

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

World History 1/12/2023

## How Democratic was the Roman Republic?

Your Role: Plebeian

You are a plebeian farmer. You own a small plot of land, meaning you are also a soldier in the Roman army. As a free adult male, you are the *paterfamilias*—the head of your household who holds authority over your family. You are proud of your military service, but ultimately you need to be at home, working your farm and providing for your family. You are supposed to be proud of the Republic, but at least under the monarchy you had one ruler instead of many, and you want your political rights and authority to reflect your importance to the Republic as both a farmer and a soldier. The patricians might have more wealth, but they still must honor their responsibilities and obligations to the rest of the citizens. They should be leaders you can rely on for help and mutual support: after all, you each have something to gain from the other.

Because you have been away fighting the wars of conquest in Italy, your farm has suffered and you find yourself in need of money to pay taxes and support your family. Since a plebeian is never going to be elected to high office, your options are limited. Sure, you can vote in the Assembly, but you're always outvoted by patricians. You need some money fast in order to avoid losing your farm and becoming completely destitute, but farming is all you know. You can't just walk away and pick up a new trade! Plus, you worked hard for this land.

For each situation, write your response/action based on your role. Then summarize the actual outcome.


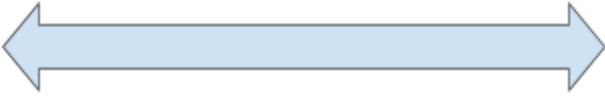
Situation	Your response/action	Actual outcome
After the conquest of Italy		
The debt slavery law		
On to war?		




**The Roman Republic: Make sure you understand the following elements**

Magistrates (officials)	Senate	Assembly (there are actually multiple, but for simplicity, we simply refer to “the Assembly”)

**How democratic was the Roman Republic after the Council of Orders?**

Using the [documents](#), decide how democratic you think the Roman Republic actually was.

Document	Based on the document, how democratic was the Roman Republic?	Explanation: What made the republic democratic or not democratic? What evidence did you gain from the document?
Roman Republic Chart	 <p>Basically an authoritarian dictatorship</p> <p>The most democratic</p>	
12 Tables & Roman vs US Gov	 <p>Basically an authoritarian dictatorship</p> <p>The most democratic</p>	

Polybius	 <p data-bbox="277 254 370 317">Basically an authoritarian dictatorship</p> <p data-bbox="846 264 932 306">The most democratic</p>	
Professor Fergus Millar	 <p data-bbox="277 619 370 682">Basically an authoritarian dictatorship</p> <p data-bbox="846 630 932 672">The most democratic</p>	
Professor Alan Ward	 <p data-bbox="277 1018 370 1081">Basically an authoritarian dictatorship</p> <p data-bbox="846 1029 932 1071">The most democratic</p>	

1. How did Romans structure their government in order to ensure that those who governed had the consent of the governed?

2. How did Roman government reflect a system of checks and balances? What was the purpose of these checks and balances?

3. In your opinion, how democratic was the Roman Republic?