



Agencija za odgoj i obrazovanje  
Education and Teacher Training Agency



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
Ministarstvo znanosti,  
obrazovanja i mladih

# ŠKOLSKO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA

## za 4. razred srednje škole

ŠKOLSKA GODINA 2024./2025.



Zaokruži broj (1 ili 2) kategorije u kojoj se natječeš:

- 1 Kategorija 4A: gimnazije
- 2 Kategorija 4B: ostale srednje škole

Zaporka:

(dobivena riječ)

### TEST

Čitanje s razumijevanjem:	12 bodova
Uporaba jezika:	38 bodova
<b>Ukupno:</b>	<b>50 bodova</b>

Napomena: svi odgovori moraju biti prepisani na List za odgovore. Sadržaj ove testne knjižice NE boduje se.

## Tasks 1 and 2: READING COMPREHENSION

### Task 1: A Royal Exploration

Read the following text. For questions 1 – 6, choose the correct answer. Write A, B, C or D. There is an example (0) at the beginning. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

The concept of a 'queen' is multifaceted, transcending disciplines and domains to symbolize power, leadership, and intrigue. From legendary rock bands to monarchs, from industrious insects to strategic board games, queens have left their mark on humanity's imagination and endeavors.

Few bands have achieved the iconic status of 'Queen'. Formed in 1970, the British rock band, led by the flamboyant and immensely talented Freddie Mercury, revolutionized music with their eclectic style and theatrical performances. Hits like 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'We Will Rock You', and 'Don't Stop Me Now' remain anthems of individuality and resilience. One lesser-known fact about Queen is their pioneering use of studio overdubbing techniques, creating the illusion of a vast choir using just the band members' voices. They defied categorization, merging rock, opera, and pop into a unique soundscape. Queen's legacy extends beyond music, inspiring generations to embrace creativity and authenticity.

The late Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-reigning monarch in British history, epitomized stability and duty during her 70-year reign. Her reign spanned dramatic global changes, from the post-World War II reconstruction to the digital age. She was the first British monarch to send an email, doing so in 1976, demonstrating her adaptability in a rapidly changing world. Known for her stoic demeanor and dedication, Elizabeth was also a figure of warmth, as seen in her unexpected comedic turn alongside Paddington Bear during her Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022. Her presence united generations, embodying continuity amidst upheaval.

In the intricate world of bees, the queen reigns supreme. Contrary to popular belief, a queen bee does not "rule" her hive in a dictatorial sense; rather, she serves as its reproductive heart, laying up to 2,000 eggs a day during peak seasons. A fascinating fact is that the queen's diet of royal jelly, a nutrient-rich secretion, determines her destiny. This diet activates specific genes, transforming an ordinary larva into a queen. Her pheromones regulate the hive's cohesion, signaling the workers to maintain harmony. The queen bee's role underscores the interconnectedness and cooperation vital to thriving ecosystems.

The queen in chess is the most versatile and powerful piece on the board, capable of moving any number of squares in any direction. This wasn't always the case. In medieval chess, the queen was much weaker, only able to move one square diagonally. It wasn't until the late 15th century that the queen gained her formidable powers, reflecting the rise of strong female monarchs like Isabella I of Castile.

Interestingly, the chess queen's transformation paralleled societal shifts, symbolizing empowerment and adaptability. The queen's dominance is a reminder of the potency of strategic thinking and foresight.

From stadiums and palaces to hives and chessboards, queens captivate and inspire. They remind us of humanity's creativity, resilience, and interconnectedness. Whether through Freddie Mercury's soaring vocals, Elizabeth II's unwavering presence, the queen bee's vital role, or the chess queen's dynamic movements, each queen carries a story of influence and ingenuity. They are not merely symbols but active participants in shaping worlds, both real and imagined.

**(0)** Which queen is described as embodying the concept of resilience and devotion while adapting to changes?

- A) Freddie Mercury
- B) Queen Elizabeth II**
- C) The queen bee
- D) The chess queen

**(1)** The text attributes the rock band Queen's impact to which of the following?

- A) Their reliance on different genres to appeal to a broad audience.
- B) Their ability to combine varied musical influences into a distinctive style.
- C) Their refusal to embrace technological advances in their recordings.
- D) Their consistent focus on operatic and classical music techniques.

**(2)** The role of the queen bee in her colony primarily emphasizes:

- A) Her autocratic rule over the workers and drones' hearts.
- B) Her role as the sole decision-maker for the hive's survival.
- C) The biological interplay of nourishment and genetics in her development.
- D) Her limited function in reproduction without significant influence on the hive.

**(3)** The chess queen's transformation into a dominant game piece is linked to:

- A) The invention of new strategies for medieval chess.
- B) Historical trends that elevated the status of powerful women.
- C) A shift in gameplay mechanics to increase complexity.
- D) The direct influence of 15th-century artistic movements.

**(4)** Which queen's narrative most strongly conveys themes of collaboration and unity?

- A) Freddie Mercury
- B) Queen Elizabeth II
- C) The queen bee
- D) The chess queen

- (5)** The mention of Isabella I of Castile in the text primarily serves to:
- A) Illustrate how the chess queen's enhanced abilities mirrored societal power dynamics.
  - B) Show that historical queens influenced both politics and art equally.
  - C) Highlight a singular figure responsible for all changes in chess rules.
  - D) Contrast the influence of real queens with that of fictional representations.
- (6)** The description of Queen Elizabeth II's unexpected performance alongside Paddington Bear emphasizes:
- A) Her ability to connect with the public through formal and informal means.
  - B) Her love for modern media and staying in touch with new technologies.
  - C) Her determination to maintain tradition in a changing world.
  - D) Her use of humor to downplay the seriousness of her reign.

**(6 points)**

## Task 2: The Path to Building an Authentic Brand

Read the following text. For questions 1 – 6, match the correct headings. Write A, B, C, D, E or F. There is an example (0) at the beginning. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

In today's digital age, becoming an influencer is both an aspiration for many and a viable career path. While it may seem glamorous, the journey to influence requires strategy, creativity, and authenticity. There are numerous essential steps to becoming a successful influencer while navigating the challenges of an increasingly saturated market.

**(0)** G

The foundation of any influencer's success lies in identifying a niche. This is not simply about choosing a topic, but about aligning your passions, expertise, and audience demand. Whether it's fashion, fitness, tech, or travel, carving out a niche allows you to position yourself as an authority. However, specificity is key; a fitness influencer, for instance, could narrow their focus to plant-based nutrition or home workouts for busy professionals. Such clarity not only attracts a dedicated audience but also sets you apart from competitors.

**(1)** \_\_\_\_\_

An influencer's trademark is their identity. It's not just what you post, but how you present it. This encompasses your tone, aesthetics, and values. Consistency across platforms helps establish trust and recognizability. For example, an influencer advocating for sustainability must reflect these principles in both content and lifestyle choices. Authenticity is paramount; audiences are increasingly savvy and can detect insincerity. Being transparent about sponsorships and personal struggles often deepens the connection with followers.

**(2)** \_\_\_\_\_

Content is the currency of influence. To captivate and grow your audience, your posts must offer value—whether through education, entertainment, or inspiration. High-quality visuals, compelling storytelling, and relevance to your niche are non-negotiable. Additionally, staying attuned to trends, from viral challenges to emerging platforms, ensures your content remains fresh and engaging. However, it's not about blindly following trends but tailoring them to suit your brand voice and message.

**(3)** \_\_\_\_\_

Understanding the unique dynamics of each social media platform is crucial. Instagram thrives on aesthetics and storytelling, YouTube excels in long-form video content, while TikTok's algorithm rewards creativity and relatability. Diversifying your presence across platforms expands your reach but requires adapting your strategy for each. For instance, a beauty influencer might use Instagram for product showcases, TikTok for quick tutorials, and YouTube for in-depth reviews.

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

Engagement is the heartbeat of influence. Responding to comments, participating in discussions, and acknowledging feedback foster a sense of community. Many successful influencers host Q&A sessions, create polls, or even collaborate with followers on projects to deepen this relation. Beyond the digital realm, attending events, meet-ups, or webinars further solidifies your relationship with your audience.

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

Once you've built a loyal following, monetization becomes viable. This can take the form of sponsored posts, affiliate marketing, selling your own products or services, and even crowdfunding. However, it's essential to maintain a balance between earning and maintaining authenticity. Partnering with brands that align with your values and resonate with your audience prevents alienation and ensures trust.

(6) \_\_\_\_\_

The road to becoming an influencer is not without obstacles. The pressure to constantly produce content can lead to burnout, while negative comments or scrutiny can affect mental health. Building a supportive network and maintaining a healthy work-life balance are critical for long-term success. Moreover, adapting to algorithm changes and market trends demands continuous learning and flexibility.

Becoming an influencer is more than accumulating followers; it's about creating impact and fostering connections. By staying authentic, producing valuable content, and engaging with your audience, you can carve out a meaningful and rewarding space in the digital landscape. While the journey may be challenging, the rewards of influencing others, sharing your passions, and building a personal brand make it an endeavor worth pursuing.

Headings:

- A) Challenges
- B) Credibility
- C) Substance
- D) Tactics
- E) Connections
- F) Branding
- G) Focus**

(6 points)

### Tasks 3 – 6: USE OF ENGLISH

#### Task 3: Voices

Read the following text. For questions 1 – 10, choose the correct answer. Write A, B, C or D. There is an example (0) at the beginning. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

It was the (0) A of April. The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of voices in the crowded marketplace created a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that was almost unbearable. It was a chaotic, bustling scene, with vendors shouting over each other, trying to sell their wares, while children ran through the streets, their laughter adding to the noise. Amidst the confusion, a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ young man stood, passionately espousing his views on philosophy. His words were often (4) \_\_\_\_\_, filled with exaggerated rhetoric, yet his audience seemed to hang on every word.

Not far off, a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ woman smiled broadly as she engaged in conversation with a group of locals, her voice a stark contrast to the noisy surroundings. Her laughter rang out clearly, a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ sound that pierced through the din. Despite the frenetic atmosphere, there was something comforting in her warmth – her presence was as clear and refreshing as a spring breeze.

Yet, even in this sea of activity, there was an (7) \_\_\_\_\_ sense of isolation for some. A few individuals stood off to the side, observing rather than participating, unsure how to navigate the social (8) \_\_\_\_\_ before them. A (9) \_\_\_\_\_ comment from one passerby only deepened their sense of exclusion.

The sheer scale of the scene was staggering, a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ display of human energy and emotion. It was a paradox – while the space felt limitless, it also had the power to make one feel small and insignificant. And yet, in the midst of it all, there was beauty – unexpected, elusive, but undeniably real.

(0) A) middle

B) midst

C) half

D) centre

(1) A) heap

B) pile

C) mound

D) myriad

(2) A) blast

B) lull

C) cacophony

D) outcry

(3) A) zealous

B) vehement

C) feverish

D) lewd

(4) A) incandescent

B) sparkling

C) bombastic

D) inflated

(5) A) frolic

B) gregarious

C) hospitable

D) ecstatic

(6) A) lucid

B) limpid

C) hazy

D) translucent

- |                           |               |                 |                 |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>(7)</b> A) obtuse      | B) occult     | C) equivocal    | D) unfathomable |
| <b>(8)</b> A) postulation | B) conjecture | C) concession   | D) conundrum    |
| <b>(9)</b> A) disparaging | B) favourable | C) constructive | D) shrewd       |
| <b>(10)</b> A) bulky      | B) pygmy      | C) whopping     | D) permanent    |

**(10 points)**



#### Task 4: How the Oboe Is Made

Read the following text. For questions 1 – 10, think of the word that best fits each space. Use ONE word ONLY. There is an example (0) at the beginning. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

The scientific (0) name for oboe cane is *Arundo donax*, and it is the largest member of the grass family. There are different types of cane within the *Arundo* genus, however the *donax* species works best (1) \_\_\_\_\_ reeds due to its resilience and ability of vibrating. Most people think that oboe reeds are made of bamboo, or even sugar cane! But they are not, since bamboo is too hard (2) \_\_\_\_\_ vibrate, and sugar cane has a completely different genetic makeup.

Before gauging, the cane needs to be fully soaked. This is important because it preserves the edge of the gouger's blade - using dry cane in the machine will quickly dull the blade because it has to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ harder to cut through the cane. It's recommended that the cane is soaked for about 1 hour in hot water. Even though it looks like a fairly simple piece of machinery, a gouger is very precise in (4) \_\_\_\_\_ it removes layers of cane. It is designed to leave a thicker center and thinner sides to a piece of cane, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ helps create ideal vibrations in a finished reed.

The oboe's small tone holes require equally small pads. Two materials are used to make the pads. Some are made from the same "fish skin" (actually, cattle intestine) as the pads of a clarinet, and some are made from natural cork. (6) \_\_\_\_\_ material is used in specific places. The bonding agent shellac, a sticky resin secreted by the female lac bug on trees in the forests of India and Thailand, is used to adjust the pads. There are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ black and white varieties of shellac, with white being traditionally used for oboes. Because this form is more fluid and flows more easily than the black type, it is suited to making minor adjustments so that the pads are exactly flush (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the tone holes.

Finally, there is the process of assembly and adjustment. The key posts are embedded, the parts forming the keys are incorporated (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the bar-affixed pipe, and the pads are fitted on. Then, the motions among the keys are fixed using adjustment screws, and the instrument is complete.

Because the oboe has so many parts and they are all complexly interrelated, several days are required to assemble and adjust a single instrument. It is a very detailed, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ -wrecking task.

(Adapted from

[https://www.yamaha.com/en/musical\\_instrument\\_guide/oboe/manufacturing/manufacturing004.html](https://www.yamaha.com/en/musical_instrument_guide/oboe/manufacturing/manufacturing004.html))

(10 points)

### Task 5: Gapped Sentences

For questions 1-8, think of ONE word ONLY which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. There is an example (0) at the beginning. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

(0)

Gymnasts need a good sense of balance if they are to avoid falling.

Now that I have internet banking, I am able to check my balance on-line.

For success in life, it's necessary to balance your work and family life.

(1)

I'm leaving early tomorrow to \_\_\_\_\_ on a friend.

If you are not sure which one to get, \_\_\_\_\_ around to find the best bargains.

After years of persecution, he's been punished enough. It's time to \_\_\_\_\_ off the dogs.

(2)

She got a set of \_\_\_\_\_ and dip for her birthday.

The brothers \_\_\_\_\_ in a certain amount of money each month to hire a home health aide.

You will never make friends if you go around with a \_\_\_\_\_ on your shoulder and just wait to pick a fight.

(3)

Despite current price advantage, U.K. manufacturers are still having to \_\_\_\_\_ back production.

It wasn't until the servers crashed that Paul became aware of the full \_\_\_\_\_ of the IT problem.

Any benefit payments will be made on a sliding \_\_\_\_\_ according to how much you earn.

(4)

The stolen car was found \_\_\_\_\_ in a field by a passer-by.

When the party leader resigned, opposition MPs said that he had \_\_\_\_\_ a sinking ship.

He \_\_\_\_\_ the pursuit of a medical degree and went on to work in strategy at startup software companies.

**(5)**

Yesterday the Prime Minister \_\_\_\_\_ doubts on the likelihood of tax cuts this year.

The clouds \_\_\_\_\_ a shadow over the distant hills.

He was the first sitting president to \_\_\_\_\_ his ballot early.

**(6)**

Members of the government are \_\_\_\_\_ from prosecution for corruption.

The vaccination is effective but it can't guarantee that you'll be completely \_\_\_\_\_ to the disease.

He's \_\_\_\_\_ to any criticism of his driving technique.

**(7)**

Some colleges are also changing their admissions rules to \_\_\_\_\_ applicants from poorly performing schools.

As with most attempts to curry \_\_\_\_\_ with the young, it appears to have backfired badly.

All those in \_\_\_\_\_ of the proposal please raise your hand.

**(8)**

A special unit was to be brought in as the man was armed to the \_\_\_\_\_.

You must be joking saying you believe your mother-in-law. She was lying to us through her \_\_\_\_\_.

Decay has set in because she hasn't taken enough care of her \_\_\_\_\_ over the years.

**(8 points)**

### Task 6: WORD FORMATION

Read the following text. Use the word given in CAPITALS to form a new word that best fits the gap. There is an example (0) at the beginning. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

In the remains of a once-glorious era, society stands at a crossroads where the pursuit of progress often feels like a dance on a precarious tightrope. The modern world, rife with (0) (ADVANCE) advancements and challenges alike, offers an opportunity to reflect on the (ATTAIN) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of humanity, even as the shadow of rapid developments threatens to obscure the light of true progress. In an age where progress is often measured by everyday (SUPERFICIAL) (2) \_\_\_\_\_, it is imperative to look beyond the surface and strive for a legacy that future generations can build upon with pride. The (FRUIT) (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of dreams lies not in ostentatious displays of wealth or power but in the humble achievement of goals that uplift humanity as a whole.

History has taught us the perils of unchecked power, often seen in the (DICTATE) (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of regimes that sought to control rather than nurture. Such systems, while claiming to guide their people to prosperity, have left behind scars that serve as (EXPLAIN) (5) \_\_\_\_\_ markers of humanity's failures and lessons alike. These (REMAIN) (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of oppression remind us that true progress must be inclusive, not ostentatious – a meaningful collaboration rather than a performance for accolades. Knowledge must be shared, not hoarded, and solutions must be crafted with care, avoiding the (TIME) (7) \_\_\_\_\_ haste that often leads to unforeseen consequences.

As the world grapples with its (NUMBER) (8) \_\_\_\_\_ challenges, from climate change to social inequality, the (MILE) (9) \_\_\_\_\_ we gain as a civilization is determined not only by our technological advancements but also by our ability to address the immense concerns of the marginalized.

The (EQUATOR) (10) \_\_\_\_\_ regions, rich in resources yet burdened by exploitation and environmental degradation, highlight the dichotomy between potential and peril.

(10 points)

**THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST!**