

DRŽAVNO NATJECANJE U ZNANJU ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA

za 2. razrede srednjih škola

SLUŠANJE S RAZUMIJEVANJEM

This is the listening part of the state competition. There are two tasks for the listening part. Before each task, you will have time to look through the questions before you listen.

Open your tests at page 2 and look at Task 1.

[short pause]

You will hear a text about ice-skating at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

For each of the statements 1-5, write the correct answer: T for true or F for false. You will hear the recording twice. Remember to copy your answers (T or F) onto the separate Answer Sheet. You will hear the recording twice, and there will be a short pause between the two recordings. You can write your answers during both the first and the second listening. After hearing the recording for the second time, you will have 1 minute to check your answers and copy them onto the Answer Sheet.

The task begins with an example (0).

You now have 20 seconds to read the questions.

[count silently to 20 and then say the following:]

You will now hear the speaker.

More losers than winners as Kamila Valieva's Winter Olympics end in tears

In the end there was a winner but there were a lot more losers, from a bewildered child to a sport in crisis to the Olympics themselves. It's a tired trope to say figure skating is founded on tears and tantrums, after all, competitors learn their fate in a place officially called the "Kiss and Cry Zone". Sure it was dramatic but not in a way that soared your spirits, more in a way that crushed your soul.

Anna Shcherbakova proved that scripts are always there to be torn up and that even the most surreal of stories can have the most improbable of twists. The world champion took Olympic women's figure skating gold with a remarkable and nerveless performance, as her training partner Kamila Valieva, the 15-year old skater at the heart of these Games' biggest story, simply wilted, surely understandably, under the most intense pressure to finish fourth.

Valieva produced two brilliant skates to help Russia claim a now disputed first place in the team title last week, including becoming the first woman to land a quadruple jump at the Olympics. The stories were already being written, she was the face of the Games, perhaps even the girl to save the most troubled Olympics in recent

history. But then came the news she'd failed a doping test last December, igniting an unseemly legal battle, with a child as a bewildered pawn under the full glare of a salivating media spotlight. Her Olympic bubble finally burst, reality now bites, with pressing who and why questions over how a child was doped in pursuit of sporting success still unanswered.

Allowed to skate – though not cleared of a doping offence – Valieva was leading narrowly heading into the decisive free skate. But “Miss Perfect” – whose performances this season means she was being hailed as the greatest of all-time – was anything but when it mattered.

As she finished her stuttering routine to Ravel's *Bolero*, in which she'd set a world record score in November, the tears came. It was a tough watch, a little girl lost in the swirling maelstrom, just desperately wanting to go home and be left alone.

When she stepped off the ice, broken, she didn't get consolation but an inquisition: “Why did you let it go,” demanded Russian team coach Eteri Tutberidze, a joyless figure whose win at all costs drive comes at a price not worth paying.

There were cheers too, Shcherbakova's free skate was a joy, but the abiding memory of this evening will be teenagers in bits on live TV, mascara streaming down their cheeks in the most unedifying of spectacles.

Valieva's tears were for an innocence lost and silver medallist Alexandra Trusova's were for what she perceived as the injustice of judges, as Japan's Kaori Sakamoto took bronze.

Trusova, also just 17, landed an improbable five quad jumps, there had never been one at the Games before last week, and was raging. She flew into a backstage fury as she saw her second place announced.

Trusova sat expressionless in a later press conference, a tumult of simmering angst clearly raging inside her. She tempered her words but her body language said it all.

Valieva meanwhile left without saying a word – having skated for perhaps the last time ever.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) had said there'd have been no medal ceremony if she'd made the podium and an asterisk would be applied to results. If they were breathing a sigh of relief about what unfolded they'd be advised to do it very, very quietly.

“I saw what a burden this was for Kamila, I understand how she feels as an athlete,” added Shcherbakova.

Trusova added little else, saying: “I'm not going to say anything about Kamila, you need to ask her the questions.”

There are certainly questions to be answered – but not just for Valieva. There are questions for her coaches, her support team and her sport and, perhaps, for all those who chronicled the story that will define these Olympics.

[Count silently to 5 and then say the following:]

You will now hear the recording again.

Now turn to Task 2.

You will hear a text about the discovery of a lost continent which might explain animal migrations in prehistoric times. For each of the tasks 1 – 5 choose ONE answer A, B or C that fits best according to the text. Remember to copy the corresponding answer A, B or C onto the Answer Sheet. There is an example at the beginning (0).

You now have 30 seconds to go through the statements. You will hear the recording twice, and there will be a short pause between the two recordings.

After hearing the recording for the second time, you will have 1 minute to check your answers and copy them onto the Answer Sheet.

The task begins with an example (0).

You now have 30 seconds to read through the statements.

[Count silently to 30 – and then say the following:]

You will now hear the speaker.

Balkanatolia: Discovery of ‘lost’ continent may solve mass extinction mystery

New research has uncovered a “lost” continent that may have served as an ancient corridor between Asia and Europe, ultimately triggering a mass extinction event 34 million years ago.

According to a study from journal Earth-Science Reviews, the low-lying landmass wedged between Asia, Africa and Europe - dubbed Balkanatolia - acted as a passageway for mammals to cross over from Asia into south Europe. This is believed to have given rise to a sudden eradication of native species, known as the Grande Coupure.

“People have basically known for decades that Asian mammals invaded Europe somehow,” said paleontologist K. Christopher Beard, one of the study’s co-authors and professor at the University of Kansas.

“What was unknown was: How did they do it? What route did they take?”

The discovery has offered up a possible answer to the years of speculation as to how native Asian mammals - which included relatives of rhinoceroses, rodents and horses - ended up settling in another continent.

The team of researchers traced the migration routes of animals across the Balkanatolia strip using fossils found in Turkey and other locations on the Balkan Peninsula - which forms what is left of the ancient continent.

Around 55-34 million years ago - during a period known as the Eocene Epoch - the distribution of mammals across Eurasia was poles apart from the picture in the wake of a mass dispersal of Asian species before and during the Grande Coupure.

“A lot of animals that had been living in Europe for millions of years and were doing fine went extinct,” Beard said.

“They got replaced by mammals that clearly had no ancestral forms in Europe.”

“There were hints that something really weird was going on.”

“Some of the animals that were inhabiting Balkanatolia simply don’t occur anywhere else. And then the combinations of animals living there didn’t live together anywhere else.”

The research found that around 50 million years ago the previously unrecognised biogeographic island continent - Balkanatolia - had its own unique fauna, separate to that of its Asian and European neighbours.

But a major shift in the climate around 40 million years ago - causing dramatic tectonic shifts, ice sheets to expand and fluctuations in sea levels - saw Balkanatolia join on to Asia, followed by south Europe. Eventually, a huge passageway was forged between the two.

Alexis Licht, a scientist at the French National Centre for Scientific Research, who led the study, said: “At that time, the sea levels dropped by 70 meters [about 230 feet], which is huge.

“This event alone would have created many land bridges, and it’s the main hypothesis to explain the connection between Balkanatolia and Europe.”

Fossils discovered in Turkey which date back to between 35-38 million years ago - which include jaw fragments from Brontotheres, a mammal that resembled a large rhinoceros - suggest the migration of Asian mammals into Europe may have occurred 5–10 million prior to the Grande Coupure - far earlier than previous estimates suggest.

“The site in Turkey helped confirm and validate our hypothesis because this time frame fits everything else we’ve found in the Balkans,” he said.

Despite the extraordinary discoveries around Eurasian mammal migrations, questions around Balkanatolia’s early history remain.

“We have animals on Balkanatolia living side by side that never cohabitate anywhere else on Earth,” Beard said.

“How did that happen? How did this strange, unique island get assembled?”

Researchers hope that continuing the search for even older fossils in the area might hold the answers.

[Count silently to 5 and then say the following:]

You will now hear the recording again.

[After the second reading, say the following:]

You now have 1 minute to check your answers and copy the corresponding letters onto the Answer Sheet.

[Count silently to 60 – and then say the following:]

This is the end of the listening task.

You may now go on to do the other parts of the test.