



2025/2026 Middle School Nationals Exam

THIS EXAM SHOULD BE TAKEN BY ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEAMS

Reminders:

- This test may not be administered before 12:01 am on Monday, April 6, or after 11:59 pm on Friday, April 17 (all times Central).
- Students should not look at the test until the 45min testing period begins (after the confirmation screen).
- Students must not discuss the contents of the test with anyone except their teammates and coaches until the testing window closes at 11:59 pm on April 17.
- Coaches should collect all exams at the end of the testing session and hold them in a secure place until 11:59 pm on April 17.
- If you see issues or mistakes with the questions, please enter those through the Test Question Issues section at the bottom of the coaches' portal page. Please do not email corrections, mistakes, or issues to the League.

I. Reading Comprehension. Read the following passage about a Roman boy and answer the questions that follow. Underlined words are defined for you below the passage.

The day after an important celebration, Marcus notices some changes. Is he ready for them?

1 Heri diēs clāmōsus erat. Māne Mārcus bullam Lāribus sacrāvīt. Propinquī Mārcō novam togam
 2 virīlem dōnāvērunt, pater dūxit fīlium ad tabulārium, quī nōmen puerī volūminī cīvium
 3 Rōmānōrum addidit. Multī puerī vīsītāvērunt templum Iovis et ibi maximās grātiās ēgērunt.
 4 Cēna magna parāta erat domī pātrōnī. Omnēs gaudēbant, Lupus etiam multa frusta sub
 5 mēnsā ab convīvīs accēpit. Mārcus nōn puer sed adulescēns est. Sed hodiē Mārcus īnsulam
 6 nōn cognōscit. Māter et pater magnā cum cūrā inter sē dīcunt, quasi verba cēlāre volunt. Oculi
 7 mātris rubrī sunt, quasi diū nōn dormīvīt. Incolae īnsulae Mārcum sine gaudiō salūtant, quasi
 8 nōn prō amīcō sed hoste eum cōspiciunt. Quid accidit? Tandem pater fīlium vocāvit “Mārce,”
 9 inquit, “Pātrōnus noster tibi maximum dōnum dedit.” Mārcus circum sē spectat sed nūllum
 10 dōnum cōspicit. “Quid est? Ubi est?” puer laetē exclāmat. “Stultē puer! Tangere id nōn
 11 potes. Pātrōnus tibi faveit et tē Athēnās mittet. Ibi artem ōrātiōnis discēs.” Mārcus mātrem
 12 spectat, quae nunc magnā vōce lacrimat.

1	sacrō (1) – to dedicate, consecrate	6	quasi – as if
	propinquī – relatives	7	incola, -ae (m., f.) – inhabitant
2	tabulārius, -ī (n.) – record keeper	9	dōnum, -ī (n.) – gift
	volūmen, volūminis (m.) – scroll	11	faveō, -ere – to favor, support
4	pātrōnus, -ī (m.) – patron, protector		discō, -ere – to learn
	frustum, -ī (n.) – scrap of food		
5	convīva, -ae (f.) – guest		

- Based on the events of the story, **Marcus bullam Lāribus sacrāvīt** (line 1) because of
 (A) departure for war (B) serious illness
 (C) transition to adulthood (D) fear of death
- What does the gift Marcus received from his relatives symbolize (lines 1-3)?
 (A) priesthood (B) military service
 (C) wealth (D) citizenship and maturity
- When the **tabulārius** added Marcus’ name to the scroll (lines 2-3), it means that
 (A) Marcus changes his family name (B) Marcus becomes a senator
 (C) Marcus enters military service (D) Marcus is officially recognized as a Roman citizen
- Cur multī puerī vīsītāvērunt templum Iovis** (line 3)?
 (A) to give thanks (B) to study rhetoric
 (C) to ask for protection (D) to watch a sacrifice
- From lines 4–5 (**Omnēs...accēpit**), we may assume that Lupus feels
 (A) happy (B) tired (C) abandoned (D) sick
- How does Marcus act when he sees the apartment building (lines 5-6)
 (A) he does not recognize it (B) he gets angry
 (C) he rejoices that they are together (D) he thinks it looks cheap

7. Why do the parents **verba celāre volunt** (line 6)?
 (A) they fear Lupus (B) they don't want people to overhear
 (C) they are angry with the servants (D) they are planning another feast
8. From **Oculī mātris rubrī sunt, quasi diū nōn dormīvit** (lines 6-7), we may infer that she
 (A) may have an illness (B) may have been laughing
 (C) may have recently been crying (D) may have been hurt by smoke
9. The neighbors greet Marcus **sine gaudiō** (line 7). This most likely suggests that
 (A) they are angry about Lupus (B) they envy him
 (C) something bad has happened (D) they fear his father
10. Why does the father call Marcus **stulte** after mentioning the **donum** (lines 9-11)?
 (A) Marcus assumes the gift is an object (B) Marcus dislikes gifts
 (C) the father distrusts the patron (D) the gift is hidden nearby
11. Why is going to Athens the patron's gift (line 11)?
 (A) Marcus will join the fleet (B) Marcus will visit relatives
 (C) Marcus will become a merchant (D) Marcus will study rhetoric

14 Post paucōs diēs familia Mārcī cum cane fidēlī Lupō discēdit ad Brundisium. Iter longum et
 15 plēnum perīculōrum erat. Multās noctēs familia in sordidīs caupōnīs manēre dēbuit. Ūnō diē
 16 raeda in fossā haesit. Post decem diēs ūnus ex equīs mortuus est. Diē XVI Mārcus
 17 ventum maris sēnsit. Magnus portus oppidī multās nāvēs habēbat. Nautae laetī vīnum in
 18 tabernīs bibēbant et carmina improba cantābant. Proximō diē, pater Lupum in caupōnā
 19 relīquit et dūxit Mārcum ad portum. Ibī prope nāvem magna turba hominum festīnāvit.
 20 Nautae cistās, amphorās et aliās rēs ad nāvem tulērunt. Puer abīre nōn voluit. Ecce! In turbā
 21 Mārcus amīcum cōspexit. Lūcius cum paedagōgō suō et multīs servīs etiam Athēnās
 22 petīvit! Mārcus mātrem et patrem amplexus est et nāvem ascendit. Nautae vēla dedērunt.
 23 Magna nāvis ventō lentē sē mōvit. Sed quid est, omnēs exclāmāvērunt et aliquid
 24 inter undās ostendērunt. Animal celeriter ad nāvem natābat. Estne mōnstrum aut....?
 25 Mārcus sollicitus spectābat... “Est Lupus! Canis meus!”, clāmāvit. Nautae eum cēpērunt
 26 et in puppim traxērunt. Mārcus canem amplexus est et lacrimāvit. Nōn sōlus erat.

14	fidēlis, -e (adj.) – loyal, faithful	19	turba, -ae (f.) – crowd
15	caupōna, -ae (f.) – inn, motel	20	cista, -ae (f.) – box, chest
16	raeda, -ae (f.) – wagon, carriage	22	amplexus est – he hugged
	fossa, -ae (f.) – ditch		vēlum dāre – to set sail, sail
	haereō, -ēre – to stick, be stuck	24	unda, -ae (f.) – wave
18	improbus, -a, -um – rude, vulgar	26	puppis, -is (f.) – deck of the ship

12. Which event best supports the description **plēnum perīculōrum** during the journey to Brundisium (lines 14–16)?
 (A) Lucius arrives early (B) sailors sing loudly
 (C) the cart gets stuck in a ditch (D) Marcus receives another gift

13. Why does the family stay in **sordidīs caupōnīs** during the trip (line 15)? (A) the journey lasts many nights (B) Lupus refuses to continue (C) they are hiding from the patron (D) Marcus prefers it
14. What additional difficulty happens after ten days of travel (line 16)? (A) one horse dies (B) the mother becomes ill (C) a storm begins (D) a servant disappears
15. Marcus knows they are **prope mare** (line 16–17) because (A) he hears sailors singing (B) he sees dolphins (C) he catches fish (D) he feels the sea wind
16. What are the sailors doing in lines 17–18? (A) arguing with merchants (B) loading ships (C) drinking wine and singing songs (D) pulling ropes
17. The phrase **magna turba hominum festināvit** (line 19) suggests that the port is (A) secure (B) empty (C) busy (D) silent
18. Before the ship leaves, Marcus first (A) speaks to the sailors (B) opens a chest (C) embraces his parents (D) calls Lupus
19. What causes everyone to shout on the ship (line 23–24)? (A) Lucius falls (B) a rope breaks (C) something appears in the water (D) strong wind
20. Why does Marcus cry at the end of the story (line 25–26)? (A) the sailors laugh at him (B) Lupus travels with him (C) he is afraid of the sea (D) Lucius is leaving

II. Grammar. Choose the best answer.

21. Lead the enemy to the camp, soldiers!
(A) **dūcite** (B) **dūcte** (C) **dūc** (D) **dūcere**
22. The fierce and long war brought peace to no citizen.
(A) **nūllīus cīvis** (B) **nūllī cīvī** (C) **nūllō cīvī** (D) **nūllī cīvēs**
23. **rēs: rērum :: hostis : _____**
(A) **hostum** (B) **hostium** (C) **hostem** (D) **hostēs**
24. **Pōns in _____ Horātius pugnābat erat ingēns.**
(A) **quī** (B) **cui** (C) **quem** (D) **quō**
25. **Trāxitne dux saxa ad mūrū urbīs?**

(A) Does the leader drag (B) Has the leader dragged (C) Will the leader drag (D)
Was the leader dragging

26. **miserior : miserrimus :: maior : _____**

(A) **optimus** (B) **minimus** (C) **magnissimus** (D) **maximus**

27. The strong messenger wounded many enemies with his very heavy sword.

(A) **nūntius fortis ... gladiō gravissimō** (B) **nūntius fortī ... cum gladiō gravissimō**
(C) **nūntius fortī ... gladiō graviōre** (D) **nūntium fortem ... cum gladiō graviōre**

28. The tired student had not wanted to write the paper, but she was able to complete it quickly.

(A) **voluerat** (B) **nōluerat** (C) **nōluerit** (D) **voluerit**

29. **Victor arma eius tibi mōnstrāvit.**

(A) her ... to him (B) his ... your (C) to him ... your (D) his ... to you

30. Which of the following verbs is in the future tense?

(A) **potuerimus** (B) **bibimus** (C) **volēmus** (D) **tenēmus**

III. Vocabulary. Choose the best answer.

31. Which of the following would you most likely see alive in the **caelum**?

(A) **agnus** (B) **avis** (C) **ariēs** (D) **asinus**

32. Which of the following is an antonym of **pauper**?

(A) **dīves** (B) **certus** (C) **dulcis** (D) **rūsticus**

33. **In proeliō, quid faciō?**

(A) **lavō tigrēs** (B) **cōnspiciō ōrātiōnēs** (C) **accusō nēminem** (D) **vulnerō hostēs**

34. **Bellum contrā hostēs ferōciter gerēbāmus.**

(A) around (B) against (C) within (D) above

35. Which of the following Latin word pairs are antonyms?

(A) **paulisper, diū** (B) **tandem, dēnique** (C) **vix, paene** (D) **frūstrā, ubīque**

36. Which of the following is not found on your **caput**?

(A) **os** (B) **supercilium** (C) **crūs** (D) **frōns**

37. Which of the following Latin word pairs are synonyms?

(A) **mōnstrō, ostendō** (B) **cēnō, cēlō** (C) **vīvō, sūmō** (D) **terreō, timeō**

38. If I feel _____, I might _____.

(A) **sollicitus ... accidō** (B) **miser ... lacrimō** (C) **stultus ... aedificō** (D) **fēlix ... claudō**

39. **Māter liberōs _____ quod necesse est ambulāre ad scholam.**

(A) **cognōscit** (B) **liberat** (C) **excitat** (D) **superat**

40. Which of the following words does not belong because of gender?

(A) **animus** (B) **agricola** (C) **mors** (D) **pīnceps**

IV. Phrases, Mottoes, Abbreviations, and Quotations. Choose the best answer.

41. Which of the following states has schools with the mottoes: **perstare et praestare** and **nil sine magnō labore**?

(A) New Mexico (B) New Jersey (C) New Hampshire (D) New York

42. Differentiate in meaning between the abbreviations **ca.** and **cf.**

(A) about & compare (B) wife & compare
(C) compare & wife (D) about & wife

43. Which of the following states has the shortest official Latin motto by word count?

(A) Alabama (B) Missouri (C) Massachusetts (D) Michigan

44. ASICS is an acronym for a Latin phrase extremely similar to what author's quote on health?

(A) Caesar (B) Vergil (C) Ovid (D) Juvenal

45. According to a three-word Latin phrase, where can you find the truth?

(A) parents (B) school (C) wine (D) god

V. Latin Derivatives. Choose the best answer.

46. What derivative of the Latin verb **sūmō** means "luxurious" or "splendid"?

(A) sumptuous (B) presumptive (C) unassuming (D) consumptive (E) presumptuous

47. "Peninsula" is derived from a Latin adverb meaning:

(A) very (B) hardly (C) nearby (D) almost (E) secretly

48. "Vaccines" are so called because of their early connection to what animal?

(A) cat (B) cow (C) mouse (D) sheep (E) monkey

49. Based on its Latin name, where would you expect to find the strawberry begonia plant, *Saxifraga stolonifera*, growing?

(A) grassy meadows (B) marshy swamps (C) sandy beaches (D) shady groves (E) rocky cliffs

50. Locations like Winchester and Lancaster reveal in their names their original role as a(n):
(A) forum (B) school (C) port (D) army camp (E) bath complex

VI. Roman History. Choose the best answer.

51. Which king of Rome established the template for both the military and voting distribution through the creation of the Centuriate Assembly (**Comitia Centuriata**)?

(A) Romulus (B) Tullus Hostilius (C) Servius Tullius (D) Tarquinius Superbus

52. According to Plutarch, which early Republican consul, during a siege led by Lars Porsenna, executed a successful sally, defeating a Clusian raiding party, and later negotiated the final treaty of the war, giving the king hostages, including his own daughter?

(A) Lucius Junius Brutus (B) Publius Valerius Poplicola (C) Horatius Cocles (D) Attius Clausus

53. What did Gaius Gracchus do to reform provincial administration?

(A) He extended governors' terms of office by one year (B) He expanded senatorial oversight (C) He reduced governors' salaries (D) He gave the equites control over juries in corruption courts

54. Who was accused of violating the rites of the Bona Dea in 62 BCE?

(A) Metellus Celer (B) Curio (C) Clodius (D) Milo

55. What office did Marc Antony hold at the time of Caesar's assassination?

(A) Consul (B) Praetor (C) Censor (D) Praefectus Morum

VII. Mythology. Choose the best answer.

56. According to Hesiod, which of the following Olympians was NOT a child of Zeus?

(A) Dionysus (B) Aphrodite (C) Hermes (D) Persephone

57. What sort of objects did Sinis, also known as Pityocamptes, use to kill travelers?

(A) trees (B) clubs (C) beds (D) spears

58. Who was sacrificed to ensure the Greeks could set out from Aulis?

(A) Thetis (B) Iphigeneia (C) Cassandra (D) Clytemnestra

59. What was the name of the priest who invoked Apollo to send a plague on the Greek camp?

(A) Maron (B) Helenus (C) Chryses (D) Antinous

60. When the Argonauts washed ashore in the middle of the night, what king of the Doliones did they accidentally kill?

(A) Aeetes (B) Phineus (C) Amycus (D) Cyzicus

VIII. Roman Life. Choose the best answer.

61. What teacher taught boys from 12 to 15 literary subjects in Latin and Greek?
(A) **grammaticus** (B) **rhētor** (C) **litterātor** (D) **lūdī magister**
62. What topic would a **paedagōgus** NEVER have taught?
(A) Oratory (B) Greek (C) Reading (D) Writing
63. What objects were used to count off the number of remaining laps in a chariot race?
(A) eggs (B) flags (C) ropes (D) boards
64. Which of the following colors was one of the first two chariot-racing factions?
(A) Red (B) Blue (C) Green (D) Purple
65. Which of the following was NOT a type of gladiator?
(A) Andabata (B) Essedarius (C) Retiarius (D) Etruscus

IX. Ancient Geography. Choose the best answer.

66. The footprint of the Circus of Domitian is still visible in a bird's eye view of which Roman landmark?
(A) Trevi Fountain (B) Roman Forum (C) Piazza Navona
(D) Stadio Olimpico (E) St. Mark's Square
67. Playing on a creative palindrome, Hadrian built a famous dual temple to Roma and:
(A) Minerva (B) Vesta (C) Diana (D) Juno (E) Venus
68. Which of the following was located outside the pomerium of Rome?
(A) Mausoleum of Augustus (B) Flavian Amphitheater (C) Arch of Constantine
(D) Theater of Marcellus (E) Temple of Vesta
69. What province derived its name from the Greek word for 'sea' due to its location on the Black Sea?
(A) Thracia (B) Pontus (C) Cappadocia (D) Galatia (E) Moesia
70. Due to similarities to the Latin word **damnum**, the city Epidamnos was renamed:
(A) Actium (B) Nicopolis (C) Apollonia (D) Thessalonica (E) Dyrrhachium

X. Greek Life and Literature. Choose the best answer.

71. What oldest extant play of Euripides is centered around a selfless sacrifice?
(A) *Andromache* (B) *Iphigenia at Aulis* (C) *Medea* (D) *Alcestis*

72. It is said that Aeschylus died after an eagle dropped what on his head?
(A) tortoise (B) rock (C) sword (D) person
73. In what year did the ancient Olympics start?
(A) 150 A.D. (B) 490 B.C. (C) 776 B.C. (D) 1084 B.C.
74. Which of the three legendary playwrights added the third actor?
(A) Sophocles (B) Euripides (C) Aeschylus
75. What sort of contests were held at the Odeum, a building erected at Athens by Pericles?
(A) musical (B) fighting (C) oratory (D) drawing

XI. Greek Derivatives. Choose the best answer.

76. Using your knowledge of Greek prefixes to help you, which rhetorical device would you use to emphasize an idea by repeating a word or phrase at the beginning of phrases, by repeating a word or phrase at the beginning of clauses (or) by repeating a word or phrase at the beginning of sentences?
(A) Asyndeton (B) Metaphor (C) Anaphora (D) Hyperbole
77. Based strictly on Greek derivation, a **surgeon** or a **chiropractor** is defined by work done using which part of the body?
(A) Hands (B) Brain (C) Eyes (D) Fingers
78. If a doctor needs to test your **hypoglossal** nerve, what general part of your body would she examine?
(A) Knee (B) Eyes (C) Foot (D) Mouth
79.
(A) Serpent (B) King (C) Monster (D) Dragon
80. If, while thinking about this question, you have an **epiphany**, then based on the Greek derivation of **epiphany**, the answer would suddenly become which of the following?
(A) Forgotten (B) Ambiguous (C) Uncertain (D) Obvious

XII. Hellenic History. Choose the best answer.

81.
(A) Miltiades the Younger (B) Callimachus (C) Themistocles (D) Pheidippides
82. Who tutored Alexander the Great?
(A) Aristotle (B) Plato (C) Socrates (D) Speusippus
83. What son-in-law of Darius I conquered Thrace for him?
(A) Artaphernes (B) Mardonius (C) Datis (D) Hippias

84. What battle concluded the 2nd Peloponnesian War?
(A) Aegospotami (B) Arginusae (C) Notium (D) Cynossema

85. What goddess's temple allegedly burned when Alexander the Great was born?
(A) Hera's (B) Athena's (C) Artemis's (D) Demeter's

XIII. Classical Art. Choose the best answer.

86. Which scholar is best known for deciphering Linear B, an early form of Greek, found at sites such as Mycenae, Knossos, and other Bronze Age palatial centers?

(A) Heinrich Schliemann (B) Sir Arthur Evans (C) Howard Carter (D) Michael Ventris

87. The object shown in **Image 1** is most closely associated with which ancient civilization?

(A) Mycenaean (B) Minoan (C) Cycladic (D) Spartan

88. What type of leaf is most associated with Corinthian columns?

(A) Acanthus (B) Papyrus (C) Oak (D) Laurel

89. The Attic vessel shown in **Image 2** is best identified as which type of container?

(A) Amphora (B) Krater (C) Lekythos (D) Kylix

90. The scene depicted on the vessel in **Image 2** shows the body of which hero being dragged?

(A) Achilles (B) Hector (C) Patroclus (D) Paris

XIV. Special Topics. Choose the best answer.

91. The first Greek doctor/surgeon to work in Rome was Archagathus. Pliny the Elder, trusting more in the traditional home remedies of the *paterfamilias*, dubbed Archagathus the ***carnifex***, meaning

(A) Healer (B) Chef (C) Executioner (D) Artist (E) Craftsman

92. Somewhat surprisingly, the Romans performed successful Trephination surgery, which involved

(A) Removing cataracts from eyeballs (B) reversing circumcision (C) amputating limbs
(D) draining fluids from swollen masses (E) drilling holes in skulls

93. After the Athenians conquered Eleusis and the Eleusinian cult was open to all Greeks, those who wanted to participate had to

(A) Travel to Eleusis
(B) get circumcised
(C) renounce Athenian citizenship
(D) defeat another member in one-on-one combat
(E) provide an expensive animal for sacrifice

94. The Orphics believed that
(A) Musicians would automatically go to the Elysian fields
(B) True love was cursed and one should not seek it
(C) Souls would be reincarnated after a period of reward or punishment in the underworld
(D) Lyres were sacred and should be sacrificed to just like other gods
(E) The muses gave all gifts to mankind and should be prayed to along with *penates* daily
95. Which food did the Romans use only medicinally?
(A) Butter (B) Cow's milk cheese (C) Honey (D) Sheep livers (E) Onions
96. What is depicted in Image #3?
(A) A citrus juicer (B) A domestic torture device (C) A grain mill (D) A mule trainer
(E) A tool for gladiator training
97. The last recorded use of the _____ language was in 410AD when Alaric, king of the Visigoths, was attacking Rome and summoned _____ priests to conjure lightning
(A) Carthaginian (B) Etruscan (C) ancient Greek (D) Celtic (E) Alexandrian
98. Having studied the works of her father and other orators, this woman gave a speech asking the members of the 2nd Triumvirate to repeal the tax they had levied on Rome's wealthiest women. Her oratory was so skillful that they acquiesced to her request.
(A) Cornelia (B) Livia (C) Bruta (D) Hortensia (E) Antonia
99. Berenice was queen of Judea, and, as with many powerful women, was rumored to have carried on any number of inappropriate relationships. Allegedly, she was romantically involved with
(A) Julius Caesar (B) Marc Antony (C) Octavian (D) Titus Flavius (E) Commodus
100. The mythical Pillars of Hercules were located in what we now call the Straits of Gibraltar. They were geographically nearest to which ancient civilization?
(A) Etruscans (B) Egyptians (C) Carthaginians (D) Persians (E) Macedonians

THIS PAGE CONTAINS THE IMAGES REFERENCED IN THE TEST QUESTIONS.

Image 1. Question 87.



Author photo.

Image 2. Questions 89-90



Wikipedia. Public Domain.

Image 3. Question 96.

