Influences from Ancient Rome   Name _____

                                Class Period _____Assignment #

        Ancient Rome, like ancient Greece, left many legacies to modern civilizations. Whereas Greece developed philosophy and learning, however, Rome left its mark in language, law, and politics.

        Directions: Read below about some influences from ancient Rome, then answer the questions that follow.

        The growth of the Roman Empire eventually carried the Latin language over the entire Mediterranean world. Latin-based, or Romance, languages almost totally replaced the native languages of Celts, Gauls, Iberians, and other peoples. Today, Romance languages include French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Romanian, and the Romansch of Switzerland. Although English is German-based, its rich vocabulary is largely due to the Latin and French words that came into the language alongside Anglo-Saxon.

        In addition, speakers of English are often speakers of Latin without knowing it. The everyday phrases "A.M." and "P.M." are short for the Latin *ante* and *post meridiem*—before and after noon. The *Exit* sign over a door is pure Latin for "he (she, it) goes out."   Anyone who has joined an *ad hoc* committee, gone to an *alumni* reunion, figured something *per capita*, or added a P.S. (*post scriptum*) to a letter has

used Latin.

        The legal language and principles used in Europe and the Americas also were influenced by Rome. For hundreds of years, Latin was used in law courts even though it was no longer everyday speech. Today, nearly all the words relating to legal matters are Latin or Latin derivatives. For example, the word *legal* itself comes from the Latin for "law"—*lex* (*legis*). Among the many related words are legislature and legislation, legitimate, and loyal.

        A more abstract kind of law (or right) is the Latin jus (*juris*), and this word also has many English descendants. They include jurisprudence, jury and juror, and even injury. Closely related to these are the Latin words *justus* and *justicia* meaning "just" and "justice." Finally, the Latin word for "judge" is *judex*. This is the source for English words such as judicial, judgment, and prejudice (literally, to judge someone before knowing the facts).

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1. What effect did the spread of the Roman Empire have on languages in Europe?

2. What are the six Romance languages mentioned?

3. What are some everyday terms that come from Latin?

4. What is the Latin source for words such as judicial and judgment?

5. Why do most English legal terms come from Latin?

6. Using a dictionary to help, list 5 other Latin based words (on the back side of this paper) that are used in English but are not listed on this page. Write down the English word, the Latin Root (and the definition if listed) and a definition of the word today. (2 points each)
Example: peninsula (*paeninsula* < *paene* almost + *insula* island) a piece of land almost surrounded by water.