2022 SAN ANTONIO CLASSICAL SOCIETY

TSJCL AREA B ACADEMIC OLYMPICS

READING COMPREHENSION ADVANCED PROSE

**Directions:** *Read the following passages and record your answers to the questions on your scantron.*

**A *fabula mirabilis* from Petronius**

Forte dominus Capuae exierat ad scruta scita expedienda. Nactus ego occasionem

persuadeo hospitem nostrum, ut mecum ad quintum miliarium veniat. Erat autem miles,

fortis tanquam Orcus. Apoculamus nos circa gallicinia; luna lucebat tanquam meridie.

Venimus inter monimenta: homo meus coepit ad stelas facere; sedeo ego cantabundus et

stelas numero. Deinde ut respexi ad comitem, ille exuit se et omnia vestimenta secundum 5

viam posuit. Mihi anima in naso esse; stabam tanquam mortuus. At ille circumminxit vestimenta sua, et subito lupus factus est. Nolite me iocari putare; ut mentiar, nullius patrimonium tanti facio. Sed, quod coeperam dicere, postquam lupus factus est, ululare

coepit et in silvas fugit. Ego primitus nesciebam ubi essem; deinde accessi, ut vestimenta

eius tollerem: illa autem lapidea facta sunt. Qui mori timore nisi ego? Gladium tamen 10

strinxi et umbras cecidi, donec ad villam amicae meae pervenirem. In larvam intravi, paene animam ebullivi, sudor mihi per bifurcum volabat, oculi mortui; vix unquam refectus sum. Melissa mea mirari coepit, quod tam sero ambularem, et: ‘Si ante,’ inquit, ‘venisses, saltem

nobis adiutasses; lupus enim villam intravit et omnia pecora tanquam lanius sanguinem

illis misit. Nec tamen derisit, etiamsi fugit; senius enim noster lancea collum eius traiecit’. 15

Haec ut audivi, operire oculos amplius non potui, sed luce clara Gai nostri domum fugi tanquam copo compilatus; et postquam veni in illum locum, in quo lapidea vestimenta

erant facta, nihil inveni nisi sanguinem. Ut vero domum veni, iacebat miles meus in lecto tanquam bovis, et collum illius medicus curabat. Intellexi illum versipellem esse, nec

postea cum illo panem gustare potui, non si me occidisses. Viderint quid de hoc alii 20 exopinissent; ego si mentior, genios vestros iratos habeam.

1. What opportunity did the narrator take?
	1. a business opportunity
	2. his owner’s absence
	3. a guest’s offer
	4. a romantic proposition
2. Who accompanied the narrator?
	1. his owner
	2. his girlfriend
	3. the host at the inn
	4. a soldier
3. What time did the narrator depart?
	1. midday
	2. late in the evening
	3. midnight
	4. just before dawn
4. Where did they end up?
	1. in a graveyard
	2. at a temple
	3. in a field
	4. at a farmhouse
5. At this point in the story, what kind of mood was the narrator in?
	1. apprehensive
	2. irritated
	3. carefree
	4. ecstatic
6. What did his companion then do?
7. counted things
8. stared at the narrator
9. stood still
10. took off his clothes
11. What did he do before a wolf showed up?
12. peed around his clothes
13. wrapped his clothes around himself
14. tore up his clothes
15. burned his clothes
16. Why did the narrator *accedere*?
17. to see where the wolf had gone
18. to begin to speak to his companion
19. to get the clothes
20. to try to fight off the wolf
21. What did he then do?
22. stabbed the wolf
23. slew the shadows
24. turned the wolf to stone
25. forget where he was
26. What state was he in when he got to his girlfriend’s house?
27. sweaty
28. relieved
29. overjoyed
30. devastated
31. What would be the best translation of *vix unquam refectus sum* (line 12)?
32. I barely fixed it
33. I hardly recovered
34. I was nearly restored
35. I almost passed out
36. Why was Melissa surprised?
37. he had a limp
38. his wolf story was shocking
39. he was back so early
40. he was out late
41. What kind of condition is “*si...adiutasses*” (line 13-14)?
42. future less vivid
43. present contrafactual
44. past contrafactual
45. future more vivid
46. What’s up with *saltem*?
47. it’s a subjunctive verb
48. it’s an accusative noun
49. it’s an adverb
50. it’s a preposition
51. What did the wolf do?
52. butcher the sheep
53. wound an enslaved man
54. laugh
55. climb on the roof
56. How would you translate the word *etiamsi* (line 15)?
57. even though
58. and yet
59. nevertheless
60. if only

1. What case is the word *lancea* (line 15)?
2. Nominative
3. Vocative
4. Accusative
5. Ablative
6. How did the rest of his night go?
7. He fell asleep immediately
8. He couldn’t sleep at all
9. He talked with Melissa all night
10. He ran home
11. What was the doctor doing when the narrator got home?
12. healing the soldier’s neck
13. patching up a wounded cow
14. lying on the bed
15. examining the wolf’s body
16. When the narrator says *Viderint quid de hoc alii exopinissent* (line 20-21), what is he saying about how he feels about whether others believe him?
17. he is adamant about being believed
18. if they had seen what he had, they would believe him
19. he doesn’t care whether others believe him
20. he thinks they are right to be skeptical

**Cicero is asked about his views on Epicurus**

Ut autem a facillimis ordiamur, prima veniat in medium Epicuri ratio, quae plerisque

notissima est. quam a nobis sic intelleges etiam, ut ab ipsis, qui eam disciplinam probant,

non soleat accuratius explicari; verum enim invenire volumus, non tamquam adversarium aliquem convincere. accurate autem quondam a L. Torquato, homine omni doctrina

erudito, defensa est Epicuri sententia de voluptate, a meque ei responsum, cum C. Triarius, 5

in primis gravis et doctus adolescens, ei disputationi interesset. Nam cum ad me in

Cumanum salutandi causa uterque venisset, pauca primo inter nos de litteris, quarum summum erat in utroque studium, deinde Torquatus: “Quoniam nacti te,” inquit, “sumus aliquando otiosum, certe audiam, quid sit, quod Epicurum nostrum non tu quidem oderis,

ut fere faciunt, qui ab eo dissentiunt, sed certe non probes, eum quem ego arbitror unum 10

vidisse verum maximisque erroribus animos hominum liberavisse et omnia tradidisse, quae pertinerent ad bene beateque vivendum. sed existimo te, sicut nostrum Triarium, minus ab eo delectari, quod ista Platonis, Aristoteli, Theophrasti orationis ornamenta neglexerit. nam illud quidem adduci vix possum, ut ea, quae senserit ille, tibi non vera videantur.”

“Vide, quantum,” inquam, “fallare, Torquate. oratio me istius philosophi non offendit; nam 15 et complectitur verbis, quod vult, et dicit plane, quod intellegam; et tamen ego a philosopho, si afferat eloquentiam, non asperner, si non habeat, non admodum flagitem. re mihi non aeque satisfacit, et quidem locis pluribus. sed quot homines, tot sententiae; falli igitur possumus.”

“Quam ob rem tandem,” inquit, “non satisfacit? te enim iudicem aequum puto, modo quae dicat ille bene noris.“ 20

“Nisi mihi Phaedrum,” inquam, “tu mentitum aut Zenonem putas, quorum utrumque audivi, cum mihi nihil sane praeter sedulitatem probarent, omnes mihi Epicuri sententiae satis notae sunt. atque eos, quos nominavi, cum Attico nostro frequenter audivi, cum miraretur ille quidem utrumque, Phaedrum autem etiam amaret, cotidieque inter nos ea, quae audiebamus, conferebamus, neque erat umquam controversia, quid ego intellegerem, sed quid probarem.” 25

1. Why does Cicero decide to start with Epicurus?
	1. He was one of the earliest philosophers
	2. His ideas are the simplest to understand
	3. His ideas are the most familiar to people
	4. He does not give a reason
2. What is Cicero saying in the sentence “quam a nobis [...] accuratius explicari” (lines 2-3)?
	1. I will explain it better than Epicurus’ own adherents
	2. I cannot explain it so well as Epicurus’ own adherents
	3. I will explain it as it was explained to me by Epicurus’ own adherents
	4. I will explain it no worse than Epicurus’ own adherents.
3. What is Cicero’s goal here?
	1. To arrive at the truth
	2. To win the argument
	3. To elucidate the wisdom in a philosophical system that he nevertheless disagrees with
	4. To teach something to his interlocutors
4. What is the subject of the main verb in the sentence “accurate autem [...] disputationi interesset” (lines 4-6)?
	1. doctrina
	2. sententia
	3. C. Triarius
	4. gravis et doctus adolescens
5. Why does Cicero say they came to see him?
6. He had summoned them
7. Just to say hi
8. To make a business proposal
9. To begin their journey to Cumae together
10. What did they talk about first?
	1. politics
	2. their journey
	3. books
	4. each other’s health
11. What is the main verb in the sentence “quoniam nacti [...] videndum” (lines 8-12)?
12. nacti sumus
13. audiam
14. probes
15. arbitror
16. How does Torquatus think Cicero feels about Epicurus?
17. that he hates him
18. that he admires him
19. that he disapproves of him
20. that he finds him uninteresting
21. Which of the following does Torquatus *not* say about Epicurus?
22. that he saw the one truth
23. that he liberated human minds
24. that those who disagree with him almost all hate him
25. that he lived a good and blessed life
26. What does Torquatus hypothesize must be the reason why Cicero feels the way he does about Epicurus? (lines 12-13)
27. his argumentation
28. his writing style
29. his reliance on other philosophers
30. his humble origins
31. What is Torquatus saying in lines 13-14?
32. He can’t imagine Cicero not accepting Epicurus’ insights as true
33. He doesn’t understand why Cicero gives Epicurus any credence at all
34. He gets why Cicero finds Epicurus’ arguments unconvincing
35. He agrees that Epicurus’ style makes it harder to see the truth in his ideas
36. How does Cicero respond?
37. You’ve got it all wrong
38. You’re exactly right
39. It’s more complicated than that
40. I don’t understand what you’re saying
41. What are Cicero’s views on a philosopher’s way of expressing himself?
42. it’s really important to be elegant if one wants to be taken seriously
43. ornate language is important for aesthetic reasons
44. one should avoid fancy expression, it just gets in the way
45. elegant style is nice, but not necessary for a philosopher
46. How does Cicero feel about Epicurus’ ideas?
47. He agrees with him on everything except one important thing
48. He disagrees with him about a lot
49. He completely agrees with him
50. He doesn’t want to say
51. How certain is Cicero on his views about Epicurus?
52. He is certain he is right
53. He hasn’t thought about it very much
54. He has been having doubts lately
55. He admits he could be mistaken
56. How does Torquatus respond (lines 19-20)?
57. Maybe you’re just not that familiar with his teachings
58. I don’t think you’re being fair
59. Why can’t you see the problems in his teachings?
60. Epicurus’ teachings are unassailable
61. What would be the best translation for *sedulitatem* as it is used in line 22?
62. imagination
63. commitment
64. anxiety
65. debate
66. What did Atticus feel about Phaedrus and Zeno?
67. irritation
68. curiosity
69. admiration
70. disdain
71. Which of the following is true?
72. Phaedrus was in love with Atticus
73. Zeno and Phaedrus did not explain Epicurus well
74. Cicero and Atticus would discuss the lectures they heard all the time
75. Cicero and Atticus only went to listen to Zeno and Phaedrus a few times
76. What is Cicero saying in line 25?
77. that he and Atticus never had an argument
78. that he had trouble understanding the arguments
79. that he understood the ideas just fine, he just wasn’t convinced by them
80. that he both understood the arguments and found them convincing

TIEBREAKERS: Mark these on numbers 96-100 on your scantron.

**Vitruvius on water**

Cum ergo et a physicis et philosophis et ab sacerdotibus iudicetur ex potestate aquae omnes res constare, putavi, quoniam in prioribus septem voluminibus rationes aedificiorum sunt expositae, in hoc oportere de inventionibus aquae, quasque habeat in locorum proprietatibus virtutes, quibusque rationibus ducatur, et quemadmodum ante probetur, scribere. Est enim maxime necessaria et ad vitam et ad delectiones, et ad usum cotidianum. Ea autem erit 5 facilior, si erunt fontes aperti et fluentes. Sin autem non profluent, quaerenda sub terra sunt capita et colligenda. Quae sic erunt experienda, uti procumbatur in dentes, antequam sol exortus fuerit, in locis, quibus erit quaerendum, et in terra mento conlocato et fulto prospiciantur eae regiones; sic enim non errabit excelsius quam oporteat visus, cum erit inmotum mentum, sed libratam altitudinem in regionibus certa finitione designabit. Tunc, 10 in quibus locis videbuntur umores concrispantes et in aera surgentes, ibi fodiatur; non enim in sicco loco hoc potest signum fieri.

96. What do priests think?

1. Water is powerful
2. Water is essential for life
3. Everything depends on water
4. Water is divine

97. Upon what word, grammatically, does *scribere* (line 4) depend?

1. constare (line 2)
2. putavi (line 2)
3. oportere (line 3)
4. probetur (line 4)

98. Which of the following does Vitruvius *not* say he is going to discuss?

1. how to find water
2. how to transport water
3. how to manage the supply of water
4. how to tell if water is good

99. What would be the best translation for *capita* as it is used in line 7?

1. chapters
2. sources
3. heads
4. harnesses

100. Which of the following does Vitruvius *not* advise in lines 7-12?

1. lie on the ground face down before dawn
2. bite the dirt with your teeth
3. stick your chin in the dirt
4. dig where you see mist