

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

OMENS SURROUNDING THE BIRTH OF VERGIL

Nātus est, Cn. Pompeiō Magnō M. Liciniō Crassō primum cōss.,
Īduum Octōbriūm diē in pāgō quī Andes dīcitur et abest ā Mantuā
nōn procul. Praegnāns eō māter somniāvit enīxam sē laureum
rāmum, quem contactū terrae coaluisse et excrēvisse īlicō in
speciem mātūrae arboris refertaeque variīs pōmīs et flōribus;
ac sequentī lūce cum marītō rūs propinquum petēns ex itinere
dēvertit atque in subiectā fossā partū levāta est. Ferunt infāntem,
ut sit ēditus, neque vāgis et adeo mītī vultū fuisse, ut haud
dubiam spem prosperiōris genitūrae iam tum daret. Et accessit
aliud praesāgium, quidem virga pōpulea mōre regiōnis in
puerperiīs eōdem statim locō dēpacta ita brevī ēvaluit tempore,
ut multō ante satās pōpulōs adaequāvisset, quae arbor Vergiliī
ex eō dicta atque etiam cōnsecrāta est summā gravidārum
ac fētārum religiōne suscipientium ibi et solventium vota.

Suētōnius, *Dē Poētīs, Vīta Vergiliī*

- 1 [Vergilius] **Nātus est**; **cōss.** = consuls
- 2 **pāgō** = region
- 3 **enīxam (esse)** = had given birth to
- 4 **coaluisse** = had taken root; **īlicō** = immediately
- 5 **refertae** = covered
- 6
- 7 **partū levāta est** = gave birth
- 8 **vāgis** = cried
- 9 **genitūrae** = destiny
- 10 **praesāgium** = omen; **virga pōpulea** = poplar sapling
- 11 **puerperiīs** = as the birth; **dēpacta** = planted
- 12 **satās pōpulōs** = poplar trees sown
- 13 **gravidārum** = of pregnant women
- 14 **fētārum** = of new mothers

1. On what day was Vergil born (lines 1-2)? A) October 1 B) October 7 C) October 15 D) October 31
2. Based on the references to Pompey and Crassus (line 1), when was Vergil born? A) in the late Monarchy B) in the early Republic C) in the late Republic D) in the late Empire
3. Which statement is true, based on lines 1-3? A) Vergil was born near the ocean. B) Vergil served as a consul. C) Mantua is a suburb of Rome. D) Vergil was born not far from Mantua.
4. What is the best translation of *sē* (line 3)? A) she B) for himself C) itself D) to them
5. What did Vergil’s mother dream while pregnant with him (lines 3-4)? A) that a laurel branch had given birth to many trees B) that she had given birth to a laurel branch C) that laurel trees had given birth to a child D) that she should plant a laurel tree once she had given birth
6. In lines 4-5 (*quem...flōribus*), what is unusual about this branch? A) how quickly it grew B) the size of the fruits C) the golden color of the leaves D) how it could speak prophetically
7. What noun does *refertae* (line 5) modify? A) *terrae* (line 4) B) *speciem* (line 5) C) *arboris* (line 5) D) *pōmīs* (line 5)
8. Based on your knowledge of mythology and Roman culture, this omen about the laurel tree can be seen as a predictor of Vergil’s _____. A) literary accomplishments B) successful lineage C) political career D) early death
9. What is another way of saying *sequentī lūce* (line 6)? A) *mediā nocte* B) *quam primum* C) *posterō diē* D) *multīs post diēbus*
10. Who was accompanying Vergil’s mother on her journey in line 6? A) no one. B) a neighbor C) her sister D) her husband
11. Given the details presented in lines 6-7 (*ac...est*), what can the reader infer about the circumstances of the birth? A) The labor lasted many days. B) She had arrived at her planned destination. C) Her relatives helped her find the best location. D) The labor and birth came on suddenly.
12. What was notable about the child’s first moments in lines 7-8 (*Ferunt...fuisse*)? A) They say he did not cry. B) He could speak, although an infant. C) He was able to lift his head. D) A flame danced above his head.
13. In line 8, *vāgis* is an example of A) hyperbole B) onomatopoeia C) hendiadys D) metonymy
14. Which English derivative meaning “to lessen or alleviate” comes from the Latin adjective *mītis* (line 8)? A) omit B) mitigate C) commiserate D) misconstrue
15. In lines 10-11 (*quidem... dēpacta*), what was the regional custom involving a poplar sapling? A) A sapling should be burned where the woman gave birth. B) A sapling should be planted where the woman gave birth. C) The woman should preserve a sapling gathered from the birthplace. D) The woman should remove all saplings planted at the birthplace.
16. What is the best translation of *ut* as it is used in lines 11-12? A) as B) how C) that D) in order to
17. What omen (*praesāgium*) occurred after Vergil’s birth in lines 10-12? A) The sapling grew to the size of a full-grown tree in short time. B) The sapling could tell of events that happened in the past. C) No tree ever grew there again. D) The tree lived many years longer than normal.
18. What does the idiom *solventium vōta* (line 14) mean? A) lighting a lamp B) setting sail C) paying the penalty D) fulfilling vows

19. According to lines 13-14, what was thought about this place in future years? A) Pregnant women should avoid this location. B) The location was considered sacred by pregnant women. C) A temple for the goddess of childbirth was built there. D) The tree's location became a secret among pregnant women.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

Thetis debates with herself about how she may protect her son Achilles.

At Thetis undisonīs per noctem in rūpibus astāns,	1
quae nātō sēcrēta velit, quibus <u>abdere</u> terrīs	2 abdere = to hide (him) away
<u>dēstinet</u> , hūc illūc dīvīsā mente volūtāt...	3 dēstinet = she may consider
Haec placet, haec timidae <u>tellūs</u> tūtissima mātrī.	4 tellūs , i.e., the land of King Lycomedes
Quālis vīcīnō <u>volucris</u> iam <u>sēdula</u> <u>partū</u>	5 volucris = a bird; sēdula = diligent; partū = act of egg-laying
iamque timēns, quā fronde domum suspendat inānem;	6
prōvidet hīc ventōs, hīc anxia cōgitat <u>anguēs</u> ,	7 anguēs = snakes
hīc hominēs: tandem dubiae placet umbra, novisque	8
vix stetit in rāmīs et <u>prōtinus</u> arbor amātur...	9 prōtinus = immediately
Ipsa dehinc tōtō resolūtum pectore Achillem	10
quī puerīs sopor, <u>Haemoniī</u> dē rūpibus antrī	11 Haemoniī refers to Thessaly
ad placidās dēportat aquās et iussa tacēre	12
lītora; mōnstrat iter tōtōque effulгурat orbe	13
Cynthia.	14

Statius, *Achilleid* I, selected verses from 198-232

20. Based on your knowledge of mythology, the references to Thetis and Achilles set this passage as an early episode in the war between _____. A) Aeneas and the Rutulians B) the Romans and the Etruscans C) the gods and the Titans D) the Greeks and the Trojans
21. Where is Thetis standing at the beginning of this passage (line 1)? A) a grassy hillside B) on a cliff by the sea C) the entrance to the Underworld D) a silent grove
22. In lines 2-3, what is Thetis considering? A) sharing a secret with her son B) addressing Jupiter about her son's fate C) begging a favor for her son D) finding a safe place for her son
23. What do the phrases *hūc illūc* and *dīvīsā mente* in line 3 highlight about Thetis? A) her uncertainty B) her intelligence C) her trickiness D) her beauty
24. What noun does the adjective *tūtissima* (line 4) modify? A) *terrīs* (line 2) B) *mente* (line 3) C) *tellūs* (line 4) D) *mātrī* (line 4)
25. What does the reader learn in line 4? A) This land seems best to Thetis. B) Thetis is afraid that no land is safe. C) Some lands are to be feared more than others. D) Thetis has set aside her fears at last.
26. Who or what is being compared to *volucris* in line 5? A) Achilles B) the land C) Thetis D) a nest
27. What is the scansion of the first four feet of line 6? A) DDSD B) DSDD C) DSDD D) DDSS
28. According to lines 5-6, why is the *domum* considered *inānem*? A) she has not yet laid an egg B) the chick has left the nest C) a predator has snatched away her egg D) her chick has fallen from the tree
29. What English word shares the same etymological roots as the Latin word *prōvidet* in line 7? A) province B) provisions C) improvement D) proverb
30. In lines 7-8, the repetition of *hīc* highlights the bird's concern for _____. A) her chick's ability to fly B) how she will feed her chick C) the size of her nest D) a good location for her nest
31. What noun is the subject of *placet* in line 8? A) the people B) the shade C) the bird D) the chick
32. What does the progression of the three clauses in lines 8-9 (*tandem...amātur*) show about the bird? A) Her doubt has turned to relief. B) Her worries are confirmed. C) Her carelessness is punished. D) Her love for her offspring grows with time.
33. *Ipsa* in line 10 refers to A) the bird B) Achilles C) the tree D) Thetis
34. What does *tōtō resolūtum pectore* (line 10) reveal about Achilles? A) He is concerned. B) He is relaxed. C) He is confused. D) He is angry.
35. What divinity is referenced by *mōnstrat iter tōtōque effulгурat orbe Cynthia* in lines 13-14? A) Thalia B) Proserpina C) Diana D) Psyche
36. The mood described in lines 10-14 echo what feelings of Thetis? A) her continued worry B) her growing relief C) her sudden fears D) her careless disregard

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