

**NATIONAL JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE  
READING COMPREHENSION,  
ADVANCED PROSE, 2000**

Passage One

dum haec a Caesare geruntur, Treveri, magnis coactis peditatus equitatusque copiis, Labienum cum una legione, quae in eorum finibus hiemaverat, adoriri parabant, iamque ab eo non longius bidui via aberant, cum duas legiones a Caesare missas venisse cognoscunt. positis castris a milibus passuum quindecim auxilia Germanorum exspectare constituunt. Labienus, hostium cognito consilio, sperans temeritate eorum fore dimicandi facultatem, praesidio quinque cohortium impedimentis relicto, cum XXV cohortibus magnoque equitatu contra hostem proficiscitur et mille passuum intermisso spatio castra communit. erat inter Labienum atque hostem difficili transitu flumen ripisque praeruptis. hoc neque ipse transire habebat in animo neque hostes transituros existimabat.

adorior, -iri, adortus sum - attack, undertake, try  
biduum, -i (n.) two days

dimicare - to fight a pitched battle  
praeruptus - steep

1. How are the Treveri most accurately described in this story?  
a. Roman ally    b. tribe hostile to Rome    c. Roman colonists    d. Caesar's personal guard
2. What kind of troops were being assembled by the Treveri?  
a. footsoldiers and cavalry    b. slingers and archers  
c. cavalry and archers    d. footsoldiers and slingers
3. Who was Labienus?  
a. a general of the Treveri    b. one of Caesar's officers  
c. a Roman senator    d. Gallic chieftain
4. How many troops were with Labienus?  
a. twenty-five cohorts    b. three legions    c. two legions    d. one legion
5. At the beginning of the passage, what had the troops with Labienus been doing up to this point?

- a. launching an offensive                      b. resting in winter quarters  
c. actively patrolling the province        d. actively defending against attack
6. At the beginning of the passage, where had the troops with Labienus been located?  
a. on the Treveri border        b. in the Alps    c. in Lugdunum (Paris)        d. Cisalpine Gaul
7. How many German troops were expected?  
a. twenty-five cohorts    b. fifteen cohorts        c. one legion    d. an unspecified amount
8. In what strength were the Treveri planning their attack?  
a. a great number        b. scarcely enough        c. not nearly enough
9. How far was the Treveri camp from the Roman forces?  
a. one Roman mile        b. five Roman miles        c. ten Roman miles        d. fifteen Roman miles
10. What information did the Treveri have at this point?  
a. Caesar himself would not be coming        b. German troops were approaching  
c. more Treveri were approaching        d. Labienus was retreating
11. The sentence "positis castris a milibus passuum quindecim auxilia Germanorum exspectare constituunt." suggests that the Treveri:  
a. were sufficiently confident and strong enough to 'go it alone' against the Roman forces  
b. wanted to fight, but were not confident in their strength  
c. did not want to fight and wanted only to scare the Romans  
d. wanted to pursue diplomacy and peace negotiations
12. What did the Treveri plan to do?  
a. defend against the Roman attack    b. greet the Romans with a peace envoy  
c. withdraw as the Romans advances    d. attack the Romans
13. Labienus was hoping that the Treveri would:  
a. be demoralized        b. want to fight        c. be cautious    d. retreat
14. Labienus based his hope on the Treveri's:  
a. boldness    b. fear    c. calculating nature    d. greed
15. Labienus decided to move his camp within \_\_\_\_\_ Roman mile(s) of the Treveri.  
a. one    b. two    c. five    d. ten
16. Labienus made sure that a great number of these certain troops specifically accompanied him:  
a. auxiliaries    b. archers        c. slingers        d. cavalry
17. How many troops did Labienus leave as protection for his baggage-train?  
a. one legion    b. five cohorts    c. ten cohorts    d. twenty-five cohorts

18. The sentence "Labienus . castra communit" shows that Labienus's leadership would be \_\_\_\_\_ to the troops.  
 a. persuasive    b. uninspirational    c. shrewd and daring    d. disorganized and harmful
19. What was Labienus relying on for protection of his troops from any enemy attack?  
 a. mountainous terrain    b. river    c. dense woods    d. exceptionally strong fortifications
20. Labienus felt relatively \_\_\_\_\_ about the protection for his troops.  
 a. secure    b. anxious    c. fearful    d. doubtful

### Passage Two

haec fabula in antiquis annalibus super libris Sibyllinis prodita est. anus incognita ad Tarquinium Superbum regem adiit, novem libros ferens, quos dicebat esse divina oracula; dixit se eos velle vendere. Tarquinius pretium percontatus est. mulier nimium poposcit, rex derisit. tum illa tres libros ex novem deurit et regem interrogavit num reliquos sex eodem pretio emere vellet. sed Tarquinius id multo magis risit dixitque anum delirare. mulier statim tres alios libros exussit atque id ipsum denuo placide rogat, ut tres reliquos eodem illo pretio emat. Tarquinius ore serio iam atque attentiore animo fit, eam confidentiam non contemnendam esse intellegit, libros tres reliquos mercatur nihilo minore pretio quam quod erat petitum pro omnibus. sed constat eam mulierem, tunc a Tarquinio digressam, postea nusquam loci visam esse. libri tres, in sacrarium conditi, 'Sibyllini' sunt appellati. ad eos, quasi ad oraculum, quindecimviri adeunt cum di immortales publice consulendi sunt.

anus, -us (f.) old woman

annales, -ium m. pl. chronicles

percontari - to ask

denuo - again

mercari - to buy

sacrarium, -ii (n.) shrine

deuro, -ere, -ussi, -ustum to burn up

21. Who was Tarquinius Superbus?  
 a. an unknown person    b. king    c. knight    d. senator
22. In the sentence "haec fabula in antiquis annalibus super libris Sibyllinis prodita est." the word prodita is in grammatical agreement with:  
 a. fabula    b. antiquis    c. annalibus    d. libris
23. Who were the quindecimviri?  
 a. priests    b. judges    c. senators    d. governors
24. From what sources are the incidents in the story derived?  
 a. Greek mythology    b. Etruscan tomb inscriptions    c. Roman chronicles    d. Carthaginian legend
25. The old woman claimed that her wares were \_\_\_\_\_.

a. magical    b. powerful    c. irresistible    d. prophetic

26. At first, the old woman said that she \_\_\_\_\_ her wares.

a. didn't want to sell    b. wanted to sell    c. was looking to buy more of    d. had already sold

27. The old woman initially had \_\_\_\_\_ with her.

a. nine children    b. young children    c. nine books    d. new books

28. The sentence "Tarquinius pretium percontatus est " shows that:

a. Tarquin was not interested in buying anything  
b. Tarquin was interested in buying something  
c. The old lady was being disrespectful  
d. The old lady really didn't have her wares to sell at that moment

29. The sentence "mulier nimium poposcit; rex derisit." shows that the old lady's answer:

a. angered Tarquin    b. made Tarquin laugh    c. pleased Tarquin    d. was very unclear

30. The second time that the old woman asked Tarquin, the price was:

a. raised    b. lowered    c. still the same

31. The second time that the old woman asked Tarquin, Tarquin:

a. was becoming suspicious    b. thought the old woman was crazy  
c. thought that he would drive an even harder bargain    d. wished to inspect the wares

32. By the third time that the old woman asked Tarquin about her wares:

a. there were considerably fewer left    b. there were many more included for the same price  
c. the king was considerably less interested    d. the king's patience was finally at an end

33. By the third time that the old woman asked Tarquin about her wares the old woman:

a. was becoming very impatient    b. was becoming more desperate  
c. was acting calmly    d. wanted to give what she had to the king for free

34. The phrase "Tarquinius ore serio iam atque attentiore animo fit, eam confidentiam non contemnendam esse intellegit," shows that Tarquin:

a. was ready to buy the old woman's wares    b. decided that the old woman was definitely crazy  
c. realized that he could not trust the old woman    d. was about ready to explode

35. The phrase, "libros tres reliquos mercatur nihilo minore pretio quam quod erat petitum pro omnibus." shows that:

a. the old woman's persistence won out  
b. the old woman's insanity did not hinder her intent after all  
c. Tarquin's judgment had been right all along  
d. Tarquin completely missed his opportunity

36. In the sentence "sed constat eam mulierem, tunc a Tarquinio digressam, postea nusquam loci visam esse." the word mulierem is in grammatical agreement with:

- a. constat    b. Tarquinio    c. digressam    d. loci

37. Afterwards, the old woman was:

- a. never seen again    b. sent into exile    c. rewarded with a court position    d. imprisoned

38. Where were the books placed?

- a. in three temples    b. in a shrine    c. in the palace    d. in a secret cave

39. Why were books placed there?

- a. so they could be hidden from the public    b. so they could be honored and consulted  
c. because they were dangerous    d. because the old woman wanted them there

40. How and when were the books used afterwards by the Romans?

- a. for determining the gods' will    b. to keep the Republic safe from invasion  
c. to glorify Tarquin    d. they were never to be touched again

### Passage Three

Adpost haec mala Carthaginenses Regulum ducem quem ceperant petiverunt ut Romam proficisceretur et pacem a Romanis obtineret ac permutationem captivorum faceret. ille Romam cum venisset, inductus in senatum nihil quasi Romanus egit dixitque se ex illa die, qua in potestatem Afrorum venisset, Romanum esse desisse. itaque et uxorem a complexu removit et senatui suasit ne pax cum Poenis fieret; illos enim fractos tot casibus spem nullam habere; se tanti non esse ut tot milia captivorum propter unum se et senem et paucos, qui ex Romanis capti fuerant, redderentur. itaque obtinuit. nam Afros pacem petentes nullus admisit. ipse Carthaginem rediit, offerentibusque Romanis ut eum Romae tenerent negavit se in ea urbe mansurum, in qua, postquam Afris servierat, dignitatem honesti civis habere non posset. regressus igitur ad Africam omnibus suppliciiis exstinctus est.

permutatio, -ionis (f.) exchange  
desino, -ere, desii - to cease

se tanti non esse - that he was not of such importance  
obtinuit - won his point

41. Regulus can be best described as:

- a. a Carthaginian general    b. a Roman soldier  
c. a Roman senator    d. a Carthaginian diplomat

42. The word "haec" in the phrase "post haec mala Carthaginenses Regulum ducem quem ceperant petiverunt" agrees grammatically with:

- a. mala    b. Carthaginenses    c. Regulum    d. quem

43. The Carthaginians originally intended for Regulus to:

- a. address the Carthaginian court    b. establish peace between Rome and Carthage  
c. declare war on Rome    d. re-establish trade and commerce between Rome and Carthage

44. A proposed trade was to involve:  
a. gold      b. wheat      c. prisoners      d. royal hostages
45. The phrase "inductus in senatum nihil quasi Romanus egit" shows this characteristic of Regulus:  
a. humility      b. desperation      c. pride      d. happiness
46. The word "ille" in the phrase "ille Romam cum venisset, inductus in senatum nihil quasi Romanus egit" agrees grammatically with:  
a. Romam      b. inductus      c. senatum      d. nihil
47. The phrase "dixitque se ex illa die, qua in potestatem Afrorum venisset, Romanum esse desisse." basically states that:  
a. Rome is finished      b. the power of the Africans is very great  
c. Regulus will not speak anymore about this affair from this day forward  
d. Regulus is not a Roman citizen
48. Regulus is speaking in:  
a. the Forum      b. the harbor at Ostia      c. the senate      d. the Temple of Jupiter
49. Regulus was very concerned to be:  
a. reunited with his family      b. separated from his wife  
c. given the proper honors      d. given safe passage
50. Regulus emphasized this about the Romans still held by the Carthaginians:  
a. they weren't worth saving      b. they were dying of starvation  
c. they were in good health      d. they were definitely worth saving
51. The word "se" in the phrase "se tanti non esse ut tot milia captivorum propter unum se et senem et paucos" refers specifically to:  
a. Regulus      b. a Roman senator  
c. a Carthaginian court member      d. a Carthaginian soldier
52. The phrase "se tanti non esse ut tot milia captivorum propter unum se et senem et paucos, qui ex Romanis capti fuerant, redderentur." is best summarized:  
a. a few Romans are indeed worth more than thousands of Carthaginians  
b. a few Romans are not worth thousands of Carthaginians  
c. a few Carthaginians are not worth thousands of Romans  
d. a few Romans are indeed worth thousands of Carthaginians
53. The word "paucos" in the phrase "et senem et paucos" refers specifically to:  
a. Carthaginian soldiers      b. Roman soldiers  
c. the Carthaginian delegation      d. the Roman delegation

54. Regulus' speech resulted in.
- a. the Carthaginians being refused peace
  - b. the Carthaginians being immediately attacked
  - c. the Romans throwing Regulus out
  - d. the Romans being convinced to make peace
55. The phrase "ipse Carthaginem rediit, offerentibusque Romanis ut eum Romae tenerent negavit se in ea urbe mansurum" shows that:
- a. the Carthaginian embassy was thrown out
  - b. Rome was refused by Carthage
  - c. Regulus was thrown out
  - d. Regulus was asked to stay
56. The phrase "in qua, postquam Afris servierat, dignitatem honesti civis habere non posset " shows that:
- a. Regulus was honored
  - b. Rome was honored
  - c. Regulus was dishonored
  - d. Rome was dishonored
57. Regulus' destination by the end of the story is:
- a. Carthage
  - b. Rome
  - c. Greece
  - d. Sicily
58. By the end of the story, Regulus was:
- a. treated with great honors and a banquet
  - b. given a triumph
  - c. shown disrespect
  - d. tortured and killed
59. The explanation for Regulus' decision at the end is understood as a matter of:
- a. honor
  - b. fear
  - c. good will
  - d. deception
60. The word "regressus" in the phrase "regressus igitur ad Africam omnibus suppliciis exstinctus est." refers specifically to:
- a. Carthage
  - b. Rome
  - c. Regulus
  - d. the Carthaginian general

