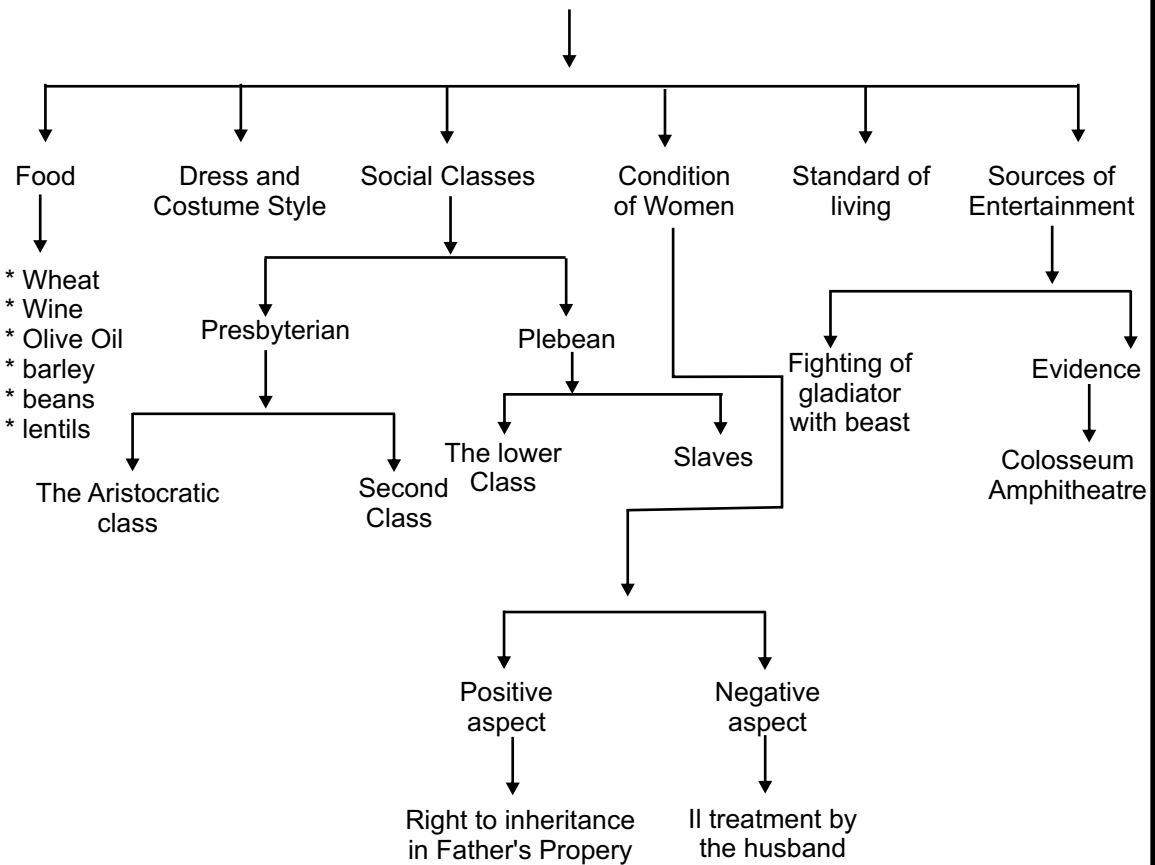


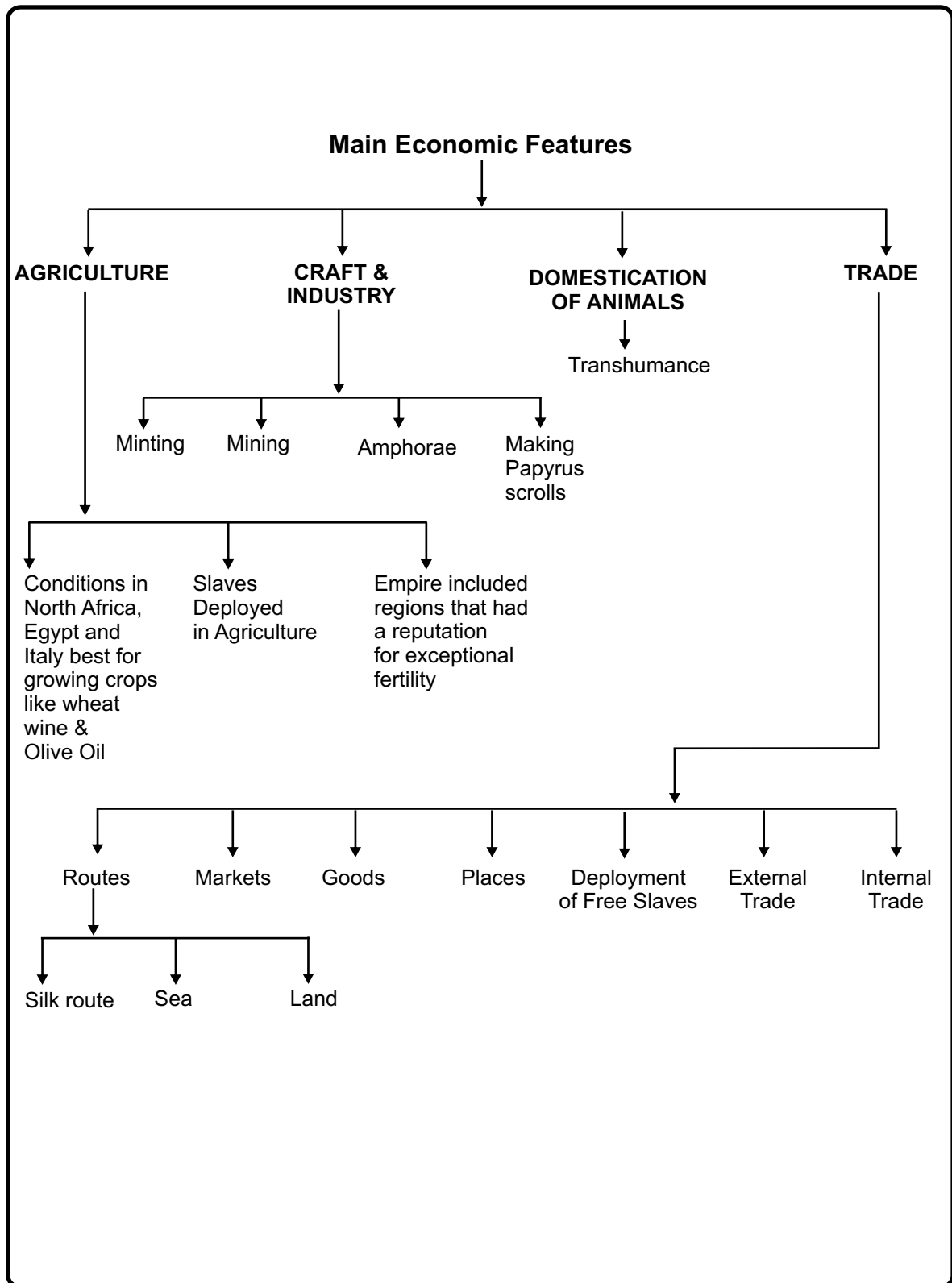
Theme - 3

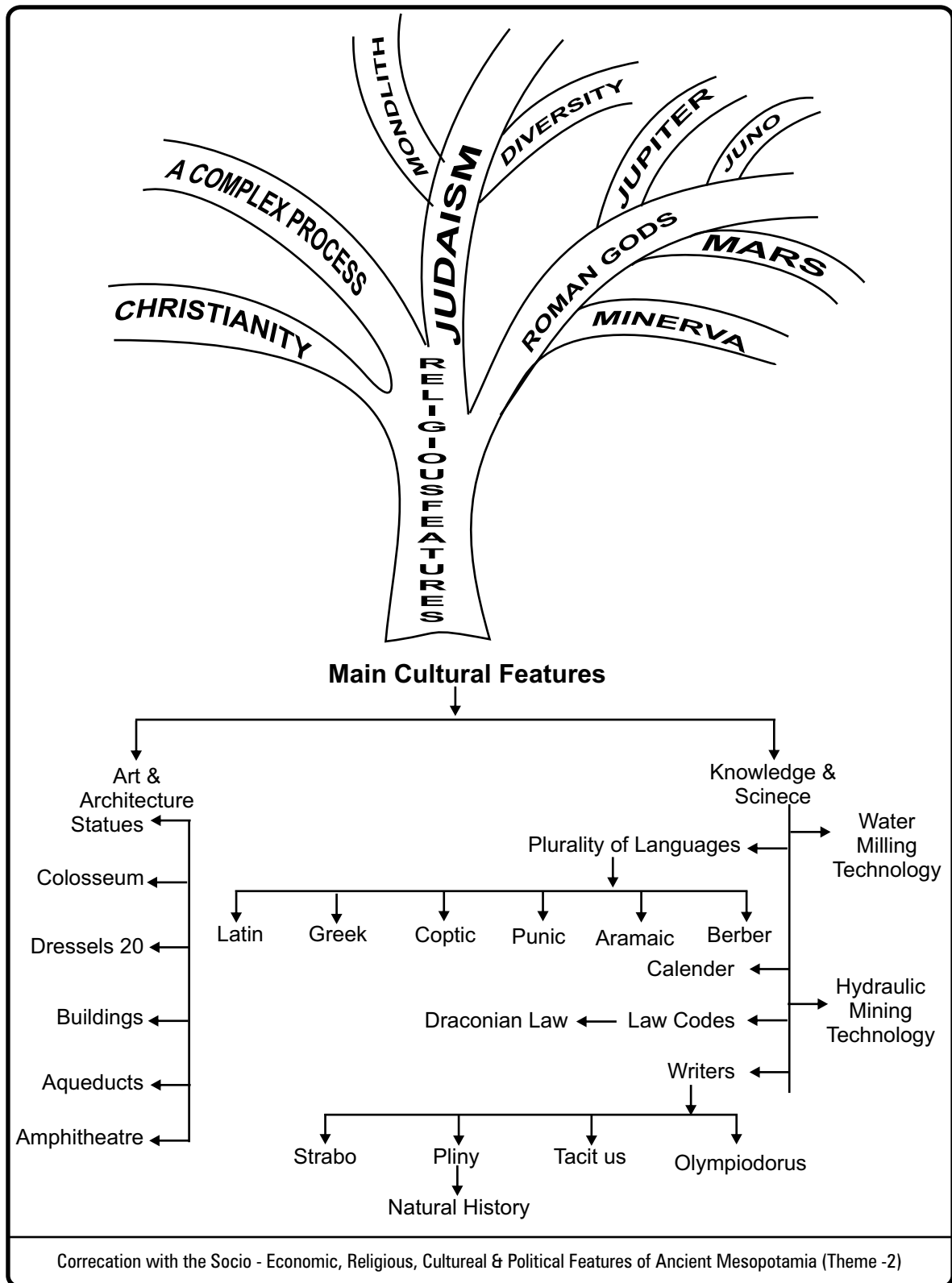
An Empire Across Three Continents

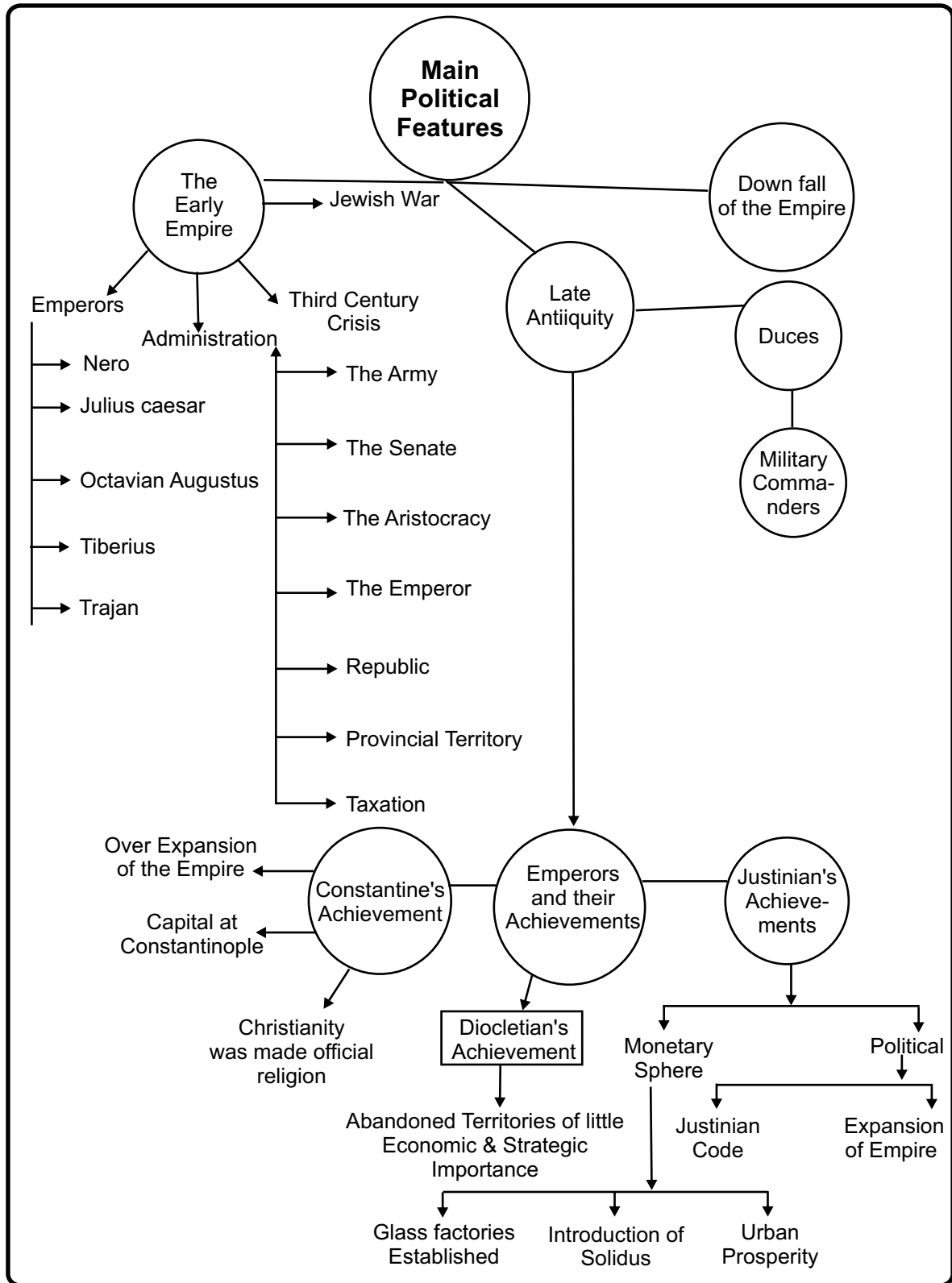
It was the Ancient Roman empire which was spread across the three continents namely - Europe, Asia and Africa.

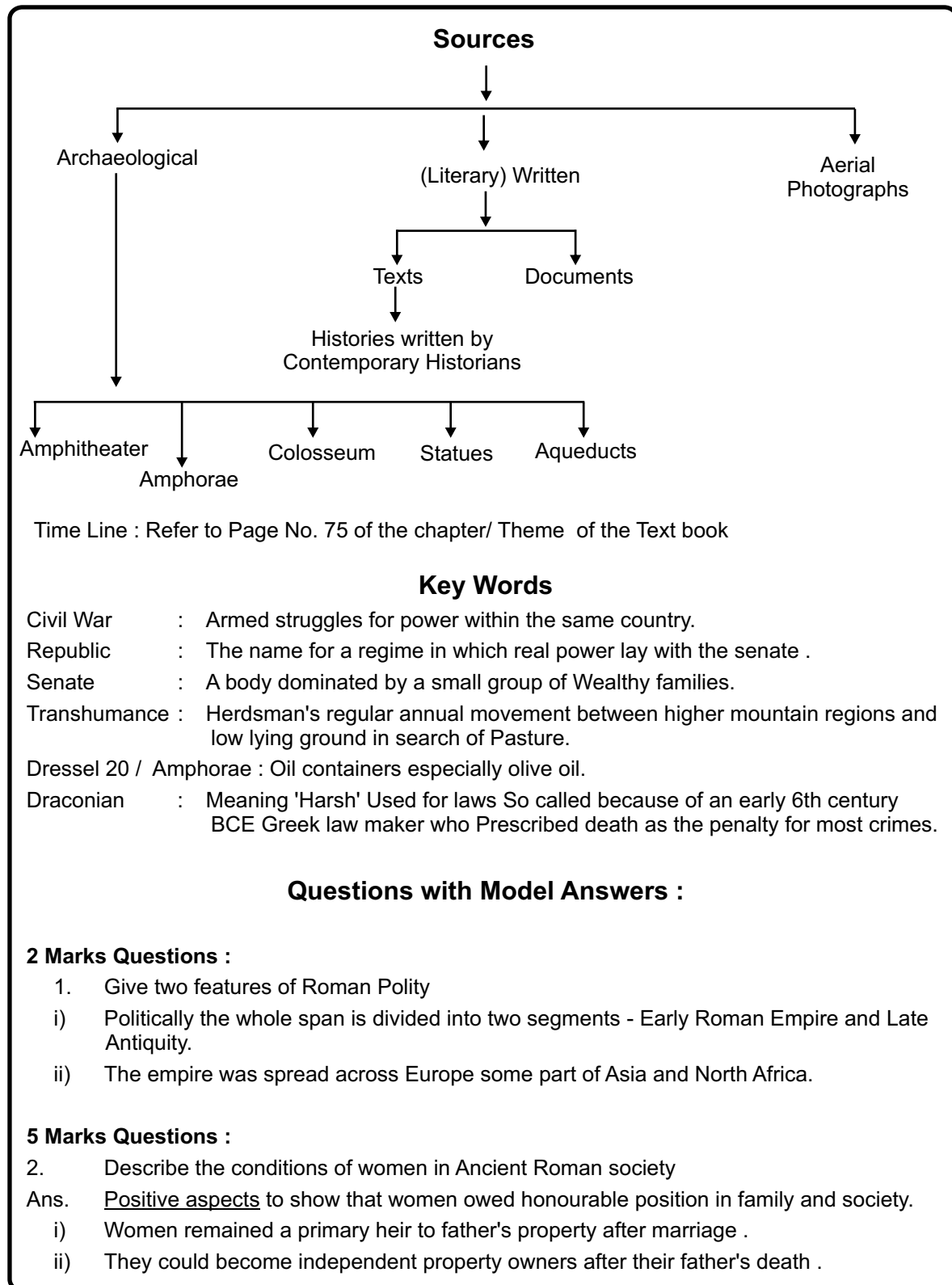
Main Social Features of the Roman Empire











- iii) One typical form of marriage did not allow the wife to transfer her authority to her husband but retained full rights in the property of her natal family.
- iv) Women enjoyed considerable legal rights in owning and managing property.
- v) Divorce was easy for both men as well as women.

Negative aspects :

- i) Marriages were generally arranged.
- ii) There was considerable age gap between husband and wife as males married in their late 20s or early 30s where as women were married off in the late teens or early 20s.
- iii) Women were subject to dominance by their husbands.
- iv) Wives were even beaten up by husbands.
- v) Father had legal control over the children.

10 Marks question :

3. Discuss the economic activities of the Ancient Romans. What measure were adopted for controlling workers ?

Ans. Agriculture -

- i) The Roman empire included regions that had a reputation for exceptional fertility e.g. Campania in Italy, Sicily, Fayum in Egypt, Galilee, Byzantium (Tunisia) southern Gaul, Bactria.
- ii) These areas had best conditions for crops.
- iii) Wheat, barley, beans and lentils were produced in abundance and even stored. Slaves were used in agricultural trade works :
- i) Goods for trade comprised mainly wheat, wine and olive oil.
- ii) There was competition among merchants for control of Markets..
- iii) Trade occurred through land route and sea route across Mediterranean.

Craft & Industry :

- i) Industries like mining, minting, amphora making were popular.
- ii) Industries like oil presses and glass factories were installed during the late antiquity.
- iii) The Romans also made scrolls of Papyrus.

Domestication of animals

- i) Transhumance was widespread in the countryside of Numidia (modern Algeria)
- The country side / Criticism :
- The large expanses of Roman empire were in a much less advanced state for example transhumance was widespread, in the countryside of Numidia. As Roman estates expanded in North Africa, the pastures of those communities were drastically reduced and their movements more tightly regulated. Even in Spain the North was economically much less developed. In these areas peasantry who were Celtic - speaking, lived in hilltop villages known as Castella. When we think of the Roman Economy we should never forget these difference .

Conclusion :

The Roman empire had, however, a substantial economic infrastructure of harbours, mines quarries, brickyards, olive oil factories etc. The wealth and economic prosperity of the empire is extolled by the contemporary writers like Olympiodorus that the aristocracy based in the city of Rome drew annual incomes of up to 4,000 pounds of gold from their estates, not counting the produce, they consumed directly.'

Source :

Archaeological viz - archaeological remains e.g. amphora, aqueducts etc.

Written :

Contemporary texts and documents

Reference :

Themes in world history, Theme -3, Page 62 picture of aqueduct;

Page - 58 - Picture of Papyrus scrolls

Page - 61 - picture of shops

Page - 71 - Excerpt "Incomes of the Roman aristocracy, Early 5th century", Olympiodorus of Thebes

Model Questions

2 Marks Questions :

1. Give two features of Ancient Roman Religion.
2. Mention four archaeological sources of Ancient Roman Empire.
3. What do you mean by Republic ?
4. Name two historians of Ancient Roman civilization.
5. Name the three main players of the political history of ancient Roman Empire.

5 Marks Questions :

1. Name the ancient empire which was expanded across three continents. Why is the empire known so ?
2. Name the famous emperors of the early Empire in Rome. What were their contributions in the making of the empire ?
3. What is meant by the early empire ? Discuss its significance in the history of the Ancient Roman Civilization.
4. Explain the impact of the crisis of the third Century on the Early Roman Empire.
5. Who was Saint Augustine ? Why is he famous in the history of the Roman civilization ?

10 marks Questions :

1. Explain the main features of Ancient Roman society. How independent were women in the Roman society ? Compare the situation of Roman family with the family in India.

2. 'Slavery was an institution deeply rooted in Ancient Roman world' Explain. Do you think that controlling workers was the factor behind the economic prosperity of the empire.
3. What is meant by Late Antiquity ? Describe the main political and economic development of the period.
4. Discuss the causes of downfall of the Roman empire. How did the downfall lead to the modernisation of Europe ? Explain.
5. Discuss the contributions of the Romans to the Modern World.

Hot Questions

2 Marks Questions

1. Name four languages, spoken in the Roman Empire.
2. Define the term civil war.
3. What do you mean by Dracnian ? Answer in the context of Roman Laws.
4. Give two contributions of Diocletian.
5. Who was Olympiodorus ?

5 Marks Questions :

1. How was the large Roman Empire administered. Discuss the role of the Provincial
2. "The emperor, the aristocracy and the away were the three main players in the political history of the empire." Discuss was Roman Republic a true republic in the real sense of the term ?
3. How can we find gender differences in Roman society ? Give examples.
4. How can we find cultural diversity in the Roman empire ? Discuss with examples.
5. How were slaves treated in ancient Roman society ? Discuss.

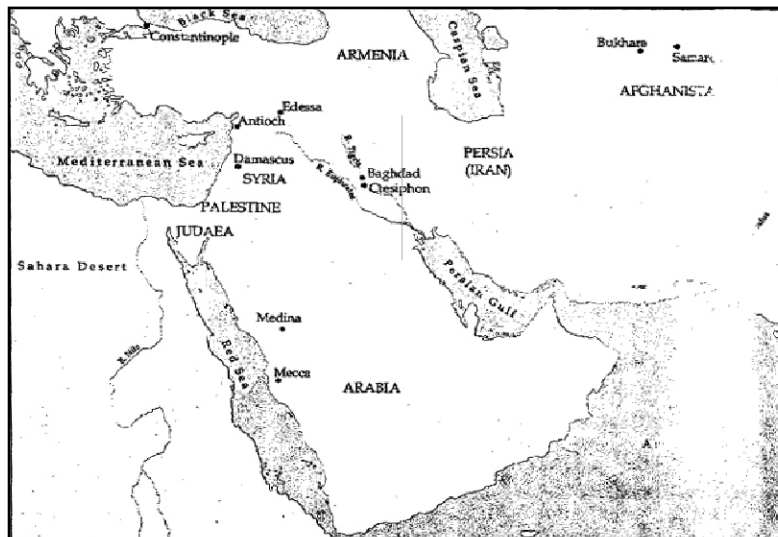
10 Marks Questions :

1. How did fertility of Roman empire was the cause of the prosperity of the empire ? Explain in the the context of ancient Mesopotamian civilisation.
2. Give your views on the religious features of Ancient Roman Empire. How did rise of Islam affect the empire. Explain.
3. What do the Social Hierarities tell us about Ancient Roman society ? Discuss the role of the Knights in the empire. Do you find any similarity between the feudal knights and these knights ?
4. Who was Constantine ? Discuss his achievements in the final centuries of Roman world.
5. "If rome plundered, it civilized the world as well". Discuss the statement in the context of contributions of the ancient Roman civilization.



The Roman Empire

This vast stretch of territory was the Roman Empire. Iran controlled the whole area south of the Caspian Sea down to eastern Arabia, and sometimes large parts of Afghanistan as well. These two superpowers had divided up most of the world that the Chinese called Ta Ch'in ('greater Ch'in, roughly the west).



Rise of the Arabs affected the Roman Empire.