

ELCHK Lutheran Secondary School
Form 1 History
Rise and fall of the Roman Empire

Name: _____

Pre Task 1: Watch the video clip

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

Task 2: Read the textbook (Section 24 page 15-21) and the following notes on p. 1 and 2 and complete the Data-based Questions on p. 3-6.

Notes

(i) Rise of Caesar

- In 60 BC, Caesar, Pompey and Crassus used their armies to take over Rome.
 - In 59 BC, Caesar was elected consul.
- Caesar was a great general:
 - The Romans conquered Gaul, Germania and Britannia under his leadership.
- Caesar was a great statesman:
 - He carried out many reforms, such as giving land to the poor and building roads. He helped improve common people's lives and therefore earned popular support.

(ii) Dictatorial rule of Caesar

- Caesar's prestige and achievements aroused the jealousy of his enemies.
- In 49 BC, the Senate persuaded Pompey to start a civil war to overthrow Caesar.
 - Caesar won the civil war.
 - He held all power and was elected 'dictator for life'.

Rise and fall of the Roman Empire

(i) Roman Peace

- During the early two hundred years of the Roman Empire (27 BC-AD 180), there were not many wars. There were also a lot of trades.
- This peace period was called 'Pax Romana', meaning 'Roman Peace'.

(ii) Decline of the Roman Empire

- Starting from the 3rd century AD, the Roman Empire continued to decline.
 - Civil wars broke out in the empire.
 - Foreign tribes started to invade the Roman Empire.
- In AD 395, the Roman Empire was divided into two: the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire.

(iii) Fall of the Western Roman Empire

- In AD 476, a German tribe called the Visigoths took the city of Rome and destroyed the Western Roman Empire.
- The Eastern Roman Empire continued until AD 1453.

The Western Roman Empire

- ♦ Rome was the capital of the Western Roman Empire.
- ♦ The fall of the Western Roman Empire marked the start of Medieval Times (AD 476-1453) in Europe.

The Eastern Roman Empire

- ♦ Constantinople, the new name for Byzantium, was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire. This is why we also call this empire the Byzantine Empire.
- ♦ The Eastern Roman Empire kept up the ancient Greco-Roman civilization.

Task 3

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.

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

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

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

*d. 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.
