

Name _____

Per _____

SORTING THE REASONS FOR THE FALL OF ROME

Directions: For each reason for the end of the Roman Empire, determine whether you think it is **Political**, **Military**, **Economic**, or **Social** in the box to the left. Then, complete the questions at the end.

Category	Reason
Political	Bad emperors after Marcus Aurelius (180 C.E.)
	Creative energy of Rome was destroyed because the empire was so unified (everyone doing the same thing)
	Army made smaller to the point that it could not hold off Barbarian invasions
	Christianity blamed for ruining the civic and moral spirit of Rome
	Food shortages because of climate changes
	Most land owned by a few rich people (patricians) after the Punic Wars (the latifundia, when wealthy Romans seized smaller farms and formed large farms under one owner)
	Rome needed goods from its provinces (controlled lands) instead of being self-sufficient
	Rome did not produce anything to trade to other areas of the world
	The cities declined because they were more concerned with controlling far off lands than making goods
	Civil wars, general instability and pirates after 180 C.E.
	Government spent more money than it had leading to inflation
	Wealthy Senators didn't pay taxes
	High taxes on the urban middle class
	Mercenary armies not very loyal to Rome
	Roman citizens avoiding military service
	Bribery, corruption and too much bureaucracy (government)
	Deaths because of warfare, famine, and disease
	Use of slave labor led to revolts
	Government capital moved from Rome to Constantinople
	Widening gap between the rich patricians and poor plebeians

ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

1. Which category has the most reasons in it?

2. What is the MOST important category? (Note: this may not be the one with the most reasons in it!) EXPLAIN why you think so.

3. What is the LEAST important category? EXPLAIN why you think so.

4. What is the MOST important reason for the end of the (western) Roman Empire? EXPLAIN why you think so.

5. What is the LEAST important reason for the end of the (western) Roman Empire? EXPLAIN why you think so.