

READING AND COMPREHENSION

1st Text

Carefully read this excerpt and answer the questions below **using only the information provided in the text**:

MAGIC IN GENERAL AND NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL MAGIC IN PARTICULAR.

(from Martín Del Rio, *Investigations into Magic*, ed. and trans. By P.G. Maxwell-Stuart, Manchester and New York, 2000, p. 31.)

Chapter 1: Superstition and its various forms.

[For Lucretius and other pagan writers, religion meant ‘fear of God’, and since they thought that God played no part in human affairs, they equated religion with superstition, ‘superstition’, according to Isidor’s etymology, being the same as ‘superfluousness’. Other associated superstition with the increasing fears and foolishness of old age. For Christians, however, superstition is the wickedness of idolatry. (Compare the Syriac and Greek words and the usage of the Church Fathers.) Lactantius made this distinction: ‘religion is worship of that which is true, superstition is worship of that which is false’.

Modern theologians define religion as ‘that virtue by which we show true and obligatory worship to the true God’, and they say there are two extremes to be avoided. One is being over-religious, the other not being religious enough. The former indulges in superfluities and is thus corrupted. Any form of worship which involves the slightest touch of evil cannot be called religion; and as the very Word *superstition* indicates that there is something wrong with the worship, it follows that any worship which is superstitious is not true worship. So all superstition is the worship of that which is false, as Lactantius said.

1. Lucretius was

A. a Pagan writer.

B. a Christian writer.

C. a Jewish writer.

2. According to some pagan writers, religion meant

A. 'God's worship'.

B. 'fear of God'.

C. 'devil's worship'.

3. Lucretius equated

A. magic with superstition.

B. religion with magic.

C. religion with superstition.

4. Isidore wrote that

A. etymology of 'superstition' was uncertain.

B. 'superstition' and 'supremacy' had the same etymology.

C. 'superfluosness' and 'superstition' are the same.

5. According to some authors

A. young people are more superstitious than old ones.

B. superstition depends on fears of old age.

C. superstition is a plague.

6. In the Christian tradition

A. superstition and idolatry were linked.

B. superstition was a feature of Christianity.

C. only Jews were superstitious.

7. According to Lactantius

A. religion was worship, superstition was not.

B. religion was worship of that which was false, superstition was worship of that which was true.

C. superstition was worship of falsity, religion of truth.

8. In modern theological thought

- A. religion was a virtue.
- B. religion did not concern worship.
- C. religion was a custom.

9. Being over-religious is

- A. a sign of piety.
- B. the other side of magic.
- C. an extreme to be avoided.

10. Worship

- A. cannot be superstition.
- B. can be superstition, if it involves a touch of evil.
- C. is religion.

2nd Text

Read carefully this excerpt from the *Charter Of Fundamental Rights Of The European Union* and answer to the questions below only on the basis of the information included in the text:

Article 3

Right to the integrity of the person

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity.
2. In the fields of medicine and biology, the following must be respected in particular:
 - (a) the free and informed consent of the person concerned, according to the procedures laid down by law;
 - (b) the prohibition of eugenic practices, in particular those aiming at the selection of persons;
 - (c) the prohibition on making the human body and its parts as such a source of financial gain;
 - (d) the prohibition of the reproductive cloning of human beings.

11. According to art. 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union:

- a. **Both European citizens and non-citizens have a right to be respected for their integrity**
- b. European citizens have a right to respect for their physical and mental integrity
- c. All European citizens have a right to respect for their health

12. In the field of medicine and biology:

- a. **The free and informed consent of the person concerned is always required and it is obtained following the procedure laid down by law**
- b. The free and informed consent of the person concerned is required only if a precise procedure to obtain it is laid down by law
- c. The free and informed consent of the person concerned may be required by law

13. In the field of medicine and biology:

- a. **the procedure that must be followed in order to obtain the free and informed consent of the person concerned is laid down by law**
- b. the Member States can choose whether or not laying down the procedure for the acquisition of the consent of the person concerned
- c. only a law by a member State has the power to exclude that the free and informed consent of the person concerned is required

14. In the field of medicine:

- a. **Eugenic practices are always prohibited**
- b. Eugenic practices are prohibited only when their purpose is the selection of persons
- c. Eugenic practices may be prohibited, especially when their purpose is the selection of persons

15. In the field of biology:

- a. **Eugenic practices are prohibited when they aim at the selection of persons**
- b. Eugenic practices may be prohibited by the Member States when their purpose is the selection of persons
- c. Eugenic practices are prohibited unless they comply with specific procedures and require the free and informed consent of the person concerned

16. According to art. 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union:

- a. **Eugenic practices are never allowed**
- b. Eugenic practices may be allowed according to the procedures laid down by law
- c. Eugenic practices may be allowed according to the procedures laid down by law when their purpose is the selection of persons

17. According to art. 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union:

- a. **making the human body as such a source of financial gain is never allowed**
- b. making the human body and its parts as such a source of financial gain may be allowed with the free and informed consent of the person concerned
- c. making the human body as such a source of financial gain may be allowed with the free and informed consent of the person concerned, according to the procedure laid down in the law

18. According to art. 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union:

- a. **making the parts of a human body as such a source of financial gain is always forbidden**
- b. making a human body as a whole as such a source of financial gain is never allowed, but the same may be allowed for single parts of a human body with the free and informed consent of the person concerned
- c. making specific parts of a human body as such a source of financial gain may be allowed by the law with the free and informed consent of the person concerned and according to detailed procedures

19. According to art. 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union:

- a. **human beings cannot be the object of reproductive cloning**
- b. reproductive cloning may exceptionally be allowed on parts of a human body with the free and informed consent of the person concerned
- c. reproductive cloning may exceptionally be allowed on parts of a human body with the free and informed consent of the person concerned, according to the procedure laid down in the law

20. According to art. 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union:

- d. **human beings cannot be the object of reproductive cloning**
- e. all of the living beings cannot be the object of reproductive cloning

- f. reproductive cloning may exceptionally be allowed on parts of a human body with the free and informed consent of the person concerned, according to the procedure laid down in the law

3rd Text

Read carefully these provisions and answer to the questions below **only on the basis of the information included in the text**:

CONSTITUTION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

Article 134

The Constitutional Court shall pass judgement on:

- controversies on the constitutional legitimacy of laws and enactments having force of law issued by the State and Regions;
- conflicts arising from allocation of powers of the State and those powers allocated to State and Regions, and between Regions;
- charges brought against the President of the Republic, according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Article 135

The Constitutional Court shall be composed of fifteen judges, a third nominated by the President of the Republic, a third by Parliament in joint sitting and a third by the ordinary and administrative supreme Courts.

The judges of the Constitutional Courts shall be chosen from among judges, including those retired, of the ordinary and administrative higher Courts, university professors of law and lawyers with at least twenty years practice.

Judges of the Constitutional Court shall be appointed for nine years, beginning in each case from the day of their swearing in, and they may not be re-appointed.

At the expiry of their term, the constitutional judges shall leave office and the exercise of the functions thereof.

The Court shall elect from among its members, in accordance with the rules established by law, a President, who shall remain in office for three years and may be re-elected, respecting in all cases the expiry term for constitutional judges.

The office of constitutional judge shall be incompatible with membership of Parliament, of a Regional Council, the practice of the legal profession, and with every appointment and office indicated by law.

In impeachment procedures against the President of the Republic, in addition to the ordinary judges of the Court, there shall also be sixteen members chosen by lot from among a list of citizens having the qualification necessary for election to the

Senate, which the Parliament prepares every nine years through election using the same procedures as those followed in appointing ordinary judges.

21. According to art. 134 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic:

- a. The Constitutional Court adjudicates issues concerning the violation of individual rights recognized by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- b. **The Constitutional Court adjudicates issues concerning the constitutionality of legislation adopted by the State and the Regions**
- c. The Constitutional Court does not, under any circumstance, adjudicate issues concerning the legal responsibility of the President of the Republic

22. According to article 135 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic, in order to become a judge at the Italian Constitutional Court:

- a. One needs a bachelor's degree in any field
- b. **One needs to be a trained lawyer**
- c. One participates to a public competition called every year by the President of the Republic and administered by the ordinary and administrative supreme Courts

23. According to article 135 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic:

- a. Constitutional judges are appointed and/or elected for life
- b. Constitutional judges may exercise their functions for up to twelve years, but only in case of re-appointment
- c. **None of the above**

24. According to article 135 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic:

- a. The President of the Constitutional Court can be the President of the Parliament
- b. The President of the Constitutional Court can remain in office for twelve years (so-called presidential exception)
- c. **The President of the Constitutional Court cannot be the President of the Parliament**

25. According to article 134 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic:

- a. The constitutional legitimacy of laws adopted by the State cannot be adjudicated by the Constitutional Court

- b. The constitutional legitimacy of laws adopted by cities can be adjudicated by the Constitutional Court
- c. **The constitutional legitimacy of regulations adopted by cities cannot be adjudicated by the Constitutional Court**

26. According to article 134 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic:

- a. Regional legislation is not reviewed by the Constitutional Court under any circumstance
- b. Regions cannot raise constitutional complaints before the Constitutional Court
- c. **None of the above**

27. According to article 135 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic:

- a. The President of the Republic appoints three constitutional judges
- b. **The President of the Republic appoints five constitutional judges**
- c. The President of the Republic appoints six (i.e., two times three) constitutional judges

28. According to article 135 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic:

- a. **The President of the Constitutional Court may serve as President for more than one term**
- b. The President of the Constitutional Court has the last word on every issue brought to the Constitutional Court
- c. The President of the Constitutional Court is appointed by the President of the Republic

29. According to article 135 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic:

- a. A constitutional judge may practice as an attorney during his/her term of office
- b. **Constitutional judge may not practice as an attorney during their term of office**
- c. None of the above

30. According to article 135 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic:

- a. The President of the Republic is a member of the Constitutional Court in impeachment procedures

- b. **In impeachment procedures against the President of the Republic, the Constitutional Court counts 31 members**
- c. The President of the Republic can only be impeached by the Senate and the House of Deputies in separate deliberations

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

31. Which is the correct sequence of the following events:

A) fall of the Berlin Wall – the war in Kosovo – the attack on the Twin Towers – The Euro in circulation

B) the war in Kosovo – fall of the Berlin Wall - the attack on the Twin Towers – The Euro in circulation

C) the war in Kosovo - fall of the Berlin Wall – The Euro in circulation – the attack on the Twin Towers

32. A political system is defined as authoritarian when...

A) all power is concentrated in the hands of one party, in its leader or a limited governing group, which tends to dominate the whole of society, repressing all dissent

B) all power is in the hands of an absolute monarchy, whose authority is held to derive from God

C) it is based on repression and terror, exercised by a limited military group

33. UNESCO is:

A) The United Nations organisation for education, science and culture

B) The European institution for statistics research

C) The United Nations organisation for combatting poverty

34. The European Parliament:

A) is the only EU institution directly elected by the citizens

B) is made up of the Heads of State of member countries

C) exercises executive power

35. The term 'constitution' means:

A) body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed

B) an act containing the fundamental rules which govern the activity of an association, an institution or another private body

C) informally, the Convention on the Rights of the Child

36. In the papal encyclical *Rerum Novarum*:

A) Leo XIII founded the modern social doctrine of the Church

B) Pius XI condemned the danger of militarism and the arms race

C) Paul VI defended the Church from the meddling of the Fascist regime

37. Why didn't some European countries have access to the aid offered by the Marshall Plan?

A) Because the Soviet Union feared the United States interference in the political life of the beneficiary countries

B) Because of the very high interest rates imposed in paying back the loan

C) For fear that blocs might be created between beneficiary and excluded countries

38. Socrates did not leave any writings since ...

A) he held that the exercise in dialectics, comprising question and answer, was essential in order to reach the truth

B) he wanted his pupils to write down the contents of his lessons

C) writing would have gone against his claim "I know that I do not know"

39. Which of the following Indo-European languages belong to the neo-Latin branch?

1. German

2. Spanish

3. Portuguese

4. Rumanian

5. Bulgarian

A) 2, 3 and 4

B) Just 2 and 3

C) 1, 4 and 5

40. In the Boreal hemisphere, which direction does the polar star (Polaris) indicate?

A) North

B) South

C) East

41. *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury -1984 by George Orwell -*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. What do these three novels have in common?

A) They are dystopian novels: they describe an undesirable and frightening imaginary world

B) They present a perfect, ideal world, as an example to replace the real world

D) They belong to a narrative *genre* based on imaginary historical events, as opposed to those which really took place

42. The *Birth of Venus* by Sandro Botticelli:

- A) depicts the goddess of love and beauty standing on the valve of a shell
- B) is a small wooden-panel painting
- C) is a work wrapped in a mysterious atmosphere on its philosophical meaning

43. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was

- A) The founding father of the Republic of Turkey
- B) A Turkish military commander during World War II
- C) The diplomat that negotiated the partition of Italy

44. Baruch Spinoza

- A) Was a seventeenth-century philosopher of Portuguese-Jewish origin, who lived in the Dutch Republic
- B) Was a sixteenth-century philosopher of Jewish origin who lived in Portugal
- C) Was a sixteenth-century philosopher of Portuguese origin who lived in the Ottoman empire

45. “New Science”, published in 1725, was authored by

- A) Giambattista Vico
- B) Giordano Bruno
- D) Galileo Galilei

46. Cape Horn

- A) Is in the territory of Chile
- B) Is in the territory of Argentina
- D) Is in the territory of New Zealand

47. Mircea Cărtărescu is

- A) a Romanian novelist
- B) a Bulgarian movie director
- D) a Ukrainian essayist

48. The Nike of Samothrace:

- A) represents the Winged Victory
- B) is located at the Hermitage Museum
- C) is a fully intact sculpture

49. The Triple Alliance was established

1. In 1882 between the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the German Empire and the Kingdom of Italy.
2. In 1884 between France, the United Kingdom and Russia.
3. In 1884 between France, the Kingdom of Italy and the United Kingdom.

50. Chiang Kai-shek was:

1. The founder of the Chinese Communist Party.
2. Mao Zedong's successor.
3. The leader of the Republic of China after the death of Sun Yat-sen.

51. The Bering Strait is

1. The sea strait between Greenland and America.
2. The sea strait between Alaska and Asia.
3. The sea strait between Denmark and Sweden.

52. The Cape of Good Hope is

1. The southern tip of America.
2. The eastern tip of Africa.
3. None of the above.

53. The *Quarto Stato* (Fourth Class) Fourth Estate is

1. A famous novel by Pier Paolo Pasolini.
2. A famous painting by Giuseppe Pellizza da Volpedo.
3. A revolutionary theory of quantum physics.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

54. What is the function of "TASK MANAGER" in a Windows 10 PC?

- A) To monitor the processes which are running on the computer
- B) To explore the present files and folders
- C) To check the present devices

55. What are FAQ?

- A) a set of answers to frequently asked questions
- B) a quiz with questions which have to be answered
- C) questions which are still in need of answers

56. Given the following email address: mario.rossi@gmail.com, the domain is:

A) gmail.com

B) @gmail

D) mario.rossi@

57. What extension does a Microsoft Excel 2007 file have?

A) XLSX

B) PPTX

C) DOCX

58. What is a mailing list?

A) an email address which allows messages to be sent to multiple recipients

B) a list of email addresses in a non-editable domain

C) an address book containing a list of email addresses

59. What is a link on a webpage?

A) a connection to a file or another web page

B) a connection between two audio files on the web

C) a connection between two video files on the web

60. Which of the following statements about energy saving for a PC is false?

A) it increases computer performance

B) it lowers the PC speed to save power

C) it lowers the screen brightness to save power