



Chapter 10: Comprehension

EXERCISE 10.7: CLEOPATRA, QUEEN OF EGYPT



Read lines 1-10: postquam Alexander ... in Syriam fugere.

Summarise the story so far.



1. lines 11-12: Cleopātra fēmina audācissima erat: frātre[m] vincere et omnem Aegyptum regere volēbat.

Cleopatra was a very bold woman; what evidence is given of this? _____
_____ [2]

2. lines 12-13: 'Rōmānōrum,' inquit amīcō, Apollodōrō nōmine, 'fortissimus est Iūlius Caesar. Caesar multōs mīlitēs habet. forte Alexandriāe Caesar adest.

Why did Cleopatra think that Julius Caesar might be a useful ally? _____
_____ [2]

3. lines 14-15: necesse est mihi Alexandriam redire et Caesarem statim invenire. Caesar, sicut hominēs aliī, mē amābit; nōbis auxilium dabit et tum frātre potentior erō.'

Why did Cleopatra want to go to Alexandria in person and find Caesar? _____
_____ [2]

4. lines 15-17: 'ō Cleopātra,' Apollodōrus respondit, 'est perīculum maximum. Alexandriāe circum nōs erunt hostēs quī tē interficere volent. num tūtī ad Caesarem ībimus?'

Apollodorus said that Cleopatra's plan was very dangerous. Why did he think this? _____
_____ [2]

5. lines 18-19: 'textile circum mē pōne,' inquit Cleopātra, 'et mē ad Caesarem fer. hostēs nostrī tē textile ferentem vidēbunt; tē mē ferentem nōn vidēbunt.'

a. What did Cleopatra order Apollodorus to do? _____
_____ [2]

b. Why did she think this plan would work?

_____ [1]

6. lines 20-21: itaque Cleopātra in Aegyptum nāvigāvit et ad Caesarem tūta lāta est. postquam ā Caesare cōspecta est, statim Caesar amōre magnō tenēbātur.

Cleopatra's plan worked and she was brought safely to Caesar. What happened after she was seen by Caesar? _____
_____ [1]



7. lines 21-24: 'Cleopātra fēmina pulcherrima et sagācissima est,' inquit Caesar, 'et Cleopātra est rēgīna terrae potentissimae. ego eī auxilium dabō et illa mihi quoque auxilium dabit. tum nōs potentiōrēs omnibus cēteris erimus.'

a. Why did Caesar say he would give help to Cleopatra? _____

_____ [3]

b. How does the use of language here emphasise that Caesar was impressed by Cleopatra? You should explain how repetition, word choice, sound or word order creates this emphasis. You should discuss two Latin words or phrases. _____

_____ [2]

8. Do you think Cleopatra's plan was brave or foolish? Explain your answer with reference to details from the passage. _____

_____ [3]

Grammar questions

1. lines 15-16: 'ō Cleopātra,' Apollodōrus respondit, 'est perīculum maximum.'
Comment on the word order here used for the adjective *maximum*. _____
_____ [1]

2. line 21: statim Caesar amōre magnō tenēbātur.

a. Identify the form of *tenēbātur* and then translate the verb into idiomatic English. _____ [2]

b. Identify the case of *amōre magnō* and explain why it is used here. _____ [1]



B L O O M S B U R Y

3. line 24: tum nōs potentiōrēs omnibus cēterīs erimus.

Identify the case of *omnibus cēterīs* and explain why it is used here. _____

_____ [1]