



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



ANCIENT HISTORY

GENERAL COURSE

Externally set task Source Booklet

Rome, the Late Republic to the Lex Manilia c. 133–66 BC

Sample 2016

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SOURCE 1

Though their enemies routinely branded them as demagogues [popular leaders] and careerists [motivated by ambition], there is really no reason to think that the Gracchi were motivated by anything other than a genuine desire to improve the welfare of the Roman people. It can hardly be denied either that responsibility for the violence that ended their careers rests mainly with the Senate ... The Gracchi are important for another reason: their deaths, obtained on the pretext of national security, opened the door to the widespread and systematic use of violence in public life, a development which, if it did not cause the fall of the Republic, certainly hastened it.

Le Glay, Voisin and Le Bohec (2009) *A History of Rome*, pp. 113–114.

SOURCE 2

Moreover, seditious (rebellious) tribunes were exciting the mob: in every public meeting they demanded Metellus's head and exaggerated the virtues of Marius. In the end the lower classes were roused to such a pitch that all the artisans (craftsmen) and peasants... left their work to follow Marius about, regarding their own needs as less important than his advancement. The result was that the nobles were defeated, and for the first time in many years a newcomer to politics was elected consul. Later on, when the tribune Titus Manlius Mancinus called on a fully attended Assembly of the People to choose a commander for the Jugurthine war, they all voted for Marius. A decree which the Senate passed shortly before, retaining Metellus in his command, was thus rendered ineffective.

Sallust (Roman historian c. 86–35 BC), *Jugurthine War*, 73

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Source 1** Le Glay, M., Voisin, J.L., & Le Bohec, Y. (2009). *A history of Rome* (4th ed.). (A. Nevill, Trans.). Oxford, UK: Wiley, pp. 113–114.
- Source 2** Sallust. (1963). *The Jugurthine War: the conspiracy of Catiline*. (S.A. Handford, Trans.). London: Penguin, p.107. (Sallust c. 86–35 BC). This translation (c) the Estate of S. A. Handford, 1963.