D.B.Q. Question: **How, why, and to what degree were the Roman Republic and Roman Empire able to achieve long-term political, cultural and religious unity?**

Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 509 BCE to 476 CE to construct your essay.

**Document 1**

**Source: Twelve Tables of Roman Law (449 BCE)**

From Table VIII (Torts or Delicts):

“If a patron defrauds a client he shall be accursed.

Unless he speaks his testimony whoever allows himself to be called as a witness or is a scales-bearer shall be dishonored and incompetent to give or obtain testimony….

From Table IX (Public Law):

Laws of personal exception shall not be proposed. Laws concerning capital punishment of a citizen shall not be passed… except by the General Assembly [Concilium Plebis]…

Whoever incites a public enemy or whoever betrays a citizen to a public enemy shall be punished capitally.

For anyone whomsoever to be put to death without a trial and unconvicted… is forbidden.

**Document 2**

**Source: Roman coins, (c. 1st century CE)**



**Document 3**

**Source: Tacitus’ description of German tribes in *Germania* (c. 98 CE)**

“Only a few of them use swords or large lances: they carry spears with short and narrow blades, but so sharp and easy to handle that they can be used, as required, either at close quarters or in long-range fighting. …. Their horses are not remarkable for either beauty or speed, and are not trained to execute various turns as ours are. The Germans’ strength lies in infantry rather than cavalry. Foot-soldiers accompany the cavalry into action, their speed of foot being such that they can easily keep up with the charging horsemen.

**Document 4**

**Source: Pliny the Younger’s correspondence with Trajan (c. 110 CE)**

Pliny to Trajan: “This is what I have done with those who were named to me as Christians. I ha them brought in an asked them face-to-face if they were Christians. If they said “Yes,” I asked them a second time. If they still said “Yes,” I asked them a third time. And this time I threatened them with punishment. If they still said “Yes,” I ordered them to be beheaded…

Trajan to Pliny: “You did the right thing, my Secundus, in “shaking out” the cases of those who were named to you as Christians. There is no one rule which will cover everything. The matter is so complex. But the Christians must not be hunted out. If they are named and proved Christians, they must be punished. If someone says he is not a Christian and shows it by praying to our Roman gods, then grant him a pardon. He has repented and that will do. Do this even to those who may be suspected of having been Christians in the past.

Do not take any notice of lists of names that have no significance. They must not be used as evidence in a court of law. That sort of thing is a very poor example to others. It is not the sort of thing I want to be remembered for as Emperor.”

**Document 5**

**Source: Roman Aqueduct (date unknown)**



**Document 6**

**Source: City of God by Saint Augustine (c. 430 CE)**

“…. it has come to pass that the two cities [earthly and heavenly] could not have common laws of religion, and that the heavenly city has been compelled in this matter to dissent, and to become obnoxious to those who think differently, and to stand the brunt of their anger and hatred and persecutions, except in so far as the minds of their enemies have been alarmed by the multitude of the Christians and quelled by the manifest protection of God accorded to them. This heavenly city, then, while it sojourns on earth, calls citizens out of all nations, and gathers together a society of pilgrims of all languages, not scrupling about diversities in the manners, laws, and institutions whereby earthly peace is secured and maintained, but recognizing that… they all tend to one an the same end of earthly peace.”