



DRŽAVNO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA
za 4. razred srednje škole
ŠKOLSKA GODINA 2023./2024.

TAPESCRIPT FOR LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Good morning! This is the listening part of the state competition test, and it has two tasks – Task 1 and Task 2. You will have time to read each task before listening to the recording. You will hear each recording twice.

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

(short pause)

Task 1

You will hear a review of the TV show Outlander. Listen carefully to the following instructions as you read along.

For sentences 1 – 5, decide whether they are true or false. Write T for true and F for false. There is an example (0) at the beginning. The answers will occur in the same order as the questions. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

You now have 30 seconds to go through the statements.

(30 seconds)

You will now hear the recording.

(short pause)

When the US cable channel Starz first announced it was adapting Diana Gabaldon's bestselling Outlander novels, I was conflicted. On one hand, I tore through Gabaldon's high-octane mix of love, war, time travel and 18th-century Scottish history. On the other, it was hard to imagine how its inimitable mix of hot Highland flings and deep peril was going to play out on screen.



These are books you read at a gallop, caught up in the story and, yes, I'll admit it, somewhat in the grip of lust for Gabaldon's strapping Highland hero Jamie and for the woman he loves, the straight-talking, no-nonsense former Second World War nurse, Claire Randall.

While the opening credits – scenic shots of Scotland accompanied by a mournful rendition of the Skye Boat Song – initially reinforced fears that this would be heritage TV by numbers, complete with skirling pipes, scenic ruins, and brave lads and lassies battling evil redcoat troops, the reality has been clever and more complicated.

The Outlander TV series manages to be faithful to the source material while building on it to create a fully realised world in which you swiftly accept the (admittedly slightly ludicrous) central premise that Claire manages to slip back in time to 1743 while visiting some old standing stones on her honeymoon. Stuck in the past, our heroine falls in with a ragtag bunch of Jacobite rebels while unintentionally attracting the wrath of the English captain of dragoons, Black Jack Randall, a man who (in one of the series' more remarkable twists) turns out to be an ancestor of her mild-mannered husband Frank (both are played by Tobias Menzies).

As a plot, it has more holes than your average cheese grater – and yet something about Outlander works. Claire (played with just the right amount of spark by Irish actor Caitriona Balfe) is no damsel in distress, but rather a coolly competent, sharp-tongued pragmatist who greets disaster by calmly rolling up her sleeves and trying to sort the mess out.

It helps, too, that Outlander is a deeply romantic show and one that enjoys playing with romance's conventions. It spends a great deal of time inverting traditional male and female roles to give us a fantasy in which the woman is very much centre stage and the gaze through which we view the story is hers: frank, unflinching, and very definitely female.

Not that it's all about Claire (and Balfe). Sam Heughan impresses as the gruffly charming Jamie, Douglas Henshall has a ball as local rogue MacQuarrie, while in a double role as the vicious, complex Black Jack and the altogether more measured Frank, Menzies all but steals the show, dialling charisma and potential for evil up to 11.

(Adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/tvandradioblog/2015/may/20/outlander-highland-flings-time-travel-have-you-been-watching>)

(Count silently to 5 and then say the following)

You will now hear the recording again.

(after the second recording say)

This is the end of Task 1.

(short pause)



Agencija za odgoj i obrazovanje
Education and Teacher Training Agency



MINISTARSTVO ZNANOSTI
I OBRAZOVANJA
REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE

Now turn to Task 2.

(short pause)

You will hear a recording about two filmmakers being snubbed at the Oscars. Listen carefully to the following instructions as you read along.

For each of the questions 1-5, choose ONE answer (A, B, C or D) that fits best according to the recording. Write the corresponding letter (A, B, C or D) on the Answer Sheet. The task begins with an example (0). You will hear the recording twice.

You have 30 seconds to read through all the questions.

After you hear the recording for the second time, you have 1 minute to check your answers and transfer them to the Answer Sheet.

(30 seconds)

You will now hear the recording.

(short pause)

When the 2024 Oscar nominations came out, it was with decidedly mixed results for the biggest blockbuster of last year, “Barbie.” A cultural phenomenon, the film garnered as many as eight nods—but they were largely skewed in favour of its male actors and writers. Many were left gawking in disbelief when Greta Gerwig was snubbed as director and Margot Robbie was left out of the best actress category. These omissions caused a flood of outrage on the internet and from their colleagues.

There had been whispers that snobbery would derail the film’s Oscar hopes, but the results show some puzzlement on the part of Academy voters. As “Barbie” was far from ignored, overlooking the two women who were its driving creative forces is a curious way to match nominations to achievement.

One could point to the stiff competition to explain the discrepancies. Still, even with contenders such as “Oppenheimer”, “Poor Things”, and “Killers of a flower Moon”, “Barbie” seemed designed to trip up the Academy, which has traditionally shortchanged comedies. It’s a weird, brainy art film and also a gag-filled megahit. By melding these two, Gerwig gave Hollywood the fresh product that it needed after decades of superhero tentpoles. Robbie, also one of the film’s producers, embodied a



living, learning doll with humour and complexity—though she didn't have the scene-stealing moments that Gosling and Ferrera did. Still, is it even “Barbie” without her?

In snubbing the film's central voices, the Academy continues its tense relationship with blockbusters. Its ambivalence towards them dating back to its start. Since the first ceremony held in 1929 the Academy has grappled with the sometimes contradictory lures of art and turning a profit. Only rarely does a single movie satisfy both.

Not all are sold that what is at play is a clash between artistry and commerce. With “Barbie” functioning as a commentary on sexism and a metacommentary on its own place in feminist discourse, many expressed their view of what was at hand, as well as their outrage, with references to the film. One commentator summarized the oversight by stating “Nominating Ken but not Barbie is literally the plot of the movie”.

Others, still, assert that the choices made by the Academy should be taken at face value. “Barbie” was simply wildly overrated—not only less than impressive, but even garbled and outright dull for long stretches. If anything, it was generous to include “Barbie” in the shortlist for Best Picture. That was probably just to acknowledge the vast sums of money “*Barbie*” generated at the box office.

Whatever happened, for now, those hoping the director and star of “Barbie” will be recognized for their work will have to wish that happens another way. Perhaps the musical version of the film the two teased earlier this year comes to fruition. There's always the Tony Awards.

(Sources: <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/notes-on-hollywood/the-oscars-are-confused-about-barbie>;
<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/23/style/barbie-oscar-nominations-reactions.html>;
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/columnists/2024/01/24/barbie-oscars-snob-margot-robbie-ryan-gosling-greta-gerwig/>)

(Count silently to 5 and then say the following)

You will now hear the recording again.

(after the second recording say)

You now have 1 minute to write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

(60 seconds pause)

This is the end of the listening task.

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