



Agencija za odgoj i obrazovanje  
Education and Teacher Training Agency



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
Ministarstvo znanosti,  
obrazovanja i mladih

## ŽUPANIJSKO 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

Slušanje s razumijevanjem:	12 bodova
Čitanje s razumijevanjem:	12 bodova
Uporaba jezika:	36 bodova
<b>Ukupno:</b>	<b>60 bodova</b>

Napomena: Svi odgovori moraju biti prepisani na List za odgovore.

Sadržaj ove testne knjižice NE boduje se.

## Tasks 1 and 2: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

### Task 1 – Voting

You will hear six short texts from six different speakers expressing their thoughts on voting. For **items 1–6**, choose the speaker that best answers the questions. The task begins with an example (0).

(0) Which speaker suggests that tradition and national pride help maintain voter participation?

A

(1) Which speaker believes that voting is a process that needs careful consideration on the part of the voter?

(2) Which speaker daydreams of a world that could have been?

(3) Which speaker's comments suggest that government actions helped shape national behavior?

(4) Which speaker is most skeptical about whether individual action can meaningfully change outcomes?

(5) Which speaker's view of voting is shaped most strongly by historical oppression and the struggle for equality?

(6) Which speaker would most likely support reforms to make voting rights permanent and universal?

**(6 points)**

## Task 2 – The Outback Cats

You will hear a text about cats. For each of the **statements 1-6**, write the correct answer:

**T** for true or **F** for false. The task begins with an example (0).

(0) The word cat invokes predominantly positive feelings and images  
in most people.

    **T**    

(1) Historically, cats have served various purposes in different cultures.

\_\_\_\_\_

(2) Cats have had the most devastating effect on Australian wildlife.

\_\_\_\_\_

(3) Unsupervised pets cause the majority of problems.

\_\_\_\_\_

(4) The biggest feral cat ever caught in Australia weighed eight kilograms.

\_\_\_\_\_

(5) Changes in feral cats are caused by environmental and genetic factors.

\_\_\_\_\_

(6) The speaker believes that the new evolutionary leap of Australian mega  
cats is at a dead end.

\_\_\_\_\_

**(6 points)**

### Tasks 3 and 4: READING COMPREHENSION

#### Task 3 – Senebkay

Read the following text about the discovery of an ancient pharaoh tomb. Choose which of the **sentences A–J** from the box on the next page best fits into the numbered **gaps 1–6**.

There are three extra sentences which do not fit any of the gaps.

The task begins with an example (0).

Write your answers (**A–J**) on the Answer Sheet.

These are exciting times to be an Egyptologist. Earlier this month, archaeologists disclosed that everybody's favourite mummified teenage pharaoh, King Tutankhamun, had been buried in a position that makes him look like Osiris, the god of the afterlife. **(0) J**

It was the tell-tale hieroglyphics of pint mugs and crisp packets that gave the game away (I'm kidding). Earlier this week, archaeologists found the tomb of a previously unknown 3,600-year-old pharaoh called Woseribre Senebkay, 300 miles south of Cairo.

The skeleton of Senebkay was found in a 60-tonne sarcophagus chamber made with hieroglyphics proclaiming him "king of Upper and Lower Egypt, Woseribre, the son of Re, Senebkay." **(1) \_\_\_\_\_**

Senebkay was originally mummified, but his body was pulled apart by ancient tomb robbers. Since then his skeleton has rested undisturbed for millennia, though he probably turned in his grave in solidarity with fellow pharaoh Cleopatra in 1964 when the movie Carry on Cleo came out.

The tomb is the first evidence of the Abydos dynasty that apparently thrived 3,600 years ago during ancient Egypt's uncreatively named Second Intermediate Period. **(2) \_\_\_\_\_** Not so much.

"It's exciting to find not just the tomb of one previously unknown pharaoh, but the necropolis of an entire forgotten dynasty," said Dr Josef Wegner of the University of Pennsylvania, who led the expedition. "Exciting" is an understatement. Surely this is an Egyptological breakthrough akin to English historians finding out that between the Tudors and the Stuarts there was another hitherto neglected dynasty, who were briefly big in 1603.

Apparently not. **(3) \_\_\_\_\_** Nor were his dominions extensive, despite the boastful hieroglyphic claims decoded this week on his tomb. And his tomb wasn't all that either: "The modesty of the size of the tomb points to the decline of economic conditions in this period," says Wegner.

King Senebkay ruled around 1650 BC, during a time between the end of the Middle Kingdom and the start of the New Kingdom when central authority collapsed and small kingdoms such as Senebkay's sprung up. **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ "Unlike these dynasties with digits," says the Penn Museum press release, "the pharaohs of the Abydos Dynasty were forgotten to history and their royal necropolis unknown until this discovery."

But could a dynasty go missing for 3,600 years? **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ Ever since British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered King Tut's completely intact tomb in 1922, hasn't Egypt been teeming with archaeologists digging for pharaonic remains? Perhaps all these questions would have been answered a long time ago had his funeral directors set the tomb differently, allowing for an earlier discovery.

The explanation is unexpected. **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ According to Wegner, Senebkay's giant quartzite sarcophagus chamber came from a royal tomb built originally for a pharaoh called Sobekhotep, who lived around 150 years before. In fact, the cedar wood canopy of Senebkay's tomb carries the name Sobekhotep. In other words, before his grave was robbed, he was a grave robber himself.

The story of Senebkay serves as proof that Ancient Egypt still has many surprises in store. Let's just hope for a better name of some new unexpected dynasty or a period.

(Adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/shortcuts/2014/jan/22/king-senebkay-egyptian-pharaoh-stay-undiscovered-so-long>)

- A)** Egyptologists may be accomplished archaeologists, but name branding experts?
- B)** Apparently, it's entirely possible for exactly that to happen.
- C)** Odd: that's exactly what I want it to say on my passport.
- D)** And how does a buried pharaoh go undiscovered for so long?
- E)** The sarcophagus's size reflects the pharaoh's importance.
- F)** Confusingly, there were other dynasties that held sway during this time in the larger kingdoms of Thebes (Dynasties Sixteen and Seventeen) and the Hyksos (Dynasty Fifteen) in northern Egypt.
- G)** Ancient Egyptians were accomplished stonemasons.
- H)** Senebkay was no Cleopatra or Rameses II.
- I)** Ancient Egyptians were committed recyclers.
- J)** ~~Then Japanese researchers digging in Luxor unearthed the tomb of the chief brewer of the temple of Mut.~~

**(6 points)**

#### **Task 4 – Thanksgiving: Fact and Fiction**

Read the text about a holiday in the U.S. For each of the **items 1-6** choose the best answer **A, B, C** or **D**. The task begins with an example (0).

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

Thanksgiving in the United States is widely known as a day of gratitude, family gatherings, and abundant meals. Each November, millions of Americans travel across the country to share turkey, stuffing, and pie (overwhelmingly pumpkin and pecan) around a crowded table. The holiday carries a warm emotional tone - one that emphasizes appreciation, unity, and generosity. It is also steeped in tradition, from parades and football games to volunteering at local shelters. Yet beneath these familiar rituals lies a far more complex history. The Thanksgiving celebrated today is only loosely connected to the events that are said to have inspired it. Understanding how the holiday developed allows us to appreciate its meaning while distinguishing between its comforting fiction and its complicated fact.

The popular narrative is taught to children from an early age. Preschoolers and pupils in their first years of education will often share a special pre-holiday lunch while dressed as Pilgrims and Indians. They will watch cartoons, be read picture books, and enact plays depicting the “First Thanksgiving.” These media present the event as a peaceful feast shared between English Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people in 1621. According to this version, both groups came together to celebrate a successful harvest, forging a friendship that symbolized cooperation and mutual respect. While a harvest gathering did occur, this narrative is incomplete and romanticized. Much of what is commonly repeated—the Pilgrims wearing buckles on their hats, a menu centered on turkey, and a harmonious coexistence—belongs more to mythmaking than to historical evidence.

What historians do know about 1621 is more modest and more nuanced. The Pilgrims, struggling through a challenging first year in North America, held a three-day harvest celebration. The Wampanoag arrived not because they were invited, but because they heard gunfire from the colonists and sent a war party to investigate. After understanding the situation, they departed only to return with more fare and people, turning the event into a larger gathering. However, the relationship between the two communities was characterized as much by tension and negotiation as by friendship. The Wampanoag had their own reasons for forming alliances, particularly as European diseases had already devastated their population. Their presence at the feast was part of a complex political landscape rather than a simple act of cross-cultural camaraderie.

The notion of Thanksgiving as a national holiday did not emerge until centuries later. Presidents occasionally declared days of gratitude, but the celebrations were inconsistent and localized. It was not until the nineteenth century that writer Sarah Josepha Hale campaigned vigorously for a unified national observance. In 1863, during the U.S. Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November a national “day of thanksgiving and praise,” hoping it would foster a sense of unity in a fractured nation. Thus, the modern holiday has more to do with nation-building and cultural identity than colonial history.

Today, Thanksgiving continues to evolve. For many, it remains a time to gather with loved ones and reflect on the blessings of the year. For others, particularly Native communities, it is also a day of mourning and remembrance—a moment to acknowledge the loss, displacement, and injustice that followed European settlement. Both perspectives can coexist, inviting a fuller understanding of the holiday’s significance. Recognizing the difference between Thanksgiving’s fact and fiction does not diminish its value. Rather, it enriches the celebration by grounding it in truth. When we honor both gratitude and honesty, Thanksgiving becomes not only a cherished tradition but also an opportunity for reflection, dialogue, and a deeper appreciation of the past and present.

**(0) In the introduction, the author’s mention of “parades and football games” primarily serves to...**

- A) prove that Thanksgiving has lost all historical meaning.
- B) criticize the commercialization of Thanksgiving.
- C) show that Americans prefer entertainment to tradition.
- D) highlight modern elements of the holiday that contrast with its origins.**

**(1) The author says the story of the first Thanksgiving was romanticized in order to communicate that...**

- A) the story has been altered in order to make it more entertaining.
- B) the story focuses on the emotional aspects of the event.
- C) the story highlights the interpersonal relationships of the people.
- D) the story presents an idealized version of the event.

**(2) Which inference can be drawn about the Wampanoag’s arrival at the 1621 gathering?**

- A) They wanted to help feed the Pilgrims.
- B) They expected to form a permanent alliance with the colonists.
- C) They were reacting to a perceived threat rather than an invitation.
- D) They intended to celebrate the Pilgrims’ successful first year.

**(3) What can be inferred about the Pilgrims’ situation in 1621?**

- A) They were thriving economically and socially.
- B) They depended on coalitions and help to survive their first year.
- C) They had very little interest in interacting with indigenous groups.
- D) They were confident their colony would prosper without outside help.

**(4) The paragraph explaining the creation of a national Thanksgiving holiday suggests that...**

- A) few people had any interest in the idea of a holiday for giving thanks.
- B) the government wanted to recognize the help Native Americans gave early settlers.
- C) Abraham Lincoln was a deeply conscientious and pious man.
- D) the holiday was created for ulterior motives.

**(5) Which sentence from the essay best conveys the idea that Thanksgiving has multiple meanings today?**

- A) "Each November, millions of Americans travel across the country..."
- B) "These media present the event as a peaceful feast..."
- C) "For others, particularly Native communities, it is also a day of mourning and remembrance..."
- D) "Recognizing the difference between Thanksgiving's fact and fiction does not diminish its value."

**(6) The primary purpose of the essay's final paragraph is to...**

- A) reconcile historical truth with the modern celebration.
- B) persuade readers celebrating Thanksgiving is insensitive.
- C) get people to celebrate in a more historically accurate manner.
- D) highlight the negative effects of European colonization.

**(6 points)**

## Tasks 5 – 8: USE OF ENGLISH

### Task 5 – Gap Filling

For **items 1-6**, 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) Some animal species fake death to avoid predators or unwanted suitors.

I know I shouldn't have, but I bought a fake handbag from a street vendor.  
I thought our new Prime Minister was a real deal, but he turned out to be just another fake.

- (1) Mark inherited a small hunting \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of nowhere.  
We were pretty surprised with the way things turned out because we didn't expect anyone to \_\_\_\_\_ a complaint.  
The bullet ripped through the flesh, only to firmly \_\_\_\_\_ in the hip bone.

- (2) He took another \_\_\_\_\_ and tossed it into the fire, even though it was already burning hot.  
The vessel was found empty, but the ship's \_\_\_\_\_ didn't reveal what had befallen the crew.  
The timber company plans to \_\_\_\_\_ most of the remaining pristine rainforest.

- (3) Oxygen \_\_\_\_\_ with carbon to create a variety of complex molecules.  
Tim was dead set on buying the government \_\_\_\_\_, but he didn't have the money.  
Family \_\_\_\_\_ are often complex and difficult for outsiders to understand.

- (4) Prominent lower tusks are the only thing differentiating a \_\_\_\_\_ from a doe.  
If there's one thing you should never say to someone battling depression, it is to \_\_\_\_\_ up.  
It's becoming increasingly difficult to earn a \_\_\_\_\_ in this sluggish economy.

- (5) Even though the tabloids labelled their union as a \_\_\_\_\_ wedding, their decades long marriage proved them wrong.  
I prefer to ride \_\_\_\_\_ whenever we go for a long trip in the countryside.  
The police concluded that the robbers must have used a sawn-off \_\_\_\_\_.

- (6) You can't really call it a trip to Africa if you don't visit at least one big \_\_\_\_\_ reserve.  
The first smartphone was definitely a \_\_\_\_\_ changer.  
He tried his best, but his constant giggling gave the \_\_\_\_\_ away.

**(6 points)**

### Task 6 – Gluten Free and Fabulous!

Read the following text from a blog about health. 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.

Some will (0) partially (part) or wholly dismiss this information. In recent years, gluten has gained a lot of attention. A lot of people still don't know what it is or its sources. Regardless, while some people dismiss the gluten-free movement as a fad, ignoring the real dangers of gluten can be (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (harm) to your health. Gluten intolerance triggers a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (act) that goes far beyond simple digestion issues. It leads to heartburn, fatigue, and brain fog. Long-term (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (grade) of the intestinal lining causing leaky gut syndrome and irritable bowel syndrome is the most severe issue.

Many people don't connect the symptoms to their cause. They end up ignoring what their bodies are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (sign). Instead, they treat symptoms and continue to indulge in their tasty, bready foods. The body has countless systems that communicate to maintain balance, but the presence of gluten, this (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (friend) protein, interferes with these pathways. Over time, this interference leads to chronic inflammation — disrupting nutrient absorption and causing discomfort. Dismissing the symptoms is an act of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (kind) to one's body.

Those who continue eating gluten despite the information and presence of symptoms seem (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (hope) lost. Indeed, going gluten-free is a daunting task. It requires a complete change to dietary practices and eating habits. That (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (form) is not easy. Being aware of hidden sources of gluten, scouring ingredient labels, and previewing every meal before eating is exhausting. But over time it becomes easier. And in time you can help your system heal and restore its natural (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (efficient). The effort is worth it.

Whether you have celiac disease, a mild (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (sense), or think you have no issue at all, cutting out gluten is life-changing. A gluten-free lifestyle isn't about extremism — it's about awareness, listening, and treating your health with the respect it deserves.

(10 points)

### Task 7 – Error correction

Your friend, whose English is not as great as yours, has asked you to correct the mistakes she has made in her WhatsApp message to her new American boyfriend. Your friend has made mistakes in **most** of the **lines 1-10** below. Identify the mistakes (spelling, grammar, wrong word, etc.) **and correct them**. Remember that some of the lines are correct.

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

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

Write your answers (**ticks and corrected words**) on the separate Answer Sheet.

	Hi babe,	
(0)	sorry it took me such a long time to respond. My sister and <del>me</del>	<u>  I  </u>
(00)	decided to skip some classes to go to the mall and the reception	<u>  ✓  </u>
(1)	there was really bad. There weren't much people at the mall,	_____
(2)	which was great. I bought a wonderful pink sweater that	_____
(3)	awesomely compliments my skinny jeans. When we finally	_____
(4)	returned at school, we had the most unpleasant surprise. We were	_____
(5)	sent to the principle's office. Apparently, we weren't the only ones	_____
(6)	to play truant. No less than fifteen kids had the same idea, so our	_____
(7)	absence was noticed. Thankfully, I wasn't the one to get the worst	_____
(8)	scolding between all of us. But, enough about me. What's	_____
(9)	happening with you? Are there any news about that summer job?	_____
(10)	Can't wait for your replay.	_____
	xoxo, Gordana	

(10 points)

### Task 8 – Beware a Culture of Busyness

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.

Once upon a time, leisure was a sign of prestige. Today that idea has been turned on its **(0) head** and busyness is the new status **(1) \_\_\_\_\_**. Is this a good thing, though, or does this turn a person into a bundle of **(2) \_\_\_\_\_**?

Research suggests that our days are becoming increasingly jam-packed. The reasons for the rise in “time poverty” are numerous and nuanced, but corporate cultures are partially **(3) \_\_\_\_\_** fault. Research shows that people perceive others who are busy to be important and impressive. In addition, new studies have found that people consider those who exert high effort to **(4) \_\_\_\_\_** “morally admirable,” regardless of their output. This is a marked change from bygone eras. **(5) \_\_\_\_\_** a sociologist notes, “Work, not leisure, is now the signifier of dominant **(6) \_\_\_\_\_** status.”

Many firms reward and promote only people who display how “hard” they are working. Research indicates that when organizations overload employees, excessively monitor their activities, and base their incentives primarily on the amount of time they work, productivity and efficiency actually drop. Exhaustion can increase turnover. Even if employees don’t leave, busyness harms the bottom **(7) \_\_\_\_\_** by reducing staff engagement and increasing absenteeism. It also impairs workers’ health. Conversely, research suggests that reducing working hours to manageable levels can enhance productivity.

Employees rarely resist forced busyness. They deplore idleness. In one experiment, 67% of men and 25% of women chose to press a button to electrically shock **(8) \_\_\_\_\_** rather than sit with their own thoughts. Before entering the room, participants had stated that they would pay money to avoid an electric shock, but once left alone, the inactivity became too much to bear, and people sought to **(9) \_\_\_\_\_** the void and escape the emptiness.

Busyness has taken a significant **(10) \_\_\_\_\_** on mental and physical health. Leaders must take a stand against the busyness epidemic.

(Adapted from: <https://hbr.org/2023/03/beware-a-culture-of-busyness>)

**(10 points)**

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