2016 NJCL READING COMPREHENSION TEST
ADVANCED PROSE

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 (questions 1-18)
A Letter form Pliny the Younger to the Emperor Trajan
1. What was Pliny doing (line 1)?
    A. burning much of Nicomedia   B. actively performing his role as provincial governor
    C. dividing his province into sections   D. establishing residence in Nicomedia
2. What is the best meaning of **absūmpsit** (line 2)?
    A. destroyed   B. settled on   C. stole   D. spared
3. What does the word **quamquam** add to our understanding of the fire (line 2)?
    A. Normally this would not have happened   B. A road ran through the buildings.
    C. Residents had a passageway between the buildings. D. None of these answers.
4. What is the best reading of **lātius** (line 3)?
    A. widely   B. sideways   C. wide   D. more widely
5. What is the best meaning of **sparsum** (line 3)?
    A. infrequent   B. planted   C. limited   D. spread
6. Which of the following did NOT add to the severity of the situation?
    A. strong winds   B. crowds blocking rescuers
    C. gawkers   D. unwillingness to help
7. To what does **tantī malī** (line 4) refer?
    A. **incendium**   B. **viā interiacente**   C. **prīvātōrum domōs**   D. **pūblica opera**
8. Which is NOT true of line 4?
    A. Nobody did anything.   B. The guilty party was among the crowd.
    C. Everyone just stared.   D. None of these answers.
9. Which of the following rhetorical devices is NOT used in Pliny's words of **nūllus…, nūlla…, nūllum** (lines 4-5)?
    A. oxymoron   B. tricolon   C. litotes   D. asyndeton
10. The words used in lines 4-5 suggest what emotion?
    A. love   B. helplessness   C. joy   D. fulfillment
11. What is implied by the phrase **ad incendia compescenda** (line 5)?
    A. result   B. anticipation   C. purpose   D. opposition
12. To what does **haec** (line 5) refer?
    A. fires   B. needed equipment   C. the province   D. burned public works
13. To whom does **tū** (line 6) refer?
    A. Nicomedia   B. the province   C. the onlookers   D. Trajan
14. What is the best meaning of **an** (line 6)?
    A. or   B. but   C. and   D. whether
15. What word is missing by ellipsis from line 6?
    A. **sit**   B. **esse**   C. **futūrum esse**   D. **esset**
16. What is Pliny asking Trajan to provide (lines 6-7)?
    A. workmen to rebuild Nicomedia   B. a special corps to fight fires
    C. 150 college professors   D. 150 repairmen
17. What does Pliny NOT promise for this group (line 7)?
    A. They will give up their rights.   B. They will not abuse their appointment.
    C. Only persons sufficiently skilled will be used. D. Pliny will oversee this himself.

18. What does Pliny anticipate (lines 7-8)?
      A. difficulty in finding a few men   B. ease in controlling such few men
      C. difficulty in controlling such few men   D. ease in finding such few men

PASSAGE TWO
The Site of Alesia
19. The town of Alesia was
      A. famous   B. elevated   C. hilly   D. small
20. What is the general meaning of **ut nisi obsidiōne expugnārī nōn posse vidērētur** (1-2)?
      A. It wants to be able to come out unscathed.   B. Besieging it seems impossible.
      C. There is no way to attack it.   D. It can probably only be taken by siege.
21. What case is **collis** (2)?
      A. genitive   B. nominative   C. accusative   D. ablative
22. What rhetorical device does Caesar use (2) to extend his image of the unapproachability of Alesia?
      A. antithesis   B. oxymoron   C. chiasmus   D. anastrophe
23. How big was the flat area in front of Alesia (2-3)?
      A. 300-yards   B. 3000 yards   C. 1003 paces   D. 3-miles
24. What phrase stands in contrast to **ante id oppidum** (2)?
      A. **interiectō spatiō** (4)   B. **parī fastīgiō** (4)
      C. **reliquīs ex omnibus partibus** (3)   D. **collēs cingēbant** (3-4)
25. Which is NOT true about where the Gallic troops stationed themselves (4-6)?
      A. facing east   B. closest to the Roman army
      C. at the foot of the wall   D. close to a constructed trench and a wall
26. What is the case of **quae** (6)?
      A. Nominative   B. Genitive   C. Accusative   D. Vocative
27. Which side constructed this **mūnītiōnem**?
      A. Romans   B. Gauls
28. Which of the following was NOT a precaution which the Romans took in besieging Alesia?
      A. They sent Gallic-speaking spies into Alesia.
      B. They established legionary camps in strategic positions.
      C. They built strongholds about ½ mile apart around Alesia.
      D. Outposts were manned during the daytime.
29. What is the best translation of **qua** (8)?
      A. what   B. some   C. wherever   D. anywhere
30. To what does **haec eadem** (8) refer?
      A. **ēruptiō**   B. **castra**   C. **stātiōnēs**   D. **castella**
31. Which preposition is best used to translate **excubitōribus ac fīrmīs praesidiīs** (9)?
      A. for   B. to   C. during   D. by
32. In the entirety of this passage Caesar shows best that he
      A. respects his opponents.   B. is concerned about Gallic reinforcements.
      C. is aware of all military possibilities.   D. thanks he can win this battle.

PASSAGE THREE
Hannibal has second thoughts
33. What did Hannibal see (line 1)?
      A. His defeat of the Romans was a bad move.
      B. The Romans were determined to defeat him.
      C. The Romans had acted without proper planning.
      D. He had moved the Romans to retreat.
34. Why did Hannibal return to camp?
      A. He realized the Romans' actions were deceitful.
      B. He thought the Romans would not follow him.
      C. He knew his own treacherous strategy was sound.
      D. His own treacherous plot had been uncovered.
35. What was the probem in camp (line 2)?
      A. a lack of grain   B. He couldn't stay there.   C. rising discontent   D. It was flooded.
36. Why were Hannibal's soldiers suggesting new ideas (3)?
      A. They were tired of the flooded ground.   B. Hannibal's ideas were not working.
      C. They represented a great number of different tribes. D. none of these reasons
37. How did the problem become more serious (4)?
      A. The noise of the flood increased.   B. An outspoken soldier took the stage.
      C. The soldiers' mutterings became open yelling.   D. They rose up against Hannibal himself.
38. The word **cum** can NOT mean which of the following on line 4?
      A. when   B. since   C. with   D. although
39. What was this hullaballoo about (5)?
      A. They wanted their pay and grain.   B. They owed their wages to others.
      C. They were looking for supplies.   D. Caesar threatened to cut off their supply lines.
40. What does **exposcentium** (5) modify?
      A. **stipendium**   B. **debitum**
      C. **querentium**   D. the soldiers (understood)
41. What rhetorical device is seen in the words **annōnam prīmō postrēmō famem** (5)?
      A. praeteriteo   B. litotes   C. chiasmus   D. polyptoton
42. What was the problem with Hannibal's Spanish mercenaries (6)?
      A. They were hungry.   B. They wanted to bail out on Hannibal.
      C. They wanted Hannibal to move them.   D. They were not living up to their reputation.
43. Line 6 contains all the following EXCEPT a(n):
      A. genitive of origin   B. **cum** clause   C. indirect statement   D. superlative adverb
44. What is the best meaning of **agitāsse** (7)?
      A. to stir up   B. to be driven   C. to have set in motion   D. to have considered
45. What is the normal prose form of **agitāsse**?
      A. **agitāre**   B. **agitātum esse**   C. **agitāvisse**   D. **actum esse**
46. Which of the following was NOT part of Hannibal's musings (7-8)?
      A. to go to Gaul   B. to rescue his cavalry
      C. to dump all his infantry   D. to steal what he could of the remaining supplies
47. Which of the following does NOT appear in lines 7-8?
      A. purpose clause   B. ablative absolute   C. reflexive pronoun   D. result clause
48. Which of the following words in this passage is NOT an adverb?
      A. **incōnsultē** (1)   B. **ut** (7)   C. **interdum** (7)   D. **nēquīquam** (2)
49. What did Hannibal then decide to do (8-9)?
      A. go to Apulia   B. abandon his infantry   C. go to Gaul   D. pay his men
50. Why did he make that decision (8-9)?
      A. to surprise the Romans   B. to find food supplies
      C. to find warmth   D. to appease the Gauls

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PASSAGE ONE

A Letter from Pliny the Younger to the Emperor Trajan

1 Cum dīversam partem prōvinciae circumīrem, Nīcomēdiae vāstissimum incendium multās
2 prīvātōrum domōs et duo pūblica opera, quamquam viā interiacente, … absūmpsit. Est autem
3 lātius sparsum, prīmum violentiā ventī, deinde inertiā hominum quōs satis cōnstat
4 ōtiōsōs et immōbilēs tantī malī spectātōrēs perstitisse; et aliōquī nūllus usquam in pūblicō sīphō,
5 nūlla hama, nūllum dēnique īnstrūmentum ad incendia compescenda. Et haec quidem, ut iam
6 praecēpī, parābuntur; tū, domine, dispice an īnstituendum putēs collēgium fabrōrum dumtaxat
7 hominum CL. Ego attendam, nē quis nisi faber recipiātur nēve iūre concessō in aliud ūtantur; nec
8 erit difficile custōdīre tam paucōs.   Pliny Epistulae X.33

| cōnstat = it is agreed | aliōquī = moreover | sīphō (nom.) = fire engine |
| hama = bucket | compescere = to check, stop | dumtaxat = only |

PASSAGE TWO

The Site of Alesia

1 Ipsum erat oppidum Alesia in colle summō admodum ēditō locō, ut nisi obsidiōne expugnārī nōn
2 posse vidērētur; cuius collis rādīcēs duo duābus ex partibus flūmina subluēbant. Ante id oppidum
3 plānitiēs circiter mīlia passuum tria in longitūdinem patēbat: reliquīs ex omnibus partibus collēs
4 mediōcrī interiectō spatiō, parī altitūdinis fastīgiō oppidum cingēbant. Sub mūrō, quae pars collis
5 ad orientem sōlem spectābat, hunc omnem locum cōpiae Gallōrum complēverant fossamque et
6 māceriam sex in altitūdinem pedum praedūxerant. Eius mūnītiōnis quae ab Rōmānīs īnstituēbātur
7 circuitus XI mīlia passuum tenēbat. Castra opportūnīs locīs erant posita ibique castella vīgintī tria
8 facta, quibus in castellīs interdiū stātiōnēs pōnēbantur, nē qua subitō ēruptiō fieret: haec eadem
9 noctū excubitōribus ac fīrmīs praesidiīs tenēbantur.   Caesar, Dē Bellō Gallicō VII.69

admodum = quite, very	ēdō, -ere, ēdidī, ēditum = to elevate	rādīx, rādīcis, F = base
plānitiēs = plain	fastigium = summit	māceria = wall
excubitor = sentinel		

PASSAGE THREE

Hannibal has second thoughts

1 Hannibal postquam mōtōs magis incōnsultē Rōmānōs quam ad ultimum temerē ēvectōs vīdit,
2 nēquīquam dētēctā fraude in castra rediit. Ibi plūrēs diēs propter inopiam frūmentī manēre nequit,
3 novaque cōnsilia in diēs nōn apud mīlitēs sōlum mixtōs ex colluviōne omnium gentium sed etiam
4 apud ducem ipsum oriēbantur. Nam cum initiō fremitus, deinde aperta vōciferātiō fuisset
5 exposcentium stipendium dēbitum querentiumque annōnam prīmō, postrēmō famem, et
6 mercēnāriōs mīlitēs, maximē Hispānī generis, dē trānsitiōne cēpisse cōnsilium fāma esset, ipse
7 etiam interdum Hannibal dē fugā in Galliam dīcitur agitāsse ita ut relictō peditātū omnī cum
8 equitibus sē prōriperet. …Movēre inde statuit in calidiōra atque eō mātūriōra messibus Apuliae
9 loca….   Livy, Ab Urbe Conditā XXII.43.1-4

| temerē = rashly | nequeō, nequīre = to be unable | fremitus,-ūs = murmuring |
| stipendium = pay, wages | annōna = provisions, supplies | |