

Please write your name here: (Last, First) \_\_\_\_\_

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS!**  
**DO NOT OPEN THE EXAM UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO...**

Please make sure that your beeper and/or cell phone are turned off and stored away, out of sight.

Fill in your NAME and IDENTIFICATION NUMBER on the scantron form before starting.

There are 27 multiple-choice questions and 6 short-answer questions in this exam: each is worth 3.5 points. Partial credit is available for the short-answer questions. Multiple-choice answers must be filled in on the scantron form with a black #2 pencil. Short-answer questions must be written on the exam, with a pen.

Scantron forms and exams will be collected together at the end of today's class. You have approximately 75 minutes to finish the exam.

You are not allowed to ask any questions during the exam. If you need assistance (for example, if your pen stops working or you don't have a pencil), raise your hand.

You cannot leave the room until you have handed in the exam.

When you are ready to hand in the exam, get up and form a line on the right side of the classroom. Please have your ID ready. If there are already 10-12 people waiting in line, please remain seated until the line gets shorter. Please leave the room quietly, try not to disturb those who are still working on the exam.

1. A conference was held in Florence in February of 2001, entitled “La parola Italia” (The word Italy). Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Italians now have a strong national identity, and therefore they do not support the idea of a stronger European Union.

**B) Patriotism and nationalism in Italy were weakened by the events of 1943-45, when Italian fascists who continued the war on the side of the Germans exploited those values for their propaganda.**

C) As former premier Giuliano Amato said at the conference, ideals such as State and Nation have finally acquired prestige in Italy today, thanks to the efforts of Italian politicians and their parties.

D) All of the above.

2. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the physical characteristics of the Italian peninsula, and how they affected Italian history and the evolution of Italian civilization:

A) The climate, in almost all of Italy, is usually much colder than in New York State: the harsh climate of the many mountainous areas has slowed down the development of the national economy.

B) The Italian territory is quite rich in natural resources and fertile soil: during much of Italy’s history (for example, during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance), agriculture was the driving force of the economy.

C) Only a very small portion (approximately 1/4, or 25%) of the Italian peninsula is covered by mountains.

**D) Being close to northern Africa, western and central Europe, Italy’s commercial economy prospered during much of its long history. One of the most important activities during the past has been the import of various goods from the Middle East.**

3. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding today’s Italy:

A) The official emblem of the Italian Republic includes a white cross prominently displayed, a visual reference to the relevance of Christian religion in the Italian heritage.

B) The Italian national anthem is a chorus from Giuseppe Verdi’s opera *Nabucco*, in which the Jews enslaved in Babylon dream of their distant homeland.

**C) In a 2003 song by Giorgio Gaber, entitled “Io non mi sento italiano” (I don’t feel Italian), the singer complains that the Italian national anthem brings to mind the fanaticism of the fascists.**

D) The Italian flag was modeled after the French flag, considered by many the quintessential symbol of democracy: it has the same colors, red, blue and white, which are also connected to the city of Naples.

4. Identify the correct statement from among the

following, regarding the Italian language, its history and its internal components:

A) At the time of the unification of Italy, the dialect of Florence was proclaimed the new national language. Italian also borrowed words, rules and expressions from the literature of the period known as Baroque, between the Renaissance and the Enlightenment.

**B) The standard Italian of today is based on the literary Tuscan language of the past, on the dialect spoken by middle-class educated inhabitants of a small area in Tuscany, and on the lexicon of other areas of Italy.**

C) The ancient language of the Italian literary masters (Dante, Boccaccio, etc.) was imposed to all Italians, because it was extremely rich and varied, and yet very easy to use, even for those who did not have a university degree.

D) All of the above.

5. According to the 2001 national census, there are approximately 57 million people living in Italy. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) More than half of the Italian population lives in cities with more than 1,000,000 residents: the urban culture of the large metropolitan areas has been a strong unifying factor in Italian history.

B) A significant number of cities in Italy (more than 3) have more than five million people: even after the fall of the Roman Empire, the city of Rome has remained the center of Italy’s political and cultural life.

**C) Almost half of the Italian population lives in towns with less than 20,000 residents: this fact has contributed to the strength and vitality of the different local cultures.**

D) All of the above.

6. To Maurice Hewlett, and to some of his fellow travel writers, political decadence and the Darwinian laws of natural extinction provided the basis for exotic explorations of Tuscany. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) As James Buzard has written, in his book *The Beaten Track. European Tourism, Literature, and the Ways to Culture*, nineteenth-century chronicles of travels to Italy were fairly accurate, often including “everyday features of the visited place (populations included), such as the gradual improvements in standard of living, the mundane political struggles, the ordinary commerce.”

B) British traveler/writer Maurice Hewlett loved Italy, and especially Tuscany. What makes Hewlett different from other authors is that Hewlett firmly believed that the men and women living in various parts of Tuscany shared the same culture and belonged to the same ethnic group.

**C) Anglo-American travel writers from the late 1800s and the early 1900s often believed that, given**

**the uniform history of most Tuscan towns, their medieval origins as independent city-states, the long-lasting fights, the alleged lack of industrial development, the reduced social mobility, Tuscany was the perfect ‘laboratory’ to rediscover what life was like in a pre-modern civilization.**

D) All of the above.

7. Identify the correct statement regarding the process of unification of Italy:

A) During most of its history, from the end of the Roman Empire to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, Italians have lived united under one government.

**B) For most of its history, after the fall of the Roman Empire, Italy has been fragmented politically.**

C) Italy, as a State, is much older than the USA. Unity has never been an issue in Italian history.

D) In 1861, when the Italian kingdom was created, under the Savoy dynasty, it had a federal structure, respectful of the varied history of the many Italian regions.

8. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the history of Italy during the Renaissance:

**A) Between 1494 and 1559 France, Germany, Spain and various Italian states fought constantly. In the end Spain emerged victorious, acquiring control over the South of Italy, parts of Tuscany, and Lombardy.**

B) After a long series of costly wars, the South of Italy and a small portion of Southern Tuscany fell under the influence of the Arabs, while small portions of the NE and of the NW went to Spain and to the Byzantine Empire.

C) Once the Italian states submitted directly or indirectly to foreign powers, the chances of seeing the creation of a modern unified nation in the Italian peninsula were greatly increased. Foreign occupation immediately produced popular insurrections and revolts.

D) All of the above.

9. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the European Union:

A) Spain and Portugal joined the Union during the 1950s, long before the restoration of democracy and the demise of their fascist regimes.

B) Postwar treaties in Europe originated from the great desire of peace shared by the countries that had caused and lost World War II (Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Great Britain, and Russia).

**C) Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the first economic treaties that marked the beginning of the European Union.**

D) In spite of increased cooperation in areas such as the economy, defense and foreign politics, Western Europe

during the last 60 years has had a considerable number of small military conflicts.

10. Identify the statement that correctly lists the ethnic groups and civilizations that were present in Italy during the early stages of Roman civilization:

A) Huns, Visigoths, Goths, Vandals, Germanics.

B) Tuscans, Slovenes, Albanians, Catalans, Franks.

**C) Romans, Greeks, Etruscans, Gauls, Carthaginians.**

D) Patricians, plebeians, slaves, soldiers, foreigners.

11. Identify the statement that correctly lists the most important contributions of the Greek civilization to Roman society:

A) City planning, commerce, the arch. Religious practices, such as the art of predicting the future through the observation of the guts of sacrificed animals, or of natural phenomena, mostly having to do with the sky (for example, the flight of birds).

B) Farming and the language of agriculture, the wheel, horse riding, hunting.

**C) The alphabet, elements of religion (including numerous myths and the names of many divinities), literature and music, the arts and theater.**

D) All the above.

12. Many elements of Roman civilization have survived. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

**A) The modern Neo-Latin languages (such as Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, etc.) derive from ancient Latin.**

B) We still have a large number of Latin documents and texts: for a long time they were lost or forgotten, but almost all of them have been found in the course of modern archaeological excavations.

C) No Roman city, unfortunately, has survived in its pristine form.

D) The Catholic Church and the Italian governments stopped using Latin right after the fall of the Roman Empire. However, the Latin language was reintroduced in Italian society and culture by 15<sup>th</sup>-century humanists.

13. As one can read in the first chapter of our textbook, *The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy*, the idea of Italy as a unified political structure is strongly connected to the creation of the Roman Empire. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) The process of integrating Italians from different regions into Roman society began with Julius Caesar and with the first emperor, Augustus.

B) The patriotism of famous literary works of the age of Augustus, such as Vergil's *Aeneid*, originated from a sophisticated program of propaganda, which emphasized values such as national unity and social harmony.

C) The main practical consequence of the unification of

Italy under the first Roman emperor was the conversion of Italy's towns into administrative entities with an identical political-municipal structure, dictated by Rome.

**D) All of the above.**

14. As Garry Wills pointed out in his 1997 article published by the *New York Times*, "The canon — that body of Western thought and art that is supposed to be at the core of all our education — is succumbing to attack or neglect, is opposed as repressive or dismissed as irrelevant." Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) For many intellectuals of the Renaissance, the classics were tools, even weapons, that belonged to the medieval order and to the Church: therefore they could not be used to promote effectively the new ideas of Renaissance culture.

**B) An important element in the revival of the classics is an emphasis on multiculturalism. Robert Kaster, president of the American Philological Association, points out that Vergil's *Aeneid* consciously weaves different cultures into the foundation of Rome: the Greeks who brought their culture to Latium, the Latins and Sabines already there, the Etruscans — all are presented as formative elements in the future Rome.**

C) The much-hyped multiculturalism of postmodern culture represents an insurmountable challenge to the revival of the classics, precisely when scholars are trying to reclaim their validity. Whenever there was a resurgence of interest in the classics, in the past, it was only because the classics were presented in an objective, detached way.

D) All the above.

15. In the case of Italian students, during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, how abundant were the opportunities to learn about Roman history and culture? Identify the correct statement from among the following:

**A) Following a reform that was realized during fascism under the direction of philosopher Giovanni Gentile, 20<sup>th</sup>-century Italians have studied Roman history, literature and Latin language at various stages of their curriculum.**

B) Because of the exploitation of Roman culture by the fascist propaganda, it is understandable that the postwar governments of the newly created Italian republic would abandon that reform in favor of a curriculum that emphasized the study of modernity.

C) The intellectual who had promoted and written much of the reform, Giovanni Gentile, ended up murdered by partisans at the end of the war, because the revival of the classics provided an essential basis for the fascist conservative agenda.

D) All of the above.

16. Within Roman society there was a very strong connection between power and wealth, as you can expect to find in any society that relies on a simpler organization of social and economic activities. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Roman society was organized by classes. The word *classic* comes from the Latin *classis*, which means *class*, the class par excellence being the first, to which the wealthiest Romans belonged: they incarnated the ideals of style and elegance traditionally associated with classical culture.

B) According to Livy, in ancient Rome there was "a state within the state": the traditional view of Roman society claims that the two most important social groups (patricians and plebeians) were entirely antithetic, constantly struggling against each other, with limited interaction and little political dialogue.

C) Plebeians belonged to the lower classes. They were assigned less votes when it came to deciding on key issues. They created their own democratic institutions, a sort of shadow government.

**D) All of the above.**

17. Slavery was a common institution in ancient Rome. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

**A) Manumission (emancipation) was not only the end of captivity for the Roman slave, it was also the culmination of a process of social integration, a process whereby the slave who had already been partially incorporated into Roman society became politically assimilated into the Roman state.**

B) Manumitted and freed slaves would become *liberti* (freedmen). However they could never receive full-citizen status, or get access to any of the rights available to Roman citizens.

C) Slaves were usually treated better in the big farms of the Italian countryside, where often they could earn enough money to buy back freedom. For this reason, fewer revolts of slaves took place in rural areas.

D) All of the above.

18. A number of historical movies were produced in Italy during the 1920s and 1930s. One of the most interesting examples of that historical genre was *Scipione l'africano* (=Scipio the African), a movie based on the second war between the Romans and the Carthaginians, which produced with the financial support of the Italian government. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) In the film's epilogue, the Roman general Scipione chooses his military career over his family and farm, knowing that this sacrifice will greatly benefit the Roman state.

B) Mussolini and Hitler appeared in a scene of this film, in which they were hailed with chants of "Duce, Duce" by a costumed cast of thousands (many of whom were

draftees for the Ethiopian campaign).

**C) Critics and children of 1930s Italy recognized that this movie echoed the propaganda of the Fascist regime and its mission, which was to re-educate Italians about the love of their country and about the spirit of sacrifice, about order and discipline.**

D) There are very few obvious connections between the hero of the film, Scipione, and Mussolini. It was easy to ignore the similarities between this movie's protagonist, the Roman general Scipio, and the image that the Italian public had of Mussolini.

19. The movie *Spartacus* was based on a 1951 novel by Howard Fast. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) In the movie *Spartacus* there are many relevant references to Italy and Italian civilization.

B) The movie *Spartacus* accurately portrays the coming of Christ and the spreading of Christian religion in Roman society. In the story, many characters, events and situations support the claim that Christianity marks the difference between the ancient Roman world and the culture of modern Italy.

C) The movie *Spartacus* details the fall of the great general Maximus, who after learning that he will succeed Marcus Aurelius, as emperor of the Roman Empire, is deceived by Aurelius's son Commodus. The idealist Maximus attempts to "give power back to the people of Rome and end the corruption that has crippled it."

**D) A peculiar feature of *Spartacus* and other big-budget historical movies produced in Hollywood and dedicated to the history of Rome is how little they look connected to Italy, and how much they seem to emphasize the disconnect between Roman history and Italian civilization.**

20. The Roman Empire was one of the largest in ancient history. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

**A) The territories of the Roman Empire under the first emperor, Augustus, included most of western Europe, Greece and Turkey, areas of the Middle East and of northern Africa.**

B) The territories of the Roman Empire under the first emperor, Augustus, included most of eastern Europe (even Russia), Greece and the Balkans, areas of the Middle East and of Asia.

C) The territories of the Roman Empire under the first emperor, Augustus, included most of northern Europe, England and Scotland, the Middle East and most of the African continent.

D) The territories of the Roman Empire under the first emperor, Augustus, included only central Italy, southern France, and very limited areas along the shores of the western Mediterranean Sea.

21. In 70-73 CE, when a few hundred Jewish rebels occupied a hill in the Israeli desert, in a place called Masada, of no particular strategic value, how did the Romans respond to the crisis? Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) The Romans guarded the place with a small garrison and simply waited for the eventual surrender of the occupants.

B) Roman soldiers immediately attacked Masada through its steep paths, suffering considerable casualties. Those losses were considered acceptable in the culture of the Roman military.

**C) One Roman legion (out of a total of only 29) was deployed around Masada for 3 years. Roman troops even built a ramp to have better access to the hill.**

D) The Roman government did nothing, relying just on diplomacy and propaganda to deal with the long-term effects of the crisis. Jewish historian Josephus was brought back to Rome to write a book showing the irrelevance of the whole affair.

22. When we look at the excerpts from Tacitus, about the mutiny of the Roman Legions and about the lives and crimes of the members of one of the most famous Roman imperial families, should we believe everything we read? Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Yes. Classical historians were not too different from their modern counterparts: they usually took into consideration many social and economic phenomena or trends that involved the whole society, rather than focus almost exclusively on single individuals (heroes or villains), and on the direct consequences of their actions.

**B) No. The myth of an extraordinarily corrupt Roman Empire, plagued by all kinds of immoral behaviors, especially in reference to the first century of the common era, is an exaggeration, conjured up by an elite of conservative, nostalgic historians who had a virtual monopoly in the field of historiography.**

C) Maybe. When it comes to the Roman sources regarding the time of the first Emperors, including the remaining documents pertaining to the administration of the Empire and the laws passed during that period, one cannot overlook the uniformity and consistency found in the accounts of Tacitus and other historians.

D) All of the above.

23. The episode of the murder of Agrippina is characterized by an almost Baroque representation of violence, sex, intrigue, simulation and dissimulation. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Tacitus and other Roman historians of that period, such as Suetonius, are in agreement on most of the details: this adds credibility to their reports.

**B) In reality, Nero most probably suspected that his mother wanted for herself some of the power that she**

**had procured for her son (that's why on Roman coins one finds not just the face of Nero, but also his mother's profile).**

C) Even though Tacitus structured the narration of Agrippina's murder as a classical tragedy, prepared by sins and all kinds of impious behavior and accompanied by nightmares and growing anxiety, his account of the events is still completely accurate and objective.

D) Tacitus does not pay much attention to the rumors of the possible incest between Agrippina and her son Nero, nor gives it much credit.

24. Claudio Monteverdi's opera *The coronation of Poppea* was staged in Venice for the first time in 1642 or 1643. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Venice, as a Republic, "prided itself on its direct lineage from the Roman republic, retaining the values that had been so distorted as classical Rome moved from republican strength to imperial decadence" (Tim Carter)

B) There is a thesis clearly at work throughout this opera: whenever the State is in the hands of a tyrant, immorality thrives, especially near the source of power, at the court, while the spiritual well-being of society as a whole also suffers.

C) The conclusion of the opera looks a bit unusual, because Nero and his lover, Poppea, sing together on stage celebrating their success against all enemies and the realization of their dream of love. However, this conclusion may have simply relied on the widespread knowledge of Roman history, with Poppea murdered and Nero killing himself right before being captured.

**D) All of the above.**

25. The fall of the Roman Empire cannot be explained citing just one event or a single problem. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Ancient Romans suffered from lead poisoning caused by plates and pots.

B) The growing number of Christians made it difficult for the Romans to find good soldiers.

**C) Romans had serious political problems, at the same time that they were facing an economic crisis and had to maintain a large army, and long defense lines.**

D) Malaria became a decisive factor in the fall of the Roman empire.

26. We don't really need eccentric theories to explain the end of the Roman empire, because we have sufficient knowledge of the variety of problems that affected Roman society and its economy towards the end. For example, the emperor Diocletian came up with temporary fixes/solutions for some of the empire's most serious problems. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

**A) To stop inflation Diocletian introduced fixed wages/prices, and heavier taxes. In so doing, Diocletian produced economic stagnation and a loss of social mobility. A black market economy and other forms of social disorganization followed.**

B) To put an end to the political clashes between the emperor and the senators, the Senate got back most of the power that it had lost at the end of the republic.

C) Diocletian's reforms produced a significant, long-term growth in the Roman economy, and increased social mobility.

D) To maintain social unity, Diocletian put an end to the practice of enlisting barbarians recruits, especially Germans, in the Roman army.

27. Do you remember the story and the characters in the 2002 novel entitled *The last legion*? Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) *The last legion* is the story of Attilius, an aqueduct engineer who dies in Pompeii, during the eruption of the Vesuvius volcano.

B) *The last legion* is the story of Spartacus, a slave who becomes a gladiator and fights in the arena with the last Roman emperor.

**C) *The last legion* is the story of Aurelius, a Roman veteran from an elite military unit, who rescues the young Romulus, the last Roman emperor deposed by Odoacer, a barbarian leader.**

D) *The last legion* is the story of Nero and his mother, Agrippina: it describes how they conspired to kill the Emperor Claudius and his son Britannicus.

28. Taking into consideration the contents of the 1848 book by George Dennis, *The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria*, discuss briefly the representation of Etruscan civilization and its relevance for the understanding of Italian civilization.

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29. Summarize the basic contents and/or themes of one of the foundational myths of the Romans.

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30. List some of the events and problems that had a negative impact on Roman society at the end of the Roman Republic, before the Empire was established.

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31. Summarize the basic contents and/or themes of the historical novel *Pompeii*, by Robert Harris (2003).

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32. With his detailed description of a mutiny of the Roman legions, Roman historian Tacitus wants to emphasize political, social and moral issues that were important for him and for Roman conservatives during the first century of the Roman Empire. Lists some of those issues.

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33. List the events, in the history of Italian civilization, that are associated with these three dates.  
753 BCE  
476 CE  
1861

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