

## Lucius Caecilius Iucundus – A Typical Day

A recap.....

Read the overview of a typical day for a Roman man



# The Paterfamilias and Patron-Client system in Ancient Rome



# The Roman home and family



LO: Describe the role of the paterfamilias and explain his importance in Roman society.

The paterfamilias was the oldest living male in a Roman family, and the head of a Roman household.

Paterfamilias = 'the father of the family'

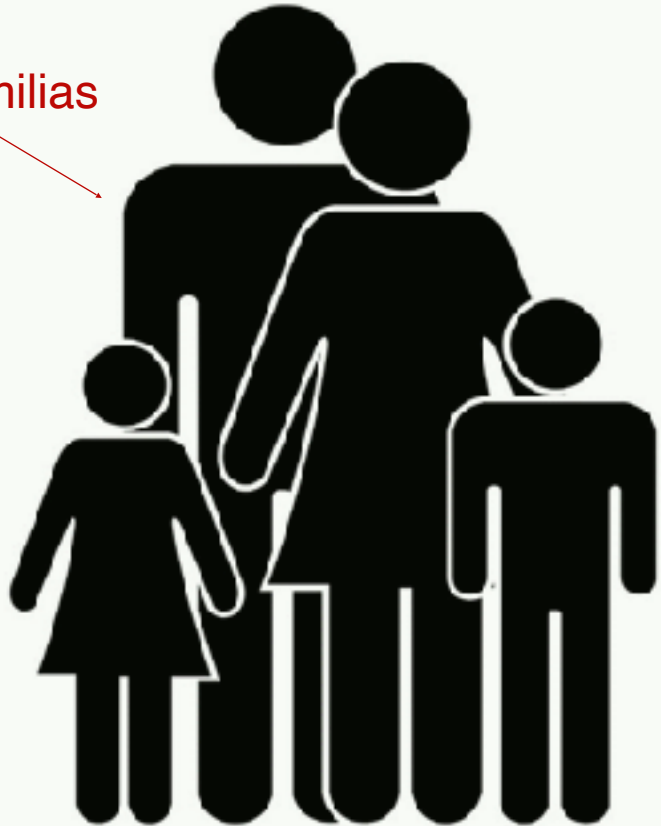
Latin 'familia' = more than just 'family'.

Familia also = slaves and property of the house.

# Paterfamilias



paterfamilias



The **paterfamilias** had legal power over his entire household; in early Roman times, this included the power of life and death, although by the time of the empire, this was only really the case for a new-born child.

Indeed, one duty of a **paterfamilias** was to inspect a new-born baby; if it was unwanted or illegitimate, then the paterfamilias could order for it to be abandoned and exposed (left out to die).



The paterfamilias was responsible for the welfare of his family and had to raise his children to be good citizens of Rome.

He cared about the education of his children, especially his sons, and would normally appoint an educated slave to be his children's tutor.

He had to arrange a marriage for his daughters when they entered adolescence – without the daughters having any say in who they married.

He expected his wife to manage the household but he would purchase the slaves that do the work within the house.

He was also the religious head of the family and would lead worship at the household shrine where the spirits of the family's ancestors, the Lares, were believed to reside.

Other religious duties might involve him overseeing suitable offerings to the gods at important moments such as birth, marriage and funerals



Watch the video clip.

1. Write down any questions you have about the role of the paterfamilias

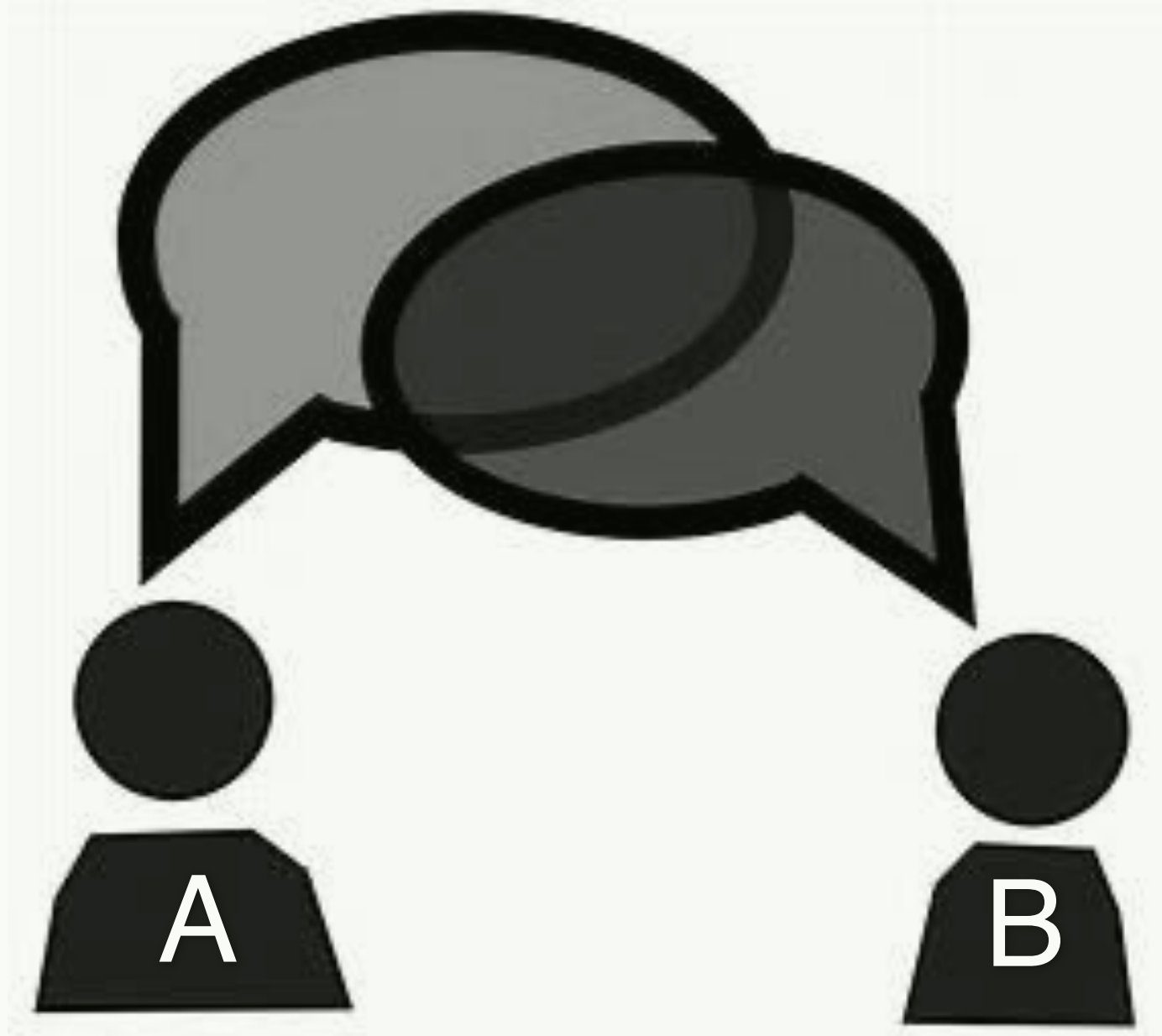
OR

2. Explain the role of the paterfamilias in your own words.



**EXT:** How similar was the role of a Roman father to the role of a father nowadays, in your opinion?

Person A explains to person B the role of the paterfamilias



Person B repeats back to Person A exactly what Person A said – as close as possible!

**familia Caecilia**



*Caecilius est pater.*



*Metella est mater.*



*Quintus est filius.*



*Lucia Maior est filia.*



*Lucia Minor quoque est filia.*





*Caecilius est paterfamilias.*

The *paterfamilias* was the \_\_\_\_\_

of the family. The Roman *familia* was much wider

than our 'family' and included the wife of the

*paterfamilias*, his \_\_\_\_\_, his son's

wives and their children, and all of their

\_\_\_\_\_.

When the *paterfamilias*

died, the family might split up, with the sons

becoming the heads of their own

\_\_\_\_\_.

In each family, the

*paterfamilias* had absolute \_\_\_\_\_

over all the members of his household, including

the right of life and \_\_\_\_\_.

The

*paterfamilias* had the right to \_\_\_\_\_ newborn children (abandoning infants and exposing them to the

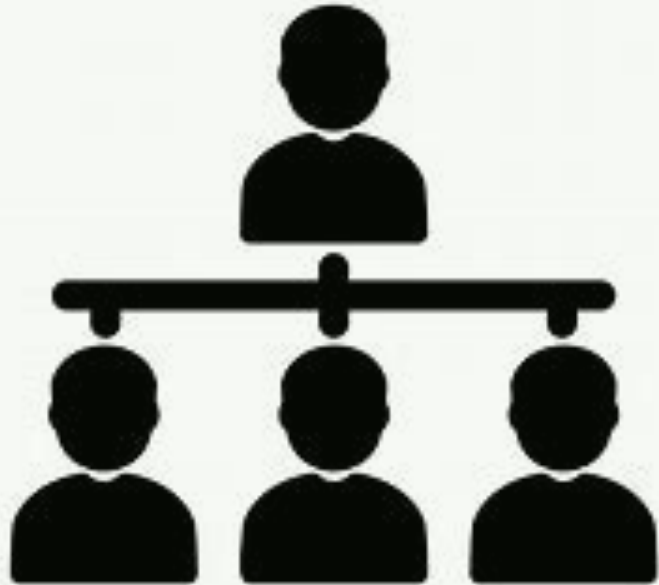
elements), and even sometimes to execute wives or sons. The *paterfamilias* was responsible for providing the his children

– the future \_\_\_\_\_ of Rome – with education, character training, and religious upbringing. Above all,

the *paterfamilias* was respected and \_\_\_\_\_.

families head death property obeyed citizens children power expose

# The Patron-Client System

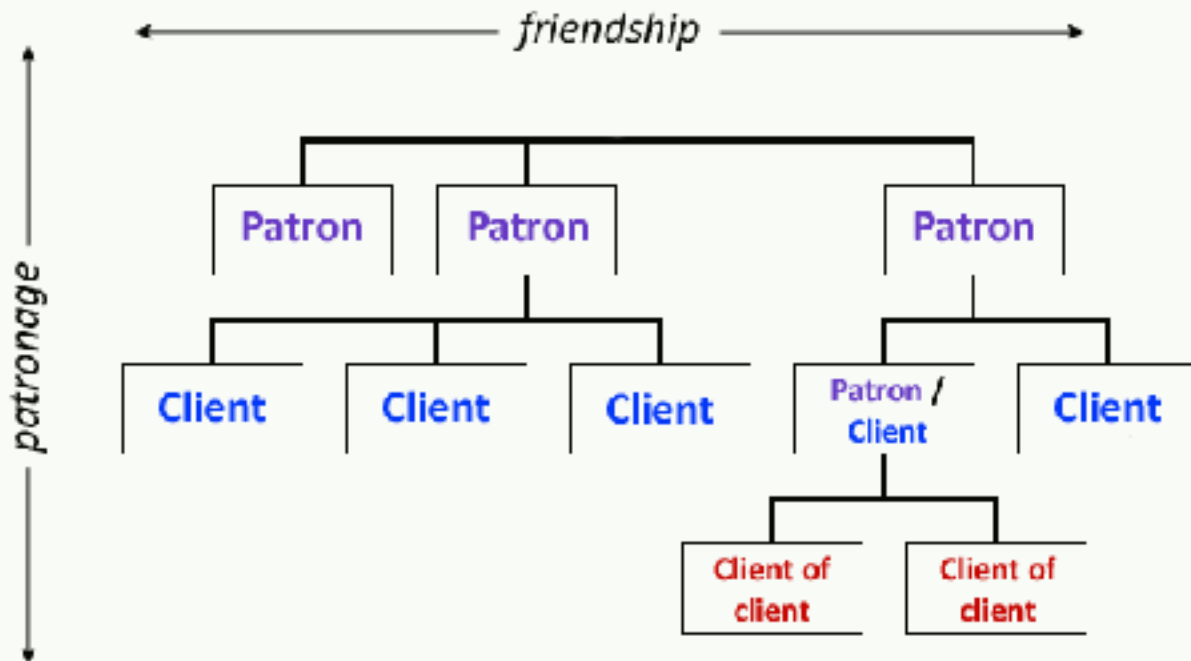


**LO: Describe the patron-client system and explain its importance in Roman society.**

# Patron / Client system

If he was wealthy enough, then the paterfamilias would act as a **patron** to **clients**.

Roman society was based around this **patron/client** relationship. Poorer Romans in need of money would social 'attach' themselves to a wealthier man.



In Roman society, almost everyone seems to have been a patron or a client (you could actually be both!), receiving help from wealthier men and helping to those less wealthy.

Clients were expected to appear at their patron's house at dawn every morning and later, they might be required to accompany him to the forum or to the baths.

In the city, they supported their patron by voting for him if he ran for political office e.g. Aedile, Praetor etc.

In return, clients would hope for a small hand out of money or other gift or business opportunity.

If they were particularly lucky, they might even be invited to dine with their patron in the evening.

PS Thalamus, his client, elects Publius Paquius Proculus duumvir with judicial power.

CIL IV 933

#### PRESCRIBED SOURCE

Cooley and Cooley, *Pompeii: A Sourcebook*: F14 (CIL IV 933)

**Location:** Pompeii, Vicolo di Balbo

**Significance:** an inscription which shows a client supporting his patron in an annual election campaign



One example of a client publicly supporting his patron can be seen in an election notice on a wall in Pompeii.

Thalamus, identifies himself as the client of Publius Paquius Proculus and is encouraging others to vote for his patron as **duumvir**, the highest political office in the town:

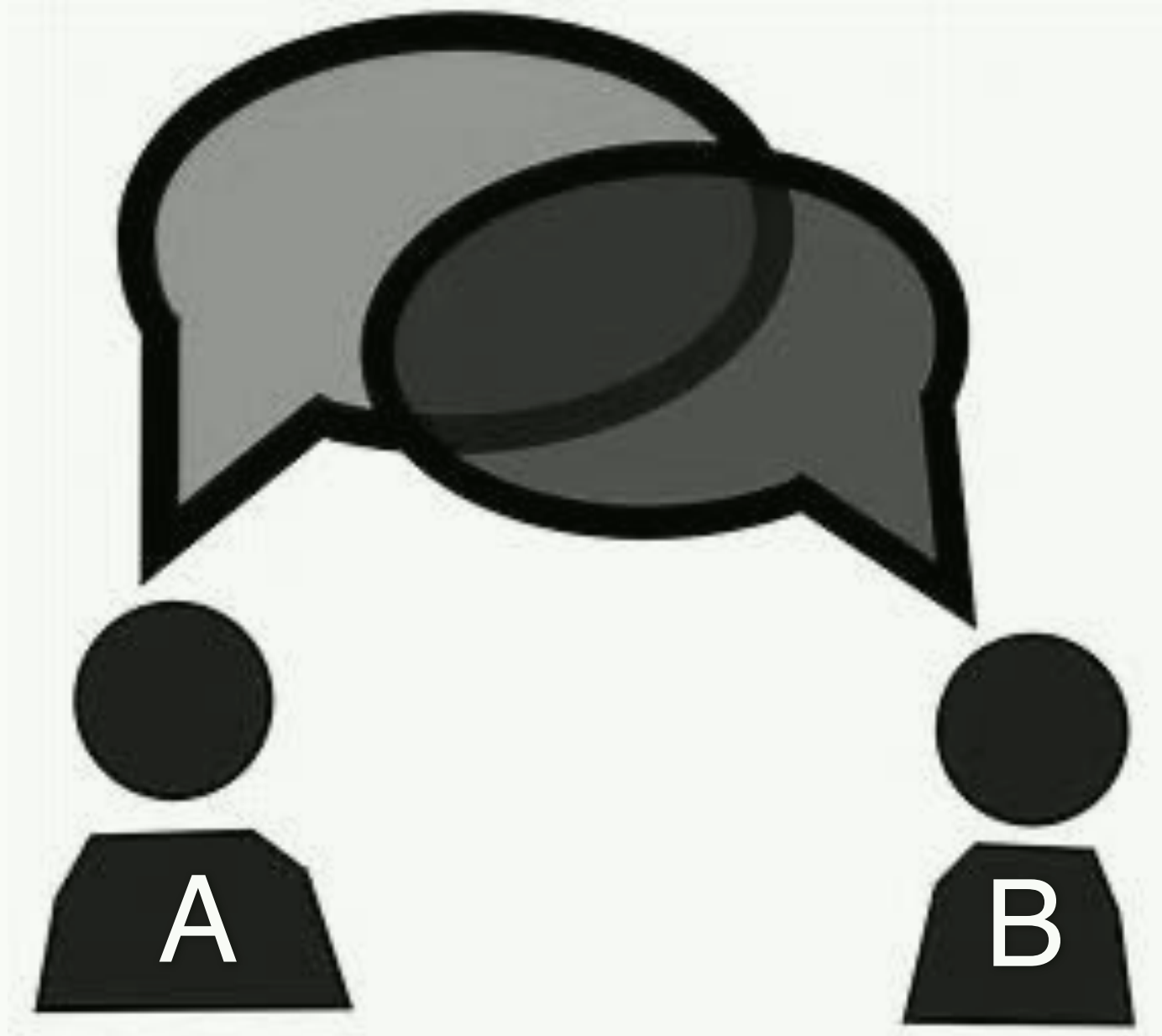
PS Thalamus, his client, elects Publius Paquius Proculus duumvir with judicial power.

CIL IV 933



Describe and explain the patron-client system in your own words.

Person A explains to person B the patron-client system.



Person B repeats back to Person A exactly what Person A said – as close as possible!

# Study Questions

1. Is there anything similar to the patron/client system in our society today? If so, what?
2. What do you think was more important to a Roman patrician: being a good **paterfamilias** or a good **patron**? Why?

EXT

What do you think was more important to the successful functioning of Roman society: the **paterfamilias** or the **patron-client system**? Why?

