

Chapter 11: Roman Reading Questions

Eyewitness – p. 211

1. Why did the Roman government have to intervene during Paul's preaching in Jerusalem?
2. Under normal circumstances, the Roman government would have given Paul to the ethnic leaders for disciplinary action. Why was Paul's case different?

From Kingdom to Republic – p. 212

3. Like most places, Rome was founded when migrants merged with indigenous inhabitants. How did these migrants arrive in Rome?
4. The Etruscans built the first civilization on the Apennine Peninsula (eventually Italy). Attacks by what two peoples led to the end of the Etruscans?
5. What were the geographic advantages of the city of Rome?

The Roman Republic and Its Constitution – p. 213

6. What group changed the Roman monarchy into a republic?
7. What was the forum?
8. Why was there tension between the patrician and plebeian classes?
9. What was a tribune? Why did the Roman invent the position of tribune?
10. What was a Roman dictator?

The Expansion of the Republic – p. 214

11. How did the Romans treat the peoples they conquered?
12. Besides Rome, what were the principle powers in the Mediterranean basin during the fourth and third centuries B.C.?
13. The Punic Wars were long and difficult. In the end, what did Rome do to Carthage when they finally conquered it?

From Republic to Empire – p. 215

14. What was a *latifundia*? How did the distribution of *latifundia* lands lead to class tensions?
15. What did the Gracchi brothers want? What happened to them in the end?
16. Military commanders started to build personal armies. These armies did not come from the traditional source (small farmers). From what classes/groups did these soldiers originate?
17. The two most powerful private generals were Marius and Sulla. Marius sided with the _____ and Sulla allied with the _____ and _____ classes.
18. What did Sulla do to his political enemies?

The Foundation of Empire – p. 217

19. Once Julius Caesar conquered Rome itself, what changes did he make to the Roman government?
20. How did the elite respond to Caesar's changes?
21. After Gaius Julius Caesar, who ended up in control of Rome's government?
22. How did Augustus Caesar avoid alienating the elites and winding up assassinated like Julius?

Continuing Expansion and Integration of the Empire – p. 218

23. Read the text and examine the map on p. 219. What areas of Europe and the Middle East did Rome NOT conquer?
24. How did Roman expansion change the sparsely populated lands they conquered (Gaul, Germany, Britain, and Spain)?
25. Name at least two facts about Roman roads.
26. What do the authors mean when they call the Mediterranean Sea a "Roman lake?"
27. What modern concepts of justice stem from the Roman empire?
28. PD220 – Who was Tacitus? What problems did he express concerning the *pax romana* period?

Economy and Society in the Roman Mediterranean – p. 220

29. The *pax romana* and advanced road system allowed the import of grain at favorable priced from places that produced large surpluses. How did this affect production within the Roman empire?
30. The Romans were famous for their roads, but what natural geographic feature allowed the most easy access to trade routes in the empire?
31. How did concrete help Roman builders?
32. List the attractions found in Roman cities.

Family and Society in Roman Times – p. 223

33. The head of the family was the eldest male, called the _____.
34. In what ways did women hold influence within Roman households?
35. Romans tried to keep the poor from revolting by using “bread and circuses.” What does this mean?
36. One-third of the Roman population was made up of slaves. Why would it have been better to have been an urban vs. a rural slave?

The Cosmopolitan Mediterranean – p. 225

37. As the Romans expanded their political influence, how did their religion change?
38. The Romans learned Stoicism from the Greeks. Cicero adopted a version of Stoicism – what did Cicero believe is the highest public duty?
39. What do the authors mean by “religions of salvation?”
40. From where did the Roman soldiers learn Mithraism, and why did it appeal to them?
41. How were the Cult of Isis and the cult of Cybele different from the cult of Mithras?

Judaism and Early Christianity – p. 227

42. The Romans were usually very tolerant of other religions. Why was the Roman/Judaic relationship especially tense?
43. What did the Essenes believe?
44. What did Jesus of Nazareth teach?
45. Why did the Romans find Jesus threatening?
46. Jesus’ early followers called Jesus “Christ” and “the anointed one.” What do these titles mean?
47. What early Christian was primarily responsible for the spread of Christianity?
48. PD228 – Contrast Jesus’ teachings with those from Hammurabi’s Code.
49. The authors make the statement that “early Christianity was indeed a remarkably diverse faith.” Give an example of this diversity.
50. What ended the diversity mentioned above? (the answer to this question is in the text before the answer to the previous question)
51. Why would Christianity have appealed to each of these groups?
 - lower classes
 - women