

REGIONAL LATIN FORUM 2010
PROSE COMPREHENSION TEST

Questions 1-21 refer the following passage from Caesar's De Bello Gallico VI.

Est bos cervi figura, cuius a media fronte inter aures unum cornu existit excelsius magisque directum his, quae nobis nota sunt, cornibus: ab eius summo sicut palmae ramique late diffunduntur. Eadem est feminae marisque natura, eadem forma magnitudoque cornuum.

Sunt item, quae appellantur alces. Harum est consimilis capris figura et varietas pellium, sed magnitudine paulo antecedunt mutilaeque sunt cornibus et crura sine nodis articulisque habent neque quietis causa procumbunt neque, si quo afflictas casu conciderunt, erigere sese aut sublevare possunt. His sunt arbores pro cubilibus: ad eas se applicant atque ita paulum modo reclinatae quietem capiunt. Quarum ex vestigiis cum est animadversum a venatoribus, quo se recipere consuerint, omnes eo loco aut ab radicibus subruunt aut accidunt arbores, tantum ut summa species earum stantium relinquatur. Huc cum se consuetudine reclinaverunt, infirmas arbores pondere affligunt atque una ipsae concidunt.

Tertium est genus eorum, qui uri appellantur. Hi sunt magnitudine paulo infra elephantos, specie et colore et figura tauri. Magna vis eorum est et magna velocitas, neque homini neque ferae quam conspexerunt parcunt. Hos studiose foveis captos interficiunt. Hoc se labore durant adulescentes atque hoc genere venationis exercent, et qui plurimos ex his interfecerunt, relatis in publicum cornibus, quae sint testimonio, magnam ferunt laudem. Sed adsuescere ad homines et mansueferi ne parvuli quidem excepti possunt. Amplitudo cornuum et figura et species multum a nostrorum boum cornibus differt. Haec studiose conquisita ab labris argento circumcludunt atque in amplissimis epulis pro poculis utuntur.

Uri – aurochs, wild ancestors to domestic cattle.

1. What is the case and use of *figura* in line 1?
 - a. nominative, subject
 - b. nominative, predicate nominative
 - c. ablative, respect
 - d. ablative, description

2. To what does *his* (line 2) refer?
 - a. deer
 - b. ears
 - c. shapes
 - d. horns

3. Caesar says all of the following about the antlers of these animals EXCEPT
 - a. they are spread out
 - b. they look like palms
 - c. the antlers of males and females are similar in size
 - d. they are cut off at the top

4. What does Caesar say about the female animals in the first paragraph?
 - a. Their bodies are smaller than the male
 - b. They are able to swim in the sea.
 - c. They are the same size as the males.
 - d. The nature of the females is similar to the sea.

5. In the second paragraph, Caesars says that the elk are like
 - a. goats
 - b. horses
 - c. deer
 - d. elephants

6. What is the case and usage of *cornibus* in line 6?
 - a. dative, possession
 - b. dative, reference
 - c. ablative, specification
 - d. ablative, means

7. What does Caesar say about the knees of the elk?
 - a. they have no joints
 - b. they have little horns sticking out
 - c. they are knobby
 - d. they are hairless

8. *Afflictae* (line 8) refers to
 - a. the elk
 - b. horns
 - c. rest
 - d. knees

9. What happens if someone or something knocks over a sleeping elk?
 - a. It is able to get up immediately.
 - b. It cannot get back up unassisted.
 - c. It becomes enraged and attack.
 - d. The other elk help lift it up.

10. How do the elk sleep?
 - a. lying on the ground
 - b. free-standing with their heads up
 - c. close together in packs
 - d. leaning against trees

11. To what or whom does *quarum* (line 10) refer?
 - a. hunters
 - b. elk
 - c. tracks
 - d. trees

12. What is the best translation of *quo* in line 11?
 - a. where
 - b. by which
 - c. who
 - d. than

13. Identify the use of the subjunctive illustrated by *reliquatur* (line 12).
 - a. purpose
 - b. indirect question
 - c. result
 - d. indirect command

14. How do the locals hunt the elk?
 - a. They use branches to scare the elk and then spear them.
 - b. They tip them over and then spear them.
 - c. They weaken or cut into trees and then kill the elk.
 - d. They cut down trees so that they fall on the elk.

15. What do aurochs (*uri*) look like (lines 15-16)?
- They are smaller than elephants and have the shape and color of bulls.
 - They are the size of elephants but have the shape and color of bulls.
 - They look nothing like elephants but a little bit like bulls.
 - They look like elephants even though they are the ancestors of bulls.
16. Identify the use of the dative illustrated by *homini* in line 17.
- agent
 - indirect object
 - special verb
 - reference
17. What do we learn from lines 18-20 (*hoc. . . laudem*)?
- The Germans felt that killing the aurochs was immoral.
 - The aurochs savagely kill many Germans.
 - The meat of the aurochs was a delicacy.
 - For Germans killing the aurochs was a badge of honor.
18. To what or whom does *qui* (line 19) refer?
- adulescentes*
 - venationis*
 - plurimos*
 - cornibus*
19. What is the best translation of *Sed adsuescere ad homines et mansuefieri ne parvuli quidem excepti possunt* (lines 20-21)?
- But they are not even able to become used to men and the ones taken cannot be tamed.
 - But ones even caught while little are not able to become used to men and be tamed.
 - But boys, even when little, are accustomed to taming them.
 - But they are not even able to tame the little ones to get used to men.
20. What is the case and number of *boum* in line 22?
- Nominative singular
 - accusative singular
 - Locative singular
 - genitive plural
21. What, according to Caesar, do the Germans use the horns of aurochs for?
- banquet cups
 - sacrificial rites
 - armor
 - head wear

Questions 22-35 refer to the following letter of Cicero.

TULLIUS S. D. TERENTIAE SUAE. 1
 Si tu et Tullia, lux nostra, valetis, ego et suavissimus Cicero valemus.
 Pr. Idus Oct. Athenas venimus, cum sane adversis ventis usi essemus
 tardeque et incommode navigassemus. De nave exeuntibus nobis Acastus
 cum litteris praesto fuit uno et vicesimo die, sane strenue. Accepi tuas 5
 litteras, quibus intellexi te vereri, ne superiores mihi redditae non essent:
 omnes sunt redditae diligentissimeque a te perscripta sunt omnia, idque
 mihi gratissimum fuit. Neque sum admiratus hanc epistolam, quam Acastus
 attulit, brevem fuisse; iam enim me ipsum exspectas sive nos ipsos, qui
 quidem quam primum ad vos venire cupimus, etsi, in quam rem publicam 10
 veniamus, intelligo; cognovi enim ex multorum amicorum litteris, quas attulit
 Acastus, ad arma rem spectare, ut mihi, cum venero, dissimulare non liceat,
 quid sentiam; sed, quoniam subeunda fortuna est, eo citius dabimus operam
 ut veniamus, quo facilius de tota re deliberemus. Tu velim, quod commodo
 valetudinis tuae fiat, quam longissime poteris, obviam nobis prodeas. De 15
 hereditate Preciana—quae quidem mihi magno dolori est; valde enim illum
 amavi—, sed hoc velim cures: si auctio ante meum adventum fiet, ut
 Pomponius aut, si is minus poterit, Camillus nostrum negotium curet: nos,
 cum salvi venerimus, reliqua per nos agemus; sin tu iam Roma profecta eris,
 tamen curabis, ut hoc ita fiat. Nos, si di adiuvant, circiter Idus Novembres 20
 in Italia speramus fore. Vos, mea suavissima et optatissima Terentia, si nos
 amatis, curate ut valeatis.
 Vale.
 Athenis a. d. XV. Kal. Novemb.

22. What does *S.D.* (line 1) stand for?
 a. *salus dicendi* b. *salutem dicit* c. *salvete duces* d. *salutes dat*
23. What is the best translation of *cum* in line 3?
 a. when b. since c. although d. with
24. What is the best translation of *De nave exeuntibus nobis Acastus cum litteris praesto fuit uno et vicesimo die* (lines 4-5)?
 a. As people were leaving the ship, Acastus ran up with a letter on the 21st day.
 b. Since we had left the ship, Acastus was put in charge of the letters on the 21st day.
 c. As we were leaving the ship, Acastus came on board with 21 letters.
 d. As we were leaving the ship, Acastus was on hand with letters on the 21st day.
25. Identify the use of the subjunctive illustrated by *redditae . . . essent* (line 6).
 a. Purpose b. clause of fearing c. result d. indirect command

26. What does Cicero say that he has learned from the letters of many friends?
- that the situation looks like war
 - that he must be in disguise when he returns
 - that he must watch out for armed guards
 - that he should not disguise his feelings in times of war
27. Identify the tense and mood of *deliberemus* in line 14.
- pres. ind.
 - pres. subj.
 - fut. ind.
 - imperf. subj.
28. Which of the following verbs in lines 14-15 (*tu . . . prodeas*) is NOT subjunctive?
- Velim*
 - fiat*
 - poteris*
 - prodeas*
29. In lines 14-15 (*tu . . . prodeas*) Cicero requests that Terentia
- meet him on his journey home, her health permitting.
 - not betray him by getting in the way of his business affairs.
 - take care of her health as long as possible.
 - travel away from home as far as possible for safety.
30. *mihi* (line 16) is a dative of . . .
- possession
 - reference
 - purpose
 - agent
31. In lines 17-18 (*sed . . . curet*) Cicero asks Terentia to make sure that
- Precius is auctioned off before Camillus and Pomponius.
 - the auction is held before the arrival of Camillus and Pomponius.
 - Camillus or Pomponius represents the family at the auction of Precius's inheritance
 - Camillus and Pomponius accompany her to Precius's funeral.
32. *Roma* in line 19 is
- nominative, subject
 - predicate nominative
 - locative
 - ablative, place from which
33. *fore* (line 21) is best translated as
- in the forum
 - will be
 - would have been
 - outside
34. Judging by the last sentence, what best describes Cicero's feelings for Terentia at this time in his life?
- affectionate
 - indifferent
 - hostile
 - unappreciative
35. What is the month and day of this letter?
- October 17
 - October 18
 - November 15
 - November 14

Questions 36-43 refer to the following passage of Livy's Ab Urbe Condita, Liber XXX.

Summotis pari spatio armatis, cum singulis interpretibus congressi sunt, non
suae modo aetatis maximi duces sed omnis ante se memoriae omnium gentium
cuilibet regum imperatorumve pares. paulisper alter alterius conspectu,
admiratione mutua prope attoniti, conticuere; tum Hannibal prior: 'si hoc ita
fato datum erat ut qui primus bellum intuli populo Romano, quique totiens
prope in manibus victoriam habui, is ultro ad pacem petendam venirem, laetor
te mihi sorte potissimum datum a quo peterem. tibi quoque inter multa
egregia non in ultimis laudum hoc fuerit Hannibalem cui tot de Romanis
ducibus victoriam di dedissent tibi cecidisse . . .

36. In line 1 we learn that Hannibal and Scipio
 a. meet with their guards removed and speak through interpreters.
 b. speak through armed interpreters.
 c. will only speak through interpreters in a heavily guarded tent.
 d. only use one interpreter each and are heavily guarded.
37. In lines 1-3 Livy describes Hannibal and Scipio
 a. as excellent leaders of equal age, but Hannibal will be remembered as a king and Scipio as a general.
 b. as the greatest leaders of their own age and equal to any of the kings and generals before them.
 c. as not the greatest leaders by the standards of Livy's times but equal to any of the kings or generals before them.
 d. as outstanding leaders, although not of equal age, of equal capability.
38. Identify the figure of speech found in lines 3-4.
 a. synchysis b. tricolon crescens c. tmesis d. chiasmus
39. In line 4 *conticuere* is
 a. a present active infinitive
 b. 2nd person singular present passive indicative
 c. 3rd person plural perfect active indicative
 d. 2nd person singular imperfect passive subjunctive
40. What is the antecedent of *qui* (line 5)?
 a. the subject of *intuli* b. the subject of *datum erat* c. *fato* d. *populo*
41. Identify the use of the subjunctive illustrated by *venirem* (line 6).
 a. contrary to fact conditional b. purpose clause
 c. result clause d. indirect question

42. The phrase *non in ultimis laudum* (line 8) is an example of
 a. litotes b. oxymoron c. juxtaposition d. synecdoche
43. Which of the following describes Hannibal’s tone in the passage?
 a. victorious b. proud c. pedantic d. threatening

Questions 44-50 refer to the following letter of Pliny the Younger.

C. PLINIUS CORNELIO TACITO SUO S. 1
 Ridebis, et licet rideas. Ego, ille quem nosti, apros tres et quidem pulcherrimos
 cepi. 'Ipse?' inquis. Ipse; non tamen ut omnino ab inertia mea et quiete discederem.
 Ad retia sedebam; erat in proximo non venabulum aut lancea, sed stilus et pugillares;
 meditabar aliquid enotabamque, ut si manus vacuas, plenas tamen ceras reportarem 5
 Non est quod contempnas hoc studendi genus; mirum est ut animus agitatione
 motuque corporis excitetur; iam undique silvae et solitudo ipsumque illud silentium
 quod venationi datur, magna cogitationis incitamenta sunt. Proinde cum venabere,
 licebit auctore me ut panarium et lagunculam sic etiam pugillares feras: experieris
 non Dianam magis montibus quam Minervam inerrare. Vale. 10

44. From the first line (*Ridebis, et licet rideas. Ego, ille quem nosti*) what can be inferred about the relationship between Pliny and Tacitus?
 a. Pliny is afraid Tacitus will make fun of him.
 b. Tacitus has a grudge against Pliny.
 c. They are good enough friends to poke fun at one another.
 d. Tacitus doesn’t know Pliny very well but mocks him frequently.
45. To whom or what does *ipse* (line 2) refer?
 a. Tacitus b. Pliny c. a wild boar d. three wild boars
46. What does Pliny say he did while on the hunting trip?
 a. Lost his pens and notebook. b. Clutched his spear and lance
 c. Remained behind a safety net d. Mused and wrote
47. What does Pliny mean by *mirum est ut animus agitatione motuque corporis excitetur* (lines 6-7).
 a. Exercise is not conducive to thinking.
 b. Exercise rouses both the mind and body.
 c. Agitation of the mind causes the body to move.
 d. Training the body begins with the mind.
48. What is the best translation of *venabere* (line 8)?
 a. To hunt b. you will be hunted c. you might hunt d. you will hunt

49. What three things does Pliny say Tacitus ought to bring when he hunts with Pliny in the future?
- a. bread basket, flask and notebook
 - b. lance, net and notebook.
 - c. spear, flask and notebook.
 - d. pen, paper and notebook.
50. What is the best translation of *experieris non Dianam magis montibus quam Minervam inerrare* (lines 9-10)?
- a. You will not experience Diana's presence more than Minerva's in the mountains.
 - b. You will find more evidence of Minerva than Diana but not in the mountains.
 - c. You will find Diana traversing the mountains no more than Minerva.
 - d. You will understand when you find the mountains more like Minerva than Diana.