

2006 NJCL Advanced Poetry Reading Comprehension Test

test code 1007

Note: This test has only 50 questions.

Passage One: Martial, Epigrams 1.10 -- "Gemellus and Maronilla"

Petit Gemellus nuptiās Maronillae
et cupit et instat et precātur et donat.
Adeone pulchra est? Immō foedius nil est.
Quid ergo in illā petitur et placet? Tussit.

1. Gemellus is trying hard to get Maronilla to marry him.
A. true B. false
2. Martial thinks Maronilla is attractive.
A. true B. false
3. Martial knows why Gemellus is interested in Maronilla.
A. true B. false

Passage Two: Martial, Epigrams 1.16 -- "Advice to Avītus"

Sunt bona, sunt quaedam mediocria, sunt mala plūra
quae legis hīc: aliter nōn fit, Avīte, liber.

4. Martial claims that his book contains good, bad, and mediocre writings.
A. true B. false
5. Martial claims that a proper book should only contain good writings.
A. true B. false

Passage Three: Martial, Epigrams 1.19 -- "A Change in Aelia"

Sī meminī, fuerant tibi quattuor, Aelia, dentēs:
expulit ūna duōs tussis et ūna duōs.
Iam secūra potēs totīs tussīre diēbus:
nil istīc quod agat tertia tussis habet.

6. What does Martial remember?
A. he only has four teeth B. Aelia has only four teeth C. neither of these
7. What caused the loss of the teeth?
A. Martial coughed B. Aelia coughed C. the dentist pulled them
8. The word secūra (line 3) refers to:
A. Martial B. the teeth C. Aelia D. the cough
9. What conclusion does Martial draw in this poem?
A. Aelia is still an attractive woman B. he should visit the doctor
C. Martial wastes too much time D. Aelia can cough without worry

Passage Four: Martial, Epigrams 1.23 -- "Cotta is a Clean One"

Invītās nullum nisi cum quō, Cotta, lavāris
et dant convīvam balnea sōla tibi.
Mīrābar quārē numquam mē, Cotta, vocāssēs:
iam scio mē nudum displicuisse tibi.

10. What is the only time at which Cotta holds meetings with guests?
A. after he bathes B. before he bathes C. while he bathes D. none of these
11. Cotta has invited Martial to such a meeting.
A. true B. false
12. Cotta thinks Martial looks unattractive when he (Martial) is naked.
A. true B. false

Passage Five: Martial, Epigrams 1.64 -- "Fabulous Fabulla"

Bella es, nōvimus, et puella, vērū est,
et dīves, quis enim potest negāre?
Sed cum tē nimium, Fabulla, laudās,
nec dīves neque bella nec puella es.

13. Which quality does Martial NOT attribute to Fabulla?
A. self-praise B. beauty C. wealth D. modesty
14. What causes Martial's opinion about Fabulla to change?
A. wine B. talking with others C. Fabulla's bragging D. none of these

Passage Six: Martial, Epigrams 1.109 -- "Issa the Wonder Dog"

Issa est passere nēquior Catullī,	1	passere -- sparrow
Issa est pūrior osculō columbae,	2	columbae -- dove
Issa est blandior omnibus puellīs,	3	
Issa est cārīor Indicīs lapillīs,	4	lapillīs -- stones
Issa est dēliciae catella Publī.	5	
Hanc tū, sī queritur, loquī putābis;	6	
sentit tristitiamque gaudiumque.	7	
Collō nixa cubat capitque somnōs,	8	
ut suspīria nulla sentiantur;	9	
et dēsīderiō coacta ventris	10	
gutta pallia nōn fefellit ulla,	11	gutta -- a drop
sed blandō pede suscitāt torōque	12	torō -- couch
dēpōnī monet et rogāt levārī.	13	
Castae tantus inest pudor catellae,	14	
ignōrat Venerem; nec invenīmus	15	
dignum tam tenerā virum puellā.	16	
Hanc nē lux rapiat suprēma tōtam,	17	
pictā Publius exprimit tabellā,	18	exprimit -- portrays
in quā tam similem vidēbis Issam,	19	
ut sit tam similis sibi nec ipsa.	20	
Issam dēnique pōne cum tabellā:	21	
aut utramque putābis esse vēram,	22	

15. In what line of the poem is Issa's owner named?
 A. 1 B. 4 C. 5 D. 8
16. What qualities are attributed to Issa in lines 6-7?
 A. speech and emotion B. beauty and grace C. intelligence and companionship
17. In lines 8-9, Martial says that Issa:
 A. is lazy B. snores C. sleeps peacefully D. none of these
18. Which of Issa's admirable qualities does Martial praise in lines 10-13?
 A. she does not mess up the covers when she hops onto the bed
 B. she does not allow even a drop of her food/water to spill onto the floor
 C. she does not overeat, even when she is very hungry
 D. she asks to be let down from the bed in order to go outside and relieve herself
19. In lines 14-16, Martial asserts that:
 A. even Venus and the other gods and goddesses love Issa
 B. Issa could not have a 'boyfriend' that would be worthy of her
 C. no other owner is worthy enough to have Issa as his pet
 D. Issa is as gentle as a girl in love is to her boyfriend
20. Issa's owner is worried that he will not be able to live without her if she dies.
 A. true B. false
21. In the last lines, Martial invites the reader to compare Issa to:
 A. a cat B. a book C. a table D. a painting

Passage Seven: Ovid, Ars Amatoria, Book One -- "How to Find the Right Girl"

Sī quis in hōc artem populō nōn nōvit amandī,	1	
hoc legat et lectō carmine doctus amet.	2	
Arte citae velōque ratēs rēmōque moventur,	3	citae -- swift
arte levēs currūs: arte regendus Amor.	4	
Curribus Automedon lentisque erat aptus habēnīs,	5	
Tiphys in Haemoniā puppe magister erat:	6	
mē Venus artificem tenerō praefēcit Amōrī;	7	tenerō -- tender
Tiphys et Automedon dīcar Amōris ego.	8	
Principiō, quod amāre velīs, reperīre labōrā,	35	
quī nova nunc prīmum mīles in arma venīs;	36	
proximus huic labor est placitam exorāre puellam;	37	exorāre -- to win over
tertius, ut longō tempore dūret amor.	38	
Hic modus; haec nostrō signābitur ārea currū;	39	
haec erit admissā meta premenda rotā.	40	
Dum licet et lōrīs passim potes īre solūtīs,	41	
ēlige cui dicās 'tū mihi sōla placēs.'	42	
Haec tibi nōn tenuēs veniet dēlapsa per aurās;	43	dēlapsa -- having slipped
quaerenda est oculīs apta puella tuīs.	44	
Scit bene vēnātor, cervīs ubi rētia tendat;	45	
scit bene, quā frendēns valle morētur aper;	46	
Aucupibus nōtī fruticēs; quī sustinet hāmōs,	47	
nōvit quae multō pisce natentur aquae:	48	
tū quoque, māteriam longō quī quaeris amōrī,	49	
ante frequēns quō sit disce puella locō.	50	

Nōn ego quaerentem ventō dare vēla iubēbō,	55	vēla -- sails
nec tibi ut inveniās longa terenda via est.	56	
Gargara quot segetēs, quot habet Methymna racēmōs,	57	
aequore quot piscēs, fronde teguntur avēs,	58	
quot caelum stellās, tot habet tua Rōma puellās:	59	
māter in Aenēae constitit urbe suī.	60	
Seu caperis p̄mīs et adhūc crescentibus annīs,	61	
ante oculōs veniet vēra puella tuōs.	62	
Sīve cupīs iuvenem, iuvenēs tibi mille placēbunt:	63	
cogēris vōtī nescius esse tuī.	64	
Seu tē forte iuvat sēra et sapientior aetās,	65	sēra -- later
hoc quoque, crēde mihi, plēnius agmen erit.	66	

22. The best translation of quis (line 1) is:
 A. who B. where C. anyone D. to whom
23. Amandī in line 1 is best translated as a phrase with the word:
 A. si B. populo C. novit D. artem
24. The best translation of legat (line 2) is:
 A. he reads B. he read C. he will read D. let him read
25. lectō carmine (line 2) is a reference to:
 A. poetry in general B. another poet C. this poem D. the author
26. The imagery of line 3 is that of:
 A. farming B. sailing C. warfare D. politics
27. In line 4, Ovid asserts that Love:
 A. is completely different from other pursuits B. controls all things
 C. is reserved for royalty D. must be handled much like other things
28. Automedon's talent was in:
 A. teaching B. sailing C. warfare D. driving a chariot
29. Tiphys' talent was in:
 A. racing B. sailing C. warfare D. teaching
30. Ovid asserts that Venus gave him the task of writing about love.
 A. true B. false
31. Ovid sees his task as being quite different than that of Tiphys and Automedon.
 A. true B. false
32. The best summary of line 35 is:
 A. the thing that you love is difficult to find
 B. finding love is as difficult as sailing
 C. work at finding someone that you want to love
 D. in trying to fall in love, you will find that it is hard work
33. In line 36 Ovid compares the reader to a newly recruited soldier.
 A. true B. false
34. Ovid says that the second task (line 37) is to make sure she is the right girl.
 A. true B. false
35. Ovid says that the third task (line 38) is to make sure that love lasts a long time.
 A. true B. false
36. The imagery of lines 39-41 is that of:
 A. politics B. farming C. breadmaking D. chariot racing
37. The best translation of tū mihi sōla placēs (line 42) is:
 A. you please me more than the sun B. only you can calm me
 C. you alone are pleasing to me D. you please me more than life

38. Ovid's advice in lines 43-44 is:
 A. fly to her quickly before she escapes
 B. love flies quickly, so be fast
 C. every girl is pretty, so take the first one
 D. you must find the girl with your own eyes
39. The word haec in line 43 refers to:
 A. the reader
 B. a breeze
 C. eyes
 D. the girl
40. The imagery of lines 45-46 is that of:
 A. politics
 B. cooking
 C. running
 D. hunting
41. The imagery of lines 47-48 is that of:
 A. traveling
 B. warfare
 C. fishing
 D. clothmaking
42. The comparisons that Ovid makes in lines 45-48 are intended to show that finding a girl is quite similar to other types of activities.
 A. true
 B. false
43. The advice that Ovid gives in line 50 concerns:
 A. what to say
 B. where to look
 C. the best gift to give
 D. how often to try
44. In lines 55-56, Ovid says that a long distance must be traveled to find the right girl.
 A. true
 B. false
45. According to line 57, Gargara and Methymna are known for their:
 A. large cities
 B. mountains
 C. oceans
 D. crops
46. Ovid says that Rome has as many girls as there are stars in the sky.
 A. true
 B. false
47. Line 60 contains a reference to Venus.
 A. true
 B. false
48. What difference among the various available girls does Ovid describe in lines 61-66?
 A. physical beauty
 B. eye color
 C. age
 D. education
49. In line 64, Ovid asserts that the reader will have so many choices, he will not know whom to choose.
 A. true
 B. false
50. In lines 65-66, Ovid suggests that younger, less experienced women will be the most plentiful.
 A. true
 B. false