Roman Government:

The chart below breaks down the three branches of the Roman Republic’s government. It is based on information provided by Professor Paul Halsall of Fordham University.

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|  | Elected Magistrates and Consuls | Senate | Assemblies |
| What was it? | Small group of elected men known as magistrates | 300 former magistrates selected by the most powerful magistrates | Large groups of different Romans:Century Assembly: All male patricians and plebeiansTribal Assembly: All male plebeians and patriciansThe Plebeian Council: All male plebeians |
| What was its purpose? | Directed the military and government | Advised magistrates and assemblies; Passed laws; Controlled finances | Elected magistrates; Voted on laws passed by the Senate; Vetoed actions of magistrate |
| Who could be part of it? | Male patricians | Patricians; Occasionally very wealthy plebeians known as “New Men” | Any adult male Roman citizens, excluding slaves or men born outside Italia. |

Analysis:

1. What were the three branches of the Roman government?
2. Where do the “people” fit into all this? How important is social class?
3. According to this information, how democratic was the Roman Republic?