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**Stream: Literature and Philosophy**

**PART ONE : READING (15 points)**

Read the text carefully then do the activities.

The earliest empires had been in the east, Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, India, and Greece were all home to at least one powerful civilization. About 387 BC, a city on the Italian peninsula began acquiring land and building an empire. That city was Rome. Civilizations have grown and prospered in Rome for thousands of years which is why Rome is nicknamed the Eternal city. Rome managed to unify most of the modern nation of Italy by 265 BC.

Life in Ancient Rome revolved around the city of Rome, located on the seven hills which made it harder for invaders to approach the city and served as lookout area for the Romans. The city had a vast number of monumental structures like the colosseum, the forum of Trajan and the Pantheon. It had fountains with fresh drinking-water supplied by hundreds of miles of aqueducts, theatres, gymnasiums, bath complexes complete with libraries and shops, market places, and functional sewers. In the capital city of Rome, there were imperial residences on the elegant Palatine Hill. The low and middle classes used to live in the city centre.

The Roman society was strictly hierarchical, with slaves at the bottom, freedmen above them, and free-born citizens at the top. Free citizens were themselves also divided by class. The broadest and the earliest division was between the Patricians and the Plebeians. The wealthiest were the Senatorial class, who dominated politics and command of the army.

Voting power in the Republic was dependent on class. Citizens were enrolled in voting "tribes", but the tribes of the richer classes had fewer members than the poor ones, all the proletariat being enrolled in a single tribe. Voting was done in class order and stopped as soon as a majority of the tribes had been reached; so the poorer were often unable to cast their votes.

**A. Comprehension ( 7 pts )**

1. Match each idea with its corresponding paragraph.

IDEAS	PARAGRAPHS
a. Society and class division	1
b. Voting power	2
c. The rise of a new civilization	3
d. Location and description of Rome	4

2. Are the following statements true or false. Write "T" for true and "F" for false next to the sentence letter.
- The city of Rome has witnessed a number of different civilizations.
  - The army and politics were in the hands of the rich
  - Like the rich, the poor were given the same chance in the vote.
3. Answer the following questions according to the text.
- How long did it take Rome to unify most of the modern nation of Italy?
  - How could Rome protect itself from conquerors ?
  - What were the main social classes in ancient Rome?

## B. Text exploration ( 8 pts)

1. Match each word with its definition.

WORDS	DEFINITIONS
a. Hierarchy	1.a person of high social rank
b. Patrician	2.the working class
c. Proletariat	3.a system in which people are organized into different levels of importance from highest to lowest

1. Combine the following statements using the connectors between brackets.
  - a. Both Egypt and Mesopotamia developed as the two great early civilizations. The two countries produced different societies and cultures. (although)
  - b. Writing was monopolized by priests. Schools were very important learning centres. (despite the fact that)
2. Give the correct form of the verbs between brackets.

Rome (grow) into an empire in part because of how it (treat) the people it (conquer) .  
If a city (be/ defeat) by Rome, its citizens (not be/ force) to leave their lands. Rome ( be/ respect) for that.
3. Reorder the following sentences to get a coherent paragraph.
  - a. Historians mark the fall of Rome as the end of ancient history.
  - b. The Latin term for Middle Ages is “medieval”.
  - c. The next one thousand years were called the “Middle Ages”.
  - d. In 476 AD, warriors attacked the city of Rome and ended more than 800 years of glory for the ‘eternal city’.
5. Classify the following words according to the pronunciation of their final “ed”
  - a. attacked
  - b. ended
  - c. sailed
  - d. expected

## PART TWO : WRITING (5points)

Choose one of the following topics.

### Topic one.

Write a paragraph of ten lines explaining how people can preserve and keep their culture. Use the following notes.

- Respect their customs
- Organize exhibitions
- Write books
- Organize regular festivals in the various arts
- Remind children of the glorious past of their ancestors

### Topic two.

Do you think that the study of the past teaches us many things? Find arguments to discuss your point of view.