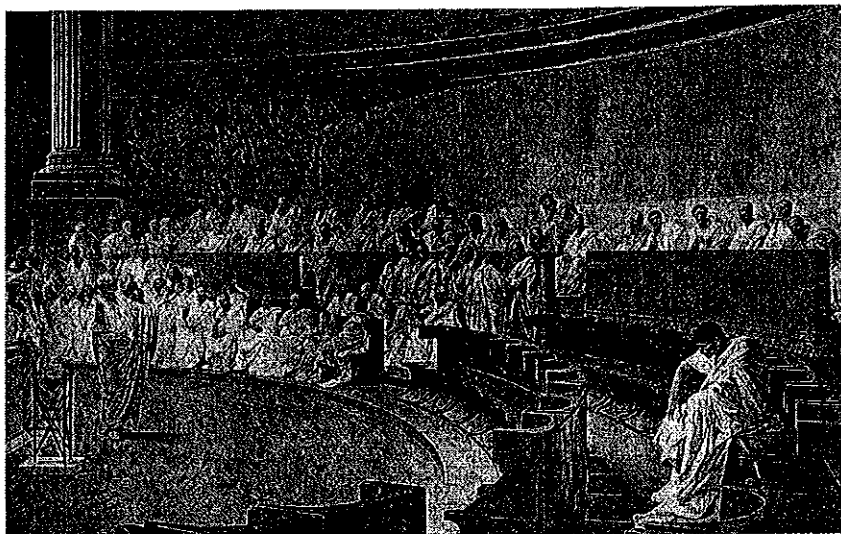


## Cicero, *Against Catiline* I.1-19

### Sample Questions/Answers



Using the passages overleaf, answer the following questions about Cicero's persuasive goals. Support your answer with the quotations from the passages that you think are relevant.

<p><b>What is Cicero trying to persuade the Senate to feel or do? What arguments does he use to make his point more forceful?</b></p>	<p><b>What is Cicero trying to persuade Catiline to feel or do? What arguments does he use to make his point more forceful?</b></p>
<p>Is he trying to persuade them to execute Catiline? <u><i>Against Catiline 2-3</i></u>: argument from precedent/trying to shame the senate into action.</p> <p>Convince them of the enormity of the conspiracy: <u><i>Against Catiline 8-9</i></u>: there is NO evidence. rhetoric of fear, rhetorical questions, exaggeration.</p> <p>Cicero testing the waters to see if the senate will demand execution? <u><i>Against Catiline 12</i></u>: self-presentation, trying to convince the Senate that it <i>is</i> a matter of national security. He is trying to convince the senate that they all hate Catiline!</p>	<p>Urging Catiline to leave Rome: <u><i>Against Catiline 12</i></u></p> <p>Advising Catiline to leave Rome: <u><i>Against Catiline 13</i></u> Convince Catiline that he has no friends and that everyone hates him <i>cf.</i> <u><i>Against Catiline 16</i></u>: rhetorical questions are designed to convince/shame him to take the course of voluntary exile</p>

## **Student Activity**

Learning Outcomes (first projection):

- To develop an understanding of the nature of the speech and the scholarly debate surrounding the *In Catilinam*.
- To examine select passages in the light of Cicero's rhetorical strategy

## **What IS Cicero's persuasive goal?**

- Maybe Cicero is forcing all potential troublemakers out into the open (Seager)
- Maybe Cicero is hoping the Senate will say "arrest him at once!" (Gould & Whiteley)
- Maybe Cicero is just trying to stir up hatred (Solmsen) or alienate Catiline (Primmer)
- Maybe the speech represents the "high drama" of Cicero's performance on the day (Craig)

## **Conclusions**

Learning Outcomes (second projection):

- an ability to think critically about scholarly work on this subject
- an ability to articulate their arguments and to illustrate them with relevant evidence
- appreciate the way in which the Latin language is used (especially word order)
- develop an understanding of the cultural context of the selected text (Roman politics and power)

**Against Catiline 2-3:**

You, Catiline, ought long ago to have been taken to your death, and on a consul's order. It is on yourself that the destruction which you have long been plotting for all of us ought to be visited. [3] The distinguished chief pontiff, Publius Scipio, as a mere private citizen killed Tiberius Gracchus, when Gracchus was causing a mild disturbance in our country: so are we, as consuls, to put up with Catiline, when he is aiming to devastate the entire world with fire and slaughter?

**Against Catiline 8-9:**

I notice that there are here in the senate several of those who were with you. [9] Immortal gods! Where in the world are we? What country do we inhabit? In what city do we live? Here, conscript fathers, here amongst our very number, in this, the most revered and important council in the world, there exist men who are plotting the massacre of all of us and the destruction of this city – and even of this entire world.

**Against Catiline 12:**

But now you are openly attacking the country as a whole. You are calling to destruction and devastation the temples of the immortal gods, the houses of the city, the lives of all Roman citizens, and finally the whole of Italy. Even so, I will not yet venture to carry out my first duty and act as befits my office and the strict traditions of our ancestors: instead, I shall act in a way which is more lenient, but also more conducive to the national security. For if I order your execution, all the other members of the conspiracy will remain within the state; but if you leave Rome, as I have long been urging you to do, the voluminous, pernicious dregs of society – your companions – will be flushed out of the city.

**Against Catiline 13:**

Well, Catiline? Surely you cannot be hesitating to do on my orders what you were already doing anyway of your own free will? The consul orders a public enemy to get out of Rome. Into exile, you enquire? That is not what I am ordering – but if you ask my opinion, it is what I advise. At Rome, Catiline, what is there, at the present time, that can possibly give you any pleasure? Aside from your degraded fellow conspirators, there is not a single person in this city who does not fear you, not a single person who does not hate you.

**Against Catiline 16:**

A short while ago, you walked into the senate. Who out of that packed gathering of people, and out of so many of your friends and connections offered you a single word of greeting? If no one else in history has ever been treated like that, do you really wait for the insult to be expressed in words, when you have been crushed by the strongest verdict – that of utter silence? And what about the fact that, when you entered the chamber, these benches suddenly emptied? That all the consulars, men you had many times marked down for assassination, left the areas of benches near you empty and unoccupied the moment you took the seat? How, I ask you, do you feel about that?

### What happened to Catiline??

In the first speech (which is studied at AS) Cicero convinced the senate that the danger posed by Catiline was a real one. At first, despite being unwilling to sit near him, the senate were a little incredulous of the plot, but Cicero convinced them.

Catiline went to join his associates in Etruria. This convinced many who had been sceptical about Catiline's plot, and it induced the Senate to call him a public enemy.

The representatives of the plot left behind in Rome did not make a good job of continuing the scheming (according to Cicero in his third speech).

Cicero received information from a tribe in Gaul, who provided pretty conclusive evidence that Catiline was still plotting with associates such as Publius Lentulus.

The conspirators (but not Catiline) were caught red handed in Rome and were kept under arrest by various senators, as there was not enough room in the prison. Two punishments were suggested: detention for life or execution (Cicero made it clear he would favour their death.) After lengthy deliberation, the death penalty was decided upon.

There were legal debates about whether the 'emergency decree', *senatus consultum ultimum*, would allow the consul to authorise the killing of Roman citizens. The men were killed, but there was still a lingering doubt in the legality of this, which came back to haunt Cicero later.

In the following month Catiline was captured and killed at Pistoria. The Catilinarian conspiracy was over.

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## Lucius Sergius Catilina

- Born in 108 B.C. from a patrician family, but not wealthy.
- He was praetor in 68 B.C.
- In 67 B.C. he was governor in N. Africa, but he had behaved so badly, that he was put on trial for extortion in 65 B.C.; acquitted of the charge through bribery.
- Felt that the consulship was his birth-right; he needed money, so he wanted to be consul, so that he could govern a province and replenish his coffers; he was so determined that he decided that if he could not become consul fairly, then he would do so unfairly.
- He wanted to stand for consul for 65 B.C., but he could not because of his pending trial, so.....
- 1st Catilinarian Conspiracy – together with two other men, he hatched a scheme to murder the incoming consuls and other important senators on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 65 and then seize consular power for himself and his friends. This scheme failed.
- He still could not stand for consul for 64 B.C.
- Catiline was in great debt, but through the help of Crassus, he was able to stand for consul for 63 B.C. where Cicero was a fellow candidate. Catiline failed to be elected again, but Cicero was successful.
- He stood again for consul for 62 B.C. and once again failed. (Cicero supposedly turned up to the election wearing a breast-plate under his toga, and with a strong body guard).
- At the end of 63 B.C. there was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Catilinarian Conspiracy. Catiline was hoping that when he was consul, he could bring in a law to cancel debts!
- The plans for the conspiracy were to – keep a band of gladiators in Rome – to have other followers in Etruria under Manlius – for Manlius and his men to advance to Praeneste, then on 27<sup>th</sup> October to march to Rome at night – on 28<sup>th</sup> October, there would be a joint rising in Rome of Manlius' men and Catiline's gladiators.
- These plans were foiled, as Fulvia, a female secret agent!, told Cicero.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> October, the Senate proclaimed a state of emergency, issuing a **senatus consultum ultimum**, giving the consuls unlimited powers.
- Cicero moved the gladiators to Capua and summoned up various troops. He could not arrest Catiline as he did not have enough proof.
- Catiline protested his innocence, but gave himself up, managing to slip from custody and on the night of 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November, he met fellow conspirators in the house of Laeca.
- There he confirmed his plans – he would join Manlius – he would leave some men in Rome under Lentulus – he allocated to others the tasks of causing riots, carrying out murders, setting fire to parts of Rome.
- He sent two Roman knights to murder Cicero; but he was warned and managed to protect and so save himself.
- 8<sup>th</sup> November, Cicero delivered his 1<sup>st</sup> Catilinarian speech to the Senate, meeting in the temple of Jupiter Stator) with Catiline being present himself.
- That night Catiline left to join Manlius; the Senate declared him and his followers public enemies.