The Roman alphabet is the basis of many modern languages known as Romance languages, including French, Spanish, and Italian. The Roman alphabet consisted of 23 letters compared to the 26 in modern English. Today, it is considered the most widely used writing system in the world.

Libraries were considered a cultural gathering place in ancient Rome. The city of Timgad had one of the largest libraries in ancient times. It had a full library system and about 5000 scrolls.

Communication in ancient Rome happened in many different ways. Citizens using Roman roads sent letters and messages. In Rome developed early newspapers. Information was carved on stone tablets and the tablets were displayed in town centers for the citizens to read. Rome had a mail system called “cursus publicus.” Official messages and communications were sent using a relay system of messengers. Today, newspapers are online as well as printed. Our postal delivery system delivers letters and other communications to our homes, much like ancient Rome’s. However, advances in technology, like cellular phones and the Internet, have changed how we communicate with one another in the modern world.

Education during Roman times was important and even the poor learned basic skills of reading and writing. The educational system was patterned after the Greeks. Children were taught Latin and basic reading and writing at home. Then at age seven, boys were sent to school. Parents paid a small fee for them to attend. Girls mostly did not attend school and were taught domestic skills, but Greek slaves might tutor girls from wealthy families. Their schools were often rooms in homes and were taught domestic skills, but Greek slaves might tutor girls from wealthy families. They were taught Latin and basic reading and writing at home. Then at age seven, boys were sent to school. Parents paid a small fee for them to attend. Girls mostly did not attend school and were taught domestic skills, but Greek slaves might tutor girls from wealthy families. Their schools were often rooms in homes and were taught domestic skills, but Greek slaves might tutor girls from wealthy families. Their schools were often rooms in homes and were taught domestic skills, but Greek slaves might tutor girls from wealthy families.

The Senate was made up of prominent individuals in Rome, called senators, who were appointed to office. They debated issues relating to the Roman city and state. For any policy to become law in Rome, it must be presented to the Senate for debate. The senators would debate the issue and then make recommendations for supporting or opposing the policy. It was the magistrates and the popular assembly that would vote to make laws officials. Senators could also issue emergency decrees when they felt the need to protect the republic, such as appointing a dictator for a term of six months.

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