

Short Cycle Assessment Design Template Sample

GRADE AND CONTENT AREA: Middle School Social Studies

NAME OF UNIT: The Fall of the Roman Empire

TIMEFRAME (UNIT + BRIDGE): 2 Weeks + 2 Day "Bridge"

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PRIORITY STANDARDS:

7th Grade Social Studies using Massachusetts State Standards
The Fall of the Roman Empire

7.42 Explain how inner forces (including the rise of autonomous military powers, political corruption, and economic and political instability) and external forces (shrinking trade, attacks, and invasions) led to the disintegration of the Roman Empire.

7.43 Describe the contribution of Roman civilization to law, literature, poetry, architecture, engineering, and technology (e.g., roads, bridges, arenas, baths, aqueducts, central heating, plumbing, and sanitation).

SUPPORTING STANDARDS

CC. WHST.6-8.2.

Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

- a. Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose
- b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

UNWRAPPED PRIORITY STANDARD:

7th Grade Social Studies using Massachusetts State Standards
The Fall of the Roman Empire

7.42 EXPLAIN how inner forces (including the rise of autonomous military powers, political corruption, and economic and political instability) and external forces (shrinking trade, attacks, and invasions) led to the disintegration of the Roman Empire.

7.43 DESCRIBE the contribution of Roman civilization to law, literature, poetry, architecture, engineering, and technology (e.g., roads, bridges, arenas, baths, aqueducts, central heating, plumbing, and sanitation).

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

"Unwrapped" Priority Standards CONCEPTS	"Unwrapped" Priority Standards SKILLS	Levels of Cognitive Rigor BLOOM'S / DOK	
<p>INNER (Internal) FORCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military powers • Political corruption • Economic instability • Political instability <p>EXTERNAL FORCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrinking trade • Attacks • Invasions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws • Poetry • Architecture • Engineering • Technology (roads, bridges, arenas, baths, aqueducts, central heating, plumbing, and sanitation) 	<p>EXPLAIN (how internal forces led to the disintegration of the Roman Empire)</p> <p>EXPLAIN (how external forces led to the disintegration of the Roman Empire)</p> <p>DESCRIBE (contributions/laws, literature, poetry, architecture, engineering, technology)</p>	<p>Analyze 4</p> <p>Analyze 4</p> <p>Analyze 4</p>	<p>DOK 3</p> <p>DOK 3</p> <p>DOK 2</p>

SAMPLE SHORT-CYCLE-ASSESSMENT SELECTED-RESPONSE QUESTION ITEM

_____ **1. Which statements support how Roman law provided a framework that greatly influenced present law systems in Europe, the Americas, and elsewhere? Select the two best statements.**

- A. The Roman law system is often cited as a guiding framework for the development of legal codes in western countries.
- B. The Roman law system was based on the concepts “guilty until proven innocent” and that different laws are applied to different people.
- C. The legal terminology used in the United States is another legacy of Roman law and is used in many courtrooms.
- D. The Roman law system succeeded in achieving a classless society, which was later copied in Western Europe.

ANSWER KEY FOR SELECTED RESPONSE ITEM

1. A and C (2 points if both selected, 1 point if either choice is selected)

DISTRACTOR ANALYSIS

Distractor Analysis-Item 1

Correct responses (A and C) indicate the student can correctly identify the foundational framework for modern day legal rules and norms.

Incorrect response (B) indicates confusion about the equality of Roman law, which was based on “innocent until proven guilty.”

Incorrect response (D) indicates confusion about the term “classes society.” Social class was hierarchical, but there were multiple and overlapping social hierarchies, and an individual’s relative position in one might be higher or lower than in another.

SAMPLE SHORT CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE QUESTION WITH SCORING GUIDE

- 9. In addition to the development of architecture and aqueducts, name at least one technological contribution invented by Rome. In 2 to 3 sentences, explain how this contribution improved their daily life. Your response will be scored according to the success criteria listed on the scoring guide.**

Technological Contribution: _____

Explanation:

Short Response Scoring Guide for Item 9
Exceeds the Success Criteria: Demonstrates all success criteria, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Makes connection to personal experience
Achieves the Success Criteria: Demonstrates all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> States accurately a technological contribution<input type="checkbox"/> Explains how the contribution improved a Roman’s daily life<input type="checkbox"/> Includes 2-3 sentences in explanation
Developing the Success Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates two of the Achieves Success Criteria
Beginning the Success Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates fewer than two of the Achieve Success Criteria

ANSWER KEY FOR SHORT CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE ITEM

Answer Key for Short Constructed Response Items 9

Commentary: Contributions to be listed could include the creation of roads, bridges, arenas, the development of new building materials, waterways/aqueducts, and the influence of Western law (U.S. Constitution). Other acceptable responses include:

- Architectural styles (arches & columns, domes, sculptures, frescoes, mosaics...)
- Concrete/mortar/cement
- Efficient highway system (still followed today by modern roads)
- Mass entertainment: stadiums & amphitheaters (ancestors of modern stadiums)
- Aqueducts and viaducts (the world's first bridges to cross valleys)
- Thermal baths, central heating and floor heating
- Wine-making (creating a lasting tradition in France, Italy, Spain...)
- Roman alphabet (the world's most widespread writing system)
- Latin language and descendants + influence on other European languages
- Roman legal system (basis of many European legal system to this day)
- The Republic & Senate (inspiration for modern democracies)
- The Julian Calendar (including current names of the months)
- Festivals (Carnival, Christmas, etc. had Roman origins)

SAMPLE EXTENDED-RESPONSE QUESTION WITH SCORING GUIDE

(Aligned to Priority Standards 7.42, 7.43 and to supporting standard WHST.6-8.2)

- 10. The Roman Empire was a very powerful civilization, yet it collapsed. Identify and explain 3-4 internal and external forces that contributed to the Empire's decline, and analyze how those forces may have impacted each other. Be sure your writing meets the requirements stated on the scoring guide.**

Extended Response Scoring Guide for Item 10

Exceeds the Success Criteria:

Demonstrates all success criteria, plus:

- Makes a comparison between the fall of the Roman Empire and a recent collapse in another civilization

Achieves the Success Criteria:

Demonstrates all:

- Identify and explain 3-4 internal and external forces that contributed to the Empire's decline
- Analyze how those forces may have impacted each other

Your writing must include the following:

- € Introduce a topic clearly, organize ideas, concepts, and information
- € Develop the topic with relevant details
- € Use precise vocabulary
- € Provide a concluding statement

Developing the Success Criteria:

- Demonstrates 5 of the Achieves Success Criteria

Beginning the Success Criteria:

- Demonstrates fewer than 5 of the Achieves Success Criteria

ACCOMPANYING COMMENTARY OR SOLUTION STATEMENT

Commentary: During the third century A.D., several factors prompted the weakening of Rome's economy. Hostile tribes outside the boundaries of the empire and pirates on the Mediterranean Sea disrupted trade. Having reached their limit of expansion, the Romans lacked new sources of gold and silver. Desperate for revenue, the government raised taxes. It also started minting coins that contained less and less silver. It hoped to create more money with the same amount of precious metal. However, the economy soon suffered from inflation, a drastic drop in the value of money coupled with a rise in prices.

Agriculture faced equally serious problems. Harvests in Italy and Western Europe became increasingly meager because overworked soil had lost its fertility. In addition, years of war had destroyed much farmland. Eventually, serious food shortages and disease spread, and the population declined.

(Instructor Key)

Overview of the economic factors that contributed to the collapse of the Roman Empire:

- Poor harvests
- Disruption of trade
- No more war plundering
- Gold and silver drain
- Inflation
- Crushing tax burden
- Widening gap between rich and poor and increasingly impoverished Western Empire

In addition to economic factors, there were also political, social, and military issues that contributed to the fall of the Roman Empire:

Political

- Political office seen as burden, not reward
- Military interference in politics
- Civil war and unrest
- Division of empire
- Moving of capital to Byzantium

Social

- Decline in interest in public affairs
- Low confidence in empire
- Disloyalty, lack of patriotism, corruption
- Contrast between rich and poor
- Decline in population due to disease and food shortage

Military

- Threat from northern European tribes
- Low funds for defense
- Problems recruiting Roman citizens; recruiting of non- Romans
- Decline of patriotism and loyalty among soldiers

There are adherents to single factors, but more people think a combination of such factors as Christianity, decadence, monetary trouble, and military problems caused the Fall of Rome. Imperial incompetence and chance could be added to the list.