



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 2025./2026.



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

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

Zaporka:

(zadana 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 and 2: READING COMPREHENSION

Task 1: A Greater Woman

Read the text about women in science. For each of the items **1 – 6** choose the best answer **A, B, C** or **D**. The task begins with an example (0).

Remember to write your answers (A, B, C or D) on the Answer Sheet.

“Behind every great man is a great woman” is a well-known proverb dating back to the first half of the 1900s. Originally, this was meant to recognize the necessary support given by women that enabled men to be successful inventors, pioneers, or take on whatever other roles necessary to create a better world. Today this saying sparks irritation in many people. Within a changing society, some see this as a means of reducing women’s contributions to and their role in the advancement of society. Women were often ignored as men took credit for their contributions. Reviewing a few instances creates a sense of the injustice.

Hedy Lamarr: Wireless Communication

Hedy Lamarr was most famous in her day as an icon of beauty in the Hollywood scene. Typecast as the beautiful girl, she found her roles unchallenging. Her boredom led to her becoming an inventor. One of her inventions was inspired by conversations between high-level fascist leaders of pre-WWII Europe.

Hedy Lamar, then Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler, was married to Austrian industrialist and arms dealer Friedrich Mandl, who took her to meetings believing her looks would help him sell weapons. During those meetings she learned about guided weapons and frequency jamming. After escaping her abusive marriage, fleeing to the U.S., and beginning her acting career, Hedy worked closely with George Antheil to develop the concept of “frequency hopping.” The U.S. military ignored her ideas but began using the technology in the 1960s, three years after the patent had expired. The invention also became the basis of Bluetooth and Wi-Fi technology. Shortly before her death in 2000, Lamarr received the Electronic Frontier Foundation Award based on her patent.

Lise Meitner: Nuclear Fission

Lise Meitner was a pioneer for women in physics. As a woman in 1920s Austria, she was barred from higher education. Because her family paid for private tutoring, she became the first woman to receive a doctorate from the University of Vienna and the first woman to become a physics professor in Germany. She worked with a team of researchers studying radioactive elements. Forced to escape Nazi Germany, she continued her work in Sweden.

Meitner discovered that atomic nuclei split during some reactions. She coined the phrase “nuclear fission.” Her lab partner Otto Hahn nominated himself for the Nobel Prize with no mention of Lise. Despite many other scientists’ objections and Hahn’s own admittance that it was she who was able to explain what was happening in his experiments, he alone was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1944.

Meitner spent the rest of her life pursuing the truth of science, the peaceful use of its discoveries, and advocating for women in science.

Esther Lederberg: Microbial Genetics

Esther Lederberg was a pioneer in microbiology. Her discoveries were the foundation of all subsequent discoveries in this field for the next four decades and beyond. They played a large part in determining how genes are regulated, along with the process of making RNA from DNA. She often collaborated with her husband, even providing the overwhelming evidence that proved his initial theory of bacterial replication incorrect and allowed him to “discover” the truth which he published in his paper on the subject. Despite this collaboration, her husband alone claimed the Nobel Prize. The only credit she received came during his acceptance speech when he thanked her “above all.” Her second husband, however, spent years making sure her contributions would be remembered.

These are but a few instances of the Matilda effect. Named for a suffragist who first wrote about it, the Matilda effect is the bias against recognition of women’s achievements and their work often being attributed to men. In light of all this, perhaps the old adage needs to be altered to say: Behind every great man is a greater woman.

(0) Which best describes Hedy Lamarr’s contribution to technology?

- A She co-developed frequency-hopping technology.**
- B She discovered nuclear fission.
- C She created the theory of bacterial replication.
- D She invented the atomic bomb.

(1) According to the text, the phrase “Behind every great man is a great woman” originally meant:

- A Women were more intelligent than men.
- B Women’s assistance was crucial to men’s success.
- C Women had a minor role in men’s achievements.
- D Men could not succeed without women doing the same work.

(2) What does the text suggest was the main obstacle to Lise Meitner’s scientific endeavors?

- A persecution by the Nazi regime
- B lack of financial resources to obtain an education
- C gender discrimination in education
- D demotivation due to the lack of recognition

(3) What do Lamarr, Meitner, and Lederberg all have in common?

- A They were nominated for Nobel Prizes for their work.
- B They all collaborated with their husbands.
- C There was some effort to recognize them during their lifetime.
- D They all were forced to flee their country.

- (4) Which of the following is an example of the Matilda effect?
- A Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving her seat on a public bus to a man.
 - B Susan B. Anthony was arrested in her hometown in 1872 for voting.
 - C Matilda Joselyn Gage was denied entry to medical school as she was a woman.
 - D Marie Curie won the Nobel Prize only because her husband refused to take full credit.
- (5) Which conclusion can readers draw from the text?
- A The most talented person is not always rewarded.
 - B Women are generally more talented in science than men.
 - C Women are supported by their male colleagues.
 - D Nobel Prizes are unfairly awarded more often than not.
- (6) What is the author's main purpose in writing this text?
- A to convince the reader that male scientists are deceitful
 - B to show how women supported male scientists throughout history
 - C to expose a systematic failure in the sciences
 - D to argue that Nobel Prizes are unfairly issued to men more than women

(6 points)

Task 2: What's in a Name?

Read the following text about William Woods. Choose which of the sentences **A – I** from the list at the end of the text on the next page best fits into the numbered gaps **1 – 6**. There are two extra sentences which do not fit any of the gaps.

The task begins with an example (0).

Remember to write your answers (A – I) on the Answer Sheet.

Imagine you had to prove you were you and nobody believed you. (0) C Imagine your existence was summarily dismissed, deemed fraudulent, and your insistence that you are you was used as grounds to declare you mentally incompetent. This unbelievable story of fiction was the chilling reality for William Woods. The ordeal lasted for more than thirty years. It all began with a job in New Mexico.

In the late 1980s, William Woods worked a hot dog cart in Albuquerque. Matthew David Keirans worked there too. (1) _____ He stole Woods's identity – likely beginning with his wallet – and started a meticulous transformation. For the next thirty years, Keirans vanished from his own life, constructing a new one under the name "William Woods." He obtained a birth certificate, a Social Security number (the U.S. personal identification number), and driver's licenses along with many other documents. "William Woods" built an entire career as a respected IT administrator at a hospital. He married, had a child, and lived a seemingly respectable life, all under a stolen name.

Meanwhile, the real William Woods had fallen on hard times. (2) _____ Through those many years he was completely unaware that someone else was living a completely

different life under his name. However, in the late 2010s, Woods was trying to get back on his feet. This would cause the collision of the two identities.

The first crack in Keirans's elaborate I appeared in 2019 when Woods discovered mounting debts and accounts under his name. When Woods approached a bank in Los Angeles to address the fraudulent accounts, the bank called their client and then decided this person was trying to steal their client's identity. The bank took what they thought was the only logical next step. (3) _____ Because Keirans had cemented his stolen identity for so long and possessed all the supporting information and documentation, the authorities believed *he* was the true William Woods, and the rightful owner of that name was branded the impostor. William Woods was arrested for identity theft.

(4) _____ Woods vehemently insisted on his true identity, yet his claims were met with skepticism, then outright disbelief. In a cruel twist, a California judge found him “not mentally competent” to stand trial because of his unwavering insistence on being himself. He was committed to a state psychiatric hospital, where he endured 147 days, subjected to psychotropic medication, all while being told he was Matthew Keirans. He spent a total of 428 days in custody.

(5) _____ Desperate to be released, Woods eventually relented, pleading “no contest” to the charges. The court's ruling was a final, devastating blow: he was ordered to cease using the name William Woods and “use only his true name, Matthew Keirans” in the future. The real victim was forced to legally become his own impostor.

(6) _____ He eventually connected with a detective who launched a thorough investigation. The detective's efforts paid off, leading to the biological father listed on Woods's birth certificate. A DNA test finally provided irrefutable proof: William Woods was indeed William Woods. Confronted with this evidence, Matthew Keirans's decades-long charade crumbled. He confessed, saying, “My life is over.” He pleaded guilty to federal charges and was sentenced to 12 years in prison. William Woods's wrongful conviction was vacated, his name finally cleared.

- A If he wanted, he could open an account under the name of Matthew Keirans.
- B Now in the American justice system, what followed was a Kafkaesque nightmare.
- D He drifted from place to place often being homeless, essentially living off the grid.
- E He had a record of legal troubles and desired to escape his past.
- F Working together, the two quickly became friends.
- G The irony was brutal: the very act of asserting his truth led to his confinement in a mental institution.
- H Woods refused to let his identity be stolen.
- I They called the police.
- ~~C Imagine someone came forward with every document showing they were the real you.~~

(6 points)

Tasks 3 – 6: USE OF ENGLISH

Task 3: Gap Filling

For statements **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 the correct answers on the Answer Sheet.

(0) Sunday is my cheat day. I can do or eat whatever I want.

She got sent to the principal's office after having been caught with a cheat sheet.

I should have known my ex was a cheat when he went out of his way to avoid paying taxes.

(1) In dodgeball, one has to _____, turn and jump almost constantly.

In a cruel _____ of fate, she went from riches to rags in a matter of months.

I thought we were in it together, but my so-called friend Diana left me to _____ in the wind.

(2) Having lost the family car in the divorce proceedings, Bubbles felt the sudden urge to _____ the vehicle, but common sense prevailed in the end.

Naomi has been carrying a _____ for Anthony since she first laid eyes on him at college.

We all had a good laugh when Ann Marie confidently said that the welding _____ can also be used for cutting metal.

(3) Winston Churchill never shied away from giving _____ to his opinions.

The new character they've introduced really breathes an _____ of danger into the show.

My parents taught me never to _____ our dirty laundry in public.

(4) Greta Thunberg is quickly becoming a _____ child for political activism.

When running a political campaign, it is imperative to _____ your face and your election slogans wherever you can.

I am not really sure what the original _____ meant by his statement, but the comments section is burning.

(5) I'm asking you to spend an extra half an hour working at your computer, not to dig a _____ using only a spoon.

In a last-_____ effort to change things, he gave an inspirational speech which turned the tide.

We were having a great time when my pals decided to _____ me and go somewhere else without me.

(6) If he keeps up this pace for one more _____, we will surely be looking at a new world record.

The story had more holes than Swiss cheese; I really did not expect him to _____ it up.

I'd practically given up all hope of ever finding any sort of job when this one fell into my _____.

(7) I've never enjoyed _____ parties much. I prefer mixed crowds a lot more.

Mary is such a mother _____; always fussing over everything and everyone.

Wild tigers are as rare as _____'s teeth these days.

(8) Being a shy boy, Philip always found it difficult to _____ up a conversation with strangers.

Danielle's demeanor would often _____ fear into the hearts of her colleagues.

It felt like things had been going too well for too long, so we expected disaster to _____ at any given moment.

(8 points)

Task 4: Weapons; a Film Review

Read the following text. In most of the lines **1 – 10**, there is one extra word. Identify the extra words which are either incorrect grammatically or do not fit in with the text's meaning. Remember that some lines are correct.

If the line is correct, **put a tick (✓)** in the appropriate place on the Answer Sheet. If there is an extra word in the line, **write the extra word** in the appropriate place on the Answer Sheet.

The task begins with two examples, (0) and (00).

Remember to write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Weapons; a Film Review		
(0)	<i>Weapons</i> is a gripping drama directed by Zach Baylin which digs out	<u>out</u>
(00)	into the impact of violence on ordinary people. Told through several	<u>✓</u>
(1)	stories that tie up together, the film slowly builds tension as one tragic	_____
(2)	event sets off on a chain reaction in different lives. Its non-linear	_____
(3)	structure draws viewers in and makes them to figure out how the	_____
(4)	pieces fit in together. The story doesn't rush; instead, it lets emotions	_____
	sink in and brings out a strong sense of realism.	
(5)	The performances are outstanding, and especially those of the	_____
(6)	younger actors, who only manage to bring across both vulnerability	_____
(7)	and anger. The dark cinematography and subtle soundtrack back up	_____
(8)	with the film's emotional intensity without taking away from the story.	_____
(9)	Although <i>Weapons</i> can wear viewers down with its heavy subject	_____
(10)	matter, it pushes them to think through to ideas of responsibility,	_____
	trauma, and empathy. It doesn't hand out easy answers, but leaves	
	you with plenty to reflect on.	

(10 points)

Task 5: Jane Goodall

Read the following text about Jane Goodall. Use the word in brackets to **form a new word that best fits each gap**. Use only **one word** in each gap.

The task begins with an example (0).

Write the correct answers on the Answer Sheet.

If there are things this crazy world is lacking, then they are surely inspiration, hope and compassion. One of the world's brightest beacons of hope was extinguished on October 1, when Jane Goodall, a renowned **(0) primatologist (primate)**, died at the age of ninety-one.

Born on the eve of WW2 into a London family where money was scarce and books abundant, Jane received plentiful **(1) _____ (courage)** to read from a very young age. Early exposure to all sorts of literature and innate childlike curiosity would lay the foundation to one of the most **(2) _____ (orthodoxy)** scientific careers. The final piece of the puzzle slipped into its place when her parents gifted her with a toy chimpanzee at the age of ten. She made up her mind then and there. She was going to live in Africa.

It did not happen overnight, but life **(3) _____ (provision)** an opportunity to make her dream a reality when she, at the age of twenty-three, travelled to Africa after saving money for the trip. Financial issues did not only postpone the trip to the cradle of civilisation, but also prevented her from attaining a university degree. Surprisingly, the lack of formal education did not **(4) _____ (impediment)** her in her work, her inquisitive and untrained mind allowing her to notice patterns that would otherwise be obscured by scientific prejudice.

Goodall spent the next forty years **(5) _____ (relent)** studying chimpanzees, quickly dispelling most of the entrenched beliefs and dogmas about these apes. Her work revealed them not to be instinctive creatures, but highly intelligent beings that formed complex societies, displaying a wide array of human-like behaviours: ferocious and **(6) _____ (waver)** affection, steadfast loyalty, burning ambition, unyielding determination, gentle courtship, profound and **(7) _____ (mourn)** grieving, and fierce belligerence.

The **(8) _____ (definition)** factor that made Goodall stand out among her peers was her propensity to register the animals' behaviours without shying away from her feelings, beliefs and personality leaking into her writing. It is precisely this sympathetic vein in her work that made her so popular, providing a platform for what was to come.

Goodall spent the last years of her life **(9) _____ (vocalization)** raising awareness about the conservation and wider environmental issues that are increasingly plaguing the world. She was adamant in her belief that it's not too late to change things; that the human intellect, moulded by compassion and the **(10) _____ (exhaust)** potential of technology, can help humanity overcome the crisis we've created. Even though she won't be here to witness the change, hopefully we can prove her words true.

(10 points)

Task 6: Robo Rabbits

Read the following text. For each gap **1 – 10**, think of one word which best fits into the text. Use only **one** word in each gap. The task begins with an example (0).

Write the correct answers on the Answer Sheet.

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida — They look, move and even smell **(0)** like the kind of furry rabbit a Burmese python would love to eat. But these bunnies are robots meant to lure the giant snakes out of their hiding spots. It's the latest effort by the South Florida Water Management District to remove as **(1)** _____ pythons as possible from the Everglades, where they are decimating native species with their enormous appetites. In Everglades National Park, officials say the snakes have eliminated 95% of small mammals in **(2)** _____ to thousands of birds. "Removing them is fairly simple. It's detection. We're having a really hard time finding them," said Mike Kirkland, a lead biologist for the water district. "They're so well camouflaged **(3)** _____ the field."

The water district and University of Florida researchers deployed 120 robot rabbits this summer as **(4)** _____ experiment. The robots are simple toy rabbits, but retrofitted to give **(5)** _____ heat, a smell and to make natural movements to appear like any other regular rabbit. They are solar **(6)** _____ and can be switched on and off remotely. They are placed in small pens monitored by a video camera that sends out a signal when a python is nearby. "Then I can deploy one of our many contractors to go out and remove the python," Kirkland said. The total cost **(7)** _____ robot rabbit is about \$4,000.

Pythons are not native to Florida, but have become established in the swampy, subtropical Everglades by escaping from homes or by people releasing them when they become overgrown pets. The pythons have few natural enemies and quickly reproduce. A female python can lay between 50 and 100 eggs **(8)** _____ a time with a gestation period of 60-90 days. There are occasional confrontations with alligators, and other predators, **(9)** _____ as bobcats and coyotes, will eat their eggs. While it is not easy to find definite estimates, the U.S. Geological Survey recently reported a ballpark number of "tens of thousands" of pythons. However, other official estimates reach 300,000. Since 2000, more than 23,000 of the snakes have been removed from the wild. The robot rabbits are the latest attempt to tackle snakes.

It's too early to determine how successful the robot rabbit project will be, but officials say initial results are a cause for optimism. "This part of the project is in **(10)** _____ infancy," Kirkland said. "We are confident, though, that this will work once we are given enough time to work out some of these details."

Adapted from: <https://apnews.com/article/pythons-everglades-florida-robot-rabbits-4cf0b3879d8fa0940178f1262bf84d11>

(10 points)

THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST!