

2026 ACL/NJCL NATIONAL LATIN EXAM BEGINNING LATIN READING COMPREHENSION EXAM EXAM C
SELECT THE BEST ANSWER FROM A, B, C, OR D. MARK ANSWERS ON ANSWER SHEET.

ACHILLES AND HIS HORSES
A reimagining of an ancient tale

Achillēs erat fortis mīles Graecus. Hector erat validus mīles Troiānus. Hector	1
Patroclum, amīcum cārum Achillis, in bellō interfēcit. Itaque Achillēs, trīstis et	2
irātus, hostem crūdēlem interficere volēbat.	3
Achillēs duōs equōs, Xanthum et Baliū, habēbat. Celerēs et validī erant hī	4
equī, quōs Neptūnus patrī Achillis <u>dederat</u> . Postea pater filiō fortī eōs dedit.	5 quōs = which; dederat = had given
Equī et mentēs sapientēs et animās fidēlēs habēbant. Dominum saepe cūrābant.	6
Dominō sōlī sonum facere et capita dēmittere <u>solēbant</u> , ubi appropinquābat.	7 solēbant = they were accustomed
Xanthus et Balius dominum <u>currū</u> in bellum dūcere solēbant. Ōlim equī Patroclum,	8 currū = in a chariot
quī arma Achillis gerēbat, in bellum contrā Hectorem <u>tulerant</u> .	9 tulerant = had brought
Equī prope amīcum mortuum manēbant. Oculī equōrum lacrimīs <u>madēbant</u> .	10 madēbant = were dripping
Achillēs miser rogāvit, "Ēheu! Cūr vōs corpus Patroclī ad castra Graeca nōn	11
tulistis? Dūcite mē, equī celerēs, in bellum! Necessē est mihi Hectorem interficere."	12

1. Which of the following qualities was shared by both Hector and Achilles, according to line 1? A) strength B) being Greek C) being Trojan D) affection
2. According to lines 2-3, what caused Achilles to feel sad and angry? A) The Greeks have fought for too long. B) Achilles' soldiers were taken from him. C) Achilles was afraid of losing the battle. D) Hector killed Achilles' friend.
3. In lines 2-3, what did Achilles want to do (*Itaque Achillēs...volēbat*)? A) see his friend Patroclus B) refuse to fight in battle C) kill the enemy whom he blames D) seek the comfort of his parents
4. Who or what was described as swift and strong (lines 4-5)? A) Patroclus' weapons B) Achilles' horses C) Neptune D) the Greeks
5. To whom does *filiō fortī* (line 5) refer? A) Neptune B) a sea nymph C) Patroclus D) Achilles
6. How did Achilles come to own Xanthus and Balius (line 5)? A) They were a present. B) They were spoils of war. C) They appeared in a storm. D) They were saved from a disaster.
7. In line 6, (*Equī...habēbant*), what do we learn that the horses possessed? A) strength and aggression B) intelligence and loyalty C) training and discipline D) curiosity and independence
8. What does *et...et* mean in line 6? A) again...again B) both...and C) neither...nor D) either...or
9. Who is the subject of *cūrābant* (line 6)? A) the gods B) the Greeks C) the horses D) the Trojans
10. In line 7, what was the first way the horses showed affection for their master (*Dominō...solēbant*)? A) making angry faces at his enemies B) refusing to let others approach C) neighing at his presence D) only eating food given by him
11. How else did the horses acknowledge their master in line 7? A) They lowered their heads when he approached them. B) They swished their tails at his arrival. C) They perked up their ears to listen to him. D) They touched him with their noses.
12. According to line 8, what did the horses usually do? A) make more noise than other horses B) pull a chariot for many Greek soldiers C) bring Achilles into battle D) neigh to attract other horses
13. In lines 8-9, what did the horses do? A) leave Patroclus alone in battle B) bring Patroclus dressed as Achilles into battle C) allow Patroclus to rescue Achilles from battle D) bring Hector out of battle to fight Patroclus
14. According to line 10, where were the horses? A) on a mountain B) behind Hector C) beside Patroclus D) in their stalls
15. In line 10, the horses are described as _____. A) sorrowful B) angry C) disinterested D) violent
16. Why was Achilles dissatisfied with the horses in lines 11-12? A) for not being fast enough B) for not bringing back Patroclus' corpse C) for refusing to let him kill Hector D) for refusing to fight
17. What did Achilles order Xanthus and Balius to do (line 12)? A) bring soldiers to help B) take him into battle C) kill Hector D) thank the gods
18. According to line 12, what did Achilles want to do? A) to find his armor B) to curse the gods C) to avenge a friend D) to save a family member

The story continues...

Subitō oculī equōrum sunt clārī. Xanthus, dīcēns sīcut homō (per dōnum rēgīnae deōrum), "Ō Achillēs," inquit, "tē in bellum celeriter portābimus. Licet tibi Hectorem interficere sed mortem nōn effugere. Parcae tē vocant. Intellegisne?"

Achillēs verba audit neque timet. "Fātum meum sciō," inquit, "Patroclus mortuus est. Mox ego ūnā cum Patroclō erō. Sed prius necesse est mihi Hectorem interficere!" Xanthus respondet, "Intellegō. Auxilium tibi dabō."

Subitō ventus deōrum flat et Xanthus iterum tacet. Furiae vōcem remōvērunt. Numquam verba iterum dīcere poterit. Tum equī in bellum cum dominō celeriter currunt sīcut ventī super mare flant. Achillēs fortiter pugnat et Hectorem interficit. Sed Xanthus et Balius fātum ultimum hērōis iam vident. Iterum oculī eōrum lacrimīs madent.

13 **sīcut** = just as
14
15 **effugere** = to escape
16 | **Parcae** = The Fates
17
18 **ūnā** = together; **prius** = first
19 **Auxilium** = help
20 **flat** = blows
21
22
23 **hērōis** = of the hero
24

19. What unusual thing does Xanthus do (lines 13-14)? A) brings a gift to the gods B) emits fire from his eyes
C) turns into a person D) speaks to his owner
20. Based on lines 13-14 and your knowledge of mythology, who had given a gift to Xanthus? A) Jupiter B) Mars
C) Venus D) Juno
21. Which English word is derived from the root of the Latin form *portābimus* (line 14)? A) portray B) portion
C) portable D) potion
22. What do the horses agree to do (line 14)? A) carry Achilles quickly B) fight alongside Achilles C) die with Achilles
D) pray to the gods for Achilles
23. In line 15 what does *Licet tibi* mean? A) You are pleased B) You are allowed C) You ought D) You do not want
24. To whom do *tibi* and *tē* refer in line 15? A) Xanthus B) Achilles C) Hector D) the Fates
25. What is the best meaning of *Intellegisne* (line 16)? A) I don't understand you. B) Will you ever understand?
C) Do you understand? D) Now I understand.
26. How does Achilles respond to the message he hears (line 17)? A) He is scared. B) He is amused. C) He is brave.
D) He is confused.
27. What does Achilles acknowledge (line 18)? A) his impending death B) his own strength C) his great joy
D) his refusal to fight
28. What does Xanthus imply when he says, "*Intellegō. Auxilium tibi dabō.*" (line 19)?
A) He will kill Hector. B) He will deliver Achilles to Hector. C) He will find an ally to support Achilles.
D) He will rest before a big battle.
29. According to lines 20-21, what does the blowing wind signal? A) the speed of the horses
B) Xanthus' lasting silence C) the capture of Balius D) a victory in battle
30. Who took away Xanthus' gift (line 20)? A) Achilles B) Patroclus C) Balius D) the Furies
31. To what are the horses compared (lines 21-22)? A) heroes B) ships C) winds D) runners
32. Which Latin clause shows the horses carrying out Achilles' demand of them? A) *Numquam...poterit* (line 21)
B) *Tum...currunt* (lines 21-22) C) *Achillēs...pugnat* (line 22) D) *Hectorem interficit* (lines 22-23)
33. Who is the *hērōis* (line 23)? A) Hector B) Patroclus C) Peleus D) Achilles
34. To what does *fātum ultimum hērōis* (line 23) refer at the end of the passage? A) Achilles' death B) Achilles' power
C) Achilles' marriage D) Achilles' disgrace
35. To whom does *eōrum* in line 24 refer? A) the gods B) the Furies C) Achilles and Hector D) Xanthus and Balius
36. Based on your knowledge of mythology and geography, near what city did the events of this story take place?
A) Rome B) Carthage C) Delphi D) Troy