

Notes on Quiz #8: Augustus, Princeps, Imperator

1. The principate, as established in 23 BCE (the “Second Settlement”), granted all of the following to Augustus EXCEPT:
 - a. the powers of a tribune
 - b. the nomination of consuls and jurors
 - c. the imperium of a proconsul
 - d. the thanedom of Cawdor

The principate gave Octavian, now called Augustus, the authority to act on behalf of the Roman state, but did not quite create a governmental office. — Instead, starting with what historians call the Second Settlement Augustus was granted a bloc of powers associated with offices of the Republic for five or ten year intervals. The most important of these were (a) the imperium and the powers of a consul; (b) the powers and privileges of the plebeian tribunate, including the veto, the right of appeal to the people on behalf of a citizen, and sacrosanctity; and (c) the powers of a censor, which included conducting the census and ordering the membership of the senate. He also afterwards acquired the title of pontifex maximus, which put him in control of the state religion. — More generally, the princeps was the person in whom the people, the soldiers, and the nobles invested their faith and loyalty after the brutality and divisions of the civil wars, creating strength and unity of identity where the actual government of Rome and institutions like the senate had failed to do so.

2. Augustus reformed the Roman army by making it more
 - a. immense
 - b. professional
 - c. fanatical
 - d. German

Augustus reduced the size of the legions but made them more professional, with soldierdom as a more structured career. Augustus did create the Praetorian Guard, with a predominantly German membership so that they would be more beholden to him, but this did not affect the main body of the army.

3. Of those he planned to make his heir, Augustus outlived all EXCEPT:
 - a. His son-in-law Agrippa
 - b. His stepson Tiberius
 - c. His grandsons Gaius and Lucius
 - d. His nephew Marcellus

The princeps was not a formal office of the state; it consisted of authority and loyalty attached to Augustus personally. Augustus had literally inherited Caesar’s place in the people’s and soldiers’ hearts through adoption, and this became the way of conveying the personal prestige of the princeps to his personal heir as if it were part of his estate, through the choice of an adopted son who was also a proven leader (in the end, his step-son Tiberius).

4. The Augustan Age included contributions to Latin literature by all of the following Romans EXCEPT:
- a. Horace, the poet known for *Satires* and *Odes*
 - b. Bilbonius, author of *There and Back Again*
 - c. Livy, the prose historian known for *Ab Urbe Condita*
 - d. Vergil, author of the *Aeneid*

Horace, Livy, and Vergil were authors who contributed in various ways to Latin literature.

5. For civil administration of such vital operations as the grain supply, the grain dole, the water supply, flood control, the mint, and the military treasury, Augustus and his successors relied on
- a. conscripted soldiers
 - b. slaves and freedmen
 - c. Roman noblewomen
 - d. resurrected ancestors

Rome never had a civil service or bureaucracy other than the elected magistrates, and this did not change under the principate. Under the principate, the role of civil servants was undertaken by the slaves and freedmen from the emperor's extended household.

Optional Extra Credit

EC. Augustus claimed to have restored the Republic. Do you agree? What does "Republic" mean in your answer?

This could be answered in a number of ways. The case against restoration would include arguments relating to the Republican machinery of government—consuls, censors, the senate, etc.—had completely lost their independence and ability to act on behalf of the people, since the will of the Roman commonwealth was now exercised by Augustus. The people were also partially disempowered, since their ability to elect consuls was now virtually meaningless. — On the other hand, Augustus ended the civil wars and restored the normal operation of government, which meant that people could trust in the system again and reliably expect the state to provide defense, leadership, services, and justice. Augustus also stood for respect for the old ways, the *mos maiorum*, which meant he was aggressively seeking to restore traditional values and customs as a part of his rehabilitation of Rome and the Roman identity. Finally, Augustus, unlike the populist leaders that came before him (Caesar, Antony), aggressively sought to be the leader of all the Romans, not just the masses and soldiers.