

Reading Comprehension Prose (III+)
Area F 2014

PASSAGE A

Septimo oppugnationis die maximo coorto vento ferventes	1
fusilli ex argilla glandes fundis et fervefacta iacula	2
in casas, quae more Gallico stramentis erant tectae, iacere	3
coeperunt. Hae celeriter ignem comprehenderunt et venti	4
magnitudine in omnem locum castrorum distulerunt.	5
Hostes maximo clamore sicuti parta iam atque explorata victoria	6
turres testudinesque agere et scalis vallum ascendere coeperunt.	7
At tanta militum virtus atque ea praesentia animi fuit, ut,	8
cum undique flamma torrerentur maximaque telorum	9
multitudine premerentur suaque omnia impedimenta atque	10
omnes fortunas conflagare intellegerent, non modo	11
demigrandi causa de vallo decederet nemo, sed paene ne	12
respiceret quidem quisquam, ac tum omnes acerrime	13
fortissimeque pugnarent.	14

1. Choose the best translation of the phrase in line 1, *Septimo oppugnationis die*.

- A) The siege lasted seven days B) On the seventh day of the siege
C) During the seven days of the siege C) He died in his seventh siege

2. What makes these *glandes* in line 2 particularly deadly?

- A) They are made of molten clay B) They have been coated in toxins
C) They have serrated edges D) They can pierce soldiers' helmets

3. In line 3, *casas* are:

- A) Civilian houses B) Defensive walls C) Quarters for troops D) Protective covers

4. Who or what does the Latin word *hae* in line 4 refer back to?

- A) Arrows B) Buildings C) Fire D) Women

5. Choose the best translation of the phrase in line 4, *ignem comprehenderunt*.

- A) They arrested the saboteur B) They understood the danger
C) They found the deserter D) They caught fire

6. What are *turres testudinesque* used for in line 7?

- A) To assault a town's walls B) To defend a town's walls
C) To build a town's walls D) To set a town's walls on fire

7. Which kind of construction is introduced by *ut* in line 8?

- A) Indirect Command B) Indirect Statement C) Result Clause D) Purpose Clause

8. How do the soldiers show their *virtus* in line 8?

- A) Charging the enemy
B) Abandoning their posts
C) Setting their barricades on fire
D) Staying at their posts

9. What is happening to the soldiers' equipment?

- A) They are being captured by the enemy
B) They are on fire
C) They are secured in the treasury
D) They are being scattered around the camp

10. What are the *fortunas* in line 11?

- A) Money
B) Standards
C) Religious figurines
D) Gambling equipment

11. According to this passage, who is attacking whom?

- A) Romans attacking Gauls
B) Belgians attacking Romans
C) Romans attacking Romans
D) Romans attacking Britons

12. Who is the subject of *pugnarent* on line 14?

- A) Belgians
B) Gauls
C) Roman soldiers
D) Women in the camp

PASSAGE B

Et mihi discendi et tibi docendi facultatem otium praebet. 1
Igitur perquam velim scire, esse phantasmata et habere 2
propriam figuram numenque aliquod putes an inania et vana 3
ex metu nostro imaginem accipere. Ego ut esse credam in 4
primis eo ducor, quod audio accidisse Curtio Rufo. Tenuis 5
adhuc et obscurus, obtinenti Africam comes haeserat. Inclinato 6
die spatiabatur in porticu; offertur ei mulieris figura humana 7
grandior pulchriorque. Perterrito Africam se futurorum 8
praenuntiam dixit: iturum enim Romam honoresque gesturum, 9
atque etiam cum summo imperio in eandem provinciam 10
reversurum, ibique moriturum. Facta sunt omnia. Praeterea 11
accedenti Carthaginem egredientique nave eadem figura in 12
litore occurrisse narratur. Ipse certe implicitus morbo futura 13
praeteritis, adversa secundis auguratus, spem salutis nullo 14
suorum, desperante proiecit.

13. Who or what is the subject of *praebet* in line 1?

- A) The author
B) *otium*
C) The reader
D) *facultatem*

14. What does the author wish to know (*velim scire*, line 2)?

- A) If the reader has ever been haunted
B) That his house is haunted and deserted
C) Whether ghosts are real or not
D) If he is afraid of ghosts and monsters

PASSAGE C

Per haec ac talia maxima aetatis parte transacta quinquagesimo 1
anno imperio cepit quantumvis mirabilis casu. Exclusus inter 2
ceteros ab insidiatoribus Gai, cum quasi secretum eo desiderante 3
turbam summovent, in diaetam, cui nomen est Hermaeum, 4
recesserat, neque multo post rumore caedis exterritus prorepsit 5
ad solarium proximum interque praetenta foribus vela se abdidit. 6
Latentem discurrens forte gregarius miles, animadversis pedibus, 7
studio sciscitandi quisnam esset, agnovit extractumque et prae 8
metu ad genua sibi accidentem imperatorem salutavit. Hinc ad 9
alios commilitones fluctantes nec quicquam adhuc quam 10
frementes perduxit. Ab his lecticae impositus et, quia sui 11
diffugerant, vicissim succollantibus in castra delatus est tristis 12
ac trepidus, miserante obvia turba quasi ad poenam raperetur 13
insons. 14

26. At what age did this man become emperor?

- A) 25 B) 5 C) 50 D) 15

27. What happened to his predecessor?

- A) Died of old age B) Assassinated C) Killed in battle D) Poisoned

28. What is the Hermaeum (line 4)?

- A) Cabin on ship B) Temple C) Public baths D) Room of a building

29. Choose the best translation for *vela* in line 6.

- A) Awnings B) Wings C) Curtains D) Sails

30. What was this man doing *ad solarium* (line 6)?

- A) Praying to Apollo B) Hiding C) Running away D) Eating dinner

31. Choose the best translation for the phrase in line 7, *gregarius miles*.

- A) A common soldier B) An old soldier C) A cowardly soldier D) An excellent soldier

32. What did the soldier notice?

- A) The open study B) The fortified hill C) The open racetrack D) The man's feet

33. Choose the best translation for the phrase in line 9, *accidentem imperatorem salutavit*.

- A) His commander greeted him accidentally B) Accidentally greeted him as emperor
C) He greeted him on the floor as emperor D) Falling down, greet the emperor

34. Who carried him on the litter (*lecticae*, line 11)?

- A) Soldiers B) His friends C) His family D) The crowd

35. Why was he *tristis ac trepidus* (lines 12-13)?

- A) He had recently lost his father B) He was being punished by the emperor
C) He thought he was going to be executed D) He had lost the war against Carthage

36. Which emperor is this passage about?

- A) Augustus B) Claudius C) Domitian D) Nero

TIE BREAKERS - PASSAGE D

Novas etiam commentus est litteras tres ac numero veterum 1
quasi maxime necessarias addidit; de quarum ratione cum 2
privatus adhuc volumen edidisset, mox princeps non difficulter 3
obtinuit ut in usu quoque promiscuo essent. Extat talis scriptura 4
in plerisque libris ac diurnis titulisque operum. 5

96. Which of the following statements best translates the first line?

- A) Wrote three letters to army veterans B) Wrote letters to three of his veterans
C) Added three new letters to the alphabet D) Commended his veterans with letters

97. Why had he published a book while still a private citizen?

- A) To convince people of the necessity of the letters
B) To detail what was most necessary of the letters
C) To detail what was most necessary for the state
D) To provide an account of the deeds of previous emperors

98. According to the passage, what happened when he became emperor?

- A) He was able to convince people of the need for the letters more easily
B) He tried to create many more letters for the alphabet
C) He was more easily able to engage in a scandalous behavior
D) He initiated a great many books and public works

99. Which *princeps* is this passage about?

- A) Julius Caesar B) Augustus C) Claudius D) Marcus Aurelius

100. Who is the author of this passage?

- A) Livy B) Cicero C) Tacitus D) Suetonius