McLeish). After Aeneas says he will not stay, Dido goes into the temple and prays for her own death. She believes that it is now her purpose to die. At the same time she begins to hear the voice of her dead husband. Dido's true insanity comes to light here. ✓

Dido sets herself up for a fall. From when she first meets Aeneas, Dido acts in such a way that the only outcome for her is a tragedy. Dido is excessive in everything she does; she

loses touch with reality and begins to go insane. She builds a situation, based on her own decisions that will not end well for her. She becomes enraged at Aeneas and claims he did her a great wrong doing, when in fact, he has not. Dido has no piety, which is represented by the way she stops caring for her city and her past husband in order to have Aeneas's love. However, most of the choices Dido makes lead to situations that put undue stress and strain on her. Everything that happens to her brings her to a state of insanity. Dido falls from her lofty position as a respectable queen to a person who lacks control and sanity. ✓

Dido cannot be blamed for her own death. Dido's excessiveness and well rounded character may seem to be a bad thing to have but being a bad person is not enough reason for her to kill herself. She is attached to Aeneas because of the wound she suffered from the very beginning. She puts all she has into the relationship between Aeneas and her which makes her suffer. Her impiety is another bad attribute that she possesses, but no matter how impious of a person she is and how difficult of a situation she is in, she cannot be responsible due to her lack of sanity. Over time Dido slowly loses more and more of her sanity, until the very end when it has all disappeared. ✓

Venus

Dido's death is caused by the wound of love. Venus knows of Juno's anger and fears that Juno is planning awful things while Aeneas stays in Carthage with Dido. To prevent Juno from causing Aeneas any harm, Venus makes Dido fall in love with Aeneas. To do this, Venus disguises Cupid as Ascanius and places him on Dido's lap. From there, Cupid breathes hidden fire into Dido, which makes her burn for Aeneas (Vergil 74). The hidden fire is what nourishes ✓

Dido's love; the fire is inside of her veins. As a result of this love, Dido loses her sanity. She cannot control her feelings for Aeneas due to the enchantment ordered by Venus. Dido has no control over her love for Aeneas. The lack of control in this area of her life leads to less control elsewhere. The feeling of having no control and seeing no other options is what led to Dido's death. ✓

Conclusion

Although Dido sets blame upon Aeneas for her final fate, he is not to blame. Aeneas is being pious and following the will of the gods when he leaves Dido. In leaving for Italy, he is fulfilling a loyal obligation he has to his son. Aeneas is kind to Dido and does nothing that would have been unacceptable for the time period. All of his actions and his reasons for leaving Dido are justified, which removes any blame from Aeneas. Likewise, the Fates are not to be blamed for Dido's death. The Fates have not decreed that Dido should die. In fact, the Fates are not ready for her to die which shows they are not to blame. While Anna's actions may seem heinous, she has no malicious intent while she is doing them. Everything Anna does is out of love for her sister and for the betterment of the city as a whole. She is also unaware of Dido's true intentions with the funeral pyre. All of these reasons remove Anna from blame for Dido's death. Dido cannot be held accountable for her actions because she is not consciously aware of what she is doing when she kills herself. Dido has completely lost her sanity by the time she kills herself. Since Venus is the cause of Dido's uncontrollable love for Aeneas, and it is the same love that leads to Dido's insanity and eventual death, Venus is to blame for Dido's death. ✓

Very superficial analysis mainly based on plot development —

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