

FJCL State Latin Forum 2004
Empire History

N.B. all dates are A.D.(C.E.) unless specified otherwise

1. What Roman emperor boasted "I found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble."
a. Tiberius b. Hadrian c. Claudius d. Augustus
2. This emperor was the first to insist on being worshipped as a god in life. He deified his sisters and made his horse a Senator.
a. Elagabalus b. Nerva c. Gaius Caligula d. Antoninus Pius
3. In 64 ,Rome was nearly devastated. Emperor Nero blamed the catastrophe on the Christians and initiated the first official persecution of the sect. What was the cause of Rome's near-total destruction?
a. a violent riot that lasted over a week
b. a flood caused by the sabotage of the city's main aqueduct
c. a fire that lasted for over a week and then reignited
d. an outbreak of plague
4. Between 122-127 an emperor directed the building of a wall in Britain that stretched over 76 miles from west to east. The wall was 20' high, 8' thick, and linked fourteen forts. What is the wall called?
a. Trajan's Wall b. Domitian's Wall
c. Hadrian's Wall d. Antoninus' Wall
5. In his last years emperor Tiberius, depressed, estranged from the Senate, and constantly in fear of treachery retired to the island of:
a. Sicilia b. Creta c. Malta d. Capri
6. What age is generally referred to as the Pax Romana?
a. first century B.C. b. first century A.D. c. first & second centuries A.D.
d. fourth & fifth centuries A.D.
7. What was the first imperial dynasty?
a. Severan b. Flavian c. Antonine d. Julio-Claudian
8. Who is considered the last Roman emperor?
a. Romulus Augustulus b. Stilicho c. Julius Caesar d. Odoacer
9. The era of the "Good Emperors" spans the reigns of:
a. Nerva to Marcus Aurelius.
b. Augustus to Vespasian.
c. Marcus Aurelius to Septimus Severus.
d. Vespasian to Domitian.
10. The "Year of the Four Emperors" witnessed the accession of four emperors each a nominee of a powerful faction within the officer corps of their respective field armies. What was this year?
a. 117-118 b. 232-233 c. 68-69 d. 89-90

11. Which Roman emperor initiated the the last great persecution of the Christians?
a. Diocletian b. Maxentius c. Aurelian d. Gallienus
12. Of all Roman subjects, which group alone was exempted from military service and obligation of the imperial cult ?
a. Jews b. Parthians c. Thracians d. Egyptians
13. Which of the following statements regarding emperor Vespasian is **not true**?
a. He accorded the Senate respect and recognition of its judicial authority.
b. He reestablished order throughout the empire.
c. He failed to provide for the succession to remain within his own family.
d. He rehabilitated Rome's system of public finance.
14. The disastrous eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, which destroyed the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabii, took place during the principate of what emperor?
a. Titus b. Nero c. Vespasian d. Domitian
15. Under what emperor did the annexation of Britain take place with Roman control of the island being extended as far north as the Trent and Severn rivers?
a. Trajan b. Hadrian c. Claudius d. Antoninus
16. In the 2nd century this Roman legate expanded imperial control of Britain by seizing the Druid-controlled island of Mona, completing the subjugation of northern England, and leading his armies into Scotland. His name was:
a. Julius Agricola. b. Drusus.
c. Gaius Saturninus. d. Publius Quinctilius Varus
17. This battle, one of the worst defeats ever suffered by a Roman army, resulted in emperor Augustus coming to the conclusion that a larger empire would not be governable. Where did this disaster take place?
a. Lake Trasimene b. Teutoborg Forest c. Cannae d. Metaurus
18. During the early days of the empire, Rome's police force was composed of three urban cohorts, each composed of 1,500 men. These men were under the command of an official whose title was:
a. *Praefectus Vigilum.* b. *Praefectus Annonae.*
c. *Praefectus Urbi.* d. *Princeps Inventutis.*
19. At this 1st century emperor's accession, two serious mutinies took place in the Roman army; one in Ilyrium and the other among the legions on the Rhine. One mutiny was put down by the emperor's son, Drusus, and the other by his nephew Germanicus. Who was the lucky emperor?
a. Tiberius b. Caligula c. Claudius d. Nero
20. In 110 emperor Trajan ordered the invasion of a land that had been at peace with Rome for over fifty years. By 116 the conquest was complete and as a result Trajan added the name "Optimus" to his list of official titles. What was the invaded area?
a. Germania b. Sarmatia c. Parthia d. Palestine

21. What 4th century emperor, convinced that the Christian God had favored both him and his army, elevated Christianity to a state religion - paving the way for it to later become the sole state religion.
a. Maxentius b. Constantine I c. Constantine II d. Constantius
22. When his victorious troops petitioned him for an increase in pay, this 2nd century emperor, facing a financial crisis, replied "anything you receive over and above your regular wages must be exacted from the blood of your parents and relations." What emperor made this brutally frank statement?
a. Hadrian b. Trajan c. Nerva d. Marcus Aurelius
23. Emperor Constantine I revived and gave a new meaning to an ancient Roman title, granting it only sparingly. It became the highest title conferred on persons not born into the imperial family. What was it?
a. *comes* b. *gloriosi* c. *patrician* d. *illustrissimi*
24. This emperor's reign spanned the 2nd and 3rd centuries. He took three other colleagues and formed a tetrarchy. He and the other senior tetrarch took the title of Augusti and the junior tetrarchs were called Caesars. He abdicated in the twentieth year of his reign and forced his senior colleague to retire with him. He was emperor:
a. Maximian. b. Severus. c. Maximian Daia. d. Diocletian.
25. This man was a famous 4th century patriarch of Constantinople who strongly believed the Eastern Empire was worth saving from barbarism. He was known as "Golden Mouth" for his eloquent preaching. Who was he?
a. Basil of Caesarea b. Gregory of Nazianus
c. John Chrysostom d. Synesius of Cyrene
26. This powerful and ruthless woman undertook to restore the Flavian dynasty in the early 3rd century. She virtually controlled the government during the reign of her grandson emperor Elagabalus. She later engineered his murder and that of his mother - her own daughter. Who was she?
a. Julia Maesa b. Julia Domna c. Livia d. Julia Mamaea
27. This early 2nd century Emperor's conduct and achievements in both war and peace caused his memory to be treasured by Romans in the centuries following his death. He was remembered as Optimus Princeps - the model emperor was:
a. Hadrian. b. Nerva. c. Antoninus Pius. d. Trajan.
28. One of the major reforms of the early Augustan period involved the creation of the *cursus publicus*, a governmental agency that roughly corresponds to today's
a. Internal Revenue Service. b. Coast Guard.
c. Postal Service. d. Department of Education.

- 29. *Muli Mariani*, an old army term, was used during Augustus' time to describe
 - a. heavily laden pack animals used by the legions.
 - b. specially designed wagons capable of transporting a legion's heavy equipment.
 - c. troops forced to carry their entrenching tools with them in order to enhance their mobility.
 - d. slow, but rugged, horses used by Roman cavalry.

- 30. By the late 3rd century there was a tendency on the great estates [*latifundia*] to replace slave labor with free tenant farmers called:
 - a. *conductores*. b. *principi*. c. *vilici*. d. *coloni*

- 31. Constantine I created a large field army by detaching more mobile units from border garrisons and stationing them at strategic points within the Empire's borders. These troops formed the emperor's escort and were accorded the title:
 - a. *comitatenses* b. *palatini*. c. *limitanei* d. *riparienses*.

- 32. A Stoic philosopher, Helvidius Priscus, advocated a return to republicanism, going so far as to insult the emperor in public. For this he was banished from Italy and was subsequently executed for conspiracy. Who was the emperor insulted by Helvidius Priscus?
 - a. Nero b. Tiberius c. Trajan d. Vespasian

- 33. This late 3rd century soldier-emperor was born an Ilyrian peasant. He possessed great strength and courage but could also be undiplomatic and hot tempered. His soldiers called him *manu ad ferrum* [hand on steel] but his efforts to preserve the empire earned him the title "Restorer of the World." His name was:
 - a. Gallienus. b. Aurelian. c. Probus. d. Carinus.

- 34. As part of his campaign against the immorality of the age, Augustus secured passage of an act in 9 which gave precedence for political office to fathers over childless or unmarried men. This legislation was called the:
 - a. Fufian Caninian Law. b. Junian Law.
 - c. Julian Law. d. Papien Poppaeon.

- 35. Syrian by birth, this Roman emperor was priest of the Sun God in his native land. He outraged Rome by transferring its cult image, a conical black stone, to Rome. After a four year reign given over entirely to ritual ceremony or debauchery he was murdered by the praetorians. Who was he?
 - a. Severus Alexander b. Macrinus c. Elagabalus d. Caracalla

- 36. Which of the following statements regarding the Praetorian Guard of Augustus' time is **untrue**?
 - a. Their term of service was shorter than that of the common soldier.
 - b. They were recruited from throughout the empire.
 - c. They were paid more than other legionaries.
 - d. It was confined to service first in Italy, and later exclusively in Rome.

- 37. Unlike both his predecessors and successors, this early 3rd century Roman emperor was well-disposed towards the Christians, and during his reign they enjoyed a brief respite from official persecution. Who was he?
a. Macrinus b. Maximinus c. Caracalla d. Severus Alexander
- 38. In the mid-3rd century this emperor made the first attempt to abolish Christianity throughout the empire by ordering all citizens of Italy and the provinces, under pain of death, to perform acts of public worship to the state gods. Who was he?
a. Decius b. Valerian c. Caracalla d. Commodus
- 39. This 3rd century emperor set the precedent for 'divine right' monarchy in Rome by adopting the diadem as a symbol, telling his troops that not they, but God, decided the choice of an emperor, and by placing the inscription "god and lord" on coins minted during his reign. His name was
a. Gordian III. b. Balbinus. c. Pupienus. d. Aurelian.
- 40. Shortly before his death Nerva chose as his colleague and successor a tried soldier who commanded the legions in Upper Germany. Many considered this act the most important event of his reign. Who was the man chosen by Nerva?
a. Hadrian b. Trajan c. Antoninus Pius d. Domitian
- 41. This Roman emperor had strong autocratic tendencies. He took the title of 'perpetual censor,' and required officers of the imperial household to address him as *dominus et deus* . After a fifteen year reign he was assassinated and his memory officially cursed by the Senate. His name was ordered erased from all public monuments. Who was he?
a. Domitian b. Verus c. Nerva d. Nero
- 42. Christianity became the official state religion of the Roman empire during the reign of :
a. Constantine I. b. Constans. c. Theodosius I. d. Gratian.
- 43. This early 2nd century emperor murdered his brother (and co-ruler) to attain sole power. He was described as weak, cruel, and cunning. He undertook wars in Germany and Parthia before being assassinated by the Praetorian Guard. He was:
a. Commodus. b. Macrinus. c. Diadumenianus. d. Caracalla.
- 44. Julian's religious preference was :
a. Judaism b. Christianity c. paganism d. Arian Christianity
- 45. Which document first allowed tolerance of Christianity?
a. Edict of Serdica b. Edict of Milan c. Council of Nicaea
d. Lex Christiani

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46. Who was the Iceri Queen that led a revolt against Rome in 59?
a. Bernice b. Mona c. Boadicea d. Thrasea
47. Which emperor wrote Meditations?
a. Antoninus Pius b. Constantine the Great c. Septimius Severus
d. Marcus Aurelius
48. What was Vespasian doing when he received word that Nero was dead?
a. in retirement at Reate b. supervising the Egyptian grain supply
c. fighting the Gauls d. suppressing a Jewish revolt
49. With what major event is the quote "in hoc signo vinces" connected?
a. Edict of Milan b. crossing of the Hellespont by Goths
c. Battle of Milvian Bridge d. reconquest of Hadrianople by Valens
50. Who was Vespasian's brother?
a. Sabinus b. Titus c. Domitian d. Flavius Clemens