

## 2014 TEXAS STATE JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE READING COMPREHENSION LEVEL II TEST

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

### Passage A (Questions 1-17)

*While Hercules and his wife, Deianira, are in flight, they meet the Centaur, Nessus.*

Dum iter faciunt, ad flūmen quoddam pervēnērunt in quō nūllus pōns erat. Prīmum nāvem invenīre cōnābantur ut flūmen trānsire possent. Tum Centaurus quīdam, nōmine Nessus, ad viātōrēs appropinquāvit ut auxilium eīs offerret. Herculēs uxōrem suam in tergum Nessī imposuit; tum ipse flūmen trānāvit. At Nessus paulum in aquam prōgressus ad rīpam subitō revertit ut Dēianīram auferret. Quod ubi Herculēs vīdit, ipse celeriter revertit, et nē Nessus cum uxōre ēius fugeret, arcum intendit et pectus Nessī sagittā trānsfixit.

Nessus moriēns, nē occāsio Herculem pūniendī dīmitterētur, ita locūtus est: "Tū, Dēianīra, verba morientis audī. Sī amōrem coniugis tuī cōservāre vīs, aliquid sanguinis hūius sūme et repōne; tum, sī umquam suspiciō in mentem tuam vēnerit, vestem coniugis hōc sanguine īnficiēs." Dēianīra, nihil malī suspiciōs, imperia fēcit.

Post breve tempus, Herculēs bellum contrā Eurytum, rēgem Oechaliae, suscepit. Rēgem ipsum cum filiīs interfēcit, et Iolēn ēius filiā captivā sēcum redūxit. Tum āram cōstituit ut Iovī sacrificium faceret. Dum tamen sacrificium parat, Licham comitem suum domum mīsit, quī vestem albam referret; mōs enim erat apud antīquōs, dum sacrificium faciunt, vestem albam gerere. Dēianīra, arbitrāta Herculem amōrem ergā Iolēn habēre, vestem quam Lichae dedit, sanguine Nessī īnfēcit.

Herculēs nūllum malum suspiciōs vestem quam Lichās tulerat celeriter induit. Statim dolōrem per omnia membra sēnsit. Vestem dētrahere cōnātus est ut dolōrem fugeret; illa tamen in corpore haesit neque eam ūllō modō abscindere potuit. Tum in montem Oetam sē contulit et in rogam<sup>1</sup>, quam summā celeritāte cōstituit, sē imposuit. Hoc ubi fēcit, pastor quīdam, ad misericordiam inductus, rogam incendit. Tum Herculēs, fūmō ac dēnsā nūbe abditus, ā Iove in Olympum abreptus est ut inter deōs habitāret.

<sup>1</sup> funeral pyre

1. Cūr Herculēs et Dēianīra nāvem invenīre cōnābantur?
  - a) dum iter faciunt
  - b) flūmen nūllum pontem habēbat
  - c) trānsīre nolēbant
  - d) primum
2. What did Nessus offer when he approached the travelers?
  - a) a meal
  - b) a raft
  - c) a spear
  - d) help
3. Where was Dēianīra as the group crossed the river?
  - a) she stayed on the riverbank
  - b) she swam alongside Hercules
  - c) she was on the back of the Centaur
  - d) she was in the front
4. Quid Nessus subitō fēcit?
  - a) paulum
  - b) ut Dēianīram auferret
  - c) quod Herculēs vīdit
  - d) ad rīpam revertit
5. What is the best translation of "Quod ubi Herculēs vīdit...?"
  - a) Because Hercules saw where she was
  - b) Where did Hercules see him
  - c) How Hercules could have seen this
  - d) When Hercules saw this
6. What did Hercules do in regards to Nessus?
  - a) He shot Nessus with his bow and arrow
  - b) He thanked him for carrying Deianira across the river
  - c) He wrestled him and pinned him to the ground
  - d) He placed a sign to show others that Nessus was a good Centaur
7. Cuī Nessus locutus est?
  - a) Dēianīrae
  - b) Herculī
  - c) quod moritūrus erat
  - d) verba
8. What does Nessus say will help Dēianīra to keep Hercules' love?
  - a) Nessus' hair
  - b) Nessus' blood
  - c) Nessus' clothing
  - d) her own strength
9. Suspīcāvitne aliquid malī Dēianīra ?
  - a) ita vērō
  - b) minimē
  - c) Nessus
  - d) hōc sanguine
10. Which of the following is NOT true about Eurytus?
  - a) he was the king of Oechealia
  - b) he was the father of Iole
  - c) he was killed by Hercules
  - d) his sons wanted to kill Hercules
11. Who was Lichas?
  - a) another Centaur
  - b) Hercules' friend
  - c) Hercules' master
  - d) Dēianīra's father

12. Why did Lichas bring Hercules a white garment?
- a) it was customary to wear white when performing a sacrifice
  - b) to help him purify his soul after he murdered Eurytus
  - c) it was customary to wear white when waging war
  - d) as a sign of welcome into his family
13. What did Deianira believe about Hercules?
- a) he had killed Lichas
  - b) he loved Iole
  - c) he was forced to make the sacrifice
  - d) he was wearing the white garment only to please her father
14. What happened when Hercules put the garment on?
- a) he gained superhuman strength
  - b) blood started to seep through it
  - c) he felt pain throughout his limbs
  - d) he immediately fell back in love with Deianira
15. Vestemne Herculēs abscindere potuit?
- a) in corpore
  - b) ut dolōrem fugeret
  - c) ita vērō
  - d) minimē
16. Which of the following is NOT true about Hercules' death?
- a) it took place on Mt. Oetas
  - b) a shepherd lit his funeral pyre
  - c) he committed suicide
  - d) he built his own funeral pyre
17. Quis Herculem abripuit?
- a) in Olympum
  - b) Iovis
  - c) inter deōs
  - d) dēnsā nūbe

## Passage B (Questions 18-28)

Dē Nerōne multa infāmia nārrābantur. Nerō erat prīnceps inūsītātae lūxuriae, adeō ut unguentis lavāret et rētibus aureis piscārētur. Nūllam vestem bis gessit. Semper mille carrīs vel amplius fēcit iter. Soleae mūlārum eius ex argentō factae sunt. Domum ā Palātiō ad Ēsquilīās exstrūxit, quam auream nōmināvit. In eius vēstibulō locāta est imāgō Nerōnis CXX pedēs alta, appellāta "Colossus." Erant lacūs, aedificia, agrī, silvae, cum multitūdine omnis generis animālium. In cēterīs partibus omnia aurō tēcta, ōrnāta gemmīs erant. Cum hanc domum dēdicāret, dixit: "Tandem quasi homō habitāre coepi."

Etiam saltāvit et cantāvit in scaenā. In Graeciam profectus est ut ibi cantāret. Cantante eō, excēdere theātrō nēmini licitum est. Multī, dēfessī audiendō laudandōque, clausis oppidōrum portīs, aut fūrtim dēsiluērunt dē mūrō aut, morte simulātā, fūnere ēlātī sunt. In Ītaliā reversus studium nōn remīsīt. Cōservandae vōcis grātiā neque militēs umquam appellāvit neque quicquam ēgit nisi prope stante phōnascō<sup>1</sup> qui monēret ut parceret sibi ac sūdārium<sup>2</sup> ad ōs applicāret.

Frātrem, uxōrem, sorōrem, mātrem interfēcit. Urbem Rōmam incendit ut spectāculum simile incendiō Troiae antīquae cerneret. Magnam senātūs partem interfēcisse dīcitur.

Tandem ā senātū hostis iūdicātus est. Cum quaererētur ad poenam, fūgit et sē interfēcit. In eō omnis Augustī familia cōnsūmpta est.

<sup>1</sup> singing teacher

<sup>2</sup> handkerchief

18. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a luxury in Nero's life?

- a) fishing with golden nets
- b) never wearing the same outfit twice
- c) feeding his mules out of silver bowls
- d) traveling with at least 1,000 carts

19. What was referred to as "Colossus?"

- a) his home
- b) the lake
- c) Nero himself
- d) a statue of Nero

20. What is the best translation of "Tandem quasi homō habitāre coepi?"

- a) At last I am beginning to live like a man.
- b) However, this is how man must live.
- c) I have finally taken the life of a man.
- d) Although, I shall continue to live like a man.

21. Quō Nerō profectus est?

- a) ita vērō
- b) in Graeciam
- c) ut cantāret
- d) sōlus

22. What policy was in place while Nero was singing?
- a) no one was allowed to sing along
  - b) no one was allowed to leave
  - c) the poor would never be allowed to hear him
  - d) no one could speak while he sang
23. What did some audience members do during Nero's performances?
- a) they would continually shout their praises
  - b) they would secretly jump down from the wall of the theater
  - c) they would stand at the gates begging to meet him
  - d) they would stay even if someone next to them died
24. What reason did Nero give for not doing anything unless his singing teacher was nearby?
- a) he wanted to protect his voice
  - b) he wanted his teacher to compliment him
  - c) he wanted everything to be done perfectly
  - d) he didn't trust anyone else
25. Whom did Nero NOT kill?
- a) his wife
  - b) himself
  - c) Augustus
  - d) his mother
26. What reason is given for Nero setting fire to Rome?
- a) so that he could see what Troy might have looked like when it burned
  - b) so that he could plan the best way to set fire to Troy
  - c) so that he could eliminate all of the Trojans from Rome
  - d) so that he could move power from Rome to Troy
27. Quis Nerōnem hostem iūdicāvit?
- a) Augustus
  - b) senātus
  - c) ad poenam
  - d) ita vēō
28. Why is Augustus mentioned in the last sentence?
- a) he is proud of Nero
  - b) Nero shamed Augustus' family
  - c) he despises Nero
  - d) Nero was the last of Augustus' family line

## Passage C (Questions 29-35 and 96-100)

Hannibal constituit exercitum per montēs Pyrēnaeōs et trāns Alpēs in Italiam dūcere. Multis cum militibus, iūmentis<sup>1</sup>, elephantis profectus, itinere per montēs Pyrēnaeōs factō, ad flūmen Rhodanum pervēnit. Quod flūmen necesse erat trānsire.

Itaque Hannibal, nāvibus undique collectis, ratibus celeriter factis, exercitum flūmen facile trāiēcit. Elephantōs autem trādūcere difficillimum fuit quod aquam maximē timēbant. Hannibal igitur suos iūssit ratem ūnam, ducentos pedēs longam, quinquāginta lātam, ā terrā in flūmen porrigere et ad rīpam dēligāre. Quō factō, humum in eam pontis in modum iniēcērunt. Ita haec ratis elephantis vidēbatur viae simillima.

Altera ratis, aequē lāta, centum pedēs longa, vinculis ad eam dēligāta est. Tum paucī elephantī, per stabilem ratem tamquam per viam actī, in minorem trānsgressī sunt. Statim vinculis resolutis, minor ratis ad alteram rīpam nāvibus pertrācta est. Eō modō omnēs elephantī trādūctī sunt.

Inde ad Alpēs prōcessit per quās iter difficillimum fuit. Gallī enim multōs impetūs in exercitum lentē prōgredientem faciēbant; elephantī per angustas<sup>2</sup> viās vix agēbantur; saepe ā viā militēs errābant, ducentium fraude dēceptī.

Nonō die ad summum iugum<sup>3</sup> perventum est. Ibi militēs ingentī nivis cāsū perterritī longius prōcēdere nolēbant. Quō factō, Hannibal militibus Italiam sub Alpihus iacentem ostendit. "Mox," inquit, "Italiam urbemque Romam ipsam in potestate habēbimus." Iam gaudēbant militēs quod, ut credēbant, ad finem labōrum pervēnerant.

Sed iter iam multō difficilium quam in ascensū fuit, nam omnis ferē via angusta et lubrica erat, atque magnam viae partem lapsū terrae delētam rēficere coactī sunt. Tandem Alpihus quintō decimō die superātis, triginta sex milibus hominum ingentique numerō equōrum elephantōrumque amissis, quintō mēse ā Carthāgine Novā, in Italiam perventum est.

<sup>1</sup> pack animals

<sup>2</sup> narrow

<sup>3</sup> ridge, peak

29. In what order did Hannibal cross the three geographical landmarks listed in this passage?

- a) Pyrenees Mountains, Alps Mountains, Rhone River
- b) Rhone River, Pyrenees Mountains, Alps Mountains
- c) Pyrenees Mountains, Rhone River, Alps Mountains
- d) Alps Mountains, Pyrenees Mountains, Rhone River

30. Why was it difficult to lead the elephants across the river?

- a) they were very large
- b) they were tired
- c) they were scared of the water
- d) they refused to obey their handlers

31. What size raft did Hannibal order to be built?  
a) 200 feet long x 50 feet wide                      b) 50 feet long x 50 feet wide  
c) 200 feet long x 200 feet wide                      d) 500 feet long x 20 feet wide
32. How were the two rafts joined together?  
a) ropes                      b) chains                      c) weapons                      d) woven straw
33. Which of the following statements is NOT an explanation given for why it was difficult to get through the Alps?  
a) Gauls were attacking them                      b) Romans had set up traps  
c) Soldiers were getting lost                      d) The way was narrow for elephants
34. When did Hannibal and his army reach the highest peak?  
a) on the 9<sup>th</sup> day                      b) on the 90<sup>th</sup> day  
c) 9 months later                      d) at 9:00 at night
35. Why were the soldiers not wanting to continue on their journey?  
a) they had suffered a great loss of life  
b) they were too hungry to go any farther  
c) they wanted to acclimate themselves to the higher altitude  
d) there was a great snowfall

Tie-Breakers: Make sure to mark your answers for 96-100. Continue to refer to Passage C.

96. What did Hannibal do to encourage his men?  
a) he showed them that Italy was just below where they were standing  
b) he let them have an extra day of rest before proceeding  
c) he told them that they were more powerful than the Romans  
d) he told them that could take whatever they wanted from the Romans
97. Quid credēbant militēs?  
a) gaudēbant                      b) minimē  
c) erat finis labōrum                      d) in Italiā
98. Which of the following words does NOT describe Hannibal's soldiers in the second to last paragraph?  
a) scared                      b) hopeful                      c) happy                      d) humble

99. Which of the following is NOT true about the descent from the Alps?
- a) it was more difficult than the ascent
  - b) the way was narrow and slippery
  - c) the soldiers had to repair part of the road to get through
  - d) a landslide destroyed many of the army's supplies
100. Which of the following statements is true based on information provided in the last paragraph?
- a) it took Hannibal and his soldiers fifty days to get through the Alps
  - b) Hannibal lost 36,000 of his men on the journey to Italy
  - c) it took Hannibal fifteen months to get from Carthage to Italy
  - d) the majority of Hannibal's elephants survived