**Roman Revision – Key Debate 1: To what extent did Augustus Actually Restore the Republic?**

(SOURCE 2) **Prescribed Source – Tacitus, *Annals***

9.1 After this there was much discussion about Augustus. Most people wondered at such trifles as the coincidence that the day on which he had once assumed *imperium* was the same as that on which he had died; and that he had departed his life at Nola in the same house and bedroom as his father Octavius. 9.2 They remarked also on the number of consulships, which matched the combined totals of Valerius Corvus and Gaius Marius; on the thirty-seven consecutive years of his tribunician power; on the title of *imperator* gained on twenty-one occasions; and on the other honours, multiple or novel. 9.3 Among those of a more thoughtful turn of mind, however, his life was either extolled or criticised. One school of thought argued that duty to his father and the needs of the republic, in which there was then no place for law, had driven him to civil war, a course which none could prepare for or execute by honourable means. 9.4 While seeking vengeance on his father’s murderers, he had indeed made many concessions to Antony, many to Lepidus. Once the latter had lapsed into the inertia of senility and the former became corrupted by his own vices, there remained no other solution to the discords of the fatherland than that it should be ruled over by one man. 9.5 Yet he had ordered the republic not as a kingdom, nor as a dictatorship, but under the name of *princeps*; the boundaries of the empire were now defended by the Ocean and by mighty rivers; legions, provinces, fleets and the general administration were all now co-ordinated; towards citizens the law was observed, restraint towards allies. The city itself was now magnificently adorned; only on a few occasions had force been used to guarantee peace and quiet for the rest.

(SOURCE 1) **Prescribed Source – Suetonius, *Augustus*, 28**

28. Twice Augustus seriously thought of restoring the republic: immediately after the fall of Antony, when he remembered that Antony had often accused him of being the one obstacle to such a change, and again when he could not shake off an exhausting illness. He then actually summoned the chief magistrates and the Senate to his house and gave them a faithful account of the military and financial state of the empire. On reconsideration, however, he decided that to divide the responsibilities of government among several hands would be to jeopardize not only his own life but also national security; so he did nothing. The results were almost as good as his intentions, which he expressed from time to time and even published in an edict: ‘May I be privileged to build firm and lasting foundations for the commonwealth. May I also achieve the reward to which I aspire: that of being the author of the best possible constitution, and of carrying with me, when I die, the hope that these foundations will abide secure.’ And, indeed, he achieved this success, having taken great trouble to prevent his political system from causing any individual distress.

(SOURCE 3)**Prescribed Source - Tacitus, *Annals,* 1: 2.1**

2.1 After the death of Brutus and Cassius, the republic no longer had an army. Pompey had been defeated in Sicily, Lepidus disposed of, and Anthony killed. As a result even the Julian faction had only Caesar left to lead them. He laid aside the title of triumvir and presented himself as a consul, content to defend the people by virtue of the tribunician power. Thereafter, once he had seduced the soldiery with gifts, the people with corn, and everyone with the delights of peace, he gradually increased his power, arrogating to himself the functions of the senate, the magistrates and the law. He faced no opposition, since the bravest souls had died in battle or fallen victim to prosecution, while the surviving nobles enjoyed a wealth and status which increased in proportion to their servility; and having profited by revolution, the preferred present safety to the insecurity of the past.

(SOURCE 4) **Prescribed Source - Dio, The Roman History: The Reign of Augustus**

17. Through this process the power both of the people and of the Senate was wholly transferred into the hands of Augustus, and it was from this time that a monarchy, strictly speaking, was established. It would certainly be most truthful to describe it as a monarchy, even if at a later date two or three men held supreme power at the same time. It is true that the Romans hated the actual name of monarchs so vehemently that they did not refer to their emperors as either dictators or kings or anything similar. But since the final decision in the governing process is referred to them, it is impossible that they should be anything other than kings.

(SOURCE 5) **Prescribed Source – Velleius Paterculus, *History of Rome*, 2.89.1-91.4**

89.1 Caesar returned to Italy and Rome to be greeted by huge crowds and universal acclaim from young and old, rich and poor alike. The magnificence of his triumph and the public games he provided could hardly be adequately described within the scope of a full-scale work, let alone one as restricted as this. 89.2 There was nothing, thereafter, which men could hope for from the gods, nor the gods provide to men, no blessings which in their wildest imaginings men could pray for nor good fortune bring to pass, which Augustus on his return to Rome did not restore to the republic, the Roman people, and the world at large. 89.3. Twenty years of civil strife were ended, foreign wars laid to rest, peace restored, and man’s crazed lust for warfare everywhere dead and buried. Force was restored to the laws, authority to the courts, majesty to the senate; the power of the magistrates was reduced to its former limits, except that two praetors were added to the eight; the ancient, traditional form of the republic was brought back.

(SOURCE 6) **Prescribed Source – *Res Gestae Divi Augusti***

34.1. In my sixth and seventh consulships [28-27 BC], after I had put an end to civil wars, although by everyone’s agreement I had power over everything, I transferred the state from my power into the control of the Roman senate and people. 34.2. For this service I was named Augustus by senatorial decree, and the door posts of my house were publicly clothed with laurels, and a civil crown was fastened above my doorway, and a golden shield was set up in the Julian senate-house; through and inscription on this shield the fact was declared that the Roman senate and people were giving it to me because of my valour, clemency, justice, and piety. 34.3. After this time I excelled everyone in influence, but I had no more power than the others who were my colleagues in each magistracy.

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| ***Evidence from the sources which shows Augustus did restore the Republic*** | ***Evidence from the sources which shows Augustus did not restore the Republic*** |
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| ***Evidence from your own knowledge which shows Augustus did restore the Republic*** | ***Evidence from your own knowledge which shows Augustus did not restore the Republic*** |
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