



Agencija za odgoj i obrazovanje  
Educational and Teacher Training Agency



MINISTARSTVO ZNANOSTI  
I OBRAZOVANJA  
REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE

## ŠKOLSKO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA

za 4. razred srednje škole

ŠKOLSKA GODINA 2023./2024.



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

- 1 Kategorija 4.A (gimnazije)  
2 Kategorija 4.B (ostale srednje škole)

Zaporka:

(zadana riječ)

### TEST

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

Svi odgovori moraju biti prepisani na list za odgovore.

Sadržaj ove testne knjižice ne boduje se.

## TASKS 1 AND 2: READING COMPREHENSION

### TASK 1

Read the text below. For questions 1–6, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Remember to write your answers on the separate Answer Sheet.

#### Disruptive diners

Most everyone enjoys the occasional epicurean outing, including families with children—even the youngest, and even the loudest. One restaurant in Georgia, however, has recently been making waves after deciding they were tired of tyrannical toddlers. Parents who bring wayward kids to restaurants, they believe, should be charged extra for any disturbances they cause, and they introduced a fee that some are calling a “parent surcharge”.

At the bottom of the restaurant’s menu, between the WiFi password and other surcharges, with all the other small print, the restaurant lists an unspecified charge (cited as “\$\$\$”) “for adults who are unable to parent”. People have varying opinions on this vague and seemingly unprecedented charge.

The rationale for the charge is that the restaurant’s primary patrons are adults, and the dining atmosphere in the owner’s establishment is calm and relaxing—or at least is conceived to be as such. Restaurants are a place one goes to enjoy themselves, not to hear someone’s tot throwing a tantrum, say those in favour of the fee. Not only that, but they pay nice money to do this, and they’re paying not just for the food, but for the overall experience. These critics claim bringing in a cranky or misbehaved child dampens the atmosphere for everyone (doubtless the parents, too). Some rallying behind the restaurant’s message even say children should only be brought in tow if restaurants are openly and obviously kid-friendly, such as might have crayons and paper at the tables, signalling youngsters are welcome. Were it up to this group, not only fine dining but almost any dining out would be left only to adults.

But many think this fee is grossly unjust, going so far as to say it’s nothing less than cruel to punish parents, basically, just for having kids—they can’t help it if they’re sometimes loud or unruly, all kids are. Others point out that when instituting such fees, we should all be cognisant of the fact each of us was once a child, and are likely to one day be parents ourselves. Try as parents may, kids are going to cause a ruckus, just as we most likely did ourselves when we were young. Some commentators against the surcharge have also highlighted the fact that dining out is a communal, social experience—if it’s silence that you want, with no noise or signs of life around you, it’s best you hunker down at home and opt for delivery, they maintain.

When asked to comment, the restaurant owner alleged he has never actually charged anyone this unspecified fee, seeming to view it more as a tool to wield for the purpose of ensuring parents keep their children in check. Yet in spite of his claim, online commenters have stated that the restaurant owner has indeed had its staff tack the surcharge onto at least a few parents’ bills. One Reddit user even claimed the owner had been outright hostile towards him and his family, coming out from the back office personally to threaten him and his wife with a charge of \$50 extra on top of their bill for their children’s behaviour—this before they even placed an order. It goes without saying that the family’s dining experience was less than enjoyable.

At the end of the day, even if one were to say it’s reasonable to charge parents’ for their children’s “bad behaviour” in restaurants or elsewhere, this opens up a whole new conversation and countless points of contention in answering the question that naturally arises from such a rule, and that is—what exactly constitutes “bad behaviour”? Is it accidentally knocking something over on the way to the bathroom? Blowing bubbles through a

straw? Laughing a little too much or too loud? In theory it could be anything, including things adults themselves might do. Perhaps we'll see, too, a new charge for them.

1. What is the primary reason the restaurant in Georgia considers charging an extra fee for parents with misbehaving children?

- A) To increase revenue
- ☒ B) To discourage disruptive behaviour
- C) To provide a kid-friendly environment
- D) To create a unique dining experience

2. How do critics of the "parent surcharge" justify their opposition?

- ☒ A) It unfairly punishes parents.
- B) It is ineffective in practice.
- C) It encourages fine dining.
- D) It is only applied to unruly children.

3. What is the restaurant owner's stance on the unspecified fee?

- A) He considers it necessary for revenue.
- ☒ B) He views it as a deterrent.
- C) He thinks it's unfair to parents.
- D) He claims to have never implemented it.

4. What question does the text suggest may arise from implementing a fee for children's "bad behavior"?

- A) How much is the fee?
- ☒ B) Who decides what constitutes "Improper conduct"?
- C) Should adults be charged as well?
- D) Are other restaurants implementing similar fees?

5. How does the text characterize the potential challenge of defining "bad behavior" in the context of the surcharge?

- A) As a straightforward task
- B) As an evolving conversation
- C) As a universally agreed-upon standard
- ☒ D) As an issue sparking heated disagreement and debate

6. In the context of the text, what role does the Reddit user's experience play in the overall discussion about the "parent surcharge"?

- A) It serves as an example of successful implementation.
- B) It highlights the positive impact of the surcharge.
- ☒ C) It challenges the legitimacy of the surcharge.
- D) It emphasizes the need for consistent application.

(6 points)



## TASK 2

Read the following article. Choose which of the sentences A–H best fits into the numbered gaps 1–6. There are two extra sentences that do not fit any of the gaps. The task begins with an example (0). Remember to write your answers on the separate Answer Sheet.

### Tennant about Shakespeare

David Tennant bounds into the room, friendly, super articulate and energetic. The actor and Doctor Who favourite, regularly voted the best Doctor by fans, is set to appear once again as the Time Lord in the forthcoming 60th anniversary specials. (0) ... (Doctor Who is now a BBC/Disney co-production). But we're together to talk about Shakespeare, a playwright Tennant calls a "genius" who "had a particular sense of what it is to be a human".

(1) ... A discerning commentator characterized his portrayal of Hamlet, broadcast on the BBC in 2009, as "a pivotal moment in theatrical history." He demonstrated exceptional prowess in his renditions of Romeo and Richard II and, during our encounter, had just concluded his initial day of rehearsals for a thoroughly booked presentation of Macbeth at London's Donmar Warehouse. He maintains a pragmatic stance regarding the superstition surrounding the sole reference to this profoundly atmospheric piece as the "Scottish play." (2) ... Nevertheless, he confesses to experiencing profound nervousness before the performance—regardless of one's level of success, the anxiety never diminishes, according to him.

Esteemed performers have occupied the same position; notably, Lord Olivier assumed the role of Macbeth in 1955, and Sir Ian McKellen took his turn in 1976. (3) ... "The notion that you are summoned to stand alongside these luminaries and effectively engage in a challenge, evaluating your abilities against theirs, and determining whether you can introduce a novel dimension to the portrayal—that's an integral aspect of the exhilaration".

Tennant, hailing from West Lothian, harbored an enduring aspiration to pursue a career in acting. Reflecting on the manner in which individuals discussed the theatrical productions, he remarked, "I discerned an enchanting quality inherent in Shakespeare." (4) ... He contends that the plays were crafted for the stage, expressing lament over the fact that one's initial exposure to Shakespeare often occurs within the confines of a classroom, grappling with enunciating words that may not resonate with the understanding of a 14-year-old.

Tennant's affection was ignited when TAG, a Glasgow-based theatrical ensemble, presented As You Like It in the assembly hall of his school. "I didn't grasp every single expression, and certain elements seemed somewhat unconventional and alien to my sensibilities." However, the adolescent Tennant was captivated "by the sheer vitality of the live performance unfolding before him." Presently, his mind is replete with a play that commences with three witches conspiring and unfolds into a narrative rife with themes of murder and culpability.

(5) ... He conveys that, upon delving into one of the plays, he conscientiously juxtaposes the archaic script with a contemporary translation, committing to comprehending the language so that theatre audiences need not. "If we are executing our responsibilities adequately, you need not be preoccupied with deciphering every syllable. The intention is to immerse you in the experience." (6) ... "Typically, during a matinee on a dreary Wednesday afternoon, a sudden revelation may occur: 'oh, that's what that line means.'"

(Adapted from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-67337127>)

- A. However, that didn't imply an instantaneous captivation when first introduced to Macbeth at school.
- B. Even for Tennant, the works of Shakespeare demand interpretation.
- C. To Tennant, Shakespearean roles represent akin to "Olympic events for an actor."
- D. Tennant openly employs the term "Macbeth."
- E. Nevertheless, there may exist strata of significance that can still astonish you even ten weeks into a production, he contends.
- F. He asserts to have taken immense pleasure, alongside his classmates, in enunciating the renowned lines.
- G. Tennant, affiliated as an artistic collaborator with the Royal Shakespeare Company, is steeped in the Bard.
- H. He maintains an impressively composed demeanor regarding that specific performance.
- I. ~~The ongoing actors' strike prevents him from talking about those.~~

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(6 points)

## TASKS 3 – 6: USE OF ENGLISH

### TASK 3

Read the following text and the options below. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) that best fits each numbered space. The task begins with an example (0). Remember to write your answers on the separate Answer Sheet.

#### Muddled memories

Not everything you think is true. (0) **A.** our memories, for example—while an aspect of our cognitive function we cannot live without, memory is far from (1).... What we perceive as accurate retellings of past occurrences are in fact interpretations, assumptions and reconstructions of what actually transpired.

This is because memories easily bend (2) ... emotions, biases, and a myriad of other distortions, including cultural contexts and shared histories, all of which shape our thoughts and experiences. Stress and distractions are also (3) ... to the unreliability of memory, not to mention misinformation, rumours and other such outside influences.

With each successive recollection of a memory, it is (4) ... being altered—over time, details might fade or distort, (5) ... other memories, blending with new information. Whatever the processes, our memories easily (6) ... over time. Small details or even major events—even ones that occurred recently—can be completely misremembered. Most surprising, perhaps, is that due to how fragile memories are, it's possible to intentionally plant false ones into people's minds, and just as easy to erase them!

(7) ... the complex nature of memory and its (8) ... to being skewed, it's wise to approach our recollections with a healthy dose of scepticism. Recognizing how (9) ... memories are, we would be wise to seek multiple perspectives and corroborating evidence when reflecting on past events. We can also cultivate mindfulness, acknowledge biases, and value diverse viewpoints. All of this can aid us in (10) ... our ability to construct a more accurate understanding of our experiences.

- |                          |                       |                       |                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 0. a) take               | b) see                | c) suppose            | d) examine          |
| 1. a) meticulous         | b) pristine           | c) spotless           | d) flawless         |
| 2. a) to                 | b) under              | c) beneath            | d) with             |
| 3. a) adverse            | b) detrimental        | c) helpful            | d) conducive        |
| 4. a) at risk of         | b) risking            | c) taking the risk of | d) being at risk of |
| 5. a) bleeding over      | b) bleeding with      | c) bleeding into      | d) bleeding under   |
| 6. a) revise             | b) adapt              | c) morph              | d) modulate         |
| 7. a) notwithstanding of | b) in accordance with | c) regarding          | d) in light of      |
| 8. a) susceptibility     | b) receptivity        | c) fragility          | d) partiality       |
| 9. a) maligned           | b) malleable          | c) maladroit          | d) modifiable       |
| 10. a) lifting           | b) bolstering         | c) highlighting       | d) enlarging        |

(10 points)



#### TASK 4

Read the following article. For each gap numbered 1–10, think of one word that best fits into the text. Use only one word for each space. The task begins with an example (0). Remember to write your answers on the separate Answer Sheet.

#### Monster Madness

In 1933, Hugh Gray ignited the Loch Ness Monster frenzy by turning (0) up the first ever photo of the cryptic creature. Whether genuine or fraudulent, the image set (1) ... a global fascination that continues to lure tourists to Scotland's Loch Ness.

Teams of investigators and search crews have carried (2) off extensive searches for the beast, the largest in fifty years (3) having taken place last August, when more than 100 volunteers scoured Loch Ness over the (4) course of two full days. She remained obscured beneath the surface.

To date there have been over 1,155 official sightings, as the lake remains a hub for (5) both believers and sceptics. While some are quick to dismiss the phenomenon as a tourist gimmick, others have fashioned their lives around the creature. One example is nurse Paige Daley, who has taken on the task of meticulously logging sightings and distinguishing (6) ... genuine reports and hoaxes, conducting (7) research and even contacting experts as needed when not on the clock. between

One man even (8) called it quits with his girlfriend, quit his job, and gave up his house, all to pursue the captivating creature. So far he has dedicated no (9) less than 32 years of his life to keeping vigil and conducting research while living on one of the lake's beaches.

Captivating filmmakers, tourists, scientists, and locals—the allure of the Loch Ness monster knows (10) no bounds. Despite a lack of conclusive evidence for her existence, the quest for Nessie will likely continue, beguiling hearts and minds for many more years to come.

(Adapted from: <https://news.sky.com/story/the-loch-ness-monster-and-the-story-behind-the-mysterious-water-beast-theories-90-years-since-first-photo-13004123>)

(10 points)

## TASK 5

Read the following text. Use the word given at the end of the line to form a new word that fits the context. The answer must consist of a single word that goes into the numbered space. The task begins with an example (0). Remember to write your answers on the separate Answer Sheet.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dramatic Scotland</b></p> <p>Scotland has drama in every corner: mountains that rise straight out of the sea; remote island archipelagos; legends of (0) <b>fearsome</b> bravery and terrible betrayal. Throw in countless lochs, (1) <u>breathhtaking</u> wildlife — eagles, stags, whales and salmon — that need space, and isolation, to continue to exist. And don't forget Scotland has castles (2) <u>aplenty</u>, many of them broken ruins, but some given new life as aristocratic hotels. In short, this is a place with a (3) <u>rawness</u>, and a purity, that will appeal to anyone with an ounce of poetry in their soul.</p>	<p>(0) FEAR</p> <p>(1) BREATH</p> <p>(2) PLENTY</p> <p>(3) RAW</p>
<p><b>Orkney Isles</b></p> <p>The archipelago that lies offshore from John O'Groats is quite unlike the Scottish highlands. Orcadian accents are far gentler and the land is smoother and more fertile. Most remarkable sites on Mainland, the biggest of the islands, are the Neolithic era tombs and excavated villages, which had to be well built to (4) <u>withstand</u> the weather. Also long lasting is the tradition of the Ba game, a rugby-related mass scrum.</p> <p><b>Knoydart, Highlands</b></p> <p>Regularly cited as the most remote part of mainland British Isles, Knoydart is a (5) <u>mountainous</u> peninsula on the west coast of Scotland. A handful of small settlements are distributed along its single shoreline road, with the main community gathered around the village of Inverie. Not so long ago Knoydart was in decline, but a community buyout of the estate has triggered a local (6) <u>resurgence</u>.</p> <p><b>Ben Nevis, Highlands</b></p> <p>The highest mountain in the United Kingdom, at 4,413ft, Ben Nevis looms over Fort William. The Ben is an arduous but (7) <u>straightforward</u> enough hike for the fit and the well prepared, but anyone less so would be better advised to take the cable car up adjacent Aonach Mor, (8) <u>primarily</u> intended for summer hiking and mountain biking.</p> <p><b>Loch Lomond and the Trossachs</b></p> <p>This hugely (9) <u>accessible</u> national park just north of Glasgow has a bit of everything. Scenic Loch Lomond is a place of boat cruises and watersports. In between the lochs, the hills and glens are cloaked in oak and fir, particularly around the adventure centre of Aberfoyle. And finally several mountains over 3,000ft rise silently out of the park, a (10) <u>foretaste</u> of the wilderness beyond.</p>	<p>(4) STAND</p> <p>(5) MOUNTAIN</p> <p>(6) SURGE</p> <p>(7) STRAIGHT</p> <p>(8) PRIME</p> <p>(9) ACCESS</p> <p>(10) TASTE</p>

(Adapted from: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/travel/destinations/uk/scotland/most-beautiful-places-in-scotland>)

(10 points)



## TASK 6

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). Remember to write your answers on the separate 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) She will lead the team in the upcoming project as the project manager.  
He used a pencil with a \_\_\_\_\_ core to write a note.  
The detective followed the \_\_\_\_\_ to uncover new evidence in the case.
- (2) The view from the mountaintop was breathtaking; you could see for miles across the plain.  
She liked her coffee black, with no cream or sugar, just \_\_\_\_\_.  
His explanation was simple and \_\_\_\_\_, making it easy for everyone to understand.
- (3) The sleek glass façade of the international bank reflected the sunlight.  
As the hikers approached the river \_\_\_\_\_, they marvelled at the landscape.  
That piece of information would be a valuable deposit in the scientific knowledge \_\_\_\_\_.
- (4) The referee blew the whistle to signal a foul during the soccer match.  
The chef detected a \_\_\_\_\_ odour coming from the spoiled milk in the refrigerator.  
Despite the \_\_\_\_\_ weather, they decided to go ahead with their outdoor picnic.
- (5) The store is about to close, so you'll need to make your purchases quickly.  
Their friendship was so strong that they considered each other as \_\_\_\_\_ as family.  
He couldn't get a clear, \_\_\_\_\_ look at the mysterious object in the distance.
- (6) The chef's sole focus was on creating the perfect dessert for the restaurant.  
He needed new shoes with a thicker \_\_\_\_\_ for better support while walking.  
The fisherman proudly displayed the large \_\_\_\_\_ he caught during his fishing trip.
- (7) The fair was a fun event with games, rides, and delicious food.  
It's not \_\_\_\_\_ to give preferential treatment to one student over the others.  
She had a \_\_\_\_\_ complexion, which made her more susceptible to sunburn.
- (8) He needed a short break to rest after a long day of work.  
She accidentally dropped the fragile vase, causing it to \_\_\_\_\_ into pieces.  
The news of their engagement came as a welcome \_\_\_\_\_ from the routine.

(8 points)