**in Verrem I – Summary**

**Trial of:** Gaius Verres

**When?** 70 BC

**What for?** Extortion of 400 000 sesterces when governor of Sicily 73-71 BC

**Judge:** Manius Glabrio

**Prosecutor:** Marcus Tullius Cicero - elected aedile for 69

**Defence:** Hortensius – elected consul for 69

1-4 Crisis facing Rome: rich people can bribe their way out of conviction in the courts.

5-9 Verres – very bad. Attempts by Verres + goons to postpone trial to secure a corrupt jury of further goons.

10-13 Verres – very bad – especially corruption, extortion and cruelty in Sicily.

14-17 Verres’ (failed) attempts to corrupt the trial (“but you, jury, are too good and honest for him!”) – he is now trying again, this time to postpone the trial.

18-21 More bribery by Verres to secure the election of his goons to political office to influence the trial the following year (he hopes…).

22-25 Verres also used bribery to try to prevent Cicero’s election to the aedileship.

**Verres and bribery**

1. Corrupt the current judge and jury in 70;
2. Postpone the trial to 69, when he might be able to secure a corrupt judge and jury;
3. Ensure the election of his goons as consul and judge in 69;
4. Prevent Cicero’s election to the aedileship for 69.

26-29 Verres’ further attempts to corrupt the trial by delay – time to intimidate the Sicilian witnesses and to instal his goons.

30-33 Cicero continues to impersonate Verres as he sets out nefarious reasons for postponing the trial. Cicero is determined to prevent this by changing the usual trial procedure and making only a short (!) opening speech.

34-38 Cicero highlights the corruption in the courts now that senators instead of knights are judges. He, as a humble aedile against a consul, is determined to act against this and uphold the honour and justice of the courts.

39-42 Cicero expresses forcefully (with examples) his disgust at the corruption of the senate and the judicial system. It is enough, he suggests, for provinces to ask for trials to stop altogether so that senators do not need to plunder extra resources to pay for bribery in trials.

43-47 Cicero continues to highlight the corruption and infamy of the senate in their conducting of trials. This case against Verres is a chance for them to condemn an obviously wicked senator and thus to restore their reputation. The people are watching their conduct and are keen to exercise the power of the tribunes, as advocated by the popularis Pompey, to veto a bad decision. It is vital they do the right thing!

48-52 Cicero repeats that he will work tirelessly, methodically and with plentiful evidence and witnesses to prove Verres’ guilt. He reiterates to the jury that they have this chance to restore the reputation of the senate and flatters the judge, Glabrio, by comparing him to his illustrious ancestors.

53-56 Cicero will not permit the case to drag into the following year, but will start producing evidence and witnesses immediately, forgoing the usual long opening speech so all the Italians gathered in Rome for the elections can hear the trial directly. Finally he sets out the charge against Verres: theft of 400 000 sesterces from Sicily.