



Old Western Culture

A Christian Approach to the Great Books

Year 2: The Romans

Unit 2

The Historians

From Idea to Empire



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA *Video Course*

Exam Answer Key

*Please Note: This exam may be periodically updated, expanded, or revised.
Download the latest revision at www.RomanRoadsMedia.com.*

NOTES FOR PARENT OR TEACHER

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the student answer all questions in full sentences.
- Exam should take 45 to 90 minutes. Do not allow more than 2 hours.
- Feel free to allow the student more paper, or to type the answers on a computer.
- This is a closed-book exam. If typing the answers, no Internet access allowed.

POINT SYSTEM

This exam consists of ten questions, valued at 8–12 points each, for a total of 100 points.

Two extra credit questions are worth 5 points each. If a student answers correctly to all questions, as well as the bonus questions then he or she will have scored 110%. Partial credit (e.g., 5/10 points) may be given if the student correctly answers part of the question, but misses some important elements. Points lost on the main exam can be recouped by answering the bonus questions correctly.

HOW TO GRADE

Because the exam consists of essay questions, it will be both harder to answer and harder to grade compared to multiple choice exams. However, it allows the student to think through what he has learned in a deeper and more meaningful way and aids in long-term retention and more useful application. For example, you will find that a student who is required to answer essay questions will more easily integrate what he has learned into his general knowledge and able to use it in informal conversation.

Since these are not multiple choice, *answers will vary*. This answer key provides sample correct responses for each question, but it is very possible that a varying answer may still be correct. If you have followed along with the video and interacted with your student throughout the term, you should be able to determine if a certain variation on the answer is a correct one. If you are truly not sure, sit down with your student and figure out the correct answer together. You can also submit questions via “Ask Mr. C” by sending an email to AskMrC@romanroadsmedia.com. We may respond by email or by a public video response if we feel this is a question many students would benefit in hearing more about.

Also, we purposefully created short and concise answers in this answer key. We expect most student answers to be longer, though this is not a requirement. Many of these questions could be an entire paper topic, and we would encourage students display as much of their knowledge as they can on the paper. This is also why we encourage parents or teacher to allow the student to type out the answers.



HOW TO STUDY FOR THE TEST

Have your student read through his or her notes from throughout the term as general preparation, as well as study the answers from the daily worksheets. These questions will be familiar to the student who has worked through all questions in their workbook.

THE A AND B EXAMS

This course includes two exams, designated A and B. Although there is some overlap, most of the questions will be different, but equivalent. These tests may be used in a couple of ways. One way is to use exam A as a practice exam, open or closed book, and exam B as the graded, closed-book exam. Exam B could also be used as a “second chance” exam if exam A didn’t go as well as the student had hoped.

There is flexibility here, and the parent or teacher is free to choose how to use the extra exam.

“MY STUDENT IS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING 100%!”

This can prove a frustration with essay exams. One thing to watch out for is that there *is* variation in correct answers. Read the “How to Grade” note in the previous page for more information on this.

Another issue is that we have culturally grown accustomed to 100% being the norm for a “good student” and believe that less than 100% indicates a crucial deficiency. But 100% in the classical Latin system is “SCL” (*Summa Cum Laude*), which means “with highest praise.” In the Latin system of grading, SCL is reserved for the student who goes beyond the call of duty, and often even teaches the teacher something. In a system where “good” is 100%, going beyond the call of duty is not incentivized, and good students do not progress. So do not worry if your student gets an 85% —in the Latin system that’s a CH, or *Cum Honore*, with honor —and should be received as such.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at questions@romanroadsmedia.com. We love to hear from our parents and teachers, and look forward to serving you in any way possible!



The Historians

Exam A Answer Key

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. According to Livy, what is the root cause of Rome's moral decline? (12 pts.)

Livy recognizes that Rome's morality declined because previous generations failed to instill in their children the virtues that made Rome great.

2. How do material blessings such as wealth and power affect character traits? (8 pts.)

Wealth and power do not corrupt, but rather amplify the character that is already present, magnifying both good and bad traits.

3. In what ways was George Washington an American Cincinnatus? (12 pts.)

Like Cincinnatus, Washington willingly curtailed his time in power. As soon as the War for Independence was won, he resigned his commission as general. He also only served two terms as president, setting an example for future presidents of limited power.

4. What is the common theme or focus of both Livy and Sallust? (8 pts.)

Both Livy and Sallust emphasize that Rome is decaying because the people have deserted the virtues to which their fathers clung. Ultimately, this is because parents failed to teach their children to love and pursue virtue.

5. Why can we be reasonably sure that *The Gallic Wars* is objective and not slanted to enhance Julius Caesar's reputation? (10 pts.)

Men who had served under Julius Caesar and were eyewitnesses to the events he recounted would have exposed him if his accounts were inaccurate. Such an exposure would have harmed his reputation, motivating him to write honestly.

6. How did Germanicus test the morale of his men before the battle? What did he discover? (10 pts.)

Germanicus disguised his rank in anonymous attire and mingled with his men during mealtime so he could overhear their unguarded conversation. He found that the men universally admired Germanicus's character and were determined to fight well out of gratitude and loyalty to him.

7. Why should we, as Christians, read Tacitus? (10 pts.)

Even though Tacitus is often sordid and revolting, it is useful for us to understand the events the early Christians lived through and the circumstances in which Paul and Peter commanded them to submit to the governing authorities.

8. How do astrology and magic differ in their views of man's relation to nature? (10 pts.)

Astrology views nature as being in control of man, while magic views man as able to control nature.

9. What is the general principle about human nature Tacitus wants us to see in the summary of Tiberius's life? (10 pts.)

People will often act virtuously out of fear, rather than out of true love of virtue or of God. Thus, when the fear is removed, they display their evil nature without inhibition.



10. What one goal did Alexander esteem greater than glory gained through military conquests? (10 pts.)

Alexander sought above all to govern himself, counting it a greater glory to conquer himself
than to conquer other people.

EXTRA CREDIT

11. What twentieth century musical film was based on the story of the Sabine women? (5 pts.)

The 1954 film "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" is based on the story of the Sabine Women.

12. What other military leaders followed the example of the Helvetii in burning their belongings to motivate their men to victory? (5 pts.)

Julius Caesar himself burned his ships after landing in Alexandria during the civil war with
Pompeii the Great. Cortez also burned his ships after landing in Mexico before marching inland
to conquer the Aztecs.



The Historians

Exam B Answer Key

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. According to Livy, what is the root cause of Rome's moral decline? (12 pts.)

Livy recognizes that Rome's morality declined because previous generations failed to instill in their children the virtues that made Rome great.

2. What does Livy believe is the purpose of history? (8 pts.)

The purpose of history is for the reader to find both depraved people and wicked events to take as warnings, and noble men and events to take as models.

3. In what ways was George Washington an American Cincinnatus? (12 pts.)

Like Cincinnatus, Washington willingly curtailed his time in power. As soon as the War for Independence was won, he resigned his commission as general. He also only served two terms as president, setting an example for future presidents of limited power.

4. Why did Caesar deal so leniently with the Helvetii, providing food and sending them back to their homelands? (10 pts.)

Caesar did not want to create a population vacuum in Helvetia that would draw Germans into these lands bordering Gaul.



5. Why couldn't historians who lived during or immediately after the reigns of Tiberius, Gaius, Claudius, and Nero write objectively about those emperors? Why does Tacitus believe that he can? (10 pts.)

The historians writing during the time of these emperors recorded favorable accounts out of fear, while those writing immediately after the emperors' reigns wrote overly harsh records out of hatred. Tacitus lives long enough after these emperors to write impartially, having no personal connection to the emperors.

6. During which emperor's reign were most of the New Testament books written? (8 pts.)

Most of the New Testament epistles were written during the emperor Nero's reign.

7. What biblical story is reflected in the account of Messalina coveting parks? (8 pts.)

This story is similar to the story of Ahab coveting Naboth's vineyard in I Kings 21. Jezebel has Naboth killed on false charges, just as Messalina has Asiaticus falsely accused of various crimes.

8. How do astrology and magic differ in their views of man's relation to nature? (10 pts.)

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9. What is the general principle about human nature Tacitus wants us to see in the summary of Tiberius's life? (10 pts.)

People will often act virtuously out of fear, rather than out of true love of virtue or of God. Thus, when the fear is removed, they display their evil nature without inhibition.

10. What early experience inspired Demosthenes to pursue oratory, and how did he refine his early roughness of speech? (12 pts.)

Demosthenes went to hear a famous orator, Callistratus, give a speech in court for an infamous case. He was impressed both by the fame and admiration Callistratus received after winning the case and by the power and art of his oratory. Demosthenes perfected the art of speaking through months of practice in seclusion, carefully analyzing and refining speeches. He overcame his physical weaknesses through practicing speaking while carrying pebbles in his mouth, or while exercising, or in front of a mirror.

EXTRA CREDIT

11. How did the sacred geese of Juno save Rome? (5 pts.)

The Gauls had succeeded in quietly scaling the cliff up to the Citadel, but the geese were disturbed and their cackling and commotion woke the army before the Gauls could gain a foothold in the Citadel.

12. What can we conclude about Tacitus as a historian based on his account about the phoenix? (5 pts.)

Tacitus refuses to draw any unwarranted conclusions from the rumors about the phoenix, thus showing that he is a cautious and honest historian.