

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> hour

## **Calendar**

Kalends—first day of month

Nones—5<sup>th</sup> day of month, 7<sup>th</sup> in march, may, july or october

Ides—13<sup>th</sup> day of month, 15<sup>th</sup> 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

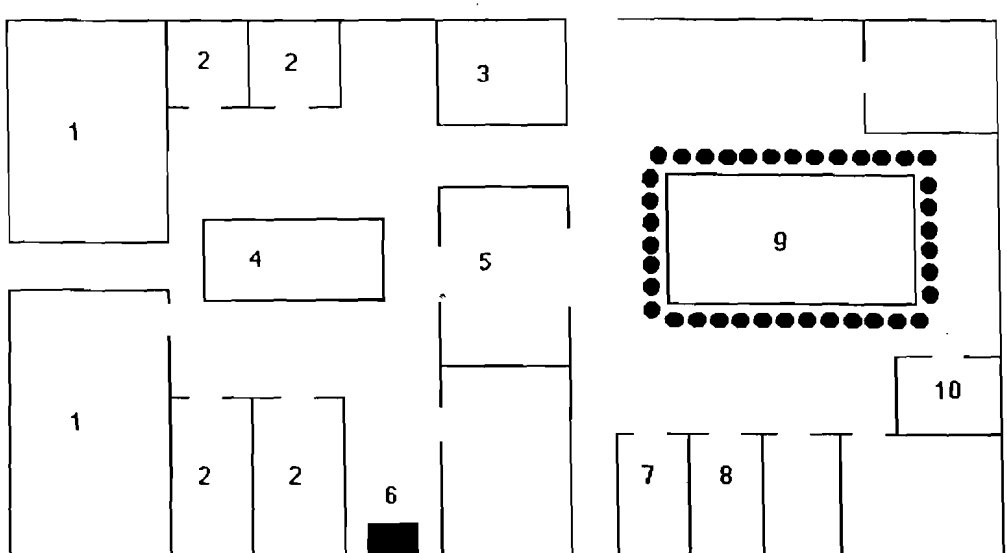
Augustales- college of priests worshipping emperors  
 Decuriones chose annually board of 6 (seviri) to act for the year as Augustales  
 Augustales wore bordered togae and knight's rings  
insulae- apartments  
 many towns had patrons- people who did nice things for their town

**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 19<sup>th</sup>—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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. – sere 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., actat. – actatis – 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