Customs Study Guide

Government/social structure:
- **cursus honorum** – course of honors – steps you take to make it to the highest jobs (from bottom to top – quaestor, praetor, consul)
- **consul** – two men – executives – elected yearly
- **praetor** – judges (8 elected yearly)
- **quaestor** – treasurers (20 elected yearly)
- **aedile** – in charge of roads and public games (4 elected yearly)
- **censor** – 2 elected every five years for 18 months – in charge of taking the census and public morals
- **dictator** – had absolute power in times of emergency; normally ruled 6 months maximum
- **magister equitum** – master of the horse/cavalry – assistant to dictator
- **senator** – must be a praetor to enter – for life
- **tribune** – 10 elected yearly – only plebeians can run – can veto the senate
- **patricians/optimates** = highest class
- **equites** = business class
- **plebians/populares** = lower class
- **patron** = patron
- **clien** = client
- **salutatio** = visit of client to patron’s house
- **sportula** = cold food basket given to client when he is received by patron in his atrium
- **deductio** = patron leads clients to forum
- **paterfamilias** = head of family (family includes wife, children, slaves and property)
- **patria potestas** = power (of life and death in early times) of paterfamilias over family

Chariot Racing:
- **metae** – turning posts
- **spina** – backbone around which they raced
- **ova et delphines** – eggs and dolphins (wood or bronze) used as lap counters
- **number of laps** in a usual race – 7
- 250,000 could be held in the circus maximus
- **ludi circenses** = chariot races
- **factiones** = racing companies
- **colors of the factiones** – red (russata), white (albata), blue (veneta), green (prasina)
- **original factiones** = red, white
- **longest lasting factiones** = blue, green
- **circus maximus** is between the Palatine and Aventine hills.
- white cloth (**mappa**) dropped to start race
- **biga** – 2 horse chariot; **quadriga** = 4 horse chariot; **auriga** = charioteer
- **curriculum** = successfully completed lap
- **carceres** = starting gates
Gladiators:
- **Myrmillones** – fought with helmet, oblong shield, sword, fish crest on helmet. Usually fought the retiarius or Thracians.
- **Retiarii** – lightly clad, armed with a net and trident. Usually fought Myrmillones or Secutores.
- **Samnites** – oblong shield, visored helmet, sword.
- **Thracians** – small round shield, curved scimitar.
- **Bestiarii** – hunters – fought wild beasts.
- **Essedarii** – rode chariots with 2 horses.
- **Andabata** – heavily armed, but can’t see out of visored helmet.
- **Laquearii** – armed with lasso and a curved piece of wood.
- **Secutores** – “pursuers” – like Samnite but without the neck protector.
- **Hoplomachi** – full-armed with a breast-plate and visored helmet.
- **rudis** – wooden sword given to gladiators on their retirement.
- **lanista** – gladiator trainer.
- **editor munere** – giver of games.
- **arena/harena** – sand put down to absorb the blood from a gladiator match.
- **venationes** – hunts where Bestiarii fought wild beasts.
- **premere pollicem** – to press the thumb against the forefinger – crowd wants to spare gladiators life.
- **vertere pollicem** – turning the thumb upwards or towards the chest – to signify the death stroke.
- gladiator fights were brought to Rome in 264 BC.
- gladiator fights were originally only at funerals.
- **naumachiae** – mock naval battles – they flooded the arena.

**BATHS (THERMAE/BALNEAE):**
- **apodyterium** – dressing room
- **hypocausta** – furnace
- **caldarium** – hot bath
- **frigidarium** – cold bath
- **unctorium** – scraping room/ massage
- **strigil** – scraper
- **palaestra** – exercise area

**SCHOOL:**
- **ludus** – elementary school
- **litterator** – elementary school teacher
- **paedagogus** – slave who carries books to school
- **grammaticus** – upper school teacher
- **rhetor** – teacher of public speaking
- **stylus and tabula** – pen and notebook
ARMY: (in 1st century BC)

- **century** = 60 men
- **maniple** = 120 men
- **cohort** = 360 men
- **legion** = 3600 men
- **contubernium** = 6-8 men who share a tent (part of a century)
- **dux** = general
- **imperator** = victorious general
- **legatus** = legionary commander
- **centurio** = leader of a century
- **optio** = 2nd in command to a centurio
- **toga picta** = worn by victorious generals
- **tesserae** = passwords
- **signum** = standard
- **signifer** = holder of standard
- **aquila** = silver eagle-standard (of a legion)
- **aquilifer** = holder of the eagle
- **cornicen** = horn blower
- **vexillum** = flag
- **pedites** = infantry
- **equites** = cavalry
- **scorpio** = dart thrower (standing crossbow used by one man)
- **ballista** = dart or stone throwing siege engine, larger than a scorpio
- **onager** = siege engine (like a catapult), threw boulders; means “wild ass” for its kick
- **catapulta** = siege engine which hurled javelins
- **gladius** = sword
- **scutum** = shield
- **galea** = leather helmet
- **cassis** = metal helmet
- **pilum** = spear
- **hasta** = javelin (used by triarii and hastati)
- **lorica** = leather breastplate
- **cingulum** = military belt
- **caligae** = boots
- **sarcina** = soldier’s cloak/blanket
- **pugio** = dagger

WEDDINGS:

- **tunica recta** = white wedding dress
- **flammeum** = “saffron” colored veil
- **sponsalia** = engagement
- **dos** = dowry
- “ubi tu Gaius, ego Gaia” = what bride says at ceremony – “where you are, my husband, I am”
- night before wedding, a girl would dedicate her bulla to the Lares
- *pronuba* = matron of honor
- **bad luck to marry on**: the kalends, nones, ides (and the day after each) of any month; all of May and half of June were all unlucky days; also unlucky, the days the lower world was supposed to open – August 24, October 5, November 8.
- *usus* = common law marriage
- *coemptio* = fictitious sale of the bride
- *confarreatio* = upper class marriage ceremony
- *deductio* = procession of wedding party to forum

**Religion:**

- **Pontifex Maximus** -- chief priest, elected for life
- **Vestal Virgins** – start at age 6 – learn job for 10 years, work as Vestal for 10 years, teach for 10 years – keep flame of Vesta burning, keep documents, etc. safe; only man allowed in temple (which is round) is Pontifex Maximus
- *auspex* – priest who checks sky for omens (birds/lightning)
- *augur* – same as auspex
- *haruspex* – checks guts of animals for omens (2 hearts are bad…)
- **Salii** – priests of Mars
- **Lares** – household gods
- **Lararium** – shrine for Lares
- **Penates** – gods of cupboards

**Names:**

- *praenomen* – first name
- *nomen* – family name
- *cognomen* – name for branch of family
- *agnomen* – earned name

**Clothing:**

- *subligaculum* -- underwear
- *tunica* – worn by all (like long t-shirt)
- *toga praetexta* – worn by boys under 16 and magistrates (with purple stripe)
- *toga virilis* – all white – worn by men over 16
- *toga pura* – same as toga virilis
- *toga libera* – same as toga virilis (boys gave up their toga praetexta on the Liberalia)
- *toga candida* – worn by men running for office; bright white (chalk)
- *toga pulla* – worn by men in mourning (called *sordidati*)
- *stola* – women’s dress
- *palla* – women’s shawl
- *fibula* – broach, pin
- bulla – child’s good luck charm
- calceus – shoe (for outdoors)
- solea – sandal for indoors
- petasus – broad-brimmed hat
- pileus – cap of freedom

**Parts of a Roman House:**

- atrium = entry hallway/large meeting room
- compluvium = hole in roof of atrium – allows water in
- impluvium = basin that catches water
- alae = wings off atrium
- imagines = bust of ancestors, housed in alae
- tablinum = master’s office
- triclinium = dining room
- culina = kitchen
- cubiculum = bedroom
- peristylium = outdoor garden with columns
- hortus = regular garden

**Meals:**

- ientaculum – breakfast
- prandium – lunch
- thermopolium – place to buy hot, fast food
- cena – dinner
- garum, liquamen – fish sauce
- secunda mensa – dessert
- gustatio, promulsis, antecena – appetizer
- mulsum – wine mixed with honey
- mulsa – fermented honey and water
- mustum – grape juice
- acetum – vinegar
- commissatio – drinking party
- rex bibendi – master of the drinking (he decides the games, etc.)
- seating – Romans reclined on their left side; there were 3 couches, each seating 3 people.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Via Appia – Appian Way – from Rome to Capua early on, then extended to Brundisium; known as the queen of the roads – : **regina viarum”** – built by Appius Claudius Caecus in 312 BC
- Via Sacra – road which ran through the forum
- Mare Nostum – “our sea” – Mediterranean
- Patria potestas – power of father over familia
- Pater familias – head of family
basilica -- law court
curia -- senate house
cloaca maxima – great sewer
insulae – apartment buildings
vigiles – firemen/police

Vehicula:

cisium -- lightweight, 2 wheeled vehicle
raeda – 4 wheeled carriage, comfortable and large
lectica – litter (carried by 4 slaves)

Funerals:

praeficae – professional mourners
neniae – dirges
conclamatio – oldest son shakes father 3 times and calls his name
sarcophagus – stone coffin
columbarium – underground chamber for urns holding the ashes of a cremated person