



Agencija za odgoj i obrazovanje  
Education and Teacher Training Agency



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
Ministarstvo znanosti,  
obrazovanja i mladih

# ŽUPANIJSKO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA

## za 8. razred osnovne škole

ŠKOLSKA GODINA 2024./2025.



Zaporka:

(dobivena 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** – You will hear a recording about *Goodreads* - a digital platform for readers. Read the sentences and choose the correct option: **T (True)** or **F (False)**. There is an example at the beginning (0). Copy the correct letter (**T** or **F**) on the Answer Sheet.

- (0) *Goodreads* was founded more than a decade ago. Ⓘ F
- (1) The community members are getting updated with buzzworthy releases based on the feedback from publishers worldwide. T F
- (2) Otis Chandler was inspired to create a book recommendation platform while exploring a library catalog. T F
- (3) The idea behind the platform was to combine book reviews with bestseller lists. T F
- (4) Elizabeth Chandler managed both the technical aspects of *Goodreads* and its initial content. T F
- (5) Multiple algorithms used by the platform can determine if two books are enjoyed by the same members. T F
- (6) The Goodreads Reading Challenge was introduced before Amazon acquired the platform in 2013. T F

**(6 points)**

**Task 2** – You will hear **six** hotel reviews. Match each speaker (**1-6**) with the correct statement (**A-I**). There are three statements you do not need. Write your answers (**A-I**) on the Answer Sheet.

- A)** This hotel is perfect for those looking for a peaceful stay in environmentally-friendly surroundings. The guests can enjoy locally grown food and healthy activities.
- B)** This hotel, with a suburban location and a restaurant that serves simple, traditional food, will charge you extra if you bring a pet.
- C)** In this hotel more attention is paid to the way things look rather than how the space should fit the guests' needs. The staff are not really friendly.
- D)** This hotel has dirty rooms, the restaurant offers overly expensive and unimaginative food, and the service is not perfect.
- E)** This hotel is in the heart of the city and offers the view of some of the city landmarks. The guests can choose from a selection of the best traditional food and beverages.
- F)** This hotel has too small and poorly-designed rooms, the staff is rude, but the rooftop restaurant serves delicious food in a peaceful atmosphere.
- G)** This hotel has well-trained staff that take great care of the guests and do more than is expected from them. It offers well-designed rooms with plenty of additional supplies for their furry clients.
- H)** This hotel offers fun activities, but at your own risk. It is quite close to some venues, although reaching them requires extra time and patience.
- I)** This hotel is perfect for those who travel with children, and there are a supervised playground and a babysitting service available at all times.

<b>Speaker 1</b>	
<b>Speaker 2</b>	
<b>Speaker 3</b>	
<b>Speaker 4</b>	
<b>Speaker 5</b>	
<b>Speaker 6</b>	

**(6 points)**

## Tasks 3 and 4: READING COMPREHENSION

**Task 3** – Read the text about the rise of homeschooling in the USA. For items 1-6 choose the correct answer **A, B, C** or **D**. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers (letters **A, B, C** or **D**) on the Answer Sheet.

Homeschooling has witnessed significant growth in recent years with the COVID-19 pandemic. The global shift to remote learning revealed challenges in traditional schooling, including the difficulty of replicating hands-on activities like science experiments and art projects, which affected student engagement and comprehension. Remote learning also led to increased stress and anxiety, as parents struggled to balance work and supervise their children. These challenges prompted many families to seek alternative education methods, including homeschooling. Surveys, such as those conducted by the *National Home Education Research Institute*, highlight dissatisfaction with traditional school environments and a desire for personalized learning as key motivators for the switch.

One of the people who have chosen this type of education, Simon, a father of two teens from Florida, shared how his wife and he incorporate topics like artificial intelligence, art, and travel into their curriculum – subjects they believe traditional schools often overlook. Additionally, they avoid strict schedules that require early wake-ups which, Simon argues, negatively impact children's health and growth. Contrary to the misconception that homeschooling limits social opportunities, families often join collaboration classes, attend community events, or participate in extracurricular activities. Simon shared that his local homeschool group meets weekly for play and socialization, which fosters meaningful relationships and provides parents with a supportive network.

Advocates for homeschooling often point to data supporting its benefits. For example, *The National Assessment of Educational Progress* found that many U.S. students struggle with reading proficiency, with 40% classified as nonreaders. Some families see homeschooling as a way to address this gap more effectively and when it comes to grading, parents assess their children's progress through methods such as portfolio reviews, standardized tests, and project-based evaluations, offering a holistic view of academic growth.

Cash Daniels, a 14-year-old homeschooler from Tennessee, tells how flexibility allows students to pursue unique interests. As founder of *The CleanUp Kids*, a conservation nonprofit, Cash perfectly balances schoolwork and business activities. His homeschooling schedule enables him to attend events, manage his organization, and maintain an active social life through swim practices and other group activities.

Homeschooling has also empowered students to explore running a business. During the pandemic, Anvi Saxena, a Dallas teen, embraced the homeschooling flexible structure to focus on her passion for dance. She used her flexible schedule to plan and launch a home-based studio, teaching various dance styles to local students. Running the business taught her practical skills, such as managing finances and working with diverse individuals.

After eventually returning to traditional school, Anvi found it challenging to adjust to the structured schedule and homework demands. However, thanks to her homeschooling experience, she was taught efficiency and time management, enabling her to balance school with her business.

- 0) **What was one of the major challenges of remote learning during the pandemic?**  
A) Lack of technology access for teachers.  
B) **Learning by doing things and solving problems on your own.**  
C) Overcrowded virtual classrooms.  
D) Limited options for alternative education.
- 1) **What is the key reason families choose homeschooling over traditional schools?**  
A) It is less expensive than private schooling.  
B) It provides the pace of learning and the instructional approach optimized for the needs of each learner.  
C) It requires fewer teaching resources.  
D) It ensures standardized education for all students.
- 2) **Why does Simon oppose strict schedules with early wake-up times?**  
A) He believes they interfere with family bonding.  
B) He thinks they make children dislike learning.  
C) He claims they deteriorate children's well-being and development.  
D) He wants his children to have complete control over their daily routines.
- 3) **How do homeschooling parents assess their children's progress?**  
A) By placing more emphasis on practical projects.  
B) By conducting daily quizzes.  
C) By enrolling them in public school exams.  
D) They do not assess them at all.
- 4) **According to the text, what is one of the most common false assumptions about homeschooling?**  
A) Homeschooled students do not perform well academically.  
B) Only overprotective parents choose to homeschool their children in order to avoid bullying at a regular school.  
C) Homeschooling requires strict adherence to traditional school schedules.  
D) Homeschooling limits opportunities for socialization.
- 5) **What does Cash Daniels identify as an advantage of homeschooling?**  
A) He spends less time studying overall.  
B) It allows him to focus on community work and manage his nonprofit organization.  
C) He avoids traditional academic subjects entirely.  
D) It guarantees higher academic scores than traditional schools.
- 6) **Why did Anvi Saxena find returning to traditional school challenging after homeschooling?**  
A) She missed the flexibility to work at her own pace.  
B) She struggled with the social environment of regular schools.  
C) She had forgotten how to follow strict academic rules.  
D) She no longer enjoyed academic subjects.

**(6 points)**

**Task 4** – Read the text. Choose which sentences from **A–I** best fit the gaps **1-6**. There are two extra sentences which do NOT fit any of the gaps. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers (letters **A-I**) on the Answer Sheet.

Buckingham Palace is no stranger to visitors. Thousands of people walk the halls of the royal residence every year for state events, receptions, and tours, not to mention the trusted army of staff that keeps the palace running and, of course, the royal family themselves. **(0) G** That's another matter altogether. Breaking into the residential palace of the British monarch should be no mean feat, which is why everyone was lost for words when a man managed to do just that with relatively little effort in 1982. **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ Thankfully, nobody was hurt.

According to the police report, shortly before 7 a.m. on the morning of July 9, 1982, after a night of heavy drinking, a man scaled his way into royal history. Climbing over the fence of Buckingham Palace he made his way up a drainpipe and onto the roof. **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ He spent some time wandering through the palace, triggering the alarm system twice while he browsed through King George V's stamp collection. **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ Planning for his eventual exit, he broke an ashtray found in the palace, obtaining a piece of glass he would later, or at least that was his intention, use to cut the pigeon netting on the roof. Ultimately, the burglar made his way into the residential wing of the palace and, quite unintentionally, to the bedroom of none other than the Queen. **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ Apparently, the man was in shock when he stubbed his toe on a piece of furniture, pulled back the bed curtains and saw the queen sleeping peacefully. **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ She said, 'Just one minute,' swept past him, ran out of the room and summoned one of the guards, who then escorted the man across the corridor to the Queen's pantry. He was arrested soon after.

As a result of the 1982 incident, which caused a major scandal in the public eye, the UK Home Secretary reportedly offered the Queen his resignation, but she declined. This came as quite a surprise as the press soon found out that it wasn't the first time the same man entered the palace illegally using a similar method. **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ Startled, she ran to fetch help, but by the time she returned, he had left the room and the security believed that she had imagined the incident.

In the decades following his Buckingham Palace break-ins, the man, eventually identified as Michael Fagan, was in and out of the spotlight with occasional interviews, as well as other legal trouble, including an arrest for indecent exposure which he described as a 'misunderstanding'.

- A) Once awakened, she used a phone to call security but when nobody came, she got out of bed.
- B) Evidently assuming there must have been a glitch, the police on watch decided to simply ignore it.
- C) She was standing barefoot in front of him and he noticed her floral nightie reaching down to her royal knees.
- D) The incident kicked off one of the biggest security scandals in British history and shed light on the inadequate safety of the royals.
- E) The lights were out and the room was dark as he was trying to find his way around.
- F) On that previous occasion, he slipped in through the open window of a room where a housemaid was reading at the time.
- G) **Uninvited visitors, though?**
- H) They resembled a labyrinth and getting out was harder than getting in.
- I) Once there, he removed his shoes and socks and entered the royal residence through an unlocked window.

**(6 points)**

### Tasks 5–9: USE OF ENGLISH

**Task 5** – Read the text. For each gap (1-8), use a word from the box. There are three words that you do not need. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

gusts	led	straw	loose	aftermath	vessels
<b>course</b>	run	lose	spark	fled	brought

The Great Fire of London started on a regular Sunday in September of 1666, sweeping through the city over a **(0) course** of four days. To this day, it remains one of the most harrowing tragedies the city has ever seen. However, it **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ to some positive changes in London as the city had to be completely rebuilt and organised in a safer way, so that such a tragedy would not strike again.

It is believed that the fire first started in the home of a baker named Thomas Farynor when a **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ fell out of the oven after the family had gone to bed. Thomas denied this theory until the day he died, but it really didn't matter what had caused it since the city never really stood a chance. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century London, not only were the roofs made of **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_, but the buildings also stood very close together, making it easy for the fire to spread. Additionally, the warehouses close to Farynor's house contained flammable materials such as oil and rope, which quickly caught alight, fuelling the flames. In a state of panic, people sprinted to the hills or **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ to the River Thames, where they boarded **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_, trying to get away from the fire. There was no fire brigade in London at the time, which meant it was up to the soldiers and citizens to fight the flames in order not to **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ their homes. They all did the best they could, but strong **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ of wind turned it into a futile attempt.

In the **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ of the disaster, London was a place of desperation with houses, churches, and famous buildings burned to the ground. However, the recovery of the city saw the rise of a number of beautiful and iconic buildings, such as St. Paul's Cathedral and the Monument to the Great Fire of London, which now stand as a testimony to this important historical event.

(Adapted from: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/the-great-fire-of-london-facts/>)

**(8 points)**



**Task 6** – Read the text. For each gap (1–8), write one word that best fits into the text. You must use **ONLY ONE** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Born in the city of Bonn in 1770, Ludwig van Beethoven was a German pianist and composer, (0) whose undisputable music talent was discovered by his father, Johann, when young Ludwig was only five years old. Even though Beethoven's innovative compositions and universally recognized symphonies turned him into a household (1) \_\_\_\_\_, not everyone is aware of the fact that his life was marked by a struggle against deafness. Some of his most important works, including the famous *Symphony No. 9*, were composed during the last ten years of his life when he was almost completely deaf. Beethoven was, naturally, having a hard time (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to terms with his condition but, remarkably enough, was able to find ways to adapt, such as using ear trumpets or cutting the legs off a piano in order to better feel the vibrations of music through the floor. Some historians claim that he never deliberately destroyed a piano but (3) \_\_\_\_\_, however, hammer on the piano keys until they broke. Additionally, he carried around blank 'conversation books' in which his friends and fellow musicians (4) \_\_\_\_\_ asked to write down their thoughts about music, daily life, politics, and personal matters. These books remain valuable records of Beethoven's later years, offering some understanding about how he was repeatedly able to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the extra mile and compose his music. It is believed that more than a hundred of those books were destroyed by the composer's personal secretary, which is a pity as they could have offered us an even better insight into (6) \_\_\_\_\_ his professional and personal life. All we know about the latter is that he never married and would often feud with his brothers, publishers, and pupils. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ that as it may, Ludwig van Beethoven remains one of the greatest, if not the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ greatest, composer of all time, whose body of musical compositions stands at the outer limits of human brilliance.

**(8 points)**

**Task 7** – Read the following text. In most of the lines **1-8**, there is one extra word. Identify the extra words which are either incorrect grammatically or do not fit in with the meaning of the text. Remember that some lines are correct.

If the line is correct, **put a tick (✓)** in the appropriate place. If there is an extra word in the line, **write the extra word** in the appropriate place. There are two examples at the beginning, (0) and (00).

Remember to write your answers (✓ or **the extra word**) on the Answer Sheet.

<b>The Basic Rules of Cricket</b>		
<b>(0)</b>	The cricket is a team sport played by two sides, typically with 11	<u>the</u>
<b>(00)</b>	players each. However, even if it's just you and your mate in the	<u>✓</u>
<b>(1)</b>	park, you can still indulge yourself in the game! It is typically played	_____
<b>(2)</b>	on a large, flat grass field, often circular or oval in a shape, with a	_____
<b>(3)</b>	pitch at the centre. Unless the game begins with a coin toss, where	_____
<b>(4)</b>	the winning captain chooses whether to bat or field first, and	_____
<b>(5)</b>	afterwards the teams alternate either between batting and fielding.	_____
<b>(6)</b>	The team with the highest number of runs wins the game. Cricket is	_____
<b>(7)</b>	not a dynamic sport with various formats, each offering unique	_____
<b>(8)</b>	challenges and an exhilaration for players and spectators alike.	_____

(Adapted from <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/how-to-play-cricket/beginners-guide>)

**(8 points)**

**Task 8** – Read the text. For each gap (1–6), transform the given word to complete the text. There is an example at the beginning (0). You **MUST** change the form of each given word. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

<p>The tale of Loch Ness Monster, a <b>(0) <u>mysterious</u></b> creature believed to inhabit the depths of Loch Ness in Scotland, has been part of local folklore for centuries. Stories of a beast in the loch can be traced back to ancient times, when, for <b>(1)</b> _____, local stone carvings depicted a creature with flippers. Furthermore, the first written mention of the monster appears in a 7th-century biography, which gives an account of an incident in 565 AD when the creature bit a swimmer. It was about to attack another man when St. Columba <b>(2)</b> _____ intervened, telling the beast to "go back," and it vanished obeyingly. The Loch Ness Monster gained wider attention in 1933 when a new road was built near the loch, providing an <b>(3)</b> _____ view of the lake. Soon after, a couple claimed to have seen a <b>(4)</b> _____ animal cross the path of their car before disappearing into the water. This report was published in a <b>(5)</b> _____ newspaper. Despite these reports, much of the evidence supporting the monster's <b>(6)</b> _____ has been debunked, and it is generally considered to be a myth.</p> <p>(Adapted from <a href="https://www.britannica.com/topic/Loch-Ness-monster-legendary-creature">https://www.britannica.com/topic/Loch-Ness-monster-legendary-creature</a>)</p>	<p><b>(0) MYSTERY</b></p> <p><b>(1) INSTANT</b></p> <p><b>(2) ALLEGE</b></p> <p><b>(3) OBSTRUCTION</b></p> <p><b>(4) GIANT</b></p> <p><b>(5) SCOTLAND</b></p> <p><b>(6) EXIST</b></p>
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**(6 points)**

**Task 9** – Read the text. For each gap (1–6), choose the answer that fits best (A, B, C or D). There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers (A, B, C or D) on the Answer Sheet.

(0) A to the Netherlands this weekend? Check out the weather forecast for some of the major Dutch cities. Let's start with (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Hague, where the weather is mostly unpredictable, and this weekend is no exception.

On Saturday, you can expect overcast sky, with temperatures (2) \_\_\_\_\_ between mild and chilly. Towards the close of the day, prolonged rain (3) \_\_\_\_\_ pouring over the city. Winds will increase (4) \_\_\_\_\_ strength, with blasts reaching up to 80 km/h.

Sunday will start with (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of sunshine. Nevertheless, as the day progresses, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ showers will be more and more frequent.

- (0) **A) Are you travelling**  
**B) Will you travel**  
**C) Have you travelled**  
**D) Do you travel**

- (1) **A) /**  
**B) a**  
**C) an**  
**D) the**

- (2) **A) dropping**  
**B) rising**  
**C) plummeting**  
**D) fluctuating**

- (3) **A) might be**  
**B) might have been**  
**C) must be**  
**D) could have been**

- (4) **A) at**  
**B) in**  
**C) on**  
**D) up**

- (5) **A) shorts**  
**B) times**  
**C) spells**  
**D) views**

- (6) **A) slim**  
**B) scattered**  
**C) rainy**  
**D) sprinkled**

**(6 points)**

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