

1998 Area F
Reading Comprehension Test
Level One

Directions: Read the following passages and mark the best answer on your scantron sheet. Underlined words are defined below the passages.

A. In Asia erat magna urbs, Troia. Ibi rex Priamus vixit. Paris, filius illius, Helenam, pulchram feminam Graecam, ceperat. Propter hoc vitium multi Graeci ad Asiam venerant et diu cum Troianis bellum gesserant. Muros autem urbis superare non potuerant. Sed tum Epeus, unus ex Graecis, eis hoc consilium dedit: “Si magnum equum ligneum faciemus et Troianis dabimus, eos vincere poterimus; Graecos enim in equo condiderimus.”

“Nos bene docuisti,” Graeci dixerunt et istas insidias sine mora fecerunt. Post bellum Aeneas, dux Troianus, dixit, “Copias in equo non vidimus; eum in urbem duximus. Graeci igitur nos vincere potuerunt. Di fortunam malam praesenserant et nostra ex urbe fugerant.”

Vocabulary: gero, -ere, gessi, gestus-to wage, carry on
murus, -i (m.)-wall
ligneus, -a, -um: of wood, wooden
condo, -ere, -didi, -ditus: to hide, conceal
praesentio, -ire, -sensi, -sensus: to perceive beforehand

1. Quis pulchram feminam Graecam ceperat?
 - a. princeps Asianus
 - b. rex Asianus
 - c. urbs Graeca
 - d. magna urbs Asiana
2. Cur Graeci ad Asiam venerant?
 - a. quod bellum gerere voluerant
 - b. quod vitium admittere voluerant
 - c. quod pulchram feminam Asianam capere voluerant
 - d. quod muros Asianos videre voluerant
3. Graeci facile muros urbis Asianae superare.
 - a. verus
 - b. falsus
4. Who came up with a plan?
 - a. the Greek king
 - b. Atreus
 - c. ~~CP~~ an Asian soldier
 - d. Epeus
5. Quid consilium erat?
 - a. muros urbis ascendere
 - b. parvum equum ligneum condere
 - c. magnum equum ligneum facere
 - d. magnum equum ligneum vincere
6. Cui magnum equum ligneum Graeci dabunt?
 - a. Graecis
 - b. pulchrae feminae
 - c. Asianis
 - d. Epeo soli
7. Quis in equo Graeco condent?
 - a. Graeci
 - b. Epeus solus
 - c. Asiani
 - d. pulchrae feminae
8. Graeci istas insidias non fecerant.
 - a. verus
 - b. falsus
9. Graeci duxerunt equum in urbem.
 - a. verus
 - b. falsus
10. Graeci Troianos vincere non potuerunt.
 - a. verus
 - b. falsus

B. Rex Syracusanorum erat Dionysius. Syracusani eum regem fecerant quod contra Carthaginienses fortiter pugnaverant et eos tandem superaverant.

Multi Syracusani igitur eum felicem vocabant quod magnum regnum acceperat, sed Dionysius multas curas habebat, multas sollicitudines. Non facile erat ei regnum suum obtinere; non facile erat regnum suum contra Carthaginienses defendere.

Damocles tamen semper dicebant: "Reges sunt felicissimi." Itaque Dionysius eum ad cenam invitavit. Damocles ad aulam laetus contendit. Dionysius locum optimum et vestem purpuream ei dedit. Sed super lectum, ubi Damocles recumbebat, Dionysius gladium suspenderat. Filum, quod hunc gladium sustinebat, erat tenuissimum.

Per totam cenam Damocles gladium suspiciebat. Semper sollicitus erat, neque cibus quem Dionysius ei offerebat, neque vinum quod suavissimum erat, neque vestis purpurea quam gerebat, hanc sollicitudinem levare poterant.

Tandem "Rem nunc intellego!" exclamavit. "Vita quam reges habent, non est felicissima; nam curae quae eos opprimunt omnia gaudia demunt."

Vocabulary: sollicitudo, -inis (f.)-worry
filum, -i (n.)-thread
gaudium, -ii (n.)-joy
levo (1)-to lighten
demo, -ere, -mpsi, -mptum (3)-to take away

11. Dionysius was the king of
a. Alexandria b. Carthage c. Athens d. Syracuse
12. Dionysius was the king because
a. he had fought the Syracusians b. he had defeated the Carthaginians
c. he had overcome the Alexandrians d. he had defeated the Athenians
13. Dionysius had fought
a. bravely b. not at all c. very little d. timidly
14. As a result of the battle, Dionysius received
a. a nickname b. spoils c. a kingdom d. nothing
15. What Latin word suggests the war had been a long one?
a. contra b. tandem c. fortiter d. felicem
16. Damocles thought that
a. Dionysius was the king of Athens b. Dionysius was worshipped
c. Dionysius should not have accepted the kingdom d. being a king was easy
17. Damocles did not receive from Dionysius
a. dinner invitation b. a sword
c. the best seat d. a purple cloak
18. During dinner, Damocles was
a. hungry b. happy c. contented d. worried
19. Post cenam, Damocles erat
a. hungry b. anxious to leave
c. angry d. sympathetic
20. From this passage we learn
a. who Damocles was b. the meaning of suspense
c. what they had for dinner d. the definition of happiness

C. Narcissus erat bellus puer. Multae puellae eum amaverunt; nullam ex eis ille amavit. Ipse se solum dilexit et vitam in silvis egit. Nympha Echo Narcissum diu amaverat, sed suum amorem ei numquam dicere potuerat: solum verbum ultimum alterius reddere poterat. Si Narcissus vocavit, “Tunc es hic?”, Echo vocavit, “Hic!” Si ille “Ubi es? Veni!” dixit, illa “Veni!” dixit. Sed Narcissus ad eam non venit, et Echo igitur non diu vixit. Amisit corpus totum; vocem autem eius etiam nunc audimus.

Interea Narcissus suum imaginem in stagno vidit et oculos suos amovere non poterat. Magnus amor sui eum ceperat. Tempus fugit; eodem loco remansit Narcissus. Amici illius eum invenire non poterant. Ante ipsum stagnum, ubi ille fuerat, nunc erat bellus flos. Nomen huius in perpetuum erit Narcissus.

Homines non debent se nimis amare.

Vocabulary: verbum, -i (n.)-word
 reddo, -ere, -didi, -ditus: to give back, repeat
 hic (adverb): here
 amitto, -ere, -misi, -missus: to lose
 interea (adverb)-meanwhile
 stagnum, -i (n.)-pool of water

21. The girls were not fond of Narcissus.
 - a. true
 - b. false
22. Where did Narcissus live?
 - a. in a hut
 - b. in the woods
 - c. in Rome
 - d. near the lake
23. How long had Echo been fond of Narcissus?
 - a. since she had first met him
 - b. after they were introduced
 - c. for a long time
 - d. never
24. Echo was able to tell Narcissus that she loved him.
 - a. true
 - b. false
25. Who lost something?
 - a. Echo
 - b. Isis
 - c. Narcissus
 - d. the girls
26. What was lost?
 - a. a mirror
 - b. a torch
 - c. a body
 - d. a voice
27. Quis/Quid cepit Narcissum?
 - a. Echo
 - b. nympa
 - c. amor sui
 - d. amicus
28. Time passed slowly for Narcissus.
 - a. true
 - b. false
29. Where did Narcissus remain?
 - a. in the water
 - b. at home
 - c. in the forest
 - d. in the same spot
30. Ubi Narcissus fuerat, nunc erat arbor.
 - a. verus
 - b. falsus

TIE BREAKERS:

31. Echo met Narcissus by the water.
a. true
b. false
32. What was Echo able to repeat?
a. someone's first word
b. someone's entire sentence
c. someone's name
d. someone's last word
33. Where did Narcissus' friends find him?
a. by the water
b. at home
c. nowhere
d. in a tree
34. What is named after Narcissus?
a. a forest
b. a flower
c. an insect
d. an animal
35. According to the story, what should people not do?
a. look in the mirror
b. talk too much
c. comb their hair
d. love themselves too much