

**Cicero, *pro Caelio***

Study Questions

Question 1: How does Cicero's argument work? Do you find it convincing?

Question 2: Which comic characters appear in Cicero's 'cast'?

Question 3: What impression does Cicero give of the conduct of the Roman youth in this speech?

Question 4: Moral decline was a prominent theme in the rhetoric of the 50s BC. How important is this theme in *pro Caelio*?

Question 5: What elements of this speech would seem shocking in a modern trial?

Question 6: Why does Cicero only turn to the actual charges at §51?

Question 7: Can you think of a more recent political figure whose rhetoric reminds you Cicero? Who and why?

Question 8: Is rhetoric and the ability to speak well as important today as it was in ancient Rome? If so, why? If not, should it be?

Question 9: Rhetoric was a key part of Roman education, especially for those aiming at a public career. Would you put it on the National Curriculum?

Question 10: Imagine you were speaking for the prosecution after Cicero. How would you go about this?

Question 11: Why has *pro Caelio* come to be considered one of Cicero's finest speeches?

Question 12: Why was Clodia an easy target for Cicero?

Question 13: Does (or SHOULD) knowledge of Cicero's hatred for Clodia's brother affect our assessment of the speech?

Question 14: How important is philosophy to Cicero's argument in this speech?

Question 15: What picture of rhetorical training does Cicero give in *pro Caelio* and why?