INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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Passage 1

Galba takes over from Nero as emperor, but his unpopularity leads to his assassination by supporters of Otho, who has also sought imperial power.

The unpopularity of the emperor Nero caused unrest in the Roman army. Some people therefore proposed a new emperor. Galba was one of those proposed.

Based on Tacitus, Histories I

Names

Nero, -onis (m)  Nero
Galba, -ae (m)  Galba
Otho, -onis (m)  Otho

Words

1 ludi, -orum (m pl)  gladiatorial shows
2 splendidus, -a, -um  splendid
3 liberalis, -is, -e  generous
4 nobilitas, -atis (f)  nobility
5 praetoriani, -orum (m pl)  soldiers of the Praetorian Guard
Passage 2

Cicero is defending Roscius on a charge of murdering his father. He raises the question of motive in order to attack the two men, Titus and Capito, who gained possession of most of the dead man’s estate, whereas Roscius was reduced to poverty.

You could find no motive for murder in Roscius, but I find one in Titus and Capito. Consider what Lucius Cassius would have made of the current case.

Lucius Cassius, quem populus Romanus verissimum et sapientissimum iudicem esse putabat, saepe in causis quaerere solebat, ‘cui bono fuit1?’ sic vita hominum est, ut facinus committere nemo conetur sine spe emolumenti2.

ego facile me paterer, Cassio ipso iudicante3, pro Roscio dicere. in hac enim causa, cum videret illos plurimam pecuniam habere, hunc in summa egestate4 esse, crimen et suspicionem5 potius ad praedam adiungeret quam ad egestatem6.

Cicero, pro Roscio Amerino 84–86 (adapted)

Names

Lucius Cassius, -i (m) Lucius Cassius (a famous judge from the previous century)
Roscius, -i (m) Roscius

Words

1bono esse to be of benefit
2emolumentum, -i (m) profit, advantage
3iudico, -are I judge, serve as judge
4egestas, -atis (f) poverty
5suspicio, -onis (f) suspicion