

Roman Culture/Literature Test (Horace's Poetry and The Burning of Rome)

55 Points/Weight 2

Part A: Write a T for True or an F for False

1. _____ The Romans found the right mixture of natural resources to use clay for pottery, tiles, and brick.
2. _____ Only a small minority farmed in Rome. Most Romans were merchants.
3. _____ Two ways in which the Romans improved the lands they gained included paving roads and constructing aqueducts to carry water.
4. _____ Romans relied on the power of the spoken word to express their ideas.
5. _____ Nero wrote the literature piece, *The Burning of Rome*.

Part B: Fill in the Blank with the correct word.

Heroes Satires Realism Atheists Odes Cicero Christianity
 Arenas Abstract Amphitheater Read Tacitus Heard Bathhouses

6. Early Christians were considered _____ because they denied the existence of the old gods.
7. The Circus Maximus was one of the largest _____ in Rome.
8. Eventually, _____ became the most widespread religion in the Roman Empire.
9. _____ was the primary focus for the visual arts in Rome.
10. _____ are poems that commented humorously on the attitudes and behaviors of the times.
11. _____ is considered one of the greatest orators in history.
12. _____ consisted of baths, gymnasiums, libraries, and gardens, and are similar to a modern-day health club.
13. _____ is the home of the famous Colosseum in which gladiatorial fights were held.
14. Roman literature was intended to be _____ not _____.
15. _____ are poems that express careful thoughts rather than deep emotion.

Multiple Choice: Horace's Poetry and The Burning of Rome

16. _____ All of the following words describe Horace EXCEPT
- Friendly
 - Arrogant
 - Humorous
 - Witty
17. _____ Although Horace's father was a slave, he made sure his son
- Took over the family farm
 - Became a poet
 - Married at an early age
 - Received an excellent education
18. _____ Horace's rise to fame occurred when
- His poems caught the eyes of Virgil and Maecenas
 - He won a contest at poetry festival in Rome
 - His father was released from slavery
 - He spent five years in seclusion only writing poetry
19. _____ Horace valued all of the following EXCEPT
- Copious Habits
 - Moderation
 - Good Sense
 - Living for the present moment
20. _____ Horace coined the expression *Carpe Diem* which means
- Live for the now
 - Keep the faith
 - Seize the day
 - Family is forever

"The Burning of Rome"

21. _____ How would one describe Nero's shift in power?
- A hot-headed tyrant to a caring, compassionate leader
 - Wise and humane laws to strange, erratic behavior
 - He was consistently liked throughout his leadership era
 - He was consistently not liked throughout his leadership era

22. _____ The event is referred to as "The Great Conflagration." A synonym for *conflagration* is
- Devastation
 - Fire
 - Waste
 - Revenge
23. _____ Why did many of the Romans suspect that Nero had set the fire?
- To clear space for one of his magnificent palaces
 - To kill the poor who were unable to save themselves from the devastation
 - To show his high power to the people who disapproved of his leadership
 - To get rid of the old structures, and build new buildings
24. _____ All of the following were factors that contributed to the fire spreading quickly EXCEPT
- Wind
 - Poorly designed streets
 - Gangs who interfered with the firefighting efforts
 - Dry grasslands
25. _____ Many citizens were left homeless by the fire. What measures did Nero take to help them?
- He constructed emergency accommodations
 - Food was brought in, and the price of corn was reduced
 - Both A and B are correct
 - Neither A or B are correct. He was too much of a tyrant to help his people
26. _____ The author wrote that Nero "profited by his country's ruin." How did he profit?
- He was able to build a new palace
 - He was able to get rid of the low class people
 - The people respected him even more because of his well-doings
 - He was given numerous goods from other countries to help rebuild Rome
27. _____ How did Nero treat the Christians after the fire?
- He praised them
 - He used the fire as an excuse to brutally persecute them
 - He made them leave Rome
 - He became a Christian himself

28. _____ Why did some Romans try NOT to escape the fire?

- a. They sided with Nero
- b. Nobody would help them anyway
- c. The Roman police would not let anyone leave the city
- d. They had lost everything and preferred to die

29. _____ The author's purpose of *The Burning of Rome* is

- a. To narrate and describe
- b. To inform and persuade
- c. To explore ideas
- d. To entertain

30. List two ways in which Nero planned to rebuild Rome after the fire (2 Points).

Matching: Write the letter that matches to the correct poetry element description/example.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. End Rhyme | B. End Rhyme Scheme | C. Onomatopoeia | D. Alliteration |
| E. Assonance | F. Stanza | G. Couplet | H. Quatrain |

31. _____ A four-line stanza that usually rhymes

32. _____ *Boom! Slam! Vroom!*

33. _____ *A jester's job is to joust with jibes.*

34. _____ The pattern of rhyming words at the end of lines

35. _____ Group of consecutive lines that form a thought

36. _____ *Forever it will be*

Just you and me

37. _____ *A helpful book with an attractive look*

38. _____ A two line stanza that usually rhymes

SHORT ANSWER: Read the following poem by Horace and answer the following questions below:

I Have Completed a Monument

I have completed a monument
more lasting than bronze and far higher
than that royal pile of Pyramids,
which the gnawing rain and furious
north wind cannot destroy, nor the chain
of countless years and the flight of time.
My end won't be complete, and a great
part of me will evade the death-god:
I'll prosper on, fresh with future praise.
As long as the priest with the silent
virgin climbs the **Capitoline hill**,
high and low -- where raging **Aufidus**
thunders, where **Daunus** rules over a
farming people poor of water -- I
will be proclaimed to have been the first
to adapt **Aeolic** songs into
Italian measures. **Melpomene**,
accept the proud honor you have earned
and crown my head with **Delphic laurel**.

**Capitoline hill: highest of the seven hills of Ancient Rome*

**Aufidus: God, snake-like*

**Daunus: Roman Ruler*

**Aeolic: a dialect spoken by Romans*

**Melpomene: Goddess (muse of singing)*

**Delphic laurel: a branch or wreath worn around the heads of Greeks or Romans to show honor won.*

39. Why is Horace comparing the monument the speaker built to the Egyptian pyramids? (2 Points)

40. Describe how the speaker foresees his "life after death." Support your answer with detail from the poem. (3 Points)

41. Think about who the speaker is. Describe the speaker's tone (or attitude) toward the subject. Support your answer with an explanation or example from the poem. (3 Points)

SHORT ANSWER (*The Burning of Rome*): Answer the following questions in COMPLETE sentences:

42. Do you think Nero donated his money for the good of the citizens? State your reasoning with one explanation/example from the story. (2 Points)
43. How did the people feel about Nero's initial response to provide aid to the fire victims? (2 Points)
44. What is ironic about the day on which the fire started? (2 points)
45. Think of a national disastrous event that has happened in the past twenty years and describe two ways in which it affected our society. (3 Points)