

1993 Texas State Junior Classical League Convention

Reading Comprehension II

Read the following passages carefully; then select the best answer and mark it on your scantron sheet:

Simonides cenabat in Thessalia apud Scopam, fortunatum hominem et nobilem. Cum recitavisset carmen in honorem Scopae scriptum, in quo ornandi causa poetarum more deos Castorem et Pollucem laudaverat, dixit illi Scopas se partem eius preti quod pollicitus esset pro illo carmine daturum; reliquum a Castore et Polluce peteret, si ei videretur. Paulo post nuntiatum est Simonidi iuvenes stare ad portem duos quosdam, qui eum evocarent. Simonides surrexit, prodiit, vidit neminem. Hoc interim tempore tectum illud ubi Scopas cenabat concidit. Ea ruina ipse oppressus cum cognatis suis interiit.

1. Simonides was (a) visiting friends in Thessaly
(b) a noble and fortunate man (c) dining with Scopas
(d) traveling with Scopas to Thessaly.
2. Simonides recited a poem (a) written in honor of Scopas (b) written in his honor by Scopas (c) written at the request of Scopas' family
(d) requested by Scopas to honor Castor and Pollux
3. Simonides included the praise of Castor and Pollux
(a) as typical poetic embellishment (b) to earn a higher fee
(c) to please Scopas by comparing him with the gods
(d) to honor all poets
4. Scopas (a) was honored by his description in the poem (b) paid the price which he had promised (c) refused to pay anything for the poem
(d) agreed to pay for only part of the poem.
5. Scopas
(a) told Simonides that he would pay the rest to Castor and Pollux
(b) told Simonides to get the rest of the money from Castor and Pollux
(c) pretended to see Castor and Pollux
(d) promised to pay the rest of the price when he saw Castor and Pollux.
6. A little later it was announced
(a) by Simonides that the gods were outside.
(b) that Simonides had seen two young men outside the gate.
(c) to Simonides that two young men wanted to see him outside

7. Simonides left the dining room (a) but saw no one (b) to trick Scopas (c) and saw Castor and Pollux (d) in an angry rage.
8. While Simonides was outside (a) Scopas reconsidered his decision. (b) the roof on the dining room collapsed. (c) he saw the gods Castor and Pollux destroy the building. (d) the banquet quietly continued.
9. Scopas (a) had also left the banquet to follow Simonides. (b) was buried by the falling roof. (c) finally paid Simonides in full for his poem. (d) was frightened by the appearance of Castor and Pollux.
10. Scopas (a) abandoned the ruined building. (b) could no longer afford to pay for the poem. (c) was buried with his relatives. (d) regretted for the rest of his life his treatment of Simonides.

Passage II - Nero's New Palace

Damnosissimus tamen erat in aedificando. Domum a Palatino usque ad Esquilias fecit, quam auream nominavit. In vestibulo **colossus** CXX pedum stabat ipsius effigie. **Laxitas** vestibuli erat maxima: porticus triplices **miliarias** habebat. Stagnum **instar** maris aderat, circumsaeptum aedificiis ad urbium speciem; insuper aderant agri atque vineae at pascua silvaeque, cum multitudine omnis generis pecudum ac ferarum.

In domo omnia auro **lita**, distincta gemmis erant. Cenationes **laquearia** cum tabulis eburneis **versatilibus** habebant. Ex eis flores atque unguenta spargebantur. Balneae marinas et **albulas** aquas habebant. Hanc domum ubi dedicavit, "Ego tandem," inquit, "**quasi** homo habitare coepi."

damnosissimus - very extravagant	lita - overlaid
colossus - huge statue	laquearia - paneled ceilings
laxitas - spaciousness	versatilibus - revolving
miliarias - one mile long	albulas - sulfurous
instar - like (+ genitive)	quasi - like

11. This passage indicates that Nero's palace was:
 - (a) inadequately furnished for an emperor.
 - (b) excessive in its size and decor.
 - (c) a place dedicated to educating youth.
 - (d) only 120 feet in length.
12. Nero named his palace
 - (a) golden (b) colossal (c) sylvan (d) silver.

13. The statue in the entry hall was
(a) made of iron (b) an image of an animal (c) very tall
(d) the god of the sea.
14. The palace's pond resembled
(a) a swamp (b) a sacred spring (c) the sea (d) the moon.
15. The words *agri, vineae, pascuae,* and *silvae* indicate that on the palace grounds there were many kinds of
(a) livestock (b) scenery (c) sculptures (d) buildings.
16. The phrase *cum multitudine omnis generis pecudum ac ferarum* indicates that there were many kinds of
(a) animals (b) trees (c) slaves (d) money.
17. In the palace, everything was overlaid with gold and decorated with
(a) paintings (b) palm fronds (c) jewels (d) tapestries
18. Because of this palace, Nero felt that he had begun to
(a) appreciate the beauty of the city. (b) feel like a true emperor.
(c) have a better opinion of himself. (d) live like a human being.
19. The word *aedificanda (line 1)* is considered a(n)
(a) participle (b) infinitive (c) gerund (d) gerundive.
20. The word *spargebantur (line 11)* is best translated
(a) are sprinkling (b) were sprinkled (c) have been sprinkled
(d) sprinkle

Passage III

Pyrrhus, paucis regionibus Italiae secum coniunctis, ad urbem Romam contendit et omnia gladio ignique vastavit. Postea propter terrorem exercitus Romani, qui eum cum consule sequebatur, in Campaniam se recepit. Legati ad Pyrrhum de liberandis captivis missi sunt. Illi ab eo accepti sunt. Unum ex legatis Romanorum, Fabricium, hortari voluit ut ad se transiret. Cum eum esse sine pecunia multa cognovisset, Fabricio quartam partem regni pollicitus est, sed id a Fabricio non acceptum est.

Pyrrhus, laudatus apud Romanos, misit legatum, optimum virum, Cineam nomine, qui pacem aequis condicionibus peteret ita ut Pyrrhus partem Italiae, quam iam occupaverat, obtineret. Senatus Pyrrhum cum Romanis pacem habere non posse sine eius exitu ex Italia nuntiavit. Tum Romani iusserunt captivos omnes, quos Pyrrhus reddiderat, putari viros malos, quod se non satis defendissent. Cum Pyrrhus eum rogaret quid de Romanis existimaret, Cineas dixit Romae totos Romanos se gerere velut Pyrrhum in Epiro.

Proelio commisso, Pyrrhus vulneratus est, elephantum interfectum, viginti milia hostium, et ex Romanis solum quinque milia occisa sunt. Pyrrhus ad oppidum Tarentum fugit.

21. Postquam Pyrrhus ad urbem Romam cum sociis pervenit
(a) aciem instruxit (b) exercitum paravit (c) auxilium petivit
(d) omnia incendit.
22. Pyrrhus in regionem Campaniae profectus est, cum
(a) ab exercitu Romano sustineretur (b) a militibus Romanis terretur
(c) eam expugnare vellet (d) captivos Romanos sequeretur.
23. Nuntii ad Pyrrhum ierunt ut (a) captivi Romani redderentur
(b) condiciones pacis acciperentur (c) amicitia confirmaretur
(d) orationem audiret.
24. Pyrrhus Fabricio persuadere conatus est ut (a) auxilio Romanorum
uteretur (b) pro Romanis fortiter pugnaret (c) secum iungeret
(d) ad urbem Romam rediret.
25. Fabricius monstravit se (a) pecuniam cupere (b) Pyrrhum amare
(c) bonum esse (d) territum esse.
26. Pyrrhus Cineam ire Romam iussit quod
(a) Pyrrhus in Italia non iam morari voluit.
(b) Pyrrhus regiones certas tenere voluit.
(c) Romani acriter pugnare coeperunt
(d) Romani Pyrrhum arma capere iusserunt.

27. Senatus Romanus dixit (a) Pyrrhum in Italia non remanere debere (b) se condiciones pacis facile facere (c) Pyrrhum captivos reddere non debere (d) duces suos Italiam pacavisse.
28. Romani, captivi Pyrrhi, non laudati sunt quod (a) ex castris fugerunt (b) fortissime non pugnauerunt (c) ab hostibus interfecti sunt (d) pecunia tradita est.
29. Cineas remisso, narravit (a) Romam fortes homines non habuisse (b) nullam auctoritatem in urbe Roma fuisse (c) Romanos regem similem Pyrrho non habuisse. (d) omnes Romanos similes Phrrho fuisse.
30. Ubi bellum confectum est, (a) nullus Romanus interfectus est. (b) Pyrrhus calamitates magnas passus est. (c) Romani iniurias non tulerunt. (d) Pyrrhus incolumis fugit.

Tie-Breaker Passage

Sextus Caecilius in disciplina iuris atque in legibus cognoscendis interpretandisque populi Romani, scientia, usu, auctoritate clarus fuit. Ad eum forte in area Palatina, cum Caesarem expectarem, philosophus Favorinus accessit et collocutus est, nobis multisque aliis praesentibus. In illis sermonibus locuti sunt de legibus decemvirorum, quas decemviri a populo creati composuerunt et in duodecim tabulas conscripserunt.

31. Which statement most accurately describes this passage's content?
 (a) Favorinus and Caesar disagree on the philosophy of science.
 (b) A lawyer and a philosopher discuss the Laws of the Twelve Tables.
 (c) Caesar expects Caecilius to defend a philosopher in court.
 (d) The Roman people ban a group of ten men from the Palatine.
32. Who witnessed the conversation that took place in this passage?
 (a) Caecilius, Caesar, and the speaker (b) the legions and the panel of ten men. (c) the speaker and many other people.
 (d) many Roman authorities in the field of law.
33. How did the decemviri obtain their position?
 (a) appointed by the consul (b) qualified by their knowledge of law.
 (c) cast lots on the Palatine hill (d) elected by the people.
34. *locuti sunt* is best translated
 (a) they spoke (b) it has been said (c) they are about to speak
 (d) they ought to say.
35. What is the subject of *conscripserunt*?
 (a) Caecilius and Favorinus (b) the Roman people (c) decemviri
 (d) many others