

OMENS, OMENS, OMENS!

The early years of Aurelian

Aurēliānus humilibus nātus parentibus, mente vīvācissimus ā primā aetāte, vīribus clārus, nūllum umquam diem praetermīsīt quō nōn sē armīs exercēret. Callicratēs quīdem, Graecōrum doctissimus scrīptor, dīcit mātrem Aurēliānī fuisse sacerdotem templī Sōlis in eō vīcō, in quō habitābant suī parentēs; hanc sacerdotem potuisse etiam futūra praedīcere, adeō ut ūnō diē marītō suō locūta sit, "Ecce, imperātōris patrem!" Īdem scrīptor dīcit auspīcia imperīi Aurēliānō fuisse haec: prīmum serpentem pelvem puerī eius plērumque cīnxisse neque umquam necārī potuisse. Tandem māter ipsa, quae hoc vīderat, serpentem, quod vidēbātur similis familiārī, nōn necāre cōstituit. Sacerdōs dīcitur fēcisse filiō suō vestīmenta ex palliolō purpureō, quod ōlim imperātor quīdam Sōlī obtulerat. Tum aquila quoque Aurēliānum fasciolam gerentem innoxiē ē cūnīs levāvit et in āram posuit, quae iuxtā templum forte sine ignibus erat. Etiam vitulus mīrae magnitudinis nātus est in familiā mātris eius, candidus sed maculīs purpureīs, ita ut in latere ūnō "AVĒ" et in alterō formam corōnae habēret.

- 1
- 2 **praetermīsīt** = allowed...to go by
- 3
- 4 **vīcō** = street
- 5
- 6
- 7 **pelvem** = wash tub
- 8 **plērumque cīnxisse** = surrounded
- 9 | many times
- 10 **palliolō** = cloak
- 11 | (line 12) **fasciolam** = baby's diaper
- 12 **innoxiē** = harmlessly; **cūnīs** = cradle
- 13 **vitulus** = calf
- 14 **maculīs** = spots
- 15

Adapted from *Historia Augusta*, The Deified Aurelian, 4 (Aurelianus)

1. According to the phrase *Aurēliānus...parentibus* (line 1), how is young Aurelian described?
A) ignored by his parents B) born to humble parents C) having spoken to humble parents D) with unknown parents
2. What is the meaning of the Latin root for the English word "vivacious," a derivative of *vīvācissimus* (line 1)?
A) to forbid B) to live C) to force D) to praise
3. Which words best describe Aurelian as a child (lines 1-2)? A) tall and handsome B) intelligent and strong
C) lazy and selfish D) angry and rude
4. According to line 3, what do we learn about Callicrates? A) He was a very famous Greek actor.
B) He was a rather obscure Greek philosopher. C) He was a most learned Greek writer.
D) He was a quite respected Greek priest.
5. What position did Aurelian's mother hold (lines 4-5)? A) an artist B) a singer C) a queen D) a priestess
6. Which Roman god of prophecy and the sun is most closely aligned to the deity Sol mentioned in line 4?
A) Apollo B) Pluto C) Bacchus D) Jupiter
7. How did Callicrates know Aurelian's mother (lines 4-5)? A) He was related to her. B) He studied with her.
C) He lived near her. D) He met her on his travels.
8. What skill did Aurelian's mother appear to have (line 5)? A) writing poetry B) painting portraits C) forging weapons
D) uttering prophecies
9. In lines 5-6, to whom is Aurelian's mother speaking? A) Sol B) a neighbor C) her husband D) Callicrates
10. The Romans often made predictions by observing birds' behavior. What word in lines 6-7 refers to this?
A) *marītō* B) *auspīcia* C) *imperīi* D) *serpentem*
11. What strange omen occurred in lines 7-8? A) The boy killed a snake with his hands.
B) A snake wrapped itself around the boy. C) The mother threw a snake into the baby's wash tub.
D) A snake coiled itself around the baby's wash tub.
12. What was the mother's reaction to the snake (lines 8-9)? A) She killed it. B) She left it alone.
C) She asked her husband to remove it. D) She screamed and fled.
13. What did Aurelian's mother decide as a result of her encounter with the snake (line 9)?
A) The snake was like a household member. B) The snake was a danger to the child.
C) The snake was a representation of the sun god. D) The snake was an evil omen.
14. In lines 10-11, what did his mother make? A) a cloak for the priest B) an offering to the sun god
C) a new tub for washing D) a garment for the baby
15. In lines 10-11, who else was associated with this item the mother had made (*quod...obtulerat*)?
A) a certain emperor B) the scaly snake C) the local priests D) his elderly father
16. In the next omen, Aurelian was found on an altar. How did he get there (lines 11-12)?
A) A snake led him there. B) An eagle put him there. C) His mother placed him there. D) He crawled there by himself.
17. In the final omen (lines 13-15), there were marks located on what part(s) of a calf? A) its sides B) its hooves C) its horns
D) its nose
18. What signs did these marks display (lines 14-15)? A) a fire and an eagle B) jewels and a scepter
C) a greeting and a crown D) the sun and stars
19. Based on these omens, what was Aurelian destined to be? A) an emperor B) a prophet C) a priest D) a writer

ALIAM OMNIA VINCIT: NOT JUST A CULINARY DELIGHT

Pliny the Elder describes the many medicinal uses of garlic.



Alium magnam vim et magnās ūtilitātēs contrā aquae et locōrum mūtatiōnēs habet. Alium serpentēs et scoriōnēs odōre repellit atque, ut aliquī trādidērunt, vulnera facta ā bēstiīs omnibus sānat, cōnsūptum aut potū aut cibō, vel in corpus impositum. Nē potentiam contrā morsūs arāneārum mūriumque mīrēmur!
Aconitum dēbellat, et canum morsūs quoque sānat, aliō cum melle in vulnera impositō. Ut ictūs serpentium sānet, alium potū cōnsūmitur. Ūtilissimum medicāmentum, sūis foliīs factum et oleō mixtum, est ūsuī adtrītis corporum partibus, etiāmsī vulnera intumuerint. Hippocratēs alium incidēbat et cineribus eius cum oleō ūtēbātur, ut ulcera capitis sānāret. Aliquī alium coctum suspīriōsīs, aliquī crūdum id dedērunt. Dolōrēs dentium minuit vel tribus capitibus in acētō trītis, vel coctō aliō dentēs purgandō et segmenta in cava dentium imponendō. In tōtum autem coctum ūtilius est crūdō, ēlixumque tostō.

- 1 **Alium** = Garlic
- 2
- 3 **sānat** = heals; **potū** = with drink
- 4 **morsūs** = bites; **mūrium** = of mice
- 5 **Aconitum** = Wolfsbane (a poison)
- 6 **ictūs** = attacks
- 7 **adtrītis** = for bruised
- 8 **intumuerint** = have swollen
- 9 **suspīriōsīs** = to people with asthma;
- 10 | (line 9) **crūdum** = raw
- 11 | (line 10) **in acētō trītis** = mashed
- 12 **ēlixum** = boiled | in vinegar

Inspired by Pliny the Elder, *Naturalis Historia* 20.23

20. In line 1, for what sort of event might Pliny recommend garlic? A) suffering a great fall B) a long-distance move C) avoiding bad luck at a wedding D) a year-long famine
21. In line 2, how does Pliny say that garlic keeps snakes and scorpions away? A) It burns their mouths. B) The garlic skin irritates their eyes. C) They eat it and it kills them. D) They are bothered by its smell.
22. What is a synonym of *trādidērunt*, as used in the context of line 2? A) *dīxērunt* B) *mīsērunt* C) *rēxērunt* D) *iēcērunt*
23. In lines 2-3, how does Pliny recommend using garlic if you have been wounded?
A) Plant a garlic bulb in water. B) Take garlic with your meals. C) Drink only garlic water for a week.
D) Add garlic oil to your bath.
24. What does the phrase *Nē...mīrēmur* (line 4) reveal to readers? A) We should avoid this use of garlic.
B) We should not fear spiders or mice. C) We have just witnessed a miracle. D) Spiders are not affected by garlic's power.
25. According to line 5, for what sort of wound might Pliny recommend an ointment of garlic and honey?
A) a broken ankle B) a bruised arm C) a dog bite D) an itchy rash
26. Which of the following derivatives does NOT share a common root word with *dēbellat* (line 5)?
A) embellished B) belligerent C) rebellious D) postbellum
27. If a serpent bit you, and you went to see Pliny, how might he prepare a garlic remedy (line 6)?
A) burn garlic for you to inhale B) season your food with garlic C) prepare a garlicky beverage for you
D) give you garlic to hang by your bed
28. In lines 6-8 (*Ūtilissimum...intumuerint*), what part of the garlic does Pliny recommend using on your skin?
A) the skins mixed with wine B) the bulbs mixed with vinegar C) the roots mixed with water
D) the leaves mixed with oil
29. To whom or what does *eius* (line 8) refer? A) oil B) Pliny C) garlic D) Hippocrates
30. How does Pliny believe Hippocrates prepared garlic for medicinal use (lines 8-9)? A) He fermented it in vinegar.
B) He mixed it with honey. C) He burned it and used the ashes. D) He added it to soup.
31. How is *ut ulcera capitis sānāret* (line 9) best translated? A) that the ulcers of the head heal themselves
B) as the ulcers of the head heal C) whenever healing ulcers of the head D) to heal ulcers of the head
32. How does Pliny say that people use garlic to treat patients who suffer from asthma?
A) They give cooked garlic only. B) Some give cooked garlic while others give raw garlic.
C) They give exclusively raw garlic. D) They give cooked and raw garlic mixed together.
33. What should you do with pieces of garlic if you have a toothache (lines 10-11)? A) rub them on the outside of your cheeks
B) mash three pieces on your head C) sleep with them under your pillow D) place them into the hollows of teeth
34. Overall, which garlic preparations are more useful, according to Pliny (lines 11-12)? A) cooked and boiled
B) raw and boiled C) cooked and roasted D) raw and roasted
35. Pliny the Elder, the author of this passage, died while leading a rescue mission. According to your knowledge of Roman history, where did this mission take place? A) near Mount Vesuvius B) in the city of Rome
C) on campaign across the Rhine D) at Carthage
36. What phrase might an educated doctor use to encourage a patient to pursue a healthy lifestyle?
A) *mens sana in corpore sano* B) *ars gratia artis* C) *cogito ergo sum* D) *e pluribus unum*

Note: This exam has only 36 questions. Please leave answers 37-40 blank on the answer sheet.