

2008 LOUISIANA STATE JCL CONVENTION

Reading Comprehension Test – Level 2

Read each passage and select the best answer for the following questions:

De Gratiis Agendis

1 *Olim adiit quidam vir, Marcus nomine, in urbem ad principem atque petivit ut*
2 *magistratus in ea provincia ubi habitabat sibi daretur. Princeps, Quintus nomine, autem*
3 *causa audita statim respondit, "Nihil petendo efficies, nam ego tibi magistratum istrum*
4 *non daturus sum," et sic omnem magistratus consequendi spem ei eripuit. Gratias tamen*
5 *maximas principi ille egit et erat discessurus. Princeps, qui eum non audivisse quod ipse*
6 *responderat suspexerat, eum retineri iussit. Deinde, "Audivistne," inquit, "quod ego tibi*
7 *respondi?" "Audivi," respondit ille. "Quid igitur dixi? Dic mihi."*
8 *"Dixisti me nihil hic effecturum esse, quod tu mihi nihil daturus esses." "Cur*
9 *igitur mihi tu gratias egisti?" "Quoniam," inquit, "est domi quod mihi faciendum est.*
10 *Itaque, si non statim respondisses, cum magno meo damno dubiam spem hic secuturus*
11 *eram. Nunc pro beneficio habeo, quod tu mihi sine mora negavisti te magistratum mihi*
12 *daturum esse, itaque consecutus sum quod hic eram perditurus si, vana spe deceptus, in*
13 *urbe diu mansissem." Tum princeps, "Habebis," inquit, "quod petisti, ut iterum mihi*
14 *gratias maximas agas." Deinde scribae, "Huic," inquit, "magistratum nunc daturus*
15 *sum, quam ob rem sine mora diploma para, ne hic in urbe cum suo damno moretur."*

suscipio, suscipere = to suspect

damnum = fault, loss

dubius, -a, -um = uncertain, doubtful

pro beneficio habeo = I consider it a favor

perdo, perdere = to lose, destroy

diploma, -atis = commission

1. *Quis a viro petitus est?*
a) *Marcus* b) *senatus* c) *princeps* d) *nuntius*
2. Why was the man in the city? (lines 1-2)
a) because the city was beautiful
b) because he wanted to seek that he himself might be given a public office
c) because the magistrate sought him to give a gift
d) because he had nothing better to do.
3. *Cui omnem spem eripuit?*
a) *principi* b) *magistratui* c) *Marco* d) *nemini*
4. *Quid petendo Marcus efficiet?*
a) *omnia* b) *nil* c) *minime* d) *ita vero*

5. *Quintus dicit magistratum in provincia ubi Marcus habitet Marco non datum iri.*
 a) *verum* b) *falsum*
6. What was the man about to do when he thanked Quintus?
 a) he was about to leave b) he was about to cry
 c) he was about to strike Quintus d) he was about to be exiled
7. *Quem retineri iussit?*
 a) *Quintum* b) *urbem* c) *nuntium* d) *Marcum*
8. *Quintus putat Marcum omnia quae princeps dixisset non audivisse.*
 a) *verum* b) *falsum*
9. What did Quintus ask Marcus to do?
 a) to leave immediately and never to bother him with his request again
 b) to kneel and beg for what he wanted
 c) to repeat everything that he (Marcus) had said to him (Quintus)
 d) to repeat everything that he (Quintus) had said to him (Marcus)
10. *Cur Marcus pro beneficio habet?*
 a) *quod Quintus sine mora negavit magistratum Marco daturum esse*
 b) *quod Quintus scit spem Marco esse*
 c) *quod Marcus scit Quintum virum magno virtute esse*
 d) *quod Quintus magno cum damno non responderat*
11. According to Marcus, why did he thank Quintus?
 a) because there are things that he must do at home
 b) because his wife is sick at home
 c) because he has children that he needs to care for at home
 d) because Marcus' wife has recently passed away
12. What did Quintus do after he heard why Marcus thanked him?
 a) he dismissed Marcus b) he laughed at Marcus
 c) he called Marcus a liar d) he gave Marcus the magistracy
13. *Quem Quintus diploma parare iussit?*
 a) *nuntium* b) *scribam* c) *Marcum* d) *magistrum*
14. *Cui diploma daturum est?*
 a) *Quinto* b) *nuntio* c) *scribae* d) *Marco*
15. Which of the following can be used as a modern title for this passage?
 a) "All That Glitters Is Not Gold"
 b) "The Idiot's Guide to Reverse Psychology"
 c) "The Trials And Tribulations Of A Roman"
 d) "If At First You Don't Succeed, Try, Try Again"

Caesar and Sulla

1 *C. Iulius Caesar, genitus nobilissima Iuliorum familia, agens sextum et decimum*
2 *annum patrem amisit. Cornelia, Cinnae filiam in matrimonium duxit. Sulla, cum Cinna*
3 *esset inimicissimus, Caesarem voluit compellere ut eam repudiaret; id autem efficere non*
4 *potuit. Qua re Caesar, cum bonis spoliatus etiam ad necem quaeretur, mutata veste*
5 *nocte ex urbe elapsus est, et quamquam febris quartanae morbo laborabat, prope per*
6 *singulas noctes latebras commutare cogebatur. Est adeo comprehensus a Sullae liberto*
7 *atque vix pecunia data evasit ne ad Sullam perduceretur. Postremo per propinquos et*
8 *affines suos veniam impetravit.*
9 *Sulla quidem, cum amicissimi et ornatissimi viri pro Caesare deprecarentur,*
10 *aliquamdiu abnuvit. Cum autem illi pertinaciter contenderent, expugnatus tandem*
11 *“Vincite,” inquit, “Dum modo sciatis eum iuvenem aliquando optimatum partibus exitio*
12 *futurum esse. Nam Caesari multi Marii insunt!*

16. *Praenomen Caesaris erat?*
a) Cassius b) Caseo c) Iulius d) Gaius
17. Julius Caesar was a member of the very noble Julian Family.
a) *verum* b) *falsum*
18. *Cum Caesar erat infantulus, pater suus confactus est.*
a) *verum* b) *falsum*
19. *Prima uxor Caesari erat Cornelia, filia Cinnae.*
a) *verum* b) *falsum*
20. In lines two through four, the reader learns all of the following except:
a) Cinna and Sulla were enemies b) Sulla wanted Caesar to divorce his wife
c) Caesar thought his wife above reproach d) Caesar could not divorce his wife
21. The verb *laborabat* in line 5 is best translated:
a) was seeking b) was working c) was sick with d) was slipping
22. *Cum aegerrimus esset, Caesar tamen noctu latebras mutavit.*
a) *verum* b) *falsum*
23. When Caesar was apprehended by one of Sulla’s freedmen,
a) he was scarcely able to fight his way free
b) he was too sick to resist and was taken to Sulla
c) he was without money, so he talked his way out of capture
d) he bribed the freedman not to take him to Sulla

24. The last sentence of the first paragraph tells the reader that
- Sulla's henchmen hunted for Caesar among his family and in-laws
 - Caesar escaped murder because his family was willing to hide him
 - Caesar's relatives obtained a pardon for him
 - Sulla punished Caesar's family since he could not find Caesar.
25. Sulla quickly gave in and pardoned Caesar.
- verum*
 - falsum*
26. The clause *dum modo sciatis eum iuvenem aliquando optimatum partibus exitio futurum esse* (lines 11-12) is best translated
- while you only know that this young man could be the future of the aristocratic party
 - until you know that he will be the beginning of a new aristocratic party
 - as long as the young man knows that he must be part of the aristocratic party
 - provided you know that this youth will someday be the ruin of the aristocratic party.
27. The last sentence (lines 11-12) tells the reader that Sulla
- thought Caesar was very like Marius
 - believed that Caesar would be a greater leader than Marius
 - knew that Caesar would betray him to Marius
 - hoped that Caesar would save the aristocrats from themselves

Excerpt from *De Bello Gallico*

Hearing various reasons and excuses for the skittishness in the camp and warned of mutiny, Caesar responds quickly.

1 *Qui se ex his minus timidos existimari volebant, non se hostem vereri, sed*
 2 *angustias itineris et magnitudinem silvarum, quae intercederent inter ipsos atque*
 3 *Ariovistum, aut rem frumentariam, ut satis commode supportari posset, timere dicebant.*
 4 *Nonnulli etiam Caesari nuntiabant, cum castra moveri ac signa ferri iussisset, non fore*
 5 *dicto audientes milites neque propter timorem signa laturos.*
 6 *Haec cum animadvertisset, convocato consilio omniumque ordinum ad id*
 7 *consilium adhibitis centurionibus, vehementer eos incusavit: primum, quod aut quam in*
 8 *partem aut quo consilio ducerentur sibi quaerendum aut cogitandum putarent.*

28. What is the best translation of *minus timidos existimari volebant*?
- they wanted to be less afraid in the future
 - they wished to make less of fearful things
 - they wanted to be judged less fearful
 - they flew with disregard for small fears
29. What type of verb form is *existimari*?
- complementary infinitive
 - gerundive
 - gerund
 - future active participle

30. In the first sentence after *volebant* (lines 1-3) what word reveals the subject?
a) *quae* (line 2) b) *ipsos* (line 2) c) *rem* (line 3) d) *dicebant* (line 3)
31. For the sentence described in question 30, what is the primary structure within the sentence?
a) indirect question b) indirect statement c) chiasmus d) ablative absolute
32. The troops admit fearing all of the following except
a) enemies b) struggles to come c) the forest d) declining grain
33. What is the best translation for *nonnulli* (line 4)?
a) Few b) Some c) None d) Less
34. In line four, what case is *Caesari*?
a) the same as *nonnulli* (line 4) b) the same as *castra* (line 4)
c) the same as *dicto* (line 5) d) the same as *milites* (line 5)
35. Which one of the following words is the subject of the indirect statement in lines 4-5?
a) *nonnulli* (line 4) b) *castra* (line 4) c) *dicto* (line 5) d) *milites* (line 5)
36. Why might Caesar's men refuse to carry the standards into battle?
a) *fore dictu* b) *audientes milites* c) *propter timorem* d) *signa laturos*
37. What is the best translation of *animadvertisset*?
a) had considered b) had decided c) had found out d) changed his mind
38. What type of ablative use is *consilio* (line 6)?
a) ablative of time b) ablative absolute c) ablative of place d) ablative of means
39. What type of ablative use is *centurionibus* (line 7)?
a) ablative of time b) ablative absolute c) ablative of place d) ablative of means
40. What did Caesar do to/for the centurians (line 7)?
a) eased their fears
b) reminded them of their strength in prior battles
c) made them sleep outside
d) rebuked their cowardice and disobedience