

Reading Comprehension – Poetry
FJCL State Forum 2018

N.B.: There are no macrons on this test.

Passage 1: Catullus, *Carmina* 84.1–12

1 Commoda dicebat, si quando comoda vellet
 dicere, et insidias Arrius hinsidias,
et tum mirifice sperabat se esse locutum,
 cum quantum poterat dixerat hinsidias.
5 credo, sic mater, sic liber avunculus eius.
 sic maternus avus dixerat atque avia.
hoc misso in Syriam requierant omnibus aures;
 audibant eadem haec leniter et leviter,
nec sibi postilla metuebant talia verba,
10 cum subito affertur nuntius horribilis,
Ionios fluctus, postquam illuc Arrius isset,
 iam non Ionios esse sed Hionios.

1. What is the tense of *vellet* (line 1)?
A. imperfect B. perfect C. pluperfect D. future perfect
2. What part of speech is *mirifice* (line 3).
A. adverb B. adjective C. preposition D. conjunction
3. What word does the adjective *liber* (line 5) modify?
A. mater (line 5) B. avunculus (line 5) C. avus (line 6) D. avia (line 6)
4. Who is being sent to Syria (line 7)?
A. Catullus B. Arrius
C. the ears of the listener D. everyone
5. What is the tense of *affertur* (line 10)?
A. present B. imperfect C. future D. perfect
6. What is the best translation of *cum* (line 10)?
A. since B. although C. when D. after
7. What is the tense and mood of *isset* (line 11)?
A. perfect, indicative B. perfect, subjunctive
C. pluperfect, indicative D. pluperfect, subjunctive
8. What is Catullus's basic complaint about Arrius?
A. Arrius boasts about his family too much.
B. Arrius mispronounces some words.
C. Arrius refuses to perform his civic duty.
D. Arrius is a poor sailor.

Passage 2: Vergil, *Aeneid* 3.655–683

655 vix ea fatus erat summo cum monte videmus
 ipsum inter pecudes vasta se mole moventem
 pastorem Polyphemum et litora nota petentem,
 monstrum horrendum, informe, ingens, cui lumen ademptum.
 660 trunca manum pinus regit et vestigia firmat;
 lanigerae comitantur oves; ea sola voluptas
 solamenque mali.
 postquam altos tetigit fluctus et ad aequora venit,
 luminis effossi fluidum lavit inde cruorem
 dentibus infrendens gemitu, graditurque per aequor
 665 iam medium, necdum fluctus latera ardua tinxit.
 nos procul inde fugam trepidi celerare recepto
 supplice sic merito tacitique incidere funem,
 vertimus et proni certantibus aequora remis.
 sensit, et ad sonitum vocis vestigia torsit.
 670 verum ubi nulla datur dextra adfectare potestas
 nec potis Ionios fluctus aequare sequendo,
 clamorem immensum tollit, quo pontus et omnes
 contremuere undae, penitusque exterrita tellus
 Italiae curvisque immugiit Aetna cavernis.
 675 at genus e silvis Cyclopum et montibus altis
 excitum ruit ad portus et litora complent.
 cernimus astantes nequiquam lumine torvo
 Aetnaeos fratres caelo capita alta ferentes,
 concilium horrendum: quales cum vertice celso
 680 aerae quercus aut coniferae cyparissi
 constiterunt, silva alta Iovis lucusve Dianae.
 praecipites metus acer agit quocumque rudentes
 excutere et ventis intendere vela secundis.

9. In line 657, where is Polyphemus headed?
 A. up a mountain B. to the beach C. to a grove D. into a cave
10. In line 658, to what does *lumen* refer?
 A. the sun B. a lamp C. a campfire D. Polyphemus's eye
11. How are the first four feet of line 659 scanned?
 A. spondee/spondee/spondee/spondee B. spondee/dactyl/spondee/dactyl
 C. dactyl/spondee/dactyl/spondee D. dactyl/dactyl/spondee/spondee
12. To whom does *nos* refer in line 666?
 A. Odysseus' men B. the Trojans
 C. the Cyclopes D. Cilician pirates

13. In line 667, how do they hasten their escape from Polyphemus?
 A. by tossing over loot
 B. by throwing spears at him
 C. by praying to the gods
 D. by cutting the anchor line
14. In line 668, what case and number is *aequora*?
 A. nominative, singular
 B. accusative, plural
 C. nominative, plural
 D. ablative, singular
15. In line 670, *verum* in context is best translated _____.
 A. but
 B. javelin
 C. spring
 D. truth
16. What foils Polyphemus's pursuit in line 671?
 A. the wind
 B. the waves
 C. a storm
 D. his blindness
17. *Contremuere* in line 673 is an example of what?
 A. syncope
 B. enallage
 C. hiatus
 D. apostrophe
18. What case is *Cyclopum* in line 675?
 A. accusative
 B. nominative
 C. genitive
 D. dative
19. Which of the following poetic devices appears in lines 679–681?
 A. hendiadys
 B. simile
 C. litotes
 D. prolepsis
20. In line 682, what gender and case is *metus*?
 A. feminine, accusative
 B. masculine, genitive
 C. masculine, nominative
 D. feminine, nominative
21. What word governs the infinitives *excitere* and *intendere* in line 683?
 A. constiterunt (line 681)
 B. quocumque (line 682)
 C. praecipites (line 682)
 D. agit (line 682)

Passage 3: Ovid *Amores* 1.9 (lines 1–20)

Militat omnis amans, et habet sua castra Cupido;
 Attice, crede mihi, militat omnis amans.
 quae bello est habilis, Veneri quoque convenit aetas.
 turpe senex miles, turpe senilis amor.
 5 quos petiere duces animos in milite forti,
 hos petit in socio bella puella viro.
 pervigilant ambo; terra requiescit uterque—
 ille fores dominae servat, at ille ducis.
 militis officium longa est via; mitte puellam,
 10 strenuus exempto fine sequetur amans.
 ibit in adversos montes duplicataque nimbo
 flumina, congestas exeret ille nives,
 nec freta pressurus tumidos causabitur Euros
 aptaque verrendis sidera quaeret aquis.
 15 quis nisi vel miles vel amans et frigora noctis
 et denso mixtas perferet imbre nives?
 mittitur infestos alter speculator in hostes;
 in rivale oculos alter, ut hoste, tenet.
 ille graves urbes, hic durae limen amicae
 20 obsidet; hic portas frangit, at ille fores.

22. What is the case of *Attice* (line 1)?
 A. nominative B. dative C. ablative D. vocative
23. What do we learn from line 3?
 A. Love is handy in times of war. B. Venus brings about times of love and of war.
 C. Summertime is good for love and war. D. Lovers are about as old as soldiers.
24. What is the tense of the verb *petiere* (line 5)?
 A. present B. imperfect C. perfect D. future
25. Identify the rhetorical construction in line 6.
 A. chiasmus B. synchysis C. zeugma D. golden-line
26. In lines 7–8, why do both the lover and the soldier sleep on the ground?
 A. to act as a sentinel
 B. to monitor the comings and goings of rivals/enemies
 C. because each is a slave, so to speak
 D. because doing so will lead to future success
27. Which of the following is most similar to the sentiments expressed in lines 11–14?
 A. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
 B. Look before you leap.
 C. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
 D. Anything worth having is worth working for.

28. Identify the rhetorical construction in line 14.
 A. chiasmus B. synchysis C. zeugma D. golden-line
29. What is the meaning of the word to which *hoste* (line 18) is in apposition?
 A. eyes B. savage C. rival D. another
30. To whom does *ille* (line 19) refer?
 A. the lover B. the soldier C. the girl D. the general

Passage 4: Juvenal *Satires* II.149–163

150 esse aliquos manes et subterranea regna,
 Cocytum et Stygio ranas in gurgite nigras,
 atque una transire vadum tot milia cumba
 nec pueri credunt, nisi qui nondum aere lavantur.
 sed tu vera puta: Curius quid sentit et ambo
 Scipiadae, quid Fabricius manesque Camilli,
 155 quid Cremerae legio et Cannis consumpta iuventus,
 tot bellorum animae, quotiens hinc talis ad illos
 umbra venit? cuperent lustrari, si qua darentur
 sulpura cum taedis et si foret umida laurus.
 illuc heu miseri traducimur. arma quidem ultra
 160 litora Iuvernæ promovimus et modo captas
 Orcadas ac minima contentos nocte Britannos,
 sed quae nunc populi fiunt victoris in urbe
 non faciunt illi quos vicimus.

31. According to lines 149–151, what can be found in the river Styx?
 A. a thousand boats B. a few spirits of the dead
 C. black frogs D. underwater realms
32. What is the essence of the author’s point in lines 149–152?
 A. Only naïve people consider the traditional view of the underworld as fact.
 B. Boys who still sleep in their baskets do not have to believe in the underworld to go to it.
 C. Children think that having to take a bath is as torturous as dying.
 D. Once a soul, even that of a child, goes to the underworld, it never returns to the upper air.
33. In lines 153–156, what do the people listed have in common?
 A. men punished for fratricide B. deserters from previous wars
 C. future men of Rome D. men who had fallen in battle
34. In lines 156–158, when a new soul joins the current residents of the underworld, the latter feel _____.
 A. violated B. solemn C. weary D. curious

35. In line 159, the author laments _____.
 A. How much we wretches have changed.
 B. How sad we are to follow others.
 C. How our traditions include sorrows.
 D. How sad we are when we are brought to the underworld.
36. What is the object of *ultra* (line 160)?
 A. arma (line 159) B. quidem (line 159)
 C. litora (line 160) D. Iuvernoe (line 160)
37. What do we learn about the Britons in line 161?
 A. They retire to their homes at sunset. B. They do not stay home at night much.
 C. They slow down a little at night. D. They experience short nights.
38. What is the antecedent of *quos* (line 163)?
 A. populi (line 162) B. victoris (line 162)
 C. urbe (line 162) D. illi (line 163)
39. In lines 162–163, what do we learn?
 A. The practices we think we have mastered actually master us.
 B. Once a nation feels victorious, it is susceptible to attack.
 C. The winning nation is doing things the losing nations do not.
 D. Even the victors are all conquered by death in the end.

Passage 5: Horace *Satires* I.1–19

Qui fit, Maecenas, ut nemo, quam sibi sortem
 seu Ratio dederit seu Fors obiecerit, illa
 contentus vivat, laudet diversa sequentis?
 “o fortunati mercatores” gravis annis
 5 miles ait, multo iam fractus membra labore.
 contra mercator navim iactantibus Austris,
 “militia est potior. quid enim? concurrunt: horae
 momento cita mors venit aut victoria laeta.”
 agricolam laudat iuris legumque peritus,
 10 sub galli cantum consultor ubi ostia pulsat;
 ille, datis vadibus qui rure extractus in urbem est,
 solos felicis viventis clamat in urbe.
 cetera de genere hoc (adeo sunt multa). loquacem
 delassare valent Fabium. ne te morer, audi,
 15 quo rem deducam. si quis Deus “en ego” dicat
 “iam faciam quod voltis: eris tu, qui modo miles,
 mercator; tu, consultus modo, rusticus: hinc vos,
 vos hinc mutatis discedite partibus. eia,
 quid statis?” nolint. atqui licet esse beatis.

40. What topic does the author introduce in lines 1–3?
 A. What happens if someone is happy with his life but no one praises him?
 B. Why are people not happy with their lots in life?
 C. Should anyone alive be happy to praise those following different paths in life?
 D. Why do those who criticize the lives of others always live happy lives themselves?
41. What is the tense and mood of *dederit* (line 2)?
 A. perfect, indicative
 B. perfect subjunctive
 C. future perfect, indicative
 D. imperfect, subjunctive
42. Which of the following does **NOT** properly characterize the *miles* (line 5)?
 A. overweight B. old C. envious D. crippled
43. How many of the first five lines begin with the metrical pattern of four spondees?
 A. one B. two C. three D. four
44. In lines 7–8, why does the merchant say war is better?
 A. There are fewer risks.
 B. Loot to sell is easy to find.
 C. It is resolved quickly.
 D. Trade improves.
45. What is the best translation of *sub galli cantum* (line 10)?
 A. in the language of a eunuch
 B. before the roosters sing
 C. under the spell of a eunuch
 D. before the song of a rooster
46. Which of the following nouns is the antecedent of the *ille* (line 11)?
 A. agricolam (line 9) B. iuris (line 9) C. cantum (line 10) D. consultor (line 10)
47. What opinion is expressed about city life in line 12?
 A. The homeless are always making a ruckus.
 B. City dwellers are the only happy people.
 C. City dwellers long for the fields of the country life.
 D. Residents who are not happy cannot express their opinions.
48. Which of the following properly identifies *quis* (line 15)?
 A. relative pronoun
 B. relative adjective
 C. indefinite adjective
 D. indefinite pronoun
49. What kind of condition appears in lines 16–19?
 A. present contrary-to-fact
 B. future less vivid
 C. present factual
 D. future more vivid
50. In lines 16–19, the imagined god offers to _____.
 A. shuffle everyone’s jobs
 B. trade places for just a bit with the complainers
 C. remove any appearance of strife
 D. raise everyone’s social position