

# Notes on Quiz #7: Augustus, Princeps, Imperator

1. Antony's efforts to seize power after Caesar's death were supported by
  - a. Cicero, who praised Antony in the senate
  - b. Octavian, who called Antony the next Caesar
  - c. Lepidus, who thus became pontifex maximus
  - d. Amatius, who built a shrine to Caesar

Lepidus, Caesar's other lieutenant besides Antony, supported Antony against Octavian and was rewarded with the post of high priest. — Conversely, Cicero spoke against Antony in the senate, painting him as a dangerous tyrant who cowed the Romans as Philip II of Macedon had cowed the Greeks. Octavian was himself the “new Caesar,” in name, clan status, and popular expectation. Amatius claimed to be a relative of Caesar’s and promoted his divinity, but was put down by Antony with the senate’s approval as a part of Antony’s efforts to downplay Caesar’s autocracy (and his own).

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2. Individuals who both reigned over Egypt and survived the war between Antony and Octavian include
  - a. Ptolemy XV Caesar, known as Caesarion
  - b. Cleopatra VII Philopator, known as Cleopatra
  - c. C. Julius Caesar Octavianus, known as Octavian
  - d. M. Antonius, known as Antony

In the wake of Octavian’s victory at the battle of Actium, Cleopatra committed suicide to avoid being dragged through the streets of Rome in Octavian’s triumph. Antony was killed against Octavian’s instructions. Caesarion, Cleopatra’s son with Julius Caesar and heir to the throne of the pharaohs, went into hiding, but was hunted down and killed by agents of Octavian.

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3. The principate, as established in 23 BCE (the “Second Settlement”), granted all of the following to Augustus EXCEPT:
  - a. the powers of a tribune
  - b. the nomination of consuls and jurors
  - c. the imperium of a proconsul
  - d. the thanedom of Cawdor

The principate gave Octavian, now called Augustus, the authority to act on behalf of the Roman state, but did not quite create a governmental office. — Instead, starting with what historians call the Second Settlement Augustus was granted a bloc of powers associated with offices of the Republic for five or ten year intervals. The most important of these were (a) the imperium and the powers of a consul; (b) the powers and privileges of the plebeian tribunate, including the veto, the right of appeal to the people on behalf of a citizen, and sacrosanctity; and (c) the powers of a censor, which included conducting the census and ordering the membership of the senate. He also afterwards acquired the title of pontifex maximus, which put him in control of the state religion. — More generally, the princeps was the person in whom the people, the soldiers, and the nobles invested their faith and loyalty after the brutality and divisions of the civil wars, creating strength and unity of identity where the actual government of Rome and institutions like the senate had failed to do so.

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4. Augustus reformed the Roman army by making it more
- immense
  - professional**
  - fanatical
  - German

Augustus reduced the size of the legions but made them more professional, with soldierdom as a more structured career. Augustus did create the Praetorian Guard, with a predominantly German membership so that they would be more beholden to him, but this did not affect the main body of the army.

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5. Of those he planned to make his heir, Augustus outlived all EXCEPT:
- His son-in-law Agrippa
  - His stepson Tiberius**
  - His grandsons Gaius and Lucius
  - His nephew Marcellus

The princeps was not a formal office of the state; it consisted of authority and loyalty attached to Augustus personally. Augustus had literally inherited Caesar's place in the people's and soldiers' hearts through adoption, and this became the way of conveying the personal prestige of the princeps to his personal heir as if it were part of his estate, through the choice of an adopted son who was also a proven leader (in the end, his step-son Tiberius).

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### **Optional Extra Credit**

EC. Augustus claimed to have restored the Republic. Do you agree? What does "Republic" mean in your answer?

This could be answered in a number of ways. The case against restoration would include arguments relating to the Republican machinery of government—consuls, censors, the senate, etc.—had completely lost their independence and ability to act on behalf of the people, since the will of the Roman commonwealth was now exercised by Augustus. The people were also partially disempowered, since their ability to elect consuls was now virtually meaningless. — On the other hand, Augustus ended the civil wars and restored the normal operation of government, which meant that people could trust in the system again and reliably expect the state to provide defense, leadership, services, and justice. Augustus also stood for respect for the old ways, the *mos maiorum*, which meant he was aggressively seeking to restore traditional values and customs as a part of his rehabilitation of Rome and the Roman identity. Finally, Augustus, unlike the populist leaders that came before him (Caesar, Antony), aggressively sought to be the leader of all the Romans, not just the masses and soldiers.