

UNIT 4: ROME ASSESSMENT

1. Important long-term contributions of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations are primarily found in the area of
- A. military technology
 - B. religious doctrine
 - C. economic policy and planning
 - D. government and law



Use this passage for question 2.

I became the undisputed master of the Roman Empire around 49 BC. This was the beginning of a reign of reforms in the Roman society and government. I proclaimed myself a dictator for life.

2. Who am I?
- A. Julius Caesar
 - B. Euclid
 - C. Charlemagne
 - D. Aristotle
3. After the western Roman Empire fell to Germanic invaders in the 5th century A.D., the eastern part of the empire eventually became known as what?
- A. Byzantine Empire
 - B. Carthaginian Empire
 - C. Islamic Empire
 - D. Persian Empire

Armies fought with each other to place their own man in power. The soldiers of the one who backed the next emperor would be rewarded with wealth and power. A poor general was of no use to his army. Soldiers might elevate a man with no military experience as long as he was rich, like the emperor Didius Julianus. He reigned for 66 days in the year 193 before he was killed by another faction of the army. Other emperors were killed because their discipline was too strict or because the soldiers grew restless for change. During the years 235–284, no fewer than 30 generals were proclaimed emperor by their armies. Few reigned as long as three years; one did not last even three weeks.

4. According to the passage, what was a major reason for the decline of the Roman Empire was what?
- A. a series of military defeats in Africa
 - B. political corruption and the instability of the government
 - C. the abolition of slavery throughout the Empire
 - D. continued acceptance of traditional religions

5. Look at the map. What natural features made Rome an ideal place to settle?
- A. Arabian Sea
 - B. Gobi Desert
 - C. Nile River
 - D. Mediterranean Sea



Name _____ Date _____ Block _____

Use this passage for question 6.

These roads not only made military deployment swift and economical, but also allowed commerce and information to pass quickly from one end of the empire to the other.

6. Which statement best explains the importance of ancient Rome's large system of roads?

- A. The Roman population was highly mobile.
- B. Foreign trade was the main basis of the Roman economy.
- C. The Roman government prevented unemployment by funding public-works projects.
- D. Efficient transportation was an economic and military necessity in the Roman Empire.

Use this passage for question 7.

Many emperors wanted to expand the Roman Empire's territory and did so using complex strategies. Nonetheless, Emperor Augustus showed concern for Rome becoming so big that it would be impossible to govern and protect.

7. According to the passage, the size of the Roman Empire made it difficult for the Romans to do what?

- A. foster trade relations between the different regions of the empire
- B. ensure effective government and adequate military protection for the entire empire
- C. establish a central capital city upon which everyone could agree
- D. continue to make cultural and technological innovations

Use this passage for question 8.

Another principle of the **Roman Republic** that impacted later governments was the separation of power. Separation of power means that no one person, group, or branch of government has all the power. This idea was central to the creation of the United States government. The United States government is separated into three branches—the legislative, executive, and judicial branches—each with their own powers and responsibilities. Although Rome's government did not have exactly the same structure as the United States government today, it also divided the responsibility of governing between three different political groups: the magistrates and **consuls**, the **Senate**, and the People's assembly

8. Which principle was central to the organization of the Roman Republic?

- A. personal freedom
- B. direct democracy
- C. separation of powers
- D. limited government

Use this passage for question 9.

The third part of the government was the assembly, which protected the rights of the plebeians. The plebeians had an assembly, or lawmaking body, of their own called the Council of the Plebs. This assembly could elect ten officials, called **tribunes**, or tribunes of the plebs. The tribunes had the power to veto the actions of the consuls or the Senate. The veto power meant that this group of tribunes had the ability to limit what the Senate and the consuls could do, which made them very powerful.

9. The Council of Plebs had which function in the Roman Republic?

- A. It protected the rights of the common people.
- B. It shared lawmaking power with the consuls.
- C. It chose the plebeian members of the Senate.
- D. It ran the local government in Roman colonies.

Read the passage 'The Decline of the Roman Empire' and answer questions 10-13

The Decline of the Roman Empire

Historians debate why the Roman Empire came to an end. They explain it could have been due to weak emperors, plagues and disease, or lack of government participation by the people. Weak emperors could have caused political confusion. Plagues and diseases spread among some parts of the population. Less participation in government by the upper classes in political and economic decisions may have meant they were becoming lazy and more interested in relaxation or leisure. The empire was strongest when people were making great achievements in art, architecture, math and science. Near the end of the Roman Empire, these intellectual thoughts had diminished. After Rome fell, Italy was taken over by Odoacer, a Germanic king.

10. What statement is NOT correct according to this passage?
- A. A civilization can thrive with great achievements
 - B. Good political leadership maintains order in a civilization.
 - C. Plagues or disease can weaken a civilization.
 - D. Weak emperors can cause political confusion
11. The main idea of this passage is what?
- A. to detail the strengths of Roman civilization
 - B. to explain the fall of the Roman Empire
 - C. to argue that the Roman Empire was superior to Greek civilization
 - D. to explain the reason for plagues in the late Roman Empire
12. What was a cause that historians debate to be a reason the Roman Empire fell?
- A. Lack of participation in government
 - B. Weak leadership
 - C. Disease and plagues
 - D. All of the above
13. Which of these took place as a result of the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476?
- A) Italy was taken over by a Germanic king.
 - B) The Roman capital was moved to Constantinople.
 - C) Christianity spread rapidly through Southern Europe.
 - D) The Byzantine Empire took control of most of Europe.
14. What condition existed in Rome at the time that Julius Caesar came to power?
- A) cultural revolution
 - B) political stability
 - C) economic unrest
 - D) military weakness

Use this passage for question 15.

Republic

The **Roman Republic** consisted of three parts: the magistrates, the **Senate**, and the **assembly**. The magistrates were 20 elected officials who ruled for one year. The magistrates performed many duties, acting as judges, tax collectors, and urban planners. The two highest magistrates were called **consuls**. A consul was the most powerful political position in **Rome**. The consuls issued laws and led the army. In order to prevent one person from becoming too powerful, each consul could veto the decisions of the other.

Empire

During his rule, Augustus made several reforms to the government, including the establishment of a dynasty. Under the new dynastic tradition, the position of emperor was passed on to the descendants of the previous emperor. This process was often marked by violence and disorder between the emperor's relatives.

15. How was the Roman Empire different from the Roman Republic?

- A) All elected positions were abolished under the Empire.
- B) In the Empire, only patricians had the right to occupy public offices.
- C) The Empire was run by a single dictator (emperor) for life instead of by two elected consuls.
- D) The Empire focused on protection of its borders rather than on expansion.

Use this passage to answer question 16.

At the peak of Roman power, the territory of the Roman Empire went from Great Britain in the north and Spain in the west to North Africa in the south and the Middle East in the east, supporting trade and innovation.

16. Which statement explains how the people of the Roman Empire benefited from the size and scope of its territory?

- A) The size of the Roman population meant that only a very small percentage of citizens had to serve in the military.
- B) Roman control over a vast territory created a wealthy and diversified economy that resulted in widespread prosperity.
- C) In order to control a far-flung empire, Roman rulers had to invest large sums of money for improving transportation.
- D) The size of the Roman Empire intimidated foreign enemies, leading to few military challenges from neighboring peoples.

17. Which statement best explains how the climate of Rome affected the early development of the city?

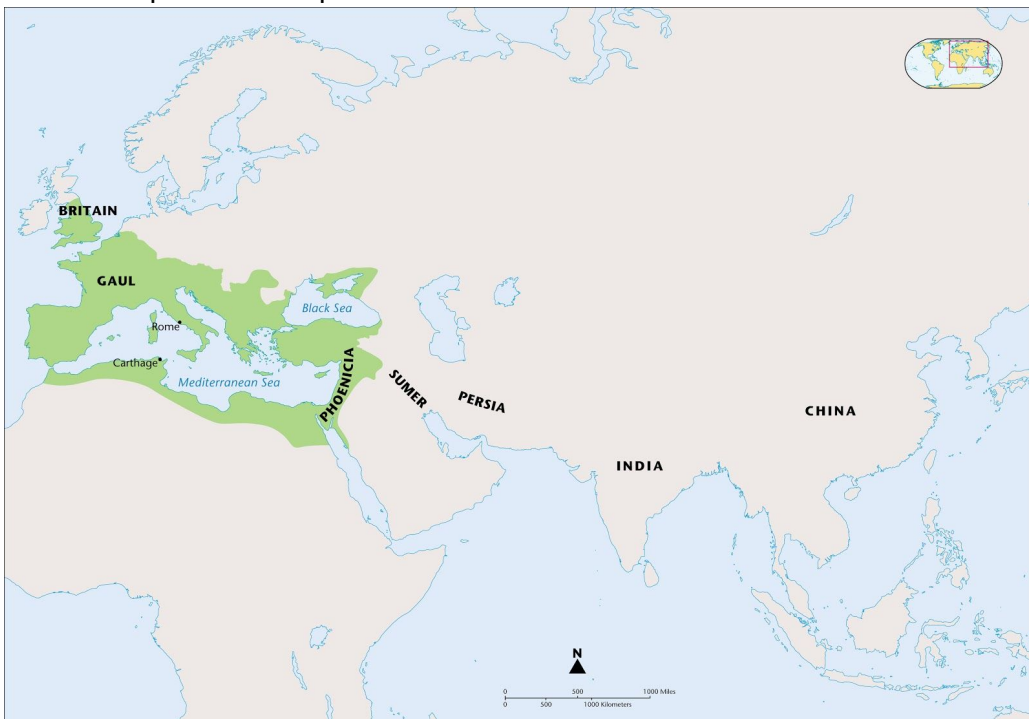
- A) It kept the population small by fostering dangerous tropical diseases.
- B) It helped Rome prosper by making it possible for agriculture to flourish.
- C) It made Rome dependent on trade because of its lack of usable farmland.
- D) It limited Rome's growth by making seasonal migration out of the city necessary.

During this period, Rome's expansion brought great wealth and cultural diversity to the Empire and the people living in it. Many people were happy to become a part of Rome because of the many advantages the Romans brought, including better architecture, education, and health. A common language, calendar, religion, and currency helped tie the Empire together.

18. Based on the passage, how would you describe the two-century period of Roman history known as the "Pax Romana"?

- A) more beneficial to plebeians than it was to patricians
- B) a result of Roman peace treaties with all of the nations that it bordered
- C) essential to the stability of the Roman Republic
- D) an extended period of internal peace and prosperity throughout the empire

Use the map to answer question 19.



19. Based on this map, Rome's location contributed most to its trade relations with

- A) India and China
- B) Britain and China
- C) Sumeria and Persia
- D) Carthage and Phoenicia

Name _____ Date _____ Block _____

Use this passage for question 20.

The elite members of society feared a possible uprising by the growing poor. To maintain peace they used a method that the Roman poet Juvenal called “bread and circuses.” This meant that they kept the poor happy and distracted with entertainment such as chariot races and gladiator fights.

20. According to the passage, why did the Roman government hold gladiator battles?

- A) train young slaves for military service
- B) raise money for purchasing foreign grain
- C) provide entertainment for the patricians
- D) keep the plebeians from growing restless

Use the passage for question 21.

To make sure they were protected and had a greater say in the public sphere, plebeians known as clients sought the patronage, or support, of a member of the patrician class known as a patron. Clients provided the paterfamilias with loyalty and assistance in his public and private affairs. In the period of the later republic, the client could also be called upon to provide military support and in return was represented by the patron politically and legally. Although the relationship was more beneficial to the patricians, it worked both ways and went beyond the individuals to the family and descendants of both: A client would be loyal to the patron’s son if the patron died, and the patron would continue to protect the family of the client after the client’s death.

21. According to the passage, which statement describes the Roman system of patronage?

- A) It was designed to increase the power of the plebeians.
- B) It created an independent class system.
- C) It provided economic support for the upper classes.
- D) It created a sense of mutual dependence between the rich and poor.

Use this passage for question 22.

The Roman Forum The Roman forum was located at the center of Ancient Rome. It was a gathering place where public events were held. Soon the forum grew to also include merchant shops, temples and government buildings. The forum became the religious, economic, and government center for Rome.

22. Based on the above information, how did the forum contribute to Roman civilization?

- A Instead of being solely focused on commerce, the forum also fulfilled cultural needs of the Romans.
- B The forum provided cheaper prices for Romans than other markets.
- C Government buildings were the focus of the forum, showcasing the power of the Roman government.
- D Forum ruins still can be found today, because they were so well built.

23. How did innovations such as irrigation, aqueducts and improved farming techniques transform civilizations?

- A. Innovations made it possible to expand settlements at arid (dry) locations
- B. Innovations increased the numbers of hunters and gatherers
- C. Innovations required smaller herds and less livestock
- D. Innovations decreased the size of cities

Read the passage 'Constantine the Great' and answer the question below:

Constantine the Great

According to the ancient historian Lactantius, Constantine had a dream the night before an important battle in 312 CE. He and his armies were facing the far larger forces of Maxentius, one of the other emperors of the Roman tetrarchy, the four rulers who oversaw the empire. The dream instructed Constantine to place a symbol of Christianity on the shields of his soldiers. The first two Greek letters of the word for *Christ* are called *chi*, which looks like an *x*, and *rho*, which looks like a *p*. When these Greek letters are written on top of one another, they form a sort of cross. After having the dream, Constantine had his soldiers carry this *chi rho* symbol into battle on their shields.



This bust depicts Constantine the Great, who reigned from 306 to 337 CE.

The next day, at a bridge over the Tiber River north of Rome, Constantine's smaller force achieved victory, and Maxentius fell into the river and drowned. Constantine then became the ruler of the western half of the Roman Empire. He attributed his unlikely victory to the power of Christ.

24. Based on the passage, what societal impact did Emperor Constantine have on Europe?
- A. Constantine supported Christianity in Rome which fostered a changing political and social shift in Europe
 - B. Constantine made public welfare programs available to the people of Rome for the first time
 - C. Constantine was the first Emperor of Rome to legalize Islam in the Roman Empire
 - D. Constantine legalized Christianity which was a popular decision amongst all lay people in the Roman Empire

"All south from this is named the Middle Kingdom...The people...have not to...attend to any magistrates and their rule; only those who cultivate the royal land have to pay (a portion of) the grain from it...the king governs without...corporal punishments. Criminals are simply fined, lightly or heavily, according to the circumstances (of each case).

A Record of Buddhistic Kingdoms by Faxian, translated by James Legge, 1886

"But in Crete...all the fruits of the earth, of cattle, of the public revenues...one portion is assigned to the gods and to the service of the state, and another to the common meals, so that men, women and children are all supported out of common stock"

The Politics of Aristotle, translated by Benjamin Jowett, 1885

25. Based on the excerpts, how did the responsibilities of citizens in the Middle Kingdom compare to those of citizens of Crete?

- A. In both kingdoms, citizens were required to contribute a portion of their crops to provide food for citizens in the kingdom
- B. Citizens of the Middle Kingdom had to pay a portion of their crops if they used royal land, but in Crete, everyone had to pay a portion to the state
- C. In both kingdoms, citizens had to grow crops on royal land and give their proceeds to the king, who distributed them evenly among the citizens of the kingdom

Name _____ Date _____ Block _____

D. Citizens of the Middle Kingdom had to pay a portion of their crops to their government, in Crete only citizens in the highest social class had to make a contribution

Primary Source Writing analysis:

Professor Cassel's Article The following is an excerpt from an article written by David Cassel in 1998 and published in *Christian History and Biography*, a journal on Christian history. Cassel is a Professor of Theological Studies at Hanover College in Indiana.

Read the Passage below, answer the questions in the Graphic Organizer below the passage.

Romans incorporated many religions into their empire. As long as devotees continued to observe Roman religious rites, they were free to worship any god they wished. Christians, however, refused to acknowledge any god but their own . . . [and] refused to participate in any non-Christian religious rites, to serve in the army, or to accept public office. . . . A stranger complaint of Roman critics of Christianity was this. . . . They were thought to be involved in bizarre and terrible religious rituals such as Thyestian feasts and Oedipean [practices]. . . . In these two myths, Thyestes eats his own children, and Oedipus kills his father and marries his mother. How could Romans associate these myths with Christianity? Most likely the critics misread the Christian Scriptures. New Testament writers referred to their fellow Christians as brothers and sisters . . . and encouraged them to greet one another with a "holy kiss." . . . This could have been misunderstood . . . especially if a married couple were referred to as a brother and sister in Christ. This perspective may have been intensified by the secrecy of early Christian religious services, which were open only to baptized Christians. The charge of cannibalism could also have arisen from a false understanding of the Christian Scripture and liturgy. The very words of the Eucharist, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you," could be misread in a literal, cannibalistic sense by a reader that did not understand the metaphor.

Vocabulary

rites: religious or social custom

cannibalism: the act of eating human flesh

liturgy: ways of worshiping

Eucharist: a Christian ritual

Source: "Defending Cannibals," written by David Cassel in 1998.

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What phrase is the most important?	
Why did you choose that phrase?	
What does this phrase mean to you?	

Name _____ Date _____ Block _____

What is the main idea of this passage?	