

Question 3:

- (a) (i) The proper Latin title is quaestio in caediis.
- (ii) (1) He refers to Marcus Fannius (praetor)
(2) Marcus Fannius was the president of the court at which Cicero was ~~not~~ presenting his case.
- (iii) Cicero is referring to the events of the Civil War between Marius and Sulla, during which time the court had been closed. As a consequence of this, the trial of Sextus Roscius is the first to be undertaken ~~on~~ 'dealing with murderers', and as such the people are more than anxious to see that justice is done.

(iv) Cicero uses a number of dramatic techniques in this extract in order to convince the jurors of the importance of their task.

In the first place, Cicero makes a direct appeal to the praetor of the court, Marcus Fannius. By his indication of the wish of all people (omnes), he ~~is able to~~ ^{seeks to} convince the man who will pass judgement that people are hungry for justice, and will not accept the failure of the court to arrive at a correct verdict.

More importantly, however, in Cicero's attempt to convince the jurors of the importance of their task, is the direct appeal which he makes to them (Petimus abs te, M. Fanni, a vobisque, iudicis). In this appeal, Cicero makes use of rhetoric, making three main points. He uses superlatives throughout to emphasise



The absolute importance of their task.

Firstly, he appeals to ~~the~~ the jurors to punish the crimes 'as harshly as possible' (quam acerrime), secondly to ~~also~~ resist the ~~on~~ claims of the men who have brought the charge 'as bravely as possible' (quam fortissime).

It is Cicero's third point, however, which is most direct. ~~He~~ He appeals to the good nature and tradition of the court itself, suggesting that if they do condemn Sextus Roscius, they will be making a judgement that would allow murders to be made. In essence, Cicero brings the atrocity of the crime ~~into~~ directly into the presence of the jurors: 'that murders may be allowable not only in secret, but even here in the forum, before your revised platform, before your Marcus Fannius, before

your feet), judges, and among the Greeks themselves (ut non modo ... caecles futuras sint).

This direct appeal emphasises the absolute importance of the jurors' task.

(b) (ii) In the word officium in this passage, Cicero means the duty of Sextus Roscius' son. It suggests not only his duty to uphold the standards of Roman life, but also the standards by which were expected of him with regard to the management of his estates.

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for (b) (ii)

(b) (iii) Cicero uses the portrayal of Sextus Roscius' character as one of the main points in his defense. Firstly, one of the most important aspects is the manner in which he portrays him. As Cicero winds through the delivery of his case, we ~~will~~ ^{conceal} come to see Sextus Roscius as ~~as~~ a man absolutely innocent of any wrongdoing. ~~This~~ ~~he~~ ~~does~~ Cicero does this by portraying him as a man who was completely devoted to everything his father wished, and that the relationship between Sextus Roscius (sr) and his son was one of almost perfection. He also portrays the son as a man who did everything to uphold Roman law.

~~With~~ This method of building up a good character background

for the defendant is one of ~~the~~,
most important features ~~in his speech~~
is Cicero's defense.

This excerpt is particularly useful in demonstrating this strategy. Cicero poses questions which have been asked of Sextus Roscius by the accusers, and then sets about proving them completely and utterly groundless and false.

For example, in this section he suggests that the accusers might ask 'What kind of man is he? Is he a young man, ~~but~~ corrupted and led astray by men of no account?' Cicero has the immediate rebuttal to this question: 'He is more than forty years old.'

Cicero then proposes another double: 'Is he indeed an old assassin,

a bold man and often involved in courage?'. But Cicero has the rebuttal to this argument too: 'But you have not even heard this alleged by ~~the~~ the accusers.'

This type of argument continues in this passage, as Cicero builds up a line of argument that suggests that Sextus Roscius is innocent, simply because ~~he~~ he is of such opposite character to a murderer, that he could not have killed his father.

Indeed, Cicero poses a very similar argument to this at the end of this passage: 'What ~~argument~~ desires are able to be present in that man, who, as the accuser himself has declared, has always lived in the country and spent his life

in cultivating the form? A life which is greatly disjoined from temptation and associated with duty.

In short, the function of character portrayal in Cicero's defense is of primary importance, both to suggest that Sextus himself could not have committed the crime, ~~and~~ and to suggest that the real criminals are Chrysogonus, Magnus and Capito.