

Son: Rome's system of government now, is nothing like it was when Julius Caesar was removed.

Student 5: Low Achieved
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Father: Augustus has ruined everything the republic ever stood for. He has sole power of Rome.

Son: But Dad, don't you see? Augustus said in paragraph 34.1 of his Res Gestae that in his sixth and seventh consulships (in 28/7 BCE) he transferred the Republic from his own power to the control of the senate and people of Rome. So Augustus was willing to give the senate its power back and to the people of Rome.

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And remember, it was us who gave Augustus' power back so it is our fault if he has sole power of Rome. When he declared he was going to resign we all wanted him to stay and for that we had to offer him something he wouldn't refuse.

Father: Son, you don't realise that the senate needs military power to have any say in things, and significantly it was Augustus who was controlling that military power so he always had an army backing him. Victory of Actium had given Octavian the undivided mastery of the Roman world. Julius Caesar had once held before this position. Octavian was not one to forget what fate had befallen Caesar. In order to prevent a similar demise, he needed to create a new constitution. Hence on January 27 BC Octavian in the so-called 'First Settlement' went through a strangely orchestrated ceremony in which he 'surrendered' all his power to the senate - thus restoring the Republic. It was a purely symbolical sacrifice as he receiving most of the very same power right back again. Hardly any of the men who had been part of the true republican administration were still alive. Augustus revised the senate roll three times, expelling those he did not approve of through prescriptions. The senate is now increasingly composed of 'novus homo' who have come from all over Italy, who have no experience of the traditions of service in the senate but who can satisfy Augustus' 1 million sesterces of property qualification. Octavian received into his personal control, for ten years, the vitally important provinces of Egypt, Cyprus, Spain, Gaul and Syria. Also he was continually re-elected as consul from 31 to 23 BC. Having all these provinces is truly un-republican. It is against the *cursus honorum* to be in consulship for 8 years in a row.

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Son: But dad, having these provinces is republican because precedence was set from Marius and Pompey. Pompey who had sole consulship and had proconsulship of Spain and he had legates. The senate gave him all this land including the poison of consul for 8 years so it is republican. And anyway in the 'Second Settlement' Augustus gave up the consulship and instead was awarded tribunician powers (*tribunicia potestas*) for life by the senate. Tribunician powers gave him the right to call the senate to meetings, to propose legislation in the popular assembly, and to veto any enactments. Also his command over 'his' provinces was renewed. These powers once again given to him by the senate makes them republican.

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Father: Having Tribunicia Potestas give Augustus the powers of a tribune of the plebs and Augustus is a patrician so he has no right to hold this power and a person who is already consul should not have it because it gives too much power to one man when linked up with another great power such as being consul. And you forget he was also given proconsular imperium maius, which gives him control of almost all provinces with a military precedence. No one has ever been given that much power so no precedence was set for it and having this much power for a single person in Rome is un-republican. 23BC August becomes ill and almost dies and so he makes his succession policy where he uses *destinatio* and powers to make sure people he knows get to be his successors. Such as giving Marcellus Aule so he can be known to the people and he is also married to Julia. When Marcellus dies he turns to Agrippa who gets to marry Julia, the navel crown, and he also gets powers of Tribunicia Potestas (5 years) imperium. When Agrippa died his next choice was Agrippa's two sons Gaius and Lucius who got *Principes Inventutis* and equites gave them the title of priesthoods. Augustus also made them *destinato* for consul at age 20. Unfortunately they both die so Augustus turns to Tiberius who he marries to Julia and is given consul and two triumphs. He is also given trib pot for 5 years. Augustus' succession policy was truly un-republican.

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