Name_____

ROME UNIT EXAM

WHAT MADE ROME GREAT?

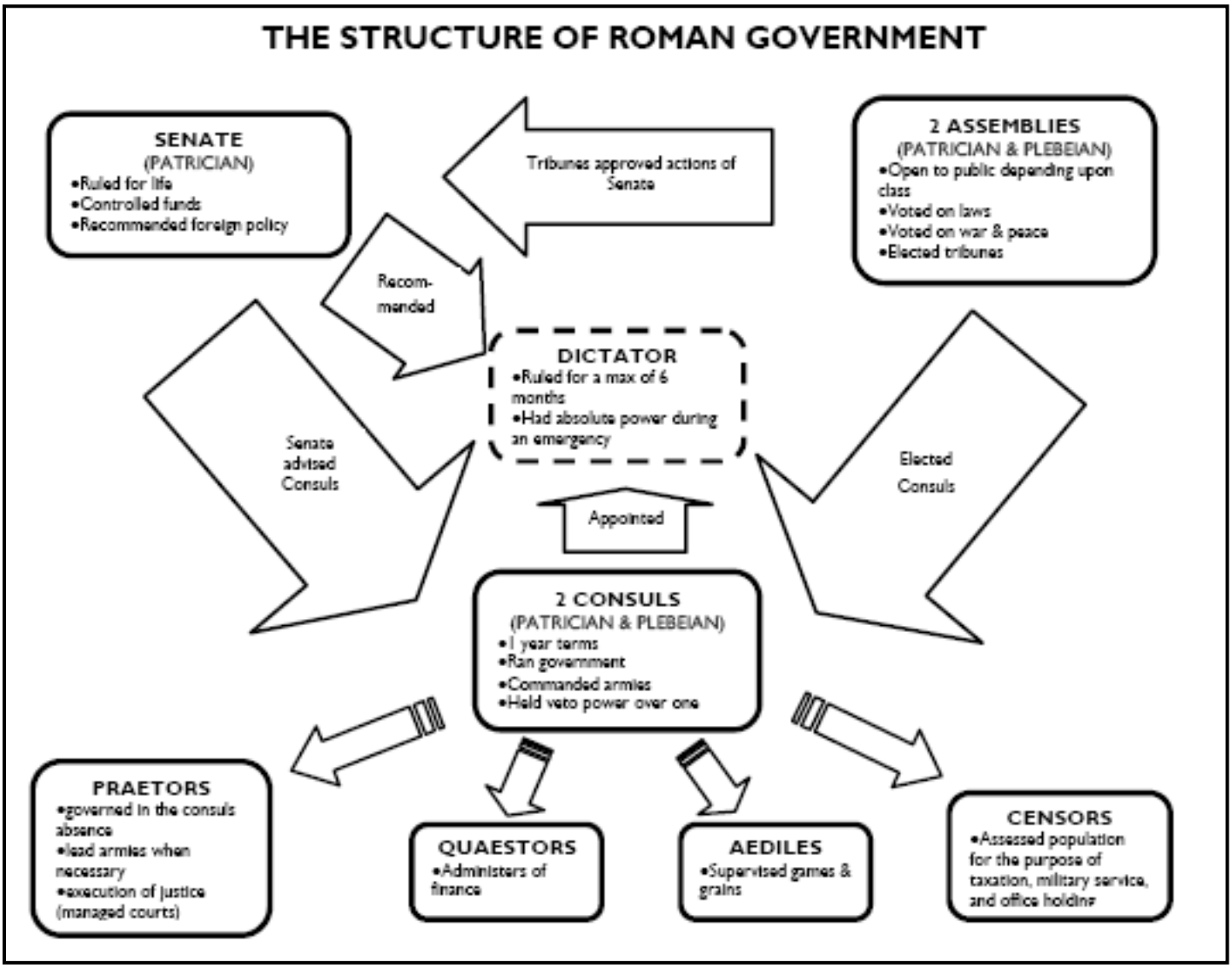
Using the documents below and your knowledge of Ancient Rome, develop an essay which answers the question, "What made Rome great?" Your essay will be graded using the Social Studies Writing Rubric.

DOCUMENT 1

Rome's Perfect Location, by Cicero (excerpt)

The location (Romulus ; the mythical co founder of Rome) chose for the city… was unbelievably favorable. For he did not move his city down the coast, a step very easy for him to take with the forces at his command, either by invading the territory of the Rutuli or of the Aborigines, or by himself founding a city at the mouth of the Tiber… But with singular foresight Romulus saw and divined that a location upon the seaboard was not the most advantageous for cities intended to enjoy permanence and imperial sway, chiefly because maritime cities are exposed to dangers both numerous and impossible to foresee. A city surrounded on all sides by land receives many warnings of an enemy's approach…such as the crashing (of the forest) and even the noise (of marching troops). No enemy, in fact, can arrive by land without enabling us to know both his hostile intent and who he is and whence (from where) he comes. On the contrary, an enemy who comes by ships over the sea may arrive before anyone can suspect his coming, and indeed, when he appears, he does not show any signs of who he is, whence he comes, or even what he wants…

DOCUMENT 2



DOCUMENT 3

***Rome at the End of the Punic Wars* by Polybius**

Thus, while each of these separate parts is enabled either to assist or obstruct the rest, the government is so well secured against every accident, that it seems scarcely possible to invent a more perfect system. For whenever either of the separate parts of the republic attempts to exceed its proper limits, excites contention and dispute, and struggles to obtain a greater share of power, than that which is assigned to it by the laws that since no one single part is in itself supreme or absolute, but that on the contrary, the powers which are assigned to each are still subject to reciprocal control.

DOCUMENT 4

Twelve Tables of Law (excerpts)

(Table IX Law 4) The penalty shall be death for a judge or authority legally appointed who has been found guilty of receiving a bribe for giving a decision.

(Table V Law 3) As a man has provided in his will in regard to his money and the care of his property, so let it be binding. If he has no heir and dies, let the nearest male kinsmen have the inheritance. If there is no male kinsman, let the members of his extended family have the inheritance.

(Table VIII Law 3) If one is murdered while committing theft by night, he is rightly slain.

(Table VIII Law 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.

DOCUMENT 5

The Roman Army by Josephus (excerpt)

One must admire the precaution of the Romans…for their military practices do not differ at all from their wartime tactics but soldiers are trained every day consistently as if Rome were in a time of war which is the reason why the soldiers are able to deal with the fatigue of battles so easily; because one battle cannot remove them from their purpose nor can fear scare them out of it nor can labor tire them. It is their discipline and training that allows them to overcome their enemies that do not possess the same discipline….There are few examples if any where they have been conquered in battle when they came to a close fight either by the multitude of the enemies or by the strategy of their enemy or by the difficulties in the places they were in for their victories have been surer to them than fortune could have granted them.

DOCUMENT 6

***THE GREAT BUILDINGS OF ROME*, Pliny the Elder**

In great buildings as well as in other things the rest of the world has been outdone by us Romans. If, indeed, all the buildings in our City are considered in the aggregate, and supposing them---so to say---all thrown together in one vast mass, the united grandeur of them would lead one to imagine that we were describing another world, accumulated in a single spot…. Frequently praise is given to the great sewer system of Rome. There are seven "rivers" made to flow, by artificial channels, beneath the city. Rushing onward like so many impetuous torrents, they are compelled to carry off and sweep away all the sewerage; and swollen as they are by the vast accession of the rain water, they reverberate against the sides and bottoms of their channels. Now and then the ground is shaken by earthquakes, and yet---built as they were in the days of Tarquinius Priscus, seven hundred years ago---these constructions have survived, all but unharmed; firm and solid is the masonry that it is able to offer an effectual resistance….If we take into account the abundant supply of water to the public, for baths, ponds, canals, household purposes, gardens, places in the suburbs and country houses, and then reflect upon the distances that are traversed from the sources on the hills, the arches that have been constructed, the mountains pierced, the valleys leveled, we must perforce admit that there is nothing more worthy of our admiration throughout the whole universe.

DOCUMENT 7

"*The Reign of Domitian*" by Suetonius

He made a present to the people of three hundred shows each on three occasions, and in the course of one of his shows in celebration of the feast of the Seven Hills gave a plentiful banquet, distributing large baskets of food to the senate and knights, and smaller one to the commons….On the following day he scattered gifts of all sorts of things to be scrambled for.

From the earliest times the supply of corn was considered one of the duties of the government. Even in early times it had been usual for the state on certain occasions, and for wealthy individuals who wished to obtain popularity and influence, to make occasional donations of corn to the people. But such donations were only casual; and it was not till the year B.C. 123, that the first legal provision was made for supplying the poor of Rome with corn at a price much below its market value.