

Name: _____
Date: _____ **Period:** _____

Historical Question: **Why did the Roman Empire fall?**

Standard Essay Processor

<p>Thesis Write 1 sentence with multiple, distinct, parts that directly answers the question stated in the box at the top of the page.</p>	<p>The slow political and cultural decline of the Roman Empire weakened the military, which left the empire vulnerable to increasingly successful barbarian invasions.</p>		
<p>Claim Label</p>	<p>Claim 1: CULT/POL DECLINE</p>	<p>Claim 2: FAILED MILITARY</p>	<p>Claim 3: INVASIONS</p>
<p>Claim Sentence Write a topic sentence that summarizes one claim from the thesis. As claims are added, the topic sentence should reference the previous claims.</p>	<p>In the centuries leading up to its collapse, the Roman Empire was in a state of cultural and political decline.</p>	<p>Aspects of the cultural and political decline made their way into the Roman military and weakened it from the inside.</p>	<p>After centuries of gradual decline, the weakened Roman military was no longer able to hold back wave after wave of barbarian invasions and the empire collapsed.</p>
<p>Evidence (Example) and Logic (Explanation) Present and explain a piece of specific evidence (people, place, event, idea, trend, etc.) to illustrate the claim.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Prosperity ripened the principle of decay” (DOC 1) • Too much success may have created a sense of laziness and entitlement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “. . . because of negligence and laziness, parade ground drills were abandoned, the customary armor began to seem heavy since the soldiers rarely ever wore it.” (DOC 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There was a decline in agriculture and land was withdrawn from cultivation, in some cases on a very large scale, sometimes as a direct result of barbarian invasions.” (DOC 2)
<p>Evidence (Example) and Logic (Explanation) Present and explain a piece of specific evidence (people, place, event, idea, trend, etc.) to illustrate the claim.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “. . . the causes of destruction multiplied with the extent of conquest . . .” (DOC 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “So our soldiers fought the Goths without any protection for chest and head and were often beaten by archers.” (DOC 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 100 and 500 CE, the Roman Empire was invaded by a host of barbarian groups that sacked several major cities, including Rome. (DOC 6)
<p>Evidence (Example) and Logic (Explanation) Present and explain a piece of specific evidence (people, place, event, idea, trend, etc.) to illustrate the claim.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rome had 21 emperors between 235 and 285 CE. (DOC3) • Most of these emperors served only a few years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There can be little doubt that the weaknesses of the late Roman Army were largely due to the eventual failure . . . to enforce regular conscription [draft of soldiers] . . .” (DOC 5) 	
<p>Evidence (Example) and Logic (Explanation) Present and explain a piece of specific evidence (people, place, event, idea, trend, etc.) to illustrate the claim.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the emperors between 235 and 285 CE met an untimely death. (DOC 3) 		