

Area F 2000 Reading Comprehension Exam

Directions: Read each passage below; then answer the questions that follow. Underlined words indicate vocabulary helps. Vocabulary list is given in order of the word's appearance.

Aeschylus erat poeta Graecus; iam senex erat, sed tragoedias notissimas scripserat. Ubi iuuenis erat, longos capillos habuerat, sed nunc erat calvus.

Aeschylus ex urbe ambulabat. Tum consedit et novam tragoediam cogitabat.

Aquila in caelo volabat. aquila testudinem, quam ceperat, unguibus tenebat.

Lapidem leuē quaerebat. Aquilae enim testas, quae testudines protegunt, in lapide frangere solent. Postea testudines consumere possunt.

Aquila rem candidam in terra conspexit. 'Ecce! lapis est,' sibi dixit aquila, et testudinem demisit. Res candida tamen, quam aquila conspexerat, non erat lapis sed Aeschyli calvum caput. Testudo in caput Aeschyli incidit. Sic decessit magnus poeta.

Vocabulary aids:

calvus, -a, -um	<i>bald</i>
consido, -ere, consedi	<i>sit down</i>
aquila, -ae	<i>eagle</i>
volo, -are	<i>fly</i>
testudo, testudinis	<i>tortoise</i>
unquis, -is	<i>claw</i>
lapis, -is	<i>stone</i>
levis, e	<i>smooth</i>
testa, ae	<i>shell</i>
protego, -ere	<i>cover</i>
candidus, -a, -um	<i>white, light-colored</i>
decedo, -ere, decessi	<i>depart, pass away</i>

- When this story is told, Aeschylus is
 - an old man
 - a young man
 - a comic playwright
 - an obscure poet
- The translation of "scripserat" in line 1 is
 - he wrote
 - he was writing
 - he did write
 - he had written
- The best translation for "ubi iuuenis erat" in lines 1-2 is
 - when the young man was
 - when he had been a young man
 - when he was a young man
 - where he was a young man.
- What did Aeschylus do when he sat down?
 - he drank water from the river
 - he watched an eagle
 - he thought about a play
 - he watched a tortoise.

5. The best translation for cogitabat in line 3 is
a. he is thinking b. he used to think c. he thinks d. he started to think
6. What had the eagle done to the tortoise?
a. killed him b. rescued him c. caught him d. scratched him with his claws
7. The antecedent of quam in line 4 is
a. aquila b. testudinem c. unguibus d. ceperat
8. Testudinem in line 4 is the
a. indirect object b. subject c. object of the preposition d. direct object
9. The case of unguibus in line 4 is
a. dative b. nominative c. genitive d. ablative
10. The author indicates that Aeschylus died because of
a. the eagle's mistake b. the hardness of the tortoise's shell c. the baldness of his head
d. all of the above
11. The gender of caput in line 9 is
a. neuter b. masculine c. feminine d. unable to be determined from sentence alone.

Olim urbs Alexandria reges habebat. Hi reges nomen 'Ptolemaeum' habebant. Sed postquam Ptolemaeus XII mortuus est, filius Ptolemaeus XIII et filia Cleopatra de regno inter se pugnabant.

Eo tempore Iulius Caesar, qui Pompeium Magnum in bello civili superaverat, princeps erat Romanorum. Pompeius ad Aegyptum fugit. Ibi Pothinus, minister Ptolemaei, eum necavit. Caesar igitur Ptolemaeo non credebat. Itaque, postquam Alexandriam advenit, Cleopatram arcessivit.

Sed difficile erat Cleopatrae ad Caesarem venire, quod milites Ptolemaei vias urbis complebant. Alexandria tamen canales habet; nam flumen, quod per urbem fluit, in multos rivos se dividit. Itaque Cleopatra scapham intravit et cum uno comite (comes erat Apollodorus) ad aulam navigavit. Ibi in tapete se convolvit. Deinde Apollodorus Cleopatram una cum tapete in umeros sustulit et eam ad Caesarem portavit.

Haec Cleopatrae sollertia Caesarem valde delectavit.

Ptolemaeus, -i	Ptolemy
bellum, i	war
Aegyptus, i	Egypt
arcesso, -ere, -cessivi	summon
flumen, inis	river
rivus, i	channel
se dividere	divide oneself
scapha, ae	small boat
comes, -itis	companion
tapete, tapetis	carpet
convolvo, ere, -volvi	roll up
una cum	together with
umerus, i	shoulder
sustuli	perfect tense of tollo, -ere = to raise, lift up
sollertia, ae	cleverness

12. The best translation for olim in line 1 is

- a. a long time ago b. in the past c. once d. previously

13. Alexandria in line 1 is functioning as

- a. the direct object b. a locative c. the subject d. a predicate nominative

14. The translation of hi in line 1 is

- a. those b. these c. their d. the former

15. The best translation for de regno in line 2 is

- a. over the kingdom b. from the kingdom c. about the king d. concerning the king

16. XII in line 2 means

- a. 12 b. 11 c. 13 d. 8

17. Julius Caesar and Pompey

a. fought over Cleopatra b. wanted to conquer Egypt c. fought against each other in a civil war d. were first allied against the Ptolemy.

18. The best translation of Caesar ... Ptolemaeo non credebat in line 6 is

a. Caesar did not entrust to Ptolemy b. Caesar didn't believe in Ptolemy c. Caesar didn't trust Ptolemy d. Caesar didn't trust to Ptolemy.

19. When Caesar arrives in Alexandria, he is cautious because

a. he is a conquering general b. Pompey has just been killed c. he does not trust Cleopatra d. those loyal to Pompey might try to seek revenge on Caesar.

20. Cleopatra has difficulty meeting with Caesar because

a. his soldiers are protecting him b. her brother's soldiers control the streets c. Caesar does not trust her d. the streets are ruined from the civil war

21. The best translation of quod in line 9 is

a. because b. who c. which d. whom

22. Apollodorus uses the carpet to

a. carry Cleopatra into the palace b. pretend he is a merchant to fool Ptolemy's soldiers c. pretend he is a merchant selling one to Caesar d. cover Cleopatra up in the boat.

Olim Romani cum Volscis Aequisque bellum gerebant. Hostes copias Romanas prope urbem obsidebant, et urbs Roma in summum periculum venerat. Tum cives clamaverunt: 'Milites nostri magnopere laborant; nisi dictatorem creaverimus, hostes copias nostras superabunt.' Itaque consules Cincinnatum creaverunt, virum propter virtutem praeclarum, et legatos ad senem miserunt. Ubi advenerunt legati, Cincinnatus in agris suis laborabat; tunicam solam portabat. Itaque, postquam legatos vidit, uxori clamavit, togam postulavit. Ubi legatos audivit, 'Nullum imperium,' inquit, 'nullos honores desidero; si tamen salus publica me postulat, auxilium civibus meis non negabo.'

Statim ex agris ad urbem properavit. Ibi dictatoris imperium sumpsit. Mox hostium copias superavit; cives Cincinnatum magnopere laudant, sed senex cuncta praemia contemnit. Postquam milites in urbem reduxit, imperium deposuit et in agros suos revenit; nec postea agricolae laborem contemnebat, quamquam dictatoris imperium gesserat.

Vocabulary

Volsci, -orum =	a people of Italy living southeast of Rome
Aequi, -orum =	a people of Italy living east of Rome
gero, -ere	wage, carry on (with "bellum ...")
hostis, is	enemy
copia, -ae	supply, abundance (pl) = troops
obsideo, -ere	besiege
periculum, i	danger
miles, militis	soldier
nisi	unless, if ... not
consul, -ulis	consul (chief Roman ruler during the Republic)
virtus, -utis	courage, virtue
praeclarus, a, um	outstanding
legatus, i	messenger
postulo, are, avi	demand
imperium, i	rule
desidero, ere	desire, long for
salus, -utis	health, welfare
nego, are, avi	deny, refuse
sumo, -ere, sumpsi	to take up
cunctus, a, um	all
contemno, -ere	despise

23. Why was the situation in Rome critical?

- a. The city was on the verge of civil war b. Supplies to the city were blocked. c. The fighting had come dangerously near to the city. d. The Roman army had been defeated.

24. What is the public's attitude.
a. Rome should seek peace immediately. b. A dictator should be appointed since victory is near. c. The Roman army is not fighting hard enough d. A dictator should be appointed to avoid defeat.
25. Why did the consuls select Cincinnatus to be dictator?
a. he was a valorous man b. he had been a great general c. he demanded power d. the people requested him
26. What was Cincinnatus doing when summoned to Rome?
a. getting dressed b. resting c. working in his fields d. eating
27. Uxori in line 6 is best translated as
a. toward his wife b. to his wife c. a wife d. at his wife
28. What is Cincinnatus' attitude about the consuls' request?
a. he is excited b. he is frightened but brave c. he feels flattered d. he is reluctant
29. Dictatoris in line 9 is best translated as
a. the dictator b. a dictator's c. at a dictator d. for a dictator
30. After assuming power, Cincinnatus
a. eventually defeated the enemy b. did not defeat the enemy c. tricked the enemy d. quickly defeated the enemy.
31. What does Cincinnatus do next?
a. he dies b. he continues to rule Rome c. he returns to his fields d. he stays on as a general, not a dictator.
32. Milites in line 11 is performing what function in the sentence?
a. object b. subject c. indirect object d. predicate nominative
33. Deposuit in line 11 is best translated as
a. deposits b. did deposit c. puts aside d. put aside.
34. Agricola in line 12 is best translated as
a. to the farmer b. of farmers c. of a farmer d. for a farmer
35. The best translation of imperium gesserat in line 12- 13 is
a. holds the power b. held the power c. had held the power d. was holding the power