

2002 Area F Reading Comprehension Test Level II

DIRECTIONS. Read the passages carefully for comprehension, noting the meanings of italicized words and expressions below each passage. Answer the questions according to what is stated or implied in each passage. Mark the letter of the best answer on your answer sheet.

All three passages are taken from an adaptation by M. G. Balme of Petronius' *Cena Trimalchionis*, "The Millionaire's Dinner Party."

Background: earlier in this story, three students named Encolpius, Ascyltos, and Giton had been involved in several pranks and expected to get in trouble. Agamemnon was a rhetoric professor whom Encolpius, the narrator, had met. Menelaus was Agamemnon's assistant.

itaque *maesti* deliberabamus de *malis* quae nobis imminebant, cum servus Agamemnonis intravit et 'quid?' inquit 'nonne scitis? hodie ad cenam invitati estis a Trimalchione, *lautissimo* homine. venite igitur; nolite *morari*.' malorum igitur *obliviscimur* et celeriter vestimenta
5 induimus; et *Gitona*, qui libentissime servi officium agit, iubemus ad balnea nos sequi. ubi ad balnea advenimus, errare coepimus inter eos qui lavabantur. subito videmus senem *calvum*, qui inter pueros
10 *capillatos ludit pila*; nec tam pueri nos ad spectaculum ducerant quam ipse senex, qui *soleatus* pila se exercebat. numquam enim eam pilam
15 repetebat quae terram tetigerat, sed servus *follem plenum* habebat, ex quo novas pilas sufficiebat eis qui ludebant. dum has miramur
lautitias, accurrit Menelaus et 'hic est' inquit 'apud quem cenabitis, et iam principium cenae videtis.' vix locutus erat Menelaus, cum
Trimalchio *digitos concrepuit*; aquam *poposcit* et digitos lavit, quos in
20 capite pueri *tersit*. deinde vestitus est et in lecticam impositus. et dum aufertur, ad caput eius *symphionacus* accessit et toto itinere in aurem cantavit.

l. 1: *maesti* - sad

l. 1: *malis* - troubles

l. 3: *lautissimo* - very elegant

l. 4: *morari* - delay

l. 4: *obliviscimur* - we forget

l. 5: *Gitona* - acc. case

l. 7: *calvum* - bald

l. 8: *capillatos* - long-haired

l. 8: *ludit pila* - played ball

l. 8: *nec tam pueri ... quam* - it was not so much the boys as...

l. 9: *soleatus* - wearing slippers

l. 10: *follem plenum* - a bag full

l. 12: *lautitias* - luxuries

l. 14: *digitos concrepuit* - snapped his fingers

l. 14: *poposcit* - demanded

l. 15: *tersit* - dried

l. 16: *symphionacus* - a musician who played (*cantavit*) into Trimalchio's ear

1. What was the initial frame of mind of the students in the story?

a. mischievous

b. evil

c. sad

d. troubled

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2. What distraction does Agamemnon provide?
 - a. he says someone has died
 - b. he says they're invited to dinner
 - c. he comes in with a slave
 - d. he recognizes the elegant Trimalchio

3. How does Giton act?
 - a. like a free spirit
 - b. very well-read
 - c. plays part of an official
 - d. performs the duty of a slave

4. Choose a good translation of "*errare coepimus inter eos qui lavabantur*" (line 6).
 - a. we began to mingle with the other bathers
 - b. we ran errands for the men who were washing up
 - c. we began to wander among those who were being washed
 - d. a. and c.

5. "*numquam enim eam pilam repetebat quae terram tetigerat*" (lines 9-10) means he
 - a. counted how many times the ball touched the ground
 - b. did not let the ball touch the ground
 - c. only were throwing the balls back and forth which hadn't touched the ground
 - d. never picked up that ball which had touched the ground

6. This was possible because
 - a. each player had a full bag
 - b. they thought it was foolish
 - c. a slave had a bag full
 - d. a slave had to pick them up

7. *verus aut falsus? servus ex folle pilas iecit.*
 - a. *verus*
 - b. *falsus*

8. In line 12, "*accurrit Menelaus et 'hic est' inquit 'apud quem cenabitis'*" means
 - a. Menelaus runs up and says "there's the place we'll dine"
 - b. " " " "this is the man at whose house you'll have dinner"
 - c. " " " "here's a place to hide"
 - d. " " " "this is the man who has your dinner"

9. How does Menelaus characterize the dinner?
 - a. it was the principal meal of the day
 - b. it would be fancy, i.e., fit for important people
 - c. dinner was already served to the chieftains
 - d. it would be "first come, first served"

10. Who is the old man?
 - a. Menelaus
 - b. Agamemnon
 - c. Trimalchio
 - d. Gitona

11. Where does he dry his hands?
 - a. on his beard
 - b. on his clothing
 - c. on the head of a long-haired boy
 - d. on a towel

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12. In what manner did the musician probably play the music?

- a. loudly
- b. by ear
- c. softly
- d. without percussion

sequimur nos admiratione iam pleni et cum Agamemnone ad ianuam
pervenimus, in cuius poste *libellus* affixus erat cum hac inscriptione:
20 'servus qui sine domini iussu foras exierit, accipiet centum plagas.'
super limen cavea pendebat aurea, in qua *pica varia* intrantes
salutabat. sed ego, dum omnia miror, paene cecidi et crura mea fregi.
ad sinistram enim intrantibus canis ingens, *catena vincus*, in pariete
25 pictus est, superque *quadrata* littera scriptum **CAVE CANEM**. et *comites*
quidem mei riserunt; ego autem spiritum collegi et totum parietem
inspicere coepi. erat enim *venalicius* cum titulis pictum, et ipse
Trimalchio capillatus *caduceum* tenebat et Romam intrabat. tum
omnia, quae fecerat Trimalchio, pictor cum inscriptione diligenter
30 *reddiderat*. primum Trimalchio *rationari* discebat, deinde
dispensator factus est, denique Mercurius eum tollebat et in *tribunal*
altum rapiebat; ibi erat Fortuna, quae *cornu abundantis* divitias
effundebat.

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| l. 19: <i>libellus</i> - a notice | l. 25: <i>quadrata</i> - capital ("squared") letters |
| l. 20: <i>qui ... foras exierit</i> - who goes out | l. 25: <i>comites</i> - companions |
| l. 20: <i>centum plagas</i> - 100 lashes | l. 27: <i>venalicius</i> - slave sale |
| l. 21: <i>super limen ... aurea</i> - above the
threshold there hung a golden cage | l. 28: <i>caduceum</i> - the god Mercury's wand |
| l. 21: <i>pica varia</i> ... a black & white magpie | l. 30: <i>reddiderat</i> - had represented |
| l. 24: <i>catena vincus</i> - tied up by a chain | l. 30: <i>rationari</i> - to keep accounts |
| l. 24: <i>in pariete</i> - on the wall | l. 31: <i>dispensator</i> - a financial agent, steward |
| | l. 31: <i>tribunal</i> - platform |
| | l. 32: <i>cornu abundantis</i> - horn of plenty |

13. After reading "*sequimur nos admiratione iam pleni*" what can you say about the attitude of those following? They were

- a. impressed
- b. surprised
- c. astonished
- d. obsequious

14. Where was the notice to slaves?

- a. taped to the door
- b. on the door post
- c. in a pamphlet
- d. in an inscription

15. On what condition can a slave go out?

- a. after inscribing the booklet on the post
- b. only with his master's permission
- c. if he gets a hundred signatures on his plaque
- d. without the order of his master

16. What is the penalty for not meeting the proper condition?

- a. 100 lashes
- b. 100 years of illness
- c. 100 plagues
- d. 100 sesterces

17. Whom did the magpie (a talking bird) greet?
a. those entering
b. people with gold
c. various people
d. people in a trance
18. What happened to the speaker?
a. he often fell
b. he always fell and broke his legs
c. he almost fell
d. he almost killed himself
19. Where was the picture of the dog?
a. on the left of the entrance
b. on the wall
c. above the wall
d. a and b
20. What did Encolpius' (the speaker's) companions do?
a. picked him up
b. inspected the whole wall
c. caught their breath
d. laughed
21. What did Encolpius do after that?
a. respected his colleagues' spirit
b. found a theme of the whole wall
c. regained his composure
d. b. and c.
22. What else was on the wall?
a. a picture of Mercury
b. Romans
c. titles of all the pictures
d. a picture of Trimalchio coming into Rome
23. *verus aut falsus? multa de Trimalchione picta sunt.*
a. *verus*
b. *falsus*
24. Choose a good translation of "*omnia quae fecerat Trimalchio ... reddiderat.*"
a. the picture was inscribed with everything carefully represented
b. the painter had represented everything Trimalchio had done
c. the painter had given back to Trimalchio everything he had done
d. the painter had painted everyone Trimalchio had known
25. What did Trimalchio do before he was favored by Fortune?
a. *tribunus erat*
b. *ratiocinari docebat*
c. *dispensator erat*
d. *servus Mercurii*

nos iam ad triclinium perveneramus, in cuius prima parte dispensator
35 rationes accipiebat. *et quod praecipue miratus sum, in postibus
triclinii fasces erant cum securibus defixi, sub quibus erat scriptum:
C. POMPEIO TRIMALCHIONI, SEVIRO AUGUSTALI, CINNAMUS DISPENSATOR.*
duae tabulae in utroque poste defixae erant, quarum altera hoc
habebat inscriptum: '*ante diem tertium et pridie kalendas Ianuarias*
40 Gaius noster *foris cenat.*' altera habebat lunae cursum stellarumque
septem pictas.
iam *conabamur* triclinium intrare, sed exclamavit unus ex pueris
'*dextro pede.*' sine dubio paulisper *trepidavimus*, ne contra
praeceptum aliquis nostrum limen transiret. tandem pariter movimus

45 dextros gressus, sed subito servus *despoliatus procubuit* ad pedes
 nostros ac rogare coepit ut se poenae *eriperemus*; 'nec magnum'
 inquit 'fuit *peccatum* meum, propter quod iam in periculo sum.
subducta enim mihi sunt vestimenta dispensatoris in balneo, quae vix
 fuerunt decem sestertiorum.' rettulimus igitur dextros pedes
 50 dispensatoremque in atrio invenimus, qui aureos numerabat. eum
precati sumus ut servo remitteret poenam. superbus ille sustulit
 vultum et 'non tam *iactura* me movet' inquit 'quam neglegentia
nequissimi servi. vestimenta mea *cubitoria* perdidit, quae mihi natali
 meo cliens quidam donaverat, *Tyria* sine dubio, sed iam *semel lota*.
 55 *quid ergo est?* dono vobis eum.'

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| l. 35: <i>et ... miratus sum</i> - and a thing which especially surprised me | l. 45: <i>despoliatus procubuit</i> - lay stripped |
| l. 36: <i>fasces cum securibus</i> - bundles of rods and axes (symbols of powers of magistrates) | l. 46: <i>eriperemus</i> - we would take away |
| l. 37: <i>SEVIRO AUGUSTALI</i> - one of the six men in charge of the local cult of the emperor | l. 47: <i>peccatum</i> - crime |
| l. 39: <i>kalendas</i> - the 1st day of the month
<i>pridie</i> - the day before
<i>ante diem tertium</i> - the day before <i>pridie</i> | l. 48: <i>subducta</i> - taken away |
| l. 40: <i>foris cenat</i> - dines out | l. 51: <i>precati sumus</i> - we begged |
| l. 42: <i>conabamur</i> - we tried | l. 52: <i>iactura</i> - loss |
| l. 43: <i>trepidavimus</i> - we were afraid | l. 53: <i>nequissimi</i> - utterly worthless |
| | l. 53: <i>vestimenta ... cubitoria</i> - dinner clothes |
| | l. 54: <i>Tyria</i> - dyed w/ purple Tyrian dye |
| | l. 54: <i>semel lota</i> : having been washed once before |
| | l. 55: <i>quid ergo est?</i> - "well, what does it matter?" |

26. Why was the narrator surprised?
- that there was someone collecting money
 - there were curse tablets at the doorposts
 - there were bundles of rods and axes on the doorposts
 - the dining room posts were so securely made
27. The inscription under the symbols of power just mentioned probably reads:
- Cinnamus the steward (dedicates this to) Gaius Pompeius Trimalchio, (one of) the *sevir* of Augustus
 - We dedicate this stewardship to Gaius Pompeius Trimalchio, (one of) the *sevir* of Augustus
 - The six priests of Augustus (dedicate this to) the steward Gaius Pompeius Trimalchio
 - In honor of Gaius Pompeius Trimalchio's term as a *sevir* of Augustus, we send a steward.
28. The dates *ante diem tertium et pridie kalendas lanuarias* are
- 30 December and January 1
 - 30 and 31 December
 - January 1st and 3rd
 - 29 and 31 December

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29. What was on the 2nd plaque on the wall?
- a. pictures that showed the path of the moon and the seven stars (planets)
 - b. pictures of the seven moons of the "stars" (planets)
 - c. pictures of the moon rising with seven imaginary stars
 - d. pictures of the 7th course of the moon and stars
30. How did guests react to the way they were told to enter the dining room?
- a. they were afraid not to cross the threshold right foot first
 - b. " " " to go against Trimalchio's superstition
 - c. " didn't want any among them to step on the threshold.
 - d. both a. and b.
31. For how long were the guests hesitant to enter?
- a. a long time
 - b. a little while
 - c. without much doubt
 - d. an eternity
32. How did the servant present himself?
- a. fully clothed
 - b. at their feet
 - c. beaten
 - d. standing upright
33. What did the servant ask of those entering the dining room?
- a. to take away his punishment
 - b. to get him some clothes
 - c. to get back the bathers' clothes
 - d. to pay him six sesterces
34. Why was he in trouble?
- a. someone stole the clothes he was supposed to watch
 - b. " " his clothes
 - c. he committed a great sin
 - d. he got only ten sesterces for the clothes
35. Who did they find in the atrium and what was he doing?
- a. the steward scratching his ears
 - b. the steward folding the clothes
 - c. the steward counting gold pieces
 - d. a pile of shoes for right feet
36. What do they ask of him?
- a. to free the slave
 - b. to absolve him of punishment
 - c. to return the money
 - d. to give back the gold
37. How does the man regard the slave?
- a. he doesn't care
 - b. he thinks his crime is serious
 - c. he is moved
 - d. he is a worthless, careless man
38. How did the man get his dinner clothes?
- a. from his patron
 - b. for his birthday
 - c. from Tyria
 - d. from another bathing area

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39. What is exceptional about the statement in lines 53-54 "*que mihi natali meo cliens quidam donaverat*"?

- a. the relative age of the slave
- b. that he celebrated a birthday
- c. that he had a client
- d. that he accepted a gift

40. Are they successful in getting a pardon for the slave who lost the clothes?

- a. yes, because the *dispensator* says "*dono vobis eum*"
- b. yes, because the slave had washed them for him
- c. no, because the clothes had been so precious to him
- d. no, because he desperately needed his clothes for the dinner

Tie-breakers: The answers to the following questions will be graded and scored only to break ties. Please note that they are numbered 96-100. Record your answers in those positions.

96. The relative pronoun *qui* in line 11 refers to

- a. *senex*
- b. *pueri*
- c. *lavantes*
- d. *nos*

97. In line 15, *vestitus* and *impositus* refer to

- a. *Menelaus*
- b. *puer capillatus*
- c. *Encolpius*
- d. *Trimalchio*

98. What post is meant by "*cuius*" in line 19?

- a. the door's
- b. Agamemnon's
- c. the musician's
- d. the fence's

99. In line 38, *quarum* refers to

- a. *tabulae*
- b. *defixae*
- c. *cenae*
- d. *postes*

100. The word *vix* in line 48 is best translated

- a. soon
- b. please
- c. scarcely
- d. willingly