

## **Roman Life Topic: Daily Life in Roman Society**

### **Areas of study:**

- **Housing**
- **Daily Routine for men and women, including work and meals**
- **The forum**
- **Local elections**
- **Shops**
- **Bathing and water supply**
- **Public entertainment (theatre and gladiators)**

### **Recommended reading:**

- Cambridge Latin Course Unit 1, Stages 1-4, 5, 8, 9, 11
- These Were The Romans Chap 3 (Housing), Chap 14 (Daily Routine and Meals), Chap 15 (Entertainment)
- Roman Family Life Chap 6 Daily Life (photocopied sheets)

### **HOUSING (Read CLC Stage 1; These Were The Romans Chap 3)**

#### **Source 1.1: Plan of a Roman House**

#### **Source 1.2: View of the atrium of the House of Menander**

#### **Source 1.3: View of a garden from Herculaneum**

- 1) Make sure that you can label all of the rooms in a Roman town house and explain the functions of each room.
- 2) How were Roman town houses decorated? What type of furniture did the Romans have? You should be able to describe both the decoration and furniture found in a typical house, both inside and outside including the garden.
- 3) **Consider** the similarities and/ or differences between a typical Roman house and a typical modern house, both in the design, layout, decoration, furniture and functions of the houses and rooms.
- 4) How did the homes of rich Romans differ to that of poorer Romans? You should be able to describe the housing and living conditions of poor people in Rome (compared to rich Romans).

### **WATER SUPPLY (CLC Stage 3 page 35)**

#### **Source 1.4: Fountain in the Street of the Shops, Pompeii**

#### **Source 1.14: Roman Latrines**

- 1) You need to know how Pompeii and Rome were supplied with water and be able to describe the operation of the aqueducts, storage tanks, underground pipe systems, supply of water to private homes and public buildings such as the baths and fountains.
- 2) You should be able to describe how the public latrines worked!

### **THE FORUM (CLC Stage 4)**

#### **Source 1.5: The Forum, Pompeii**

#### **Source 1.6: The forum from the S.E. corner**

- 1) You must be able to identify the various buildings in the forum and describe their functions.
- 2) **Consider** how the forum was similar and/or different to the centre of a modern town or city, in terms of the layout/ design, types of buildings, functions of the buildings etc.

### **SHOPS (CLC Stage 3)**

#### **Source 1.7: View of a thermopolium or snack bar in the Street of the Shops, Pompeii**

- 1) You should be able to describe briefly the layout and design of the town of Pompeii, including the street system and appearance of the streets.
- 2) You need to know the different types of shops and businesses that could be found in Pompeii and how these shops and businesses were identified from the outside.
- 3) **Consider** the differences and/or similarities between shops in ancient Rome or Pompeii and modern shops, including location and advertising etc.
- 4) You need to be able to describe other types of buildings that were found in Pompeii and their functions and purpose (eg. the theatre, palaestra, amphitheatre, etc)
- 5) You should be able to describe the racial mix existing in Pompeii and the reasons for this.
- 6) You should be able to explain briefly how Rome maintained peace and provided firm government of the empire, with reference to ships, roads and trade.

### **BATHS (CLC Stage 9; These Were the Romans page 140-143)**

#### **Source 1.8: Plan of the Forum Baths, Pompeii**

#### **Source 1.9: Cross-section of the hypocaust in the Stabian Baths, Pompeii**

#### **Source 1.10: The hot tub in the caldarium of the Women's Forum Baths**

#### **Source 1.11: The Apodyterium (changing room) in the women's section of the Stabian Baths at Pompeii**

#### **Source 1.12: The palaestra of the Stabian Baths at Pompeii**

#### **Source 1.13: Life over the baths**

- 1) You should be able to identify the various rooms in the baths, describe their functions and the order in which they came.
- 2) You should be able to describe how the hypocaust heating system worked.
- 3) You need to be able to describe what a typical person would do in the baths from arrival to exit. Why was a visit to the baths an important part of daily life for Romans?
- 4) You should be able to describe the purpose of a strigil and oil.
- 5) You should be able to describe and discuss the atmosphere at the baths, giving examples to support your points.
- 6) **Consider** whether there are any modern equivalents to the Roman baths. Do you think that you would enjoy the bath experience? You should be able to give reasons and evidence to support your answer.

### **LOCAL ELECTIONS (CLC Stage 11)**

#### **Source 1.15.1 and 2: Graffiti**

- 1) You should be able to describe the responsibilities of the key officials elected in Pompeii (duoviri; aediles)
- 2) You should be able to describe what happened during elections (slogans, processions, public meetings etc)
- 3) You should be able to describe how a typical candidate would conduct his election campaign (speeches, meeting voters, bribes etc).
- 4) **Consider** why Roman men put themselves forward for election. What did they gain? What were the benefits? What were the disadvantages?
- 5) You should be able to describe the purpose and function of election slogans and graffiti, who organised them and how and when they were put up.
- 6) You should be able to describe what elements of Roman society were denied access to politics and voting.
- 7) **Consider** how the Roman methods of election campaigning and canvassing compare and contrast to election campaigns today. Are the benefits the same for the candidates?

### **GLADIATORS (CLC Stage 8; These Were the Romans Chap 15 page 144- 149)**

#### **Source 1.15.4: Graffiti**

#### **Source 1.16: Riot in the amphitheatre in AD 59**

#### **Source 1.17: Relief Showing a Retiarius with a net, trident and protection for his right arm and neck**

#### **Source 1.18: The inside of the amphitheatre as it is today**

- 1) You should be able to describe the layout and design of the amphitheatre.

- 2) You should be able to describe the organisation and programme of events at the games (sponsor, cost etc).
- 3) You should be able to identify and describe the various types of Roman gladiators, their weapons and armour.
- 4) You need to be able to describe the beast hunts (venationes).
- 5) You should be able to describe what happened in the riot at Pompeii and the punishments received.
- 6) **Consider** why these types of violent and brutal entertainments appealed to the Roman spectators. Do you think these types of entertainment would appeal to a modern audience? Is it possible to compare and contrast these forms of entertainment with any modern forms? You must be able to support your answer with pertinent evidence and evaluation.

### **THEATRE (CLC Stage 5, These Were the Romans Chap 15 page 144)**

**Source 1.19: A scene from a Roman comedy**

**Source 1.20: Roman theatre, Sabratha, Libya**

- 1) You should be able to describe the appearance and layout of a typical theatre building, including the size, seating, awning etc.
- 2) You need to be able to describe the organisation of the theatre (cost, sponsor etc).
- 3) You should be able to describe the various types of theatrical production (pantomime, comedy) and the actors who participated in them. For comedy you should be able to describe the main comic characters and the plots of plays by Plautus. How did these plays differ from farces?
- 4) **Consider** how the ancient Roman theatrical experience compared/ contrasted to that of the modern theatre experience (eg. buildings, frequency of events, cost, production, type of production etc).

### **DAILY ROUTINE FOR MEN AND WOMEN, INCLUDING WORK AND MEALS (CLC Stage 2; These Were The Romans Chap 14 (Daily Routine and Meals), Roman Family Life Chap 6 Daily Life)**

**Source 1.21: Roman stove**

**Source 1.22: Wall Painting showing a basket of figs, Oplonits**

**Source 1.23: Recipe for fish**

**Source 1.24: Recipe for boiled ham**

- 1) You should be able to describe a typical day in the life of a freeborn Roman **man** and **woman**, giving examples of their everyday activities, daily ablutions, clothing, responsibilities, types of work and free-time pursuits.
- 2) **Consider** how the lifestyles of Roman men and women compare/ contrast to their modern counterparts in terms of daily activities, work, responsibilities etc.

- 3) You should be able to describe breakfast, lunch and dinner, the times these meals took place in the day and who attended. You should also be able to give examples of typical types of food/ drinks eaten at these meals and how the food was prepared.
- 4) You should be able to describe the layout of the triclinium and the manner in which the Romans dined (eg. the differences between the dining positions of men, women, poor people, slaves and children), including the cutlery they used.
- 5) You should be able to describe any types of entertainment which might have taken place at a cena.
- 6) **Consider** any similarities and differences between Roman breakfast, lunch and dinner and their modern equivalents, both in terms of when they occurred in the day, what was eaten and the manner in which the diners ate.