Taylor: Essential GCSE Latin: Translation Passage 12 - Regulus

Subjects are in blue, direct objects are in red, main verbs are in green. Words closely linked are underlined. Subordinate clauses not already marked with commas are in grey so that you can see them easily (or in brackets if there are several in a sentence!) Remember that if your version means exactly the same as mine, it is correct.

tum Regulus dux, quem Carthaginienses ceperant, Romam missus est ut pacem ab eis peteret et permutationem captivorum faceret.
Then the commander Regulus, whom the Carthaginians had captured, was sent to Rome to seek peace from them and to make an exchange of captives.

cum ad urbem advenisset, amici gaudentes eum in curiam duxerunt. sed Regulus nihil quasi Romanus egit.
When he had arrived at the city, his friends rejoicing led him to the senate. But Regulus did nothing as a Roman.

dixit enim se, ex illo die ubi in potestatem hostium venisset, civem Romanum esse desivisse.
For he said that, from that day when he had come into the power of the enemy, he had ceased to be a Roman citizen.

itaque senatoribus persuasit ne pax cum Carthaginiensis faceretur.
Therefore he persuaded the senators not to make peace with the Carthaginians.

dixit enim hostes (multis cladibus confectos) spem nullam habere.
For he said that the enemy, worn down by many defeats, had no hope.

noluit plurimos eorum captivorum reddi pro se et paucis Romanis captis.
He did not want very many of their captives to be returned in exchange for himself and a few captured Romans.

amici Regulo persuadere conati sunt ne Carthaginem rediret.
His friends tried to persuade Regulus not to return to Carthage.

uxorem igitur eius et filios ad curiam invitaverunt.
Therefore they invited his wife and sons to the senate.

illa liberos marito ostendens oravit ut domi maneret.
Showing her husband his sons, she begged him to stay at home.

Regulus tamen dixit se malle[1] hostibus tradi.
However Regulus said that he preferred to be handed over to the enemy.

deinde Carthaginem rediit, quamquam sciebat hostes se necaturos esse.
Then he returned to Carthage, although he knew that the enemy would kill him.

Romani hostes (pacem petentes) accipere noluerunt[2].
The Romans refused to receive the enemies who were seeking peace.

sic Regulus summum fidei virtutisque exemplum[3] omnibus qui aderant praebuit.
Thus Regulus showed the utmost example of loyalty and courage to all those who were present.

[1] malle - irregular infinitive of malo (I prefer). Compare velle & nolle, from volo & nolo.
[2] Just as volo can means "be willing" as well as "want", nolo can sometimes work best as "refuse" rather than just "not want to".
[3] "exemplum" is often used as "model" - it's a key idea in a lot of Roman writing. You have probably spotted that a lot of the "history" we have read is written with a view to providing "exempla". What impact does this have on how we should read Roman history???