

Chase's Guide to Roman Daily Life (abridged form of Goodyear's "Notes on Johnston")

UNDERLINED facts have appeared on a GJCL Daily Life Exam recently (for Latin scholars of the future: this document was written in 2003). Know all the underlined stuff to do well; know everything to win. If a word is underlined, everything postceding the dash should be noted. I personally guarantee that if you know everything in this packet, you WILL get first place on the GJCL Daily Life Exam, else you may submit me to a damnatio memoriae. Study strategy: First, read all of this. Second, go back over underlined words. Third, go over Daily Life tests, making sure you know all the answers; look up answers you don't know on this sheet. Fourth, Take competition. Fifth, win.

Day in Ancient Rome

Day divided in 12 hours.

Hour= 1/12 of time from sunrise to sunset (45-75 min)

All business happened before noon

salutatio- patrons met with clients in atrium

nomenclator- slave who whispered name of greeters

Business began 3rd hour

Calendar

Kalends—first day of month

Nones—5th day of month, 7th in march, may, july or october

Ides—13th day of month, 15th in march, may, july or october

Roman Way of Life

hereditary social hierarchy: nobles, equites, commons (plebeians)

equites- businessmen

cursus honorum- politics as career

offices

quaestor- treasurer

aedile- supervised markets, food supplies, games, public buildings

tribune- represented plebeians

praetor- judge

consul- military, general leader

all terms yearly

After term, praetor, consul must govern a province for at least a year

no salary

expensive to run

novus homo- outsider, previously not politician or noble (Cicero was one)

most politicians started in law

lawyers couldn't accept fees, got "gifts"
publicanus- tax collector
pecunia—money, etymologically from livestock: people traded skins
 usual rate of loan- 12%
 freedmen- former slaves
scribae- highest ranking in civil services. secretary, recorder (Horace was one) special seat at circus, theater

Roman Towns

temples to Mithras—god of light from the East—everywhere

Magistrates
 elected by popular vote
 no salary
 wore purple bordered toga for 1 year term
 Curule- magistrate's chair with purple cushion
 attended by 12 lictors
 special seat at shows

Curia
 town council/senate house
 100 members (decuriones)
 members had to be 25, free, and own property
 best seats at games
 got free water

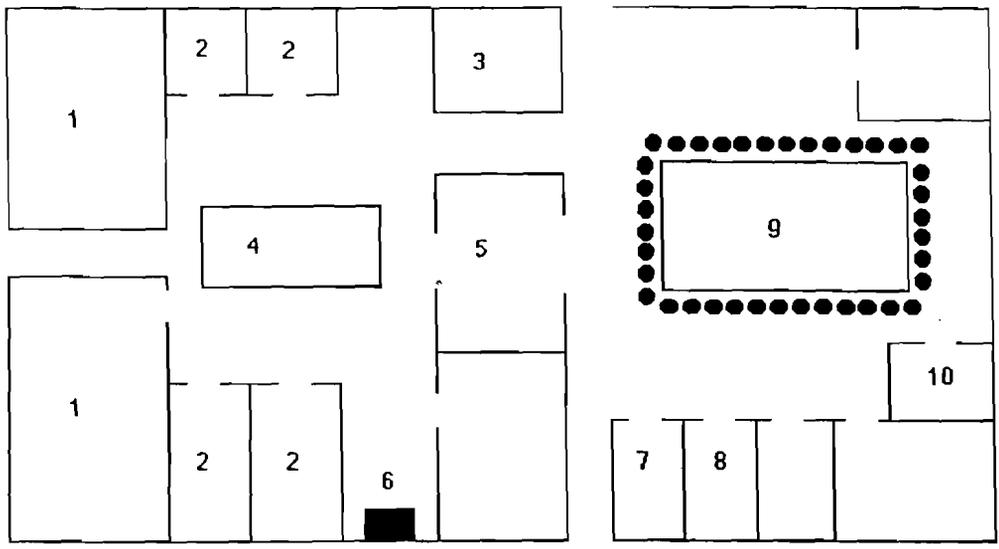
Augustales- college of priests worshipping emperors
 Decuriones chose annually board of 6 (seviri) to act for the year as Augustales
 Augustales wore bordered togae and knight's rings
insulae- apartments
 many towns had patrons- people who did nice things for their town

Life in the Country

farming- chief occupation of senatorial class
 jugera= 5/8 acre
vilicus- slave manager of farm
 rustica- country house
 vilica- wife of vilicus, made clothing
 used astronomy for planting calendar
 used oxen to plow
 rotated crops
 rye, barley, oats, beans, peas, alfalfa, wheat
 august 19th—vinalia rustica—wine festival
 vinum- wine
 amphorae- jugs that stored wine (100 gallon or more each) lined with pitch
 acetum- spoiled wine used as vinegar
 amurca- olive oil, the dark, not eating kind
 oleum olivum- eating kind
 fruits- apples, pears, plums, quinces, figs, peaches, apricots, cherries

NO ORANGES! lemons not until 3rd century ad
 arbustum- orchard
 cattle- for dairy, not often for beef
 pork- favorite meat
 goats- for milk, some meat
 sheep- wool, milk, and meat
 butter- only used in medicine, not for food
 lots of cheese
 bees for honey and wax
 chickens, geese, ducks, pigeons
 villa urbana- farms run for pleasure instead of profit (Horace given one by Maecenas)
 palaestra- court for games and exercises
 xystra- architectural gardens, like the ones at disney world
 topiarius- gardener

Roman Homes



- Floor Plan of a Wealthy Roman House**
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 taberna | a store |
| 2 cubiculum | bedroom |
| 3 triclinium | dining-room |
| 4 impluvium | pool for rainwater |
| 5 tablinum | study |
| 6 lararium | shrine of the household gods |
| 7 latrina | bathroom |
| 8 culina | kitchen |
| 9 peristylum | garden |
| 10 summer triclinium | summer dining-room |

cubiculum, culina above
triclinium—dinning room with three couches, seating three people each
 alae- wings (where the lararia are)
 lararium- statues to lares and penates (household gods) and imagines
imagines—ancestral masks/busts
know that the imagines and statues to lares and penates are in the alae
 no windows!

compluvium- hole in ceiling (rain fell into impluvium)
tablinum- study
lectus- symbolic marriage bed/couch
 arca- chest of money, chained to floor
 tabernae- front rooms used as shops
atrium—main room, at entrance, where impluvium is
 vestibulum- court, between street entrance and house door
 ostium- doorway
 ianua or fores- door
 mosaic at threshold
 “nihil intret mali”- may no evil enter here
 ianitor- doorman
 cubicula diurna- bedrooms for day rest
 cubicula nocturna or dormitoria- normal sleeping room
 bibliotheca- library
 sacrum- room with busts of gods
 exedra- hall for conversation or debate
solarium- sun deck
hypocaust- furnace under floor

Interior Decoration

no mirrors
 no desks or writing tables
 solium- stiff, high-backed chairs for patrons
 cathedra- armless, curved back chair, teachers and women used (ex cathedra- with authority)
 monopodium- one legged table
 abacus- rectangular table with raised rim, held dishes
 mensa delphica- three legs, marble or bronze
 sundials to keep time
clepsydra- water clock- used to tell time at night (wasnt very accurate)
 faces- torches, near door or street
 candles- had some, but not good at making them

Roman Family

familia- family
pater familias- head of family (yes, it has an “as” at the end, why? accusative of respect? Greek? who knows?)
patria potestas—father’s power of descendants.
 familia- includes wife, unmarried daughters, sons married or not
 sui iuris- of his own right, describes pater familias, independent

Roman Names

Three parts to Roman name:
Praenomen—first name
 Nomen—family name

5/3

Cognomen—closer family name, or additional name

Agnomen—an additional cognomen, sometimes added later on in life

example:

Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus

praenomen- Publius; Nomen-Cornelius; cognomen-Scipio; agnomen-Africanus

Slaves—took names masters gave them

Freedmen—got nomen of master with assigned praenomen (often also the master's), used own name as cognomen. The letter L, preceded by genitive form of former owner's name, was inserted after nomen.

example:

Marcus Livius Augustae L. Ismarus

Marriage Customs and Roman Women

many types of marriages

confarreatio—marriage which had to be approved by the Gods through auspices

usus—used most often by plebeians, marriage not recognized by law. Man and wife lived together.

coemptio—most common form of marriage, not as elaborate as confarreatio. Involved fictitious sale of the bride.

manus—metonymous name for man's power of his wife

"Quando tu Gaius, ego Gaia"—said by wife to husband as part of ceremony

"Di bene vortant" (let the Gods grant their blessing)—phrase well-wishers would use

Versus Fescennini—rude songs sung during procession

Roman Children

Pupus—what baby called before given a praenomen (eight days).

bullae—worn by children. boy gave it up to Lares when turned to man. girl gave it up before marriage

crepundia—rattle given to babies after purification

Education

Paedagogus—slave who follows children everywhere and teaches them things

Slavery

Sub hasta venire + Sub corona venire = euphemisms for slavery

Liberti—freed slaves

manumission—the freeing of slaves

Cientes and Hospites

Clothing of Men and Boys

Togae—outer garments made of wool that Roman citizens wore.

Toga praetexta—worn by young boys and senators

Toga virilis—when boy becomes man, gets to wear this

Toga sordida or Toga pulla—toga worn by mourners

Toga picta—purple toga worn by victorious generals

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fibulae—safety pins or brooches

subligaculum—underwear (loin cloth)

braccae—trousers/shorts. considered barbaric (literally)

calcei—shoes

soleae—sandals, worn in house. dinners asked for them after dinner

mulleus—patrician's shoe

caliga—short boot worn by military

petasus/causia—traveler's hat

pilleus—cone-shaped felt hat worn by freed slaves and old priesthods

lacerna—cloak made popular in Cicero's time

salum—heavier military cape

paludamentum—purple cloak worn by generals

paenula—traveler's cloak

Clothing of Women and Girls

Stola—dress (actually more like an outer tunic)

Palla—shawl

Roman Food

panis—bread

panis plebeius—common

panis castrensis—army

panis sordidus—dark

panis rusticus—country (best of the four)

favorite drinks—water, milk, wine

vinum—wine

mulsum—wine with honey (four to one ratio)

Meals of the Day

lentaculum—breakfast

vesperna—supper (eventually squeezed out of the way between lunch and dinner)

prandium—lunch

gustus—appetizer

cena—dinner

secunda mensa—dessert (which is *always* my desert, especially coming back from the desert)

convivium/comissatio/symposium/compotatio—drinking parties

arbiter bibendi/rex bibendi/magister bibendi—master of the drinking

Games, Exercises, Baths

trigon—ball game involving three players, two balls. interesting study of trigon:

<http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/w/x/wxk116/trigon.html>

gambling illegal, except for old men and on Saturnalia

tali—4sided dice, side down was counted, numbered 1,3,4,6

Venus—highest throw

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Vulture—lowest throw
tesserae—6sided dice
balneum—simple bath house
thermae—large public baths
apodyterium—dressing room
tepidarium—warm bath
caldarium—hot bath
frigidarium—cold bath
unctorium—oil/massage room
laconicum—sweatbath
strigilis (strigil)—scraper used to remove sweat
hypocaust—system that heated baths
quadrans—price of admission. small coin, 1/64 of denarius

Theaters and Plays

Pompey—built first permanent theater in Rome, 55 BC.
proscenium—back stage
cavea—seats
cuneus—vertical wedge of seats
scaena—stage itself
orchestra—area between seats and stage, used for dancing
Ludi scaenici—public plays
vela—awnings covering theater

Circus and Races

Circus Maximus—big chariot race track, built between Palatine and Aventine hills
Ludi Circenses—name for games in the Circus
Factiones—companies furnishing teams or drivers for racing, each had color: red, white, blue, green, purple, gold
Metae—turning posts
spinae—had seven eggs and seven dolphins, divided circus in middle
aurigae or agitatores—drivers
desultores—men leaping from one horse to another
calx—chalk finish line
missus—complete race, usually seven laps
harena—arena or the sand in't
carcares—“prisons” holding chariots
dator ludorum—official responsible for the games, signaled start
praecinctiones—horizontal aisles

Amphitheaters and Gladiators

Flavian Amphitheater—known popularly as “The Colosseum”
Thracians- lightly armed gladiators
Samnites- heavily armed gladiators
naumachia—staged naval battles

Travel and Correspondence

- stilus- implement for writing on wax tablets (made from bone/metal)
- tabellae—wax tablets
- papyrus—paper
- linum—string used to seal
- cera—wax
- signum—seal
- tabellarius—slave responsible for delivering letters

Books and Libraries

Asinius Pollio—founded Rome’s first public library in 10 BC.

Roads, Aqueducts, Sewers

- Cloaca Maxima—Rome’s first sewer, built under Tarquin II.
- Via Appia—Appian Way, built by Appius Claudius Caecus in 312 B.C.(E).
- Via Aqua—Appian Aqueduct, built by Appius Claudius Caecus in 312 B.C.(E).
- “Munire Viam”—to build a road

Roman Religion

- Salii—“leaping” priests of Mars.
- Salii collini—priests of Quirinus (deified Romulus)
- numina—spirits, divine will
- Augures—interpreted will of the gods
- Augustales—priests devoted to emperor worship, came from freedman class
- Pontifex Maximus—head of Roman religion
- rex sacrorum—master of the sacrifices
- suovetaurilia—sacrifice of pig, sheep, and bull
- Numa—king who did a lot for religion
- Aesculapius—medicine god imported from Epidaurus
- Cybele—known as “Magna Mater;” imported from Phrygia
- Capitoline Triad—Juno, Jupiter, Minerva. First Roman temple built to them on Capitoline Hill

Dead Romans

- justa facere—“to do the right things’ (id est observe funeral rights)
- cenotaphium—empty tomb (honorary, buried elsewhere)
- cremation more often than burial
- burials had to be outside of city walls
- thus, Appian Way lined with tombs
- sepulchrum—grave, tomb
- manes—spirits of the dead
- ustrina—place for burning bodies
- columbaria (Latin for dovecote)—large building for many tombs/urns
- sarcophagi—stone coffins
- titulus—piece of marble in each niche, says who buried

9/c

mausoleum—large building for one tomb or few tombs, Augustus and Hadrian built famous ones

olla—jar for ashes

designator—undertaker

pine or cypress at door mark death in family

conclamatio—calling name of dead person (done by eldest son)

imagines—masks of ancestors shown at a funeral (spooky)

“Nine days of sorrow” after funeral. Funeral games (including gladiators) at end.

Parentalia(feralia=last day), Lemuralia—memorial days for dead

History Questions Which Somehow End up on This Test

753 BC—Romulus founds Rome

509 BC—monarchy ends/republic begins

Mythology Questions Which Somehow End up on This Test

Vesta—goddess of hearth

ABBREVIATIONS

- fl. or flor. – floruit – hr/she flourishes; refers to the time at which an artist produces work
- I.H.S.- in hoc signo (short for In hoc signo vinces) – in this sign you will conquer; supposedly seen in the sky by Constantine, who converted and won the battle, then made Christianity legal. Also, in Church, stands for Iesus Hominum Salvator- Jesus the Savior of Men.
- INRI- Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum- Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.
- pinx.- pinxit- he/she painted [this]
- sculp.- sculpsit – he/she sculpted [this]
- op. cit. – spered citato – in the work previously cited; used in footnotes, if reference is same as the one before.
- Ibid. – ibidem – in the same places. Used in footnotes, if the reference is the same as the one before.
- A.D. – Anno Domini- in the year of our Lord.
- a.m. – ante meridiem – before noon
- p.m. – post meridiem – after noon
- cf. – confer – compare
- et al. – et alii – and the others {the rest of a list}; et alibi- and elsewhere
- vs. – versus – against
- c., circ., circa. – circum – around, about – used to approximate dates
- @ ad – to at {@ 5% means at 5 percent.}
- i.e. – id est – that is
- pro, con, - pro and contra – for and against
- etc. – et cetera – and the rest, and so forth
- e.g. – exempli gratia- for example
- no. – numerus – by number
- viz. – videlicet – namely; that is to say
- d.v. – deo volente – God willing
- vox. pop. – vox populi – the voice of the people
- q.v. – quod vide – which, see {refers to other entries in a book}
- QED- Quod Erat Demonstrandum – that which was to be demonstrated

ABBREVIATIONS ON TOMBS AND MONUMENTS

- c. – {circa or circum} about (dates)
- in aeternum – into eternity- forever
- in perpetuum – forever, in perpetuity
- ae., act., aetat. – aetatis – at the age of
- Anno aetatis suae – in the year of his/her age
- ob. obit – he/she died
- hic iacet – here lies
- RIP – requiescat in pace – may he/she rest in peace
- In memoriam – in memory of

ACADEMIC TERMS

- cum laude- with praise
- magna cum laude – with great praise
- summa cum laude – with greatest praise
- alumnus (i)- male graduates
- alumna (ae)- female graduates
- alma mater- cherished mother- refers to one's school
- M.A. (A.M.) – Magister Artium – master of arts
- B.A. (A.B.) – Baccalaureus Artium – bachelor of arts
- B.Sc. baccalaureus scientiae – bachelor of science
- D.D. Divinitatis Doctor – Doctor of Divinity
- D.Litt. – Doctor Litterarum – Doctor of Letters (lit)
- M.D. – medicinae doctor- doctor of medicine
- Ph. D. – Doctor Philosophiae – Doctor of Philosophy
- L.D. - Legum Doctor – doctor of laws
- D.M.D. – Dentariae Medicinae Doctor – Doctor of Dental Medicine

SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

- Aries - ram
- Taurus - bull
- Gemini - twins
- Cancer - crab
- Leo - lion
- Virgo - virgin
- Libra - scales
- Scorpio - scorpion
- Sagittarius - archer
- Capricorn - goat
- Aquarius – water-bearer
- Pisces - fish