

2007 NJCL
READING COMPREHENSION
ADVANCED PROSE

THIS PAGE HAS ALL THE TEXT FOR ALL QUESTIONS. TEAR IT OFF FOR EASY REFERENCE.

Questions 1-39: Read over the excerpt from this "letter" from the 14th century humanist Petrarch to Cicero (Fam. XXIV, 4), then select the best answer to the questions which follow.

1 Ō Rōmānī ēloquiī summe parēns, nec sōlus ego sed omnēs tibi grātiās
 2 agimus, quīcumque Latīnae linguae flōribus ōrnāmur; tuīs enim prāta dē fontibus
 3 irrigāmus; tuō ducātū dīrēctōs, tuīs suffrāgiīs adiūtōs, tuō nōs lūmine illūstrātōs
 4 ingenuē profitēmur; tuīs dēnique, ut ita dīcam, auspiciīs ad hanc, quantulacumque
 5 est, scrībendī facultātem ... pervēnisse.

6 Quid dē vītā, quid dē ingeniō tuō sentiam, audīstī. Exspectās audīre dē librīs
 7 tuīs, quāenam illōs excēperit fortūna, quā seu vulgō seu doctiōribus probentur?
 8 Exstant equidem praeclāra volūmina, quae nē dīcam perlegere, sed nec
 9 ēnumerāre sufficimus. Fāma rērum tuārum celeberrima atque ingēns et sonōrum
 10 nōmen (est).

11 Librōrum aliquī, nesciō quidem an irreparābiliter, nōbīs tamen quī nunc
 12 vīvimus, nisi fallor, periēre; magnus dolor meus, magnus saeculī nostrī pudor,
 13 magna posteritātis iniūria.

14 Reliquum est ut urbis Rōmae ac Rōmānae reī pūblīcae statum audīre velīs,
 15 quae patriae faciēs, quae cīvium concordia, ad quōs rērum summa pervēnerit,
 16 quibus manibus quantōque cōnsiliō frēna trāctentur imperiī, Histerne et Gangēs,
 17 Hibērus, Nīlus et Tanais līmitēs nostrī sint.... Vērūm tacēre melius fuerit; crēde
 18 enim mihi, Cicerō, sī quō in statū rēs nostrae sint audieris, excident tibi lacrimae,
 19 quamlibet vel caelī vel Erebi partem tenēs. Aeternum valē.

<i>prātum</i> meadow	<i>ingenuē</i> nobly	<i>nē dīcam</i> one can't say	<i>nec</i> not even
<i>sonōrus-a-um</i> sonorous, resonant		<i>summa</i> control	
<i>Histerne</i> whether the Danube		<i>quamlibet</i> whatever	

The text for questions 40-50 is on the next page.

Questions 40-50: Macrobius on a jokebook prepared by Cicero's secretary Tiro.

- 1 Cicerō, cum apud Damasippum cēnāret, et ille, mediocrī vīnō positō, dīceret:
2 "Bibite Falernum hoc; annōrum quadrāgintā est," "Bene," inquit, "aetātem fert."
3 Īdem cum Lentulum, generum suum, exiguae statūrae hominem, longō gladiō
4 accīnctum vīdisset, "Quis," inquit, "generum meum ad gladium alligāvit?"
5 In cōsulātū Vatīniī, quem paucīs diēbus gessit, notābilis Cicerōnis urbānitās
6 circumferēbātur. "Magnum ostentum," inquit, "annō Vatīniī factum est, quod, illō
7 cōnsule, nec brūma nec vēr nec aestās nec autumnus fuit."
8 Querentī deinde Vatīniō, quod gravātus esset ad sē ĩfirmum venīre,
9 respondit: "Volūī in cōsulātū tuō venīre, sed nox mē comprehendit."

paucīs diēbus = *paucōs diēs* *ostentum* miracle
gravātus esset he (Cicero) had been reluctant

QUESTIONS 1-39 PASSAGE ONE: PETRARCH

1. What is the best translation of *Rōmānī ēloquīī summe parēns* (1)?
A. most eloquent Roman father
B. greatest Roman father of eloquence
C. Roman father of the greatest eloquence
D. greatest father of Roman eloquence
2. Who thanks Cicero (1-2)?
A. Petrarch alone
B. all mankind
C. all who enjoy Latin
D. orators
3. *tuīs enim prāta dē fontibus irrigāmus* (2-3) is a metaphor for which of these?
A. you are our inspiration in our writing
B. you help us with our daily chores
C. we collect all your works available
D. you offer relief in difficult times
4. What case is *nōs* (3)?
A. nominative
B. accusative
C. genitive
D. vocative
5. Which does Petrarch NOT claim as a benefit of studying Cicero's works (3-5)?
A. enjoyment of the Latin language
B. Cicero's approval of his actions
C. Cicero's inspiration
D. his ability to write Latin well
6. What verb form is *scrībendī* (5)?
A. present participle
B. gerund
C. gerundive
D. perfect participle
7. Which verb must be understood with *tuīs dēnique, ut ita dīcam, auspiciīs ad hanc, quantulacumque est, scrībendī facultātem ... pervēnisse* (4-5)?
A. *profitēmur*
B. *irrigāmus*
C. *ōrnāmur*
D. *agimus*
8. The addition of the words *quantulacumque est* (4-5) have what effect on Petrarch's statement?
A. they show his pride
B. they belittle his accomplishments
C. they reveal hope for the future
D. they express deep gratitude
9. The words *Quid dē vītā, quid dē ingeniō tuō sentiam, audistī* (6) make the reader understand that
A. Petrarch and Cicero have had a previous conversation
B. Petrarch writes to many classical Roman authors
C. Petrarch is very impressed by Cicero's writing ability
D. Petrarch has written an earlier "letter" to Cicero
10. Why is *sentiam* (6) subjunctive?
A. indirect question
B. deliberative question
C. indirect command
D. relative clause of characteristic
11. The verb *audistī* (6) is a contraction for which of these?
A. *audīvistis*
B. *audīvisse*
C. *audīvistī*
D. *audīvī*
12. To what does *illōs* (7) refer?
A. *Exspectās*
B. *ingeniō*
C. *librīs*
D. *doctiōribus*
13. What is the best translation of *excēperit* (7)?
A. had received
B. has received
C. will have received
D. will receive
14. What is the best translation of *quam...probenetur* (7)?
A. which are regarded
B. than they approve
C. how they approve
D. how they are regarded
15. What is the best translation of *seu...seu* (7)?
A. either...or
B. whether...or
C. both...and
D. not only...but also
16. Who are the *vulgō* and *doctiōribus* (7)?
A. rich and poor
B. students and teachers
C. commoners and nobility
D. Italians and Greeks
17. About what does Petrarch suggest that Cicero wants to hear (6-7)?
A. Petrarch's life
B. how Petrarch regards Cicero
C. writing in Petrarch's time
D. what has happened to Cicero's works
18. The verb *Exstant* (8) gives English the adjective "extant." What does "extant" mean?
A. still existing
B. outstanding
C. distant
D. productive
19. To what does *volūmina* (8) refer?
A. *Latīnae linguae*
B. *scrībendī facultātem*
C. *doctiōribus*
D. *librīs*

20. What is the best synonym for *sufficimus* (9)?
 A. *efficimus* B. *possumus* C. *submitimus* D. *facillimus*
21. What is Petrarch saying about Cicero's works (8-9)?
 A. Petrarch has spent years reading more of them than he can count
 B. Petrarch has read enough of them to appreciate Cicero
 C. There are too many of them to count, much less read
 D. All educated persons should read them thoroughly
22. What is *celeberrima atque ingēns* (9)?
 A. Cicero's reputation B. the fame of Cicero's works C. Cicero's name D. both B and C
23. What is the best translation of *librōrum aliquī* (11)?
 A. some of the books B. the books of some people
 C. some people's children D. some of the children
24. What has happened to *librōrum aliquī* (11-12)?
 A. they no longer exist B. we who live now enjoy them highly
 C. they are difficult to read D. Petrarch does not know how many there are
25. What case is *nōbīs* (11)?
 A. nominative B. accusative C. ablative D. dative
26. What is the best meaning of *nisi fallor* (12)?
 A. if I don't fail you B. if I don't fall C. unless I deceive you D. unless I'm mistaken
27. For what verb is *periēre* (12) an alternative form in this context?
 A. *periērunt* B. *periēris* C. *perīre* D. *periērint*
28. To what does *magnus dolor meus, magnus saeculī nostrī pudor, magna posteritātis iniūria* (12-13) refer?
 A. how people feel about Cicero's works B. the fact that Petrarch cannot write as well as Cicero
 C. so many of Cicero's works are lost D. the fact that Petrarch has no works of Cicero to read
29. Petrarch can imitate Cicero's writing fairly well. Which of the following lines contains NO Ciceronian rhetorical devices?
 A. *tuō ducātū dīrēctōs, tuīs suffrāgiīs adiūtōs, tuō nōs lūmine illūstrātōs*
 B. *Quid dē vītā, quid dē ingeniō tuō sentiam, ...*
 C. *Fāma rērum tuārum celeberrima atque ingēns*
 D. *magnus dolor meus, magnus saeculī nostrī pudor, magna posteritātis iniūria*
30. What is Cicero learning from Petrarch in the third paragraph of the letter?
 A. how Petrarch searched for Cicero's works in Rome and across the empire
 B. the current condition of the Roman state
 C. how Cicero's works are read across the Roman world
 D. how Cicero has influenced the rulers of different countries
31. What is the best translation of *velīs* (14)?
 A. you will want B. you may wish C. you want D. by sails
32. Which word is omitted, but is necessary to understand *quae patriae faciēs, quae cīvium concordia* (15)?
 A. *tunc* B. *sint* C. *facient* D. *aeterna*
33. What does Petrarch mean by *ad quōs rērum summa pervēnerit* (15)?
 A. what the state of the government is B. what the condition of the people is
 C. what Rome's major problem is D. who rules the state
34. What is the metaphor which underlies *frēna trāctentur imperiī* (16)?
 A. ruling an empire B. crossing perilous straits
 C. controlling riots D. handling a chariot-racing team
35. What does the clause *Histerne et Gangēs, Hibērus, Nīlus et Tanais līmitēs nostrī sint* (16-17) say?
 A. Petrarch has traveled the Roman world B. the Roman world is still great
 C. has Cicero ever heard of these places? D. is the Empire still as large?

36. What is the best translation of *melius fuerit* (17)?
 A. it will have been better
 B. it has been better
 C. it was better than where Petrarch lives
 D. it will be better
37. Knowing what will make Cicero cry (18)?
 A. he will occupy part of Erebus
 B. most of his works have been lost
 C. how badly off Rome is now
 D. how students find his works difficult
38. What is the construction of *audieris* (18)?
 A. future passive
 B. future perfect active
 C. perfect subjunctive
 D. present subjunctive
39. What does Petrarch mean by *vel caelī vel Erebi* (19)?
 A. sky or earth
 B. heaven or hell
 C. the Caelian or the Esquiline
 D. two sections of Hades

PASSAGE TWO: Cicero's Joke Book

40. What is NOT true about the wine which Cicero has been served (1-2)?
 A. it is an ordinary wine
 B. it is 40 years old
 C. it was made in Damascus
 D. his host calls it Falernian
41. What is the "joke" in the words "*Bene ... aetātem fert*"?
 A. it tastes like you've had it too long
 B. it's a nice wine for summer drinking
 C. it can't be Falernian
 D. Cicero's host has good taste
42. To whom does *īdem* (3) refer?
 A. Cicero
 B. Damasippus
 C. Falernus
 D. Lentulus
43. Which word/phrase does NOT refer to Lentulus (3-4)?
 A. *generum suum*
 B. *exiguae statūrae hominem*
 C. *gladiō accīnctum*
 D. *Quis?*
44. What's the joke in lines 3-4?
 A. Lentulus never carried a long sword
 B. Lentulus was a huge man
 C. the sword was about Lentulus' height
 D. Lentulus could not lift the sword
45. What is the general gist of *notābilis Cicerōnis urbānitās circumferēbātur* (5-6)?
 A. Cicero was the most important man in the city
 B. Everyone was talking about Cicero's sophistication
 C. Cicero's statue was paraded around the city
 D. People were carried to Cicero's house in Rome
46. What construction is *illō cōnsule* (6-7)?
 A. dative of reference
 B. ablative absolute
 C. dative with a special verb
 D. ablative of accompaniment
47. Why were there no seasons during Vatinius' consulship (6-7)?
 A. he held power only a few days
 B. a portent made him step down soon
 C. Julius Caesar revised the calendar
 D. Vatinius decreed otherwise
48. What does *brūma* (7) mean?
 A. spring
 B. summer
 C. fall
 D. winter
49. Why was Vatinius complaining (8-9)?
 A. night came too quickly
 B. he was too weak to visit Cicero
 C. Cicero had not visited him during his illness
 D. he was overweight
50. What are the case and use of *Querentī ... Vatīniō* (8)?
 A. ablative absolute
 B. dative, indirect object
 C. ablative, time when
 D. dative of purpose