

Customs Study Guide

Government/social structure:

- ❖ **cursus honorum** – course of honors – steps you take to make it to the highest jobs (from bottom to top – quaestor, praetor, consul)
- ❖ **consul** – two men – executives – elected yearly
- ❖ **praetor** – judges (8 elected yearly)
- ❖ **quaestor** – treasurers (20 elected yearly)
- ❖ **aedile** – in charge of roads and public games (4 elected yearly)
- ❖ **ensor** – 2 elected every five years for 18 months – in charge of taking the census and public morals
- ❖ **dictator** – had absolute power in times of emergency; normally ruled 6 months maximum
- ❖ **magister equitum** – master of the horse/cavalry – assistant to dictator
- ❖ **senator** – must be a praetor to enter – for life
- ❖ **tribune** – 10 elected yearly – only plebeians can run – can veto the senate
- ❖ **patricians/optimates = highest class**
- ❖ **equites** = business class
- ❖ **plebians/populares** = lower class
- ❖ **patron** = patron
- ❖ **cliens** = client
- ❖ **salutatio** = visit of client to patron's house
- ❖ **sportula** = cold food basket given to client when he is received by patron in his atrium
- ❖ **deductio** = patron leads clients to forum
- ❖ **paterfamilias** = head of family (family includes wife, children, slaves and property)
- ❖ **patria potestas** = power (of life and death in early times) of paterfamilias over family

Chariot Racing:

- ❖ **metae** – turning posts
- ❖ **spina** – backbone around which they raced
- ❖ ova et delphines – eggs and dolphins (wood or bronze) used as lap counters
- ❖ **number of laps** in a usual race – 7
- ❖ 250,000 could be held in the circus maximus
- ❖ **ludi circenses** – chariot races
- ❖ **factiones** – racing companies
- ❖ **colors of the factiones** – red (russata), white (albata), blue (veneta), green (prasina)
- ❖ **original factiones** = red, white
- ❖ **longest lasting factiones** = blue, green
- ❖ **circus maximus** is between the Palatine and Aventine hills.
- ❖ white cloth (**mappa**) dropped to start race
- ❖ **biga** – 2 horse chariot; **quadriga** = 4 horse chariot; **auriga** = charioteer
- ❖ **curriculum** = successfully completed lap
- ❖ **carceres** = starting gates

Gladiators:

- ❖ **Myrmillones** – fought with helmet, oblong shield, sword, fish crest on helmet. Usually fought the retiarius or Thracians.
- ❖ **Retiarii** – lightly clad, armed with a net and trident. Usually fought Myrmillones or Secutores.
- ❖ **Samnites** – oblong shield, visored helmet, sword.
- ❖ **Thracians** – small round shield, curved scimitar.
- ❖ **Bestiarii** – hunters – fought wild beasts.
- ❖ **Essedarii** – rode chariots with 2 horses.
- ❖ **Andabata** – heavily armed, but can't see out of visored helmet.
- ❖ **Laquearii** – armed with lasso and a curved piece of wood.
- ❖ **Secutores** --- “pursuers” – like Samnite but without the neck protector.
- ❖ **Hoplomachi** –full-armed with a breast-plate and visored helmet.
- ❖ **rudis** – wooden sword given to gladiators on their retirement.
- ❖ **lanista** – gladiator trainer.
- ❖ **editor munerum** – giver of games.
- ❖ **arena/harena** – sand put down to absorb the blood from a gladiator match.
- ❖ **venationes** – hunts where Bestiarii fought wild beasts.
- ❖ **premere pollicem** – to press the thumb against the forefinger – crowd wants to spare gladiators life.
- ❖ **vertere pollicem** – turning the thumb upwards or towards the chest – to signify the death stroke.
- ❖ gladiator fights were brought to Rome in 264 BC.
- ❖ gladiator fights were originally only at funerals.
- ❖ **naumachiae** – mock naval battles – they flooded the arena.

BATHS (THERMAE/BALNEAE):

- ❖ **apodyterium** – dressing room
- ❖ **hypocausta** – furnace
- ❖ **caldarium** – hot bath
- ❖ **frigidarium** – cold bath
- ❖ **unctorium** – scraping room/ massage
- ❖ **strigil** – scraper
- ❖ **palaestra** – exercise area

SCHOOL:

- ❖ **ludus** – elementary school
- ❖ **litterator** – elementary school teacher
- ❖ **paedagogus** – slave who carries books to school
- ❖ **grammaticus** – upper school teacher
- ❖ **rhetor** – teacher of public speaking
- ❖ **stylus and tabula** – pen and notebook

ARMY: (in 1st century BC)

- ❖ **century** = 60 men
- ❖ **maniple** = 120 men
- ❖ **cohort** = 360 men
- ❖ **legion** = 3600 men
- ❖ **contubernium** = 6-8 men who share a tent (part of a century)
- ❖ **dux** = general
- ❖ **imperator** = victorious general
- ❖ **legatus** = **legionary commander**
- ❖ **centurio** = leader of a century
- ❖ **optio** = 2nd in command to a centurio
- ❖ **toga picta** = worn by victorious generals
- ❖ **tesserae** = passwords
- ❖ **signum** = standard
- ❖ **signifier** = holder of standard
- ❖ **aquila** = silver eagle-standard (of a legion)
- ❖ **aquilifer** = holder of the eagle
- ❖ **cornicen** = horn blower
- ❖ **vexillum** = flag
- ❖ **pedites** = infantry
- ❖ **equites** = cavalry
- ❖ **scorpio** = dart thrower (standing crossbow used by one man)
- ❖ **ballista** = dart or stone throwing siege engine, larger than a scorpio
- ❖ **onager** = siege engine (like a catapult), threw boulders; means “wild ass” for its kick
- ❖ **catapulta** = siege engine which hurled javelins
- ❖ **gladius** = sword
- ❖ **scutum** = shield
- ❖ **galea** = leather helmet
- ❖ **cassis** = metal helmet
- ❖ **pilum** = spear
- ❖ **hasta** = javelin (used by triarii and hastati)
- ❖ **lorica** = leather breastplate
- ❖ **cingulum** = military belt
- ❖ **caligae** = boots
- ❖ **sarcina** = soldier’s cloak/blanket
- ❖ **pugio** = dagger

WEDDINGS:

- ❖ **tunica recta** = white wedding dress
- ❖ **flammeum** = “saffron” colored veil
- ❖ **sponsalia** = engagement
- ❖ **dos** = dowry
- ❖ “**ubi tu Gaius, ego Gaia**” = what bride says at ceremony – “where you are, my husband, I am”

- ❖ night before wedding, a girl would **dedicate her bulla to the Lares**
- ❖ **pronuba** = matron of honor
- ❖ **bad luck to marry on:** the kalends, nones, ides (and the day after each) of any month; all of May and half of June were all unlucky days; also unlucky, the days the lower world was supposed to open – August 24, October 5, November 8.
- ❖ **usus** = common law marriage
- ❖ **coemptio** = fictitious sale of the bride
- ❖ **confarreatio** = upper class marriage ceremony
- ❖ **deductio** = procession of wedding party to forum

Religion:

- ❖ **Pontifex Maximus** -- chief priest, elected for life
- ❖ **Vestal Virgins** – start at age 6 – learn job for 10 years, work as Vestal for 10 years, teach for 10 years – keep flame of Vesta burning, keep documents, etc. safe; only man allowed in temple (which is round) is Pontifex Maximus
- ❖ **auspex** – priest who checks sky for omens (birds/lightning)
- ❖ **augur** – same as auspex
- ❖ **haruspex** – checks guts of animals for omens (2 hearts are bad...)
- ❖ **Salii** – priests of Mars
- ❖ **Lares** – household gods
- ❖ **Lararium** – shrine for Lares
- ❖ **Penates** – gods of cupboards

NAMES:

- ❖ **praenomen** – first name
- ❖ **nomen** – family name
- ❖ **cognomen** – name for branch of family
- ❖ **agnomen** – earned name

CLOTHING:

- ❖ **subligaculum** -- underwear
- ❖ **tunica** – worn by all (like long t-shirt)
- ❖ **toga praetexta** – worn by boys under 16 and magistrates (with purple stripe)
- ❖ **toga virilis** – all white – worn by men over 16
- ❖ **toga pura** – same as toga virilis
- ❖ **toga libera** – same as toga virilis (boys gave up their toga praetexta on the Liberalia)
- ❖ **toga candida** – worn by men running for office; bright white (chalk)
- ❖ **toga pulla** – worn by men in mourning (called **sordidati**)
- ❖ **stola** – women's dress
- ❖ **palla** – women's shawl
- ❖ **fibula** – brooch, pin

- ❖ **bullā** – child’s good luck charm
- ❖ **calceus** – shoe (for outdoors)
- ❖ **solea** – sandal for indoors
- ❖ **petasus** – broad –brimmed hat
- ❖ **pileus** – cap of freedom

PARTS OF A ROMAN HOUSE:

- ❖ **atrium** = entry hallway/large meeting room
- ❖ **compluvium** = hole in roof of atrium – allows water in
- ❖ **impluvium** = basin that catches water
- ❖ **alae** = wings off atrium
- ❖ **imagines** = bust of ancestors, housed in alae
- ❖ **tablinum** = master’s office
- ❖ **triclinium** = dining room
- ❖ **culina** = kitchen
- ❖ **cubiculum** = bedroom
- ❖ **peristylium** = outdoor garden with columns
- ❖ **hortus** = regular garden

MEALS:

- ❖ **ientaculum** – breakfast
- ❖ **prandium** – lunch
- ❖ **thermopolium** – place to buy hot, fast food
- ❖ **cena** – dinner
- ❖ **garum, liquamen** – fish sauce
- ❖ **secunda mensa** – dessert
- ❖ **gustatio, promulsis, antecena** – appetizer
- ❖ **mulsum** – wine mixed with honey
- ❖ **mulsa** – fermented honey and water
- ❖ **mustum** – grape juice
- ❖ **acetum** – vinegar
- ❖ **commissatio** – drinking party
- ❖ **rex bibendi** – master of the drinking (he decides the games, etc.)
- ❖ **seating** – Romans reclined on their left side; there were 3 couches, each seating 3 people.

Miscellaneous:

- ❖ **Via Appia** – Appian Way – from Rome to Capua early on, then extended to Brundisium; known as the queen of the roads – : **regina viarum**” – built by Appius Claudius Caecus in 312 BC
- ❖ **Via Sacra** – road which ran through the forum
- ❖ **Mare Nostum** – “our sea” – Mediterranean
- ❖ **Patria potestas** – power of father over familia
- ❖ **Pater familias** – head of family

- ❖ **basilica** -- law court
- ❖ **curia** -- senate house
- ❖ **cloaca maxima** – great sewer
- ❖ **insulae** – apartment buildings
- ❖ **vigiles** – firemen/police

Vehicula:

- ❖ **cisium** -- lightweight, 2 wheeled vehicle
- ❖ **raeda** – 4 wheeled carriage, comfortable and large
- ❖ **lectica** – litter (carried by 4 slaves)

Funerals:

- ❖ **praeficae** – professional mourners
- ❖ **neniae** – dirges
- ❖ **conclamatio** – oldest son shakes father 3 times and calls his name
- ❖ **sarcophagus** – stone coffin
- ❖ **columbarium** – underground chamber for urns holding the ashes of a cremated person