

2010 TSJCL Reading Comprehension Test Level 1
For levels ½ A, ½ B, and I only

Directions: Read the passages carefully for comprehension. Answer the questions according to what is stated or implied in the passage. Mark the letter of the best answer on your scantron.

The Sword of Damocles

Fuit olim in Sicilia rex potens nomine Dionysius. In domiciliō magnō ac pulchrō habitābat, sed propter consilia inimicōrum periculum mortis cotidie timēbat. Unō diē eum civis quīdam nomine Damoclēs visitāvit. Ubi domiciliū pulchrum spectāvit, magnitudinem cubiculōrum atque hortōrum magnō cum studiō laudāvit. “O Dionysī, tū es homō fortunatus! Propter munificentiam tuam ab amicīs laudāberis; propter potestatem ab inimicīs timēberis. Numquam hominem tam fortunatum cognovī!”

Tum respondit: “O Damoclēs, falsa est opinio tua. Hāc nocte ad cenam meam venī. Vera dē meā fortunā sciēs.”

Circā decimam horam ad cenam pervēnit Damoclēs. Magna servōrum multitudo aderat. Illi manūs Damoclis aquā purā lavērunt. In capite coronam rosārum posuērunt. Accubuit Damoclēs, et cum eō Dionysius ipse et multī civēs nobiles quoque accubuērunt.

In mediā cenā rex Damoclem rogāvit: “Delectatne tē haec cena?”

Respondit Damoclēs: “Si centum annōs vivam, nihil melius ā mē vidēbitur.” “Tolle oculōs tuōs,” iussit rex. Statim Damoclēs timore superābatur. Super caput unō filō suspendēbātur gladius nudus. Tum magnō cum terrore, “Cur hunc periculum mihi parāvisti?” rogāvit.

Dionysius respondit: “Hoc est exemplum vitae meae. Dum multīs gaudiīs delector, multīs quoque periculīs terreor. Magna est regis potestas, sed magnae etiam sunt curae eius.”

1. What is the best translation of in Sicilia in line 1?

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| A. into Sicily | C. within Sicily |
| B. in Sicily | D. inside Sicily |

2. What case is consilia in line 2?

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| A. nominative | C. ablative |
| B. accusative | D. vocative |

3. According to the passage, Damoclēs was a(n)

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| A. citizen | C. slave |
| B. enemy | D. son |

4. Lines 4-5 state that

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| A. Dionysius is afraid of his enemies. | C. Dionysius is feared by others. |
| B. Damocles fears Dionysius. | D. Dionysius praises Damocles for his power. |

5. Venī in line 7 is

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| A. vocative singular | C. nominative plural |
| B. a passive infinitive | D. imperative |

6. The best translation of sciēs in line 8 is
 A. you know C. you knew
 B. you will know D. you have known
7. To whom does Illī in line 9 refer?
 A. Damocles C. servi
 B. Dionysius D. civēs
8. To what is Damocles referring when he says, “Nihil melius ā mē vidētur”? (line 13)
 A. the palace C. the servants
 B. the noble citizens D. the dinner
9. What does Damocles see when he looks up (lines 13-15)?
 A. an oculus C. a sword
 B. a crown D. a head
10. How does Dionysius feel about his life?
 A. He has great power and many worries. C. Nothing frightens him.
 B. His joy is perfect. D. He is very unhappy.

The End of the 1st Punic War (241 BCE)

Magnam victoriam in illō bellō Romanī in Carthaginiensēs prope Panormum reportavērunt. Hoc proelium ob eam rem insigne est, quod Romanī elephantōs, quōs antea semper timuerant, repulērunt. Tum urbem Lilybaeum, quam Pyrrhus olim frustrā oppugnaverat, classe per decem annōs obsidēbant.

Erant semper cum exercitū Romanō in omnibus bellīs haruspices quī pullōs deīs sacros custodiebant. Hī pullī si cibum non edebant, ira deōrum ostendebatur. Olim Publius Claudius, quī nuper ad classem imperator venerat, impetum in hostium navēs parābat. Monēbant eum haruspices, “Hodie pullī cibum non edunt.” “Bibent tamen,” respondit iratus imperator, manūque pullōs in aquā demisit. Tum classem oppugnavit. Deī autem hominis insolentis superbiam punivērunt. Ipse enim superatus est naviumque maximam partem amisit. Nec multō postea navēs longae centum et viginti, onerariae octingentae deletae sunt.

Tandem autem Romanī in magnō proeliō prope Aegatēs insulās Carthaginiensēs vicērunt. Tum denique pax inter duōs populōs confirmatur. Carthaginiensēs Siciliam Romanīs tradunt, captivōs sine pretiō reddunt, amplius tria milia talentum persolvunt.

11. The best translation of in Carthaginiensēs in line 1 is
 A. on Carthage C. against the Carthaginians
 B. in Carthage D. beyond the Carthaginians
12. Who won the great victory in line 1?
 A. Romans C. Panormans
 B. Carthaginians D. Lilybaeans

13. During the battle near Panorma,
 A. the Romans saw a sign of an elephant.
 B. the Romans drove back the elephants.
 C. the Romans were afraid to fight the elephants.
 D. the Romans used elephants to attack Lilybaeum.
14. The haruspices were in charge of
 A. elephants. C. all wars.
 B. sacred chickens. D. food supply.
15. Deīs in line 5 is best translated
 A. to the gods C. of the gods
 B. from the gods D. the gods
16. The best translation of ira deōrum ostendebatur in line 6 is
 A. The gods' anger was being shown.
 B. The gods showed anger.
 C. The gods would become angry.
 D. The angry gods would show themselves.
17. Publius Claudius was
 A. in charge of the chickens. C. a messenger of the gods.
 B. one of the haruspices. D. a general in charge of the fleet.
18. Publius Claudius was punished because
 A. he ate the gods' chickens. C. sacrificed the chickens on an altar.
 B. he drowned the chickens. D. he refused to take the chickens into the battle.
19. How was Publius Claudius punished?
 A. The Romans killed him. C. He lost most of his warships in the battle.
 B. He was killed in battle. D. He was exiled on the Aegates Islands.
20. The outcome of the 1st Punic War was that
 A. Carthage handed over its prisoners to the Romans in return for Sicily.
 B. The Romans handed over 3,000 prisoners to Carthage.
 C. Carthage gained the Aegates Islands.
 D. The Romans gained Sicily from Carthage.

The Golden Ram

Olim in terrā longinquā habitābant frater et soror, Phrixus et Helle. Hī liberī autem crudeliter agēbantur. Deī Olympī igitur fratrem sororemque servāre in animō habēbant. Mercurius in conciliō deōrum dixit, “Hōs liberōs ē patriā ad locum tutum transportabō, sed iter periculosum erit.”

Frater et soror in magnō agrō ambulabant ubi ovēs vidērunt. Is ariēs non erat saevus. Rē verā placidissimus erat, dum coronīs adornātur. Denique et frater et soror in tergum arietis ascendērunt. Subito ariēs volāre incēpit, et liberī territī in caelum celeriter portābantur.

Ariēs trans montēs, flumina, maria volāvit. Denique Helle fessa dē tergō arietis in mare angustum cecidit. Quam ob rem Phrixus maximē dolēbat. Post multās horās ariēs Phrixum tutum deposuit in Colchide, terrā cuius rex benignissimus erat.

Ibi vox Phrixō dixit, “Sacrificā hunc arietem in arā, sed servā vellus. Pone vellus in arbore sacrā. Sum Mercurius; draco mittētur quī noctū et interdiū arborem custodiet.” Postea Phrixus vellus ad regiam portāvit. Rex, ubi fabulam arietis aureī audivit, dixit, “Tū eris filius meus. Vellus aureum saepe quaerētur. Magnus honor ad regnum meum veniet.”

21. Cur Mercurius fratrem et sororem ad tutum locum transportāre vult?
- Crudeliter agebantur.
 - In terrā longinquā habitabant.
 - In conciliō deōrum dixit.
 - Iter periculosum erit.
22. Ubi Phrixus et Helle ariem vidit?
- in terrā longinquā
 - crudeliter
 - in animō
 - in magnō agrō
23. According to the passage, the ram that Phrixus and Helle saw was
- fierce
 - large
 - very calm
 - dangerous
24. The best translation of portabantur in line 6 is
- they carry
 - they were carrying
 - they were carried
 - they will carry
25. What happened to Helle?
- She made it to Colchis.
 - She fell into the sea.
 - She grieved over the death of Phrixus.
 - She was too terrified to leave home.
26. Sacrā in line 11 is
- imperative
 - vocative
 - ablative
 - passive infinitive
27. The voice that Phrixus heard (line 10) belonged to
- Helle
 - the ram
 - Mercurius
 - the king
28. Quid vellus custodiet?
- Mercurius
 - draco
 - Phrixus
 - noctū et interdiū

29. Aureum in line 12 describes

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| A. the king | C. the fleece |
| B. Phrixus | D. the dragon |

30. According to lines 12-13, the king

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| A. banishes Phrixus from his kingdom. | C. steals the golden fleece from Phrixus. |
| B. makes Phrixus his son. | D. promises to guard the fleece with a dragon. |

The Boy and the Dolphin

Historia vera, sed mira, ā C. Pliniō narratur. In Africā erat urbs Hippo; prope urbem erat magnus lacus. Flumen hunc lacum cum marī coniungebat. Hīc omnēs incolae navigāre, atque etiam natāre solebant. Puerī saepe in hōc lacū ludebant. Unus eōrum ceterōs superabat si longissimē ā terrā processerat.

Quondam unus puer audax procul ā litore natābat. Subito apparuit delphinus. Primum cum puerō lusit, mox eum in tergō suō portavit. Ita puer primum in altiorem lacum portatur, deinde terrae amicisque redditur. Posterō diē litus obsidetur, puerī autem omnēs sicut antea in lacū ludunt. Revenit delphinus ad tempus, iterum puerum petit. Fugit tamen puer cum ceterīs. Interea delphinus in undīs ludit, et puerōs iterum ad se vocāre videtur. Tandem puerī timorem deponunt. **Appropinquant et delphinum secum ludere permittunt.** In diēs crescit audacia, sed unum ex eīs semper carissimum delphinus habet. Neuter timet, neuter timetur, itaque puer diu ā delphinō per undās portatur.

Et iam multī quod dē rē mirā audiverant ē civitatibus diversīs veniebant. Multī ē nobilissimīs civibus, etiam magistratūs, delphinum vidēre cupiebant. Itaque mox locus quietem suam amisit. Propter magistratuum praeclarōrum adventum omnis pecunia publica in hospitium impendebatur.

Tandem civēs iratī delphinō mortem parāre constituunt. “Nam” inquit “nisi ita fecerimus, multī semper in urbem nostram convenient, nos quietem nullam habebimus.” Itaque miser delphinus occiditur. Non iam conveniunt hominēs neque impenditur pecunia publica.

31. Quis fabulam narrat?

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| A. in Africā | C. historia |
| B. Hippo | D. C. Plinius |

32. Where did the boys often play? (line 3)

- A. in the sun
- B. on the ground
- C. in a school
- D. in a lake

33. The best translation of processerat (line 4) is

- A. he was proceeding
- B. he proceeds
- C. he had proceeded
- D. he will proceed

34. ceterīs in line 8 is ablative of

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| A. manner | C. agent |
| B. means | D. accompaniment |

35. According to “puerōs iterum ad se vocāre videtur” (line 9),
 A. the dolphin seemed to call to the boys again.
 B. the boys were calling the dolphin again.
 C. the boys seemed to be calling to each other over and over.
 D. the dolphin was calling to another dolphin.
36. What grew day by day? (line 10)
 A. boldness
 B. dolphins
 C. boys
 D. waves
37. Why were many people coming to the lake? (line 13)
 A. They had heard about the diverse citizens.
 B. They had heard about the very noble citizens.
 C. They had heard about the amazing event.
 D. They had heard about the quiet place.
38. Praeclarorum (line 15) modifies
 A. magistratum
 B. adventum
 C. hospitium
 D. delphinum
39. On what was all the public money being spent? (line 15)
 A. hospitals
 B. boys
 C. hospitality
 D. dolphins
40. Why did the citizens want to kill the dolphin? (lines 16-17)
 A. The dolphins were unlucky
 B. The citizens would not get any rest.
 C. The dolphins would not get any rest.
 D. All their money ran out.

Tie Breakers: Please mark the answers to these questions on your answer sheet #96-100.

96. In the story *The Sword of Damocles* (passage 1), the word *caput* in line 14 is
 A. nominative C. ablative
 B. dative D. accusative
97. In the story *The End of the 1st Punic War* (passage 2), how many warships (total) did the Romans have?
 A. 812 C. 802
 B. 920 D. 912
98. In the story *The End of the 1st Punic War* (passage 2), *insolentis* (line 9) is
 A. ablative plural C. accusative plural
 B. genitive singular D. nominative singular

99. In the story *The Golden Ram* (passage 3), Colchis is a

- A. person
- B. dragon
- C. place
- D. ram

100. In the story *The Boy and the Dolphin* (passage 4), lines 10-11 tell us that

- A. the dolphin is dear to one boy.
- B. the dolphin does not care for the boys.
- C. the boys all care for the dolphin.
- D. one boy is very dear to the dolphin.