

## *M.A. Latin Literature/Roman History Questions*

1. Compare and contrast Plautine and Terentian comedy. Topics you should discuss include metric, use of music and song and dialogue, characterization, plot development, humor, social setting, and relationship to Greek sources. Cite concrete examples to support each point.
2. Discuss the influence of Alexandrian sources on Roman poetry. What is meant by “Roman Alexandrianism”? In what ways are Ennius, Catullus, Propertius, and Virgil Alexandrian or non-Alexandrian? Cite concrete examples to support each point.
3. Discuss the development of the genre of satire at Rome from Ennius to Juvenal. What are its enduring characteristics? How does it change in the course of its development? Cite concrete examples to support each point.
4. Discuss Sallust’s importance in the development of both the style and the thematic of Roman historiography. How are Sallust’s accomplishments as a writer of history similar to or different from those of Caesar and Livy? Cite concrete examples to support each point.
5. Discuss the relationship between Roman civic values and late republican Roman literature. To what extent are Cicero, Caesar, Lucretius and Catullus Roman authors? Cite concrete examples to support each point.
6. Consider the critical dichotomy of public vs. private. In what ways and to what extent are different types of Latin poetry public or private in theme, style, and purpose? Cite concrete examples to support each point.
7. Compare and contrast the presentation of romantic love in comedy and elegy. Consider topics such as the relationship of the lover to the beloved, and the role played by such factors as money, poetry, family, and civic responsibilities. Cite concrete examples to support each point.
8. Is the *Aeneid* the quintessential Roman poem? Cite concrete examples to support each point.
9. “Ovid . . . is a kind of smiling destroyer. The literary genres practiced by him, the various types of elegy and epic, in the end transform unimaginably their traditional identity (G.B.Conte). Comment, and cite concrete examples to support each point.
10. What were the main cultural and political mechanisms by which emperors maintained consensus for their rule among subject populations?
11. The term “Romanization” has fallen out of fashion in the past decade, in large part because it seems to posit a one-way flow of ideas, structures, and practices. For any

province of your choice, discuss the two-way cultural exchange that resulted from its conquest by Rome.

12. The city of Rome was the main stage on which aristocrats and eventually emperors displayed and enacted their political ideals. How did powerful Romans try to represent themselves, their parties, and their platforms by shaping the city's appearance? Augustus offers the obvious example, but you should discuss other aristocrats from the republic and empire as well.