

424 BCE- Euripides: Hecuba

Figure 1:
Incomplete Female
Tragic Mask.
(Image from:
https://research.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?objectId=1420825&partid=1&searchText=greek+theatre&page=1)



All titles in italics.
Hecuba was likely to have been written by Euripides in 424 BCE, though this is just an approximate date, the play, however, was definitely performed in the 420s (Gould, 2012).

Euripides was an Athenian playwright who wrote within the tragedy genre (Gould, 2012). In the tragic agon, Euripides won first prizes four times during his lifetime and once posthumously-making it five in total (Zimmermann, 2006). Therefore, demonstrating him as a successful playwright, but that did not mean that he was without critics- a major one being Aristophanes, a playwright for Old Comedy who made reference to qualities of Euripides' work within his own plays (Zimmermann, 2006; Aristoph, 407). *Incorrect reference format.*

You are misunderstanding what rhetoric is.
In the first half of the play, Hecuba is dealing with her daughter's sacrifice, though it then progresses to her getting revenge on Polymestor who was the Thracian king for being responsible for the murder of her youngest son (Brown, 2012; Eur, 59; Eur, 767). Her journey is therefore from one of a victim, to one strong enough to avenge wrongdoings against her. In fact, one of Hecuba's major strengths is her ability with the form of rhetoric, though the tragedy comes from the fact that those in power will not be swayed with persuasion (Kastely, 1993, p.1036). Tragedies as a genre generally had a lot of rhetoric included, which falls in line with Hecuba's decisions as a character and how she tries to solve her problems (Macintosh, 2012). This is especially true since Euripides himself was very talented in writing rhetoric speeches (Gould, 2012).

The play could also be seen as being influenced by the Peloponnesian War, with it looking at military defeat from those in such an unfortunate position (Zimmermann, 2006). This is definitely possible, as tragedies were an art form used to connect with the lives of the audience whilst also commonly (at least as evidenced by any surviving tragedies) drawing from popular myths (Macintosh, 2012).

REVENGE
Euripides' Hecuba exemplifies that fact that those without power will not be listened to and those in power are sheltered (Kastely, 1993, p.1038). Hecuba's want for avenge falls in line with the heroic code, as justice falls in line with revenge (Kastely, 1993, p.1039). Though the play is also often criticised for just how brutal such revenge was when enacted, it demonstrates that she is a strong character who was suffering and wanted vengeance because of that (Barker, 2009, p.326).



Figure 2: Hecuba
Blinds
Polymestor.
(Image from:
<https://www.wga.hu/detail/c/crespi/giuseppe/hecuba.jpg>)

And what is your actual view in relation to all this.

No examples of lines from the play?

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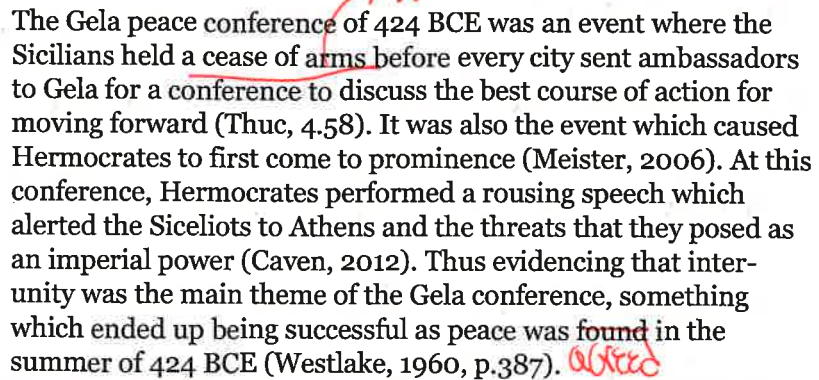
Good work.

To improve:

- ① You must engage with the ancient sources. There is nothing here to suggest that you have read the play.
- ② You must provide your own view, not just report on scholarship
- ③ Proofread more carefully

Relevance?
This is much
Later

Figure 1:
Athenian Defeat
at Syracuse.
(Image from:
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File: Destruction_of_the_Athenian_army_at_Syracuse.jpg)



Awk.



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Very good.

To improve

① Work more with the ancient sources.
You could have used Diodoros, as well.

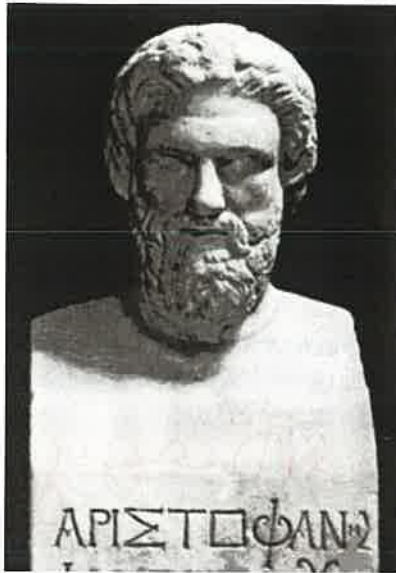
② You must start being critical with
scholarship, as well as the
ancient sources (which you do well
here with Thuc.).

③ You should have provided the context
in the beginning.

④ Proofread more carefully

425 BCE- Aristophanes: Acharnians

Figure 1:
Aristophanes Bust.
(Image from:
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aristofanes.jpg>)



In 425 BCE at the Lenaea, Aristophanes won his first comedy which was attested with the 'Acharnians' (Nesselrath, 2006). This play was produced by Callistratus (Dover and Pelling, 2012), who is known to have produced a number of Aristophanes' other plays such as 'Babylonians' (Rosen, 2010, p.236).

Aristophanes was a contributor to 'old comedy' (Dover and Pelling, 2012). This genre represents the Athenian comedies of the 5th century (Dover, 2012)- of which, Aristophanes' works have an admirable longevity, with some scholars arguing that his prowess with words were what ensured his legacy (English, 2007, p.199).

The 'Acharnians' has themes based on the public perception of the Peloponnesian War (Collins, 2019, p.4; Aristoph., 263). It more specifically details how Dicaeopolis, a man from the rural area, wanted a return to peace (Nesselrath, 2006). As such, it is one of

the main examples of how the Peloponnesian War was receiving some backlash from the Athenians for its longevity and disruption to lives (Thuc. 2.16). The play is one which was highly satirical and full of absurd humour, such as Dicaeopolis suddenly managing to gain a private peace treaty (Nesselrath, 2006), both of which were responsible for the success the play held (Dover and Pelling, 2012).

One of the main thoughts of the people at that time was to how long the war was going to last, a thought which founded three of Aristophanes' plays, including the Acharnians (Collins, 2019, p.42). Demonstrating that the idea of peace was a great muse for Aristophanes, and the success of the plays further evidences the idea that the war was not an appreciated one. That did not mean, however, that Aristophanes was a pacifist as whilst some scholars had thought so (Dover and Pelling, 2012), it is also true that Aristophanes did not write the Acharnians with the theme of moral peace, he did so with Dicaeopolis' main complaint being the disruption to his own life (Aristoph., 10).

Furthermore, peace was not the only recurring theme within his work, satire was as well- of which no one was safe from his contempt (Dover and Pelling, 2012; Aristoph., 572). In the Acharnians, Aristophanes presented Cleon, who was a politician accusing him of belittling Athens within in his work, in a negative light (Nesselrath, 2006; Aristoph., 496). Thus, giving the notion that Aristophanes was a writer who let his own opinions bleed into his work. Such an idea is further likely when considering that one of the main aspects of Old Comedy, and as such Aristophanes' plays, is the moments within the performances in which the audience will be able to see or hear the poet's own 'voice' (Rosen, 2010, p.229).

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Very Good.

To improve:

- ① Work more with the play. Provide references and examples.
- ② You must read around the subject more.
- ③ Proofread more carefully
- ④ You must work more to critically engage with scholarship

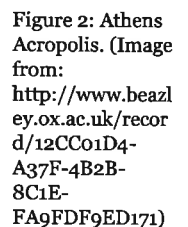
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② Be more critical at scholarship

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