



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



# ANCIENT HISTORY

GENERAL COURSE

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Externally set task Source Booklet

Establishment of Rome from the beginning of the Republic c. 509–146 BC

Sample 2016

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# Ancient History

## Externally set task Source Booklet

### The establishment of Rome from the beginning of the Republic to the end of the Punic Wars c. 509–146 BC

#### SOURCE 1

Now the Carthaginian constitution seems to me originally to have been well thought out in these most important areas. For they had kings, and the Gerousia [council of elders] had the powers of an aristocracy, and the masses were supreme in such things as affected them; and on the whole the way it worked was very like that of Rome and Sparta. But about the period of its entering on the Hannibalian [Punic] war the political state of Carthage was declining, that of Rome improving. For while there is in every government, or business a natural stage of growth, zenith [peak], and decay; and while everything in them is at its best at the zenith; we may therefore judge the difference between these two constitutions as they existed at that period. For exactly so far as the strength and prosperity of Carthage came before that of Rome, by so much was Carthage then past its prime [best], while Rome was exactly at its zenith, as far as its political constitution was concerned. In Carthage therefore the masses controlled the state, while at Rome the Senate controlled the state and so, in Carthage measures were decided upon by the many, in Rome by the best men [the Senate], the policy of the Romans in all public undertakings proved the stronger and though they met with major disasters, by force of wise advice they finally conquered the Carthaginians in the war.

Polybius (Greek historian c. 200–c. 118 BC), 6.51

#### SOURCE 2

But when, by perseverance [not giving up] and integrity [honesty], the Roman republic had increased its power; when mighty princes had been defeated in war; when barbarians and mighty states had been reduced to slavery; when Carthage, the rival of Rome's power, had been utterly destroyed, and sea and land lay everywhere open to Rome's rule, the Goddess of Fortune then began to exercise her control, and to introduce major changes. To the Romans who had easily endured toils, dangers, and doubtful and difficult circumstances, comfort and wealth, desirable to others, became a burden and a trouble. At first the love of money, and then that of power, began to take over, and these became the sources of every evil. For greed undermined honesty, integrity, and other honourable principles, and, in their place arose pride, inhumanity, and dislike of religion. Ambition prompted many to become dishonest; to keep something concealed, and a lie ready to speak; to estimate friendships and hatreds, not by their worth, but according to self-interest. These vices [evils] at first advanced but slowly, and were sometimes restrained by correction; but later, when their infection had spread like a plague the state was entirely changed, and the government, from being the most fair and praiseworthy, became greedy and insupportable.

Sallust (Roman historian c. 86–35 BC), *Conspiracy of Catiline* 10.1–10.6

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Source 1

Adapted from: Polybius. (1889). *The histories of Polybius*. (E.S. Shuckburgh, Trans.). London. Macmillan. (Polybius c. 200–c. 118 BC.) Retrieved January, 2014, from [www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0234%3Abook%3D6%3Achapter%3D51](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0234%3Abook%3D6%3Achapter%3D51)

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### Source 2

Adapted from: Sallust. (1899). *Conspiracy of Catiline*. (J.S. Watson, Trans.). New York, London: Harper, pp. 10.1–10.6. (Sallust c. 86–35 BC.) Retrieved January, 2014, from [www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0124%3Achapter%3D10](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0124%3Achapter%3D10)

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