

**Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations**



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**GCSE LATIN**

**(1942)**

**SOURCE MATERIAL:      ROMAN LIFE TOPICS 3 - 5**

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## 3 Topic 3: The City of Rome

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### 3.1 Photograph of the Forum Romanum



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The Sacred Way (via sacra) runs through the middle and the senate house is in the mid-distance.

### 3.2 Plan of the Forum Romanum and its immediate surroundings in the 1st century A.D.

Candidates should consult a **plan of the Roman Forum** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 4, Stage 29, p.16.

### 3.3 The buildings of Rome

To reduce the number of collapses, Augustus lowered the height of new buildings and ordered that they should not be raised higher than seventy feet on the public streets.

Strabo, *Geography* 5.3.7

- 3.4** Who fears or ever feared the collapse of a house at cool Praeneste?...We inhabit a city supported to a great extent by slender props; for in this way the bailiff saves the houses from falling. The place to live in is where there are no fires, no nocturnal alarms.

Juvenal, 3.190-198

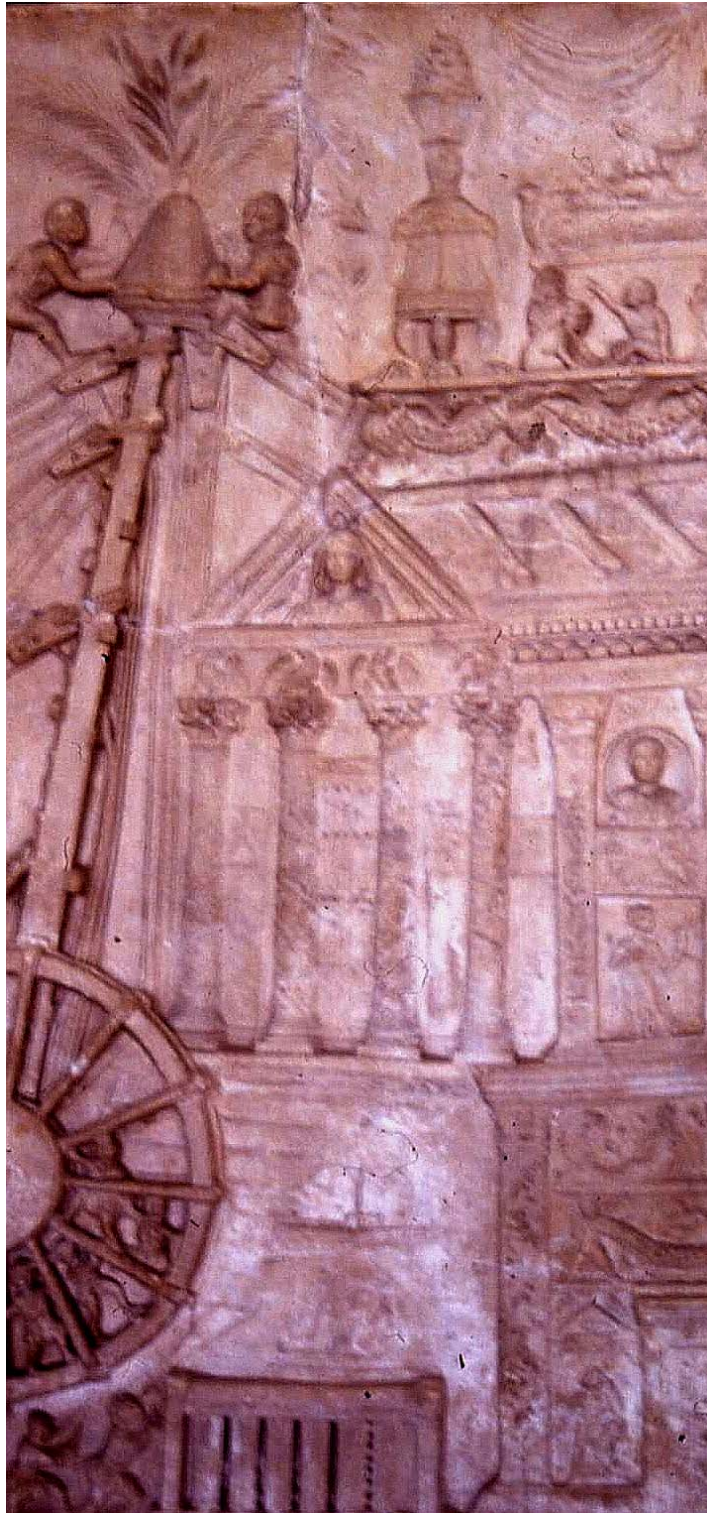
- 3.5** Since the city [Rome] was not as splendid as befitted the majesty of the empire and was subject to flood and fire, he [Augustus] made it so beautiful that he could justly boast that he found it a city of brick and left it a city of marble.

Suetonius, *Augustus*, 28

- 3.6** Augustus erected many public works, among them the following: his forum, with the temple of Mars the Avenger...and the temple of Jupiter the Thunderer on the Capitol. His reason for building the forum was the increase in the number of people and lawsuits which seemed to call for a third forum since two were no longer adequate.

Suetonius, *Augustus*, 28

3.7 Photograph of Haterius' crane



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### 3.8 Photograph of the reliefs on the tomb of the Haterii



© J Waller 2004

Candidates could also consult a **photograph of the reliefs on the tomb of the Haterii** printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 3B (Integrated Edition), Stage 30, p. 37.

### 3.9 The water supply

Water is brought to the city through aqueducts in such quantities that rivers flow through the city and the sewers; and almost every house has cisterns and service pipes and copious fountains.

Strabo, *Geography*, 5.3.8

- 3.10** With regard to the drawing of water in private houses, he (the water commissioner) must check that no one draws water without written authorisation from the emperor - that is, that no one draws public water he has not been authorised to, and no one draws more than he has been authorised to. The channels outside the city must be frequently inspected with great care...the same must be done in the case of the reservoirs and public fountains, so that water flows day and night without interruption.

Frontinus, *On the Aqueducts*, 2

### 3.11 Photograph of an aqueduct approaching Rome

Candidates should consult a **photograph of an aqueduct** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 4, Stage 31, p. 55.

### 3.12 Trajan's Market

A view of a prestigious shopping development in Rome, built by the emperor Trajan.



© M Thorpe 2004

View into a broad passage lined with shops.

Candidates could also consult **photographs of Trajan's market** printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 4, Stage 31, p.53.

### 3.13 Photograph of the dome of the Pantheon (interior)



© M Thorpe 2004

### 3.14 Inscription from the Arch of Titus

SENATUS  
POPULUSQUE ROMANUS  
DIVO TITO DIVI VESPASIANI F(ILIO)  
VESPASIANO AUGUSTO

The senate and people of Rome (dedicated this arch) to the deified Titus Vespasian Augustus, son of the deified Vespasian.

The Arch of Titus, at one end of the Roman Forum, bears this inscription (CIL, vi.945). The arch commemorates the defeat of the Jewish rebellion in 70 A.D. by the Roman forces.



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### 3.15 The interior of the Colosseum



© M Thorpe 2004

This illustration shows where the animal cages and machinery would have been hidden by a wooden floor spread with sand.

### 3.16 The exterior of the Colosseum



© A Carter 2004

### 3.17 Entertainment

It was the height of political wisdom for the emperor not to neglect actors and other stage performers, the circus and the arena, since we know that the Roman people is held fast by two things above all, the grain supply and the shows, and that the success of the government depends on amusements as much as serious things.

Fronto, *Elements of History*, 17

### 3.18 The amphitheatre

I chanced to stop at a mid-day show expecting fun, wit and relaxation, but it was just the reverse. The earlier combats were merciful by comparison...now it is pure murder. The men have no protective covering. Their entire bodies are exposed to blows and no blow is ever struck in vain. In the morning men are thrown to the lions and the bears, at noon they are thrown to their spectators. The spectators call for the slayer to be thrown to those who in turn will slay him, and they save the victor for another butchering.

Seneca, *Moral Epistles* 7.3-5

### 3.19 The circus

Gaius Appuleius Diocles, charioteer of the Red Stable, a Spaniard by birth, aged 42 years, 7 months, 23 days. He drove his first chariot for the White Stable in the consulship of Acilius Ariola and Corellius Pansa. He won his first victory in the same stable...

Grand totals: he drove chariots for 20 years and won 1462 victories. He won a total of 35,863,120 sesterces.

From a monument put up by admirers and stable-mates, perhaps on the occasion of his retirement.

### 3.20 Relief showing charioteers in the Circus

Candidates should consult a **picture of a relief showing charioteers in the Circus** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 4, Stage 33, p. 91.

### 3.21 The theatre

There are (different) kinds of scenes, tragic and comic. Their decorations are different and unlike each other. Tragic scenes have columns, pediments, statues and other objects suited to kings; comic scenes show private houses, with balconies and views representing rows of windows.

Vitruvius, *On Architecture* 5.6

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## 4 Topic 4 - The Structure of Roman Society

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### 4.1 Relief showing an Emperor dealing with affairs of state.



© A Carter 2004

Relief from the Arch of Constantine in Rome, showing the presentation of a barbarian chief to the emperor (left) and prisoners being led to the emperor (right). The emperor stands on a platform to the left of each picture.

Candidates could also consult a **photograph of a relief of an Emperor dealing with affairs of state** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 5, Stage 37, p. 44.

### 4.2 The Emperor had a wide range of duties both in Rome and in the provinces.

(Domitian) took such good care supervising the city magistrates and provincial governors that they were more honest and fair during his reign than at any other time.

(Suetonius: Life of Domitian.8)

### 4.3 Pliny as governor of Bithynia writes to the emperor Trajan about the problems he has encountered there.

I beg you, master, to advise me on the following matter. I am uncertain whether I ought to continue using public slaves in various towns as prison warders, or to put soldiers on guard duty in the prisons. I am afraid that the public slaves are not sufficiently reliable, but on the other hand, this would take up the time of quite a number of soldiers. For now, I have put a few soldiers on guard with the slaves, but there is a danger, in my opinion, that this may lead to a neglect of duty on both sides, when each can put the blame on the other for a fault they may both have committed.

(Pliny: Letters X.19.)

#### 4.4 **Trajan's reply to Pliny's request for citizenship for his Egyptian doctor Arpocras.**

Following the rule of my predecessors, I do not intend to grant Alexandrian citizenship except in special cases. However, as you have already acquired Roman citizenship for your doctor Arpocras, I cannot refuse this additional request. You must inform me of the man's district so that I can write you a letter for my friend....the prefect of Egypt.

(Pliny: Letters X.7.) (adapted)

#### 4.5 **The Emperor, as Pontifex Maximus, presiding at sacrifice**

Candidates should consult a **photograph of a relief of an Emperor presiding at a sacrifice** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 4B (Second Edition), p. 171.

#### 4.6 **The Emperor's generosity.**

(Vespasian) granted payments to senators who did not possess the property qualification of their rank and secured an annual pension of 5,000 gold pieces for impoverished ex-consuls. He rebuilt, on a grander scale than before, many cities throughout the empire which had been burnt or destroyed by earthquakes, and he showed himself a devoted patron of the arts and sciences. When an engineer offered to haul some huge columns up onto the Capitol by means of a mechanical device, Vespasian declined his services saying, "I must always make sure that ordinary people can earn enough money to buy themselves food."

(Suetonius: Life of Vespasian 17-18)

#### 4.7 The Emperor's Council.

**When the Emperor was administering the law or taking a decision on which he needed advice, he could summon his council and ask the opinion of friends such as Pliny.**

- 4.7.1 I have just answered an invitation to join a committee of advisers of our excellent Emperor at an inquiry he is holding into the gymnastic games at Vienna. These used to be held under the terms of some person's will, until Trebonius Rufinus, a distinguished citizen and friend of mine, took steps to have them...abolished.

(Pliny: Letters IV.22.)

- 4.7.2 I was delighted to be invited by the Emperor to join his council at Centumcellae, where I am now... . There were several different types of case which tested his judicial powers in various ways... . The case heard on the following day was that of Gallitta, charged with adultery. She was the wife of a military tribune who was just about to stand for political office... . On the third day, an inquiry into the will of Julius Tiro began, a case which had caused a great deal of discussion and conflicting rumours. Some of the clauses added to the will were agreed to be genuine; the rest were said to be forged.

(Pliny: Letters VI.31.)

#### 4.8 This picture shows the Senate House (Curia) in the Forum Romanum in Rome.



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#### **4.9 Pliny was Prefect of the Treasury of Saturn which was housed in the Temple of Saturn overlooking the Forum Romanum**

Candidates should consult a **photograph of the Temple of Saturn (Roman Forum)** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 5, Stage 37, p. 48 or Book 5 (Integrated Edition), Stage 37, p.37.

#### **4.10 Senators.**

**This dedication lists the posts held by a man of senatorial rank, following the cursus honorum (ladder of office).**

To Gaius Ummidius Quadratus, son of Gaius, of the Terentine tribe; consul; legatus of Tiberius in the province of Lusitania; legatus of the deified Claudius in Illyricum, and of Claudius and Nero in Syria; proconsul of the province of Cyprus; Quaestor of the deified Augustus and Tiberius; curule aedile; praetor in charge of the treasury...prefect for distributing grain.

(*CIL*, III.4013)

#### **4.11 Equites**

##### **4.11.1 The following dedication gives details of an equestrian career.**

Lucius Julius Vehilius Julianus; prefect of the Praetorian Guard; prefect of the grain supply; financial secretary to the Emperor; prefect of the fleet at Misenum; prefect of the fleet at Ravenna;...imperial procurator of the province of Lusitania....

(*CIL*, VI.798)

**4.11.2** You and I both come from the same town, went to the same school and have been friends since we were children...so there are good reasons why I should try to improve your position. You are a town councillor of Comum which shows that your present capital is 100,000 sesterces, so I want to give you another 300,000 sesterces to make up your qualification for the rank of eques.

(Pliny: Letters I.19.)

#### **4.12 The poor (plebs).**

**4.12.1 Free grain was distributed to the poor in Rome. In this mosaic from Ostia, a consignment of grain, which has arrived in the port, is being measured.**

Candidates should consult a **photograph of a mosaic showing grain being measured** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 4, Stage 32, p.72.

**4.12.2 The poet Juvenal writes about the disadvantages of being poor.**

What poor man inherits a legacy? When does he sit as an assessor to the aediles?  
Poor citizens should have left Rome in a body long ago. Those whose meagre property stands in the way of their talents do not find it easy to get to the top.

(Juvenal: Satires III.160-165)

## 4.13 Slaves

**4.13.1 This picture shows prisoners of war, sitting among the captured weapons and waiting to be sold as slaves.**

Candidates should consult a **picture of prisoners of war, waiting to be sold as slaves** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 1, Stage 6, p. 78.

**4.13.2 Slaves were employed in all kinds of work, both skilled and unskilled. This picture shows a slave serving food and drink.**

Candidates should consult a **picture of a slave serving food or drink** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 1, Stage 6, p. 79.



#### **4.13.3 A slave nursing a child.**

Candidates should consult **a picture of a slave nursing a child** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 1, Stage 6, p. 79.

#### **4.14 A Roman official (Lictor) touches a kneeling slave with a rod (vindicta) while a slave who has already been freed (on the left) is shaking hands with someone who may be his master. Both slaves are wearing the felt hat (pilleus) to mark their freedom.**

Candidates should consult **pictures of freed slaves** similar to those printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 1, Stage 6, p. 69.

#### 4.15 **Inscriptional evidence for the friendly relationships between ex-masters and their freedmen and freedwomen.**

4.15.1 DM  
T FLAVIO HOMERO T  
FLAVIVS HYACINTHVS  
PATRONO BENE MERENTI

To the spirits of the departed  
in memory of Titus Flavius Homerus,  
Titus Flavius Hyacinthus  
set up this tombstone  
to a generous ex-master

(CIL, VI 18109)

4.15.2 DM  
TITVS FLAVIVS EV  
MOLPVS ET FLAVIA  
QVINTA SIBI FECE  
RVNT ET LIBERTIS LI  
BERTABVSQVE POS  
TERISQVE EORUM

To the spirits of the departed  
Titus Flavius Eumolpus  
and Flavia  
Quinta built (this tomb) for themselves,  
and their freedmen  
and their freedwomen  
and their descendants.

(CIL, VI 18152)

#### 4.16 **The poet Horace was the son of a freedman.**

Everyone looks down on me as my father was a freedman; now, they are jealous of my friendship with Maecenas; previously, they envied me because I was a military tribune.

(Horace: Satires I.6)

- 4.17 This picture shows the garden (peristylum) of the house of Vettii, two freedmen who became very rich and owned one of the most splendid houses in Pompeii.



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Candidates could also consult a **picture of the house of Vettii** printed in the Cambridge Latin Course: Book 1, Stage 6, p. 81.

#### 4.18 The Emperor's freedman Pallas.

- 4.18.1 Pliny comments on the honours awarded to Pallas, the freedman and secretary of the Emperor Claudius. He was given an honorary praetorship and a praetor's privileges.

On the road to Tibur, less than a mile from Rome, as I noticed the other day, there is a monument to Pallas with the following inscription:

'To him the senate decreed, in return for his loyal services to his patrons, the insignia of a praetor and the sum of fifteen million sesterces, but he thought fit to accept only the honour.'

...This inscription makes me realise what a ridiculous farce it is when they (the honours) can be thrown away on such trash, and that scoundrel could presume to accept and refuse them all, with a show of setting an example of moderation for posterity.

(Pliny: Letters VII.29)

#### **4.18.2 Tacitus also refers to the honours awarded to Pallas.**

Claudius proposed to the Senate that women marrying slaves should be penalised... The Emperor revealed that this proposal originated from Pallas, who as a result was awarded an honorary praetorship and fifteen million sesterces... Claudius reported that Pallas was content with the honour but refused the money. So the Senate's decree (offering him the praetorship) was engraved in bronze, praising the old-fashioned economy of an ex-slave, who possessed 300 million sesterces.

(Tacitus: Annals 12.53) (adapted)

#### **4.19 Patronage**

##### **4.19.1 Pliny has donated a temple to Tifernum on Tiber.**

Close to my property is the town of Tifernum which adopted me as its patron when I was little more than a child...and so to express my gratitude I have built a temple in the town at my own expense. As this is now finished...we shall be there for the day of the dedication which I have decided to celebrate with a public feast.

(Pliny: Letters IV.1)

##### **4.19.2 Horace addresses Maecenas, the patron of poets.**

The excellent Virgil and then Varius told you what sort of man I was. When I met you in person...I did not say that I was born of a famous father nor that I rode around my Tarentine estate on a horse, but I told you what I was... Nine months later you asked me back and invited me to join your circle of friends. I consider it important that I won your favour...not because I had a highly distinguished father, but because of my faultless life and character.

(Horace: Satires I.6.54-64)

#### **4.20 Clients**

**Martial describes the miserable life of a client in Rome, and complains about the small fee for so much work.**

**4.20.1** O Rome! Pity the poor client who has to offer congratulations – I'm worn out. How long in this milling crowd of men of humble station shall I earn a hundred worthless coins in a whole day, when Scopus, the winner of a race, in one hour carries off fifteen bags of shining gold?

(Martial: Epigrams X.74)

**4.20.2** You order me to perform for you the duties of a new and recent friend, Fabianus; that at first light, shivering, I should greet you and that your litter should drag me through the middle of the mud; that when I am worn out, I should follow you at the tenth hour or later to the baths of Agrippa... Is this what I have deserved, Fabianus, that, when my toga is threadbare, you think I have not yet earned my discharge?

(Martial: Epigrams III.36)

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## 5 Topic 5 – Women in Roman Society

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### 5.1 Inscriptions from Roman tombstones in memory of husbands and wives provide information about Roman married life.

- 5.1.1 here lies  
Amygone  
wife of Marcus  
most good and  
most beautiful  
wool spinner  
dutiful modest  
careful chaste  
home-loving

(CIL, VI.11602)

- 5.1.2 To a most kind and loving wife  
whose life was outstanding because of her praiseworthy habits  
and activities, and all the virtues of her character.  
In hard work, she surpassed all the women of the past.

- 5.1.3 To Aurelia Vercella, my most sweet wife, who lived 17 years more or less... I have no more desires. Anthimus, her husband.

(CIL, VIII.3463) (Lambaesis, North Africa)

- 5.1.4 To the eternal memory of Blandinia Martiola, a most modest and blameless girl who lived 18 years, 9 months, 5 days. To his incomparable and most kind wife, who lived with him 5 years, 6 months, 18 days without any kind of fault, Pompeius Catussa put up this tombstone for himself and his wife. You who read this, go to the baths of Apollo, as I used to with my wife. I wish I still could.

(CIL, XIII.1983) (Lyons, France)

### 5.2 This painting of a Roman woman comes from a wooden coffin lid from Egypt.

Candidates should consult a **picture of a Roman woman** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 2, Stage 19, p. 17.

**5.3 Pliny writes in praise of his wife Calpurnia, whom he married when she was about fifteen and he was in his early forties.**

She is very sharp, careful with the housekeeping money and she loves me, which is proof of her virtue. She takes an interest in literature because of her love for me. She keeps copies of my speeches, reads them over and over again and even learns them by heart. She is tortured by worry when I am about to plead in court and is overcome with relief when the case is over... . She sets my poems to music and also sings them, taught not by some musician, but by love, the best of teachers.

(Pliny: Letters IV.19)

**5.4 A Roman betrothal ring from the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.**

Candidates should consult a **picture of a betrothal ring** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 4A (Second Edition), p. 73.

**5.5 The dowry**

What prospective son-in-law ever appeared acceptable if he was short of cash to match the girl's dowry?

(Juvenal: Satires III.160)

**5.6 The wedding ceremony is mentioned by Tacitus and Juvenal in their references to the marriage between the Emperor's wife Messalina and the consul designate Silius in 47 A.D. (Both were subsequently executed.)**

**5.6.1** Messalina listened to the soothsayer's words, put on the wedding veil and sacrificed to the gods. The (bridal) pair took their places at a banquet and finally spent the night as man and wife.

(Tacitus: Annals XI.2)

**5.6.2** She sits there waiting for him veiled as a bride...a big traditional dowry will be handed over, the ceremony duly witnessed and omens taken.

(Juvenal: 10.334ff)

**5.6.3 This relief shows the joining of right hands of the bride and the groom during a Roman marriage ceremony.**

Candidates should consult a **photograph of a marriage ceremony** printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 5, Stage 38, p. 49 and 63.

**5.7 The Romans showed respect to women who were married only once and gave them the title 'univirae'.**

**5.7.1** A woman who is really happy and virtuous never marries more than once.

**5.7.2** The elder Marcella, when asked by her mother if she was glad she had married, replied that she had been extremely happy. "That is why I should never marry again."

(Seneca: On Marriage)

**5.8 Divorce**

**Childlessness was the main reason Roman marriages failed, but there were other reasons too, including constant quarrelling and objectionable behaviour. Cicero, in a letter to his friend Atticus, describes one incident between his brother Quintus and his brother's wife, Pomponia.**

**5.8.1** We lunched at Arcanum. When we arrived, Quintus said quite politely, "Pomponia, you invite the women and I will call the slaves together." There was nothing to get angry about in my opinion, either in what he said or the way in which he said it. But, so that everyone could hear, Pomponia replied, "Me? So, I am just a stranger here," just because Quintus had made the lunch arrangements without telling her, I imagine... We sat down to eat, but she refused to join us and when Quintus sent her some food from the table, she sent it back.

(Cicero: ad Atticum 14.13.5)

### 5.8.2 A divorce declaration discovered on an Egyptian papyrus.

Zois, daughter of Heraclides, and Antipater, the son of Zeno, agree that they have separated from each other, ending the marriage which they made in the seventeenth year of Augustus Caesar, and Zois acknowledges that she has received from Antipater the goods which he was previously given as a dowry, clothes worth 120 drachmas and a pair of gold earrings. Hereafter, it will be lawful for Zois to marry another man and for Antipater to marry another woman... .

### 5.9 Roman women were allowed to attend dinner parties with their husbands.

Candidates should consult a **picture of a Roman woman attending a dinner party with her husband** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 5, Stage 38, p. 64.

### 5.10 Women had opportunities for social life outside the home. The poet Ovid gives an exaggerated picture of some women's attempts to escape from their husbands.

What is the good of setting a guard on a woman when there are so many theatres in Rome, when she enjoys the chariot races, when she attends the festival of Isis, when there are baths and there is always a sick friend to visit?

(Ovid: Amores)



**5.11 Some women had great power within the home. The Roman poets Juvenal and Martial make fun of this.**

**5.11.1** If you want to give someone a present, buy or sell a property, *she* has the veto on all such dealings. She even controls your friendships.

(Juvenal: Satires VI.212ff)

**5.11.2** You ask why I am unwilling to take a rich woman as my wife. I don't want to marry a wife who will be a husband. Let the woman obey her husband, Priscus. In no other way do man and woman become equal.

(Martial: Epigrams VIII.12)

**5.12 Some women also had considerable influence outside the home.**

**5.12.1** In his book, *The Conspiracy of Catiline*, the writer Sallust included a section on different kinds of people who supported Catiline.

Among these was Sempronia, a woman who had already committed many crimes requiring the reckless daring of a man. Fortune had smiled on her. For she was of noble birth and great beauty and had a distinguished husband and fine children; she was well educated in Greek and Latin literature; she could sing and play the lyre and could dance more elegantly than any decent woman would have considered necessary; and she had many other of the accomplishments which tend to go with loose living. She cared nothing about keeping up standards or behaving respectably and squandered her money and her reputation with equal abandon. Her passions were so ardent that she made advances to men more often than she waited for them to approach her. Even before this time she had often broken a solemn promise, denied all knowledge of a debt, and been party to murder. And by now, a combination of extravagance and lack of resources had brought her to ruin. And yet she was a woman of high intelligence: she could write poetry and tell a joke and she knew how to adapt her conversation to the situation, seeming now respectable, now flirtatious, now openly provocative. To sum up, she was a most charming and attractive woman.

Translated by M.Thorpe

**5.12.2** Arria, the wife of Caecina Paetus was celebrated for her courage and self-control. Her husband was condemned by Claudius for his part in a conspiracy against the emperor.

I had a conversation yesterday with Fannia, the granddaughter of the famous Arria, who supported and encouraged her husband by her own example. She told me several things which were quite as heroic although less well known. It was a glorious deed I know to draw a sword and plunge it into her breast before handing it to her husband with these immortal words, almost divine words, 'Paetus, it does not hurt.' However, it was surely more heroic to hide her grief (from her sick husband) ... after she had lost her son.

(Pliny: Letter III.16) (adapted)