

2014 GJCL Reading Comprehension Exam: Level I

Fill in the first four blocks of the Scantron sheet with your own 4-digit code, then the next four blocks with the code for this exam (1008). Fill in completely the space on the answer sheet corresponding to the correct answer for each question. **Do not write on the exam itself.**

Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, the last king of Rome, devises an elaborate trick to take over a neighboring city and enrich himself in the process.

Lucius Tarquinius Superbus iniustus rēx Rōmānus in pāce, sed nōn dūx bellī malus fuit. Is primum bellum, quod dūcentōs annōs post aetātem suam durāvit, contrā Volsciōs gessit. Ubi Suessam Pometiam vī cēpit et praedam pecuniamque accumulāvit, in animō eius cōnsilium habuit: “Templum Iovis aedificāre dēsiderō. Hoc templum maximum in urbe erit!”

5 Multa pecūnia necessaria erat. Rēx igitur excēpit bellum cum rē Gabinā, quae urbs proxima erat. Rēx Rōmae cīvitatē obsidiōne ac patientiā superāre cupiēbat, sed exercitus Tarquiniī identidem ā moenibus pulsus est. Tarquinius irātus erat. Cūr Gabiōs vincere nōn poterat? Postrēmō urbem fraude ac dolō, arte minime Romanā, pefīvit.

10 Sextum, filium eius, quī minimus ex tribus erat, ad urbem inimicam mīsit. Sextus dē superbiā pātris apud regem Gabiōrum dīcēbat. “Pātrē meum fūgī,” inquit, “quod haudquaquam ibi tūtus fuī. Quamvis bellum vōbiscum dēposuit, id rursus suscipiet quando opportunitātem habēbit. Vōs adiuvāre possum, sī mē in urbem vestram accipiētis.”

15 Cīvēs Sextum mendācem etiam in cōnsilia publica admīsērunt. Omnia dicta factaque eius fidēs cīvium augēbant. Paullatim omne imperium apud Gabiōs conferēbat. Nuntium ad pātrē suum mīsit. “Quid facere dēbeō?” rogāvit Sextus. Tarquinius Superbus nuntiō nōn rēspōndit, sed tacitus in hortō summa capita papaverum baculō dēcutit. Nuntius Sextō haec refert. Sextus signa sine verbīs intellēxit: tum omnēs cīvēs nobiles interfēcit. Deinde Sextus rem Gabinam rēgī Rōmānō sine ullā pugnatione tradidit.

1. According to the story, what is something that Superbus was known for?
a) being a bad leader b) being a just king c) living for 200 years d) starting a long-lasting war
2. How long did the conflict with the Volsci last?
a) as long as his lifetime b) for 20 years after his death c) for a few months d) for over 200 years
3. What is the case and use of *ducentōs annōs* (line 2)?
a) ablative/time when b) accusative/duration of time c) accusative/direct object d) nominative/subject
4. What tense is *cēpit* (line 3)?
a) present b) imperfect c) perfect d) future
5. How did Superbus manage to take over Suessa Pometia?
a) with a treaty b) by force c) by negotiating with its leader d) with a man
6. What did Superbus want to build with the money from his conquest?
a) a temple b) a new city c) an altar for sacrifices d) city walls
7. To what deity was the temple to be dedicated?
a) Mars b) Minerva c) Jupiter d) Janus
8. According to the passage, what would stand out about this temple in the future when it was finished?
a) its size b) its cost c) its engineering d) its location
9. How did Tarquinius try *at first* to take over the city of Gabii?
a) with thousands of soldiers b) with siege engines and war machinery
c) with tricks d) by besieging the city and being patient
10. What happened to his army during the initial attempts to take the city?
a) it was driven back b) it was successful c) the walls fell on them d) T. became impatient

11. What is the case and use of *obsidiōne ac patientiā* (line 6)?
a) ablative/agent b) dative/means c) genitive/possession d) ablative/means
12. What is the tense of *poterat* (line 8)?
a) present b) imperfect c) perfect d) pluperfect
13. In line 8, the best meaning for *petivit* is:
a) looked for b) attacked c) asked d) petitioned
14. What is the case and use of *arte...Romanā* (line 8)?
a) ablative/means b) dative/agent c) ablative/agent d) nominative/subject
15. How many sons did Tarquinius Superbus have?
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4
16. What relationship to the other sons did Sextus have?
a) he was the youngest b) he was the best soldier c) he was the worst in his tribe d) he was the oldest
17. What reason did Sextus give to the king of Gabii for why he left Rome?
a) he was afraid of his father's enemies b) he wanted to get his father back for his arrogance
c) he wanted to get away from his brothers d) he did not feel safe at Rome because of his father
18. What is the case of *bellum* (line 11)?
a) nominative b) genitive c) dative d) accusative
19. What tense is *suscipiet* (line 11)?
a) present b) imperfect c) perfect d) future
20. What is the tense of *habebit* (line 12)?
a) present b) imperfect c) perfect d) future
21. What does Sextus promise the people of Gabii in return for taking him in?
a) his help b) money c) an opportunity to attack Rome d) protection
22. Based on the phrase *Civēs...admīsērunt* (line 13), we can conclude that Sextus:
a) made treaties for the people of Gabii b) was allowed into their governing body
c) gave advice to their Senate d) began public building projects
23. What is the tense of *augēbant* (line 14)?
a) present b) imperfect c) future d) perfect
24. How quickly did Sextus acquire power at Gabii?
a) all at once b) over the course of a year c) gradually/little by little d) suddenly
25. How does Sextus attempt to communicate with his father?
a) with sign language b) by going back to Rome to speak with him
c) by sending a messenger to him d) by using a trusted friend as an intermediary
26. What is Tarquinius' response to Sextus' messenger?
a) T. tells S. to come back to Rome b) T. tells S. to open the gates of Gabii for him
c) T. tells S. to plant poppies for good luck d) T. does not respond.
27. What is the case and use of *signa* (line 17)?
a) nominative/subject b) ablative/means c) accusative/direct object d) genitive/possession
28. What is Sextus' interpretation of the silent message his father gives him?
a) he kills all the foremost citizens at Gabii b) he starts a war with his father
c) he does not understand his father's signs d) he summons an augur
29. What is the case and use of *rēgī Rōmanō* (line 18)?
a) dative/agent b) dative/indirect object c) ablative/object of preposition d) ablative/agent
30. Based on the passage, what is the best way to describe Superbus' takeover of Gabii after Sextus' trick was complete?
a) peaceful b) violent c) expensive d) contentious

2014 GJCL Reading Comprehension Level I Answer Key (1008)

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