

Aim: Why did Rome really fall?

I. Politically

- a) 235-284 CE there were 22 different emperors
- b) Invasions, civil war and plague
- c) Loss of many soldiers
- d) The Germanic soldiers

II. Economically

- a) Trade declined
- b) High taxes
- c) Economy collapses
- d) Coinage devalued
- e) Labor shortage
- f) Inflation

III. Socially

- a) Town life declined, religiously divided
- b) Christians differ from some Roman values
- c) People are lazy and unpatriotic
- d) Learning declined

IV. Revival

- a) Diocletian: 284-305
 - 1. New government
 - 2. New army
 - 3. Divided empire into 4 sections
- b) Constantine 306 –337
 - 1. Moves the capital from Rome to Constantinople
 - 2. This is called the New Rome

V. Fall of Rome

- a) Emperor's stifled Rome's vitality
- b) Western part of empire was weak
- c) 375: Emperor Valen allows Germanic tribes
- d) 401: Italy is invaded
- e) 410: Rome is sacked
- f) Barbarians invade from all over
 - a. Anglo-Saxons attack Britain
 - b. Franks attack Gaul
 - c. Vandals attack Spain and North Africa
 - d. Visigoths and Huns attack Italy and Greece
 - e. Most known of all invaders Attila the Hun (405-453)
- g) 476 Romulus Augustus declares the fall of Rome