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


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 ducentūs 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   c) 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 thousande of soldiers   b) with seige engines and war machinery   c) with tricks   d) by beseiging 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 *obsidio ne 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 *peñīvit* 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 *Cīvēs...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