

2010 GJCL READING COMPREHENSION EXAM: PROSE LEVEL III

Fill in the first 4 blanks of the scantron sheet with your own 4-digit code, and then the next 4 blocks with the 4-digit code for 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 with the correct answer for each question. Do not write on the exam itself.

Words in *italics> are glossed below the passage.*

- 1 Cum Porsenna, rex Etruscorum, Romam *obsidebat*, C. Mucius, adulescens nobilis, cui indignum videbatur populum
 2 Romanum alicui servire, constituit suā sponte penetrare in hostium castra et Porsennam interficere. *Abdito* intra vestem
 3 ferro, ad castra proficiscitur. Ubi eo venit, in *confertissimā* turbā prope regium *tribunal* stetit. *Scriba* cum rege sedebat,
 4 *indutus* pari ornatu. Timens *sciscitari* uter Porsenna esset, ignorans scribam pro rege *obtruncat*. Eum comprehensum regii
 5 milites retraxerunt ante tribunal regis. “C. Mucius, sum,” inquit, “civis Romanus. Hostis hostem occidere volui, nec ad
 6 mortem minus *animi* est, quam fuit ad caedem. Et facere et pati fortia Romanum est. Nec solus contra te ego hos animos
 7 gessi; longus post me est ordo virorum petentium idem *decus*.” Cum rex, simul irā *infensus* periculoque territus, circum-
 8 dari ignes iuberet nisi Mucius *expromeret* quas insidiarum sibi minas per *ambages* iaceret, “Ecce,” inquit, “ut sentias quam
 9 *vile* corpus suum sit eis qui magnam gloriam quaerant.” Dextramque manum accenso ad sacrificium *foculo* in altaribus
 10 *inicit*. Hanc cum velut animo *alienato* ab sensu *torreret*, attonitus miraculo Porsenna cum ab sede suā *prosiluisset*,
 11 amoverique ab altaribus iuvenem iussisset, “Abi” inquit, “ausus hostilia contra te magis quam contra me. Nunc liberum te
 12 hinc dimitto.” Mucius Romam revenit, cui postea “*Scaevolae*” a clade dextrae manūs cognomen inditum est.

obsideo, -ere	to besiege	infensus, -a, -um	made dangerous
abditus, -a, -um	hidden	expromo, -ere	disclose, tell, explain
confertus, -a, -um	crowded	ambages	riddles, ambiguous words
tribunal, -alis, n	tribunal, platform	vilis, -e	cheap, worthless (with <i>quam</i> = “how”)
scriba, -ae, m	secretary	foculus, -i, m.	brazier (“little fire”)
indutus, -a, -um	dressed	inicio, -ere	to thrust in (+ dative)
sciscitor, -ari	to inquire	alienatus, a-, -um	detached
obtrunco, are	kill, slay	torro, -ere	to roast
animus, -i, m	courage (here, partitive after <i>minus</i>)	prosilio, ire	to leap up
decus, decoris, n	glory, honor, distinction	Scaevola, -ae, m.	“Lefty”

1. Who is Porsenna?

- a) an invading enemy of Rome b) an ally of Rome c) a patron of Mucius d) a military spy

2. Who is C. Mucius?

- a) an Etruscan king b) an Etruscan soldier c) a Roman patriot d) a royal secretary

3. In line 1, what is the best translation of *cui*?

- a) whom b) who c) to whom d) to which

4. In line 2, why is *servire* in the infinitive form?

- a) indirect statement b) complementary infinitive c) objective infinitive d) it is not an infinitive

5. What is the intention of Mucius?

- a) to serve Porsenna b) to take Porsenna to Rome c) to lead Porsenna into camp d) to assassinate Porsenna

6. Under whose authority does Mucius act?

- a) his commander’s b) his own c) Porsenna’s d) his comrades’

7. In line 3, what is the best translation of *ferro*?

- a) I carry b) I endure c) with a sword d) by a sword

8. When Mucius reached camp, what did he discover there?

- a) Porsenna alone b) Porsenna with a few guards c) Porsenna writing letters d) Porsenna in a dense crowd

9. In line 3, why is *rege* in the ablative case?

- a) agent b) accompaniment c) description d) it is not ablative

10. Mucius’ problem in carrying out his plan was that the king...

- a) was absent at first b) could not be recognized c) was surrounded by soldiers d) refused to see him

11. In line 4, why is *esset* in the subjunctive?
 a) indirect question b) purpose c) result d) relative clause of characteristic
12. In line 4, what is the best translation of *pro rege*?
 a) before the king b) on behalf of the king c) in return for the king d) instead of the king
13. When seized, what does Mucius first do?
 a) fights back b) tries to escape c) confesses his plan d) tells a lie
14. What is his attitude?
 a) bold defiance b) guilty fright c) cunning deception d) confused panic
15. In line 5, what case is *hostis*?
 a) nominative b) genitive c) dative d) ablative
16. In line 6, *mortem* refers to whose death?
 a) Porsenna's b) Mucius' c) the secretary's d) the guard's
17. In line 6, what is the best translation of *quam*?
 a) whom b) which c) how d) than
18. In line 6, what is the grammatical function of *fortia*?
 a) object of *pati* b) object of *facere* c) object of both *pati* and *facere* d) subject of the clause
19. How does Mucius try to intimidate Porsenna?
 a) threatens to escape and try again b) warns of other assassins c) warns of military conquest d) promises revenge
20. How does Porsenna react to this intimidation?
 a) with careless scorn b) with arrogant boasts c) with fear and anger d) with stoic silence
21. In line 7, *decus* refers to the glory of...
 a) escape from punishment b) the expulsion of the Etruscans c) the death of Porsenna d) final victory in war
22. In line 7, how is *cum* best translated?
 a) with b) when c) since d) although
23. In line 8, to whom does *sibi* refer?
 a) Porsenna b) Mucius c) the Etruscans d) the Romans
24. In line 8, why is *sentias* in the subjunctive?
 a) result b) jussive c) indirect command d) purpose
25. How does Mucius react when threatened with torture?
 a) desperate fear b) brave indifference c) intense prayer d) angry threats
26. In line 10, *hanc* refers back to...
 a) Mucius b) Porsenna c) *manum* d) *altaribus*
27. In line 10, how is *animo* best translated?
 a) courage b) soul c) anger d) mind
28. What is Porsenna's reaction to the surprising act of Mucius?
 a) admiration b) anger c) sympathy d) confusion
29. Mucius is nicknamed "Scaevola" because he...
 a) was left-handed b) threatened Porsenna with his left hand c) burned off his left hand d) burned off his right hand
30. What ethical value does this story primarily illustrate?
 a) Roman cunning b) Roman bravery c) Etruscan foolishness d) Etruscan cruelty

Reading
Level 3
(IntermProse)

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