

READING COMPREHENSION II

TSJCL (AREA F) 1999

DIRECTIONS: Read the following passages and mark the letter of the best answer on your answer sheet.

PASSAGE 1

Primum Perseus ad Graeas, sorores Medusae, pervenit. Ab his dolo talaria et galeam magicam accepit. Postquam galeam magicam induit, videri non poterat. Praeterea, Apollo ei falcem et Minerva speculum dederunt. Tum, postquam talaria pedibus induit, in aera ascendit. Diu per aera volavit; tandem tamen ad eum locum venit ubi Medusa cum ceteris Gorgonibus habitabat. Gorgones autem monstra erant specie horribili; capita enim earum anguibus omnino contacta erant. Res difficillima erat caput Gorgonis abscidere; eius enim conspectu homines in saxum vertebantur. Propter hanc causam Minerva Perseo speculum dederat. Ille igitur tergum vertit et in speculum spectabat; hoc modo ad locum venit ubi Medusa dormiebat. Tum falce sua caput eius uno ictu abscidit. Ceterae Gorgones statim e somno excitatae sunt; re visa, ira commotae sunt. Armis captis, Perseum occidere conatae sunt. Ille statim fugiens, galeam magicam induit; hoc facto, e conspectu earum evasit.

talaria - winged shoes

ictus - blow

galeam magicam - magic helmet

falcem - curved sword

speculum - mirror

anguibus - snakes

1. What were the Graeae?
 - A. islands in the Aegean Sea
 - B. Perseus' sisters
 - C. Medusa's sisters
 - D. whirlpools that drowned sailors

2. After Perseus put on the shoes, he _____.
 - A. flew
 - B. mounted the winged horse
 - C. walked for a long time
 - D. descended to Hades

3. Why was he able to attack Medusa?
 - A. He could fly
 - B. She was having a bad hair day
 - C. He was not afraid of snakes
 - D. She was asleep

4. Minerva had given Perseus a _____.
 - A. mirror
 - B. magic helmet
 - C. pair of winged shoes
 - D. stuffed owl

5. Which is the best translation of armis captis, Perseum occidere conatae sunt.?
 - A. Having seized their weapons, Perseus tried to kill them
 - B. After his weapons were seized, they tried to kill Perseus
 - C. The armies having been captured, they were killed by Perseus.
 - D. You seized the arms and tried to kill Perseus.

6. How did Perseus use the mirror?
 A. to trick her into falling in love with her own image
 B. to refract the rays of the sun
 C. to avoid eye-contact
 D. to check for extra Graeae sneaking up from the rear
7. How had Perseus gotten the sandals and helmet ?
 A. as a gift of Minerva
 B. from Medusa
 C. by a trick
 D. from his mother
8. An example of an ablative absolute in this passage is _____.
 A. hoc facto
 B. conspectu homines
 C. e somno excitatae
 D. omnino contacta
9. What did the Gorgon look like?
 A. beautiful
 B. ugly
 C. like Minerva
 D. she was invisible
10. What happened in the end?
 A. Perseus was killed
 B. Perseus fled
 C. he killed the other Gorgons
 D. he flew away on the winged horse

PASSAGE 2

Claudius mirabili casu quinquagesimo anno imperium accepit. Cum Gaius imperator interfectus esset, Claudius rumore caedis perterritus, in cubiculum suum confugit, ubi post vela se celavit. Miles quidam, qui omnia cubicula inspiciebat, animadversis pedibus, eum extraxit. Claudius, qui de vita sua desperabat, ad genua procubuit, se miles eum imperatorem salutavit. Deinde ad alios milites lectica vectus est. Postridie, populus romanus unum rectorem poscebat et Claudium nominatim rogabat, ille se imperatorem creari passus est, promisitque militibus se quina dena sestertia singulis daturum esse. Ita primus caesarum est, qui fidem militum emerit.

casus - accident

caedes - murder

velum - curtain

rector - ruler singuli - each man

nominatim - by name

quina dena sestertia - 15,000

sesterces

11. Who was emperor right before the beginning of this story?
 A. Tiberius
 B. Gaius
 C. Claudius
 D. not given
12. Claudius became emperor _____
 A. 500 A.U.C.
 B. immediately after Julius Caesar
 C. when he was 15
 D. when he was 50
13. How did Claudius feel at first?
 A. terrified
 B. proud
 C. vengeful
 D. ashamed

14. Claudius' first action is to _____.
- A. search for the killer of the emperor
 - B. lunge at the soldier
 - C. flee the country
 - D. hide in his bedroom
15. How did the soldier find him?
- A. the sound of weeping
 - B. the sound of coins jingling
 - C. the sight of his feet
 - D. the prophecy of the Sibyl
16. The people demanded _____.
- A. Claudius as emperor
 - B. the death of Claudius
 - C. the death of the soldier
 - D. a payment of 15,000 sesterces
17. ille se imperatorem creari passus est includes _____.
- A. an indirect statement
 - B. a deponent
 - C. a passive infinitive
 - D. all of the above
18. How was Claudius presented to the crowd?
- A. in chains
 - B. on a couch
 - C. as a deified emperor
 - D. wrapped in a curtain
19. What is daturum in agreement with?
- A. se
 - B. Caesarum
 - C. fidem
 - D. an understood direct object
20. What does this passage say Claudius was notable for?
- A. colonizing Britain
 - B. refusing to be named emperor
 - C. buying the loyalty of the military
 - D. the death of several family members

Tie-Breakers.

51. Laturus auxilium is best translated as _____
A. he helped on the shore
B. to bring help
C. help far and wide
D. ought to be helped
52. What adjective describes Rectina?
A. imminenti
B. fuga
C. ambustus
D. exterritae
53. Which best describes Pliny's personality?
A. timid
B. stultissimus
C. inusitata
D. curious
54. What happened as they sailed closer?
A. stones and ash fell on them
B. the crew mutinied
C. Pliny was overcome by smoke
D. they could see Pomponianus
55. Pliny's words to the helmsman are best translated as _____
A. Fortune will help Pomponianus
B. Help the fortunate.
C. Fortune helps the brave
D. God helps those who help themselves