

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

An Empire Across Three Continents (The Roman Empire)

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

Three continents = EUROPE + NORTH AFRICA + WEST ASIA, ringing the MEDITERRANEAN (Romans: 'mare nostrum' = 'Our Sea').

Frontiers: Rhine + Danube (north), Euphrates (east), Sahara desert edge (south); Britain in the far north-west.

REPUBLIC first (Senate + magistrates, no single ruler) → PRINCIPATE under AUGUSTUS, 27 BCE (emperor = 'princeps' / leading citizen, NOT a king).

THREE political players = EMPEROR + SENATE (aristocracy) + ARMY (legions). The army could make or break emperors.

Provinces + self-governing CITIES = the building blocks of administration; cities collected taxes and ran local affairs.

ECONOMY: a vast Mediterranean trade network; gold + silver COINAGE; wine + olive oil shipped in AMPHORAE (clay jars); grain from Egypt + North Africa fed Rome.

SLAVERY central: slaves = property, from war/conquest; worked in fields, mines, workshops AND as servants, tutors, doctors, managers; treatment VARIED; MANUMISSION = freeing a slave → 'freedman'.

FAMILY = NUCLEAR (parents + children, with slaves in the house); PATERFAMILIAS = male head with great legal authority.

WOMEN kept property rights — dowry returned on divorce; divorce fairly easy; women could own + inherit. NOT 'no rights'.

THIRD-CENTURY CRISIS (200s CE) = repeated wars, short-

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 Political system — emperor, Senate, army; Republic to Principate

8 marks · 80% of years

Republic → Principate (Augustus 27 BCE) → three players (emperor, Senate, army) → provinces + cities + frontiers → succession problems / third-century crisis.

2 Position of slaves / role of slavery in the economy

4 marks · 65% of years

Slaves = property from war; varied work (fields, mines, household, skilled); treatment varied; manumission → freedmen; conclude slavery underpinned the economy + inequality.

3 Source-based passage on society / family / slavery / Christianity

5 marks · 55% of years

Underline named terms; answer identify in 1 line, explain in 2; finish the evaluate sub-question with a chapter fact.

4 The Roman family / position of women

4 marks · 45% of years

Nuclear family + paterfamilias (strong father); BUT women kept property/dowry, divorce easy; balance 'patriarchal authority' against 'women retained rights'.

5 Spread of Christianity + Constantine / the economy

4 marks · 40% of years

Christianity: small persecuted faith → spread → Constantine legalised + converted (early 300s) → later official. Economy: Mediterranean trade, coinage, amphorae, Egyptian grain.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-15 min

Draw the map from memory: the Mediterranean ringed by Europe, North Africa and West Asia; mark the Rhine, Danube, Euphrates and the Sahara edge. Write the key dates beside it: 27 BCE Augustus, 200s crisis, early 300s Constantine, 400s western fragmentation.

15-30 min

Write the political story in four steps: REPUBLIC → PRINCIPATE (Augustus 27 BCE) → three players (emperor, Senate, army) → provinces/cities and the crisis. Say the 8-mark answer aloud.

30-45 min

Cover SLAVERY (property, varied work, treatment, manumission) and the FAMILY (nuclear, paterfamilias, but women kept property + divorce). Draw the three-players triangle.

45-60 min

List the economy points (Mediterranean trade, coinage, amphorae for wine/oil, Egyptian grain) and the Christianity-Constantine story (small faith → legalised early 300s → later official).

60-75 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill under a 20-minute timer. Target >= 12/15.

75-90 min

Review every wrong answer; re-read the matching notes-slide. Re-draw the map and timeline once more. Done.

lived emperors, frontier pressure → empire reorganised afterwards.

CHRISTIANITY: small persecuted faith → spread over centuries → CONSTANTINE (early 300s CE) LEGALISED it + converted → later the official religion. Constantine did NOT invent it.

LATE ANTIQUITY: capital shifts east (Constantinople); WESTERN empire fragments in the 400s CE under Germanic peoples; EASTERN empire continues for centuries. NO single sudden 'fall'.

Sources: texts + INSCRIPTIONS + COINS + PAPYRI + archaeology (amphorae, ruins) — a rich, varied record.

Key dates to fix: 27 BCE (Augustus / Principate); 200s CE (crisis); early 300s CE (Constantine); 400s CE (western fragmentation).

Class 11 = SCHOOL annual/term paper (not an externally-set board paper); ~6-8 marks for this chapter.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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