Nomen	

Roman Civilization and Culture

HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, AND ROMAN SOCIETY

PERIODS IN ROMAN HISTORY

<u>Monarchy</u> (from the founding of Rome, 753 B.C., to 509 B.C.). There were seven kings, the first being Romulus, and the last Tarquinius Superbus (Tarquin the Proud), a member of the Etruscan family. Supreme authority of the king was symbolized by a bundle of rods with an ax, called fasces, which is the origin of the term fascism. The cruel despotism of Tarquin drove the Romans to rebel, to overthrow the rule of kings, and to establish a republic.

Republic (from 509 B.C. to 27 B.C.). This was the period of struggle and growth. At first it was marked by civil wars and wars against Rome's immediate neighbors, such as the Etruscans, the Volscians, and the Aequians. Later came wars of conquest in Italy itself: against the Samnites, the most warlike people of central Italy, and against the Greek cities of southern Italy defended by Pyrrhus, the famous Greek general. The conquered territories embracing the entire Italian peninsula became incorporated into the Roman state as colonies or as allies, both having limited self-government.

Rome then engaged in wars of conquest outside Italy. In the Punic Wars of the third century B.C., the Romans under Scipio defeated the brilliant Carthaginian general, Hannibal, establishing Rome as the only power in the western Mediterranean. Rome annexed the islands of Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica, and instituted the system of provinces whereby conquered lands were controlled by Roman governors. In the Macedonian Wars, which ended in 168 B.C., Macedonia was subjugated and reduced to a province. Rome acquired in quick succession the provinces of Greece, Africa, and Spain. Even the little kingdom of Pergamum in Asia Minor became a province, bequeathed to Rome in 133 B.C. by its last king, Attalus III.

Finally Rome's victories were climaxed in the first century B.C. by Julius Caesar's conquest of Gaul and his invasion of Germany and Britain. Despite the civil wars that shook the Roman state during this period (the conflicts between Marius and Sulla, and between Caesar and Pompey), Rome nevertheless became the dominant world power, and the Mediterranean Sea was aptly called by the Romans Mare Nostrum (Our Sea).

Empire (from 27 B.C. to 476 A.D.). Gaius Octavius, Caesar's grandnephew and adopted son, defeated his rival Antony and became Rome's first emperor with the title Augustus. He reigned from 27 B.C. until 14 A.D., a period marked by the flowering of Roman genius in art and literature. It has truly been said that Augustus "found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble."

Rome had over twenty-five emperors before its fall in 476 A.D., some famous, others infamous. Tiberius, Augustus' immediate successor, was able though cruel and tyrannical. Nero not only "fiddled while Rome burned," but was notorious for persecuting the Christians. The fame of Titus rests on his destruction of the sacred city of Jerusalem. Under Trajan, in the second century A.D., Rome reached its greatest territorial extent, spreading from the Atlantic on the west to the Caspian Sea on the east, from Africa on the south to Britain and the borders of Germany on the north.

Marcus Aurelius was known as the philosopher emperor, and Constantine the Great was the first Christian emperor. The last of the emperors was Romulus Augustulus.

Many reasons have been given for the fall of Rome and, with it, the collapse of civilization and social order. Among them are: (1) the system of slavery and serfdom that demoralized a large segment of the population, (2) the

decay and corruption of the ruling class and the imperial court, (3) heavy taxation, and (4) the inroads made by the enemies of Rome, such as the Visigoths and the Vandals. An eminent historian has said that "the history of Rome is in truth the same as the history of the world.

GOVERNMENT

<u>Senātus</u>, <u>us</u> (the <u>Senate</u>). The most powerful body in ancient Rome was the Senate. It consisted of about 600 members, mostly former officials, who held office for life. It managed foreign affairs, declared war, and controlled taxation. The power of the Senate was symbolized by the abbreviation **S.P.Q.R**. (senātus populusque Romānus), found on buildings, coins, and standards.

<u>Comitia Centūriāta and Comitia Tribūta (Popular Assemblies)</u>. Two assemblies administered the elective and legislative business of the Roman state.

<u>Comitia Centūriāta</u> - elected the higher magistrates—consuls, praetors, and censors.

<u>Comitia Tribūta</u> - elected the tribunes, quaestors, aediles, and minor officials.

<u>Cursus Honōrum</u>. This was the order in which the various important offices might be held according to law. The highest official was the consul. Before one could become consul, he had to serve as practor. Before being practor, he had to serve as quaestor.

<u>3rd</u>: <u>Consul</u>. Two consuls, elected annually, held office for one year only. They were the chief executives, and each served as a check upon the other.

2nd: Praetor. Eight praetors were elected annually for one year. Their chief duty was to serve as judges in court.

1st: Quaestor. Twenty quaestors were elected annually for one year. They served as public treasurers.

<u>Aedīlis (Aedile)</u>. Although *not* in the cursus honorum, the aedile used his position to gain popularity for election to higher office. He was in charge of public games and amusements, public works, markets, streets, etc. There were four aediles in Rome elected annually for one year.

<u>Tribūnus</u> (Tribune of the People). Ten tribunes were elected annually for one year. They had the extraordinary right to veto any decree or law passed by the Senate or the assemblies.

<u>Censor</u>. There were two censors elected every five years for a term of eighteen months. Their duties were to assess property, determine the order of society to which each citizen belonged, fix the eligibility of senators, raise revenue for public works, and maintain high standards of morality.

<u>Dictātor</u>. In times of extreme public danger, a dictator was appointed with supreme power for a period of six months.

CLASSES OF SOCIETY

<u>Ōrdō Senātōrius (Senatorial Order)</u>, aka the **Patriciī** (Patricians) or **Optimatī** (Optimates-sometimes means political affiliation) consisted of **Magistrātūs** (magistrates/officeholders) and their descendants.

Ōrdō Equester (Equestrian Order), aka Equitēs, was the wealthy class.

Ōrdō Plēbēius (**Plebeian Order**), the working class embracing the vast majority of the population, consisted of those free-born citizens.

Servī. Below these three orders of society were the slaves, who had no rights whatsoever; and the

Lībertī (freedmen/former slaves), who had the right to vote and own property, but not to hold office.

EXERCISES for pages 1 and 2

A. In the following s correct, write true.	tatements, if the under	lined term is incorrec	t, write the correct ter	m . If the underlined term	
2. The Republic laste 3. The first Roman et 4. The freedmen had 5. There were two ce 6. The consul, praeto 7. To be in the Eques 8. Two consuls were 9. The Senate had the	the right to vote and on sors elected every fiver, quaestor, and aedile strian Order, one had to elected annually for a	b.c	s honorumear		
			d repeated in the questions it is used in the passage.	s below. Underline the	
	e <i>began</i> as a monarchy a with an ax. This symbol s			whose symbol of authority	
4-5. Civil wars and wars of conquest kept Rome in a state of turmoil during the Republic. Rome's greatest threat was removed when Scipio defeated the brilliant <i>general</i> sent by Carthage. Because of Rome's vast conquests by Scipio, Pompey, Caesar, and other outstanding generals, the Mediterranean became practically a <i>Roman lake</i> .					
the development of the		s' successors, however,	were famous. One emper	d by a period of peace and <i>or</i> was notorious for	
			tury A.D. Many emperors et when her <i>enemies</i> invac	followed, and finally, ded her territory in the fifth	
1. began	1. 509 B.C.	2. 27 B.C.	3. 753 B.C.	4. 1000 B.C.	
2. empire	1. 27 B.C476 A.D.	2. 509 B.C-500 A.D.	3. 100 A.D1000 A.D.	4. 1 B.C500 A.D	
3. bundle of rods	1. vigils	2. rationes	3. ordines	4. fasces	
4. general	1. Pyrrhus	2. Hannibal	3. Attalus	4. Philip	
5. Roman lake:	1. Mare Notum	2. Mare Romanus	3. Mare Nostrum	4. Mare Vestrum	
6. heir	1. Octavius	2. Antonius	3. Tiberius	4. Pompeius	
7. emperor	1. Aurelius	2. Constantine	3. Nero	4. Augustulus	
8. famous city	1. Carthage	2. Alexandria	3. Athens	4. Jerusalem	
9. greatest extent	 from the Atlantic to th from the Atlantic to th 		m Spain to Greece m Britain to Gaul		

2. Britons

3. Greeks

1. Goths

10. enemies

is

4. Egyptians

Column A	Column B				
1. Rome founded	a. Patricians				
2. wealthy class	b. quaestor				
3. right to veto decrees	c. 509 B.C.				
4. elected the higher magistrates	d. Romulus				
5. beginning of the Republic	e. Comitia Tributa				
6. magistrates	f. 753 B.C.				
7. public treasurer	g. Comitia Centuriata				
8. elected minor officials	h. Equites				
9. first Roman king	i. Tarquinius Superbus				
10. last of the kings	j. tribune of the people				
D. Complete the following statements with	a word or phrase:				
The chief duty of a praetor was to serve	as a				
The abbreviation S.P.Q.R. stood for					
Under the emperor	, the Roman Empire reached its greatest extent.				
A dictator was appointed for a period of					
Before running for the praetorship, one l	had to serve as				
	amusements was called				
	was the name given to the Mediterranean by the Romans.				
The bundle of rods with an ax, symboliz	zing supreme power, was called				
The highest Roman official was called a	1				
The	Order was the wealthy class of Rome.				
E. Matching: In the space before each name	e in column A, write the letter of the matching item in column B.				
Column A	Column B				
1. Marcus Aurelius	a. succeeded Augustus				
2. Trajan	b. conquered Carthage				
2. Trajun 3. Nero	c. first Christian emperor				
3. Nelo 4. Scipio	d. bequeathed land to Rome				
5. Constantine the Great .	e. philosopher emperor				
6. Hannibal	f. last Roman king				
7. Tiberius	g. Rome's first emperor				
8. Attalus	h. greatest expansion of Rome				
9. Tarquinius Superbus	i. Carthaginian general				
10 Octavius	i persecuted the Christians				

C. Matching: In the space before each item in column A, write the letter of the matching item in column B.

THE CITY OF ROME

<u>Founding</u>. Legend has it that Rome was founded in 753 b.c. by Romulus, after whom the city was named. Romulus and his twin brother, Remus, who were reared by a she-wolf, were the sons of Rhea Silvia and Mars, the god of war.

<u>Location</u>. Situated on the Tiber River near the west central coast of Italy, Rome encompassed seven hills. The most famous were the:

Mons Capitolinus (Capitoline hill), on which were located the Temple of Jupiter and the citadel; and the Mons Palatinus (Palatine hill), which contained the homes of prominent, wealthy Romans.

The area in which Rome was situated was called **Latium**, which is the origin of the word Latin. Rome's outlet to the sea was at **Ostia**, a seaport about sixteen miles away. Because of its strategic location—on a group of hills, on an important river, and almost in the center of Italy—Rome obtained military and commercial advantages that contributed greatly to her rapid growth in wealth and power.

The Forum. The Forum was the marketplace of Rome and the center of civic life. Besides shops, it contained: **templa** (temples), **basilicae** (law courts), the **Curia** (senate house), the **Rostra** (speaker's platform), and other public buildings. The Forum, where so much argumentation and wrangling in the courts took place, has given us the word "forensic."

STREETS AND ROADS

Streets were narrow and crooked, often unpaved. At corners, stepping stones were placed at intervals to assist in crossing to the other side. Streets were unlighted, and **vigilēs** (police-firemen) carrying small lanterns walked the dark alleys to afford protection.

The Romans constructed **an extensive system of highways** connecting the principal cities of Italy with Rome. Hence the expression, "All roads lead to Rome."

The **Via Appia** (Appian Way), was the most famous road (aka **Rēgīna Viārum -Queen of Roads**, connecting Rome with Brundisium on the southeastern coast of Italy. Other roads were the:

Via Flaminia, leading northeast toward Umbria; and the Via Aurelia, a military road running along the west coast toward Gaul.

THE HOUSE

atrium—the spacious front hall beyond the entrance used as a reception room.

compluvium—the opening in the ceiling of the atrium to admit light and air, since the Roman house usually had no windows.

impluvium—the marble basin built directly beneath the **compluvium**, to catch the rainwater that came through the opening.

tablinum—the study or office of the master of the house, located opposite the entrance in full view of the atrium. **peristylium**—the open courtyard, usually with garden and columns, entered by a passageway from the atrium. The peristyle was the center of family living.

triclinium—the dining room adjoining the peristyle, containing a dining table flanked by three **lectī** (couches). **cubicula** (Bedrooms), **culina** (kitchen), and **latrīna** (bath) were built around the peristyle.

The above is a description of a city house belonging to a wealthy Roman, many of whom also had elaborate country homes called **villae**.

Most Romans, however, lived in tenement or apartment houses called **insulae** (islands), a name originally applied to city blocks, detached from one another. Tenements were usually five or six stories high and were unsafe, especially in the event of fire.

Fires were frequent, and, before the system of **vigiles** was established, private fire companies were organized. When a fire broke out, these companies would buy up burning buildings at prices far below their value and then extinguish the fire before much damage was done. EXERCISES

A. Circle the word or expression that correctly completes the sentence.

	nnecting Rome with Bruno			: a. Aur	elia, b. Appia,	c. Flaminia.
2. The study or	office in a Roman house	was called	d the:	a. tablir	num, b. tricliniun	n, c. peristylium.
3. Insulae was	the name given to:	a. cou	ıntry homes,	b. apartı	ment houses,	c. reception rooms.
4. The tradition	nal date for the founding o	f Rome is	:	a. 753 B	.C. b. 509 B.C	., c. 476 B.C
5. The curia wa	as the:		a. speaker's	platform,	b. law court,	c. senate house.
6. Men perforn	ning the services of moder	n policem	nen were known	as: a	. vigintī, b. vi	giles, c. virī.
7. The complu	vium was the: a. opening	in the ce	iling, b. basiı	1 to catch	rainwater, c. spa	acious front hall.
8. The dining r	oom was called the:		a. imj	oluvium,	b. atrium,	c. triclinium.
9. The citadel v	was located on which hill:		a. Pal	atine,	b. Capitoline,	c. Aventine
10. A law cour	t was called:		a. ros	tra,	b. basilica,	c. villa.
B. In the space	before each item in colun	nn A, writ	e the letter of th	ne matchin	g item in column B	
Column A		Colur	nn B			
	_ 1. rostra	a.	road leading			
		b.	country home			
	4 1 111	C.	open courtya	rd		
	<i>r</i>	d.	marble basin road leading	northaust		
	_ 6. Via Appia	e. f.	front hall	normeast		
	7 '11	g.	speaker's plat	form		
	_	h.	famous hill			
		i.	marketplace			
	_ 10. peristylium	j.	law court			
	wing statements, if the und ed term is correct, write tru		rm is incorrect,	write the	correct term or a	nswer.
1. The most far	mous Roman road was the	Via Appi	<u></u>			
2. Most Roman	ns lived in <u>villae</u> .					
3. Roman insul	lae were often <u>firetraps</u> .					
4. The Temple	of Jupiter was located on	the Palati	<u>ne</u> Hill			
5. Streets in Ro	oman times were well ligh	ted.				
6. Rome was b	uilt on seven hills.					
7. The <u>atrium</u> v	was used as a reception roo	om.				
8. The Roman	house generally had many	windows				
9. The peristyli	ium was the center of fami	ly living.				
10. The Forum	contained shops, temples	and law	courts			
11. Villae are <u>c</u>	city houses.					
12. Romans typ	pically slept in the culina.					
• •	on of Rome is the west cen	tral coast				
	founded in 753 A.D.					
15. One could	enter the culina from the p	<u>erist</u> yliun	<u> </u>			

FAMILY LIFE THE FAMILY

The Latin word **familia**, although generally translated "family," more accurately meant "household." In addition to the **pater** (father), **mater** (mother), and **līberī** (children), the familia often included the wives of sons, relatives, slaves, and clients. The father (**pater familias**) was supreme in his own home. He had absolute power over his children and commanded complete obedience.

The mother (**mater familias**) held a position of honor and influence in the home. She managed the usual household affairs, supervised the **servī** (slaves), conducted the early training of her līberī, and was a helpmate to her husband in matters of business and politics.

Families who were descended from a common ancestor often formed a clan, called **gens**. Like the family, the gens was united by common religious rites and was governed by a common ruler.

NAMES

A Roman citizen generally had three names: a praenomen, a nomen, and a cognomen.

praenomen—corresponded to our given name. The Romans had very few given names and often abbreviated them in writing. Some common ones were:

A. Aulus	P. Pūblius	Cn.	Gnaeus	S	Spurius
C. Gāius	Q. Quīntus	K.	Kaesō	Mam	Māmercus
D. Decimus	S. Sextus	M'	Manius	App	Appius
L. Lucius	T. Titus	Ser	Servius		
M. Marcus	Ti. Tiberius	Sex	Sextus		

nomen—the family name, indicated the clan (**gens**). This name was inherited, not given. **cognomen**—indicated the particular branch of the **gens**.

Thus, in the name Gaius Iulius Caesar, Gaius is the praenomen, Iulius is the nomen, and Caesar is the cognomen. An honorary cognomen was sometimes given a person for some noteworthy accomplishment. Thus, Pompey received the title *Magnus* for his military exploits. Scipio, after destroying Carthage, was surnamed *Africanus*, and the cognomen *Augustus* was bestowed upon Octavian by the Roman senate.

EDUCATION

Up to the age of seven, children received their training in the home. They were taught obedience, reverence, patriotism, and respect for the law.

There was no compulsory public education. At the age of seven, the **Puer Rōmānus** (Roman boy) was sent to a private **ludus**, (elementary school) where the **litterātor** (teacher) taught him reading, writing, and simple arithmetic.

He often had a **paedagogus** (educated slave), who served as tutor and accompanied him to school.

Upon completing elementary school, the Roman boy went to a grammar school, where the **grammaticus** (teacher) taught him Latin and Greek literature. After school hours, the father taught his son the manly sports of horseback riding, swimming, boxing and wrestling, and the use of arms.

Next came the school of rhetoric, or college, where the boy received training in oratory and politics.

Finally, as a youth, he could complete his education by traveling abroad to Greece, Rhodes, or Asia Minor to study philosophy, law, and oratory under famous teachers.

Puellae Romanae (Roman girls) rarely attended school. As a rule, she received all her training at home. From her mother she learned to sew, spin, and weave, and the details of housekeeping.

Librī (books), as we know them today, did not exist in Roman times. Instead, writing of permanent value was done with pen and ink on parchment; which was rolled up for convenience in handling. Letters were written on **papyrus**, a kind of paper made from a reed which grew on the banks of the Nile River. The Romans also wrote on **tabellae** or **tabulae** (wax tablets), made with wooden boards covered with a thin layer of wax. Writing was done by scratching the wax with a pointed instrument called a **stylus** (stilus).

DRESS

For Virī (men)

tunica (tunic)—a short-sleeved, woolen shirt reaching to the knees. It was the usual garment for indoor wear.

toga—a large, white, woolen cloth draped gracefully around the body and extending to the feet. It was worn over the tunic. The toga was the formal garment of Roman citizens.

toga candida—a pure white toga worn by a man seeking public office (hence our word "candidate").

Other articles of clothing worn by the Romans were **soleae** (sandals) and **calceī** (shoes).

Stockings were unknown. Hats (Petasus or Causia) were rarely used.

toga pulla – dark toga worn at funerals

Subligāculum (underwear like a loin cloth) was worn.

For Feminae (women)

Over a tunica, women wore the

stola—a long, full garment extending to the feet and fastened by a girdle at the waist. It was worn indoors.

palla—a woolen, shawl-like wrap for use outdoors.

mamillare – under the tunica; a strip of soft leather used for a brassiere-type garment.

For Līberī (children)

subligāculum and tunica –worn by boys of poorer classes

toga praetexta—a toga with a purple border, worn by a boy of aristocratic family until about the age of 16.

The adolescent then assumed the: toga virilis/toga pura/toga lībera, or adult male toga.

Priests and magistrates also wore the toga praetexta.

<u>Servī</u> (slaves) wore a simple tunica;

<u>Lībertī</u> (freedmen) also wore a **pilleus** (aspecial hat) designating that status.

Roman women were very fond of jewelry. Necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings, all made of expensive materials, were some of the ornaments worn by wealthy **matronae** (matrons). Styles in hairdressing were varied and often elaborate. Some women even dyed their hair and wore wigs.

MEALS

ientaculum—a light breakfast consisting chiefly of bread and wine. Cheese and olives were sometimes added.

prandium—lunch eaten around noon. Among the foods served were bread, wine, cheese, olives, fruit, cold cuts, vegetables, and nuts.

cena—the dinner or principal meal eaten in the evening. It was usually a hot meal consisting of soup, fish, fowl or meat, vegetables, and fruit.

Cibī (foods) eaten by the Romans were similar to those eaten today. However, there were some exceptions.

Instead of sugar the Romans used **mel** (honey) for sweetening purposes.

Oleum olivum(Olive oil) was used instead of butter. In fact, olive oil had a variety of uses besides being a food. It was used as an ointment after bathing, as fuel for lamps, and as an ingredient in the making of perfume.

The following foods, which are very common today, were unknown to the Romans: oranges, potatoes, tomatoes, tea, and coffee.

Vinum (wine), usually mixed with water, was the favorite drink of the Romans.

Instead of sitting on chairs while eating, guests at banquets reclined on **lectī** (couches). Food was generally picked up with the fingers, since table knives and forks were unknown. Slaves would provide **aqua** (water) and towels for the diners to wash their hands.

EXERCISES

A. In the following passage, ten words or expressions are italicized and repeated in the questions below. Underline the alternative that best explains each of these ten words or expressions as it is used in the passage.

L. <u>Appuleius Saturninus</u>, son of a prominent Roman family, started his education at a private <u>elementary school</u> with an excellent <u>teacher</u>. He was fortunate also in having a <u>Greek slave</u> who accompanied him to school and helped him in his studies. He went on to grammar school and then to college, where he excelled in the <u>subjects</u> usually taught there. Having <u>relinquished his toga praetexta</u>, he now assumed the <u>adult male toga</u>. He completed his education by <u>studying abroad</u> under famous teachers.

1. <i>L</i> .	1. Lepidus	2. Lucius	3.Livi	us	4.Laelius
2. Appuleius	1. nomen 2. praenomen		3. cognomen		4. gens
3. Saturninus	1. familia	2. cognomen	3. praenomen		4. nomen
4. elementary school	1 1. schola 2. tabula		3. ludus		4. prandium
5. teacher	I. grammaticu	is 2. magister	3. pontifex		4. litterator
6. Greek slave	1. plebs	2. servus	3. pae	dagogus	4. stilus
7. subjects	1. oratory and politics		2. history and	drama	
	3. music and 1	psychology	4. economics	and sociology	
8. relinquished his toga praetexta 1. at age 12			2. at age 16	3. at age 21	4. at age 40
9. adult male toga	1. toga praete	xta 2. toga Car	ndida 3. toga	a virilis	4. toga antīqua
10. studying abroad	1. Britain	2. Gaul	3. Ge	rmany	4. Greece

B. Matching: In the space before each item in column A, write the letter of the matching item in column B.

Column A

Column B

1. palla a. lunch

2. T.
3. prandium
4. stilus
b. a pointed instrument
c. worn by a magistrate
d. stands for Titus

5. stola e. stands for Tiberius

6. ientaculum f. a woolen wrap for outdoors

7. toga Candida g. a writing board

8. toga praetexta9. Ti.h. worn by an office seekeri. a garment for indoors

10. tabella j. breakfast

C. Complete the following statements:	
1. Letters were written on	, a kind of paper made from
reeds.	
2. The abbreviation P. stood for	·
3. The Latin word "familia" is most accurately translated	
4. A man's short-sleeved, knee-length shirt was called	
5. The principal meal eaten in the evening was called in Latin	
6. A Roman citizen usually had a nomen, a praenomen, and a	
7. Roman tabellae were covered with a thin layer of	
8. Instead of sugar, the Romans used	·
9. As far as education was concerned, the Roman girl received r	most of her training
10. In the name Mārcus Tullius Cicerō, Tullius was called the	
D. In the following statements, if the underlined term is incorrect correct, write true.	
1. Instead of butter, the Romans used <u>margarine</u> .	
2. The abbreviation L. stood for <u>Lucullus</u> .	
3. Hats were <u>rarely worn</u> by the ancient Romans	
4. The pater familiās had <u>absolute power</u> over his children.	
5. The toga was the <u>formal garment</u> of Roman citizens.	
6. The <u>cognōmen</u> corresponded to our given name.	
7. The māter familiās held a very <u>inferior</u> position in the home.	
8. Wine mixed with water was the favorite drink of the Romans	
9. Public education in ancient Rome <u>was compulsory</u> .	
10. The <u>cēna</u> was uaually a light meal consisting of bread, wine,	