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| **Laws about** | **Justinian  Code** | **American  Law** |
| Women’s right | All women can own property, make contracts and will, and bring a lawsuit | All women can own property, make contracts and wills, bring a lawsuit. Women are guaranteed the same right as men |
| Robbery | Robbery was not a crime. The victim could sue the robber for up to four times to the values of the stolen property | Robbery is a crime and is punishable  by a fine and/or a prison sentence |
| Failure to pay debts | People who owned something had to pay the debt back | People who owed something had to pay the debt back |
| Murder | Murder was punished by banishment | Murder is punished by prison sentence or death |
| Inheritance | Women could not inherit property from their husbands unless it was provided in a will. Children received equal amounts of the father’s estate. | Standard law allows wives and children to divide an estate. Other directions can be provided in a will. |

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the chart:

1)      How are the rights of women similar under Justinian Code and current American Law?

2)      What was the difference in the treatment of robbery between the two law systems?

3)      Under which law system could women benefit most from inheritance?  Why?

4)      Which current law has basically unchanged when compared to the Justinian Code?

5)      Which legal system is “softer”  on  murderers?

6) Why was the Justinian Code “new” and somewhat “radical” for the time it was introduced in 533 A.D?