

## History Revision Homework 3—The Ancient Romans

### Where to look for help:

Revision Guide (or photocopy of it if you have not got one)

Exercise book and Folder

BBC Bitesize History SHP (School's History Project) History of Medicine site

School Website > Faculty > Humanities > Revision



1. What are the approximate dates of the Ancient Romans?
2. Which lands did the Ancient Roman Empire cover?
3. Which two Greek ideas regarding health and medicine did the Romans also adopt?
4. 'Prevention rather than cure.' This was the Roman attitude to health. What does it mean and what did it mean the Romans spent a lot of time and money on?
5. Give the key features of a public health system that you would see in most Roman towns and cities.
6. Why were the Romans so keen on Public Health?
7. Galen was the most significant Roman doctor from the Roman Empire. Give two ways in which his work was similar to Greek (Hippocrates') ideas but also two ways in which his work was different or went further.
8. Explain the theory of opposites and give an example.
9. Why was Alexandria an important centre for medicine throughout the Greek and Roman Empire?
10. Why did Galen's influence continue for such a long time, even after the Roman Empire had ended and Christianity had become so powerful in Europe? (There may be more than one answer to this.)
11. Answer the exam question below:

### **SOURCE A**

Out came the whole population to meet the serpent god Asclepius. They greeted him with their cheering. Where the speedy ship came floating up the stream, incense crackled and burned on altars at regular intervals along both banks and the air was heavy with fragrance. Now the ship entered Rome. The serpent raised himself up looking for somewhere suitable to live. The river divides at a point into two streams, forming a place known as 'the island'. This is the place where the God left the ship and brought the people's woes to an end and came to them as bringer of health to their city.

*A Roman writer describes Asclepius arriving in Rome in 291 BC. The government of Rome had begged him to come and help them with a serious epidemic.*

### **SOURCE B**

When gangrene has developed the limb must be amputated. This is risky because patients often die under the operation. It does not matter, however, whether the operation is safe, since it is the only remedy. The flesh is cut to the bone with a scalpel between the healthy and the diseased part. It is better that some of the healthy part should be cut away than any of the diseased part should be left. The bone is then cut through with a small saw.

*From a Roman book about medicine published in the first century AD.*

### **Study Sources A and B**

How do explain why both of these treatments were used by the Romans?

Use the sources and your own knowledge to answer the question.