

## 2015 TEXAS STATE JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE READING COMPREHENSION LEVEL I 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 the best answer on your answer sheet.**

The Heavens<sup>1</sup> (Part 1)—*Ampelius begins with the orientation of the heavens. He then begins a catalog of major star constellations.*

mundus est ūniversitās rērum, in quō omnia sunt et extrā quem nihil est.

Elementa mundī sunt quattuor: ignis, ex quō est caelum; aqua, ex quā ōceanus est; aēr, ex quō ventī et tempestātēs sunt; terra, quam propter fōrmam eius orbem terrārum appellāmus.

Caelī regiōnēs sunt quattuor: oriēns, occidēns, merīdiēs, septentriō. 5

Caelum dīviditur in circulōs quīnque: arcticum et antarcticum, quī ob nimiam vim frīgoris inhabitābilēs sunt; aequinoctiālem, cū subiacet regiō quae nōn incolitur ob nimiam vim ardōris; brūmālem et sōlstitiālem, sub quibus habitātur, sunt enim temperātissimī, per quōs oblīquus circulus vādīt cum duodecim sīgnīs in quibus sōl annum cōnficit cursum.

Sīgna sunt in caelō duodecim: 10

Ariēs, beneficiō Līberī, quod, cum is exercitum in Indiam per Lybiam dūceret per loca sicca et arēnōsa, cum aquae inopia esset et exercitus sitī adflīgerētur, ariēs eīs aquam dēmonstrāvit.

1. What lies beyond the confines of our universe?
 

a. other dimensions	b. nothing
c. an ivory gate	d. a gate of horns
2. *Ignis, Aqua, Aēr,* and *Terra* are...
 

a. cardinal directions personified	b. the four quadrants of the earth
c. the four elements	d. the four quadrants of the sky
3. In line 3, *Aēr* is \_\_\_\_\_.
 

a. masculine, nominative	b. feminine, nominative
c. neuter, accusative	d. masculine, accusative
4. Refer to line 5, East is to West as *merīdiēs* is to...
 

a. oriens	b. caelī regiōnēs
c. occidens	d. septentriō
5. With the exception of *septentrio*, these regions seem to be named for the behavior of...
 

a. the moon	b. certain constellations
c. the sun	d. comets

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Lucius Ampelius

6. The sky is also divided into \_\_\_\_ circles.
- a. 5  
c. 7
- b. 6  
d. 12
7. Of these “circles,” how many correspond to uninhabitable regions of the Earth?
- a. 1  
c. 3
- b. 2  
d. 4
8. In line 8, what is the antecedent of “quibus”?
- a. arcticum  
c. aequinoctiālem
- b. antarcticum  
d. brūmālem et sōlstitiālem
9. “oblīquus circulus” might be best translated...
- a. heaven  
c. pole
- b. orbit  
d. sky
10. How many “signs” are intersected in this “oblīquus circulus”?
- a. 12  
c. 7
- b. 20  
d. 11
11. Liber, a pilgrim in a time far from memory, was leading his people through...
- a. a mountain passage  
c. a desert
- b. a swamp  
d. a hostile nation
12. According to the story, Liber and company were saved by a(n)...
- a. ox  
c. lion
- b. bear  
d. ram
13. With the help of this animal, Liber was able to find...
- a. water  
c. food
- b. shelter  
d. companionship

The Heavens (Part 2)—*Ampelius continues his catalog of major constellations.*

Taurus, quī sēnsu hūmānum figurā taurī continēbat; is Iovis iussū Eurōpam Agēnoris filiam Crētā dēportāvit. Ob eam rem Iuppiter inter sīdera eum posuit.

Geminī, quōs aliī Castōrem et Pollūcem dīcunt.

Cancer, receptus inter sīdera beneficiō Iūnōnis, quod eius iussū, cum Herculēs missus esset ut hydram Lernaem, quam nōs excetram dīcimus, interficeret, Carcinus, quī 5 Herculis pedēs et crūra laniābat, incommodiōrem faciēbat eum quam ipsa excetra. Ob id factum carcinum Iūnō inter sīdera posuit.

Leō, quem Herculēs dīcitur interfēcisse, eiusque pellem postea prō tegumentō habuisse. Leōnem caelestī dignitāte Iūnō est honōrāta.

Virgō, quam nōs Iūstitiam dīcimus, fuit cum hominibus. Sed postquam hominēs 10 male facere coepērunt, Iuppiter eam inter sīgna posuit.

Lībra, quī prīmus dīcitur lībrae pondus hominibus invēnisse, ideōque in numerum stellārum receptus est, et Lībra est dictus.

14. The Taurus constellation commemorates a figure from a story about...
- a. Theseus
  - b. a mistress of Jupiter
  - c. a son of Jupiter
  - d. a Trojan prince
15. "Cretam" is a(n) \_\_\_\_.
- a. man
  - b. god
  - c. place
  - d. animal
16. Castor and Pollux are \_\_\_\_.
- a. twins
  - b. rivals
  - c. mortals
  - d. sisters
17. Who placed the crab in the heavens?
- a. Hercules
  - b. Jupiter
  - c. Athena
  - d. Juno
18. Using context clues, "excetram," in line 5 is best translated...
- a. lion
  - b. serpent
  - c. hero
  - d. crab
19. In line 6, "laniābat" refers to...
- a. what the crab was doing to Hercules
  - b. what the Hydra was doing to Hercules
  - c. what Hercules was doing to the Hydra
  - d. what Hercules was doing to Carcinus
20. According to line 6, Carcinus was \_\_\_\_.
- a. an annoyance
  - b. easily dispatched
  - c. more trouble than the Hydra
  - d. monstrous and huge
21. Which of the following would correctly paraphrase "quem...interfecisse" in line 8?
- a. qui Herculem interficit
  - b. quōrum Herculem interficiet
  - c. Herculem interficiens
  - d. ab Hercule interfectus
22. According to line 10, the maiden "Virgo" was associated with whom?
- a. Diana
  - b. Justice
  - c. Juno
  - d. Vesta
23. The maiden was placed in the stars...
- a. when men began to do evil
  - b. because her purity was threatened
  - c. when she was wrongfully killed
  - d. because the world needed her presence
24. Originally, where did this maiden live...
- a. on Mt. Olympus
  - b. in Elysium
  - c. with mortals
  - d. in Tartarus
25. Libra was a man, also known as Mochos, whom Ampelius here credits with...
- a. offending Astraea
  - b. killing the scorpion
  - c. establishing the first laws
  - d. inventing the scales

26. Given the scales' usual symbolic association, Libra's proximity to the constellation \_\_\_\_ is intriguing.
- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| a. Taurus | b. Virgo  |
| c. Leo    | d. Cancer |

The Heavens (Part 3)—*Ampelius rounds out his list of constellations and talks of dominant bodies*

Scorpius, quī ad pernīciem Orīōnis nātus est. Iuppiter et scorpiōnem et Orīōnem inter sīdera recēpit.

Sagittārius, quem Mūsae semper dīlēxērunt.

Capricornus, cui nōmen Pān est. Quō tempore Typhōn profectus est ad bellum, Pān sē in caprae figūram convertit. Diī immortalēs, igitur, postquam Typhōnem dignā poenā adfēcērunt, Pāna astrōrum memoriā decorāvērunt. 5

Aquārius, quī dīcitur esse Deucālīōn Thessālus, quī, cum maximō cataclysmō cum uxōre Pyrrhā sōlus ēvāsisset, pietātis causā inter sīdera locātus est.

Piscēs, quia bellō Gigantum Venus in piscem sē trānsfigūrāvit.

Praeter hae duodecim sīgna, potentissima sīdera in caelō sunt: Septentriōnēs duo, Maior et Minor, quī numquam merguntur, ideōque nāvium cursūs regunt; Boōtes īdem Arctūrus; Orīōn, quī magnitūdine suā dīmidiam caelī obtinet partem; Plēiadēs, quī Latīnē Vergiliae dīcuntur; Hyadēs quārum ortūs et occāsūs ā nauīs et ab agricolīs observantur; Canicula, cuius vīs praecipuē sōlstitiō est. Stellae potentissimae in caelō sunt septem: Saturnus, Sōl, Lūna, Mārs, Mercūrius, Iuppiter, Venus, quae ā Graecīs planētae, ā nōbīs erraticae dīcuntur, quia ad arbitrium suum vagantur et mōtū suō hominum fāta moderantur. 10 15

27. In lines 1-2, the reader learns that the scorpion was sent to...
- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| a. kill Orion    | b. punish mankind |
| c. kill Hercules | d. help Orion     |
28. The archer (usually associated with Chiron; sometimes with Crotus) here seems to have a link to...
- |             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| a. warfare  | b. heroes          |
| c. the arts | d. home and hearth |
29. In line 4, according to Ampelius, Capricorn is...
- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| a. a goat    | b. a ram        |
| c. a unicorn | d. the god, Pan |
30. Pan changed himself into goat form when Typhon...
- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| a. was defeated          | b. was buried       |
| c. came to sue for peace | d. came to make war |
31. Which of the following correctly paraphrases "postquam Typhon...adfecerunt" in lines 5-6?
- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Typhone...afficiente | b. cum Typhon...adfēcisset |
| c. Typhone...affectō    | d. ad Typhonem afficiendum |

32. In line 7, the reader learns that Aquarius is specifically associated with...
- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| a. the great flood | b. the “ocean” of the sky |
| c. the Nile river  | d. the Mediterranean      |
33. Who was Pyrrha?
- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Deucalion’s sister   | b. Deucalion’s wife   |
| c. Deucalion’s daughter | d. Deucalion’s mother |
34. Referring to line 9, if Venus changed into a fish, who is the other fish?
- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| a. Apollo | b. Diana  |
| c. Cupid  | d. Hermes |
35. In line 10, beyond the 12 “signs,” what we call the \_\_\_ is one of two, dominant, 7 star constellations.
- |            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| a. Pegasus | b. Leo              |
| c. Orion   | d. The “Big Dipper” |
36. Referring to the regions of the sky, “Septentrio” means what it does because the “Septentriones” contain...
- |                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| a. the North Star (Polaris). | b. the Dog Star |
| c. Milky Way                 | d. Venus        |
37. In line 11, we learn that the Septentriones were used to...
- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| a. tell the time   | b. direct ships     |
| c. tell the season | d. predict the tide |
38. The constellation that occupies nearly half the sky is...
- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. Ursa Major | b. Ursa Minor |
| c. Boōtes     | d. Orion      |
39. We can deduce that the most powerful heavenly bodies in the sky have given their names to...
- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. constellations             | b. mythological figures   |
| c. the Roman days of the week | d. the months of the year |
40. The “planets,” a Greek derivative, are called “erraticae” in Latin because they “vagantur” or...
- |                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| a. move quickly | b. wander  |
| c. sit still    | d. flicker |

Tie Breakers: Please drop to 96 -100 on your scantron.

Olim mus rusticus in cavo in margine silvae habitabat. Pauper erat sed contentus et liber. Amicum suum, murem urbanum, in cavum excepit. Cenam simplicem hospiti paravit: grana hordei et tritici. Mures in lectis stramenti iacuerunt. Sed hospes superbus cena simplici non contentus erat.

*Hordeum, i – n. barley*

*Triticum, i – n. wheat*

*Stramentum, i – n. straw*

96. Where was the cave in which the mouse lived?

- a) deep in the forest      b) on the edge of the forest      c) in a field      d) in a mountain

97. Who prepared dinner?

- a) the farmer's wife      b) the city mouse      c) the country mouse      d) his friend, the cat

98. "superbus" implies that the mouse is:

- a) proud      b) strong      c) sleepy      d) simple

99. The guest was unhappy because:

- a) he was lactose intolerant      b) he could only eat gluten free meals  
c) the straw on his dining couch made him itchy      d) He wanted a fancy feast

100. In line 2, the case of "hospiti" is:

- a) genitive singular      b) nominative plural      c) vocative plural      d) dative singular