

TSJCL AREA F
ADVANCED READING COMPREHENSION POETRY
St. Andrew's February 20, 2010

Read the following passage and choose the best answer for the questions which follow. Mark the answer on the scantron sheet.

Ovid asks Janus about the year

1 dic, age: frigoribus quārē novus incipit annus,
2 quī melius per ver incipiendus erat?
3 Omnia tunc florent, tunc est nova temporis aetās,
4 et nova dē gravidō palmite gemma tumet,
5 et modo formātis operitur frondibus arbor,
6 prodit et in summum seminis herba solum,
7 et tepidum volucrēs concentibus aera mulcent,
8 ludit et in pratīs luxuriatque pecus.
9 Tum blandī solēs, ignōtaque prodit hirundō,
10 et luteum celsā sub trabe figit opus;
11 tum patitur cultus ager et renovātur arātrō;
12 haec annī novitās iure vocanda fuit.

palmēs, -itis, m. = branch **gemma**, -ae, f. = bud
seminis herba = the blade of corn from the seed
concentus, -ūs, m. = song **pratium**, -ī, n. = meadow
hirundō, -inis, f. = swallow **arātrum**, -ī, n. = plow

1. The best meaning of **quārē** (line 1) is
a) what b) which c) where d) why
2. From line 1, (**frigoribus . . . annus**), we learn that
a) a new year begins with cold weather.
b) only the ninth year is cold.
c) a cold year in the beginning is a good omen.
d) the year which begins with cold is not good.
3. Quid significant '**melius**' (line 2)?
a) Bigger b) honey c) more d) better
4. Line 4 (**et nova . . . tumet**) is best translated as
a) and a new bud swells from a heavy branch.
b) the new branch swells from a heavy bud.
c) each new bud swells on the heavy branch.
d) the new bud falls from the heavy branch.

5. Which of these is a reason Ovid suggests the year should start in spring?
a) everything is better in the spring.
b) the ground is not covered with snow
c) new buds are swelling on the branches
d) a new summer is approaching
6. The best translation of line 5 (**et modo . . . arbos**) is
a) and now the tree is covered with new leaves
b) even now the trees are hidden by leaves
c) and also the new leaves cover the trees
d) and only new trees are hidden by leaves
7. According to line 6, (**prodit . . . solum**), the blade of corn is covered by the sun. a) **verum** b) **falsum**
8. Which of these is NOT true about spring?
a) birds soothe the sky with songs
b) the flock plays in the meadows
c) the meadows are filled with swallows
d) the suns are mild at this time
9. Quid agit hirundō?
a) He makes a mud nest.
b) He flies through the mud flats.
c) He drinks from muddy water.
d) He hides in the mud.
10. From line 11 (**tum . . . arātrō**), we learn that
a) lazy farmers do not plow their fields.
b) the land is renewed by the plow.
c) each plowman suffers when he cuts the field.
d) the field suffers from the plow's blade.
11. The subject of **fuit** (line 12) is
a) **haec** b) **annī** c) **novitās** d) **iure**
12. Ovid is arguing that
a) novelty must be enforced by law.
b) spring renews the farmer each year.
c) spring must legally begin the year.
d) the novelty of spring makes it unique.

Hercules Encounters the Monster, Cacus, at the Site of Rome

- 1 Hic spelunca fuit, vasto submota recessu,
2 semihominis Caci facies quam dira tenebat,
3 solis inaccessam radiis; semperque recenti
4 caede tepebat humus, foribusque adfixa superbis
5 ora virum tristi pendebant pallida tabo.
6 Huic monstro Vulcanus erat pater; illius atros
7 ore vomens ignes magna se mole ferebat.
8 Attulit et nobis aliquando optantibus aetas
9 auxilium adventumque dei. Nam maximus ultor,
10 tergemini nece Geryonae spoliisque superbus,
11 Alcides aderat, taurosque hac victor agebat
12 ingentes, vallemque boves amnemque tenebant.

GLOSSES:

tabum, -i, n. = gore; decay

aliquando = at some time; formerly; finally

vomo, vomere, vomui, vomitum = to vomit, pour or belch out

Alcides = Hercules

13. From lines 1-2 we learn that there is a cave which is
a) partially underwater
b) harsh in appearance
c) in a secluded recess
d) lit in an eerie manner
14. The antecedent of **quam** (line 2) is
a) **spelunca** (1) b) **recessu** (1)
c) **Caci** (2) d) **facies** (2)
15. Quāle monstrum erat Cacus?
a) inhuman b) arrogant c) half-human d) dreadful
16. From lines 2-3 we learn that
a) Cacus lived near a cave where his face was hidden by the sun's rays
b) Cacus shared a cave with a half-human fury
c) Cacus lived in a huge, dark cave
d) the fierce face of Cacus was removed so he hid in a cave
17. The word "**recenti**" in line 3 modifies
a) **solis** (line 3) b) **caede** (line 4)
c) **humus** (line 4) d) **superbis** (line 4)

18. From line 4 we learn that the ground
- was warm with slaughter.
 - freshly plowed.
 - heated by the sun.
 - covered with Cacus' traces.
19. From lines 4-5 we learn that Cacus
- killed men by hanging them.
 - slept outside of his cave.
 - kept his pale face covered in gore.
 - decorated his door posts.
20. "**huic**" in line 6 refers to
- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Caci (line 2) | b) humus (line 4) |
| c) virum (line 5) | d) pater (line 6) |
21. According to line 7, Cacus
- had a fiery face like Vulcan.
 - carried coals to his father.
 - belched out black fires.
 - vomited from the black fires of Vulcan.
22. Cacus is a fire-breathing, large creature.
- a) **verum** b) **falsum**
23. The best translation of **nobis . . . optantibus** (line 8) is
- to us hoping
 - while we were hoping
 - although we were hoping
 - after we had hoped
24. In line 8, **aetas** means
- a) summer b) breeze c) age d) eternity
25. In lines 8-9, the words **attulit . . . dei** assume that
- Cacus's reign of terror will be indefinitely prolonged.
 - the people sent for help.
 - a victim must be sacrificed to ransom the people.
 - rescue is at hand.
26. Quid significat '**nam**' (line 9)?
- a) but b) not c) now d) for

27. Quandō Herculēs Cacō occurrit?
 a) while he was killing Geryon
 b) after he met Vulcan
 c) before he returned to Eurystheus’s cave
 d) when he was taking cattle to Greece
28. From lines 10-11, we learn that Hercules
 A) was travelling with Geryon.
 B) had recently killed Geryon.
 C) was proud of Geryon’s victory.
 D) was three times the size of Geryon.
29. The antecedent of **hac** in line 11 is
 a) **nece** (10)
 b) **Geryonae** (10)
 c) **Alcides** (11)
 d) **tauros** (11)
30. Quis erat “**maximus ultor**” (line 11)?
 a) Cacus b) Vulcan c) Hercules d) Geryon
31. The words vallemque . . . amnemque (line 12) mean
 a) both . . . and b) and . . . each
 c) not only . . . but also d) even . . . and

Passage C

The Frog and the Ox

1 In prato quondam rana conspexit bovem,
 2 et tacta invidiā tantae magnitudinis
 3 rugosam inflavit pellem: tum natos suos
 4 interrogavit, an bove esset latior.
 5 Illi negarunt. Rursus intendit cutem
 6 maiore nisu, et simili quaesivit modō,
 7 quis maior esset. Illi dixerunt bovem.
 8 Novissime indignata, dum vult validius
 9 inflare sese, rupto iacuit corpore.

cutis, cutis, f. = skin

nīsus, -ūs, m. = exertion

32. Quid significant “**quondam**” (line 1)?
 a) a certain b) once c) how much d) what
33. Cūr rāna erat invidiōsa?
 a) he felt insecure. b) he wanted such great size
 c) he was afraid of the ox d) he was touched by the rawhide

34. The frog inflated his skin.
a) **verum** b) **falsum**
35. The best translation of “**an bove esset latior**” (line 4) is
a) what was wider than an ox.
b) why the ox was wider.
c) whether he was wider than the ox.
d) whether he is wider than the ox.

Tie-breakers: These will be scored only to break a tie. They are all based on Passage C. Please mark 96-100 on the scantron.

96. *Filiī nōn respondērunt.*
a) **verum** b) **falsum**
97. The word **sese** (line 9) refers to
a) the little frogs b) the ox c) the daddy frog d) the body
98. According to lines 6-7, **Rursus . . . nisu**, the frog
a) aimed to show his sons how to make themselves bigger.
b) intended to make his skin better by exertion.
c) wanted to stretch his skin by exerting pressure.
d) stretched his skin with greater exertion.
99. The words “**rupto . . . corpore**” (line 9) mean
a) after the body was broken
b) because his body was exploding
c) since the ox had broken his body
d) with his body breaking
100. A good title for this passage would be
a) Little frogs should not listen to their fathers.
b) Envy can be carried too far.
c) The bigger they are, the harder they fall.
d) Great things come in small packages.