

HUI216, Midterm L-Z — March 29, 2006

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

Please write your ID number here: \_\_\_\_\_

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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. This applies also to iPods, PDAs, and all portable electronic devices.

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 card ready. If there are 10-12 people waiting in line, please remain seated until the line gets shorter. Please leave the room quietly, trying not to disturb those who are still working on the exam.

1. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the complex history of Italian civilization:

- A) Different areas of Italy today have different languages and different cultures because their histories were different, even though their destinies were affected by the same crucial events at one point or another.
- B) In various areas of Italy the political institutions, the official language, the economic policies and even the school systems have been different for a very long time.
- C) When we talk about the South and the North of Italy as well-defined entities we are really making a very broad generalization. If you consider the regions in the North of Italy, for example, only the politically motivated propaganda of today's Northern league party can rightfully claim that all the regions in the Po valley have a common identity and share common traditions.
- D) All of the above.**

2. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding national and regional identities in Italian society:

- A) The creation of an Italian identity, and the very idea of Italy as one society (with one sentiment, common projects for the future and common traditions) has been a fast process compared to other countries in Europe, such as Spain, France or England.
- B) Anglo-American travel writers, such as Maurice Hewlett, found very few traces of medieval history in Tuscany. It was presumed that the fights among different city-states had been completely forgotten.
- C) Since World War II, Italians from the North and the South have reconciled their differences and have abandoned all the stereotypes that were once so common.
- D) Proverbs and sayings still popular in many regions (for example the sayings "Florentines blind," "Sienese mad"), prove that local identities have always been very strong in Italy.**

3. On January 27, 1945, the gates of the Auschwitz concentration camp were opened. Every year, on Jan. 27, Italy and other European countries remember that event and the victims of the Holocaust, thanks to the recently instituted "Day of remembrance." Identify the correct statement from among the following:

- A) The Jewish community in Rome is one of the most recently established in Europe, dating back only to the last century. There has not been a continuous Jewish presence in Italy during the last two millennia.
- B) After the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem by the Romans, in 70 BCE, Jewish prisoners and slaves were sent to Venice, and the first ghetto was created then.
- C) After the Arabs conquered Sicily, Jewish communities flourished in that area. During the**

**Middle Ages approx. 40,000 Jews were living in Sicily; the most important community was in Palermo.**

D) During the 18th century Jews were expelled from Spain. After the conquest of the kingdom of Naples by the Spaniards, many new Jewish communities appeared in the South of Italy (in Naples, Bari, Otranto, Milan).

4. Identify the correct statement regarding the history of the Italian language from among the following:

- A) Soon after the collapse of the Roman empire, when Latin ceased to be the language of the government and of the local administrations, a single national vernacular language soon appeared in Italy, and early on, before the Middle Ages, it became the basis for modern Italian.
- B) The various Italian dialects, which derived from Latin and from other non-Indo-European languages, are very similar to one another, since they are simple variations of the old Italian language.
- C) Most Italians, until the early 1960s, were bilingual, and they usually spoke a local dialect as their primary language at home or with their friends. They learned standard Italian at school (or through the media), and they used it in public places or in the presence of somebody from a different region.**
- D) Modern Italian is entirely based on the ancient language used by great late medieval writers such as Dante, Boccaccio and Tacitus.

5. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding foreign immigration to Italy in recent years:

- A) The number of foreign-born residents living in Italy has remained constant during the last 15 years.
- B) The number of foreign-born residents living in Italy has decreased significantly during the last 15 years.
- C) The number of foreign-born residents living in Italy has grown significantly during the last 15 years.**
- D) The number of foreign-born residents living in Italy and in the rest of the European Union is much larger than in the USA.

6. The Northern League, a major force in Italian politics today, is a party that was created explicitly to promote the idea of a federal reform of the constitution.

Federalism is an issue that has a long history in Italy.

Identify the correct statement from among the following:

- A) After long debates, the Italian Parliament seems to have finally abandoned the idea of introducing a form of federalism in the 20 Italian Regions.
- B) Most Italians soon after unification developed a strong sense of loyalty to their new national political institutions.
- C) Since local identities and cultures had lost their strength, the new constitution of the Italian republic, passed in 1948, recommended that regions be given only

very limited autonomy.

**D) Many Italians during the 1860s felt that the process of unification was similar to a military conquest. They failed to identify with the national State and did not develop a strong sense of loyalty to their new national institutions.**

7. In 1861 the Kingdom of Italy was established under the Savoy (or Savoia) family, formerly Dukes of Piedmont. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) In 1947 Italy became a Republic after what many call a civil war, fought between partisans and Germans on one side, and loyal supporters of the monarchy on the other.

**B) According to the Article 13 of the Transitory and final provisions of the first Italian Constitution, members and descendants of the House of Savoy could not enter Italy. In 2002 this article of the Constitution was finally changed.**

C) Article 13, banning the Savoys from Italy, is still part of the Italian Constitution, even though a large majority of the Parliament would like to see it changed. Italians have never forgotten that during World War II their royals left Rome and went to live in London, under the protection of the Allied forces.

D) All of the above.

8. Identify the correct statement regarding the main institutions of the European Union, from among the following:

**A) The European Parliament is elected by the citizens of the member states of the Union. For a long time the European parliament has been just a consulting body. Now it is a legislative body, whose powers will become fully operational once the European constitution is approved.**

B) The European Central Bank uses European funds to support a balanced economic development within the Union. The principle behind these subsidies is that the various countries of the EU — rich or poor, large or small — cannot be equal partners if each one of them doesn't receive exactly the same amount of funds.

C) The European Commission deals with complaints from the citizens, especially regarding the incorrect use of European funds.

D) The Court of Justice is the executive body, with the right to initiate legislation. The Court is where the actual power and authority is, within the institutions of the European Union, the place where all the important decisions of the last decade have been made.

9. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Italy during the period after the foundation of Rome:

A) Under the Roman government, Italy was united for a

very long time, since the time when the Republic was established in Rome.

**B) The Latins (later known as Romans, after the foundation of the city of Rome) and the Greeks originally were Indo-Europeans. The Latins and other Indo-European groups arrived in Italy in several waves, coming from the East and from the North.**

C) With the example of their legal system, the Etruscans contributed to the creation of the first Roman laws, the Laws of the 12 tables. According to Roman sources, a committee of legal experts was sent to Piedmont to study their model of the administration of justice.

D) Greeks living in Italy were responsible for introducing only a very small number of words in Latin, which later got into Italian and other languages: e.g. "person" (Italian *persona*) comes from a Greek word that designated the mask worn by theatrical performers.

10. Pre-Roman and Roman Italy was inhabited by various ethnic groups and saw the development of various cultures and civilizations. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) In areas of northern Italy, especially in Veneto and Lombardy, there are communities still speaking a dialect called Griko or Griko, which derives from the Greek language. Those Greek-speaking Italians are the direct descendants of the original Greeks from classical antiquity.

**B) Magna Graecia [=Great Greece] for a long time has been the name used to identify southern Italy, because of the number of Greek colonies that were established there during antiquity (Naples, Syracuse, etc.).**

C) The foundation of the city of Rome was universally attributed by Roman traditions to a man called Hannibal. He was a Carthaginian hero celebrated in the Greek epic poem entitled the *Iliad*.

D) Important contributions of the Greek civilization to Roman society include city planning, commerce, and religious practices, such as the art of predicting the future through the observation of the guts of sacrificed animals, or of natural phenomena (for example, the flight of birds).

11. 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.

12. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the structures of the ancient Roman society:

A) Marriage between Patricians and Plebeians was accepted and even encouraged, as Romans were intent on eliminating all social divisions.

**B) Roman society was organized by income and by class (in fact the word “classic” comes from the Latin *classis*, which means *class*, with reference to the first class, the wealthiest).**

C) Foreigners who lived in Rome, and who had a business there, had the same legal rights that Roman citizens had.

D) Slaves were very seldom allowed to regain their freedom in Roman society. Even when they were emancipated, they did not have access to the rights and privileges of other citizens.

13. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding slavery in ancient Rome:

A) In Roman society, slaves were usually prisoners of war (not just soldiers of a defeated army, but also civilians captured and deported). Slave breeding was common, and exposure of infants, trade, and kidnapping or piracy were all significant sources of slaves.

B) The fact that a number of slaves were emancipated and integrated into Roman society is atypical in the context of ancient civilizations. During the age of the Roman Empire, in a period of wild capitalism, there is anecdotal evidence that more than a few *liberti* (freedmen) became very wealthy.

C) Roman writer Varro, in a book on agriculture divides the instruments of agriculture into three classes, the articulate, the inarticulate and the mute: the articulate comprising the slaves, the inarticulate comprising the cattle, and the mute comprising the vehicles.

**D) All of the above.**

14. The wars against the Carthaginians soon became part of Roman culture and folklore (see Vergil's poem, entitled *Aeneid*). Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) During one of the Punic Wars, the Romans defended the Greek cities of Sicily and so managed to preserve the independence of those small city-states for a very long time.

B) In ancient times Carthage was the superpower of the eastern Mediterranean Sea, but Rome was not lagging behind in the technology of naval warfare. In fact Carthaginians used a captured Roman ship to improve the characteristics of their warships.

**C) During one of the Punic Wars Carthaginian general Hannibal crossed the Alps and invaded Italy. The lyrics of a 1993 Italian rap song are based on this event.**

D) All of the above.

15. The last 100 years of the Roman Republic were characterized by internal fights and social tensions, violence and instability. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) The social war was fought by Rome against the so-called barbarians (Vandals, Ostrogoths, Huns, Germans, etc.). At the end of the war they were given access to Roman citizenship and to full legal/political rights.

B) Although slave wars had been a serious problem in ancient times, Roman society did not have any war during the last one hundred years of the Republic.

C) Only one civil war was fought during the last one hundred years of the Roman Republic, the war between Julius Caesar and Spartacus.

**D) Tiberius Gracchus proposed a reform to redistribute public land (until then leased mostly to rich landowners), but he was brutally assassinated before the provisions necessary to implement that law could be approved. This caused more tension in Roman society.**

16. The movie *Spartacus* was based on a 1951 novel by American writer 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.**

17. The book written by Edward Luttwak, *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire*, looks back to the experience of the ancient Romans to find examples that could be helpful for modern-day strategists. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) The endurance of the Roman empire depended solely on a fortunate succession of great generals and a multitude of competent soldiers.

**B) The principal goal of the Romans was to provide security for their civilization without constraining the vitality of its economic base and without compromising the stability of the political order.**

C) Roman tactics were almost invariably superior, and the typical Roman soldier was a warrior intent on proving his courage, initiative and extraordinary heroism.

D) Roman weapons were universally more advanced than those used by their enemies.

18. According to Edward Luttwak’s 1976 book, *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire*, it is evident that the Romans understood all the subtleties of deterrence: the episode of Masada confirms this thesis. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Faced with the resistance of a few hundred Jews on a mountain in the Judean desert, the Romans chose to insulate the rebels by posting just a few hundred men to guard them.

B) At a time when the Roman army had a total of 29 legions, 15 legions were deployed to besiege Masada, and to block access to the fortress with great works of engineering.

C) Faced with the resistance of a few hundred Jews on a mountain in the Judean desert, the Romans tried many times to attack, a strategy which resulted in a high number of casualties.

**D) After Masada was conquered, at the end of a long siege, Jewish historian Josephus was taken to Rome, where he was paid to write a detailed account of the events, in Greek (a language commonly known in the eastern regions of the empire).**

19. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Edward Luttwak’s book, *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire*:

**A) Three distinct systems of imperial security can be identified in ancient Rome. Each system was**

**intended to satisfy a distinct set of priorities: hegemonic expansionism for the first system, territorial security for the second, and sheer survival for the last one.**

B) The ideal Roman general was a true hero, often leading his troops in reckless charges to victory or death. He’d rather accept the inevitable losses of full-scale warfare or suffer great casualties in taking fortifications by storm than advance in a slow and carefully prepared manner.

C) The Romans learned that the most desirable use of the army is exclusively military, not political; and indeed they conquered the entire Hellenistic world with endless battles and very little diplomacy.

D) Roman armies had a peculiar quality: Roman soldiers would quickly win a number of battles on the field, but they were very easily defeated in a prolonged military campaign. This happened because they usually lacked the support of a large and complex security system.

20. Tacitus was one of the most famous and gifted historians in ancient Rome. His historical works were widely read after they were rediscovered between the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

**A) Tacitus spent most of his life working as a loyal administrator of the Roman empire. Among other things, he wrote the *Germania*, one of the first reports on the ancient Germans. Even though they were considered barbarians, Tacitus manages to see in the Germans traces of those qualities that he thought had made the first Romans great and powerful.**

B) Tacitus participated in a number of plots to overthrow evil emperors such as Tiberius, Nero and Caligula. Fortunately for him, he was never caught, and he lived to tell about the evil deeds of those leaders.

C) Tacitus had complete confidence in the conservative senators and admired them for their courage, their leadership and their skills in devising well-organized, effective plans to reinstate democracy in Rome.

D) Tacitus’s political ideology and his nostalgia of the Republican era did not affect his objectivity as a historian.

21. The description of a mutiny of the Roman legions provided by Tacitus makes us understand some of the political and social issues that were important during the first century of the Roman Empire. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Tacitus sympathizes with the soldiers and takes side with them on all issues.

**B) Tacitus, like many other conservatives in Roman society, did not look favorably at the political alliance between emperors and soldiers.**

C) References to the questionable morality of leaders of the mutiny such as Percennius are not meant to detract from the validity of the claims of the soldiers.

D) Tacitus's description of the conditions of the Roman soldiers is not a realistic portrait of military life under the Roman Empire.

22. The episodes written by Tacitus on the life of emperor Nero helped establish the legend of an extraordinarily corrupt Roman empire. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) The mechanism of succession from one emperor to the next was not clearly regulated in ancient Rome. This lack of fixed rules allowed Nero and his mother to act quickly and win the throne.

B) Nero was acclaimed Emperor in front of a small military unit, that was guarding the imperial palace. The Roman Senate followed "the voice of the soldiers," without asking why former Claudius's will was not publicly read (it may have mentioned his son Britannicus, legitimate heir to the throne).

C) When Nero became emperor, he was just a teenager. During the first years of reign he was assisted by Seneca, a great philosopher from Spain, and Burrus, a man with extensive experience in the military.

**D) All of the above.**

23. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Tacitus's account of the murder of Agrippina, the mother of emperor Nero:

A) According to Tacitus, after Agrippina had been killed, the emperor Nero was overwhelmed by guilt and fear.

B) When the Roman Senate learned of the shipwreck, and of the alleged attempt by Agrippina to have Nero killed by one of her messengers, most Senators chose to believe the emperor's story. Only one of them, Thrasea Paetus, walked out of the Senate in protest.

C) According to Tacitus, it is not by chance that, following the murder of Agrippina and other "abominations" perpetrated by Nero, there was a great fire in the city of Rome.

**D) All of the above.**

24. The emperor Constantine (305-337 CE) is one of the most famous in Roman history. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) An official historical document from the age of the Roman empire, which survived through the Middle Ages, proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that Constantine donated the city of Rome to the Pope and to the Church. He did it to show gratitude, and out of respect for the religion he had converted to.

B) Constantine moved the capital of the Roman empire from Rome to Milan, in northern Italy, to be closer to the borders of the empire in central and eastern Europe,

areas strategically important and economically vital.

C) Constantine moved the capital of the Roman empire from Italy to the Middle East, to bring the administrative and military apparatus closer to those areas that had become culturally and spiritually important, Israel and Egypt.

**D) With the edict of Milan Constantine guaranteed freedom of cult for the Christians. Constantine himself, according to tradition, converted to Christianity, either out of a sincere personal desire, or driven by political reasons.**

25. Under the emperor Septimus Severus (193-211 CE) the crisis of the empire became evident. Roman society, and particularly the economy and the military, suffered from problems that became increasingly common during the declining years of the empire. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) In spite of frequent attacks by Germans, in central and eastern Europe, and by Persians in the Middle East, the Roman empire continued to expand for a long time after the second century. Those conquests supported the continued expansion of the economy.

B) To compensate for the existing trade deficit, Severus reduced the number of troops in the Roman army. Public funds previously employed to maintain a large army were used instead to support the frail economy.

**C) Inflation increased significantly, and reached the level of hyperinflation. Trade deficit and a shortage of silver and gold made things worse.**

D) To reduce the existing deficit and to boost the economy, Severus increased the amount of silver or gold contained in Roman coins. The use of coins once again replaced the barter system that had been established in several areas.

26. 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 barbarian leader Odoacer.**

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.

27. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the chronology of Roman civilization:

- A) The Eastern Roman Empire, whose capital was Constantinople (later called Byzantium), survived until 1453.
- B) The city of Rome was founded around 753 BCE, and became a Republic around 509 BCE.
- C) The Roman Empire was established in 27 BCE, and, in Italy, it fell in 476 CE.
- D) All of the above.**

28. Briefly discuss the issue of identity (local, regional and national) with reference to Italian civilization.

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29. Anglo-American travel writers from the late 1800s and the early 1900s often managed to find in Tuscany not just ruins and fading memories of the past, but the living traces of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Summarize the ideas of Maurice Hewlett and his view of the Italians living in Tuscany.

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30. Taking into consideration especially 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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31. Briefly discuss the representation of the connections between Roman civilization and modern Italy, with reference to the contents and/or themes of the 1937 movie *Scipione l'Africano* (Scipio Africanus).

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32. The collapse of the Roman Empire in Italy and the West cannot be explained citing just one event or a single problem. List some of the key reasons for the decline of the Roman Empire.

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33. Summarize the contents and/or themes of the movie *Gladiator*.

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