



Agencija za odgoj i obrazovanje
Education and Teacher Training Agency



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
Ministarstvo znanosti,
obrazovanja i mladih

ŠKOLSKO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA
za 2. razred srednje škole
ŠKOLSKA GODINA 2024./2025.



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

- 1 Kategorija 2.A (gimnazije)
- 2 Kategorija 2.B (ostale srednje škole)

Zaporka:

(dobivena riječ)

TEST

Čitanje s razumijevanjem:	12 bodova
Uporaba jezika:	38 bodova
Ukupno:	50 bodova

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

Tasks 1 - 2: READING COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Top Gear: The Ultimate Car Show

Read the following text. For questions 1 – 6, decide whether the statements are true or false. Write T for true or F for false. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

“Top Gear” is a ground-breaking and influential car show that has captivated audiences worldwide for decades. Originally aired in 1977, it gained global recognition and a massive following after being relaunched in 2002 with a new format and remarkable hosts: Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond, and James May. This trio of charismatic presenters brought a distinctive blend of humour, expertise, and unpredictable stunts, pushing the boundaries of traditional motoring television and transforming “Top Gear” into one of the most popular and widely-viewed motoring shows in the world.

The show is best known for its particular and dynamic approach to car reviews. In addition to merely providing tech specs and performance details, the presenters bring cars to life through engaging narratives and sparkling comments. They often conduct tests on the show’s hallmark “*Top Gear Test Track*” - a purpose-built racetrack where cars are pushed to their limits. These tests are not just about speed; they also assess the cars’ handling, comfort, and practical use in various real-world scenarios. However, “Top Gear” is much more than just reviews. The show is known for its outrageous challenges, where the presenters compete among themselves in daring and often absurd stunts. They have raced cars against planes, built homemade vehicles, and driven across treacherous terrains in the most unlikely vehicles.

Another iconic feature of “Top Gear”, where emphasis is put on entertainment, is the “*Star in a Reasonably Priced Car*”, where celebrities from various fields - actors, musicians, and athletes - race around the track in a modest car, attempting to set the fastest lap time. This segment has often provided hilarious moments as famous guests reveal unexpected driving skills (or lack thereof), adding an element of surprise and fun to the show.

The Stig, the show’s enigmatic professional driver, is another enduring symbol of “Top Gear”. Dressed in a full racing suit and helmet, the Stig is tasked with setting lap times for various cars on the track, but his true identity remains a closely guarded secret. This mysterious figure has sparked endless speculation, contributing to the show's intrigue and excitement.

Despite several changes to the hosts over the years, “Top Gear” continues to be a cultural phenomenon, combining adrenaline-pumping challenges with witty humour and fascinating insights into the world of cars. At its core it remains focused on reviewing a wide variety of vehicles, from everyday cars to exotic supercars, captivating audiences with its unique wisecracking and larger-than-life challenges.

- (0) "Top Gear" was initially launched in 1977. **T**
- (1) "Top Gear's" success is partly due to its
focus on technical car reviews and detailed specifications. _____
- (2) The "Top Gear Test Track" is used exclusively for
testing luxurious cars. _____
- (3) The presenters of "Top Gear" only engage in challenges
that involve surface vehicles. _____
- (4) The "Star in a Reasonably Priced Car" segment is
conducted with celebrities driving ordinary cars. _____
- (5) Some have revealed through speculation The Stig's
true identity several times throughout the show. _____
- (6) The show's presenters haven't remained the same
since "Top Gear" began in 1977. _____

Adapted from:

<https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/anniversaries/april/top-gear#>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top_Gear,
<https://topgear.fandom.com/>, <https://www.cartakeback.com/blog/just-for-fun/top-gear-history/>

(6 points)

Task 2:**Rowan Atkinson**

Read the following article. Choose which of the sentences A – H best fits into the numbered gaps 1 – 6. There are two extra sentences which do not fit into any of the gaps. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Rowan Atkinson, a celebrated British actor and comedian, is widely recognised for his portrayal of the bumbling yet loveable character, Mr Bean. Born on January 6, 1955, in County Durham, England, Atkinson grew up in a modest family and displayed an early talent for performance. **(0)** ..I.. He began studying Electrical Engineering at Newcastle University, and later completed a master's degree in the same field at The Queen's College, Oxford. **(1)**

Atkinson's involvement in acting grew while he was at Oxford, where he joined the Oxford University Dramatic Society, a highly regarded theatre group that helped launch the careers of many British actors. **(2)**

Together, they created many iconic characters, drawing from Atkinson's talent for physical comedy and Curtis's sharp humour. By the late 1970s, Atkinson had started appearing in the BBC sketch show *Not the Nine O'Clock News*, where his unique expressions and timing made him a standout.

When he co-created the character of Mr Bean in the early 1990s, it quickly became a cultural phenomenon, winning audiences both at home and abroad. **(3)**

The simplicity of Mr Bean's comedy made it easily accessible to audiences worldwide, transcending language and cultural barriers. Yet, not all viewers found him amusing; some saw the character as childish, while others praised Atkinson's daring choice to bring silent comedy back into the mainstream.

Atkinson has explored a wide range of characters beyond Mr Bean, including the role of Edmund Blackadder in the popular historical comedy *Blackadder*. **(4)**

The series highlighted his adaptability, balancing sharp wit and a darker, more cynical humour that contrasted with his later roles.

His film career also grew, with memorable performances in movies like *Johnny English*, where he played a clumsy spy parodying James Bond. **(5)**

Surprisingly, despite his on-screen goofiness, those who know him describe Atkinson as reserved and thoughtful, which seems at odds with his public persona.

Outside of acting, Atkinson has a passion for cars, especially luxury and high-performance models. **(6)**

In interviews, he occasionally mentions this passion, hinting at a quieter side to his personality and a preference for keeping his private life away from public view.

With a career spanning over four decades, Rowan Atkinson continues to be celebrated as one of Britain's most beloved comedians. His comedic legacy, from Mr Bean to Edmund Blackadder, is a testament to his skill and adaptability.

- A.** Atkinson has mentioned that his interest in aviation helped him unwind after the pressures of television and film.
- B.** This character allowed him to add to his reputation for physical comedy.
- C.** A key connection from this time would later have a large impact on his career.
- D.** He has dedicated time to this interest, which is largely separate from his professional life.
- E.** Rowan Atkinson is also known for his remarkable musical skills, which he often integrates into his comedic performances.
- F.** This role was unique in requiring him to rely mainly on visual comedy.
- G.** Despite his scientific studies, he began to feel drawn in a different direction during these years.
- H.** Throughout this series, he was able to play a variety of roles that showcased his versatility.
- I.** ~~Interestingly, his initial academic path was quite different.~~

(6 points)

Tasks 3 – 6: USE OF ENGLISH

Task 3: Cowboy Boots

Read the following text. For each gap (1 – 10), use one word from the box (A, B, C or D). There are three words that you do not need.

There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Write your answers (A, B, C or D) on the Answer Sheet.

Cowboy boots are (0) A riding boots traditionally worn by cowboys and horse riders. Cowboy boots are often (1) _____ from cowhide leather. They vary from sturdy, practical boots to elaborate fashion pieces crafted from exotic materials like ostrich, alligator, and snake leather.

Riding boots have been essential for horse riders for centuries, created in many different styles across the world. The cowboy boot, however, originally (2) _____ in the midwestern and western United States in the 1800s. It was inspired by the vaquero-style boots brought to the Americas by Spanish settlers in the 1600s. These boots were designed for (3) _____, that is, to ensure a secure fit in the stirrups. The tall, calf-hugging design and (4) _____ heel prevented the foot from slipping out of the stirrup, while exterior stitching helped maintain the boot's shape and durability.

Before the cowboy boot became popular, the Wellington boot, originally worn by military cavalry, was (5) _____ by American cowboys. After the Civil War, however, the military-style boot faded, and the cowboy boot became the go-to footwear for ranchers and farmers. With industrialization, boots were produced more quickly and efficiently, thanks to better (6) _____ techniques and materials.

The (7) _____ design of the boot's prioritizes practicality. The tall shaft protected riders from brush, water, and other hazards, while the pitched heel kept the foot securely in the stirrup. As rodeo events grew in popularity, the "roper" boot emerged, (8) _____ a lower heel and shorter sides, allowing for easier dismounting.

In the 20th century, cowboy boots were (9) _____ especially during the 1940s Western movie boom, when pointed toes became fashionable, even though they were less comfortable for riding.

Today, cowboy boots continue to be a popular (10) _____ not only for practical purposes but also as a fashionable item in the global market. They continue to be a blend of practicality and fashion, with options ranging from traditional designs to exotic leather styles for both men and women. The legacy of cowboy boots endures, symbolizing both heritage and style.

Adapted from: <https://www.westernbootbarn.com.au/blog/the-history-of-cowboy-boots/>

	A	B	C	D
(0)	iconic	traditional	temporary	occasional
(1)	manufactured	designed	constructed	derived
(2)	built	developed	created	introduced
(3)	protection	decoration	style	utility
(4)	smooth	flared	flat	angled
(5)	favoured	discarded	ignored	adapted
(6)	factory	motor	sewing	leather
(7)	necessary	aesthetic	functional	unnecessary
(8)	characterising	featuring	designing	creating
(9)	diminished	rejected	adapted	popularised
(10)	accessory	novelty	necessity	tradition

(10 points)

Task 4:**Olive Oil**

Read the following text. For each gap 1 - 10, think of one word that best fits the text. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Write your answers on the Answer sheet.

Olive Oil, (0) **unlike** other vegetable oils, is obtained from a fruit and not a seed. The word "oil" comes from the Arabic "az-zait", which (1) _____ to the juice of olives. Homer famously coined the term "liquid gold" to describe olive oil thousands of years (2) _____. This oil is a central and distinguishing component of the Mediterranean diet, one of the healthiest diets around.

Olive oil was discovered and began to be used around 4000 BC in the classical era (3) _____ various Mediterranean civilizations (Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans) began to grow olive trees and extract juice (4) _____ the olives. But it was in Ancient Greece where the olive tree, (5) _____ fruit and oil, achieved the importance they enjoy today as a symbol of immortality.

During the ancient Olympic Games, athletes rubbed olive oil on their bodies before and after the competition to prepare for a massage, a custom that (6) _____ survived over the years. Massages with olive oil are widely practiced today and are held in the same (7) _____ esteem as they were in the past.

Religion also helped establish the olive tree and olive oil in popular culture. According to Greek mythology, it was (8) _____ minor god Aristaeus who was responsible for the spread of olive oil all across the Balkan Peninsula, the Aegean Sea and (9) _____ on to Sardinia and Sicily. It's no accident, then, that he was considered the inventor of olive oil and the press used to extract it.

During the age of the Roman Empire, the use of olive oil began to expand throughout the Mediterranean Basin until it (10) _____ Hispania, a region that produced "liquid gold" of maximum quality.

Adapted from <https://oliveoilfromspain.org/olive-oil-news/history-olive-oil-i/>

(10 points)

Task 5:**John Cleese**

Read the following text. For each gap (1 – 10) use the word given in brackets to form a new word that fits the context. The answer must consist of a single word that goes into the numbered gap. The task begins with an example (0). Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

John Cleese, one of Britain's most celebrated (0) comedians (COMEDY), has enjoyed an (1) _____ (COMPARE) career that spans decades. Born in Weston-super-Mare in 1939, Cleese initially considered a career in law, attending Downing College, Cambridge, to study the subject. However, it wasn't long before his natural (2) _____ (INCLINE) towards comedy emerged, leading him to join the Cambridge Footlights, a renowned comedy troupe. His comedic style, known for its wit and sharp satire, quickly gained attention and eventually led to his work on the BBC's *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. Cleese was soon recognised as a leading figure in the comedy world.

The creation of *Monty Python* marked a (3) _____ (SIGNIFY) turning point in British comedy, pushing boundaries with its absurd humour and innovative sketches. Cleese's role in the show was both as a performer and a writer, contributing to some of the most (4) _____ (MEMORISE) scenes in British television history. His characters, often portrayed with a mix of (5) _____ (IRONY) detachment and exaggerated seriousness, became iconic, influencing generations of comedy fans and creators alike.

Following his success with *Monty Python*, Cleese co-created and starred in *Fawlty Towers*, a sitcom centred on a chaotic hotel manager. The show, though brief in its original run, became one of Britain's most (6) _____ (INFLUENCE) comedies and is still celebrated today. Cleese's character, Basil Fawlty, is known for his short temper and constant (7) _____ (FRUSTRATE), which leads to numerous misunderstandings and hilarious moments, (8) _____ (BODY) a classic British sense of humour that mixes irritation with farce.

Beyond his television work, Cleese also took on roles in film, including appearances in the *James Bond* series and *Harry Potter*. Despite his achievements on screen, Cleese has often spoken out on the importance of (9) _____ (CREATION) freedom, particularly within comedy, and he continues to be vocal about his views on the limitations imposed by political correctness. His (10) _____ (CONTINUE) involvement in comedy, even in his later years, reflects his enduring passion for the art form, and his dedication to exploring new creative ideas.

Cleese's influence on comedy is undeniable, and his unique contribution to British humour remains highly regarded by both fans and comedians alike. Today, he is seen not only as a pioneer of absurdist humour but also as a key figure in the global development of comedy.

(10 points)

Task 6: Gap Filling

For questions 1 – 8, find one word which is appropriate for all three gaps in each of the following sets of sentences.

The task begins with an example (0).

Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

- (0) He swung a baseball **bat** and hit a home run in the game.
As the sun set, they watched the **bat** fly through the evening sky.
She needed to **bat** her eyelashes to get his attention.
- (1) _____, that was quite fast, so I can't help feeling disappointed.
Consuming anything out of that _____ might be risky.
She kept claiming that she didn't look _____ after the accident.
- (2) His luggage was suspiciously _____, so they almost arrested him.
She was enjoying the _____ breeze when it suddenly brought a terrible stench.
It will be impossible to find anything unless you turn on the _____.
- (3) The mattress _____ was way too noisy for my taste.
The crystal-clear mountain _____ was the most beautiful detail in the photo.
He expressed admiration for the lively, bright colours of _____.
- (4) When making notes, you should try to single out _____ points.
Her terrible singing was often off _____, but she didn't care.
You can have a look at the answers in the _____ at the back only after the test.
- (5) Perhaps we should hire a better solicitor to _____ on our behalf.
The second _____ of the play seemed the most gruesome.
Don't you _____ all innocent, everybody knows you did it!

- (6) Mr Bean was appointed to _____ the creativity committee.
He was notorious for losing his _____ in almost every crisis.
The parents threatened to contact the _____ teacher if the grades do not improve.
- (7) Students and senior citizens can buy a discounted tram _____ every year.
If you ask him, no other team can _____ the ball the way Croatians can.
The new president quickly promised to _____ a new law on corruption.
- (8) How much _____ do you pay in your bank if you go over the limit?
Could I possibly _____ you in a cucumber smoothie?
Students usually lose _____ after about ten minutes of doing anything.

(8 points)

THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST.