**S.St. 9**

**Define**

**Consul** – Two officials which ruled over Rome. They commanded the army and directed the government. They had the power of life and death over citizens in wartime and great powers in peacetime. Their term only lasted one year, and the same person could not be elected consul again for ten years. One consul could also veto the other’s decisions.

**Veto** – the power to overrule a decision.

**Senate** – the aristocratic branch of Rome’s government. Originally this consisted of 100 members, but was later increased and also began to allow plebeians to become members. Membership was for life and the senate provided stability and continuity to government, were the short-term of consul members did not. The senate held enormous influence over both foreign and domestic policy.

**Assembly** – The democratic side of Roman government. It contained members of the citizen-soldiers. While initially having little power in comparison to the consuls and senate, over time their decisions gained the force of law.

**Dictator** – A political leader who had absolute power to make laws and command the army. In ancient Rome, the dictator’s power lasted for only six months. Dictators were chosen by the consuls and then elected by the senate.

**Identify**

**SPQR** – *Senatus Populusque Romanus* – the senate and the Roman people. Together, these two groups were the heart of Roman government.

**Gauls** – A group of people from the Po River valley, north of the Apennines. They sacked Rome in 390 BC leaving it in ruins.

**Pyrrhus** – A king from western Greece and a brilliant general. He brought 20,000 soldiers to help Greek colonists living in southern Italy fight the Romans. While he won the battles, his army became so decimated that they eventually were driven back to Greece.

**Carthage** – A large city in northern Africa, near the midpoint of the Mediterranean coast. It had a population of 250,000, and was about 3 times the size of Rome. Carthage had a huge navy, was immensely wealthy from trade, and hired mercenaries to fight in their army.

**Punic Wars** – 3 wars that focused on struggles for power around the Mediterranean. The first was between Rome and Carthage in 264 BC. The 2nd Punic War began in 218 BC when Hannibal broke the uneasy peace between Rome and Carthage. This war lasted until 202 BC when Hannibal was defeated at the Battle of Zama by Scipio. The 3rd Punic War (149-146 BC) featured Rome completely destroying Carthage, which at this time, was no longer a military threat. However, many Romans did not like the idea of Carthage being prosperous, hence the reason for fighting.

**Hannibal** – A great military general of Carthage. He learned much of his military strategies from his father, who was also a general. His father instilled in him a hatred of Rome. Hannibal lead Carthage in the Second Punic War and was also responsible for using an army which included elephants in his battle against Rome.

**Answer**

1. **A) Why were many plebeians dissatisfied with Rome’s government in the early years of the republic? B) How did they win reforms? C) What changes did they bring about in Roman government?**

A – Plebeians were dissatisfied that Rome’s government gave the majority of power to the patricians, allowing only the patricians to hold high offices.

B –The plebeians won reforms by refusing to fight in the Roman army, unless the patricians agreed to certain reforms.

C – These reforms allowed plebeians to gain access to political offices and obtain more favourable laws. Enslavement for debt practices were ended, and marriage between plebeians and patricians were now allowed. The plebeians also initiated the creation of a written law code.

**3. Once Rome had conquered most of Italy, how did the Roman government win the support of the conquered people?**

The Roman government won support of conquered people by allowing them freedom, and in some cases, citizenship. Latin neighbours were treated like full Roman citizens, with freedom to vote, use Roman courts and marry other Romans. Others were given half-citizen status, where they enjoyed all the freedoms of a Roman, but did not get the right to vote. Allies of Rome could do as they please and operate their city how they like without Roman interference as long as they were only allied with Rome. This made conquered people partners in Rome’s growth.

**4. A) At the start of the Punic Wars, why might Carthage have appeared the stronger power?**

Carthage may have appeared stronger due to their larger population, impressive navy, and enormous wealth.

**B) Why was Rome, in fact, the victor?**

Rome was the victor because they could draw on a reserve of more than 500,000 troops. Rome’s citizen troops were generally more loyal and reliable than mercenaries, and war was considered Rome’s specialty.

**5. Why was the Battle of Zama a major turning point in history?**

This battle was a major turning point because if Carthage would have won, they likely would have had the largest empire in history. It would have been their laws, government, and culture which was passed onto to Western civilization.

**6. A) Why did the Greeks at first welcome Roman armies? B) Why did the Greek attitude change?**

The Greeks first welcomed Roman armies because they freed them of rule from Philip V of Macedon. Their attitude changed when the Romans started to interfere with Greek politics, crushing any opposition to rulers favoured by Rome. Rome would go so far as to use extreme violence to keep Greek city-states and its citizens in control.