



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 2025./2026.



Zaporka:

(zadana riječ)

TEST

Slušanje s razumijevanjem:	12 bodova
Čitanje s razumijevanjem:	12 bodova
Uporaba jezika:	36 bodova
Ukupno:	60 bodova

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 a heist at the Louvre. For each statement (1–6), write T for true or F for false. There is an example at the beginning (0). You will hear the recording twice.

- (0) The Louvre often closes its doors for upkeep. **F**
- (1) The Mona Lisa painting has been globally popular ever since it was first painted. _____
- (2) Once the Mona Lisa was retrieved, a silent alarm was installed to prevent visitors from approaching it. _____
- (3) Not all of the items stolen during the 2025 robbery are gone without a trace. _____
- (4) The missing items will probably be sold intact for a substantial amount of money. _____
- (5) The number of CCTV cameras in the Louvre increased by more than 50% from 2019 to 2024. _____
- (6) The Louvre officials are being accused of wasting money on unnecessary artwork and changes to the museum's interior design. _____

(6 points)

Task 2 – You will hear an interview with Drew Binsky, a travel influencer. For questions 1–6, choose the best answer (A, B, C or D). There is an example at the beginning (0). You will hear the recording twice.

(0) Drew was raised in

- A** Arizona.
- B** Wisconsin.
- C** Madison.
- D** Prague.

(1) What did Drew study at university?

- A** Travel and Media.
- B** Business-related Studies.
- C** Teaching and Linguistics.
- D** History and Cultural Studies.

(2) What was the significance of his time in Prague?

- A** He organised his first exchange program there.
- B** He realised he wanted to travel professionally.
- C** He taught English culture.
- D** He visited 12 countries.

(3) When Drew moved to South Korea, what did he do?

- A** He became a travel guide.
- B** He worked in business relations.
- C** He educated others.
- D** He fed poverty-stricken people.

(4) Why did Drew change his blog's name from 'The Hungry Partier' to his own name?

- A** Because it sounded too informal.
- B** Because the name was too long.
- C** Because it didn't reveal his true self.
- D** Because he sold the website.

(5) Which of the following is a reason Drew visits countries often perceived as dangerous?

- A** He wants to fight against unfair and untrue beliefs.
- B** He believes those places are safer than people think.
- C** He wants to make it memorable.
- D** He ends the trips there by chance.

(6) How does Drew interact with his followers and audience?

- A** He posts only to high-school and college students.
- B** He uses travel resources.
- C** He hires a team and never personally replies.
- D** He takes some time out of each day, writing responses.

(6 points)

Tasks 3 and 4: READING COMPREHENSION

Task 3 – Read the text and choose the sentences from B–I that best fit 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 B-I) on the Answer Sheet.

The platypus is among nature's most unlikely animals. **(0)** A Looking at the animal skin that had been shipped to him from Australia to England, George Shaw, the keeper of the natural history collection at the British Museum at the turn of the 19th century, was left speechless. It was as though someone had sent him the bill of a duck stitched onto the torso of a fuzzy otter.

Two centuries later, the platypus continues to astound scientists. It is one of only a few venomous mammals that inhabit the planet. **(1)** _____ This mostly happens during male-to-male competition over mates and territory, or when threatened by humans, in which case it can cause excruciating, long-lasting pain. However, this venom contains unique proteins that could that could possibly be used to treat diabetes.

(2) _____ Much like some types of fish, such as carp, it lost this organ in the course of evolution, and new research suggests it may never evolve it back. Instead, the animal uses its powerful beak to grind food in its mouth before it reaches the intestines, where most nutrient absorption happens. **(3)** _____

Another unique feature of the platypus is its reproduction. It is one of only two mammals on the planet that lay eggs. A mother typically produces one or two eggs which she incubates by curling around them for about ten days. **(4)** _____ The mother nurses her young for three to four months until the babies can swim on their own. The puggles, as they are called, feed on milk secreted through the mother's skin, and the males take no part in rearing the young.

Lately, however, platypus researchers' admiration has recently been overshadowed by concern. **(5)** _____ Scientists are now urging the national government and several Australian states to list the platypus as vulnerable to extinction, so they can benefit from conservation efforts. Additionally, although platypuses are notoriously tricky to count due to their skittishness and nocturnal habits, all signs point to a decline in numbers. They seem to have disappeared from more than 22 percent of their habitat over the past 30 years, according to some reports. **(6)** _____ It seems, therefore, that the globally beloved furry icon of Australia needs to make the endangered animals list before it's too late.

Adapted from: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/platypus>
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/scientists-petition-australia-platypus-protection>

~~**A** In fact, the first scientist to examine a platypus specimen believed he was the victim of a hoax.~~

B Not surprisingly, it feeds on aquatic insects such as water bugs, dragonflies, and blackflies, which makes food digestion easier as insects lack internal bones.

C That's because climate change, drought, and bushfires are ravaging the rivers in eastern Australia that platypuses rely on to feed and mate.

D When infants hatch, they are the size of lima beans and totally helpless.

E Sharp stingers on the heels of its rear feet can be used to deliver a strong toxic blow to their enemy.

F They are bottom-feeding mammals that use their sensitive bills to forage for food, storing it in cheek pouches.

G Others reveal that platypuses are still being illegally hunted by poachers.

H This is a dangerous, yet necessary, task if imminent threats like drought, pollution, and climate change keep worsening.

I Moreover, the platypus doesn't have a functional stomach.

(6 points)

Task 4 – Read the text and choose the correct answer (A, B or C). There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers (A, B or C) on the Answer Sheet.

Croatia is a relatively young football nation, but it has achieved impressive results at the FIFA World Cup. Since becoming independent in the early 1990s, the national team has regularly shown that it can compete with much larger and more experienced football countries. From the beginning, Croatia's players showed confidence, technical quality, and a strong sense of national pride, which helped the team make a quick impact on the international stage.

Croatia first gained worldwide attention at the 1998 World Cup in France, where they finished third. This achievement was unexpected, especially for a country appearing at its first World Cup as an independent nation. The team's success was based on talented individuals, effective teamwork, and strong leadership. Finishing third immediately established Croatia as a serious football nation and set high expectations for the future.

In the years that followed, Croatia usually managed to qualify for major international tournaments, including the European Championship and the World Cup. However, results were sometimes inconsistent. The team often went through periods of transition, especially as experienced players retired and younger ones joined the squad. Despite these changes, Croatia kept a clear footballing identity. Their style of play focused on technical skill, intelligent passing, teamwork, and good organisation, rather than physical strength alone.

Croatia reached its greatest achievement at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. During the tournament, the team played several long and demanding matches, many of which went into extra time or were decided by penalties. These matches required great physical effort and mental strength. Despite the pressure, Croatia reached the final, where they were defeated by France. Although they finished second, this result was historic and represented the highest point in Croatian football history.

At the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Croatia once again showed its quality by finishing in third place. This performance confirmed that the team's success was not a coincidence. Instead, it was the result of long-term development, strong leadership, and experience gained over many tournaments.

A key reason for Croatia's continued success has been its ability to develop skilled players who perform at the highest club level. Although the country does not yet have a highly competitive domestic league, and training facilities are modest compared with larger nations, the players' calm decision-making and self-discipline in important matches have allowed Croatia to remain competitive on the world stage.

(0) What does the first paragraph mainly suggest about Croatia as a football nation?

- A Its success is surprising because it has little experience in international football.
- B** It quickly proved it could compete with stronger and more established teams.
- C Its achievements are mainly due to physical strength and national pride.

(1) Why was Croatia's performance at the 1998 World Cup important?

- A It showed that the team could succeed soon after declaring independence.
- B It was the first time Croatia impressed FIFA.
- C It guaranteed competition in future World Cups.

(2) What difficulty did Croatia often face after 1998?

- A Failing to qualify for international tournaments.
- B Adjusting to rotations of generations of players.
- C Inconsistent techniques.

(3) How is Croatia's playing style described in the text?

- A Mostly organized with little focus on abilities.
- B Based on competence, cooperation, and coordination.
- C Focused mainly on technique and physical strength.

(4) What made the 2018 World Cup especially challenging for Croatia?

- A Multiple matches were extended and exhausting for the players.
- B Every match was long and demanding.
- C Several key players played under pressure.

(5) What did Croatia's result at the 2022 World Cup show?

- A The team depended on luck rather than preparation.
- B Their success was connected to lasting progress.
- C They performed better than expected by chance.

(6) According to the text, what has helped Croatia succeed internationally?

- A A skilled domestic league.
- B State-of-the-art training facilities.
- C Players with strong willpower.

(6 points)

Tasks 5 – 9: USE OF ENGLISH

Task 5 – Read the text. For each gap 1–8, choose the answer that fits best (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.

With more than 75 million copies of his books sold around the world, Terry Pratchett remains one of the most loved British writers, best **(0)** D for his comic fantasy novels. He wrote 59 novels, with 41 set on the imaginary planet Discworld, plus art books, diaries, and short stories. Even though ten years have flown by since Pratchett **(1)** _____ away, his work still attracts new readers. For those wondering about which of his books serves as the best entry point into Pratchett’s magical world of literature, the answer is easy – any will do. He always wrote with new readers **(2)** _____ mind, offering a gentle handhold into his world of fiction.

If you’re only going to read one, you should pick the 2008 novel *Nation*. This was the book of **(3)** _____ Pratchett was proudest. A young adult novel full of rage and doubt, handled with an astonishing lightness of touch. It tells the allegorical story of Mau, a boy who survives a colossal tsunami that **(4)** _____ out his island home. He meets a shipwrecked English girl, Daphne, and they form an unlikely friendship. The two of them discover some remarkable things, including how to milk a pig, and why spitting in beer is a good thing. **(5)** _____, they set up a new society called Nation.

If you’re looking for a masterpiece, then *Night Watch* is the answer. Originally **(6)** _____ in 2002, it remains Pratchett’s most profound book. Critics and fans often compare it to the famous sci-fi movie *The Terminator*. The main character, Vimes, is sent back in time with the sole purpose of capturing the murderer who threatens his future life and existence. It’s about justice, trauma, and how **(7)** _____ the high road is never easy.

Finally, there are numerous other Pratchett novels that readers can choose from if they’re interested in his witty and satirical art of writing. Truth is, if Pratchett were alive today, he **(8)** _____ most certainly be thankful for your attention.

Adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2025/apr/25/where-to-start-with-terry-pratchett>

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| (0) | A) <i>seen</i> | B) <i>celebrated</i> | C) <i>admired</i> | D) <i>known</i> |
| (1) | A died | B gone | C went | D passed |
| (2) | A in | B on | C at | D to |
| (3) | A that | B which | C who | D whom |
| (4) | A destroyed | B wipes | C puts | D cleared |
| (5) | A Unfortunately | B Thoroughly | C Eventually | D Virtually |
| (6) | A interpreted | B published | C discontinued | D premiered |
| (7) | A taking | B going | C take | D go |
| (8) | A shall | B will | C might | D would |

(8 points)

Task 6 – 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.

pears	should	effect	peers	up	watchful
about	might	infamous	ought	affect	to

Everybody knows that language has a profound influence on our personality. It changes the way we write, speak, or even think **(0)** about communication by introducing and spreading new words, abbreviations, and slang. Slang helps people in the same age group or generation form an identity and recognition among themselves. It can become like a secret language to outsiders, but it also forms a connection between **(1)** _____. However, as much as it is developmentally normal for teens and tweens to use slang words, it does lead **(2)** _____ their parents and teachers feeling like they're in a foreign country without a translator. Overhearing their children and students talk about FOMO, flexing, stans, or the **(3)** _____ six-seven, often causes a strange feeling of being left out, resulting in an inability to help if help is needed. As a result, both parents and teachers are stepping **(4)** _____ their game when it comes to navigating the murky waters of teenage slang.

According to psychologists and language teachers, certain words and newly-coined expressions, such as *mogging*, can negatively **(5)** _____ teens whose identity is still being shaped. Even though the original meaning of *mogging*, which is to outshine or outperform someone, is not negative, the word **(6)** _____ reinforce insecurity and pressure on body image. In extreme cases *mog* can be used to bully another person or make them feel like they don't measure up, causing a feeling of inferiority and a lack of self-esteem. It is, therefore, the parents' obligation to keep a **(7)** _____ eye on the state of the child's self-esteem, reminding them that although slang is a normal part of a generation's culture, it can also classify people into labels. Helping teens realize that words matter **(8)** _____ to be the bigger goal of every dedicated parent.

Adapted from: <https://www.parents.com/what-does-mogging-mean-how-this-slang-term-could-affect-your-childs-confidence-11849510>

(8 points)

Task 7 – Read the 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 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. There are two examples at the beginning, (0) and (00).

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

What would you do if you could travel back in time? What time	(0) <u>✓</u>
would you go back to? We all have regrets at some point of in our	(00) <u>of</u>
lives, situations we wish we could go back to and make any	(1) _____
changes. Maybe you told your parents off in a particularly awful	(2) _____
way, or perhaps you didn't work up the courage to not talk to that	(3) _____
cute classmate. Don't you sometimes wish you weren't on your	(4) _____
mobile for such long periods of time? Well, since the time travel	(5) _____
isn't possible, learn from your mistakes and turn on over a new leaf!	(6) _____

(6 points)

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

Avatar: Fire and Ash is the third main movie in the Avatar story, and it happens soon after the events of *The Way of Water*. Jake Sully and his family are living **(0) on** Pandora about a year after the last adventure. They still feel deep sadness because of the loss they have suffered. The Ash People arrive, a new Na'vi group that is strong and dangerous. This group has a leader called Varang, who does not agree **(1)** _____ the peaceful ways of Eywa. The Ash People attack a convoy of flying merchant ships, and chaos follows.

Spider is a young member of **(2)** _____ Sully family who needs to remain safe. Jake and Neytiri decide Spider should travel with the humans to return to a safer place but the convoy is ambushed **(3)** _____ Varang's Na'vi clan, and the family becomes separated. Spider almost dies because he forgets his spare oxygen mask during the attack. Kiri, another young Na'vi, helps **(4)** _____ by using her special connection to Eywa so he can breathe again on Pandora.

Meanwhile, Jake meets Quaritch, a familiar enemy, and they agree to work together in **(5)** _____ to find the children. When they face the Ash fighters again, Kiri uses her abilities to protect them. Later, scientists discover Spider has changed in **(6)** _____ a way that could help all humans to live on Pandora. This, however, also brings danger and conflict.

Throughout the story, the characters learn that grief and fear can end in violence rather **(7)** _____ understanding and unity. They must find strength in each other and continue to protect **(8)** _____ home.

Adapted from: https://james-camerons-avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Avatar:_Fire_and_Ash

(8 points)

Task 9 – 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>Eight years after serious concerns were expressed about construction and wastewater pollution, UNESCO has announced an (0) <u>improvement</u> in the conservation status of Plitvice Lakes National Park. The site had previously been considered at risk of losing its World Heritage status, but recent evaluations show clear progress. This positive decision follows years of work aimed at environmental protection and better planning.</p>	<p>(0) IMPROVE</p>
<p>The Plitvice Lakes, which was first added to UNESCO's list in 1979, is one of Croatia's most (1) _____ natural attractions. The park is known for its lakes, waterfalls, and unique travertine barriers. According to UNESCO, the initial (2) _____ of the ecosystem has been reduced, especially in terms of water quality.</p>	<p>(1) REMARK (2) STABLE</p>
<p>After receiving a negative evaluation in 2017, park authorities introduced several effective measures. These included temporary wastewater treatment systems and the development of a more (3) _____ long-term solution, supported by EU funds. Construction controls were also tightened to reduce human impact.</p>	<p>(3) SUSTAIN</p>
<p>Tourism remains a key challenge, with over a million visitors each year. To deal with this, (4) _____ measures were put in place, including new systems that were implemented to manage visitor numbers and reduce pressure on walking paths. Online ticketing and daily limits have helped improve visitor behaviour. Management will carry out evaluations following these initial processes to ensure continuous improvement.</p>	<p>(4) INTRODUCE</p>
<p>UNESCO praised the park's strong cooperation with local and international partners and noted the park's (5) _____ dedication to conservation. While climate change and tourism still pose risks, experts believe that careful protection and long-term planning can prevent further damage. Overall, Plitvice Lakes' management has played a (6) _____ role in its future.</p>	<p>(5) BELIEVE (6) DECIDE</p>

Adapted from: https://www.croatiaweek.com/good-news-for-plitvice-lakes-unesco-improves-conservation-status/#google_vignette

(6 points)

THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST!!!