

Area F 2016

Reading Comprehension Poetry (for levels III+)

Choose the best answer for each question based on the 5 selections.

PASSAGE A: A LAMENT

1 Quisquis Flaminiam teris, viator,
2 noli nobile praeterire marmor.
3 Urbis deliciae salesque Nili,
4 ars et gratia, lusus et voluptas,
5 Romani decus et dolor theatri
6 atque omnes Veneres Cupidinesque
7 hoc sunt condita, quo Paris, sepulchro.

1. To whom is this poem addressed?
(A) Flaminius (B) a nobleman (C) a traveler (D) the muse
2. To what does marmor (line 2) refer?
(A) an arch (B) a tomb (C) a statue (D) a chalice
3. Upon what does the form praeterire (line 2) depend?
(A) Quisquis (line 1) (B) teris (line 1) (C) noli (line 2) (D) nobile (line 2)
4. What or who is described as nobile (line 2)?
(A) Quisquis (line 1) (B) viator (line 1) (C) Flaminiam (line 1) (D) marmor (line 2)
5. What is the best translation of sales (line 3) in this context?
(A) leap (B) salt (C) sails (D) wit
6. What literary device does the poet use in line 5?
(A) chiasmus (B) litotes (C) synchysis (D) praeteritio
7. Quid **NON** in sepulchro Paridis est?
(A) viator (line 1) (B) decus (line 5) (C) dolor (line 5) (D) ars (line 4)

PASSAGE B: WAR ON GELLIUS

1 Saepe tibi studioso animo venante requirens
2 carmina uti possem mittere Battiadae,
3 qui te lenirem nobis, neu conarere
4 tela infesta mittere in usque caput,
5 hunc video mihi nunc frustra sumptum esse laborem,
6 Gelli, nec nostras hic valuisse preces.
7 contra nos tela ista tua evitabimus acta
8 at fixus nostris tu dabis supplicium.

8. What or who is described as venante (line 1)?
(A) animo (line 1) (B) carmina (line 2) (C) Battiadae (line 2) (D) te (line 3)
9. What is the best translation of qui (line 3) in this context?
(A) who (B) in order to (C) which (D) when
10. What literary device does the poet use in line 4?
(A) asyndeton (B) metonymy (C) prosopopoeia (D) hyperbaton
11. What does the poet concede or admit in line 5?
(A) His efforts did no good.
(B) He looks upon labor as useless.
(C) He would prefer not to struggle.
(D) He will now put forth effort.
12. What is the best translation of hic (line 6)?
(A) this (B) the latter (C) here (D) these
13. To what does tela (line 7) most likely refer?
(A) spears (B) poems (C) prayers (D) payments
14. What is the best translation of dabis supplicium (line 8)?
(A) you will pay the penalty (C) you will be hurt
(B) you will submit (D) you will give a supply
15. What word has most likely been left out (by ellipsis) in line 8?
(A) tuis (B) precibus (C) actis (D) telis

PASSAGE C: THE MANY OBSTACLES TO POETRY

1 Praeter cetera me Romaene poemata censes
2 scribere posse inter tot curas totque labores?
3 Hic sponsum vocat, hic auditum scripta, relictis
4 omnibus officiis; cubat hic in colle Quirini,
5 hic extremo in Aventino, visendus uterque;
6 intervalla vides humane commoda. "Verum
7 purae sunt plateae, nihil ut meditantibus obstat."
8 Festinat calidus mulis gerulisque redemptor,
9 torquet nunc lapidem, nunc ingens machina tignum,
10 tristia robustis luctantur funera plaustris,
11 hac rabiosa fugit canis, hac lutulenta ruit sus;
12 i nunc et versus tecum meditare canoros.

platea, -ae: broad way, street
redemptor, -oris: contractor, builder
tignum, -i: wooden beam

16. What is the best translation for Romae (line 1)?
(A) of Rome (B) to Rome (C) in Rome (D) for Rome
17. What literary device does the poet use in line 2?
(A) synchysis (B) anaphora (C) synecdoche (D) zeugma
18. What is the best translation of auditum (line 3)?
(A) to listen (B) having listened (C) listen (D) recitation
19. According to lines 3-4, what would the poet have to do in order to listen?
(A) call his sponsor (B) recline on a hill (C) abandon his duties (D) write something
20. Whom or what does visendus (line 5) modify?
(A) an understood ego (B) colle (C) uterque (line 5) (D) Aventino (line 5)
21. What is the best translation for Verum (line 6)?
(A) Poison (B) Spring (C) Very (D) But
22. What notion does the poet refute in lines 8-11?
(A) Too much activity keeps one from writing. (C) The poet is too sleepy to write.
(B) The city is peaceful. (D) The patron is impatient.
23. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a hindrance in lines 8-11?
(A) marching soldiers (B) construction (C) funeral procession (D) muddy pig
24. What is the best translation of meditare (line 12)?
(A) think about (B) to think about (C) thought about (D) considered

25. What word does canoros (line 12) modify?
 (A) canis (line 11) (B) sus (line 11) (C) te (line 12) (D) versus (line 12)

PASSAGE D: VULCAN RESPONDS TO HIS WIFE'S REQUEST

1 Dixerat et niveis hinc atque hinc diva lacertis
 2 cunctantem amplexu molli fovet. ille repente
 3 accepit solitam flammam, notusque medullas
 4 intravit calor et labefacta per ossa cucurrit,
 5 non secus atque olim tonitru cum rupta corusco
 6 ignea rima micans percurrit lumine nimbos;
 7 sensit laeta dolis et formae conscia coniunx.
 8 tum pater aeterno fatur devinctus amore:
 9 "quid causas petis ex alto? fiducia cessit
 10 quo tibi, diva, mei? similis si cura fuisset,
 11 tum quoque fas nobis Teucros armare fuisset;
 12 nec pater omnipotens Troiam nec fata vetabant
 13 stare decemque alios Priamum superesse per annos."

secus: otherwise, differently
 coruscum, -i: lightning

26. Who or what is described as cunctantem (line 2)?
 (A) Vulcan (B) Venus (C) arms (D) an embrace
27. What happens to Vulcan in lines 2-4 (ille...cucurrit)?
 (A) He becomes weak from the heat. (C) He is rejected by Venus.
 (B) His love reawakens. (D) He is warmed by his forge.
28. What is the best translation of cum (line 5)?
 (A) with (B) when (C) since (D) although
29. Who or what does rupta (line 5) modify?
 (A) tonitru (line 5) (B) corusco (line 5) (C) rima (line 6) (D) lumine (line 6)
30. What literary device does the poet use in line 7?
 (A) synchysis (B) metonymy (C) chiasmus (D) synecdoche
31. What literary device does the poet use in line 8?
 (A) synchysis (B) metonymy (C) chiasmus (D) synecdoche
32. How is Vulcan described in line 8?
 (A) eternal (B) exhausted (C) hesitating (D) bound

33. According to Vulcan in lines 9-10, who has seemingly lost faith?
 (A) Venus (B) Vulcan (C) the gods (D) everyone
34. Under what circumstances would Vulcan have made weapons for Trojans?
 (A) If Teucer had allowed it (C) If it had been lawful
 (B) If Venus had shown the same concern before (D) If Jupiter had allowed it
35. What is the subject of stare (line 13)?
 (A) pater (line 12) (B) Troiam (line 12) (C) Priamum (line 13) (D) annos (line 13)

DO NOT BUBBLE IN ANY ANSWERS FOR QUESTIONS 36 THROUGH 95.

Tie Breakers

Be sure to bubble your answers to the tie-breakers in the spots labeled 96-100.

Passage E: SPRING HAS SPRUNG.

1 nunc cuncta veris; frondibus annuis
 2 crinitur arbos, nunc volucrum novi
 3 questus inexpertumque carmen,
 4 quod tacita statuere bruma.
 5 nos parca tellus pervigil et focus
 6 culmenque multo lumine sordidum
 7 solantur exemptusque testa
 8 qua modo fervuerat Lyaeus.
 9 non mille balant lanigeri greges,
 10 nec vacca dulci mugit adultero,
 11 ungue siquando canenti
 12 mutus ager domino reclamant.

96. What do we learn about trees in lines 1-2 (nunc...arbos)?
 (A) They are becoming leafy again. (C) Their leaves no longer look real.
 (B) They've been decorated for a festival. (D) They are losing their leaves.
97. Which of these are the birds **NOT** said to do in lines 2-4?
 (A) complain (C) sing untried tunes
 (B) stay quiet in winter (D) nest in trees
98. What is one thing the poet does NOT mention as a comfort to him?
 (A) a darkened roof (C) a warmer climate
 (B) an unsleeping hearth (D) a patch of land

99. To whom or what does Lyaeus (line 8) refer?
(A) Ceres (B) a wine (C) a flower (D) rain showers
100. According to lines 9-12, when does the poet hear sounds in the fields?
(A) when animals call to their owner (C) when the sheep are sheared
(B) when the calves are born (D) never