

Prose Texts 4:
Sallust: Cato and Caesar from *Catiline*¹ Part D

Today we will translate the final lines of your set text from Sallust. Keep up the good work of practising your flashcards to make sure you have the translation of all your set texts at your fingertips. My flashcards are here on quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/gb/880429048/sallust-igcse-2026-8-flash-cards/?i=2ds0qg&x=1qqt> or you can make your own. The segment we looked at last week dealt with Caesar. Now Sallust turns to Cato.

At Catoni studium modestiae, decoris, sed maxime severitatis erat; non divitiis cum divite neque factione cum factioso, sed cum strenuo virtute, cum modesto pudore, cum innocente abstinentia certabat; esse quam videri bonus malebat: ita, quo minus petebat gloriam, eo magis illum sequebatur.

¹ Image: By Freegiampi - Foto scattate da me, CC BY-SA 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1962822>

At [but] *Catoni* [dat.] *studium* ["desire" nom.] *modestiae*, ["moderation" gen.]

decoris, ["dignity" gen.] *sed maxime* [archaic form of *maxime*

"chiefly/especially/above all/most of all"] *severitatis* ["sternness" gen.] *erat*;

Translate this literally, strictly by the grammar which I have marked up for you. Then turn it into good English and compare with my effort on the next page.

But desire was to Cato of moderation, of dignity but chiefly sternness. That is:

Cato's desire was moderation and dignity but especially sternness. Or:

But Cato desired moderation and dignity but above all sternness.

Notice we have had to supply an “and” again. Can you remember what this is called?²

Now comes a list of things with the verb at the end. Cato is the subject. The first two things on the list are negative – remember *non... neque...* is “neither/not... nor...” To make sense of this start with the verb remembering that the *non* will make it negative. Begin “He did not vie...” Each item on the list includes a type of person and a quality. With the negatives that begin the statement the quality comes before the person. With the qualities that Cato did embrace, the person comes first. For the qualities (but not the persons) use “in” for the ablative rather than “with, from or by” as this is clearer in English. Once again you will need to add an “and”.

non divitiis [“wealth” abl.] *cum divite* [abl.]

neque factione [“political faction/party spirit/intrigue/sedition” abl.] *cum factioso*,

[“factious (men) /seditious (men)/intriguer(s)” abl.]

sed

cum strenuo [“vigorous/active” abl.] *virtute*, [abl.]

cum modesto [dat/abl.] *pudore*, [“decency/scrupulousness” abl.]

cum innocente [“harmless”] *abstinentia* [“self-restrained” abl.]

certabat; [*certare* “to vie with”]

Translate and compare.

He did not vie in riches with the rich nor in intrigue with intriguers but with the vigorous in virtue, with the moderate in decency and with the harmless in self-restraint.

Watch out for deponent³ verbs here: there are two, one in the infinitive. *Quo... eo...* “to the extent that... thus far...”

esse quam [translate “rather than”] *videri bonus malebat:*

Ita,

quo minus petebat gloriam,

eo magis illum sequebatur.

Translate and compare.

He preferred to be rather than to seem good so to the extent that he sought glory less, so far more it followed him.

In English the “to the extent... so far...” feels rather awkward and the point is conveyed better without it like this :

He preferred to be rather than to seem good so the less he sought glory, the more it followed him.

And that is the end of the extract from Sallust that you have to study. We will be going into more details about content of the passage next year. But now you can translate it, to what extent do you think his assessment of the two men is accurate? We will dive into that issue and others in next year's work.