### 2 The legal systems: bodies of law

### This is the table of contents of the Twelve Tables. Choose the table where you think the following excerpts were drawn up on:

|  |
| --- |
| [1 TABVLA I (Civil procedure)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_I_.28Civil_procedure.29#TABVLA_I_.28Civil_procedure.29) [2 TABVLA II (Civil procedure)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_II_.28Civil_procedure.29#TABVLA_II_.28Civil_procedure.29) [3 TABVLA III (Debt)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_III_.28Debt.29#TABVLA_III_.28Debt.29) [4 TABVLA IV (Parents and children)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_IV_.28Parents_and_children.29#TABVLA_IV_.28Parents_and_children.29) [5 TABVLA V (Inheritance)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_V_.28Inheritance.29#TABVLA_V_.28Inheritance.29) [6 TABVLA VI (Property)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_VI_.28Property.29#TABVLA_VI_.28Property.29) [7 TABVLA VII (Real Property)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_VII_.28Real_Property.29#TABVLA_VII_.28Real_Property.29) [8 TABVLA VIII (Torts)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_VIII_.28Torts.29#TABVLA_VIII_.28Torts.29) [9 TABVLA IX (Constitutional principles)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_IX_.28Constitutional_principles.29#TABVLA_IX_.28Constitutional_principles.29) [10 TABVLA X (Funeral regulations)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_X_.28Funeral_regulations.29#TABVLA_X_.28Funeral_regulations.29) [11 TABVLA XI (Marriage)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_XI_.28Marriage.29#TABVLA_XI_.28Marriage.29) [12 TABVLA XII (Crimes)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_tables#TABVLA_XII_.28Crimes.29#TABVLA_XII_.28Crimes.29) |

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| --- | --- |
| Excerpts from the Law of the Twelve Tables | Which table was it drawn up on? |
| Marriages between [plebeians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plebeian) and [patricians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrician) are forbidden. | TABVLA XI (Marriage) |
| No dead man may be [cremated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cremation) nor [buried](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burial) in the City. |  |
| If someone is called to go to court, let him go. If he doesn't go, a witness should be called. Only then should he be captured.  If a [slave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave) has committed theft or harm. . . . |  |
| Those who have sung an evil [spell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spell). . . |  |
| Private laws must not be proposed. |  |
| A person who admits to owing money or has been adjudged to owe money must be given 30 days to pay. |  |
| One who seeks the testimony from an absent person should wait before his doorway every third day. |  |
| If a person dies [intestate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intestate) without heirs, the nearest male kinsman shall inherit. If there is no near male kinsmen, his [clansmen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gens) shall inherit. |  |
| When someone makes bond or conveyance and announces it orally, right shall be given. |  |
| If a father sells his son into [slavery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery) three times, the son shall be free of his father. |  |
| If rainwater does damage, he shall be made to fix it by the [judge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judge). |  |

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_Tables>

### Use the following expressions to complete the text:

|  |
| --- |
| development jurists legacy to question summons rulings contracts to influence  succession decrees plaintiff weight of law defendant *judex* courts sentence trial |

Law of the [Roman Republic and Empire](http://www.britannica.com/memberlogin)

Roman law has (1)……………… the (2)………………….. of law in most of Western civilization. It dealt with matters of (3)………………… (or [inheritance](http://www.britannica.com/memberlogin)), obligations (including (4)………………..), property (including slaves), and persons. Most laws were passed by assemblies dominated by the [patrician](http://www.britannica.com/memberlogin) families, though the (5)…………………. of magistrates were also important. Later emperors bypassed these forms and issued their own (6)………………... The interpretations of (7)………………… also came to have the (8)…………………. Though various attempts were made to gather and simplify existing laws (beginning with the Law of the [Twelve Tables](http://www.britannica.com/memberlogin)), by far the most successful effort was that of [Justinian I](http://www.britannica.com/memberlogin), whose code superseded all previous laws and formed the Roman Empire's legal (9)………………. Roman legal procedure is the basis for modern procedure in [civil-law](http://www.britannica.com/memberlogin) countries. In the early Republic, the (10)……………….. was required to call the (11)…………………… to court or to bring him by force. A magistrate then decided whether the case should go before a (12)……………., or prominent layman. The *judex* heard arguments from advocates and (13)………………… witnesses; he made a decision but had no power to execute it. In the later Republic, much greater power was placed in the hands of the magistrates and (14)……………: the (15) ……………… was issued by the court, the (16)…………… was held only before a magistrate, and the court became responsible for the execution of the (17)……………….

**Roman** **law**. Britannica Concise Encyclopedia. Retrieved July  1, 2005, from Encyclopædia Britannica Premium Service.   
<[**http://www.britannica.com/ebc/article?tocId=9377125**](http://www.britannica.com/ebc/article?tocId=9377125)

### Read about the development of Common law legal system and complete the text with the following phrases:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| non-statutory law  precedent  civil disputes  guilt or innocence  sufficient redress  adversarial system | judgments  wrongful acts  reach a decision  criminal accusations  litigants  torts | petition  system of equity  unified system of law  statutes  criminal cases  civil claims | case-based reasoning  unwritten local customs  execution  jury system  verdict  supreme |

The common-law legal system forms a major part of the law of many countries, especially those with a history as [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) territories or [colonies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colony). It is notable for the inclusion of extensive (1)……………………. reflecting a consensus of centuries of (2)……………… by working [jurists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jurist). The common law originally developed under the auspices of the (3)……………………… in historical [England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England) from judicial decisions that were based in [tradition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tradition), [custom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Custom), and (4)……………….. The form of reasoning used in common law is known as [casuistry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casuistry) or (5)…………………………. Common law may be unwritten or written in (6)……………… or codes. The common law, as applied in civil cases (as distinct from (7)…………………….), was devised as a means of [compensating](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damages) someone for (8)…………………….. known as (9)…………, including both intentional torts and torts caused by [negligence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negligence) and as developing the body of law recognizing and regulating [contracts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contract). Today common law is generally thought of as applying only to (10)………………….; originally it encompassed the criminal law before criminal [codes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code) were adopted in most common law [jurisdictions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jurisdiction) in the late [19th century](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/19th_century). Before the institutional stability imposed on England by [William the Conqueror](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_the_Conqueror) in [1066](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1066), English citizens were governed by (11)……………………………….. that varied from community to community and were enforced in often arbitrary fashion. For example, [courts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Court) generally consisted of informal public assemblies that weighed conflicting claims in a case and, if unable to (12)……………………….., might require an accused to test (13)………………………… by carrying a red-hot iron or snatching a stone from a caldron of boiling water… If the [defendant's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defendant) wound healed within a prescribed period, he was set free as innocent; if not, (14)……………… usually followed. In [1154](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1154), [Henry II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_II_of_England) became the first [Plantagenet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plantagenet) king. Among many achievements, Henry institutionalized common law by creating a (15)……………………………. "common" to the country through incorporating and elevating local custom to the national, ending local control and peculiarities, eliminating arbitrary remedies, and reinstating a (16)…………………. of citizens sworn on oath to investigate reliably (17)……………………… and (18)……………………. The jury reached its (19)……………. through evaluating common local knowledge, not necessarily through the presentation of [evidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evidence), a distinguishing factor from today's civil and criminal court systems. As early as the [15th century](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_century), it became the practice that (20)………………… who felt they had been cheated by the common-law system would (21)………………. the [King](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch) in person. For example, they might argue that an award of damages (at common law) was not (22)……………………… for a trespasser occupying their land, and instead request that the trespasser be evicted. From this developed the (23)……………………, administered by the [Lord Chancellor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Chancellor), in the courts of [chancery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chancery). By their nature, equity and law were frequently in conflict and litigation would frequently continue for years as one court countermanded the other, even though it was established by the 17th century that equity should prevail. In England, courts of law and [equity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equity) were combined by the [Judicature Acts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judicature_Acts) of 1873 and 1875, with equity being (24)………………………..in case of conflict. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_law>