

Ancient Rome Questions...

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

A NEW POWER RISES

1. How would the army of the early Roman republic treat the people they captured?

*2. Write a paragraph that describes the factors that make Rome an ideal location for a city. Remember to include a topic sentence, at least two supporting sentences, and a conclusion that is different from the study sheet.

*3. Why do you think Rome is known as “the Eternal City”?

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ROMULUS AND REMUS

4. Who were the legendary founders of Rome?

*5. According to Roman mythology, exactly how old is the “Eternal City”? Your answer must be precise, but does not have to be written in a complete sentence.

6. Who were the Etruscans?

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THE PATRICIANS AND THE PLEBEIANS

7. Who were the patricians?

*8. Use a college level dictionary to define “patri-,” the root of patrician. Briefly define at least two words that use this root.

*9. Why is the United States both a republic and a democracy? (You will need to refer to the section on Athens in Ancient Greece to answer this question.)

*10. Would you describe the plebeians as rich, middle class, or poor? Defend your answer.

*11. What was the Forum? Compare the Forum to a building used today. Explain your reasoning.

12. How could a tribune stop a law from passing?

*13. If George W. Bush lived in ancient Rome, would he be a patrician or a plebeian? Defend your answer.

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THE PUNIC WARS

Rome fought t _____ vicious wars with C _____, a city on the north coast of A _____, between _____ BC and _____ BC. The wars were called the P _____ Wars because P _____ was the R _____ name for C _____.

The Romans initiated the first P _____ War in order to gain control of S _____, an island off the southwest tip of the *I _____ peninsula. Carthage tried to seek *r__v__ng__ in the S _____ Punic War. A young g _____ name H _____ attacked R _____ by leading an army on e _____ over the A _____ and into *I _____. Hannibal defeated the Roman a _____, but was unable to take the w _____ city. The Romans won the war after Hannibal was recalled to C _____.

Fifty y _____ after the S _____ Punic War, R _____'s leaders decided to *d__s__r__y Carthage. When Rome defeated C _____, the soldiers s _____ the people and poured s _____ over the Carthaginian f _____ to ensure that c _____ could no longer g _____. Many historians suggest that the brutality of the R _____ can only be compared to the acts of the *G _____ Nazis in the * _____ century.

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THE PUNIC WARS

*14. Why do you think the Romans stopped making citizens of the people they captured by 265BC?

15. What caused the first Punic War?

*16. Why do you think Hannibal chose elephants rather than horses to attack Rome?

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*17. Why do you think the Romans fought the final Punic War?

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SPARTACUS

Much of the g_____ of R_____ was created with *s_____ labor; in 73BC, one Roman slave r_____ and built an army that caused as great deal of *d__st__u__t__on. Spartacus was forced to participate in gladiatorial games, but he escaped and built an army of soldiers from the slaves he liberated. The Roman army killed Spartacus in battle, then e_____ six t_____ of Spartacus' army by n_____ them to c_____ along the highly t_____ Appian Way.

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18. Who was Spartacus?

*19. What is the dictionary definition of liberty?

*20. Why do you think the slave revolt lasted for more than two years, despite the overwhelming military power of the Roman army?

*21. Why did the Romans choose to crucify Spartacus' army rather than using a more humane execution?

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JULIUS CAESAR

*22. Do you think Julius Caesar was a patrician or a plebeian? Explain your reasoning.

*23 What is the dictionary definition of triumvirate? Who were the members of the First Triumvirate of Rome?

24. Why did Caesar want the opportunity to lead an army in Gaul?

*25. Describe an instance where you, or someone you know, have “crossed the Rubicon.”

*26. What is a dictator? Give an example of a modern dictator.

*27. Why was Caesar popular with the Roman people?

*28. Why did the senators murder Caesar?

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CLEOPATRA

29. Why did Julius Caesar travel to Egypt in 48BC?

*30. Why do you think Cleopatra was attracted to Caesar?

31. Why was Cleopatra unpopular with the Roman people?

*32. Why do you think Julius Caesar named Octavian his legal heir instead of Caesarion?

*33. Who were the members of the Second Triumvirate?

*34. Why do you think Cleopatra committed suicide?

*35. A 1963 film starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton is the most famous of more than a dozen films about the Egyptian Queen. Why do you think Cleopatra has been the subject of so many stories?

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CAESAR AUGUSTUS

*36. Why do you think Octavian was generous to the soldiers when they retired?

*37. Why do you think that Caesar Augustus was respectful of the Senate despite his great power?

*38. Do you think Octavian was popular with the Roman people? Defend your answer.

*39. Until the attacks of September 11, 2001, many contemporary analysts believed we lived in an era that may be referred to as the *Pax Americana*. Explain what *Pax Americana* means, and suggest a date when the *Pax Americana* began. (This is a very difficult question. There is no one answer.)

*40. The Romans worshipped Augustus as a god after his death. Americans do not worship their historical heroes as gods, but we do have many historical legends. Describe a legend about a real American.

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LATER EMPERORS

*41. Why do you think the Senate lost a great deal of its power in the Roman Empire? (The answer is not in the study guide, but you can infer some reasons by carefully reading the previous sections.)

*42. Do you think Nero was popular with the Roman people?

*43. Jesse Ventura is a former professional wrestler who was elected Governor of Minnesota as an independent candidate in 1998. Gov. Ventura earned high praise from both Democrats and Republicans during his term, for sponsoring a line of action figures, referring a boxing match while wearing a feather boa, and working as a commentator in the XFL. Compare Gov. Ventura to Nero.

*44. Why was the Mediterranean Sea often called a “Roman lake”?

*45. Why was managing the Roman Empire difficult by AD117?

*46. What is the dictionary definition of the term xenophobia? Describe an example of Roman xenophobia.

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ROMAN TECHNOLOGY

47. List four examples of Roman technology.

*48. Why would an emperor want to keep citizens working on public projects?

*49. How do you think Rome's many roads eventually helped lead to the downfall of the city?

50. What was the function of the Roman aqueducts?

*51. Roman leaders encouraged entertainment. Why do you think the government wanted the people to be entertained by things most modern people would find repulsive?

*52. What problems would have occurred in Rome if the city did not have an adequate sewage system? (Note: These problems are occurring in many overcrowded cities, most notably Mexico City, Mexico.)

*53. Explain why only a portion of the Roman Colosseum remains standing.

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THE LEGACY OF ROMAN GOVERNMENT

54. Why can both the Roman government and the United States Congress be described as “bicameral?”

*55. What is the etymology of the word “camera”? (What did the original Greek word mean?) When a judge wants to speak with someone “in camera,” what do you think that means?

*56. Why do you think we refer to the device used to create photographs as a camera?

*57. What does the American Senate have in common with the Roman Senate?

*58. Why do you think the writers of the American Constitution wanted the state governments, rather than the voters, to elect the Senate?

*59. How many senators and how many members of the House of Representatives represent you in Congress? (Be careful because this question is tricky.)

*60. Do you think the leaders in the White House and in Congress represent you? Defend your answer.

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LATIN AND OTHER EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

61. Why are Latin, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Romanian called “Romance languages?”

*62. What is the difference between a dialect and a language? (Your answer must include college level dictionary definitions of both terms.)

*63. The former republic of Czechoslovakia has become the independent nations called the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1989. What language differences do you think existed in Czechoslovakia before the split?

64. Give two examples of Celtic influence in modern society.

*65. What advantage does a society gain if all of the people speak a common language?

*66. The world population is growing, but the number of languages spoken is dropping. What advantages are there in preserving languages and cultures?

*67. What do you think are the top three most spoken languages in the world? (You do not have to do any research. Simply write down the names of three languages you believe are the most spoken.)

*68. What foreign language would you like to study? Explain why.

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CHRISTIANITY

69. What was a pagan?

*70. Why do you think the Romans did not force Jewish people near Jerusalem to worship Roman gods?

*71. Why do you think the followers of Jesus angered the local authorities in Jerusalem?

*72. Why were the followers of Jesus eventually called Christians?

73. Why were many pagans attracted to the ideas of Christianity?

*74. Why didn't the first Christians feel it was important to write down the stories of the life and wisdom of Jesus?

*75. How does the New Testament of the Christian Bible differ from the Old Testament?

*76. What is the dictionary definition of superstitious? Describe how Roman superstition led to persecution of Christians.

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CONSTANTINE, CONSTANTINOPLE, AND THE FALL OF ROME

*77. Write a paragraph that describes how Constantine favored the Christian church. Your paragraph must have a topic sentence, at least two supporting sentences, and a valid conclusion that restates, but does not repeat the topic sentence.

*78. Write a paragraph that describes why Christianity spread through the Roman Empire. Your paragraph must have a topic sentence, at least two supporting sentences, and a valid conclusion that restates, but does not repeat the topic sentence.

79. Why did Constantine move his capital to Byzantium?

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80. Byzantium later became Constantinople. What is the current name of the city? In what modern nation will you find this city?

81. Why is Islam the predominant religious faith in the city once known as Constantinople?

*82. What happened to the Roman Empire?

83. What term has been used to describe the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome since the Renaissance?

*84. What is the dictionary definition of decadence? How can the term be applied to the fall of the Roman Empire?

*85. Do you think our society is decadent? Your answer must show evidence that you understand what decadent means.

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