

Latin

Component 2: Literature (30%)

Wednesday 24th May 2023

Noun table quiz

Declensions 1-3 (including neuter nouns)

Notes to Cicero

Cicero's text 'Traditional Values'

- Re-read the text to familiarise yourself with the first passage we translated this academic year.
- We did not complete the notes to this as we were still developing your skills at reading 'real Latin'.
- Now is the time to return to the notes because you have developed the reading skills in preparation for your end of year examinations.

Cicero: *pro Roscio Amerino* 50, 74-75 - Traditional values

Cicero explains how rustic men have good qualities for the state and for the individual

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You would be a ridiculous prosecutor, if you had been born in those times when men were summoned from the plough to become consuls. For you, who consider it a disgrace to be responsible for cultivating a farm, would certainly judge the famous Atilius, whom those who had been sent came across sowing seed with his own hand, to be [a] most shameful and low-class [fellow]. But,

by Hercules, our ancestors thought differently both concerning him and concerning other such men, and so from a tiny and quite insignificant state

they left us one that is very large and highly prosperous.

They certainly cultivated their own farms intently, not greedily laying claim to those of others; in this way

they expanded the state, this empire and the reputation of the Roman people with land and cities and [whole] nations.

It should also come to your attention how you have depicted the life of this man here – [saying that] he was rough and uncouth,

that he never spoke to another person, never

stayed in a town. But in country ways, in a simple lifestyle, in

such a rough and uncivilised existence crimes of that kind are not usually committed.

Just as you would not be able to find every crop or [every] tree in every field,

so not every crime occurs in every [mode of] life.

In

the city extravagance is created, from

extravagance it is natural for greed to emerge,

from greed for violent behaviour to burst out,

[and] from that all kinds of crimes and misdeeds

are produced. This country life, on the other hand, which you call uncouth,

is the teacher of thrift, hard work, and good conduct.

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC- 43 BC) was a prominent orator and statesman. He came from an equestrian family in Arpinum, initially struggling in his political ambitions due to his lack of familial influence and connections. In 80 BC, at the age of 26, he established his reputation by defending Sextus Roscius Amerinus who had been falsely accused of the murder of his father by influential conspirators who actually carried out the murder in order to acquire his father's land. After the surprising success of this speech (*pro Roscio Amerino*), he was given a flood of commissions.

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC- 43 BC) was a prominent orator and statesman. He came from an equestrian family in Arpinum, initially struggling in his political ambitions due to his lack of familial influence and connections. In 80 BC, at the age of 26, he established his reputation by defending Sextus Roscius Amerinus who had been falsely accused of the murder of his father by influential conspirators who actually carried out the murder in order to acquire his father's land. After the surprising success of this speech (*pro Roscio Amerino*), he was given a flood of commissions.

The prosecution alleged that Roscius Amerinus killed his father because he was going to disinherit him. They claimed that he had a savage and boorish nature and had therefore been dismissed to look after the family estates in the countryside. This gave Cicero the opportunity to defend Roscius' character by defending country living. He argued that the rustic nature of Roscius' situation showed he was incapable of murder. In our extract, which comes from two separate parts of the speech, he first looks back to the importance of agriculture for those individuals who established the Roman state, pointing out that they assiduously cultivated their own farms without 'greedily laying claim to others' (as the conspirators had done). In the second part of the extract, he claims that crimes were committed more frequently in the city than the country because of its corrupting nature, in comparison to the good influence of rustic living.

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accusator ... fierent: Cicero criticises the prosecutor by ridiculing his claim (made before this extract) that an agricultural lifestyle is associated with poor moral character. His insult is strengthened by drawing on the historical tradition of applauding the moral fibre of Roman heroes in the past who were well-known for their agricultural pursuits.

tu ... putes: Cicero starts emphatically with *tu*, this is their opinion which Cicero will dispute.

Highlight the relevant words in the text as we go through the notes

- Text on next slide

accusator esses ridiculus, si illis temporibus natus esses cum ab aratro arcessebantur qui consules fierent. tu enim, qui praeesse agro colendo flagitium putes, profecto illum Atilium, quem sua manu semen spargentem illi qui missi erant convenerunt, hominem turpissimum atque inhonestissimum iudicares. at hercule maiores nostri longe aliter et de illo et de ceteris talibus viris existimabant itaque ex minima tenuissimaque re publica maximam et florentissimam nobis reliquerunt. suos enim agros studiose colebant, non alienos cupide appetebant; sic et agris et urbibus et nationibus rem publicam atque hoc imperium et populi Romani nomen auxerunt.

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et simul tibi in mentem veniat quem ad modum vitam huiusce
depinxeris – hunc hominem ferum atque agrestem fuisse,
numquam cum homine quoquam collocutum esse, numquam in
oppido constitisse. sed in rusticis moribus, in victu arido, in hac
horrida incultaque vita maleficia istius modi gigni non solent. ut
non omnem frugem neque arborem in omni agro reperire
possis, sic non omne facinus in omni vita nascitur. in urbe
luxuries creatur, ex luxuria existat avaritia necesse est, ex
avaritia erumpat audacia, inde omnia scelera ac maleficia
gignuntur. vita autem haec rustica quam tu agrestem vocas
parsimoniae, diligentiae, iustitiae magistra est.

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Atilius refers to **Gaius Atilius Regulus Serranus**, consul 257 and 250 BC. Those who were sent refers to the delegation sent from Rome to inform him that he had been re-elected as consul.

The inclusion of *sua* with *manu*, emphasises that Atilius uses his own hand, highlighting the difference between the Rome's of past times where, according to legend, even the most powerful citizens farmed their own land, and contemporary Rome, where slaves and hired freedman did this work.

Note the use of superlatives to describe the prosecutor's potential opinion of Atilius (*turpissimum* and *inhonestissimum*). This is leading towards Cicero's contrasting praise of those who live and farm in the countryside, in particular Roscius Amerinus.

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Hercule: Cicero calls upon the god, showing outrage at the prosecutor's lack of appreciation of those who live the rustic life.

longe: ancestors thought *far* differently. Cicero is emphasising the contrast between historic and contemporary attitudes to the countryside. Cicero makes the disagreement even more pronounced by using *et ... et* (both ... and) to emphasise the ways that contemporary Romans have strayed from historic sentiment.

minima tenuissima ... maximam et florentissimam: note again Cicero's use of superlatives. The superlatives here emphasise how historic values helped to grow the Roman republic from a very small (*minima*) and very insignificant (*tenuissima*) state to the biggest (*maxima*) and most flourishing (*florentissimam*).

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suos ... alienos: Cicero juxtaposes *suos* (their fields) to *alienos* (other people's fields). The people who expanded by taking other's land are characterised as *cupide* (greedy). This is a very relevant observation as those who accused Roscius did so in order to get away with appropriating his father's land.

sic ... auxerunt: Cicero uses several conjunctions (here *et*) in close succession (*polysyndeton*) and a list of three (*tricolon*) to place emphasis how much those who farmed the land had achieved.

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Cicero uses two words (*ferum* and *agrestem*) to describe one idea (*hendiadys*). He also repeats the word *numquam*. The overall effect is emphasis on the notion that rustic men are uncivilised, both in terms of socialising and appreciating life in the city.

in rusticis ... vita: The first part of the sentence gives a list of three descriptions of country life (*tricolon*). The third (*in hac horrida incultuaque vita*) echoes the description of Roscius that Cicero attributes to the prosecutor in line 13 (*ferum et agrestem*). He will turn this description against them in the following lines.

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Cicero repeats *omnis* four times in different cases (*polyptoton*), to build towards his explanation for crimes being more prevalent in the city than the country.

in urbe ... gignuntur: the repetition of words referring to extravagance and greed (*luxuries, luxuria*, with *avaritia* occurring twice) are characterising the city as a place of excessive wealth and a damaging level of luxury, leading to crimes and misdeeds. The use of two words (*scelera ac maleficia*) for one idea (*hendiadys*) strengthens the impression of wrongdoing. Note the powerful verb (*erumpat*) describing violent behaviour as a product of greed. The style of these lines suggests words spilling out with increasing intensity from Cicero, mimicking the escalating behaviour he is describing.

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ex luxuria ... necesse est: literally 'out of extravagance emerges greed it is unavoidable.'

vita ... est: these final lines are important in showing Cicero's positive opinion of country living. He reminds the court that his accusers have said rustic men are backward (*agrestem*) but he himself describes country living as the teacher of good qualities: of thrift (*parsimoniae*), of hard work (*diligentiae*) and of good conduct (*iustitiae*) in a list of three (*tricolon*).

Questions for Comprehension

accusator esses ridiculus, si illis temporibus natus esses cum ab aratro arcessebantur qui consules fierent. (lines 1-2)

- Cicero mentions a time when farmers were summoned from the plough. What were they summoned to do?
- How does Cicero say the prosecutor would be described if he had been born in those times?

tu enim, qui praeesse agro colendo flagitium putes (lines 2-3)

- What does Cicero say the prosecutor considers to be a disgrace?

Questions for Comprehension

profecto illum Atilium, quem sua manu semen spargentem illi qui missi erant convenerunt, hominem turpissimum atque inhonestissimum iudicares.

(lines 3-5)

- What was Atilius doing when those who had been sent found him?
- What does Cicero say the prosecutor would judge him to be? Give two adjectives in English.

at hercule maiores nostri longe aliter et de illo et de ceteris talibus

viris existimabant (lines 5-7)

- Who did their ancestors think differently about?

Questions for Comprehension

itaque ex minima tenuissimaeque re publica maximam et florentissimam nobis reliquerunt (lines 7-8)

- How does Cicero describe the state initially?
- How does he describe the state left to the Roman people by their ancestors?

suos enim agros studiose colebant, non alienos cupide appetebant (lines 8-9)

- How does Cicero say these men grew the state?
- What, according to Cicero, did they not do?

Questions for Comprehension

sic et agris et urbibus et nationibus rem publicam atque hoc imperium et populi Romani nomen auxerunt. (lines 9-11)

- State three things which Cicero said the early Roman farmers used to cause expansion.
- State three things that were consequently expanded by early Roman farmers.

et simul tibi in mentem veniat quem ad modum vitam huiusce depinxeris – hunc hominem ferum atque agrestem fuisse (lines 12-13)

- How does Cicero say that the prosecutor described country men? Give two adjectives.

Questions for Comprehension

numquam cum homine quoquam collocutum esse, numquam in oppido constitisse. (lines 14-15)

- What two things do these rustic men not do according to the prosecutor?

sed in rusticis moribus, in victu arido, in hac horrida incultaque vita maleficia istius modi gigni non solent. (lines 15-16)

- What are not usually committed in rustic lives?
- How is rustic life described here?

Questions for Comprehension

ut non omnem frugem neque arborem in omni agro reperire possis, sic non omne facinus in omni vita nascitur (lines 16-18)

- What two things is Cicero comparing in this simile?

in urbe luxuries creatur (lines 18-19)

- What are created in the city?

ex luxuria exsistat avaritia necesse est (line 19)

- What emerges from extravagance naturally?

ex avaritia erumpat audacia (lines 19-20)

- What erupts from greed?

Questions for Comprehension

(audacia) inde omnia scelera ac maleficia gignuntur (lines 20-21)

- What is produced from recklessness?

vita autem haec rustica quam tu agrestem vocas (line 21)

- How does Cicero say that the prosecutor has described rustic folk?

(vita rustica) parsimoniae, diligentiae, iustitiae magistra est. (line 22)

- Of what three virtues does Cicero believe country living is the teacher?

Homework

Finish the answers to the questions for next Monday (29th May)