








Roman City Life – 3.3 Roman Society

Slavery		
Key Details		
1	How people became slaves	Watched Kings Barely Ski Perfectly: War prisoners, Kidnap, Born one, Sell self, Punishment
2	How slaves were sold	At auction or private sale, with a placard of information around their neck
3	What Romans paid attention to when buying a slave	Only Really Handsome Newsreaders Survive: Origins, Reliability, Health, Novelty, Skills
4	Domestic slaves 	In a private household – educated might tutor, women helped with domestic tasks, and men worked for the <i>paterfamilias</i>
5	Industrial slaves 	Dangerous work – mines, factories, farming, rowers. Short life expectancy.
6	Public slaves 	Owned by the state. Looked after public buildings, maintained roads. Educated would be scribes.
7	Treatment	Varied – depended on the master. Some treated them horrifically.
Key Terms		
8	<i>venalicius</i> 	Slave dealer
9	<i>verna</i>	A slave born in the master's household
Manumission		
Key Details		
10	Reasons a master would free his slave	Old Arrows Melt: Old slave, Amazing work, Marry female slave
11	How a slave could free themselves	Save <i>peculium</i> and buy their freedom

12	Informal manumission	Did not give legal freedom. Could do via letter, inviting slave to dinner, or saying they're free in front of witnesses.
13	Formal manumission	Did give legal freedom. 1) <i>Vindicta</i> – fake courtroom drama, touched the slave with a rod and declared them free. 2) Add to the census as a free person. 3) Release the slave in the master's will. If over 30, the freedman became a citizen.
Key Terms		
14	Freedman/freedwoman	An ex-slave
15	manumission	Freeing of a slave
16	<i>peculium</i> 	Wages given to a slave by their master (typically only town slaves)
17	testament	Method of formal manumission – free the slaves in the will of the owner after his death.
18	<i>vindicita</i> 	Method of formal manumission with a fake courtroom drama based on the 'claim for freedom'.
Freedmen		
Key Details		
19	Freedmen's rights	Were Roman citizens but could not run for public office, be in the senatorial or equestrian classes, or serve in the legions. However, their sons could.
20	Link to their former masters	Still tied to them as a client – had to work for him for a certain number of days each year.
Key Terms		
21	<i>pileus</i> 	Felt cap of a freedman's freedom
22	Augustales	Public officials connected to preserving the honour of the emperor. Mostly made up of freedmen.

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Status		
Key Details		
23	Who got citizenship	Adult men – women had a limited status like children. Most citizens were poor.
24	Benefits of citizenship	Let Mice Go By Carefully: Legal protection, M arry citizens, G ames free, B aths free/cheap, C orn if poor
25	Senatorial class	Top of the two elite groups. Only 600. Born or added to senatorial class and owned more than 1 million sesterces. Worked in political and religious posts and in the senate. Not allowed to work in trade. Could wear a thick purple stripe.
26	Equestrian class	Second of the two elite groups. Unlimited number. Owned 400,000 sesterces. Worked in civil service and in trade. Wore a thin purple stripe and gold ring.
Key Terms		
27	Citizen	A person who is a member of a state or country and has legal rights there.
28	Consul	A type of magistrate, the most important public official in Rome after the emperor; two consuls were elected annually. From the senatorial class.
29	Equites	Members of the second social class in Rome; an equestrian had to own property worth at least 400,000 (400k) sesterces.
30	Magistrate	An elected politician in Rome. From the senatorial class.
31	Praetor	A type of magistrate, the second highest category of public official in Rome, responsible for the law courts and imperial administration. From the senatorial class.

32	Senator	Members of the highest social class in Rome; a senator had to own property worth at least 1 million sesterces.
Prescribed Sources		
33	<i>Ceratus, freedman, asks for Publius Vedius Numm[ianus] as aedile</i>	A freedman declares his political support for the man who is likely his former master. Pompeii.
34	Tomb of Naevoleia Tyche	A large tomb showing how successful freedmen and freedwomen could become in Roman society. Made of marble and shaped like a raised altar. Naevoleia's husband was an Augustalis and had been awarded an honorific chair. Also likely worked in trade – ship on one side of the tomb. 