

ELCHK Lutheran Secondary School

Form 1 History

Government Structure of Roman Republic and Roman Empire

Name: _____

Task 1: watch the video clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=887uU7faQR4>

Task 2: Read the textbook (Section 24 page 10) and the following notes on p. 1 and 2 and complete the Data-based Questions on p. 3-6.

Notes

1. Roman Republic (509 BC – 27 BC)

- The government of the Roman Republic was divided into the executive and legislative branches.

(i) Executive

■ **The consuls**

- The highest officials of the government handled the political affairs of the city.
- Roman citizens elected two consuls every year. This system of checks and balances was to prevent absolute rule.

■ **The Senate**

- The advisory body of the consuls, including 300 senators which were mostly patricians.
- The Senate had the highest executive power.
 - It handled foreign affairs, distributed public funds, appointed officials to govern lands and commanded the army, etc.
- During an emergency, the Senate could appoint a dictator.

(ii) Legislative

- The Romans set up different legislative assemblies to elect consuls, tribunes and praetors, and vote on the legal proposals of the Senate.
- All male citizens could vote in elections of the legislative assemblies.

Rise of the plebeians

- In the early years of the Republic, the patricians had great political power.

- The consuls were mainly chosen from the patricians.
- The Senate was also mainly formed by the patricians.
- Though the plebeians had the right to vote, they could not hold offices. They had no voice in the government.
- Around 494 BC, the patricians were forced to give in and allowed the plebeians to elect tribunes to protect their rights.
- In 367 BC, a bill was passed that one of the consuls must be a plebeian. This greatly increased the power of the plebeians.

2. Roman Empire (27 BC – AD 476)

- Octavian became the only ruler of the Republic.
- Starting from 27 BC, the army began to call him emperor. The Senate also gave him the title of Augustus.
 - This is a Latin word meaning ‘majestic’.
 - To honour Caesar, Octavian called himself Augustus Caesar.
- Starting from Augustus, the Roman government was headed by the emperor. The Roman Empire started.
 - When an emperor died, the army would choose his successor.
 - The Senate nearly lost all its power in the Roman Empire.

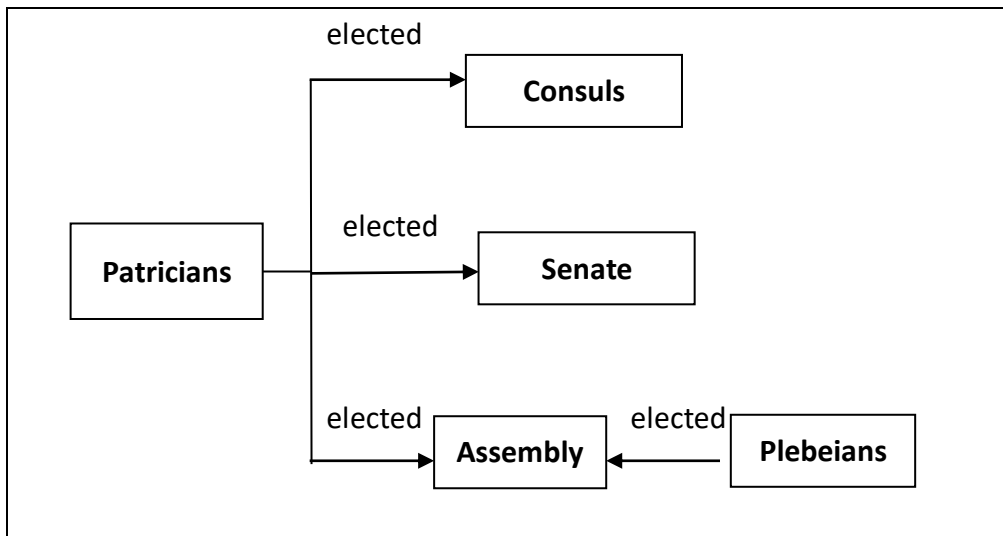
Government of the Roman Empire

- Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire, the central government was set up there.
- The Roman emperor divided the empire into provinces, and appointed a governor to rule each of the provinces for him.
 - Governors could decide on local matters.
 - The emperor was the ruler of the Roman Empire. When he died, his generals would choose the next emperor.
 - The Roman army was formed by full-time soldiers. Governors also had armies of their own.
 - Governors helped the emperor to rule the provinces.
 - The Senate advised the emperor. It lost much of its power.

Task 3: Study Sources A and B and complete the following Data based Question.

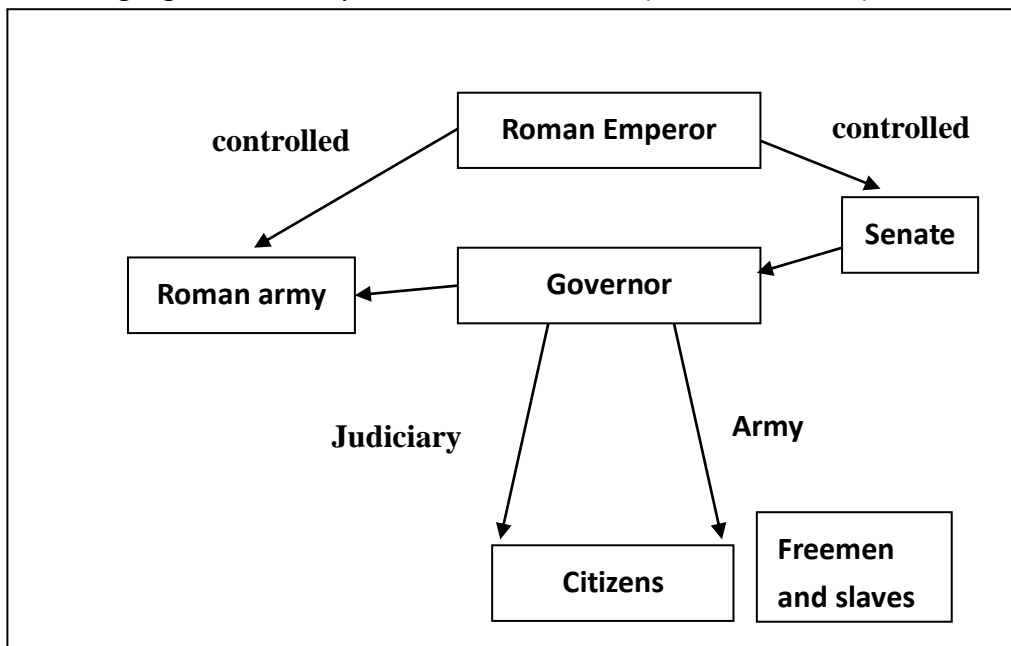
Source A

Diagram showing a government system in ancient Rome (509 BC to 27 BC)



Source B

Diagram showing a government system in ancient Rome (27 BC to 476 AD)



1a. With reference to Source A, what was the form of the government of ancient Rome from 509 BC to 27 BC?

1b. With reference to Source B, what was the form of the government of ancient Rome from 27 BC to 476 AD?

*1c. According to your historical knowledge, what crisis happened in 27BC which led to the change of political system of ancient Rome? Explain.

*1d. According to Source A, B and your historical knowledge, what were the differences between these two Roman governments? Name 2 differences.

* 1e. According to Source A, B and your historical knowledge, which Roman government can carry out democracy for the Romans? Name 2 Reasons.

Task 4

Study the sources and answer the questions. (13)

Source D

A description of a Roman general

He was a politician and general of the Roman republic, who greatly extended the Roman empire before he got power and made himself dictator of Rome, paving the way for the imperial system.

Source E

Some of the reforms carried out by the Roman Republic under the rule of a famous general

- Giving out lands to his soldiers and the plebeians.
- Forcing large land owners to hire at least 1/3 of their labour from free citizens rather than slaves, ensuring work for the landless poor.
- Increasing the number of senators by a third, and many of the new members were his supporters.
- Increasing the criminal penalties.
- Abolishing the tax system at that time, which was exploited by the corrupt tax collectors.

2a. Who was the Roman general in Sources D and E?

2b. According to Source D and your historical knowledge, how did the Roman general become a dictator?

2c. According to Source E, what reforms did the Roman general carry out? Find out two reforms from Source E.

*2d. According to Source E and your historical knowledge, did his reforms gain the support of Romans?
Please explain your answers in the eyes of Roman citizens, landlords and senators.
