Year 12 Ancient History – Ancient Rome: Terminology

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| Key Term | Definition |
| Assemblies | Various groups which held voting authority in the Republic; membership of assemblies varied; the Senate was the only one to make laws |
| client | A freeman who made an arrangement with a patron (man of wealth) for protection (financial and legal assistance); by the first century BCE, the system had become hereditary |
| *Consul* | Most powerful position of the *cursus honorum* |
| *Cursus honorum* | Structure of the magistracies (positions) within the Republican political system: set out minimum standards of experience and age for each position |
| Dictator | Magistry position enacted by the Senate in times of crisis, for a limited term; the dictator had *imperium* over all other magistracies |
| *Equites* | A middle class that grew during the second and third centuries BCE as provision was made for plebians who could afford to equip their own horse to enlist in the cavalry |
| *Imperium* | Latin for power to command: applied to magistracy positions that had ultimate control and authority at their level |
| Legion | Largest unit of soldiers within the army: approximately 4500 men |
| *Lex agraria* | Land and property reforms introduced in 133BCE by Tiberius Graccus intended to address the economic and social gap between classes |
| *Magister equitum* | Latin for master of the horse; lieutenant appointed to serve a dictator |
| *Mos maiorum* | Ancestral customs: Roman traditions that informed social behaviour and etiquette; separate by complementary to legal law |
| *Novus homo* | Latin for ‘New Man’; applied to men who were the first in their family to serve as consul; the definition later widened to include the first man in a family to serve the Senate |
| *Optimate* | Latin for best men; a political faction that included most of the aristocracy. They wanted to maintain traditional Roman values and the power of the Senate |
| *Pater Familias* | Latin for father of the family; the ledest male within a family group held abdolute authority over their wife, children, certain other relatives, clients, and slaves; his responsibilities were guided by the *mos maiorum* |
| *Pater Patriae* | Latin for father of the country |
| *Patria Potestas* | Latin for power of a rather; the power and authority held by the *Pater Familias* |
| *Patrician* | Wealthy social class; a small group of privileged elite who came from old aristocratic families |
| *Plebian* | Lower social class; the majority of Rome’s population |
| *Pontifex Maximus* | Chief priest of rome |
| *Populares* | Political faction that believed success could be achieved by working with the people |
| Sacrosanctity | The declaration that something is sacred or under religious protection; at this time, the position of tribune was sacrosanct |
| Senate | Oldest and most powerful assembly in the Republic. It had the legislative power to make laws but its membership was dominated by the patricians |
| *Senatus Populusque Romanus (SPQR)* | The Senate and People of Rome; used in reference to the government of the people |
| Struggle of the Orders | Series of conflicts between plebians and patriciaans in the second and third centuries BCE due to increasing social, economic, and political disparity between the classes |
| *Tribune* | Magistracy position representing the plebian class; an annual term |
| *Tribunicia Potestas* | Tribune’s power to veto decisions |
| Triumvirate | Joint rule between 3 individuals; termed *triumvirs*   1. Julius Caesar, Pompey the Great, Crassus 2. Octavian, Marc Antony, Lepidus |