

2025 ACL/NJCL NATIONAL LATIN EXAM BEGINNING LATIN READING COMPREHENSION EXAM C
CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER FROM A, B, C, OR D. MARK ANSWERS ON ANSWER SHEET.

MARCELLA ET PŪPA
An original story in three parts

PŪPA = DOLL

Marcella erat infāns et ambulāre cum difficultāte discēbat. Māter et duo frātrēs 1
 Marcellam docēre temptābant. Etiam in familiā erat canis, Rēx nōmine, quī 2
 saepe in hortō dormiēbat. Ūnō diē Tiberius, frāter senior, Marcellam in pedēs 3 | (line 4) **tollēbat** = was lifting (up)
 saepe **tollēbat** et Aulus, frāter iūnior, quī trāns **cameram** stābat, pūpam eī 4 **cameram** = room; **eī** = to her
 dēmōnstrābat. Tiberius sorōrem verbīs placidīs **incitābat**, sed Aulus pūpam 5 **incitābat** = was urging
 saepe **quassābat** et sonīs similibus infantī lacrimantī clāmābat. Marcella in 6 **quassābat** = was shaking
clūnēs semper cadēbat et Tiberium respiciēbat. Aulus, quod erat **vexātus**, 7 **clūnēs** = her bottom; **vexātus** = annoyed
 pūpam cum irā **dēiciēbat**. Canis Rēx pūpam in **faucibus** saepe capiēbat et 8 **dēiciēbat** = was throwing down;
 ē camerā portābat. Tum Marcella clāmābat lacrimābatque. 9 | **faucibus** = jaws

1. What was Marcella unable to do (line 1)? A) see B) read C) count D) walk
2. According to lines 1-2, how many children are in this family? A) I B) II C) III D) IV
3. According to lines 1-2 (*Marcella...temptābant*), what were Marcella's family members trying to do?
 A) have her play with the dog B) teach her to walk C) make a doll for her D) feed her a meal
4. Where did Rex the dog often sleep (lines 2-3, *Rēx...dormiēbat*)? A) in the atrium B) in the kitchen
 C) in the bedroom D) in the garden
5. According to lines 3-5 (*Ūnō diē...dēmōnstrābat*), who was located closest to Marcella? A) the dog B) Tiberius
 C) Aulus D) the mother
6. Why does Tiberius lift up Marcella (lines 3-4, *Tiberius...tollēbat*)? A) He is standing her up onto her feet.
 B) He wants to show her the picture on the wall. C) He is moving her away from the water. D) He is separating her
 from her brother Aulus.
7. Which of the following English words is NOT a derivative of the root of the verb form *stābat* (line 4)? A) stance
 B) station C) stagnant D) statue
8. What is Aulus doing from across the room (lines 4-5, *Aulus...dēmōnstrābat*)? A) He is laughing at Marcella trying
 to sing. B) He makes animal noises to distract Marcella. C) He is hiding his toys from Marcella. D) He is showing
 the doll to Marcella.
9. According to line 5, how does Tiberius try to encourage Marcella? A) He talks to her calmly.
 B) He holds the dog for her to pet. C) He gives her the doll. D) He claps his hands.
10. In lines 5-6 (*Aulus...clāmābat*), what is one way Aulus tries to get Marcella's attention? A) He makes crying
 sounds like a baby. B) He sings a silly song. C) He throws toys at her. D) He repeatedly calls out her name.
11. In lines 7-8 (*Aulus...dēiciēbat*), how does Aulus react to Marcella's efforts? A) He gives praise.
 B) He becomes happy. C) He loses his temper. D) He makes fun of her.
12. According to lines 8-9, what often makes Marcella scream and cry? A) Tiberius not paying attention to her
 B) Marcella's mother putting her to bed C) Marcella losing her doll D) Aulus making fun of her
13. Which of the following is TRUE, according to lines 8-9? A) The dog once made Marcella happy. B) The dog
 always attacked intruders. C) The dog never left Marcella's side. D) The dog sometimes caused Marcella to cry.

Posterō diē frātrēs in villā lūdēbant. Aulus parvum equum **ligneum**, quī 10 **ligneum** = wooden
rotās habēbat, trahēbat. Tiberius in impluviō parvam nāvem propellēbat. 11 **rotās** = wheels
 Rēx sub lūce sōlis dormiēbat. Subitō māter intrāvit et Marcellam cum pūpā 12
 prope puerōs dēposuit. Tiberius, quī iam erat irātus quod nāvis ad **costam** 13 **costam** = side
dēvolvēbatur, murmurābat atque ad tablīnum discēdēbat. Sorōrem cūrāre 14 **dēvolvēbatur** = kept turning over
 nōn cupiēbat! 15

14. Which Olympian god was associated with an *equum* which he first created in a competition to win the patronage of
 the city of Athens? A) Neptune B) Jupiter C) Mercury D) Vulcan
15. In line 10, to whom or what does *quī* refer? A) the brothers B) the horse C) the wheels D) the house
16. According to lines 10-11, what was Aulus doing to the small wooden horse? A) painting it B) destroying it
 C) pulling it D) building it

17. In line 11, we learn that Tiberius was playing with a small boat in the *impluvium*. In what part of their Roman house would this be located? A) *peristylum* B) *cubiculum* C) *atrium* D) *triclīnium*
18. According to line 12, what was the dog doing? A) chewing on a bone B) barking at the boys C) chasing a mouse D) lying in the sun
19. What happened to Marcella in lines 12-13 (*māter...dēposuit*)? A) She was knocked over by the dog. B) She was placed near her brothers. C) Someone took her doll. D) Her brothers made her cry.
20. According to lines 13-14 (*Tiberius...discēdēbat*), why did Tiberius become angry? A) Aulus was making waves in the *impluvium*. B) His boat did not stay upright in the water. C) His mother told him not to play in the *impluvium*. D) Marcella wanted to play with the boat.
21. In line 14, what did Tiberius do as a result of his anger? A) He left the atrium. B) He shouted at his brother. C) He argued with his mother. D) He threw down his boat.
22. What was Tiberius trying to avoid (lines 14-15)? A) taking care of his sister B) playing with his brother C) talking to his mother D) cleaning up after the dog

Nunc Marcella statim ad impluvium aquae plēnum serpere incipit. Aulus	16	
sorōrem <u>animadvertit</u> et clāmat, “Cavē, Tiberī! Marcella ad impluvium	17	animadvertit = notices
serpit! Cape eam!” Multa simul <u>accidunt</u> : Aulus, quī surgere temptat, ad	18	accidunt = happen
pavimentum cadit. Tiberius ē tablinō revenit et Marcellam petit. Rēx,	19	
magnā vōce lātrāns, circum pedēs omnium currit. Antequam frāter senior	20	
ad sorōrem pervenit, Marcella, equum Aulī vidēns, surgit et pūpam in aquam	21	
iacit. Puella, quae incertīs <u>crūribus</u> cum difficultāte ambulat, equum petit.	22	crūribus = with...legs
Rēx in aquam impluvīi currit et pūpam capit. Tiberius exclāmat, “Ecce,	23	
Aule! Pūpa Marcellam nōn excitat, quod equum tuum cupiēbat! Nunc soror	24	
nostra ambulāre potest!” Aulus rīdēns exclāmat, “Et Rēx natāre potest!”	25	

23. A derivative in English for *serpere* (line 16) is “serpent.” What does Marcella begin to do (*serpere incipit*)? A) eat B) crawl C) run D) laugh
24. According to lines 16-18, what is Aulus trying to prevent by shouting to Tiberius? A) Marcella waking up their mother B) Marcella interrupting the boys’ play C) Marcella starting to cry again D) Marcella falling into the *impluvium*
25. What does Aulus urge Tiberius to do (line 18)? A) distract her B) scold her C) praise her D) catch her
26. What does *Multa simul accidunt* (line 18) tell us? A) The boys do not understand what is happening. B) Many things happen at the same time. C) Nothing interesting ever happens. D) Marcella wonders what is happening.
27. What happens to Aulus when he tries to get up (lines 18-19)? A) He falls to the floor. B) He lands in the *impluvium*. C) He gets hit by Marcella’s doll. D) He drops his toy horse.
28. According to line 19, what does Tiberius do? A) He tries to help his brother. B) He comes back into the atrium. C) He picks up their toys. D) He runs to get their mother.
29. According to lines 19-20, where does the dog run? A) through the *impluvium* B) out of the room C) toward Marcella D) around everyone’s feet
30. According to lines 20-21 (*Antequam...pervenit*), who heads for Marcella first? A) Tiberius B) their mother C) the dog D) Aulus
31. In lines 21-22, which of the following actions does Marcella NOT do? A) standing up B) screaming C) throwing her doll into the water D) looking at Aulus’ toy horse
32. According to line 22 (*Puella...petit*), how is Marcella described? A) angry B) afraid C) unsteady D) graceful
33. In line 22 (*Puella...petit*), what do we learn about Marcella? A) She says her first words. B) She refuses to play with her brothers. C) She throws the toy boat into the water. D) She walks for the first time.
34. Which of the following English words is derived from the root of the verb form *petit* (line 22)? A) petition B) pet C) petty D) petrify
35. According to line 23, what does the dog Rex do? A) barks at the children B) nudges Marcella along C) rushes into the water D) hurries out of the room
36. What was Marcella’s motivation for her actions at the end of the story? A) She wanted to play with her doll. B) She wanted to play with Tiberius’ toy boat. C) She wanted to play with Aulus’ toy horse. D) She wanted to play in the water.

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