**Questions on Beard SPQR pages 213-220 –**

**Summary of ‘the period between 146 BC and the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44BC’**

1. Who were the following and what did they contribute to the ‘high point of Roman literature, art and culture’ identified by Beard in this period (particularly 79-43, the period we study):

Catullus:

Cicero:

Julius Caesar:

1. What happened to the architecture of Rome during this time?
2. How were Pompey’s actions in 61 BC seen by some commentators as a symbol of what Beard calls ‘progressive political and moral decline’?
3. What was Caesar up to during the 50s BC?
4. What do you think Beard means by ‘the blood of innocent Remus was taking its revenge’?
5. What two trends does Beard identify which led to ‘the progressive degeneration of the political process’ (fist para. on p.216)?
6. How did the Gracchi brothers use the office of tribune to try to reform the political system in favour of the poor?
7. What happened to the Gracchi and what does their fate suggest about the state of Rome at this point?
8. Beard refers to ‘three more sustained civil wars, or revolutionary uprisings’ (page 217). List these, with their dates.
9. When was the Social War? What was it about and what effect did it have on Rome and Italy?
10. Who was Sulla? How many times did he march on Rome? Give the dates and reasons.
11. Describe Sulla’s ‘reign of terror’ – and its surprising end.
12. What and when was the ‘slave war’?
13. Describe the situation in Rome during the 60s and early 50s BC. Include notes on Catiline and Clodius (page 218).
14. Which three men made up what a contemporary satirist called the ‘Three-Headed Monster’? What was this alliance properly called, how long did it last and what was it set up to do?
15. What was the significance of Caesar’s crossing the Rubicon in 49 BC?
16. Outline the ‘underlying problems’ in Rome at the end of the 1st century BC as outlined by Beard on page 219.
17. ‘It is easy to present the period as a series of irrevocable and brutal steps in the direction of crisis or as a slow countdown to both the end of the free state and the return of one-man rule.’ What do you think Beard means in this sentence?
18. What, according to Beard (end of page 219 into page 220), made the last century of the Republic ‘more than a mere bloodbath’?
19. What themes does Beard identify in the last paragraph (page 220) as being ‘inextricably intertwined’ in the background to the end of the Republic?