

FOR LEVELS ½A, ½B, AND 1

**2007 SAN ANTONIO CLASSICAL SOCIETY  
TSJCL AREA B ACADEMIC OLYMPICS  
READING COMPREHENSION  
LEVELS ½A, ½B, AND 1**

**DIRECTIONS:** Please read the following stories and mark the best answer to each question on your answer sheet:

**Passage A:**

## THE TRAGIC STORY OF PHAETHON

- 1 Phaethon est filius Phoebī. amīcus Phaethontis dē fāmā dīvīnae orīginis  
2 dubitat: "non es filius deī. nōn habēs dōna deōrum. nōn vērā est tua  
3 fābula." magna īra Phaethontem movet: "filius deī sum! Phoebe, dā  
4 signum!" vocat Phaethon. Phoebus puerum auscultat et sine morā volat dē  
5 caelō. "O mī fili, quid dēsīderās?" Phoebus rogat. "pecūniam? sapientiam?  
6 vītā sine cūrīs?" respondet Phaethon, "habēnās habēre et currum sōlis  
7 agere dēsīderō." O stulte puer! malum est tuum cōnsilium. nōn dēbēs  
8 officia deōrum dēsīderāre. Phoebus filium monet, sed puer magna perīcula  
9 nōn videt. equī valent; nōn valet Phaethon. currus sine vērō magistrō errat  
10 in caelō. quid vidēmus? dē caelō cadit Phaethon. O mala fortūna!

Vocabulary

**Phaethon, -ontis** (accusative *-ontem*), *m.*: Phaethon  
(3rd declension)

**Phoebus, -ī, m.**: Phoebus, the sun-god

**dīvīnus, -a, -um:** divine

**orīgō, orīginis, f.:** origin (3rd declension)

**dubitō (1):** to doubt, be doubtful

**deus, -ī, m.:** god

**fābula, -ae, f.:** story, tale

**moveō, -ere movī, mōtus:** to move

**signum, -ī, n.:** sign, proof

**auscultō (1):** to listen to, hear

**caelum, -ī, n.:** heaven, sky

**desidero (1):** to desire

**rogō (1):** to ask, inquire

**respondeō, -ere, -spondī, -spōnsus:** to answer

**habēna, -ae, f.:** strap; (plural) reins

**currus, -ūs (accusative -um), m.:** chariot (4th declension)

**sōl, sōlis, m.:** the sun (3rd declension)

**agō, agere, ēgī, āctus (3rd conjugation):** to drive

**equus, -ī, m.:** horse

**cadō, -ere, cecidī, cāsus (3rd conjugation):** to fall;  
*cadit* = he falls

1. **vērūm aut falsūm: prō lineā I, amīcus Phaethontis eum nōn dubitat.**  
(a) vērūm (b) falsūm
2. **quis erat pater Phaethonis?** (a) Zeus (b) Phoebus (c) amīcus (d) Hercules
3. What did Phaethon's friend have doubts about?  
(a) Phaethon was a god (b) Phaethon could talk to the gods  
(c) Phaethon was the son of a god (d) Phaethon had gifts from a god

4. The best translation of **magna ira Phaethontem movet** in line 3 is  
 (a) Great anger moved Phaethon.  
 (b) Phaethon, moved by great anger.  
 (c) The great Phaethon was moved to anger.  
 (d) Anger moved Phaethon greatly.
5. What was the first thing that Phaethon asked from Phoebus?  
 (a) a ride in his chariot (b) immortality (c) a sign (d) money
6. What is the best translation of the phrase **sine mora**?  
 (a) a sign to stay (b) without death (c) a sign from the dead (d) without delay
7. **Unde Phoebus volat?**  
 (a) Mt. Olympus (b) the sky (c) the sun (d) his chariot
8. What gift did Phoebus **not** offer to Phaethon?  
 (a) money (b) life without care (c) wisdom (d) immortality
9. What gift did Phaethon really want from Phoebus?  
 (a) money (b) to ride in his chariot of the Sun  
 (c) to drive the chariot of the Sun (d) immortality
10. The best translation of **malum est tuum cōnsilium**?  
 (a) your plan is bad (b) your advisor is evil  
 (c) the consul is evil (d) you are considered evil
11. What did Phoebus tell Phaethon that he should not do?  
 (a) want to visit the offices of the gods (b) want the services of the gods  
 (c) want the duties of the gods (d) want to be in the service of the gods
12. What was the boy not able to see?  
 (a) the best way to go (b) a large colonnade (c) great skill (d) great danger
13. The best translation of **equī valent; nōn valet Phaethon** ?  
 (a) the horses flew; Phaethon did not fly  
 (b) the horses were strong; Phaethon was not strong  
 (c) the horses left; Phaethon did not leave  
 (d) the horses turned; Phaethon did not turn
14. **Cur currus errat in caelō?**  
 (a) There was a storm (b) The teacher gave a sign  
 (c) It was without its true master (d) Phoebus did not tell Phaethon the truth
15. According to line 10, what happened to Phaethon ?  
 (a) he fell from the chariot (b) he went to Mt. Olympus  
 (c) he fell from the sky (d) he flew too high

## COLŌNĪ RŌMĀNĪ

- 1 puella Rōmāna sum. filia sum agricolae. colōnī sumus et in prōvinciā  
 2 Galliā habitāmus. ex Italiā in prōvinciam migrāvimus. in prōvinciā sunt  
 3 agrī novī et magnī. agrī nostrī sunt bonī, sed casa nostra parva est. in agrīs  
 4 multās hōrās labōrāmus. liberī sumus, sed labōrāmus; multōs servōs nōn  
 5 tenēmus. pecūniam nōn habēmus. vīta agricolārum dūra est, sed agricolae et  
 6 colōnī magnum animum habent.  
 7 multī agricolae ad urbem Rōmam migrāvērunt, sed familia mea ad urbem  
 8 nōn migrābit. Rōmam vīdī, sed ibi nōn mānsī. agricolae in urbem equīs et  
 9 carrīs māteriam et frūmentum portant, sed ibi nōn manent. multī virī in viīs  
 10 Rōmae sunt: agricolae, colōnī, nautae, magistrī, captīvī, servī.

## Vocabulary

a'nimus, -I m. *mind, courage, spirit*

ha'bito, habita're, habita'vi,

colo'nus, -I m. *settler, colonist*[habita'tus] *live, dwell*

mi'gro, migra're, migra'vi,

[migratu'rus] *depart, migrate*

16. The writer is: (a) a farmer (b) a farmer's daughter (c) a farmer's son (d) a patrician
17. The writer lives in:  
 (a) Gaul (b) Italy (c) Rome (d) Britannia
18. The writer's family moved from:  
 (a) Gaul (b) Italy (c) Rome (d) Britannia
19. **qualis sunt agrī in prōvinciā?** (a) novī (b) magnī (c) parvī (d) both a & b
20. **qualis est casa in prōvinciā?** (a) nova (b) magna (c) parva (d) both a & b
21. How much time must be spent working in fields?  
 (a) many hours (b) a few hours (c) many days (d) much of the day
22. **vērūm aut falsūm:** The writer owns many slaves.  
 (a) vērūm (b) falsūm
23. The writer is: (a) a child (b) a book lover (c) a freedman (d) a paid worker
24. **vērūm aut falsūm:** The writer's father does not have much money.  
 (a) vērūm (b) falsūm
25. The best translation for **Vīta agricolārum dūra est** in line 5 is:  
 (a) Farmers have rough lives (b) It is hard to be a farmer  
 (c) The life of a farmer is hard (d) The life of farmers is hard
26. The writer says that farmers of the colony have:

- (a) great courage      (b) large animals      (c) great lives      (d) great power
27. Many farmers migrated:  
 (a) from the city of Rome      (b) from Roman cities  
 (c) to the city of Rome      (d) to Roman cities
28. **vĕrum aut falsum:** The writer's family will soon leave for the city.  
 (a) vĕrum (b) falsum
29. The writer of the story:  
 (a) has never seen Rome, but wants to stay there  
 (b) has seen Rome, but doesn't want to stay there  
 (c) has never seen Rome, but doesn't want to stay there  
 (d) has seen Rome, but wants to stay there
30. What did the farmers carry to the city?  
 (a) timber      (b) horses      (c) grain      (d) both a & c
31. By what means did the farmers carry those things?  
 (a) by horse and wagon      (b) slaves carried them  
 (c) by boat      (d) by horses
32. **vĕrum aut falsum:** All of the farmers who went to the city stayed there.  
 (a) vĕrum (b) falsum
33. **quot viri in viis Rōmae sunt ?** (a) pauci (b) mille (c) multī (d) plurēs
34. What kind of men did the story **not** mention were in the streets of Rome?  
 (a) nautae      (b) senatorēs      (c) servi      (d) magistrī
35. The best choice for the theme of this passage is:  
 (a) It is better to live in the city than to live in the country  
 (b) Life in a Roman colony was care-free  
 (c) It was not worthwhile to leave Italy for life in a colony  
 (d) Life in a colony is hard work, but better than life in the city

**TIE-BREAKERS:** The following questions will be scored only to break ties.

## Passage C:

## A FABLE FROM AESOP

- 1 hoc est vōtum meum: modus agrī nōn ita magnus, ubi hortus sit  
 2 et prope villam aquae fōns semper fluēns et parva silva super hīs.  
 3 Cervius fābulam nārrat: “ōlim mūs rūsticus fertur accēpisse urbānum  
 4 mūrem in cavō pauperī. ambō erant amīcī veterēs. mūs  
 5 rūsticus asperam vītā agēbat. cibō parcēbat, sed tamen hospitī  
 6 artum animum aperuit.

## Vocabulary

**modus agrī** – a measure of land**aquae fōns** – a spring of water**super hīs** – in addition to these**fertur** – is said**accēpisse** – to have received

96. The best translation of **hoc est vōtum meum** in line 1 is  
 (a) This is my vote (b) This is my life (c) This is my prayer (d) This is my strength
97. What three features of a farm does the writer desire?  
 (a) large fields, a flowing spring of water and a small forest  
 (b) a few fields, a flowing spring of water and a small forest  
 (c) a few fields, a flowing spring of water and a large forest  
 (d) a garden, a flowing spring of water and a small forest
98. **quali cavō mūs rūsticus habitabat?**  
 (a) **bonus** (b) **pauper** (c) **urbanus** (d) **rusticus**
99. **vērum aut falsum:** The two mice were old friends.  
 (a) **vērum** (b) **falsum**
100. The last line tells the reader that:  
 (a) He prepared food, but his heart was too thrifty to open to a guest  
 (b) He prayed for food, but he opened his heart to his guest  
 (c) He had little food, but he opened his thrifty heart to the guest  
 (d) He had little food, but he appeared too thrifty to the guest