

DRŽAVNO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA
za 2. razred srednjih škola

SLUŠANJE S RAZUMIJEVANJEM

Good morning. May I have your attention, please? The listening part of the test will start now.

[Note for the teacher: DO NOT stop or pause the recording until you hear the sentence: *This is the end of the listening task. You may now go on to do the other parts of the test.*]

Open your tests to page 2. As you can see, the listening task and questions are on this page.

You will hear an interview with a judge for a literary prize.

You will hear the extract twice, and there will be a short pause between the two readings.

You can write your answers during both the first and second readings.

Listen to the recording. 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).

Remember to write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

While you are listening, write your answers on the task itself. You can cross out your answers, change them, make notes or underline words if you wish.

**After the second reading, you will have 1 minute to check your answers.
During this time, you should write your final answers on the Answer Sheet.**

Now, let's begin. You have 30 seconds to read through the questions.
[A pause of 30 seconds]

Now you will hear the interview.
[Read the interview at natural speed]

Judging a Literary Prize

"I suppose that I should say that I was extremely flattered to be chosen as a member of the jury for such a prestigious literary prize. After all, some of my predecessors are very famous indeed. It's not every day that you receive such an invitation, though if the truth be told, this didn't occur to me, as I was more anxious at the idea of fitting my new duties into my already tight work schedule at the university. Nevertheless, I instantly took up the offer in the full knowledge that it would hardly be the simplest task that I had ever undertaken.

It came as something of a shock when dozens of books started arriving in the post every morning. Basically, I had a hundred days to read the same number of novels and select the best ten. Obviously, that's an enormous amount of reading, and I'm sure many would find it extremely challenging. I'd like to say that they were all excellent, but sadly a few were quite tedious and a struggle to finish, though I'm proud to say that I didn't cheat, even if it meant a fair number of rather late nights. The most demanding part was writing up my opinions, which had to be submitted to my fellow jurors. Luckily, I kept detailed notes. This was time-consuming but worth it.

After we'd all selected a top ten, we held a meeting to draw up a short list for the award. Because there were six of us, I thought our lists would consist of thirty or so different titles, so I was taken aback at the degree of consensus that existed from the outset. I had anticipated hours and hours of discussion as we endeavoured to reduce our choices to a final short list of half a dozen books. In fact, I only recollect one serious difference in opinion, which concerned a novel that contained a lot of swearing. I'm always amazed at how upset people can get at such seemingly trivial things. However, on the whole the atmosphere was very amiable.

Choosing my top ten novels was not as hard as I thought it would be. I recall there was some surprise about one of the novels that made it onto the short list, as it was rather short. However, length is no guarantee of quality. People also often assume that a great novel has to deal with big themes like war and the meaning of existence. However, a fantastic novel can also be rooted in the every day. Personally, I knew when a novel had something because I caught myself going back to it. It didn't always have a gripping plot. It just had that undefinable something.

When the short list was published, there were plenty of journalists ready to jump in with their criticisms, although we were commended for including a couple of experimental novels. Some critics also applauded the inclusion of new voices on the literary scene, though others considered our choice out of touch with the general reader. In our defence, what would be the purpose of a prize that reflected everyone's tastes? Such awards should not be wholly predictable and solely go to works printed by the major publishing houses.

Obviously, having read an awful lot of books in a short period of time, I get asked for advice on reading quickly. I must confess that before I commenced, I went online to

get some tips. I saw some like not focusing on every single word, but that seems like a statement of the obvious. I found putting my finger or a bookmark under the words I was reading to be effective. I've heard that fancying the text is being read aloud can also help, although I wouldn't know myself. I was told not to reread passages either, but I couldn't help it.

All in all, it was a positive experience and I'm glad I did it."

[Count silently to 5 and then say the following:]

Now you will hear the interview again.

[After the second reading, say the following:]

You now have 1 minute to check your answers and copy them onto the Answer Sheet.

[Count silently to 60 – and then say the following:]

This is the end of the listening task. You may now go on to do the other parts of the test.

[You may now stop the CD.]