

**2003 NJCL Convention
Reading Comprehension, Level I**

Directions: Chose the **best** answer.

Caesar's commentary on the Gallic gods

Glossed words:

colō, -ere, -uī, -tus = to till; to worship

simulācrum, ī, n. = image

admodum = to the limit; very, quite fully

quaestus, -ūs, m. = gain, profit, income

natio est omnis Gallōrum admodum dedita religionibus. . . . deum maxime Mercurium colunt. huius sunt plurima simulacra; pro Gallī hic omnium inventor artium, hic viārum atque itinerum dux, hic ad quaestus pecuniae mercaturasque habet vim maximam. post hunc Apollinem et Martem et Iovem et Minervam. de his eandem fere, quam reliquae gentēs, habent opinionem: Apollinem morbos depellere, Minervam operum atque artificōrum initia tradere, Iovem imperium caelestium tenēre, Martem bella regere. Commentarii de Bello Gallico, VI, xvi, vii

1. According to Caesar, the Gauls are devoted to
 - a. themselves
 - b. one religion
 - c. their nation
 - d. religious rites

2. According to Caesar, the Gauls place which god above all others?
 - a. Apollo
 - b. Jupiter
 - c. Mars
 - d. Mercury

3. What evidence does Caesar have that the Gauls placed this god above all others?
 - a. There are many religious rites for this god.
 - b. There are many temples for this god.
 - c. There are many statutes for this god.
 - d. There are many priests for this god.

4. The Gauls believe that this god
 - a. watches over the artists
 - b. protects all artists
 - c. is the inventor of all arts
 - d. gives inspiration to all artists

5. Which god do the Gauls believe was the guide on roads and journeys?
 - a. Apollo
 - b. Jupiter
 - c. Mars
 - d. Mercury

6. Which god do the Gauls believe could dispel diseases?
 - a. Apollo
 - b. Jupiter
 - c. Mars
 - d. Mercury

7. What does Minerva give to the craftsmen?
 - a. inspiration
 - b. energy
 - c. hard work
 - d. tools

Eutropius on Antony and Cleopatra

Glossed words:

quoque, adv. = too

optō, optāre = to wish for, to desire

muliebris, -e = woman's, womanly

Antōnius quoque ingens bellum civile commovit cogente uxore Cleopatra, regina Aegypti, dum cupiditate muliebri optat etiam in urbe regnare. victus est ab Augusto navali pugna clara et inlustri apud Actium, qui locus in Epiro est, ex qua fugit in Aegyptum et desperatis rebus, ubi omnes ad Augustum transibant, ipse se interemit. Cleopatra sibi aspidem admisit et veneno eius exstincta est.
Breviarii, Liber VII, vii

8. According to Eutropius, who actually stirred up a civil war?
a. Antony
b. Aegyptus
c. Cleopatra
d. Augustus
9. Cleopatra desired a civil war because
a. She is Antony's wife
b. She has womanly desires
c. She is the queen of Egypt
d. She wants to rule another city
10. According to Eutropius, Antony . . .
a. wanted to move to be with Cleopatra.
b. wished to join Cleopatra in ruling Egypt.
c. fought and defeated Antony in a naval battle.
d. was overcome by Augustus in battle
11. Antony went from Actium to
a. Epirus
b. Egypt
c. war
d. home
12. After Antony departed from Actium, what was his emotional state?
a. nervous
b. excited
c. desperate
d. revengeful
13. The asp killed Cleopatra because
a. Its venom was very potent.
b. Its venom was slow acting.
c. the asp accidentally bit her.
d. she allowed the asp to bite her.

Cupido et Psyche

Glossed words:

aequus, -a, -um = equal, level, fair

simulō, simulāre = to immitate, to represent

aliquem = some

reperiō, -īre, -perī, -pertum = to find, to devise

uterque, utraque, utrumque = each (of two)

īnfōrmem = ugly

erant ōlim trēs sorōrēs pulchrae, quae erant fīliae rēgis regīnaeque. hārum Psyche erat clārissima. itaque fāma eius in regiōnibus erat aequa illī Veneris. Venus nōn solum immortalis sed etiam superbissima erat. itaque contrā puellam, quae neque dea neque immortalis erat, poenam reperire constituit.

Venus filium suum, Cupidinem, deum amōris, ad sē vocāvit et dicit: "omnēs Psychēn petunt et illī nunc mē adōrāre nōn etiam simulant. ego sum īrātissima quod nōn adōror. ob

iniūriās quās mātrī tuae fēcit, poenās dare debet. T̄ nunc, puellam pulchram quaere Psychēn nōmine; sagittam ēmitte et cōge eam amāre hominem aliquem miserum et ĩnfōrmem. hoc opus tibi idōneum est.” Cupidō mātrem suam iuvāre celeriter parābat.

14. When does this story begin?
 - a. yesterday
 - b. a long time ago
 - c. in the early evening
 - d. once upon a time

15. quot sorores Psyche habebat?
 - a. tres
 - b. tertias
 - c. duas
 - d. secundas

16. Psyche was more famous than
 - a. the king.
 - b. Venus.
 - c. her sisters.
 - d. the queen.

17. Everyone considered Psyche to be
 - a. more proud than Venus.
 - b. more desirable than Venus.
 - c. equal to Venus.
 - d. lesser than Venus.

18. Venus was immortal and
 - a. proud.
 - b. very pretentious
 - c. adoring.
 - d. the most beautiful.

19. qualis erat puella?
 - a. informis
 - b. mortalis
 - c. iratissima
 - d. misera

20. Venus tells Cupid that she . . .
 - a. is angry at him.
 - b. adores him.
 - c. thinks that she has been punished.
 - d. thinks that she has been injured.

21. Venus tells Cupid that
 - a. Psyche worships her and does not pretend otherwise.
 - b. Psyche does not even pretend to worship her.
 - c. All are worshipping Psyche but pretend otherwise.
 - d. All are seeking Psyche and do not pretend otherwise.

22. What does Venus want Cupid to do?
 - a. to prepare a punishment
 - b. to physically injure Psyche
 - c. to punish the non-worshippers
 - d. to take care of his mother

23. What does Venus have in mind for Psyche?
 - a. to have her killed.
 - b. to have her moved to a barbarian country.
 - c. to have her fall in love with an ugly person.
 - d. to have her fall in love with her son.

25. quomodo matrem iuvat?
a. suam
b. Cupidō
c. parābat
d. celeriter

The death of Aeschylus

Glossed words

calvus, -a, -um = bald	cōnsīdō, cōnsīdere, cōnsēdī = to sit down
testūdō, testūdinis, f. = tortoise	unguis, -is, m. = talon, claw
levis, leve = smooth	testa, -ae, f. = shell
protēgō, -gere, -xī, -ctum = to cover, to protect	soleo, -ere, -, solitus sum = be in the habit of
incīdō, -ere, -dī, -sus = to fall into	dēcēdō, -cēdere, -cessī, -cessum = to die

Aeschylus erat poēta Graecus; iam senex erat, sed tragoediās nōtissimās scrīpserat. ubi iuvenis erat, longōs capillōs habuerat, sed nunc erat calvus.

Aeschylus ex urbe ambulābat. tum cōnsēdit et novam tragoediam cōgitābat. aquila in caelō volābat. aquila testūdinem, quam cēperat, unguibus tenēbat. lapidem lēvem quaerēbat. aquilae enim testās, quae testūdinēs prōtegunt, in lapide frangere solent. postea testūdinēs cōsūmere possunt.

aquila rem candidam in terrā cōspexit. "ecce! lapis est," sibi dīxit aquila, et testūdinem dēmīsit. rēs candida tamen, quam aquila cōspexerat, nōn erat lapis sed Aeschylī calvum caput. testūdō in caput Aeschylī incidit. sic dēcēssit magnus poēta.

26. When Aeschylus was young, he
a. had long hair.
b. was bald.
c. trained eagles
d. raised tortoises
27. The poet's writings were
a. famous
b. new
c. old
d. long
28. Why does Aeschylus sit down?
a. To make a wish.
b. To watch the sky.
c. To think.
d. To hold the tortoise.
29. What did Aeschylus do outside the city?
a. He was bird watching
b. He was contemplating a new tragedy.
c. He was protecting tortoises.
d. He was looking for a smooth stone.
30. What did Aeschylus see?
a. A tortoise on a smooth rock.
b. Broken tortoise shells on the ground.
c. A flying eagle holding a tortoise.
d. A bald eagle on the ground.
31. What were eagles accustomed to doing when they captured a tortoise?
a. Landing on a rock with the tortoise.
b. Turning the tortoise over on its back where it would not be protected by its shell.
c. Picking up rocks and using them to break the shells of the tortoises.
d. Dropping tortoises onto smooth rocks to break the shells that protect the tortoise.

32. What caused the eagle to say "ecce!"?
- He spotted the tortoises.
 - He had caught a tortoise in his claws.
 - He was attempting to eat a tortoise.
 - He saw something white.
33. What killed Aeschylus?
- The eagle dropping down onto Aeschylus' head with the tortoise.
 - The tortoise being dropped down onto Aeschylus' head.
 - He suffered sunstroke from sitting too long.
 - He suffered a heart attack when he saw the eagle and the tortoise flying by.
34. This story demonstrates . . .
- how nature inspires writers.
 - how luck can impact art.
 - how nature and civilization can co-exist.
 - how poets create new works.

Regulus and the Serpent

Poenus, -a, -um = Carthaginians

Rōmānī ōlim bellum cum Poenīs gerēbant. post multōs annōs cōstitūtum est in Africam, Rēgulō duce, cōpiās Rōmānās mittere. castrīs Rōmānīs in Africā positīs, mīlitēs novō periculō perterritī sunt. nam serpēs magnus in castrīs vīsus est. tum Rēgulus virtūtem maximam ostendit. animōs permōtōs mīlitum cōnfirmāvit. suōs iussit lapidēs in serpentem iacere. hōc modō mōnstrum, quod centum vīgintī pedēs longum esse dīcēbātur, facillimē interfectum est.

35. When was it decided to go to Africa?
- Many years after Regulus became king.
 - At the request of the Carthaginians.
 - After the war against Carthage had been waged for many years.
 - When the danger escalated.
36. What did the Romans decide to send to Africa?
- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|---------------|
| a. | a new leader | b. | troops |
| c. | a constitution | d. | more soldiers |
37. In Africa the Romans pitched camp and . . . ?
- awaited the enemy.
 - showed courage in battle.
 - were frightened by new danger.
 - threw rocks at snakes to pass the time.
38. What did the soldiers see in the camp?
- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|------------------|
| a. | a large snake | c. | 120 footsoldiers |
| b. | a monster with 20 feet | d. | hail |
39. Rēgulus displayed?
- | | | | |
|----|---------|----|-----------|
| a. | courage | c. | good will |
| b. | anxiety | d. | strength |

40. Regulus
a. confirmed the fear of the soldiers.
b. encouraged the soldiers' spirits.
c. aroused the anger of the soldiers.
d. tested the soldier's courage.
42. What did Rēgulus order the soldiers to do?
a. To lay stones down on the serpent.
b. To throw stones on top of the serpent.
c. To lie stones onto the serpent.
d. To throw stones at the serpent.
43. What finally happened to the snake?
a. He was killed very easily.
b. He was killed quickly.
c. He slithered away very easily.
d. He slithered away quickly.
44. This illustrated Regulus' ability to
a. lead
b. organize
c. compromise
d. recruit

Attack on the Capitol

Glossed words:

properō, -āre = to speed up, to move quickly

mūnītus, -a, -um = well fortified, well protected

olim Gallī bellum contra Romanōs gerebant. Gallī Romanōs in Etruria magnō proeliō superaverunt et statim ad urbem Romam processerunt. multa aedificia incenderunt, multōs incolas interfecerunt. reliqui Romanī ad Capitolium properaverunt, locum altum et natura et muris muniūtum. mox Galli viam angustam et secretam ad Capitolium invenerunt; noctu secreto ascenderunt. quod Romanī nihil periculi audiebant, non timebant. itaque Galli ad summum Capitolium advenerunt.

45. What happened in Etruria?
a. The Romans defeated the Gauls.
b. The Gauls defeated the Romans.
c. The Gauls burned many buildings.
d. The Romans burned many buildings.
46. What did the Romans do?
a. They quickly left Rome.
b. They rushed to the Capitolium.
c. They killed more Gauls.
d. They fortified the walls.
47. The Capitolium was fortified
a. by tall walls
b. by natural walls
c. naturally
d. properly
48. The Gauls discovered the road to the Capitolium
a. quickly.
b. through secret streets.
c. by a secreta passage.
d. accidentally.
49. When did the Gauls discover the road to the Capitolium?
a. quickly
b. soon
c. suddenly
d. immediately
50. When did the attack take place?
a. at night
b. at dawn
c. mid-morning
d. mid-day

- 51 As the Gauls reached the Capitolium, the Romans were
- a. unsuspecting.
 - b. ready and waiting
 - c. disguised.
 - d. full of fear.
- 52 The Gauls were able to reach the top because
- a. the Romans were without guards.
 - b. the Gauls climbed quickly.
 - c. the Romans did not hear the Gauls.
 - d. the Romans did not move quickly.

Augustus and the Owl

Glossed words:

aegrōtō, -āre = to be sick

būbō, būbōnis, m/f = owl

molestia, -ae, f. = annoyance, trouble

aucupium, -ī, n. = bird catching

audeō, audēre, ausus sum = to dare

crēber, -bra, -brum = numerous, frequent
rumpō, -pere, -pī, -ptum = to break, to burst
perītus, -a, -um = expert in, skillful in
nummus, -ī, m. = coin

Augustus in quadam villa aegrotans noctes—inquietas agebat; somnus eius autem crebrō būbōnis cantu rumpebatur. Augustus quod liberari hac molestia malebat auxilium petebat. miles quidam, aucupii peritus, ad Augustum venit. hic miles negotium suscepit, bubonemprehendit, et ad Augustum attulit, spe ingentis praemii adductus. cui Augustus mille nummōs dari iussit; at miles non dignum praemium existimans, dicere ausus est, "plus pecuniae volui!" et avem dimisit.

53. Why was Augustus restless?
- a. He was away from his own villa.
 - b. The night air caused him trouble.
 - c. It was a noisy night.
 - d. He was sick.
54. What disturbed his sleep?
- a. his illness
 - b. the night air
 - c. his children's restlessness
 - d. the hooting of the owl
55. What did Augustus say?
- a. That he and his children strongly desired to sleep.
 - b. That his children were seeking help.
 - c. That he did not want his children troubled.
 - d. That he strongly desired to be free of this trouble.
56. Why does a soldier come to Augustus?
- a. His business is catching birds.
 - b. He thinks he can catch the owl.
 - c. He suspects that he can apprehend the birds.
 - d. He suspects that he can negotiate a prize from Augustus.
57. What does the soldier hope to do?
- a. to help the children
 - b. to receive much praise
 - c. to catch the owl
 - d. to receive a large reward
58. What happens to the owl?
- a. It dies.
 - b. It is transformed into a constellation.
 - c. It is freed.
 - d. It is sent to an aviary.

59. What did the soldier receive?
- a. a reward worthy of a soldier
 - b. a soldier's pay
 - c. a million coins
 - d. a thousand coins
60. From this we learn . . .
- a. Money cannot buy happiness.
 - b. A penny saved is a penny earned.
 - c. You get what you pay for.
 - d. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.