

WORLD HISTORY

SECTION II

Total Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

Suggested reading and writing time: 1 hour

It is suggested that you spend 15 minutes reading the documents and 45 minutes writing your response.

Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following.

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least six documents.
- Use at least one additional piece of specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.
- For at least three documents, explain how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
- Use evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt.

1. Using the documents and your knowledge of world history, evaluate the effects of Roman military expansion between 200 B.C.E. and 400 C.E..

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Document 1

Source: Livy, Roman historian, *The History of Rome*, 25 C.E.

It was through the army serving in Asia that the beginnings of foreign luxury were introduced into the city. These men brought into Rome, for the first time, bronze couches, costly coverlets, tapestries, and other fabrics, and—what was at the time considered gorgeous furniture—pedestal tables and silver salvers. Banquets were made more attractive by the presence of girls who played on the harp and by other forms of entertainment, and the banquets themselves began to be prepared with greater care and expense. The cook, whom the ancients regarded and treated as the lowest menial, was rising in value, and what had been a servile office came to be looked upon as a fine art.

Document 2

Source: Appian, Greek historian, second century C.E., describing the Roman Empire c. 200 B.C.E.

As the Romans subdued the Italian peoples in war, the wealthy took possession of the greater part of the farmlands and came to cultivate vast estates. They purchased slaves as agricultural laborers and herdsmen, since free Romans could be drawn from their farmlands into the army. Thus certain powerful men became extremely rich and the class of slaves multiplied throughout the country, while the Italian people were oppressed by poverty, taxes, and military service.

Document 3

Source: Relief carved on a family tomb depicting an upper-class Roman wife (seated) in her home being attended to by domestic slaves, Neumagen, Germany, undated.



Document 4

Source: Seneca, adviser to and later critic of the Roman emperor Nero, Epistles, first century C.E.

I am resting at the country house which once belonged to Scripio Africanus* himself. . . . Think, in this tiny recess the “terror of Carthage,” to whom Rome should offer thanks because she was not captured more than once, used to bathe a body wearied with work in the fields! For he was accustomed to keep himself busy and to cultivate the soil with his own hands, as the good old Romans were wont to do. . . . But who in these days could bear to bathe in such a fashion? We think ourselves poor if our walls are not resplendent with large and costly mirrors; if our marbles from Alexandria are not set off by mosaics of Numidian stone, if they are not covered all over with an elaborate coating variegated to look like painting; if our vaulted ceilings are not concealed in glass, if our swimming pools are not lined with Thasian marble, once a rare sight in a temple, or if the water does not flow from silver spigots. . . . What a vast number of statues, of columns that support nothing, but are built for decoration, merely in order to spend money! . . . We have become so luxurious that we will tread upon nothing but precious stones.

*Famous Roman general who defeated Carthage in the second Punic War

Document 5

Source: Pliny, Roman philosopher and former army commander, Natural History, 77 C.E.

In those days the lands were tilled by the hands of the very generals, the soil exulting beneath the plowshare crowned with wreaths of laurel and guided by a husbandman graced with triumphs. . . . But today these same lands are tilled by slaves whose legs are in chains, by the hands of malefactors and men with branded faces. . . . And we are surprised that the yields from the labor of workhouse slaves are not the same as from the honest toil of warriors!

Document 6

Source: Florus, Roman historian, *Epitome of Roman History*, second century C.E.

Indeed, it would have been better for the Roman people to have been content with Sicily and Africa, or even to have been without these and to have held dominion only over their own land in Italy, than to increase to such outbursts of domestic strife but excessive prosperity? The resources and wealth thus acquired spoiled the morals of the age and ruined the state, which was engulfed in its own vices as in a common sewer.

Document 7

Source: *Ammianus Marcellinus*, Roman soldier and historian, *The History*, 353 C.E.

After these events, Gallus being about to set out for Hierapolis, in order to take part in the military expedition, the common people of Antioch entreated him in a suppliant manner to remove their fear of a famine which for many reasons believed was impending; Gallus, however, did not order any distribution of food to be made, or any supplies to be brought from the neighboring countries. . . .

These words increased the audacity of the lower classes, and when the scarcity of provisions became more severe, urged by hunger and frenzy, they set fire to and burnt down the splendid house of a man of the name of Eubulus, a man of great reputation among his fellow-citizens; and they attacked the governor himself with blows and kicks as one especially made over to them by the judgment of the emperor, kicking him till he was half dead, and then tearing him to pieces in a miserable manner. And after his wretched death every one saw in the destruction of this single individual a type of the danger to which he was himself exposed, and, taught by this recent example, feared a similar fate.