

2003 TSJCL READING COMPREHENSION TEST LEVEL 1

DIRECTIONS: Please read the following passages carefully and select the best answer for each question:

Passage A: Xerxes, the king of Persia, decides to embark on an expedition against Greece.

Xerxēs Graeciam vincere cōstituit

- 1 **ōlim in magnā urbe Persidis, pulchriōre quam cēterīs urbibus terrae, rēx, Xerxēs nōmine,**
 2 **habitābat. is erat irātus quod Graecī quī in Graeciā īnsulisque habitābant multīs bellīs**
 3 **auxilia ad hostēs Persārum miserant.**
- 4 **itaque Xerxēs Graeciam īnsulasque vincere cōstituit. postquam nāvēs mīlitēsque undique**
 5 **coēgit, trāns mare nāvīgāre parāvit. postquam mīlitēs nautāsque convocāvit, Xerxēs**
 6 **“Graecōs superāre,” inquit, “erit facile. Graecī, quamquam sunt fortēs et audācēs, vōbīs**
 7 **nōn sunt fortiōrēs et audāciōrēs. omnium enim mīlitum fortissimī et audācissimī estis.**
 8 **num vīdistis rēgem potentiōrem, populum clāriōrem, exercitum ācriōrem? mox victōriam**
 9 **reportāre poteritis.”**
- 10 **Persae īnsulās, quae sunt prope Graeciam, prīmō superāre cōstituērunt. aliīs īnsulīs**
 11 **appropinquāre facile erat, quod litus erat aequum et īnsulae erant humiliōrēs; aliīs**
 12 **appropinquāre difficile erat quod īnsulae erant altae et montēs altissimōs habēbant.**

Vocabulary:

Persis, Persidis – Persia
terra, terrae – earth, land
īnsula, īnsulae - island
undique – from everywhere

cogō, cogere – to gather
aliī...aliī – some... others
humilis – shallow, low

1. **quālis urbs erat Persis?** (A) **magna** (B) **turpis** (C) **Graeca** (D) **minima**
2. The best translation of **quam** in line 1 is: (A) whom (B) how (C) than (D) which
3. Why was Xerxes angry at the Greeks?
 (A) because they have waged many wars against him
 (B) because they were invading his islands
 (C) because they had aided his enemies
 (D) because their cities were more beautiful than his
4. **quandō Xerxēs nāvīgāvit?**
 (A) **postquam nāvēs mīlitēsque coēgit** (B) **postquam nāvēs cōstrūxit**
 (C) **postquam mīlitibus arma dedit** (D) **postquam Graecī impetum fēcērunt**

5. Whom did Xerxes address?
 (A) the Greeks (B) the Persian generals
 (C) the enemy of Persia (D) the soldiers and the sailors
6. What is Xerxes' opinion of the Greeks?
 (A) they are bolder and braver than the Persians
 (B) they possess a better-trained navy
 (C) they are not as bold and brave as the Persians
 (D) they have an advantage in numbers, but the Persians are better trained
7. **prō Xerxe** (according to Xerxes), **quī sunt fortissimī et audācissimī militum?**
 (A) **Graeci** (B) **Rōmānī**
 (C) **Persae** (D) **nāvēs et militēs**
8. What promise does Xerxes make?
 (A) soon the Greek fleet will be conquered
 (B) soon the soldiers will bring victory back to Persia
 (C) soon the Greeks will suffer the consequences of their treachery
 (D) soon the Greek cities will be conquered
9. **Persae rēgem potentiōrem quam Xerxēs vīdērunt.** (A) **vērūm** (B) **falsūm**
10. **quās īnsulās Xerxēs et Persae superāre constituērunt?**
 (A) **eās quae erant prope Graeciam** (B) **eās quae erant prope Italiam**
 (C) **eās quae erant prope Persidem** (D) **eās quae erant prope Crēten**
11. Why were some islands more difficult for the Persians to approach?
 (A) because their shores were not as shallow and level as the others
 (B) because they were well protected by the Greek fleet
 (C) because there were ferocious animals on the islands
 (D) because a barrier reef surrounded them

Passage A – continued:

Xerxes and his men encounter resistance.

- 13 incolae tamen īnsulārum, quod liberī erant, imperiō Persicō pārēre nōlēbant. in ūnā ex
 14 īnsulīs erat cīvis Graecus, Amphissus nōmine, quī audācior cēterīs cīvibus erat. multōs
 15 adulēscentēs et militēs per brevissimam viam ad lītus dūxit. dum haec geruntur, nāvēs
 16 plūrimae hostium vīsaē sunt. postquam nāvēs Persicās vīdērunt, Graeci clāmōrem
 17 maximum sustulērunt.
- 18 difficillimum erat Persīs ēgredi nāvibus, praesertim quod adulēscentēs Graeci, quī multō
 19 audāciōrēs erant, impetum ācerrimum fēcērunt. brevī Persae ad nāvēs repulsī sunt.
 20 deinde, nāvēs Persicae incēnsae sunt. reliquae nāvēs statim ā lītore discessērunt, neque in
 21 aliās īnsulās impetum facere audēbant. omnēs īnsulae erant tūtāe propter summam
 22 virtūtem incolārum ūnīus īnsulae.

- 13 **optimī cīvēs Amphissō plūrimam pecūniam dare volēbant. “pecūniam,” inquit Amphissus,**
 14 **“accipere nōlō. omnēs patriam dēfendere dēbent. ego nōn sum fortior cēterīs mīlitibus.**
 15 **nōs omnēs liberī sumus. liberī semper manēbimus. id, meī amīcī, optimum praemium**
 16 **erit.”**

Vocabulary

incola, incolae – inhabitant

liber, -a, -um – free

dum haec geruntur – while these things were taking place

ēgredi nāvibus – to disembark from (their) ships

impetus, impetūs – an attack

brevī – in a short time, quickly

tūtus, -a, -um – safe

propter – on account of, because of

12. **cūr incolae imperiō Persicō pārēre nōlēbant?**
 (A) **quod Persae sunt crūdēlissimī** (B) **quod Persae sunt hostēs**
 (C) **quod Xerxēs est crūdēlissimus** (D) **quod libertātem maximē amābant**
13. **quālis vir erat Amphissus?**
 (A) **audācior quam cīvēs Rōmānī** (B) **Graecus**
 (C) **Persicus** (D) **fortior quam nēmō**
14. **quō Amphissus iit?**
 (A) **ad īnsulam** (B) **ad urbem** (C) **ad mare** (D) **ad portum**
15. Who accompanied Amphissus?
 (A) the Greek citizens (B) the Persians
 (C) his family (D) the young men and the soldiers
16. What kind of road did Amphissus and his company use?
 (A) a very narrow road (B) a very short road
 (C) a dangerous road (D) a circuitous road
17. Who or what can be seen approaching the island on which Amphissus lived?
 (A) the ships of the enemy (B) the Persian army
 (C) Xerxes himself (D) the Greek fleet coming to the rescue
18. What did Amphissus and his men do upon seeing what was approaching the island?
 (A) they turned and ran away (B) they started throwing their spears
 (C) they started yelling very loudly (D) they started weeping
19. What made it very difficult for Xerxes and his men to land on the island?
 (A) the inhabitants made a most fierce attack against them
 (B) the inhabitants destroyed the ports and the landing-docks
 (C) the inhabitants had blockaded the port with rocks
 (D) the inhabitants were in alliance with the Romans

20. What happened to Xerxes and his men?
(A) they attacked the island and surrounded Amphissus and his company
(B) they decided to attack other islands instead
(C) they landed their troops and advanced to the city
(D) they lost some of their ships to fire
21. **Persae ēgredī nāvibus poterant.** (A) **vērum** (B) **falsum**
22. **Xerxēs et mīlitēs in aliās īsulās impetum fēcērunt.** (A) **vērum** (B) **falsum**
23. **quid īsulās servāvit?**
(A) **classis Graeca** (B) **classis Persica**
(C) **summa virtūs** (D) **auxilium omnium cīvium**
24. Who wanted to give Amphissus money?
(A) the soldiers (B) the generals
(C) the leading citizens (D) the people of the other islands
25. **Amphissus pecūniam accēpit.** (A) **vērum** (B) **falsum**
26. According to Amphissus, what duty should everyone perform?
(A) defending their family (B) defending their freedom
(C) defending their honor (D) defending their homeland
27. What of the following would be MOST rewarding and gratifying for Amphissus?
(A) money (B) honor
(C) political office (D) freedom
28. Which of the following would be a suitable adjective for Amphissus based on line 24?
(A) arrogant (B) humble (C) indignant (D) angry
29. Based on this passage, what do you think Xerxes decided to do at the end?
(A) he decided to conquer other areas of Greece
(B) he decided to mount another expedition against Greece
(C) he decided to make peace with the Greeks
(D) he decided to return home to Persia with his fleet
30. **Qualēs virī sunt hī Graecī?**
(A) free (B) humble (C) cowards (D) incompetent

Passage B: The Second Punic War was the greatest test of Roman endurance. Fabius' policy finally proved successful and Hannibal was forced to leave Italy.

Q. Fabius Maximus

1 in primō bellō Rōmānī Poenōs superāverant, sed mox flōrēbat inter Poenōs dux praeclārus,
 2 nōmine Hannibal. Hannibal in Hispāniā (ubi erant multae colōniae Pūnicae) populī suī
 3 imperium confirmāvit. tandem summā difficultāte magnās cōpiās ex Hispāniā trāns Alpēs
 4 dūxit. etiam elephantōs inter cōpiās dūxit, sed omnēs praeter ūnum in montibus altīs
 5 āmisit.

6 Rōmānī, quod Hannibal multās victōriās reportāverat, dictātōrem creāvērunt Q. Fabium,
 7 quamquam senex iam erat. postquam Fabius summum imperium sumpsit, Rōmānī iūsta
 8 proelia vitābant, hostēs per Italiam agēbant; itaque magnā difficultāte Hannibal cibum
 9 invenire poterat. sed paucī ē Rōmānīs Fabiī consilium contemnēbant et Fabium
 10 “Cunctātōrem” vocābant. mox aequum imperium Minūciō, magistrō equitum, dedērunt;
 11 sed Minūcius multōs ē mīlitibus suis iūstō proeliō āmisit. omnēs iam Fabium laudāvērunt,
 12 et Cunctātōrem honōris causā vocāvērunt.

13 sed postquam Fabius imperium dēposuit, consul novus, nōmine Varrō, quod Hannibalis
 14 cōpiās contemnēbat, iūstō proeliō prope Cannās cum hostibus pugnāvit. Poenī tamen
 15 Rōmānōs tum quoque superant, multōsque necant. senātōrēs Varrōnem nōn culpāvērunt
 16 sed grātiās consuli ēgērunt, quod nōn dē salūte publicā dēspērāverat; et Fabium dictātōrem
 17 iterum creāvērunt.

Poenī, Poenōrum – Carthaginians
 flōrēō, flōrēre – to flourish, prosper
 confirmō, confirmāre – to strength, establish
 cōpiāe, cōpiārum – troops
 etiam – even
 praeter – except (for)
 creō, creāre – to make
 sumō, sumere – to take up

iūstum proelium – a pitched battle
 contemnō, contemnere – to despise, dislike
 Cunctātor, Cunctātōris – the Delayer
 magister equitum – Master of the Horse; a
 dictator's second-in-command
 honōris causā – as a mark of honor
 culpō, culpāre – to blame
 dēspērō, dēspērāre – to give up hope

31. What did Hannibal strengthen in Spain?
 (A) all the colonies in Spain (B) the Carthaginian forces
 (C) the Carthaginian empire (D) his own soldiers and forces
32. quō modō Hannibal cōpiās trāns Alpēs dūxit?
 (A) diligenter (B) magnā difficultāte
 (C) noctū (D) fortiter
33. What happened to the elephants that Hannibal brought with him?
 (A) Hannibal was able to use them to surprise the Romans
 (B) Hannibal left half of his elephants on the Alps
 (C) Hannibal lost all but one of the elephants while crossing the Alps
 (D) Hannibal used them to attack Rome

34. Why did the Romans name Fabius dictator?
 (A) because of his experience in war (B) because of his age
 (C) because of his fame (D) because of Hannibal's victories
35. What made Fabius' dictatorship surprising?
 (A) he had already served as dictator (B) he had no military experience
 (C) he was a Plebeian (D) he was old
36. What strategy did Fabius use?
 (A) he attacked Hannibal's forces at night (B) he burned Hannibal's grain supply
 (C) he attacked Hannibal's supply troops (D) he avoided pitched battles
37. What is the connotation of "**Cunctātōrem**" in line 10?
 (A) disdain (B) appreciative (C) sincere (D) respectful
38. **Minūcius iūsta proelia vitābat.** (A) **vērūm** (B) **falsum**
39. **quandō Varrō cōsul factus est?**
 (A) **postquam Hannibal ad Hispaniam revēnit**
 (B) **postquam Fabius imperium dēposuit**
 (C) **postquam Rōmānī eum cōsulem nōmināvērunt**
 (D) **postquam omnēs Fabium contempserunt**
40. **ubi Varrō cum militibus Hannibalis pugnāvit?**
 (A) **prope Cannās** (B) **prope Pompeiōs** (C) **prope Graeciam** (D) **prope Rōmam**
41. What happened at this battle?
 (A) Varro was killed (B) the Romans defeated the Carthaginians
 (C) Hannibal was killed (D) many Romans were killed
42. Why was the senate not upset about this battle?
 (A) because Varro didn't lose hope for the safety of the Republic
 (B) because the Romans were victorious
 (C) because Varro was able to defeat Hannibal and make him retreat back to Spain
 (D) because Varro survived
43. According to the passage, which of the following happened as a result of this battle?
 (A) Varro was appreciated (B) Hannibal marched closer to Rome
 (C) Hannibal took his troops back to Spain (D) Fabius became consul again
44. Based on this passage, which of the following best describes Hannibal?
 (A) very famous military leader (B) unsuccessful against Varro
 (C) victorious against Fabius (D) the most successful son of Hamilcar

45. Based on this passage, what happened to Fabius?
 (A) was victorious against Hannibal (B) was unsuccessful against Hannibal
 (C) eventually praised by all Romans (D) succeeded Varro as consul

Passage C:

An early Roman hero.

1 **Tullius Hostilius, rēx tertius Rōmānōrum, proelia amābat et multa bella gessit. ōlim**
 2 **bellum ferōcissimum contrā Albānōs gerēbat, in quō nec Rōmānī nec Albānī superāvērunt.**
 3 **itaque trēs Rōmānī et trēs Albānī ēlēctī sunt, et illī sex certāmen magnum incēpērunt. duo**
 4 **Rōmānī mox humum mortuī cecidērunt, et omnēs trēs Albānī vulnera accēpērunt. tertius**
 5 **igitur Horātius fūgam simulāvit, et Albānī eum agitāvērunt, sed, propter vulnera, mox**
 6 **fatigātī sunt, et Horātius eōs separātim interfēcīt. Horātium victōrem cīvēs laetissimī in**
 7 **urbem dūxērunt.**

46. What did the third king of Rome like?
 (A) battles (B) women (C) food (D) peace
47. According to line 2, who was the victor of a very fierce war?
 (A) the Romans (B) the Etruscans (C) the Albans (D) neither Romans nor Albans
48. **quot in certāmine magnō pugnāvērunt?**
 (A) trēs (B) sex (C) quīnque (D) duodecim
49. **quō Rōmānī cecidērunt?**
 (A) ad pontem (B) humum (C) in aquam (D) in mare
50. **quae sunt nōmina Rōmānōrum quī cum Albānīs pugnābant?**
 (A) Curiātī (B) Horātī (C) Tullī (D) Hostilī

TIE-BREAKERS: These questions will be scored only to break ties.

Questions 96 – 100 are based on Passage C:

96. How many of the Albans were wounded?
 (A) none (B) one (C) two (D) all three
97. What did Horatius pretend to do?
 (A) he pretended to fall on the ground (B) he pretended to flee from the Albans
 (C) he pretended to be dead (D) he pretended to be wounded
98. **cūr Albānī fatigātī sunt?**
 (A) **quod vulnerātī erant** (B) **quod Albānī celerius currēbant**
 (C) **quod Horātius celerius currēbat** (D) **quod currere nōlēbant**

99. How did Horatius kill the Albans?
(A) very carefully (B) with a sword (C) with his spear (D) one by one
100. The best translation of **in** in line 6 of Passage C is
(A) on (B) in (C) onto (D) into