

2016 NJCL READING COMPREHENSION TEST
LEVELS ½ & 1

The passages on which the following questions are based on on the BACK page of this test. Tear off that page for easier access between the passages and the questions.

PASSAGE ONE**The Roman Forum**

1. The first sentence tells about what aspect of the Roman Forum?
A. popularity B. location C. temperature D. size
2. What was in this area in earliest days?
A. tables B. swamps C. shops D. homes
3. What sort of Romans made the Forum more sumptuous (line 2)?
A. honest B. ambitious C. successful D. famous
4. Which is NOT true about the basilicas in the Forum (lines 2-3)?
A. Consuls built them. B. They were law courts.
C. They were banks. D. Bankers lived there.
5. Where did senators convene?
A. in the Temple of Concord B. in a hostile Senate House
C. in basilicas D. in small taverns
6. What is the BEST meaning of **habēbant** on line 4?
A. delivered B. had C. lived D. practiced
7. The word **alīī** (line 4) tells us that Cicero was a
A. senator B. praetor C. speaker D. banker
8. According to line 5, which of the following did NOT appear in the Roman Forum?
A. statues of people B. images of divinities
C. marble monuments D. lofty columns
9. What is the best meaning of **in** on line 6?
A. in B. on C. into D. against
10. According to line 6, why did Romans in full togas gather at the Forum?
A. to walk along the Via Sacra B. to view the statues and monuments
C. to campaign for office D. to vote in elections
11. What happened along the Via Sacra?
A. Toga-clad men paraded. B. Roman legions nominated consuls.
C. Consuls educated their legions. D. Consuls led their legions to war.
12. What case is **Viā Sacrā** (lines 6 & 7)?
A. ablative B. nominative C. genitive D. dative
13. Lines 7-8 tell us that legions entering the Forum were NOT
A. popular B. conquered C. on the Via Sacra D. in triumph

PASSAGE TWO**Aeneas Addresses His Followers**

14. In line 1, Aeneas reminds his followers
A. how much they have loved their fatherland.
B. how much their fatherland has done for them.
C. where their future home will be.
D. where they are determined to return.

15. Where are they now?
 A. In Phrygia B. just leaving Phrygia C. far from Phrygia D. approaching Phrygia
16. Why are they now where they are?
 A. They have driven foreigners from their country. B. Troy has attacked foreigners.
 C. They are exiles. D. all these choices
17. What does Aeneas say their destiny is (line 3)?
 A. to plot against the natives of their new land B. to found a new city
 C. to prepare troops against the natives D. to rule the world
18. What is the understood subject of line 4 (**Sagittis ... vincent**)?
 A. the Italian natives B. the Phrygians C. Aeneas' followers D. We
19. What is the best meaning of **Tandem superābimus** (lines 4-5)?
 A. Nevertheless, we will win! B. Only we will prove superior!
 C. Together we shall be victorious! D. We will come out on top in the end!
20. What is Aeneas promising his followers at the end of this passage?
 A. a new Troy B. future fame C. fame in Asia D. a love of fame
21. Which verb tense is NOT seen in this passage?
 A. present B. imperfect C. future D. pluperfect

PASSAGE THREE

A Roman boy goes to school.

22. The phrase **ante lūcem** (line 1) suggests that *lucernās* (line 1) must be
 A. lunch bags B. toys C. lanterns D. cloaks
23. What is the best meaning of **sēcum** (line 1)?
 A. often B. rarely C. with them D. secondarily
24. The child of what sort of father had a slave to carry his books (lines 1-2)?
 A. rich B. doting C. divine D. careful
25. Why did boys often have to recite their lessons (lines 2-3)?
 A. Boys had few books. B. That's the way teachers taught..
 C. Only a few boys had books. D. Repetition is the best way to learn.
26. What awakened the neighbors (line 3-4)?
 A. the early arrival of the boys to school B. the shouting
 C. Martial's warnings D. none of these answers
27. What did Martial want (line 4-5)?
 A. quiet B. the boys to go home C. to issue a warning D. to stay awake
28. What disadvantage did Quintus have (lines 6-7)?
 A. Quintus could not teach his son well. B. His father was a Roman commander.
 C. His father was poor. D. Quintus never went to Rome.
29. What is the best translation of **cui nūllī servī erant** (line 7)?
 A. who was not a slave B. to whom he was a slave
 C. who had no slaves D. whom no one had served
30. To whom does **suā** (line 8) refer?
 A. the slaves B. Quintus C. the father D. the sons of senators

PASSAGE FOUR

Ulysses and the Winds

31. When does this story take place?
 A. after the Trojan War B. during the Trojan War
 C. before the Trojan War D. after the Greeks returned to Greece
32. What was unusual about Aeolia?
 A. It was an island. B. The wind god lived there.
 C. It had no ruler. D. No winds ever blew there.

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PASSAGES FOR 2016 NJCL READING COMPREHENSION, LEVEL ½ & ONE

PASSAGE ONE

The Roman Forum

1 Forum Rōmānum erat inter Capitōlium et Palātium. Prīmō undique erant parvae tabernae.
2 Postea autem clārī cōsulēs imperātōresque basilicās et templa in Forō aedificābant. In basilicīs
3 erant argentāriae; hīc etiam praetōrēs iūs reddēbant. In Cūrīā Hostīliā et in Templō Concordiae
4 senātōrēs conveniēbant. In Rōstrīs Cicerō et aliī ōrātōrēs ad populum ōrātiōnēs habēbant.
5 Undique erant altae columnae et simulācra deōrum et statuae virōrum clārōrum.
6 Togātī Rōmānī in Forum saepe conveniēbant, ubi multa comitia habēbant et ē Viā Sacrā
7 cōsulēs legiōnēs Rōmānās ad bellum ēducēbant. In Viā Sacrā legiōnēs victōrēs in Forum
8 incēdēbant magnīs clāmōribus populī.

undique = on all sides	argentāria = bank	iūs = justice
reddō,-ere = to administer	Cūrīa = Senate House	Rōstra (pl) = speaker's platform
simulācra = image	comitia (neut. pl) = elections	incēdō,-ere = to march

PASSAGE TWO

Aeneas Addresses His Followers

1 “Patriam nostram ōlim amāvimus, ubi in patriā habitābāmus: hodiē procul ā Phrygiā errāmus. 2 Advenae
Trōiam expugnāvērunt et nōs ē patriā fūgāvērunt. Mox in terrā advenārum erimus ubi
3 Trōiam novam aedificābimus. In Italiam īmus, ubi incolae coniūrabunt et cōpiās parābunt contrā
4 nōs. Sagittīs nōs vulnerābunt, fortasse prīmō terrēbunt, nōn tamen vincent. Tandem
5 superābimus. Ōlim vōs inter incolās Asiae fāmam invēnistis: sī fāmam amātis, rūsus
6 inveniētis.”

advena = foreigner	fūgō-āre = to put to flight	fortasse = maybe
coniūrō-āre = to plot	cōpiae = troops	sagitta = arrow
		invenīre = to find

PASSAGE THREE

A Roman boy goes to school.

1 Ante lūcem puerī ad lūdum conveniēbant, itaque lucernās sēcum portābant. Sī pater dīves
2 erat, servus fidēlis puerum ad lūdum dūcēbat et librōs eius portābat. Puerī librōs habēbant
3 paucōs, itaque necesse erat omnia magnā vōce recitāre. Clāmōr autem saepe vīcīnōs
4 sollicitābat et eōs etiam ē somnō excitābat. Poēta Martiālis ita magistrum monet: “Dimitte
5 discipulōs tuōs, redde mihi quiētem. Vigilāre facile est, sed pervigilāre difficile.”
6 Pater Quīntī nōn dīves erat, sed filium suum bene ēducāvit, nam eum Rōmam dūxit, ubi puer
7 in lūdō cum filiīs senātōrum studēbat. Pater, cui nullī servī erant, ipse filium in lūdum semper
8 dūcēbat et manū suā librōs eius portābat.

vīcīnus = neighbor	reddō,-ere = to give back	pervigilāre = to lie awake all night
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Passages 4 and 5 are on the back of this page.

PASSAGE FOUR

Ulysses and the Winds

1 Uliēs, postquam Graeci Trōiam expugnāvērunt et ad Graeciam revertēbant, cum comitibus
2 ad īnsulam Aeoliam nāvīgāvit. Habitābat in īnsulā Aeolus rēx, cui deī imperium ventōrum
3 dederant. Diū cum rēge Uliēs et comitēs manēbant. Tandem, ubi discēdēbant, Aeolus
4 Zephyrum ēmīsit, reliquōs autem ventōs in sacco vinxit: saccum Uliē dedit. “Nisi saccum
5 aperiēs,” inquit “Zephyrus ad Ithacam īnsulam nāvem tuam dūcet.” Ubi iam ad patriam
6 veniēbant, et Uliēs, labōre fessus quod sōlus diū nāvem rēxerat, dormiēbat, multa clam
7 comitēs disserēbant. “Aurum et argentum,” clāmābant, “in sacco Uliēs portat: rēgis mūnera
8 inter comitēs nōn dīvīsīt: saccum aperiēmus.” Itaque saccum aperuērunt et reliquōs ventōs
9 ēmīsērunt. Statim nāvis ad īnsulam Aeoliam revertit. Frūstrā tum Uliēs et comitēs ā rēge
10 auxilium petivērunt. “Inimīcus est deōrum Uliēs,” inquit Aeolus; “deōrum inimīcum nōn
11 adiuvābimus.” Itaque magnō dolōre ad nāvem revertērunt. Ventus autem nōn iam ad patriam
12 eōs dūcēbat.

expugnāre = to overcome
vincīre, vinxī = to chain, tie up
mūnus, mūneris, N. = gift
adiuvāre = to help

comes, comitēs = companion
aperīre = to open
statim = immediately
olōr = pain, grief

disserere = to discuss

PASSAGE FIVE

The Monster Cacus

1 Erat ōlim in Italiā mōnstrum horrendum Cācus: oculōs saevōs habēbat, flammās spīrābat. In
2 speluncā habitābat. Per agrōs saepe errābat et fīnitimōs crūdēliter vexābat. Incolae diū
3 timēbant Cācum, nēmō tamen necāvit, nēmō etiam oppugnāverat. Tandem Herculēs ad
4 Italiam commeāvit cum multīs taurīs et Cācum multīs tēlīs oppugnāvit et necāvit.

fīnitimī = neighbors

tēlum = weapon