1. **Alexander the Great**

**Who** – he was the King of Macedonia and history’s most famous military leaders.

**Where** – His campaigns went from Greece through Asia Minor, Egypt, Persia, and parts of India.

**When** – He led from 336 BCE until his death in 323 BCE.

**Why** – He is significant in history because he created on of the larges empires of ancient times, and spread Hellenistic culture, which blended the separate cultures of many countries and profoundly changed the ancient world.

1. **The Roman Republican Constitution**

**Who** – A way of governing in ancient Rome that blended elements of democracy, oligarchy, and monarchy.

**Where** – centered in Rome, but influenced all over the Roman Republic.

**When** – During the early Republic which was 509 BCE – 27 BCE

**Why** – the constitution was significant because it laid the ground work for Roman law and way of governing, which greatly influenced future political systems, all the way to modern times.

1. **The Punic Wars**

**What** – a series of 3 wars between Rome and Carthage

**Where** – In the western Mediterranean, which included Sicily, North Africa, and the Iberian Penisula.

**When** – 264 BCE to 146 BCE

**Why** - These wars laid the groundwork for Roman dominance over the Mediterranean, which led to the expansion of Rome’s empire and the eventual destruction of Carthage.

1. **The Prophet Muhammed**

**Who** – The founder of Islam, and is considered the last prophet in Islam.

**Where** – He was born in Mecca and later lived in what is now present day Saudi Arabia.

**When** – Lived from 57- CE to 632 CE

**Why** – He was historically significant for unifying the Arabian Peninsula under Islam, which was a religion that would become a major religion influencing government, culture, and society as a whole.

1. **The Silk Road Trade System**

**What** – A network of trader routes that connected China, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

**Where** – From East Asia through Central Asia to the Mediterranean.

**When** – From about 130 BCE to 1453 CE

**Why** - The Silk Road what integral to for the exchange of goods, ideas, technology and culture across all of Eurasia.

Essay Question No.1

In ancient times, Rome and Greece had an unusual relationship. Although Rome defeated Greece in war, and absorbed it into its empire, Greek culture had a huge impact on Roman society. Greece’s influences shaped what eventually became the identity of Roman culture. I will explain in this essay how Greek influence was key in “Hellenizing” Rome.

The art and architecture of the Greeks became integral parts of Roman culture, which is a prime example of the Romans adopting and Hellenistic styles. When the Romans were victorious in war, they would bring back treasure, Greek artist, sculptors, and architects. These Greek artistic styles had a big influence on Roman art. The Romans liked the perfect and idealized way the Greeks made statues of the human form. Their statues were known to celebrate the beauty of the human body. Before Greek art, Roman art was less detailed and the sculptures were less dramatic that what the Greeks made, but Greek influence on Roman art caused art to have more elegance and detail. Many roman sculptures copied Greek originals by artist such as Phidias and Praxteles. This effectively blended the dramatic art style of the Greeks with the realistic nature of Roman art.

In architecture, the Romans once again borrowed heavily from the Greek designs but added their own influence. The Greek column style Doric, Iconic, and Corinthian became common in Roman buildings. The famous Pantheon in Rome has Corinthian columns. Roman temples and theaters also integrated Greek designs, but added their usual Roman twist. The building which we now know today such as the Colosseum and the aqueducts, integrated the Greek-Inspired beauty with the Roman level engineering skills. These buildings had both beauty and practicality.

Another part of Roman culture that was heavily influenced by the Greeks was literature and theater. Greek writers such as Homer, Sophocles, and Euripides were both admired and studied by the Roman people. These works became part of Roman education, and inspired Roman authors. One example of this is that Virgils “Aeneid” was based on Homer’s “Iliad” and “Odyssey”, but it combined with it the story of Rome’s origins and made it about Roman culture instead. This became a common occurrence with many Greek stories and poems being retold with a new Roman twist.

Greek theater also had a notable impact on Roman entertainment. Greek styles of drama such as Tragedy and comedy were once again taken by the Romans, and in usual fashion they added a Roman perspective. Roman playwrights like Plautus and Terence took Greek plays and reworked them by adding Roman themes and humor. The Roman theaters, such as the Theater of Marcellus, were based on Greek theater designs, but included Roman style designs such as curved seating and elaborate stage effects that the Romans used in their plays.

Art and Literature were not the only areas of Roman culture that were influenced by the Greeks. Greek culture spread to all areas of society in Roman life. This included education, philosophy, religion, and science. Philosophies like Stoicism and Epicureanism where developed in Greece. They then became popular in Rome and had influence on the Romans way of thinking. Roman religion was influenced as well. Many of the Roman gods and goddesses can be linked to Greek deities.

In conclusion, through art, architecture, religion, and much more, it is clear that Greek culture became a huge part of Roman culture. Despite the Romans and Greeks seemed in many ways to be complete opposites, the two opposing cultures came together as a hybrid culture that was both practical and beautiful. Even Greece was conquered by the Romans, they lived on through Roman appreciation of Greek culture and continue to echo throughout history.