

2017 NJCL READING COMPREHENSION TEST ADVANCED PROSE

The passages on which the following questions are based 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)

Cicero Writes to His Wife and Daughter

1. What has Cicero gotten rid of (lines 1-2)?

A. his wife	B. feelings of worry and sadness
C. his daughter	D. his job
2. What makes Cicero more miserable than anything (line 1)?

A. being sick	B. traveling	C. Tullia	D. making Terentia worry
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3. How does Cicero describe Tullia (line 2)?

A. dearer than life itself	B. the most annoying
C. the most worrisome	D. the most sad
4. When does Cicero discover the cause of these feelings (lines 2-3)?

A. daily	B. the day before he left	C. the day after he left	D. when he got on the boat
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5. What happened to relieve him (line 3)?

A. he threw up	B. he slept	C. he left home	D. he meditated
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6. How long did it take for him to feel better (line 3)?

A. three days	B. one week
C. one good night's sleep	D. he felt better immediately
7. To whom does he attribute his cure (lines 3-4)?

A. Tullia	B. the Gods	C. Terentia	D. A good night's sleep
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8. What does he ask of the addressees?

A. to eat some pie	B. to sleep in Asclepius' temple
C. to sacrifice to the proper deity	D. to watch the sun
9. What is Cicero hoping for in line 5?

A. a good ship	B. to get on the ship	C. to be a sailor	D. to get off the ship
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10. When is he writing this letter (line 5)?

A. as he gets on the ship	B. as he gets off the ship	C. at his hotel	D. in a carriage
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11. What will Cicero do after he finishes this letter (lines 6-8)?

A. sleep	B. write letters to friends	C. eat dinner	D. come home
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12. What tense is **cognossem** (line 7)?

A. present	B. imperfect	C. perfect	D. pluperfect
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13. What word is missing in the phrase **cum...defensuros** (lines 8-9)?

A. esse	B. est	C. sunt	D. sint
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14. What does Cicero say should be Terentia's primary concern?

A. the family	B. food	C. her health	D. him
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15. In lines 9-10, what use of the ablative is found from **si...militibus**?

A. accompaniment	B. separation	C. agent	D. degree of difference
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16. What is Cicero's concern at the beginning of line 11?

A. that a magistrate will evict them	B. that the price of grain will go up
C. that the family will not be able to eat	D. that the fields will be barren for harvest time
17. Who also greets the addressees (line 11)?

A. Cicero Junior	B. Quintus Cicero	C. Only the writer	D. No one
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18. What is the date that this letter is written (line 12)?
 A. June 13 B. June 8 C. June 7 D. June 15

PASSAGE TWO

The Death of Agrippina the Younger

19. Why did everyone hurry down to the beach (line 1)?
 A. to go swimming B. to catch fish
 C. because it was hot D. because they had heard about Agrippina
20. What did the people do (lines 1-2)?
 A. climbed piers and boats B. waded into the water C. ate lunch D. both A and B
21. What rhetorical device is seen in line 3?
 A. synchysis B. chiasmus C. synecdoche D. zeugma
22. On the beach, the people were... (lines 2-4)?
 A. praying B. asking questions C. responding uncertainly D. all of the above
23. What did the people want to know about Agrippina (line 4)?
 A. where she lived B. that she was safe C. if she was happy D. what she was eating
24. Why did the people leave (line 5)?
 A. It was late. B. Someone dropped a torch.
 C. Armed people threatened them. D. she noticed them.
25. What did Anicetus do to the slaves?
 A. greeted them B. dragged them away
 C. made them help him D. killed them
26. What grammatical construction is present in lines 6-7 (**ceteris...exterritis**)?
 A. ablative absolute B. indirect statement C. result clause D. cum causal
27. Agrippina's emotional state can best be described as (lines 7-8)...
 A. happy B. melancholy C. excited D. anxious
28. What did Agrippina see (line 10)?
 A. twelve eagles
 B. her son
 C. three armed men
 D. a long-awaited messenger
29. What is the best translation of **ad visendum** (line 10)?
 A. to be seen B. for the purpose of seeing
 C. for the sake of seeing D. by seeing
30. What does Agrippina say about her son (line 11)?
 A. She doesn't believe he would hurt her. B. She is afraid of him.
 C. She knows he would send people to kill her. D. She loves him.
31. How did the assassins initially wound Agrippina (line 12)?
 A. stabbed her B. pulled her hair out C. clubbed her D. slapped her
32. What is the final request that Agrippina makes (line 13)?
 A. to kill her B. to smite her womb C. to strike her head D. to let her go

PASSAGE THREE

Seneca Advises Lucilius On Self-Care

33. According to Seneca, what should Lucilius do? (lines 1-2)?
A. Avenge himself. B. Collect and save his time.
C. Throw away his time. D. Nothing.
34. What had been happening to Lucilius' time (line 1)?
A. It had been taken from him somehow. B. He just wasted it.
C. He was giving it to unworthy causes. D. He was helping too many people.
35. Whom is Lucilius supposed to persuade (line 2)?
A. Seneca B. His brother C. Those stealing his time D. Himself
36. What does Seneca say happens to time (lines 2-3)?
A. It is gently removed. B. It is torn from us. C. It disappears. D. All of the above.
37. What causes the most disgraceful loss, according to Seneca (line 3)?
A. Diligence B. Immorality C. Carelessness D. Hatred
38. The greatest part of life, according to Seneca, passes while we are doing... (line 4)?
A. bad things. B. good things. C. useless things. D. nothing.
39. According to Seneca, the whole of life passes while we are doing... (line 4)?
A. nothing. B. things which do not serve a purpose.
C. what we are supposed to be doing. D. evil things.
40. Line 5 contains three examples of...?
A. relative clauses B. result clauses
C. purpose clauses D. relative clauses of characteristic
41. What would the person in line 5 understand?
A. that days delay living B. that he is dying daily C. that he delays often D. that his days are dying
42. What does Seneca say we are mistaken in doing (line 6)?
A. Looking forward to each day B. Looking forward to death
C. Looking forward to dinner D. Looking backward to what we wish we had done
43. What is death holding (lines 6-7)?
A. the years that lie behind us B. our own age
C. our fate D. his own hands
44. What does Seneca want Lucilius to do in line 7?
A. to make a new daily routine B. to write him daily
C. what he has said he is doing D. to eat every day
45. What grammatical construction is present in line 7 (**Fac...complectere**)?
A. indirect command B. indirect statement C. indirect question D. result clause
46. What happens while we are procrastinating (line 8)?
A. life waits for us B. we waste our life
C. life runs by D. life helps us along
47. Why can time be taken from us so easily (line 9)?
A. because people are foolish B. because it is only one thing
C. because it is fleeting and slippery D. because nature gave it to us
48. What is the case of **mortalium** (line 10)?
A. nominative B. accusative C. vocative D. genitive
49. What could **cum** NOT mean in line 11?
A. since B. although C. when D. both A and C
50. What is the one thing that even the most grateful person cannot give back (line 12)?
A. money B. gratitude C. time D. another person

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PASSAGE ONE

Tullius Terentiae Suae Sal. Plurimam

1 Omnes molestias et sollicitudines, quibus et te miserrimam habui et, id quod mihi molestissimum est,
2 Tulliolam, quae nobis nostra vita dulcior est, deposui et eieci; quid causae autem fuerit, postridie intellexi,
3 quam a vobis discessi: *xolØn êxraton* noctu eieci; statim ita sum levatus, ut mihi deus aliquis medicinam
4 fecisse videatur, cui quidem tu deo, quemadmodum soles, pie et caste satisfacies, id est Apollini et
5 Aesculapio. Navem spero nos valde bonam habere; in eam simulatque conscendi, haec scripsi. Deinde
6 conscribam ad nostros familiares multas epistulas, quibus te et Tulliolam nostram diligentissime
7 commendabo. Cohortarer vos, quo animo fortiore essetis, nisi vos fortiores cognossem quam quemquam
8 virum. Et tamen eiusmodi spero negotia esse, ut et vos istic commodissime sperem esse et me aliquando cum
9 similibus nostri rem publicam defensuros. Tu primum valetudinem tuam velim cures; deinde, si tibi
10 videbitur, villis iis utare, quae longissime aberunt a militibus. Fundo Arpinati bene poteris uti cum familia
11 urbana, si annona carior fuerit. Cicero bellissimus tibi salutem plurimam dicit. Etiam atque etiam vale. D.
12 VII Idus Iun.

Cicero, *Epistulae Ad Familiares*, XIV.7

xolØn êxraton – sheer bile

annona – grain

PASSAGE TWO

The Death of Agrippina the Younger

1 Interim vulgato Agrippinae periculo, quasi casu evenisset, ut quisque acceperat, decurrere ad litus. hi
2 molium obiectus, hi proximas scaphas scandere; alii, quantum corpus sinebat, vadere in mare; quidam
3 manus protendere. questibus votis clamore diversa rogitantium aut incerta respondentium omnis ora
4 compleri; adfluere ingens multitudo cum luminibus, atque ubi incolumem esse pernotuit, ut ad gratandum
5 sese expedire, donec ad spectu armati et minitantis agminis deiecti sunt. Anicetus villam statione circumdat
6 refractaque ianua obvios servorum abripit, donec ad fores cubiculi veniret; cui pauci adstabant, ceteris
7 terrore inrumpentium exterritis. cubiculo modicum lumen inerat et ancillarum una, magis ac magis anxia
8 Agrippina, quod nemo a filio ac ne Agermus quidem: aliam fore laetae rei faciem; nunc solitudinem ac
9 repentinos strepitus et extremi mali indicia. abeunte dehinc ancilla, "tu quoque me deseris?" prolocuta
10 respicit Anicetum, trierarcho Herculeio et Obarito centurione classario comitatum: ac "si ad visendum
11 venisset, refotam nuntiaret, sin facinus patraturus, nihil se de filio credere; non imperatum parricidium."
12 circumstant lectum percussores et prior trierarchus fusti caput eius adflixit. iam in mortem centurioni
13 ferrum destringenti protendens uterum "ventrem feri" exclamavit multisque vulneribus confecta est.

Tacitus, *Annales*, XVI.8

molium – piers

trierarchus – captain of a trireme

refotam – recovered

facinus – crime

feri – smite

PASSAGE THREE

Seneca Lucilio Suo Salutem

1 Ita fac, mi Lucili: vindica te tibi, et tempus quod adhuc aut auferebatur aut subripiabatur aut excidebat
2 collige et serva. Persuade tibi hoc sic esse ut scribo: quaedam tempora eripiuntur nobis, quaedam
3 subducuntur, quaedam effluunt. Turpissima tamen est iactura quae per neglegentiam fit. Et si volueris
4 attendere, magna pars vitae elabatur male agentibus, maxima nihil agentibus, tota vita aliud agentibus.
5 Quem mihi dabis qui aliquod pretium tempori ponat, qui diem aestimet, qui intellegat se cotidie mori? In
6 hoc enim fallimur, quod mortem prospicimus: magna pars eius iam praeterit; quidquid aetatis retro est mors
7 tenet. Fac ergo, mi Lucili, quod facere te scribis, omnes horas complectere; sic fiet ut minus ex crastino
8 pendeas, si hodierno manum inieceris. Dum differtur vita transcurrit. Omnia, Lucili, aliena sunt, tempus
9 tantum nostrum est; in huius rei unius fugacis ac lubricae possessionem natura nos misit, ex qua expellit
10 quicumque vult. Et tanta stultitia mortalium est ut quae minima et vilissima sunt, certe reparabilia, imputari
11 sibi cum impetravere patientur, nemo se iudicet quicquam debere qui tempus accepit, cum interim hoc
12 unum est quod ne gratus quidem potest reddere.

Seneca, *Epistularum Moralium Ad Lucilium*, I.1

Subduco, subducere—to lead away

Effluo, effluere—to vanish