

Literature Year 2



Lesson 1

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BC)

We have already met Cicero in our course on classical thought. Before you start, re-read Term 3 Week 4 Day 4 (Stoicism) and Term 3 Week 5 Day 4 to refresh your memory. This web page: https://www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_rome/cicero.php will help you answer the questions below.

1. Who was the founder of Stoicism?
2. What idea of the founder of Stoicism was to be very useful to the growing Roman Empire?
3. What difference to Stoicism did the Romans make when they adopted it?
4. Cicero was not strictly just a Stoic. What other view did he hold?
5. Why did Cicero turn to philosophy at the end of his life?
6. In what way did he modify Stoic ideas?
7. Why did Cicero think men should obey the higher law even against the cultural conventions of their day?
8. During which law case did Cicero become known as the greatest orator in Rome's history?
9. How did Cicero make an enemy of Julius Caesar and how did Caesar punish him?
10. Who was responsible for Cicero's death?
11. What does this picture have to do with Cicero?



Answers are on the next page.

- 1.Zeno
- 2.The Cosmopolis
- 3.The *single* duty of accepting your lot in life became for the Romans a *plurality* or variety of duties and obligations that would make you a good citizen.
- 4.Eclecticism
- 5.Cicero turned to philosophy at the end of his life to find comfort in the midst of the political and social turmoil.
- 6.Stoic philosophy said that anything that fell short of complete virtue was bad and that all things that are bad are equally bad. Cicero thought there were degrees of virtue.
- 7.Cicero thought men should obey the higher law even against the cultural conventions of their day not because of fear of God's punishment but because it was the reasonable thing to do.
- 8.During the case against Verres.
- 9.When Caesar asked him to become part of a powerful alliance, Cicero refused. By doing this he made an enemy of Caesar. Not too long later, Caesar had Cicero exiled from Rome.
- 10.Mark Antony, Octavian and Lepidus
- 10.Cicero means "Chick pea."