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| **CR**DBQ | **What can we as historians learn about Roman society from The Twelve Tables of Rome?** |

**The Twelve Tables of Rome**

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| 12345678910111213141516171819202122232425262728 | Table VIII: Laws of Injury2. If one has maimed a limb and does not compromise with the injured person, let there be **retaliation** [revenge]. If one has broken a bone of a freeman with his hand or with a **cudgel**, let him pay a penalty of three hundred coins If he has broken the bone of a slave, let him have one hundred and fifty coins. If one is guilty of insult, the penalty shall be twenty-five coins.10. Any person who destroys by burning any building or heap of corn deposited alongside a house shall be bound, **scourged**, and put to death by burning at the stake provided that he has committed the said **misdeed** with **malice** [intention to do harm] aforethought; but if he shall have committed it by accident, that is, by negligence, it is ordained that he repair the damage or, if he be too poor to be competent for such punishment, he shall receive a lighter punishment.12. If the theft has been done by night, if the owner kills the thief, the thief shall be held to be lawfully killed.13. It is unlawful for a thief to be killed by day....unless he defends himself with a weapon; even though he has come with a weapon, unless he shall use the weapon and fight back, you shall not kill him. And even if he resists, first call out so that someone may hear and come up.23. A person who had been found guilty of giving false witness [lying] shall be hurled down from the Tarpeian Rock.Table IX: Public Law5. **Treason**: he who shall have **roused** up a public enemy or handed over a citizen to a public enemy must suffer capital punishment.6. Putting to death of any man, whosoever he might be unconvicted is forbidden.Table XI: Supplement I1. Marriages should not take place between **plebeians** and **patricians**.Table XII: Supplement II2. If a slave shall have committed theft or done damage with his master’s knowledge, the action for damages is in the slave's name. |

**Source:** Oliver J. Thatcher, ed., *The Library of Original Sources* (Milwaukee: University Research Extension Co., 1901), Vol. III: *The Roman World*, pp. 9-11. Scanned and modernized by J. S. Arkenberg, Dept. of History, Cal. State Fullerton. Retrieved from: <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/12tables.asp>

1. What does this section from lines 3-5 of the Twelve Tables suggest about Roman society?

*“If one has broken a bone of a freeman with his hand or with a cudgel, let him pay a penalty of three hundred coins. If he has broken the bone of a slave, let him have one hundred and fifty coins.”*

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2. **Treason** is addressed in lines 20-21. What is **treason**?

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4. According the Twelve Tables, what was the punishment for treason in Rome? Why would a government establish that punishment for treason?

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5. What does the law “Putting to death of any man, whosoever he might be unconvicted is forbidden” from Table IX mean?

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6. As mentioned in line 25, who are “plebeians” and “patricians?”

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7. What can you infer about Roman society based on the first law from Table XI, *“Marriages should not take place between plebeians and patricians?”*

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8. If you were a historian researching what life was like for people living in the Roman Republic, would you consider *The Twelve Tables* a reliable source? Why or why not?

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9. What other sources might help you better understand what life was like for people living in the Roman Republic?

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