

1995 Area F Reading Comprehension Test - Level II

Directions: read the passages and select the best answers. Note - be sure to number the tie-breaker answers from 51-55!

Passage A:

Ulixes and the Trojan War

Urbem Troiam a Graecis decem annos obsessam esse satis constat; de hoc enim bello Homerus, maximus poetarum Graecorum, Iliadem, opus notissimum, scripsit. Troia tandem per insidias capta, Graeci longo bello fessi domum redire maturaverunt. Omnibus igitur ad profectorem paratis navis deduxerant, et tempestatem idoneam nacti magno cum gaudio naves solverunt. Erat inter primos Graecos Ulixes quidam, vir summae virtutis ac prudentiae, quem 5 dicunt non nulli dolum illum excogitavisse per quem Troiam captam esse constat. Hic regnum insulae Ithacae obtinuerat et, paulo antequam cum reliquis Graecis ad bellum profectus est, puellam formosissimam, nomine Penelope, in matrimonium duxerat. Nunc igitur, cum iam decem annos quasi in exsilio consumpsisset, magna cupiditate patriae et uxoris videndae ardebat. constat - it is agreed, said; excogito,-are - to devise

1. A Graecis in line 1 is best translated:
a) by the Greeks b) to Greece c) from Greece d) to the Greeks
2. The phrase de hoc bello in line 1 is best translated
a) about this war b) from this war c) because of this war d) in this war
3. Quis scripsit Iliadem?
a) Graeci b) Homerus c) opus notissimum d) decem annos
4. The word capta in line 3 is best translated:
a) seizing b) about to seize c) although seizing d) seized
5. The Greeks set out in their ships
a) because their city was captured b) after they found a favorable wind
c) because their ships were prepared d) because their ships were returned
6. Some people say that Ulysses
a) is a man of great bravery and wisdom b) was foremost among Greeks
c) was responsible for the capture of Troy d) agreed to the seizure of Troy
7. Ulysses married Penelope
a) because she was the most beautiful b) before he set out for war
c) because he wished to rule Ithaca d) because he was going to war
8. In the last line we learn that Ulysses' ten years at Troy were spent longing to see his father and his wife.
a) verum b) falsum
9. Maturaverunt in line 3 is best translated
a) they hastened b) they were urged c) hastening d) having hastened
10. Hic in line 6 refers to
a) Ulysses b) dolum c) Troia d) Penelope

Passage B:

A Letter from Quintus to Marcus

Quintus salutem dicit Marco. Si tu vales, bene est; ego valeo. Litterae tuae erant mihi maxime gratae. Libenter ego de publicis negotiis provinciae tuae audiui. Fortasse tu de factis egregiis ducis nostri libenter audies. Is est homo maxime notus. Eius nomen bene cognovisti.

Iam bellum cum Germanis gerimus. Galli, socii Romanorum, injurias ab Germanis diu accipiebant et auxilium Caesaris petebant. Ei salus sociorum est semper cara. Itaque Caesar 5 cum legionibus itineribus magnis per Galliam ad hostium finem properavit. Sed mox ad ripas Rheni, latissimi fluminis, venimus. Nullas naves habebamus. Alta erat aqua. Dux autem, numquam adversa fortuna commotus, novum consilium cepit. Eius milites in lato flumine pontem celeriter fecerunt. Numquam antea pons in Rheno visus erat. Hostes, cum pontem vident, summo terrore commoti sine mora fugiunt et in silvas se abdunt. Caesar copias suas trans 10 flumen duxit et iter in Germanorum fecit, sed nec ullum proelium commisit nec ullos hostes vidit. Caesar autem, egregius dux, semper laudabitur quod primus in Rheno pontem fecit.

Quid agis? Quid amici mei agunt? Te et eos dedidero; nam ego apud barbaros et in terra barbara longe absum. Vale.

11. From this letter we learn that
 - a) Quintus is a leader of Caesar's troops
 - b) Quintus admires his leader Caesar
 - c) Caesar betrayed his allies
 - d) Caesar was the first to sail across the Rhine
12. We also learn that
 - a) Caesar valued his allies
 - b) Gaul was at war with Caesar
 - c) Caesar was friends with Quintus
 - d) Caesar was respected by the enemy
13. From the evidence in this letter, Caesar's character could best be described as
 - a) domineering and militaristic
 - b) resourceful
 - c) flamboyant
 - d) greedy
14. Caesar's plan was to
 - a) station his soldiers for battle across the Rhine.
 - b) cross the Rhine by bridge.
 - c) burn the bridge across the Rhine.
 - d) send Quintus against the enemy.
15. The word quod in line 12 is best translated
 - a) because
 - b) which
 - c) whom
 - d) although
16. After crossing the river, Caesar
 - a) put the enemy to flight
 - b) was praised for being clever
 - c) fought against the enemy
 - d) found no enemy to fight
17. Numquam adversa fortuna commotus in line 8 helps to characterize
 - a) Caesar's new plan
 - b) Caesar himself
 - c) the army's dilemma
 - d) Quintus' assessment of the dire situation
18. Quintus lets his friend know that
 - a) he will return soon
 - b) he is far away, but in safe hands
 - c) he is now in a foreign land
 - d) he was wounded in battle
19. The word apud in line 13 is best translated
 - a) among
 - b) without
 - c) against
 - d) between
20. Caesar erat socius Galliorum.
 - a) verum
 - b) falsum

Passage C:

Alexander and the Gordian Knot

Alexander urbe in dicionem suam redacta Iovis templum intrat. Vehiculum, quo Gordium, Midae patrem, vectum esse constabat, aspexit, cultu haud sane a vilioribus vulgatisque usu abhorrens. Notabile erat iugum adstrictum compluribus nodis in semetipsos implicatis et celantibus nexus. Incolis deinde adfirmantibus editam esse oraculo sortem Asiae potiturum qui inexplicabile vinculum solvisset, cupido incessit animo sortis eius explendae. Circa regem erat 5 et Phrygum turba et Macedonum, illa exspectatione suspensa, haec sollicita ex temeraria regis fiducia; quippe serie vinculorum ita adstricta, ut, unde nexus inciperet quove se conderet, nec ratione nec visu perspici posset, solvere aggressus iniecerat curam ei ne in omen verteretur irritum inceptum. Ille, nequaquam diu luctatus cum latentibus nodis, "nihil," inquit, "interest quomodo solvantur"; gladioque ruptis omnibus loris oraculi sortem vel elusit vel implevit.

consto, -are - I was said; nexus, -us - knot; semetipsos - themselves; nequaquam - not at all
sors, sortis - destiny, prophecy

21. The phrase urbe in dicionem redacta in line 1 is best translated
- after the city was taken under his command
 - in order to take the city under his command
 - while taking the city under his command
 - although taking the city under his command
22. The cart which Alexander saw
- was said to have carried Midas himself
 - was located inside a temple
 - was worshipped by Alexander
 - was decorated with gold
23. The row of knots was tied such that they could not be figured out
- by the oracle.
 - by logic or by inspection.
 - by Gordius.
 - except by logic.
24. Alexander freed the knots with his sword
- in defiance of the oracle
 - after a long struggle with his hands
 - as a warning to the crowd
 - to fulfill a prophecy of the oracle
25. The words vel...vel in the last line are best translated
- either...or
 - neither...nor
 - both...and
 - yet...and yet
- Tie-breakers:
51. The word ut in line 7 is best translated
- as
 - so that
 - when
 - lest
52. The word perspici in line 8 is best translated
- to be perceived
 - perceiving
 - to perceive
 - in perceiving
53. Quis erat pater Midae?
- Alexander
 - Gordius
 - the oracle
 - Asia
54. Alexander felt justified in using his sword on the knots because
- it did not matter how the knots were freed
 - he was given permission by the oracle
 - he was destined to fulfill the oracle's prophecy
 - he was given permission by the crowd
55. The case of the word oraculi in the last line is dependent upon
- sortem
 - loris
 - gladio
 - elusit