

## ‘Discuss.’

### *Dr Weiss’s guide to the Cambridge ‘prac. crit.’*

There is *no one way* to write a good practical criticism: we instructors have seen a great variety of successful pieces (frequently on the same text) that take very different steps in analysis and organization, but here are some ideas to get you started. Be sure to check out the examiners’ criteria (slightly different for IA and IB) that follow and the specimen.

#### 1. *contextualize* your piece by considering:

- historical context
- literary precedent
- place of piece in author’s corpus (and especially in the given text)
- place of the piece among the texts you are studying in your course: are there connections?

#### 2. *analyze* your piece by considering:

- the distinction between materials and treatment: ask yourself ‘How else could this passage have been written?’
- any particular occasion (or imagined occasion) involved? (see Cairns in bibliography below)
- is a particular form or literary tradition involved: does your text constitute adherence to or departure from the norm?
- is there an addressee?
- who is the (implied) audience? (see Booth below)
- note any *topoi* (‘commonplaces’ or *loci communes*—**do not confuse this word with *trope***, as so many do)
- note any *tropoi* (‘tropes’, i.e. figures of speech: *figurae* and *σχήματα*, chiefly metaphor and metonymy [see Lanham et al. below])
- what of the author’s ‘voice’ or literary *persona*?
- where is the place in the plot, if applicable?
- how is any characterization rendered through the passage?
- look for narrative problems, e.g. what is the ‘point of view’ of the narrator?
- is it a ‘showing’ passage or a ‘telling’ passage? (see Booth below)
- is there any allusion to other texts or authors?
- are there any key words: go through the passage and circle words you feel you must address
- any major topics evident in your passage? if so how do these topics surface in your passage?
- note formal verbal and syntactic patterns you see, e.g.:
  - anaphora
  - isocola or ascending cola
  - zeugma
  - polyptoton
  - transferred epithet
- note any rhetorical elements you see, e.g. (see Kennedy books below):
  - *captatio benevolentiae*
  - *praeteritio*
  - hyperbole
  - *adunata*
- logical elements
  - *argumentum ad absurdum, a minore, a maiore, ex hypothesi*, etc.
- note any larger scale formal elements, e.g.:
  - the ‘set piece’, i.e. a traditional, expected element, e.g. the narrative in a messenger speech in drama
  - know the formal divisions of a typical Greek play: prologue, parodos, episode, stasimon, exodos
  - *rhexis* (extended speech in trimeters)
  - *agon*
  - *stichomythia*
  - *ekphrasis*
  - *locus amoenus*
  - know the conventional names for portions of speeches, e.g. πρόλογος, διήγησις, πίστις, ἐπίλογος
  - identify digressions

- consult Lanham, Quinn, rhetoric.byu.edu and Lausberg for extensive lists of these terms

#### other techniques for analysis

- segment your text; mark out each sentence: what does it actually say and mean?
- delineate any sequence of ideas or events from top to bottom
- note very carefully any connecting particles (or lack thereof)
- write a brief, one sentence summary of the whole
- for drama: envision a production of the lines
- if poetry: identify the metre and observe any interesting *caesura* or *diaeresis*

*In sum: assume that an author is somehow responsible for this text and that you are analyzing his or her performance: ask yourself ‘How else could this have been done?’ Alternatively, how is the text affected if you remove these lines, i.e. what is their function?*

3. *synthesize* your ideas by:

- organizing your points into an argument: try to be persuaded and persuasive
- it may help your thinking to imagine giving your prac. crit. a title of its own
- connecting your text to other texts you have read and other critical problems you have encountered
- always know the exact dates of your texts, where possible, and supply this knowledge somewhere in your prac. crit.

4. *stylize* your essay:

- it's okay to use the first person: don't be ashamed of *your* impressions
- qualify your statements: you are not necessarily an omniscient authority or world expert here but a learned commentator, open to reason and employing reason
- imagine your own audience to be a well-informed colleague but not necessarily even a Classicist
- don't quote more than a word or a phrase: just use the line numbers for referring to a sentence
- ALWAYS use the line numbers: they are provided for your convenience, even for a piece of prose

5. recommended reading (roughly in order of accessibility and importance)

Wikipedia s.vv. 'Literary criticism' and 'Rhetoric'.

rhetoric.byu.edu: 'The Forest of Rhetoric': an excellent online resource

*Oxford Classical Dictionary* s.vv. 'literary criticism in antiquity', 'literary theory and classical studies', and 'rhetoric, Greek' and 'rhetoric, Latin' (available via Raven).

D. A. Russell and M. Winterbottom, *Ancient literary criticism: the principal texts in new translations*. (seminal; abbreviated as *Classical literary criticism* in the Oxford World Classics series)

J. Culler, *Literary theory: a very short introduction*. (worth buying—you need to understand the basic principles and history of literary criticism to write a really effective prac. crit.)

R. Lanham, *A handlist of rhetorical terms*. (worth buying: a detailed but handy reference to the terminology)

A. Quinn, *Figures of speech: 60 ways to turn a phrase*. (worth buying: a very friendly intro to the terminology)

H. Lausberg, *Handbook of literary rhetoric*. (scholarly and authoritative: recommend for your College library)

*Cambridge history of Classical literature*. (dated but comprehensive and very useful: available via Raven)

O. Taplin, ed.: *Literature in the Greek world, Literature in the Roman world*. (less comprehensive but more recent and friendly)

Thomas Schmitz: *Modern literary theory and ancient texts*. (very useful and eye-opening if you're new to theory)

Francis Cairns, *Generic composition in Greek and Roman poetry*. (constrictive but significant)

R. Wellek and A. Warren, *Theory of literature*. (worth owning; dated but stimulating and seminal)

*Cambridge history of literary criticism*. (multivolume: the most recent vol. on 20th C criticism is well worth reading: on Raven)

Wayne C. Booth, *The rhetoric of fiction*. (on the novel and very long but explains 'showing' vs 'telling' *inter alia*)

Wayne C. Booth, *The rhetoric of rhetoric*. (if you're really into your rhetoric!)

Irene J. F. De Jong, *Narratology and Classics: a practical guide*. (stimulating and useful)

Edward J. Corbett and Robert J. Connors, *Classical rhetoric for the modern student*. (a textbook overview of rhetoric)

W. K. Wimsatt and M. Beardsley, *The verbal icon: studies in the meaning of poetry*. (dated and dense but seminal: affective and intentional fallacies addressed)

I. A. Richards, *Practical criticism*. (written by a Cambridge English don in 1929: very dated now but the book that started it all)

N.B. also the fundamental work of George A. Kennedy on Classical rhetoric:

*The art of persuasion in Greece*

*The art of rhetoric in the Roman world*

*Classical rhetoric and its Christian and secular tradition from ancient to modern times*

*A new history of classical rhetoric*

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Dr Charlie Weiss

## CRITICAL DISCUSSION: PART IA

*The essence of a critical discussion is to show your understanding of the passage of text set for examination. In Part IA papers 1–4, if you choose to write on a passage of historical, philosophical, or linguistic significance, you will be expected to comment on historical or philosophical or linguistic matters in addition to making any appropriate literary points.*

Class	Marks	Numerical	Typical features	Level
	<b>Alphabetic</b>	<b>(100)</b>		
<b>I</b>	Leading $\alpha$	Normally 70 to 80	Shows a detailed knowledge and understanding of the passage and keeps the focus of the discussion on the passage at hand, but can indicate where and how such a discussion might be relevant for work as a whole. Displays independent thought. Can conduct a coherent and persuasive argument for the way, or ways, in which to read the passage and what the value of such reading(s) may be. If appropriate, can evaluate the passage as evidence for historical, philosophical, or linguistic topics or problems. Can discuss detailed syntactical and linguistic matters accurately and in a way that makes them relevant to the wider discussion of the passage; such discussion <u>may be more appropriate to passages whose main interest is literary and not historical or philosophical</u> . The very best answers may include cogent remarks made independently of the secondary literature on the texts.	75-80: original & challenging  70-74: incisive & thoughtful
<b>II.1</b>	$\beta^+$ to $\beta^{++}/\beta\alpha$	60-69	Shows a good understanding of the passage and can contextualise it relevantly, but displays less evidence of independent thought than that found in First Class scripts. If appropriate, has a broad understanding of the value of the passage as evidence for philosophical or historical problems. If appropriate, can argue for a particular reading, but, where relevant, shows some awareness that this might not be the only way of approaching the passage. Clear evidence of a good understanding of the passage in the original and an awareness of its key linguistic features as they relate to the interpretation of the passage.	65-69: resourceful use of material  60-64: good basic coverage

<b>II.2</b>	$\gamma\beta/\beta$ to $\beta$ (including $\beta?+$ )	50-59	Shows a fair understanding of both the passage and the work as a whole, but also likely to make some mistakes. May display a tendency to use the passage as a stepping stone to a discussion of the text as a whole, although still some reasonable attempt is made to engage with the passage. May show insecurity in determining the value of the passage as evidence for historical and literary problems. Some ability to perceive and discuss points closely related to the language of the passage.	55-59: some good passages 50-54: coverage thin and without penetration
<b>III</b>	$\gamma\delta/\gamma$ to $\gamma++/\gamma\beta$	40-49	Shows a poor or faulty understanding of the passage with some evidence of patches of incomprehension of the original. Has some knowledge of the text as a whole but is insufficiently able to engage with the passage at hand.	45-49: makes some points  40-44: lacking direction
<b>F</b>	Leading $\delta$ (and below)	39 and below	Shows no knowledge of the text and little or no understanding of the passage in the original; answers which show no familiarity with the text from which the passage is taken a mark below 20.	30-39: very thin  20-29: gross inaccuracy  Below 20: hardly any evidence of study

*These guidelines focus on features typical of examination scripts at different levels of attainment. Please note:*

- *Not every script of a particular standard will necessarily exhibit all the features typically associated with performance at that level.*
- *Candidates' performances may often be uneven, exhibiting features characteristic of more than one class (variation may occur within a single answer or as between answers to different questions). In such cases examiners will balance stronger and weaker elements to determine the overall mark on the paper.*

*Thus for example: a wide-ranging script evidencing plenty of independence and ability to make connections but also some confusion, irrelevance and weakness in analysis might be judged II.I overall; similarly a seriously incomplete script showing evidence nonetheless of knowledge and abilities typical of at least second class standard would probably be judged deserving of a III.*

## CRITICAL DISCUSSION: PART IB

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*The essence of a critical discussion is to show your understanding of the passage of text set for examination. In Part 1B, in contrast to Part 1A, passages for critical discussion are set only in Papers 5 and 6 (respectively, Greek and Latin literature). You should therefore concentrate on making literary and stylistic points in your answer, although if the content of the passage answered is of interest for historical, philosophical or linguistic reasons, it will be sensible to show an awareness of this.*

Class	Marks	Numerical	Typical features	Level
	<b>Alphabetic</b>	<b>(100)</b>		
<b>I</b>	Leading $\alpha$	Normally 70 to 80	Shows a detailed knowledge and understanding of the passage and keeps the focus of the discussion on the passage at hand, but can indicate where and how such a discussion might be relevant for work as a whole. Displays independent thought. Can conduct a coherent and persuasive argument for the way or ways in which to read the passage and what the value of such reading(s) may be. Can discuss detailed syntactical and linguistic issues accurately and in a way which makes them relevant to the wider discussion of the passage. The very best answers may include cogent remarks made independently of the secondary literature on the texts.	75-80: original & challenging 70-74: incisive & thoughtful
<b>II.1</b>	$\beta^+$ to $\beta^{++}/\beta\alpha$	60-69	Shows a good understanding of the passage and can contextualise it relevantly, but displays less evidence of independent thought than that found in First Class scripts. Can argue for a particular reading, but, where relevant, shows some awareness that this might not be the only way of approaching the passage. Clear evidence of a good understanding of the passage in the original and an awareness of its key linguistic features as they relate to the interpretation of the passage.	65-69: resourceful use of material  60-64: good basic coverage

<b>II.2</b>	$\gamma\beta/\beta$ to $\beta$ (including $\beta?+$ )	50-59	Shows a fair understanding of both the passage and the work as a whole, but also likely to make some mistakes. May display a tendency to use the passage as a stepping stone to a discussion of the text as a whole, although still some reasonable attempt is made to engage with the passage. Some ability to perceive and discuss points closely related to the language of the passage.	55-59: some good passages  50-54: coverage thin and without penetration
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**Provide a critical discussion of the following passage.**

*You may (if you wish) draw attention to features of language and style that are of interest. Where appropriate you may illustrate your interpretation by providing an English translation of particular clauses, but you are not expected to translate the passage as a whole.*

‘mulier, quid tibi cum Caelio, quid cum homine adolescentulo, quid cum alieno? cur aut tam familiaris fuisti ut aurum commodares, aut tam inimica ut uenenum timeres? non patrem tuum uideras, non patruum, non auum, non proauum, non <abauum, non> 5  
atauum audieras consules fuisse; non denique modo te Q. Metelli matrimonium tenuisse sciebas, clarissimi ac fortissimi uiri patriaeque amantissimi, qui simul ac  
pedem limine extulerat, omnis prope ciuis uirtute, gloria, dignitate superabat? cum ex  
amplissimo genere in familiam clarissimam nupsisses, cur tibi Caelius tam coniunctus  
fuit? cognatus, adfinis, uiri tui familiaris? nihil eorum. quid igitur fuit nisi quaedam  
temeritas ac libido? nonne te, si nostrae imagines uiriles non commouebant, ne  
progenies quidem mea, Q. illa Claudia, aemulam domesticae laudis in gloria muliebri 10  
esse admonebat, non uirgo illa Vestalis Claudia quae patrem complexa triumphantem  
ab inimico tribuno plebei de curru detrahi passa non est? cur te fraterna uitia potius  
quam bona paterna et auita et usque a nobis cum in uiris tum etiam in feminis repetita  
mouerunt? ideone ego pacem Pyrrhi diremi ut tu amorum turpissimorum cotidie  
foedera ferires, ideo aquam adduxi ut ea tu inceste uterere, ideo uiam muniui ut eam tu 15  
alienis uiris comitata celebrares?’

CICERO *Pro Marco Caelio* 33-34

This specimen is merely that: an *example* of how a prac. crit. could be done. It is not a guide or a template; it is only meant to provide students with a general idea of what a prac. crit. can look like. — *Dr Weiss*

This passage constitutes the complete speech of Appius Claudius Caecus within Cicero's *Pro Caelio*, appearing here by way of *προσωποποιία*: 'impersonation', or putting a speech into another's mouth. Plato immortalized the technique in the *Crito*, with Socrates' famous impersonation of the laws of Athens, yet Cicero had also used the technique in his *In Catilinam 1*, delivered in 63 B.C., when the consul impersonated the *res publica*, ironically chastising himself for not being tougher on Catiline.

Just as there the technique is designed to address and ultimately disarm an opponent's strongest arguments, so here the *προσωποποιία* gives Cicero a chance to isolate Clodia's impressive family line and use it to his advantage: 'yes, she is from a distinguished line, you may say, but in reality this is hardly to her credit!'

The choice of her most famous ancestor would of course have appealed to the most conservative members of the jury: Appius himself supplies a miniature *res gestae* in his final sentence (ll. 14-16) if anyone were in doubt. Here Cicero cleverly, even humorously slanders Clodia with each of her ancestor's most recognizable achievements: in three stylish *isocola* the peace of Pyrrhus is contrasted with her low *foedera*, an aqueduct with her impurities and Appius' famous *via* with her sordid journeys to Baiae. And the choice of the ancient Appius gives Cicero a chance to remind Clodia of all of her ancestors since then, not just those whose *imagines viriles* decorated the home (l. 9), but the women as well (one a Vestal Virgin, to boot).

Yet it is not only her ancestors: Cicero has Appius remind Clodia of her recently dead husband Metellus (l. 4) as well, here adorned with typical Ciceronian superlatives (l. 5—who is actually speaking: Appius or Cicero?), a particularly sore point since Clodia was suspected of poisoning him in 59 B.C.; his inclusion here arguably strengthens the impression that Clodia, the *Palatina Medea*, is skilled in poison (l. 2): *venenum* being one of the elements on which the prosecution has based its case against Caelius.

The passage comes as part of the *praemunitio* ('build-up') of the *Pro Caelio* (sections 3-50); as a whole the speech is unusually structured, without a formal *narratio*, partly due perhaps to the fact that Caelius and Crassus had already provided narrative versions of events to the jurors, but also due to the fact that Cicero's own stated goal (right from the *exordium*) is to attack Clodia, in particular her *libido* and *odium*. We might compare the defence's strategy of chastising Caelius for being a young man as a way of diminishing the significance of the charges against him; letting Appius do this here arguably puts Clodia on a level with Caelius: all of this is tawdry and does not merit serious attention. (We must also remember that Catullus is busy with his *nugae* right now: even if his Lesbia is not this Clodia he gives us memorable insight into elite ideas and ideals of behaviour.)

The passage also arguably lends a solemn note to the *Pro Caelio*: Appius appears practically as a ghost in the speech, reminiscent of such scenes as Darius' sad ghost in Aeschylus' *Persae*, brooding over the fate of his son Xerxes, or Odysseus' interviews with the dead in the *Odyssey*. I even wonder whether the passage might not have sat at the back of Vergil's mind in creating Hector's ghost for *Aeneid 2*. The scene is poignant and Appius is upset: the entire passage consists of questions (a mix of direct interrogatives and sentence-questions, all indicative, nothing rhetorical here!) save one curt sentence at line 8: *nihil eorum*.

Yet even in the midst of such solemnity we find humour: 'Why has Caelius become so connected to you? Is he a relative?' (ll. 7-8) It is unclear whether Appius is familiar with the rumours of Clodia's incest with her brother: it's a more powerful reading if we take him not to be.

A direct attack on Clodia is not enough: though Cicero will come at the end of the *praemunitio* to call Clodia a *meretrix* pure and simple—even *proterva* and *procax*—having Appius put these harsh questions to his descendant is a very vivid way of casting doubt on her motivations and therefore the entire case of the prosecution. It is so successful, perhaps, that Cicero cannot help but do it again with yet another *προσωποποιία* in the mouth of Clodius, closely following this section. If the tone there is lighter and comic, then this is more serious, even tragic. Cicero must always vary the tone.

Yet the real impersonation of the *Pro Caelio* is arguably that of Cicero himself: it's the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, 56 B.C.: Cicero had returned from exile just in August of the previous year and seems to exult in finding his way back to prominence, back to his old self. The Conference of Luca is about to take place, confirming the triumvirate, and Cicero has here successfully protected the interests of what may have been the ultimate target of the prosecution, Pompey. Little would Cicero know, of course, that the impending deaths of Julia (54 B.C.) and Crassus (53) would bring the opportunities for such fun to an end.



**SECTION B**

*Answer one question.*

**B1** *Discuss:*

etenim si mecum patria, quae mihi uita mea multo est carior, si cuncta Italia, si omnis res publica loquatur: “M. Tulli, quid agis? tune eum quem esse hostem comperisti, quem ducem belli futurum uides, quem exspectari imperatorem in castris hostium sentis, auctorem sceleris, principem coniurationis, euocatorem seruorum et ciuium perditorum, exire patiere, ut abs te non emissus ex urbe, sed immissus in urbem esse uideatur? nonne hunc in uincla duci, non ad mortem rapi, non summo supplicio mactari imperabis? quid tandem te impedit? mosne maiorum? at persaepe etiam priuati in hac re publica perniciosos ciues morte multarunt. an leges quae de ciuium Romanorum supplicio rogatae sunt? at numquam in hac urbe qui a re publica defecerunt ciuium iura tenuerunt. an inuidiam posteritatis times? praeclaram uero populo Romano refers gratiam qui te, hominem per te cognitum, nulla commendatione maiorum tam mature ad summum imperium per omnes honorum gradus extulit, si propter inuidiam aut alicuius periculi metum salutem ciuium tuorum negligis. sed si quis est inuidiae metus, non est uehementius seueritatis ac fortitudinis inuidia quam inertiae ac nequitiae pertimescenda. an, cum bello uastabitur Italia, uexabuntur urbes, tecta ardebunt, tum te non existimas inuidiae incendio conflagraturum?” his ego sanctissimis rei publicae uocibus et eorum hominum qui hoc idem sentiunt mentibus pauca respondebo.

5

10

15

20

CICERO *In Catilinam* 1.27-29

**[TURN OVER**

This specimen is only an *example* of how a prac. crit. could be done. It is not a guide or a template; it is only meant to provide students with a general idea of what a prac. crit. can look like. — *Dr Weiss*

This passage features the second *prosopopoeia* of *In Catilinam* 1; this is the Ancient Greek rhetorical term for ‘impersonation’. The first such *prosopopoeia*, also featuring the voice of the *patria*, appears in earlier in the speech and is addressed to Catiline. There the fatherland’s tone is plaintive and fearful: through her voice Cicero neatly summarizes the atrocities (*facinora, scelera*) that Catiline is capable of and begs the conspirator to leave Rome so that, in her words, ‘at length I may stop fearing’.

By this point in the speech, however, the *patria* seems to have lost patience with the situation and now addresses Cicero himself: it is as though she has been among the senators in the temple of Jupiter Stator on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November this whole time, listening to the consul as he outlines the desperate crisis of the autumn of 63 B.C. — and she has had enough. It is as though *she herself* is persuaded by the speech so far; it is as though *she* becomes Cicero’s guide to the senators as to what *they* ought to be thinking as well. After all, if the *patria* thinks such things, if *cuncta Italia* (ll. 1-2) and the *res publica* (l. 2) feel this way, then who can disagree?

What is her complaint? That Marcus Tullius Cicero (note the formality of *M. Tulli* in line 2 — no intimate *cognomen* here!), given the extreme risk to Rome, is guilty of *inertia* and *nequitia* (l. 17) because he hasn’t yet arranged for the execution of Catiline and his fellow conspirators. Her words here echo Cicero’s own words at the beginning of the speech, where he blames himself for exactly these two things, *inertia* and *nequitia* (perhaps a hendiadys for ‘reprehensible inactivity’), and so these words (inter alia) form a kind of ring composition that keeps the senators’ attention by signalling the end (*peroratio*) of the speech, as well as reinforcing the general argument.

Cicero is using this argument as a way to anticipate and outflank those who think the conspirators deserve capital punishment immediately. From Sallust’s *Bellum Catilinae*, written some twenty years later, we could conclude that there very well may have been such a sentiment among the senators (cf. Cato’s speech). But strategically speaking, at least, this argument is being used to strengthen the main argument of the speech: Catiline and his followers must leave Rome immediately.

It is of course a curious irony of history that Cicero is *not* arguing for capital punishment in what came to be his most famous speech (Sallust called it *luculentam atque utilem rei publicae*) but it was the execution of the conspirators that ensured Cicero’s exile just a few years later at the instigation of his great enemy Clodius in 58 B.C.

The speech of the *patria* consists of twelve sentences, eight of which are questions: she is remonstrating with Cicero.

After a blunt *quid agis?* lines 2-5 feature three balanced cola, followed by a second set of three noun phrases, all framed in characteristically periodic style by the main subject and main verb of the sentence:

TU (l. 2)

A. *quem...comperisti*

B. *quem...vides*

C. *quem...sentis* (longer)

AA. *auctorem*

BB. *principem*

CC. *evocatorem* (longer)

PATIERE (l. 5)

A result clause forms a brief coda to the sentence, featuring the crystal-clear antithesis of

*emissus ex urbe*

versus

*immissus in urbem*

as well as Cicero’s famous favourite clausula (resolved cretic + trochee) *esse videatur* (l. 6).

(A senator may well wonder who is speaking: the *patria* or the consul? Or did Cicero make any attempt to distinguish his own personal voice from that of the *patria*? Or would that have risked a kind of absurdity? This kind of information is lost to time and we know that Cicero published *In Catilinam* 1 later but there should be no doubt of the importance of oratorical delivery to Cicero or any Roman politician for that matter, given the evidence from his own rhetorical essays as well as authors such as Quintilian and Seneca the Elder.)

This grandiloquent period, at any rate, is followed by a volley of rapid-fire phrases (*duci, rapi, mactari*) and questions, perhaps less glamorously constructed, but conveying thereby an increased anger in the voice of the *patria* and culminating in an exasperated *tandem* (l. 8) that echoes the first sentence of *In Catilinam* 1.

Now the *patria* briefly raises three ‘straw man’ arguments that will of course be immediately demolished: ‘What’s holding you back, Cicero?’ 1) *mos maiorum* (l. 8): as if the *patria* could advise anything contrary to the ‘traditions of our ancestors’! 2) *leges* (l. 9): yet conspirators have by definition surrendered any citizen rights! 3) *invidia* (l. 11): if this is a genuine concern then the opportunity for action is almost lost!

Cicero’s sequence of ideas here is important, ranging from broad to narrow; putting the personal element last is appropriate but it also gives him a chance to elaborate this point and protect his position; he even manages to get the *patria* to pay him a compliment as a *novus homo* who rose to consul at the earliest age permitted (ll. 12-14). This is of course irrelevant and even vain, perhaps, but it cleverly insinuates the intimacy between Cicero and the state and at least addresses the issue of his motivation.

The *patria* becomes more agitated now (note the sound of *persaepe...privati...publica...pernciosos*, ll. 8-9) and these arguments sound a little extreme: *qui a re publica defecerunt* (l. 11) is hardly a genuine legal category and have the conspirators actually lost their rights? *praeclaram* (l. 12) is clearly sarcastic. The two conditional sentences here (ll. 12-17) feature simple indicative verbs, textbook examples of ‘Logical’ Latin conditionals; the stern, legalistic tone is strengthened by the epigrammatic (ll. 16-17):

*non est vehementius severitatis ac fortitudinis invidia quam inertiae ac nequitiae pertimescenda.*

The grammatical pattern here:

genitive AC genitive nominative QUAM genitive AC genitive nominative

with *invidia* supplied to both clauses by syllepsis wraps up her argument with an irresistible knot.

She (and Cicero) can only top this brief but powerful speech with a vivid metaphor, exactly what we find with *invidiae incendium* in line 18: there is fire imagery elsewhere in the speech and we know from Sallust that the conspirators had in fact torched buildings in Rome prior to the speech.

If the *patria* pleads with Catiline earlier as a vulnerable female figure then here she has become an angry *matrona / dea* figure, chastising her consul and perhaps echoing Homer’s severe Hera and even prefiguring Vergil’s jealous Juno: her very words, after all, are sacred: *his...sanctissimis...verbis* (l. 19).

How can Cicero possibly reply? As the speech continues (*pauca respondebo*, l. 20) he can now use these intense arguments – very cleverly not his own – to target the ‘soft’ element in the senate: those who would countenance clemency. As we learn from Sallust this circle would include Julius Caesar, neither the first nor last Roman to fight against a Roman army.

This *prosopopoeia* is effective from practically any perspective, but it is not surprising to learn that it is not a common technique in the preserved oratory in Cicero: *In Catilinam* 1 with its exciting apostrophe to Catiline at the beginning and its unusual structuring throughout is an exceptional speech. But the most learned senators will have detected by now an allusion to Plato’s *Crito*, where Socrates anticipates his interlocutor’s arguments by imagining what the Laws of Athens would have to say about any attempt to escape the death sentence that an Athenian jury has just passed. The *prosopopoeia* there is far more extensive but the strategy seems similar, and Cicero would not mind it if a senator compared him to noble Socrates.

The historical irony here of course is that a martyrdom no less glorious awaited Cicero some twenty years later at the hands of a tyrant no less brutal and no less popular.