

**Reading Comprehension Test – Advanced Poetry  
NJCL Convention 2002**

**Pick the best answer.**

Catullus 39  
The Smiling Spaniard

Egnatius, quod candidos habet dentes, renidet usquequaque. Si ad rei ventum est subsellium, cum orator excitat fletum, renidet ille; si ad pii rogum fili	5
lugetur, orba cum flet unicum mater, renidet ille. Quidquid est, ubicumque est, quodcumque agit, renidet: hunc habet morbum, neque elegantem, ut arbitror, neque urbanum. Quare monendum est te mihi, bone Egnati.	10
Si urbanus esses aut Sabinus aut Tiburs aut parcus Umber aut obesus Etruscus aut Lanuvinus ater atque dentes, aut Transpadinus, ut meos quoque attingam, aut quilubet, qui puriter lavit dentes, tamen renidere usquequaque te nollem:	15
nam risu inepto res ineptior nulla est. Nunc Celtiber es: Celtiberia in terra, quod quisque minxit, hoc sibi solet mane dentem atque russam defricare gingivam, ut, quo iste vester expolitior dens est, hoc te amplius bibisse praedicet loti.	20

*usquequaque* -- on every possible occasion  
*orbis, -a, -um* -- grieving  
*lotium, -i n.* - urine

1. What is Egnatius' defining physical characteristic? (line 1)
  - A. white teeth
  - B. bright clothing
  - C. a candid expression
  - D. a pale complexion
  
2. What does Egnatius do on every possible occasion? (lines 1-2)
  - A. he speaks
  - B. he weeps
  - C. he smiles
  - D. he holds his head high

3. What two examples does the poet give of situations when Egnatius behaves inappropriately? (lines 2-6)
  - A. a funeral and a marriage B. a birth and a death
  - C. a birth and a marriage D. a trial and a funeral
4. What else does the poet say that Egnatius has in line 7?
  - A. death B. an illness C. a monster D. a cold monster
5. What figure of speech is found in line 8?
  - A. zeugma B. litotes C. ecphrasis D. oxymoron
6. What does "ut" mean in line 8?
  - A. so that B. to C. as D. not to
7. What is the best translation for "*monendum est te mihi*"? (line 9)
  - A. You must stay with me. B. I must stay with you.
  - C. You must warn me. D. I must warn you.
8. What is best translation for "*si esses*"? (line 10)
  - A. If you are B. If you were C. If you had been
  - D. If you have been
9. What action do all of the people mentioned in lines 10-14 have in common?
  - A. they smile too much B. they clean their teeth well
  - C. they lead life purely D. they eat well
10. What figure of speech is found in lines 10-14?
  - A. anaphora B. litotes C. anastrophe D. syncope
11. How is Egnatius' grin described? (line 16)
  - A. appropriate B. foolish C. acceptable D. skillful
12. What two things are Spaniards accustomed to scrub? (line 18-19)
  - A. hair and nails B. teeth and gums C. hair and gums
  - D. hair and teeth
13. What do Egnatius' polished teeth show? (lines 20-21)
  - A. how much urine he will drink B. how much urine he has drunk
  - C. how little urine he will drink D. how little urine he has drunk

Catullus 76  
**A Prayer for Health**

Siqua recordanti benefacta priora voluptas  
 est homini, cum se cogitat esse pium  
 nec sanctam violasse fidem, nec foedere nullo  
 divum ad fallendos numine abusum homines,  
 multa parata manent in longa aetate, Catulle, 5  
 ex hoc ingrato gaudia amore tibi.  
 Nam quaecumque homines bene cuiquam aut dicere possunt  
 aut facere, haec a te dictaque factaque sunt:  
 omnia quae ingratae perierunt credita menti.  
 Quare iam te cur amplius excrucies? 10  
 Quin tu animo offirmas atque istinc teque reducis,  
 et dis invitis desinis esse miser?  
 Difficile est longum subito deponere amorem;  
 difficile est, verum hoc qua lubet efficias.  
 Una salus haec est, hoc est tibi pervincendum; 15  
 hoc facias, sive id non pote sive pote.  
 O di, si vestrum est misereri, aut si quibus umquam  
 extremam iam ipsa in morte tulistis opem,  
 me miserum aspicate et, si vitam puriter egi,  
 eripite hanc pestem perniciemque mihi, 20  
 quae mihi subrepens imos ut torpor in artus  
 expulit ex omni pectore laetities.  
 Non iam illud quaero, contra me ut diligat illa,  
 aut, quod non potis est, esse pudica velit:  
 ipse valere opto et taetrum hunc deponere morbum. 25  
 O di, reddite mi hoc pro pietate mea.

14. What is the man in line 2 doing?  
 A. thinking that he is loyal    B. recalling prior good deeds  
 C. neither A nor B                D. both A and B
15. What figure of speech is NOT found in line 3?  
 A. chiasmus    B. synchysis    C. syncope    D. pleonasm
16. What does the poet tell himself remains for him? (lines 5-6)  
 A. a well-prepared woman                B. many prepared joys  
 C. a joyful love    D. ungrateful joys

17. What has happened to all of the kind words and deeds that the poet has said and done? (lines 7-9)  
A. they have helped him B. they have been worthless  
C. they have perished D. they have survived
18. To whom does the *te* in line 10 refer?  
A. *puella* B. the poet C. *homines* D. *numen*
19. How are the gods described in line 12?  
A. miserable B. sneaky C. unwilling D. wanted
20. What is the best translation for line 13, "*difficile est longum subito deponere amorem?*"  
A. A difficult love is put aside suddenly.  
B. It is difficult to set aside a long love suddenly.  
C. A difficult love must be put aside suddenly.  
D. Now you must set aside a long love suddenly.
21. What is the best translation for "*verum*" in line 14.  
A. but B. truth C. true D. only
22. What is the metrical pattern of line 15?  
A. dactyl – spondee – dactyl – spondee – dactyl - spondee  
B. D-S-S-S-D-S C. S-S-S-S-D-S D. D-S-S-D-S-S
23. What two things does the poet ask from the gods? (lines 17-20)  
A. pity me and look on me B. look on me and stop plaguing me  
C. look on me and take the disease away  
D. pity me and take the disease away
24. What is the disease compared to? (line 20-21)  
A. mud B. a twisting C. a numbness D. limbs
25. What is the metrical pattern of the first two feet of line 22?  
a. dactyl – spondee B. S-D C. D-D D. S-S
26. What does the poet no longer long for? (line 23)  
A. that she not like him B. that she love him in return  
C. that he love that woman in return D. diligence
27. What does the poet want for himself? (line 25)  
A. to say good-bye B. to be ill C. to be well D. both A and B

28. Why should the gods do this for the poet? (line 26)  
 A. because of his loyalty    B. because of his kindness  
 C. because of his girlfriend    D. because of his kisses

Aeneidos Liber II, l. 199-227

While the Trojans hesitate, two immense sea serpents approach from Tenedos.

Hic aliud maius miseris multoque tremendum objicitur magis atque improvida pectora turbat.	200
Laocoon, ductus Neptuno sorte sacerdos, sollemnis taurum ingentem mactabat ad aras. Ecce autem Gemini a Tenedo tranquilla per alta (horresco referrens) immensis orbibus angues incumbunt pelago pariterque ad litora tendunt;	205
pectora quorum inter fluctus arrecta iubaeque sanguineae superant undas, pars cetera pontum pone legit sinuatque immense volumine terga. Fit sonitus spumante salo; iamque arva tenebant ardentisque oculos suffecti sanguine et igni	210
sibila lambebant linguis vibrantibus ora. Diffugimus visu exsanguis. Illi agmine certo Laocoonta petunt; et primum parva duorum corpora natorum serpens amplexus uterque implicat et miseros morsu depascitur artus;	215
post ipsum auxilio subeuntem ac tela ferentem corripiunt spirisque ligant ingentibus; et iam bis medium amplexi, bis collo squamea circum terga dati superant capite et cervicibus altis. Ille simul manibus tendit divellere nodos	220
perfusus sanie vittas atroque veneno, clamores simul horrendos ad sidera tollit: qualis mugitus, fugit cum saucius aram taurus et incertam excussit cervice securim. At gemini lapsu delubra ad summa dracones	225
effugiunt saevaeque petunt Tritonidis arcem, sub pedibusque deae clipeique sub orbe teguntur.	

29. What is the best translation for "*hic*" in line 199?  
 A. this man    B. there    C. then    D. here
30. How was Laocoon chosen to be a priest? (line 201)  
 A. he was a leader                      B. by lot  
 C. the auspices were read    D. a community and a journey

31. What is the best translation for "*horresco referens*" in line 204?
  - A. recalling it, I shudder
  - B. having recalled it, I shudder
  - C. about to recall it, I shudder
  - D. with it having been recalled, I shudder
32. To where were the snakes headed? (line 205)
  - A. to the sea
  - B. to the shore
  - C. to the city
  - D. to the island
33. How are the crests of the snakes described? (line 206-7)
  - A. raised
  - B. wavy
  - C. bloody
  - D. partitioned
34. What figure of speech is found in line 209?
  - A. tmesis
  - B. hyperbaton
  - C. alliteration
  - D. syncope
35. What two things were the snakes eyes filled with? (line 210)
  - A. fire and burning
  - B. fire and blood
  - C. blood and burning
  - D. none of the above
36. With what were the snakes licking? (line 211)
  - A. their hissing mouths
  - B. their vibrating tongues
  - C. their vibrating mouths
  - D. their hissing tongues
37. What do the Trojans do when they see the snakes? (line 212)
  - A. they scatter
  - B. they hide
  - C. they weep
  - D. they scream
38. What or whom do the snakes attack first? (lines 213-215)
  - A. Laocoon
  - B. the two boys
  - C. his body
  - D. his limbs
39. What was Laocoon doing when he was seized? (lines 216-217)
  - A. going up to help
  - B. carrying his boys
  - C. running away
  - D. speaking
40. What do the snakes do immediately after seizing Laocoon? (line 217)
  - A. they lick him
  - B. they tie him up
  - C. they breathe on him
  - D. they bite him
41. What is the best translation for "*ille simul manibus tendit divellere nodos*"? (line 220)
  - A. Once he stretches to rip at the knots with his hands.
  - B. Once she stretches to rip at the knots with her hands.
  - C. At the same time he stretches to rip at the knots with his hands.
  - D. At the same time she stretches to rip at the knots with her hands.

42. As Laocoon tears at the knots, what does he do? (lines 220-222)  
A. weeps B. shouts C. raises his hands D. prays for death
43. Laocoon is compared with (lines 223-224)  
A. a snake B. a dragon C. a bull D. a bloody altar
44. What does the imagery of the simile imply? (lines 223-224)  
A. it is a good omen B. it is a bad omen  
C. that the snakes will reproduce D. that the sun will rise soon
45. To where do the snakes go? (line 225-226)  
A. the highest trees B. the highest part of the citadel  
C. the highest temples D. the savage citadel
46. Where do the snakes hide? (line 227)  
A. at the feet of the goddess  
B. at the end of the world  
C. under the circle of the shield  
D. both A and C

Remedia Amoris, l. 1-19

Cupid is perturbed on reading the title of this book.

Legerat huius Amor titulum nomenque libelli:  
 "Bella mihi, video, bella parantur" ait.  
 "Parce tuum vatem sceleris damnare, Cupido,  
 tradita qui totiens, te duce, signa tuli.  
 Non ego Tydides, a quo tua saucia mater 5  
 in liquidum rediit aethera Martis equis.  
 Saepe tepent alii iuvenes, ego semper amavi,  
 et si, quid faciam nunc quoque, quaeris, amo.  
 Quin etiam docui qua posses arte parari,  
 Et quod nunc ratio est, impetus ante fuit. 10  
 Nec te, blande puer, nec nostras prodimus artes,  
 nec nova praeteritum Musa retexit opus.  
 Si quis amat quod amare iuvat, feliciter ardet;  
 gaudeat et vento naviget ille suo.  
 At si quis male fert indignae regna puellae, 15  
 ne pereat, nostrae sentiat artis opem.  
 Cur aliquis laqueo collum nodatus amator  
 a trabe sublimi triste pependit onus?  
 Cur aliquis rigido fodit sua pectora ferro?

*praeteritus, -a, -um - past*

47. *Huius* in line 1 modifies what noun?  
 A. *Amor*  
 B. *titulum*  
 C. *nomen*  
 D. *libelli*
48. What does Cupid see? (line 2)  
 A. that a beautiful girl is obeyed B. that wars are prepared  
 C. wars must be obeyed D. that a beautiful girl is spared
49. Lines 3-4 imply that...  
 A. The poet has never written love poetry.  
 B. The poet has only written love poetry once before.  
 C. The poet has often written love poetry.  
 D. Prophets must be condemned.
50. The best translation of "*te duce*" in line 4 is...  
 A. lead yourself B. with you as leader C. leading yourself  
 D. you two

51. Who is indicated by "*qui tuli*"? (line 4)  
A. Cupid B. the poet C. a girl D. a general
52. How did Venus return to heaven after being wounded? (lines 5-6)  
A. by way of the sea B. on a dolphin  
C. on Mars' chariot D. with a hunting party
53. Who does the poet say is lukewarm about love? (line 7)  
A. himself B. other young men C. another young woman  
D. his girl
54. What is the poet doing now? (line 8)  
A. chasing women B. loving  
C. avoiding women D. seeking
55. What has happened to the poet's previous work? (line 12)  
A. It has been lost. B. It has been covered up.  
C. It has been burned. D. It still exists.
56. "*Si quis amat*" in line 13 is best translated...  
A. If anyone loves B. Whoever loves  
C. He who loves D. She who loves
57. What is the best translation for "*gaudeat*" in line 14?  
A. He rejoices B. He will rejoice  
C. Let him rejoice D. He rejoiced
58. Who is the author hoping to provide aid for? (lines 15-16)  
A. Lovers who have found the perfect mate.  
B. Lovers who have an intolerable girl.  
C. Girls who need a boyfriend.  
D. Men who have no one to love.
59. Lines 17-18 describe a lover who...  
A. is openly affectionate with his mate  
B. has developed a cancer  
C. has hanged himself  
D. is a burden to his mate
60. *Ferro* is an example of... (line 19)  
A. metonymy B. onomatopoeia C. hyperbole D. zeugma

