

Year 3 Term 3 Week 3 Day 3

Work this question from a past paper:

Why do you think Cicero had so much success with his speeches?

Support your answer with reference to the texts.

You should write at least 100 words

[10]

Not a “On the one hand... on the other hand...” question! To keep yourself on track begin with something along the lines of “Cicero had so much success with his speeches because...”

Then pull out everything you can think of about Cicero's style and say that this made him, interesting or convincing etc. The mark scheme says an “informed personal response to the literature” is needed as part of the answer for full marks. Remember that 100 words is the minimum. Don't worry if you need more.

My attempt is on the next page.

Cicero had so much success with his speeches because he engaged with his listeners, and often addressed them directly (apostrophe): *iudices*. [1] When prosecuting in a court of law he would even address the accused directly. [1] “Why do you fight for him by whom the praise and honour of your family is robbed?” he asks Verres. [1] Cicero knows the value of a good story and he was not afraid to tell one against himself (as in the *Pro Plancio*) cutting himself down to size in the ears of his hearers to make a successful effect. [1] He also achieved success because of his command of rhetorical devices. These make what he has to say colourful and interesting. He uses carefully balanced phrases (*negotiatoribus comis, mercatoribus iustus, mancipibus liberalis, sociis abstinens*.) [1] and paired words *amplum et excelsum* or to good effect. [1] Cicero also keeps his hearers' attention by using metaphor. *Cur ego tuas partis suscipio*, for instance, is a metaphor from the theatre, which asks his hearers to picture an actor undertaking the rôle of a character. [1] Even reading his words today we become aware that he must have had a dramatic delivery which led to success. *Iste...* he spits out contemptuously. That man! [1] Cicero places his words carefully within a sentence. For instance to emphasise *neminem* he puts it at the end of the phrase “there was found *no one*”. [1] He is not afraid to repeat a word to hammer home his point to his listeners *tum... tum... tum...* or *cur... cur... cur...* [1] All this engages the listener's feelings and brings his case to successfully to life.

This is by no means the only way to tackle the question. You might prefer to consider how Cicero appealed to the patriotism, sense of justice and feelings of his hearers, giving concrete examples from the text of how he does so.