

**2006 SAN ANTONIO CLASSICAL SOCIETY
TSJCL AREA B ACADEMIC OLYMPICS
READING COMPREHENSION: PROSE (LEVELS 3,4,5 & VET)**

Directions: Read the following passages carefully. Based on the information found in these passages, choose the best answer for each question below.

PASSAGE A: *PRŌ ARCHIĀ*

In the following excerpt, Cicero defends a poet by the name of Archias. Cicero's initial discussion centers around an actor by the name of Roscius.

quis nostrum tam animō agrestī ac dūrō fuit ut Rōscī morte nūper nōn commovērētur? quī cum esset senex mortuus, tamen propter excellentem artem ac venustātem vidēbātur omnīnō morī nōn dēbuisse. ergō ille corporis mōtū tantum amōrem sibi conciliārat ā nōbīs omnibus: nōs animōrum incrēdibilēs mōtūs celeritātemque ingeniōrum neglegēmus? quotiēns ego hunc Archiam vīdī, iūdicēs—ūtar enim vestrā benignitāte, quoniam mē in hōc novō genere dīcendī tam dīlīgenter attenditis—quotiēns ego hunc vīdī, cum litteram scrīpsisset nūllam, magnum numerum optimōrum versuum dē eīs ipsīs rēbus quae tum agerentur dīcere ex tempore, quotiēns revocātum eandem rem dīcere commūtātīs verbīs atque sententiīs!

quae vērō accūrātē cōgitātēque scrīpsisset, ea sīc vīdī probārī ut ad veterum scrīptōrum laudem pervenīret. hunc ego nōn dīligam, nōn admīrer, nōn omnī ratiōne dēfendendum putem? atque sīc ā summīs hominibus ērudītissimīsque accēpimus, cēterārum rērum studia et doctrīnā et praeceptīs et arte cōnstāre; poētā nātūrā ipsā valēre et mentis vīribus excitārī et quasi dīvīnō quōdam spīritū īnflārī.

1. Which of the following statements best reflects the point of Cicero's rhetorical question at the beginning of this passage?
 - A) Roscius deserved to die because of his harsh spirit.
 - B) Roscius should have moved to the country before his recent death.
 - C) Only an insensitive person would be untouched by the death of Roscius.
 - D) So many of us farmers recently were moved to the country because of the death of Roscius.
 - E) _____
2. What is the best way to translate "cum" in line 2?
 - A) with B) when C) since D) although

3. What does Cicero suggest should have prolonged the life of Roscius?
A) his good health B) his charm C) his great skill D) both B and C
4. quō modō Rōscius tantum amōrem sibi conciliāvit? Through his:
A) determination B) kindness C) agility D) good looks
5. Which of the following contrasts best reflects Cicero's transition from speaking of Roscius to speaking of Archias?
A) country habits vs. urban customs
B) charming traits vs. offensive characteristics
C) elderly opinions vs. youthful attitudes
D) physical ability vs. mental ability
6. In lines 5-10, what impressed Cicero the most about Archias's poetry?
A) the fact that Archias performed it impromptu
B) the fact that the verses revealed Archias's genuine kindness
C) the fact that no literature had previously contained as great a number of verses
D) the fact that even though Archias had run out of time, he still wanted to change his opinion
7. What is the subject matter of the poetry mentioned in lines 5-10?
A) current affairs B) the new generation C) love D) hard work
8. In lines 11-12, Cicero suggests that
A) many old poets had reached the point of praising Archias
B) Archias should praise all the classic poets
C) he (Cicero) has accurately considered what others had written about Archias
D) Archias should be praised as much as the classic poets
9. quō modō Cicero Archiam dēfendendum esse putat?
A) hunc dīliget B) omnī ratiōne C) ūnō modō D) eum admīrātur
10. Which of the following does **NOT** express an idea that Cicero claims the best and most educated men have taught us?
A) that poets must study hard to become skilled
B) that poets are inspired by the gods
C) that great poets are born, not trained and developed
D) that poets are moved by the strength of the mind

PASSAGE B: LIVY XXI.47.1-3

In the following excerpt, Livy describes Hannibal's pursuit of Scipio.

hoc primum cum Hannibale proelium fuit, quō facile appāruit et equitatū meliōrem Poenum esse et ob id campōs patentēs, quālēs sunt inter Padum Alpēsque, bellō gerendō Rōmānīs aptōs nōn esse. itaque proximā nocte iussīs mīlitibus vāsa silentiō colligere castra ab Tīcīnō mōta festīnātumque ad Padum est, ut ratibus quibus iūnxerat flūmen nōndum resolūtīs sine tumultū atque insectātiōne hostis copiās trāiceret. prius Placentiam pervēnēre quam satis scīret Hannibal ab Tīcīnō prōfectōs; tamen ad sescentōs morātōrum in citeriōre rīpā Padī segniter ratem solventēs cēpit. transīre pontem nōn potuit, ut extrēma resolūta erant tōtā rate in secundam aquam labente.

Padus, -ī, m. : the Po River

Tīcīnus, -ī, m. : the Ticinus River

11. quid hōc prīmō cum Hannibale proeliō facile appāruit?
 - A) The Roman cavalry was superior to Hannibal's cavalry.
 - B) Hannibal's cavalry was superior to the Roman cavalry.
 - C) Hannibal's cavalry was the same sort of cavalry maintained by the Romans.
 - D) The Romans would attempt to fight the next battle at night.
12. quid aliud hōc prīmō cum Hannibale proeliō facile appāruit?
 - A) It was advisable for the Romans to avoid fighting Hannibal's troops in open fields.
 - B) Attacking enemy camps was a strategy well suited to the Romans when waging war.
 - C) It was better for the Phoenician general to avoid fighting the Romans anywhere between the Po River and the Alps.
 - D) Fighting battles in open fields was advisable for the Romans against Hannibal's troops.
13. Which Latin word best describes how the Romans broke camp?
 - A) tacitē B) irātē C) aptē D) fortiter
14. Which Latin word best describes the Romans' journey to the Po River?
 - A) cautum B) difficile C) celere D) laetum
15. How did Scipio intend to get his troops across the Po River?
 - A) by sailing groups of soldiers across in separate boats
 - B) by riding horses swiftly through the shallow waters
 - C) by quickly building a sturdy bridge suspended above the water
 - D) by joining together enough boats to stretch across the river

16. quot Rōmānōs cēpit Hannibal?
 A) by trickery
 B) by delaying
 C) approximately six hundred
 D) approximately sixty
17. cūr Hannibal tot Rōmānōs capere potuit?
 A) ratēs illōrum Rōmānōrum summersae sunt.
 B) illī Rōmānī lentius labōrābant.
 C) rīpa citerior erat perīculōsa.
 D) Hannibal ratēs coniūxerat.
18. cūr Hannibal transīre pontem nōn potuit?
 A) He slipped into the water when trying to cross the bridge.
 B) The river was so deep that the bridge got covered by water.
 C) Hannibal was extremely resolved to cross on horseback.
 D) The whole boat swung downstream in the current after the rope was untied.

PASSAGE C: One Haunted House for Sale
A letter from Pliny to Lucius Licinius Sura

erat Athēnīs spatiōsa et capāx domus, sed īnfāmis et pestilēns. per silentium noctis sonus ferrī, et sī attenderēs ācrius, strepitus vinculōrum longius prīmō, deinde ē proximō reddēbātur: mox appārēbat īdōlon, senex maciē et squālōre cōnfectus, prōmissā barbā, horrentī capillō; crūribus compedēs, manibus catēnās gerēbat quatiēbatque. inde inhabitantibus trīstēs dīraeque noctēs per metum vigilābantur; vigiliam morbus et crēscēte formīdine mors sequēbātur. nam interdiū quoque, quamquam abscesserat imāgō, memoria imāginis oculīs inerrābat, longiorque causīs timōris timor erat.

dēserta inde et damnāta sōlitūdine domus tōtaque illī mōnstrō relicta; **prōscribēbātur** tamen, seu quis emere, seu quis condūcere ignārus tantī malī vellet. vēnit Athēnās philosophus Athēnodōrus, lēgit titulum, audītōque pretiō, quia suspecta vīlitās, percunctātus, omnia docētur, ac nihilō minus, immō tantō magis condūcit.

ubi coepit advesperāscere, iubet **sternī** sibi prīmā domūs parte, poscit pugillārēs, stilum, lūmen; suōs omnēs in interiōra dīmīttit, ipse ad scrībendum animum, oculōs, manum intendit, nē vacua mēns audīta simulācra et inānēs sibi metūs fingeret. initiō, quāle ubīque, silentium noctis, dein concutī ferrum, vincula movērī; ille nōn tollere oculōs, nōn remittere stilum, sed offīrmāre animum auribusque praetendere. tum crēbrēscere fragor, adventāre, et iam ut in līmine, iam ut intrā līmen audīrī.

respicit, videt, agnōscitque nārrātam sibi effigiem. stābat innuēbatque digitō, similis vocantī. hic contrā ut paulum exspectāret manū significat rūrsusque cērīs et stilō incumbit.

prōscribēbātur: was put up for sale or lease
sternī: his bed to be made

19. Which of the following does **NOT** accurately describe this house?
A) spacious B) expensive C) disreputable D) infected
20. What broke the initial silence of the night?
A) the rattling of chains
B) a ghost singing haunting songs
C) an old man and a young man fighting with swords
D) a marriage ceremony taking place nearby
21. Which of the following does **NOT** accurately describe the ghost?
A) thin B) bald C) filthy D) bearded
22. Using all your reading comprehension skills and techniques, give the best definition for *compedēs* in line 5.
A) companions who travel with someone for a common cause
B) footsoldiers who fight using a bow and arrow
C) iron rings joined by a chain to restrain a prisoner
D) small holes in a wall used for secretly keeping watch
23. *cūr huius domūs inhabitantēs dormīre nōn poterant?*
A) *illī dēfessī nōn erant.*
B) *metū carēbant.*
C) *imāginem maiōrem cupiēbant.*
D) *umbram timēbant.*
24. *simul ac senis imāgō discessit, inhabitantium metus dēstitit.*
A) *vērūm* B) *falsūm*
25. Which of the following words from the first paragraph does **NOT** refer directly to the same thing as *mōnstrō* at the beginning of the second paragraph?
A) *vigiliam*
B) *īdōlon*
C) *senex*
D) *imāgō*
26. Why was Athenodorus at first hesitant to buy the house?
A) Because he had heard that it was haunted by a ghost
B) Because he thought the asking price was too expensive
C) Because he thought the asking price was too cheap
D) Because the house was so small and had no library

27. Why did Athenodorus finally buy the house?
 A) Because he was told that it was haunted by a ghost
 B) Because he was convinced that no ghost dwelled there
 C) Because the owner finally lowered his asking price to a reasonable amount
 D) Because the owner agreed to build a library prior to the sale
28. cūr Athēnodōrus scrībere cōstituit?
 A) quod ille suōs omnēs in interiōra dīmīttit
 B) ipse poscit pugillārēs, stilum, lūmen
 C) nē vacua mēns inānēs sibi metūs fingeret
 D) iubet sternī sibi prīmā domūs parte
29. How did Athenodorus react when he first heard something approaching?
 A) He closed his eyes and fainted when he heard the chains.
 B) He stood up and ran from the house in fear.
 C) He looked up from his writing to see what was making the noise.
 D) He tried to concentrate on his writing to block the noise from his mind.
30. In the final paragraph of this excerpt, Athenodorus realizes:
 A) that the story of the ghost had been made up to scare him.
 B) that the story of the ghost had been real.
 C) that writing is the best way to get to sleep.
 D) that the story told about the ghost was actually a story about a statue.

TIE-BREAKERS:

The following questions will only be scored to break ties. Be sure to mark your responses as 96-100.

PASSAGE D: *Dē Bellō Gallicō.VIII.49*

Caesar in Belgiō cum hiemāret, ūnum illud prōpositum habēbat, continēre in amīcitiā cīvitātēs, nūllī spem aut causam dare armōrum. nihil enim minus volēbat quam sub dēcessū suō necessitātem sibi aliquam impōnī bellī gerendī, nē, cum exercitum dēductūrus esset, bellum aliquod relinquerētur quod omnis Gallia libenter sine praesentī periculō susciperet. itaque honorificē cīvitātēs appellandō, prīncipēs maximīs praemiīs adficiendō, nūlla onera iniungendō dēfessam tot adversīs proeliīs Galliam condiōne pārendī meliōre facile in pāce continuit.

96. quod annī tempus in Belgiō Caesar agēbat?
 A) three B) one C) summer D) winter

97. What was Caesar's main goal at this point in his campaign?
- A) to defeat the one remaining rebellious tribe
 - B) to give no enemy states the hope of friendship
 - C) to avoid provoking any further conflicts in Gaul
 - D) to make new friends by offering them weapons
98. Why was this goal so important to Caesar at this particular time?
- A) because he was just starting his campaign in Belgium
 - B) because he was just about to lead his troops out of Belgium
 - C) because his army had been exhausted by so many wars in Gaul
 - D) because he considered it to be the best time of year for waging war
99. difficile erat Caesarī bellum hōc tempore in Galliā vītāre.
- A) vērum B) falsum
100. Which of the following did Caesar **NOT** do?
- A) impose new burdens upon the states of Gaul
 - B) wear down the states of Gaul in battle
 - C) give gifts to the chieftains of Gaul
 - D) address the states with praise