

CLASS NOTES

Class: XI	Topic: CH:3 AN EMPIRE ACROSS THREE CONTINENTS.
Subject: HISTORY	

Short Answer Type Question

1. What was the policy of taxation in the Roman Empire?

Ans:

- I. The great urban centers of the Mediterranean were the base of the grand system of the Roman Empire.
- II. It was through the cities that 'government' was able to tax the regional countrysides which generated much of the wealth of the empire.
- III. The local upper classes actively collaborated with the Roman state in administering their own territories and raising taxes from them.

2. Define the term the 'Late Roman bureaucracy'.

Ans:

- I. The 'Late Roman bureaucracy' for both the higher and the middle echelons was a comparatively affluent group because it drew the bulk of its salary in gold and invested much of this in buying up of landed property.
- II. There was, of course, a great deal of corruption, especially in the judicial system and in the administration of military supplies.
- III. The extortion of the higher bureaucracy and the greed of the provincial governors were common.

3. What was the typical form of marriage in the third century of Rome?

Ans:

- I. Males married in their late twenties or early thirties; while women were married in the late teens or early twenties.
- II. There was an age gap between husband and wife. As a result, there was inequality.
- III. Marriages were generally arranged, and there is no doubt that women were often subject to domination by their husbands.
- IV. Divorce was relatively easy and needed no more than a notice of intent to dissolve the marriage by either husband or wife.

4. How was the economic condition in the early Roman Empire?

Ans:

- I. The empire had a substantial economic infrastructure of harbors, mines, quarries, brickyards, olive oil factories, etc.
- II. Wheat, wine and olive-oil were traded and consumed in huge quantities, and they came mainly from Spain, the Gallic provinces, North Africa, Egypt and to a lesser extent, Italy where conditions were suitable for these crops. Liquids like wine and olive oil were transported.

5. What do you mean by Polytheist?

Ans:

- I. Polytheism was the traditional religious culture of the classical world for both Greek and Roman.
- II. It involved a multiplicity of cults that included both Roman and Italian gods like Jupiter, Juno, Minerva and Mars, as well as numerous Greek and eastern deities worshiped in the thousands of temples, shrines and sanctuaries throughout the empire.
- III. Polytheists had no common name or label to describe them.

Long Answer Type Question

6. What was the policy of education in the Roman Empire?

Ans:

Education in the Roman empire contributed to the social mobility that characterized the earlier period of Imperial history known as the Principate.

- I. Education was available only for those who could pay for it, since there was no state-supported system of schools with public funding.
- II. A higher rate of literacy is indicated among military personnel than among the general population.
- III. Educated women were not unusual, and there was an expectation that upper-class girls would at least attend primary school, probably in the same classes as boys. Only an elite few, regardless of gender, went on to receive secondary education.
- IV. Modest numbers of slaves were educated and they played a key role in promoting education and the culture of literacy.
- V. Teachers, scribes, and secretaries were likely to be slaves. The education of slaves was not discouraged, and slave-children might attend classes with the children of their masters.
- VI. Book stores were already well-established in Rome by the beginning of the Imperial period, and are found also in urban centers of the provinces.
- VII. Books were expensive, but by the later period, popular genres of literature indicated reading for pleasure among non-elites.
- VIII. Emperor sponsored libraries that were to some extent public, and a wealthy individual might donate a library for a community, or accumulate impressive private collections to which in-house scholars might be attached.
- IX. Literacy is thought to have declined in late antiquity during the transition away from the classical institutions and practices that supported it.

Passage Based Questions:

NCERT Book Page No.71. Second Para.

PASSAGE 1.

The late Roman bureaucracy, both the higher and middle echelons, was a comparatively affluent group because it drew the bulk of its salary in gold and.....

..... them, and because historians and other .

This element of ‘criticism’ is a remarkable feature of the classical world. That is why in the later fourth century it was possible for powerful bishops like Ambrose to confront equally powerful emperors when they were excessively harsh or repressive in their handling of the civilian population.

Questions:

(i) What was the main reason of corruption in administration of the Roman Empire?

Ans: The extortion of the higher bureaucracy and the greed of the provincial governors were the main reasons of corruption.

(ii) What was the role of the Roman government in handling corruption that was widespread among the higher bureaucracy and provincial governors?

Ans: The government intervened repeatedly to control corruption. The Roman state was an authoritarian regime, dissent was rarely tolerated and government usually responded to protest with violence.

(iii) What do you know about law system of the Roman Empire?

Ans: Roman law had emerged by the fourth century, and this acted as a brake on even the most fearsome emperors. They were not free to do, whatever they liked, and the law was actively used to protect civil rights. That is why in the later fourth century it was possible for powerful bishops like Ambrose to confront equally powerful emperors when they were excessively harsh or repressive in their handling of the civilian population.

PASSAGE 2.(NCERT Book Page No.71) Last Para.

‘Late antiquity’ is the term now used to describe the final, fascinating period in the evolution and breakup of the Roman Empire and refers broadly to the fourth to seventh centuries.....

..... His chief innovations were in the monetary sphere, where he introduced a new denomination, the solidus, a coin of 4(4 gm of pure gold that would in fact outlast the Roman Empire itself. Solidi were minted on a very large scale and their circulation ran into millions.

Questions:

(i) What was the span of Diocletian regime?

(ii) What innovations had been done by Constantine?

(iii) What does ‘Late antiquity’ mean?

Answers:

(i) The span of Diocletian regime was 284-305.

(ii) Constantine did his main innovations in the monetary sphere, where he introduced a new denomination, the solidus, a coin of 4y gm of pure gold that would in fact outlast the Roman Empire

itself. Solidi were minted on a very large scale and their circulation was quite huge.

(iii) 'Late antiquity' refers to describe the fascinating period in the evolution and breaking up of the Roman Empire.