

2012 NJCL Greek Life & Literature Test

1. What 8th century BC author, born in Ascra in Boeotia, was the first writer to attempt a systematic account of Greek mythology?
A. Homer B. Hesiod C. Alcaeus D. Apollodorus
2. The lyric poet who wrote odes to the victors at the four great games in ancient Greece was
A. Pindar B. Heracleitus C. Anacreon D. Simonides
3. Which of the following was NOT one of the “Seven Sages”?
A. Bias B. Cleobulus C. Periander D. Theognis
4. Which writer of tragedies supposedly died when an eagle dropped a tortoise on his bald head?
A. Aeschylus B. Euripides C. Sophocles D. Pratinas
5. Cicero called this author “Father of History”.
A. Thucydides B. Lucian C. Herodotus D. Xenophon
6. The only extant example of a satyr play was Euripides’
A. *Bacchae* B. *Hippolytus* C. *Cyclops* D. *Trojan Women*
7. What was a small, roofed theater used for musical recitals?
A. tholos B. odeum C. koilon D. skene
8. How much is 100 drachmas worth?
A. 1 mina B. 8 obols C. 12 chalkoi D. 1 talent
9. What is a balaneion?
A. bath complex B. cooking utensil C. gym D. temple
10. Who designed the Propylaea on the Acropolis?
A. Callicrates B. Mnesicles C. Exekias D. Hippodamus
11. Who believed that everything was in a state of flux?
A. Pythagoras B. Empedocles C. Leucippus D. Heracleitus
12. The device used by Greeks to select jurors was called a
A. plinth B. kleroterion C. stylobate D. echinus
13. A music teacher was called
A. kithariste B. paidagoge C. paidotribe D. grammaticus
14. The three-day festival in honor of Zeus and Athena was
A. Diasia B. Cronia C. Apatouria D. Skirophoria
15. What was the stone at Delphi that marked the exact center of the earth?
A. plectrum B. didyma C. omphalos D. aulos
16. Which of these was NOT a common part of the diet of an ancient Greek?
A. olives B. tomatoes C. wheat D. fish
17. The last letter of the Greek alphabet is
A. alpha B. epsilon C. omega D. theta
18. The poet who wrote lyrics for the choruses of young Spartan women was
A. Lysander B. Tisander C. Tyrtaeus D. Alcman
19. What was the grove of 12 sacred olive trees in Athens called?
A. kykeon B. moria C. cabeira D. prytaneum
20. By what officer was the cavalry commanded?
A. harmost B. archon C. satrap D. hipparch
21. Where would one see children trained for the army at the age of seven?
A. Athens B. Mycenae C. Olympia D. Sparta
22. Why was a wreath of olive hung on the door of a Greek house?
A. to announce a newborn boy C. to announce a death in the family
B. to announce a wedding D. to summon the family for a meeting

23. The Greek warship powered by fifty oars was called the
 A. trireme B. kouros C. penteconter D. diekplous
24. What was the highest part of the Greek city called?
 A. necropolis B. areopagus C. neopolis D. acropolis
25. The light breakfast enjoyed by an Athenian citizen, often consisted of a piece of bread dipped in wine, was called
 A. akratisma B. hariston C. deipnon D. kurea
26. The comedies of Aristophanes comment on the society of which Greek city-state?
 A. Corinth B. Athens C. Sparta D. Syracuse
27. What part of a Greek city was most similar to a Roman forum?
 A. boule B. obul C. agora D. erechtheum
28. Which of these types of Athenian archontes was the lowest in terms of authority and power?
 A. thesmothetai B. basileus C. polemarchus D. eponymos
29. The winners of what games were crowned with celery leaves in honor of Zeus?
 A. Nemean B. Isthmian C. Olympian D. Pythian
30. The entry of the chorus in a comedy is described by the term
 A. prologos B. agon C. parabasis D. parodos
31. This author of *Panegyricus* was the considered to be the first great master of rhythmical prose.
 A. Isocrates B. Demosthenes C. Anacreon D. Plato
32. The most well-preserved work of Apollonius of Rhodes is
 A. *Canobus* B. *Hecale* C. *Argonautica* D. *Shield of Heracles*
33. In which play of Euripides does a step-mother lust after her step-son?
 A. *Bellerophon* B. *Hippolytus* C. *Alcestis* D. *Ion*
34. This founder of the first Greek school of philosophy believed that all things are modifications of a single eternal and imperishable substance – water.
 A. Thales B. Solon C. Chilon D. Pittacus
35. Catullus 51 is an imitation / translation of the work of
 A. Callimachus B. Sappho C. Alcaeus D. Ibycus
36. According to Anaximenes, the basis of all things was
 A. water B. fire C. earth D. air
37. What was the name given to the dancing floor on which the chorus typically performed?
 A. theatron B. skene C. orchestra D. proscaenium
38. What was the term for a wedding song sung by the bride's attendants as they escorted her to the groom's house?
 A. epithalamium B. encomium C. hymenaeus D. partheneia
39. The birth of a girl was announced by displaying what over the house-door?
 A. fillet of wool B. olive wreath C. cypress branch D. roses
40. The omission of the betrothal ceremony would make the marriage void and the children illegitimate. What was this ceremony called?
 A. engeysis B. kyrios C. oikos D. epikleros
41. The favorite season for the Greeks to get married was
 A. spring B. summer C. fall D. winter
42. At an ancient Greek funeral, the dead was saluted by his name
 A. 7 times B. 5 times C. 3 times D. once
43. Which of the following was NOT expected of a married woman?
 A. the general supervision of the house and its belongings
 B. setting the female slaves to their tasks, especially spinning and weaving
 C. the rearing and education of her children
 D. performing the annual ceremonial sacrifice at the family shrine

44. Lessons in gymnastics (physical training) were conducted by
 A. kitharistes B. paidotribes C. paidagogos D. grammatistes
45. The andron was used as the
 A. reception room B. kitchen C. bathroom D. bedroom
46. The embas and kothornos were types of
 A. shoes B. hats C. cloaks D. belts
47. When would an Athenian eat his deipnon?
 A. at lunch time B. early in the morning C. late afternoon D. right before bedtime
48. Which of the following was NOT usually served as hors d'oeuvres during a dinner party?
 A. oysters B. pheasant C. salt fish D. herbs
49. The Poseideon is the equivalent of which month on the modern day calendar?
 A. December B. March C. April D. July
50. The meter of epic poetry, some hymns, and bucolic poetry was
 A. the pentameter B. the iambic C. the hexameter D. Greater Asclepiad
51. Which of the following was NOT celebrated during the Hekatombaion?
 A. Kronia B. Eleusinia C. Panathenaia D. Synoikia
52. The hetaerae were
 A. hired mourners B. stage performers C. prostitutes D. lawyers
53. Which of the following was the preferred beverage of the ancient Greeks?
 A. beer B. milk C. wine diluted with water D. undiluted wine
54. The mitra, tainia, ampyx, and anadesme were all used to
 A. clean the bathroom B. fasten a woman's hair C. kill sacrificial victims D. ward off evil spirits
55. The pankration was a violent mixture of all of the following EXCEPT
 A. boxing B. wrestling C. strangling D. biting
56. A monumental gateway that formed the entrance to a city or sacred precinct was called
 A. propylon B. dipylon C. thureion D. hroptron
57. The facility used for chariot and horse racing was called
 A. palaistra B. stadion C. hippodromos D. gymnasium
58. This nephew and pupil of Aristotle traveled with Alexander the Great as his historian until he was executed in 327 BC for knowledge of an assassination plot.
 A. Asclepiades B. Callisthenes C. Hippocrates D. Lycophron
59. The topic of Nicander's *Theriaca* is
 A. the business of tourism in Thrace C. farming
 B. antidotes to various poisons D. bites of venomous animals
60. Theatrical masks were made of
 A. clay B. linen C. wool D. iron
61. An auletes was a musician who played the
 A. lyre B. cithara C. cymbal D. flute
62. The earliest known piece of Greek artillery was the
 A. oxybeles B. katapeltes C. gastraphetes D. lithobolos
63. The hippeis was an elite force of 300 hoplites who acted as the royal bodyguard for
 A. Sparta B. Thebes C. Athens D. Alexander the Great
64. The earliest of Attic orators was this teacher of Thucydides.
 A. Antiphon B. Lysias C. Lycurgus D. Aeschines
65. In the last scene of Euripides' *Medea*, Medea
 A. is reconciled with Jason C. kills the princess of Corinth
 B. is condemned to death by the king of Corinth D. leaves in a flying chariot
66. With the first word of the *Iliad*, Homer states that the main theme is
 A. the horrors of war C. the fickleness of the gods
 B. the destructive anger of Achilles D. the immortality of heroes

67. The most prolific extant Greek author on medicine was
 A. Aristotle B. Nearchus C. Galen D. Hippocrates
68. How did a klepsydra measure time?
 A. with sand B. with water C. by the sun D. with oil
69. Leucippus & Democritus both expounded theories on
 A. happiness C. a godless universe
 B. atoms as the base unit of matter D. the world ending in fire
70. Who wrote the *Distaff* and later died at the age of 19?
 A. Erinna B. Timarus C. Moschus D. Sappho
71. From the island of Cyprus, who established a school in the Stoa Poikile?
 A. Plato B. Antisthenes C. Pyrrhus D. Zeno
72. Who was the son of King Laius and Queen Jocasta?
 A. Antigone B. Polynices C. Oedipus D. Creon
73. Which of the following were involved in a painting contest?
 A. Timaret & Apelles B. Timaret & Parrhasius C. Zeuxis & Apelles D. Parrhasius & Zeuxis
74. *Periplos* was a work written about
 A. oratory B. philosophy C. music D. geography
75. Which of the following did Plato NOT write?
 A. *Crito* B. *Republic* C. *Timaeus* D. *Nicomachean Ethics*
76. Aristophanes' *The Frogs* features a literary contest between
 A. Callimachus & Sappho B. Homer & Hesiod C. Alcaeus & Sophocles D. Euripides & Aeschylus
77. From what island did the best marble come?
 A. Sicily B. Paros C. Melos D. Crete
78. Which work of Plato discusses the origin of language?
 A. *Symposium* B. *Cratylus* C. *Phaedo* D. *Philebus*
79. Which play's main idea is "what happens to a person who reaps the benefits of the sacrifices of another"?
 A. *Ion* B. *Medea* C. *Alcestis* D. *The Suppliants*
80. Agoranomi were
 A. beggars who would beg in the market C. pickpockets of the market
 B. men who controlled and supervised the market D. foreign merchants in the market
81. The student of Isocrates who specialized in judicial oration and founded a school of rhetoric was
 A. Isaeus B. Dinarchus C. Aeschines D. Lycurgus
82. This creator of bucolic poetry influenced Vergil's *Eclogues*.
 A. Hesiod B. Bion C. Theocritus D. Menander
83. What poem in the Epic Cycle tells the story of the Trojan Horse?
 A. *Cypria* B. *Aethiopis* C. *Nostoi* D. *Little Iliad*
84. The *Choephoroe* is part of the
 A. *Ajax* B. *Oresteia* C. *Alcmene* D. *Amphitryon*
85. One can read the building of the pyramids in the writings of
 A. Thucydides B. Plato C. Herodotus D. Xenophon
86. What citizen of Agrigentum was considered to be the last Greek philosopher to write in verse?
 A. Cleobolus B. Bias C. Empedocles D. Anacreon
87. In which work of Aristophanes would one read about two Athenians traveling to **Nephelokokkygia**?
 A. *The Clouds* B. *The Wasps* C. *The Peace* D. *The Birds*
88. Which of the following was NOT written by Euripides?
 A. *Persai* B. *Electra* C. *Bacchae* D. *Hecuba*
89. The lyric poet who composed the epitaphs for those who were killed at Marathon and Thermopylae was
 A. Simonides B. Stesichorus C. Aratus D. Antisthenes

90. Which of Menander's plays focuses on the relationship between Polemon, a Corinthian mercenary, and his common-law wife, Glykera?
 A. *Aspis* B. *Dyskolos* C. *Epitrepontes* D. *Perikeiromene*
91. The work of what Greek traveler and geographer of the 2nd century AD provides a crucial link between classical literature and modern archeology?
 A. Pausanias B. Strabo C. Hypsicles D. Eudoxus
92. In which of Euripides' tragedies does Hermione accuse her rival of practising oriental witchcraft to make her barren and condemn the Trojans as barbarians who practise incest and polygamy?
 A. *Andromache* B. *Alcestis* C. *Rhesus* D. *Iphigenia in Tauris*
93. In which of his speeches does Demosthenes effectively defend Ctesiphon and attack those who would have preferred to make peace with Macedon?
 A. *Philippics* B. *On the Peace* C. *On the Crown* D. *On Nature*
94. His *Milesian Tales* was a series of short stories similar to Petronius' *Satyricon*.
 A. Aristippus B. Aristides C. Aristarchus D. Asclepiades
95. Cassandra foretells the fall of Troy in the *Alexandra* of
 A. Menippus B. Lycophron C. Lucian D. Nicander
96. What disguise does Athena adopt in the *Odyssey* when she was helping Telemachus find his father?
 A. Nestor B. Demodocus C. Antinous D. Mentor
97. In which of Xenophon's works is the famous march of the 10,000 described?
 A. *Memorabilia* B. *Symposium* C. *Meteorologica* D. *Anabasis*
98. This nephew of the poet Simonides was considered by Aristotle to be a forerunner of tragedy.
 A. Bacchylides B. Ibycus C. Heracleitus D. Empedocles
99. Which of the following is NOT mentioned by Hesiod was one of the Ages of Man?
 A. gold B. silver C. stone D. heroes
100. His *Chronographiae* is the first scientific attempt to fix the dates of Greek history.
 A. Crates B. Eratosthenes C. Lucian D. Polybius