

Slaves and Freedmen

The Work and Treatment of Slaves

1. List some of the occupations of public slaves, country slaves and town slaves?

<u>public slaves</u> :	bath and aqueduct maintenance		
<u>country slaves</u> :	farm laborers	shepherds	ranchers
	in mines	building roads	building bridges
	managers of farms, vineyards and orchards		
<u>town slaves</u> :	cooks	gardeners	servants
	hairdressers	factory laborers	musicians
	actors	entertainers	accountants
	secretaries	teachers	doctors
	midwives	business and corporation managers	
	bricklayers	gladiators	

2. Was it difficult to tell the difference between a slave and a poor free man?

Yes. There was very little difference in their dress, work or treatment.



3. What was the legal standing of a slave?

Slaves were not regarded as human beings, but as property that could be bought and sold, treated well or badly according to the whim of the master.

4. What prevented masters from indiscriminately killing or mistreating their slaves?

Slaves cost a lot of money, especially skilled slaves. There was also a law which prevented a master from killing his slaves without a good reason but this offered little protection.



5. Could slave marry or accumulate wealth?

Legally no, but in actual practice, yes.

6. What were the most common situations which resulted in someone becoming a slave?

1. taken as a prisoner of war
2. being captured by pirates
3. being born into slavery (your parents were slaves)



7. Who were "vernae" and "alumni"?

vernae were slaves born into the household.

alumni were acquired as babies or small children



Freeing a Slave

8. For what reasons might a slave be freed?

1. Rewarded for particularly good service.
2. Save money (peculium) and buy his freedom.
3. Be freed in his master's will.

9. What laws were passed concerning the freeing of slaves?

To prevent excessive number of slaves being freed, the emperor Augustus passed laws that made it illegal to free a slave younger than 39 years old and prevented people from freeing more than 100 slaves in their wills.



10. What was the act of freeing a slave called?

manumission, which literally meant a sending out from the hand.

11. How was "manumission performed?"

1. In a legal ceremony before a judge, a witness claimed that the slave did not belong to the master. The master did not deny this. The slave was touched on the head with a rod and then proclaimed free.
2. At home a slave could be freed in the presence of friends or by being invited to recline on the couch with his master.

Freedmen and Freedwomen

12. What limitations were there for a "libertus"?

1. He could not stand for public office.
2. He could not become a high ranking officer in the army.
3. He was expected to become a "client" of his former master, now his "patronus"

13. What opportunities were there for a "liberta"?

Very few. Most would marry a former master or former slave.



*****This is not all you need to know. Re-read the reading.*****