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PPTC English Sample Test

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This test contains an English passage. You have to read the passage carefully and then answer some questions on it. You can look back at the passage to check your answers as many times as you want. There are also some questions on spelling and punctuation.

This is a multiple-choice test, in which you have to mark your answer to each question on the answer sheet. You should mark only one answer for each question.

Draw a firm line through the rectangle next to your answer. If you make a mistake, rub it out and put in your new answer.

Mark your answer in the column that has the same number as the test question.

If you cannot do a question, do not waste time on it but go on to the next. If you are not sure of an answer, choose the one you think is best.

Rough working can be done on a separate sheet of paper.

You have 25 minutes to do the test.

Read this passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

1. The Romans made no use of saddles or stirrups, but merely cloths folded according to the convenience of the rider.

Among the instruments used in war were towers consisting of different storeys, from which showers of darts were discharged on the townsmen by means of engines called

5. catapultae, balistae, and scorpiones.

But the most dreadful machine of all was the battering ram: this was a long beam like the mast of a ship, and armed at one end with iron, in the form of a ram's head, whence it had its name. It was suspended by the middle, with ropes or chains fastened to a beam which lay across two posts, and hanging thus equally balanced, it was violently thrust forward, drawn back, and again pushed forward, until by repeated strokes it had broken down the wall.

10.

The discipline of the army was maintained with great severity; officers were exposed to degradation for misconduct, and the private soldier to corporal punishment. Whole legions who had transgressed their military duty were exposed to decimation, which consisted in drawing their names by lot, and putting every tenth man to the sword.

15. The most common rewards were crowns of different forms; the mural crown was presented to him who in the assault first scaled the rampart of a town; the castral, to those who were foremost in storming the enemy's entrenchments; the civic chaplet of oak leaves, to the soldier who saved his comrade's life in battle, and the triumphal laurel wreath to the general who commanded in a successful engagement. The radial crown was that worn by the emperors.

20. When an army was freed from a blockade, the soldiers gave their deliverer a crown called obsidionalis, made of the grass which grew in the besieged place; and to him who first boarded the ship of an enemy, a naval crown.

But the greatest distinction that could be conferred on a commander, was a triumph; this was granted only by the senate, on the occasion of a great victory. When decreed, the

25. general returned to Rome, and was appointed by a special edict to the supreme command in the city; on the day of his entry, a triumphal arch was erected of sculptured masonry, under which the procession passed.

First came a detachment of cavalry, with a band of military music preceding a train of priests in their robes, who were followed by a hecatomb of the whitest oxen with gilded horns entwined with flowers; next were chariots, laden with the spoils of the vanquished; and after them, long ranks of chained captives conducted by files of lictors. Then came the conqueror, clothed in purple and crowned with laurel, having an ivory sceptre in his hand; a band of children followed dressed in white, who threw perfumes from silver censers, while they chanted the hymns of victory and the praises of the conqueror. The march was

30. closed by the victorious troops, with their weapons wreathed with laurel; the procession marched to the temple of Jupiter, where the victor descended and dedicated his spoils to the gods.

Passage taken from the book **Roman Antiquities and Ancient Mythology For Classical Schools** (2nd ed.) by Charles K. Dillaway

Questions

1	<p>What did the Romans mount their dart discharging engines on?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. On horses.B. On their shoulders.C. On piles of stones.D. On buildings.E. On towers.
2	<p>What was the benefit of using towers as instruments of war?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. The towers gave the soldiers a height advantage.B. The towers gave the soldiers a speed advantage.C. The towers kept the soldiers together.D. The towers frightened the enemy.E. The towers could be used as battering rams.
3	<p>What is the main subject of the third paragraph?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. It is about horses.B. It is about the bravery of the Roman army.C. It is about fighting battles.D. It is about the battering ram.E. It is about fighting tactics.
4	<p>What is the main theme of the fourth paragraph?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. That discipline in the Roman army was strict.B. That it was good to be in the Roman army.C. That soldiers were volunteers.D. That the Roman army was an effective fighting force.E. That soldiers used many different weapons.
5	<p>What was the most severe punishment mentioned in the fifth paragraph?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Corporal punishment.B. Degradation.C. Demotion.D. Decimation.E. Being sent to the frontier.

6	<p>What form did rewards usually take?</p> <p>A. Money. B. Medals. C. Spoils of war. D. Land. E. Crowns.</p>
7	<p>What was a grass crown awarded for?</p> <p>A. For valour. B. For saving a comrade's life in battle. C. For storming an enemy encampment. D. For scaling a rampart. E. For liberating a besieged army.</p>
8	<p>What was the destination of the triumphal procession?</p> <p>A. The centre of Rome. B. Jupiter's temple. C. The senate. D. The river Tiber. E. The colosseum.</p>
9	<p>What is the meaning of the word "decimation" (line 13)?</p> <p>A. Division by ten me. B. Drawing names by lot and killing every tenth soldier. C. Usage of the metric system. D. Drawing names by lot and rewarding every tenth soldier. E. Usage of the decimal system.</p>
10	<p>What type of word is "chained" (line 31)?</p> <p>A. A noun. B. A verb. C. An adjective. D. An adverb. E. A conjunction.</p>
	<p>In each one of the following ten questions, there is either one spelling mistake or no spelling mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. If there is no mistake, mark N.</p>
11	<p>The estate agent did not have to try hard to convince us.</p> <p>A B C D</p>

12	We were already very well acquainted with this area. A B C D
13	This was an excellent property, a really high quality apartment. A B C D
14	We were desperate to find accommodation and were grateful to our friends. A B C D
15	They had suggested this agency, and this was an opportunity to be siezed. A B C D
16	We agreed the conditions immediatly, then looked at each other and smiled. A B C D
17	Their was sufficient space for all our needs. The kitchen was fully equipped. A B C D
18	This was a stuning property, and we were lucky to have found it. A B C D
19	We couldn't contain our exitement, this was a dream come true. A B C D
20	This was a new start, and we looked forward to the future expectently. A B C D
	The following eight questions contain some mistakes in the use of capital letters and punctuation. In each question, there is either one mistake or no mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. If there is no mistake, mark N.
21	It was a hot humid afternoon in August. The cicadas were buzzing. A B C D

22	Jack and Mary couldnt sleep, and they both decided to get up. <table border="1"><tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr></table>	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D		
23	They were on holiday in Spain. They had been taking a siesta. <table border="1"><tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr></table>	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D		
24	They decided to stroll down to the beach. 'Whats that?' said Jack. <table border="1"><tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr></table>	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D		
25	'Did you see that fin in the water? said Jack. He thought he had seen a shark. <table border="1"><tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr></table>	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D		
26	'It must be a shark!' he said. They decided to stick to the hotels pool instead. <table border="1"><tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr></table>	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D		
27	They headed back to the hotel. 'Where shall we eat tonight' Jack asked. <table border="1"><tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr></table>	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D		
28	'I don't really mind. Lets go to the bar and have a drink,' said Mary. <table border="1"><tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr></table>	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D		

Answer sheet

Please mark the boxes like and not like . Rub out mistakes thoroughly.

Pages 2-4

1	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
2	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
3	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
4	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
5	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]

6	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
7	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
8	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
9	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
10	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]

Pages 4-5

11	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
12	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
13	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
14	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
15	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]

16	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
17	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
18	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
19	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
20	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]

Pages 5-6

21	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
22	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
23	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
24	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]

25	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
26	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
27	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
28	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]

Answer sheet (with correct answers)

Pages 2-4

1	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
2	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
3	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
4	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
5	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]

6	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
7	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
8	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
9	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
10	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]

Pages 4-5

11	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
12	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
13	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
14	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
15	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]

16	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
17	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
18	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
19	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
20	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]

Pages 5-6

21	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
22	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
23	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
24	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]

25	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
26	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
27	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]
28	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[N]

Answer sheet (answers to questions 11-28)

- 11. N
- 12. C acquainted
- 13. D apartment
- 14. C grateful
- 15. D seized
- 16. B immediately
- 17. A There
- 18. A stunning
- 19. B excitement
- 20. D expectantly
- 21. A hot, humid
- 22. A couldn't
- 23. N
- 24. D What's
- 25. B in the water?'
- 26. D hotel's
- 27. D tonight?'
- 28. B Let's