

## CERTAMEN IN CONCORDIAM EUROPAE REGIONUMQUE ORBIS



### CONCOURS CICERO CICERO COMPETITION CONCURSO CICERO CONCORSO CICERO CICERO TAKMIČENJE 2012

This passage is taken from the *Commentariolum Petitionis* (Short Guide to Winning an Election) which may have been written by Cicero's younger brother Quintus, to help him to win the elections for Consul in 64BC.

Cicero did win the election, despite being a **novus** - perhaps best translated as 'an outsider'. He was the son of a wealthy businessman (one of the **equites**) from the small town of Arpinum south of Rome : not one of the ruling nobility. At the time it was extremely difficult for anyone who did not belong to one of the elite group of politically-active noble families even to think of running for Consul.

You might enjoy considering whether modern politicians follow similar guidelines to the ones Quintus suggests - indeed, the website of the Canadian Association of Political Consultants describes Quintus Cicero as 'the first political consultant'. Parts of this document make Quintus sound almost like a football motivational trainer or a 'lifestyle guru'.

**IMPORTANT :** Use your common-sense to work out the very best meaning for words rather than relying on the dictionary. If you can't find the exact word in your dictionary look at the root meanings of words and improvise !

*You cannot achieve the highest marks in this test if your version looks like a translation from Latin. You need to try to write in idiomatic English but you should not move away from the literal translation except to produce a version in better English. Do not be afraid to break up long sentences into shorter ones.*

#### Vocabulary, in alphabetical order :

diligentia 1 f.	political activity
equites 3 m. plur	businessmen / equestrians i.e. not of the highest social class
honus -oris 3 m.	high (political) office
impertio -ire	keep one's promise to
novus (homo)	literally 'new man'. Here best translated as 'outsider'
optime poni	to be very well placed i.e. people who could be of use to him
petitio -onis 3 f.	campaigning, running for political office, trying to win an election
studium 2 n.	political support, enthusiasm, help

#### People referred to in the passage

Gaius Cotta : Quintus calls him a 'master-politician'. He knew all the best tricks to get votes from everyone.

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2012 How to win an election in Rome.

**U6 (Year 13) translate the whole passage and answer the final questions.**

**L6 (Year 12) translate the main passage.**

consulatum petis, quo honore nemo est quin te dignum arbitretur, sed multi qui invident; petis enim homo ex equestri loco summum locum civitatis - idem honos homini forti, disertu, innocenti plurimum amplitudinis adfert.

petitio magistratuum divisa est in duarum rationum diligentiam, quarum altera in amicorum studiis, altera in populari voluntate ponenda est. sed hoc nomen ‘amicorum’ in petitione latius patet quam in cetera vita; quisquis est enim qui ostendat aliquid in te voluntatis, qui te colat, qui domum ventitet, is in amicorum numero est habendus.

sed quoniam tribus rebus homines maxime ad benevolentiam atque haec suffragandi studia ducuntur, beneficio, spe, adiunctione animi ac voluntate, animadvertendum est quemadmodum cuique horum generi sit offerendum.

G. Cotta, in ambitione artifex, dicere solebat se omnia polliceri solere omnibus, impertire eis apud quos optime poni arbitraretur; ideo se nemini negare, quod saepe accideret causa cur is cui pollicitus esset non uteretur, saepe ut ipse magis esset vacuus quam putavisset.

*Quintus ends this section by remarking: “After all, if a politician only made promises which he was sure he could keep, he wouldn’t have many friends.”*

..... **U6/Year 13 only :**

civitas quae sit cogita, quid petas, qui sis. cotidie tibi hoc ad forum descendenti meditandum est: “novus sum, consulatum peto, Roma est.”

1. Translate these two lines.
2. Explain in your own words what Quintus is suggesting that his brother should do in these lines.
3. What literary features make his advice ‘punchy’ and memorable?