

## 2007 GJCL READING COMPREHENSION EXAM: PROSE

Fill in the first four blocks of the SCANTRON sheet with your own 4-digit code, and the next four blocks with the code of this exam (1010); leave the last two blocks blank. Then read the following Latin passage and fill in completely the space on the answer sheet corresponding to the correct answer of each question. Do not write on the exam itself.

In this passage Cicero tells the story of the Sword of Damocles:

- 1 Dionysus, tyrannus Syracusanorum, iudicavit quam esset beatus. Nam cum quidam ex eius adsentatoribus,  
2 Damocles nomine, commemoraret in sermone copias eius, opes, maiestatem dominatūs, rerum abundantiam,  
3 magnificentiam aedium regiarum, negaretque umquam beatiorem quemquam fuisse, “Visne igitur,” inquit, “O  
4 Damocle, quoniam te haec vita delectat, ipse eam degustare et fortunam experiri meam?” Cum se ille cupere  
5 dixisset, conlocari iussit hominem in aureo lecto strato pulcherrimo textili stragulo, abacosque complures ornavit  
6 argento auroque. Tum ad mensam pueros delectos iussit consistere illumque diligenter ministrare. Aderant  
7 unguenta, coronae, incendebantur odores, mensae exquisitissimis epulis exstruebantur. Fortunatus sibi Damocles  
8 videbatur. In hoc medio apparatu, Dionysus fulgentem gladium e lacunari saetā equinā aptum demitti iussit, ut  
9 impenderet illius beati cervici. Itaque nec pulchros illos ministratores aspiciebat nec plenum artis argentum, nec  
10 manum porrigebat in mensam. Denique exoravit tyrannum ut abire liceret, quod iam beatus nollet esse.

### VOCABULARY

adsentator	flatterer	abacus	sideboard	cervix	neck
degusto	have a taste of	conquisitus	costly	lacunar	ceiling
stratus, -a, -um	spread	epulae	delicacies	saeta	hair
stragulum	tapestry	apparatus	splendor	porrigo	extend

1. Who is Damocles?

- a) tyrant of the Syracusans                      b) a member of the court of Dionysus  
c) a slave of Dionysus                              d) a foreign ambassador in Syracuse

2. In the beginning of the story, what emotion does Damocles have towards Dionysus?

- a) hatred      b) affection      c) envy      d) suspicion

3. In line 1, *quam* is best translated:

- a) whom      b) than      c) which      d) how

4. In line 1, why is *esset* subjunctive?

- a) relative clause of characteristic                      b) indirect statement  
c) indirect question    d) it is not subjunctive

5. In line 1, the best translation of *cum* is:

- a) when      b) with      c) although      d) while

6. In line 2, what form is *commemoraret*?

- a) present indicative                      b) future indicative      c) present subjunctive                      d) imperfect subjunctive

7. In what respect does Damocles especially flatter Dionysus?

- a) his charming personality                      b) his great wealth      c) his persuasive eloquence      d) his good looks

8. In line 3, *quemquam* is best translated:

- a) anyone      b) someone      c) anything      d) although

9. In line 4, *ipse* refers to:

- a) Damocles   b) Dionysus   c) the slave   d) the life

10. In line 4, what is the grammatical function the infinitive *cupere*?

- a) subjective   b) complementary   c) indirect statement   d) epexigetical

11. In line 5, what act does Damocles perform?

- a) he issues an order   b) he spreads a tapestry   c) he addresses Dionysus   d) he is seated on a throne

12. Who are the *pueri* in line 6?

- a) royal sons   b) waiters   c) young friends   d) court musicians

13. In line 7, what luxuries are NOT mentioned:

- a) fine food   b) perfume   c) jewels   d) garlands

14. In line 7, what case is *mensae*?

- a) genitive   b) dative   c) nominative   d) locative

15. In line 7, what is the grammatical function of *epulis*?

- a) ablative of comparison   b) partitive genitive   c) ablative of manner   d) ablative of means

16. In line 7, *sibi* is best translated as:

- a) to him   b) to them   c) to themselves   d) to himself

17. In line 8, the subject of *demitti* is:

- a) Damocles   b) Dionysus   c) the sword   d) the horse

18. In line 9, *impenderet* is in the subjunctive because it falls in a:

- a) fear clause   b) purpose clause   c) result clause   d) indirect question

19. In line 9, *beati* refers to:

- a) Damocles   b) Dionysus   c) the sword   d) the horse

20. The happiness of Damocles is spoiled by:

- a) the sword   b) the horse   c) the slaves   d) the food

21. In line 10, *quod* is best translated:

- a) what   b) which   c) because   d) whom

22. In line 10, what tense is *nollet*?

- a) present   b) imperfect   c) future   d) perfect

23. How does the banquet end?

- a) Damocles finishes the food   b) Damocles stabs Dionysus  
c) Damocles asks to leave the table   d) Damocles thanks Dionysus

24. What is the moral of this tale?

- a) power corrupts   b) wealth corrupts   c) power and wealth carry disadvantages   d) tyrants are not to be trusted

25. The motive behind Dionysus' behavior in this story is:

- a) to punish Damocles   b) to teach Damocles a lesson   c) to amuse Damocles   d) to get rid of Damocles

Reading:

Prose

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. c
5. a
6. d
7. b
8. a
9. a
10. c
11. d
12. b
13. c
14. c
15. d
16. d
17. c
18. b
19. a
20. a
21. c
22. b
23. c
24. c
25. b