



Nacionalni centar  
za vanjsko vrednovanje  
obrazovanja

Identifikacijska  
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PAŽLJIVO NALIJEPI

# ENG A

## ENGLESKI JEZIK

viša razina

ISPIT ČITANJA

(Reading Paper)

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## Task 1

### Questions 1-12

You are going to read an article in which people talk about modern technology.

For each question (1-12), choose one person from **A-F**.

Mark your answer on the answer sheet.

There is an example at the beginning (**0→A**).

### Modern technology

#### A Arthur

Well, things are certainly changing, aren't they? They say this is the greatest thing since the Industrial Revolution. These days everything is only a click away. And I know social media gets a lot of bad press, but anything that makes us communicate more is alright by me. Maybe we could do with a few rules to protect more vulnerable people. And now that everything is online and can be attacked by hackers – from a bank account to an electricity grid – I think the most important activity is to focus on making the digisphere a safer place. Would you agree?

#### B Betty

First off, can I just say that I'm an unapologetic geek. I study computer sciences at uni, and eat and breathe information technology, social media, the internet, and so on. I've even got Gran and Granpa into it. They can't live without their Facebook now. I agree we need to do something about Google, Apple and Amazon being too big and not paying enough taxes. They can get away with anything! And, sure, the pace of modern life may be too quick for some. But you have to change with the times if you want to survive.

#### C Carlota

The whole digital business makes me a bit uneasy. There is a compelling case, backed up by plentiful research that apps like Facebook, Instagram and TikTok can make insecure teenagers anxious and depressed. I strongly believe this issue should be addressed. And everything is moving so fast these days it's impossible to keep up, and not get stressed sometimes. We are humans, after all, not robots. It's not all bad though, with all that free information, free music, and entertainment. And we don't have to go to work anymore. We can do it from home.

#### D Damien

You only have to go back 30 or 40 years to realise just what an amazing thing information technology is. I mean, information is power, and before the internet only powerful people had access to it. These days we all do. Obviously we're on a learning curve and there's a lot to do. It's just not right that we can switch on music like tapwater and the artists get no benefit. That's just stealing.

YouTube and Spotify should pay creators of artistic content. Unfortunately, that means we'll all have to pay too.

**E Ezra**

I suppose it depends on what generation you are, whether you're a so-called digital native or digital immigrant. My mum and dad love Facebook, but my generation wouldn't touch it, we use Instagram or TikTok instead. And then there are my grandparents, who still watch telly and listen to the radio. They reckon digital entertainment is rubbish compared to the old school. And I have to agree. The problem with user content is that too many users don't have any talent.

**F Freya**

It's hard to say. On the one hand, the possibilities of digital technology have improved our lives immeasurably. We can work from home, keep in touch with our kids, buy everything online, and entertain ourselves with a mere click. On the other, social media has destroyed people's lives and robots have taken our jobs. Also, technology has privileged some people over others, and no one talks anymore – they 'chat' or 'text' or 'post'. Which are all negative effects of technology. I suppose what I'm trying to say is that the digital revolution is both good and bad at the same time.

**Which person says...**

**0 everything is easy to get? → A**

- 1 information technology has made the world more democratic?
- 2 social media is generally good for us?
- 3 social media causes mental health problems?
- 4 the biggest concern is cyber-security?
- 5 digital technology causes unemployment?
- 6 technology has raised the level of inequality?
- 7 the big tech companies have become too powerful?
- 8 Facebook is for middle-aged people?
- 9 their grandparents are addicted to social media?
- 10 digital technology has resulted in lower quality entertainment?
- 11 music streaming is equivalent to theft?
- 12 things are changing too quickly?

## Task 2

### Questions 13-18

Read the text below.

For each question (13-18), choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Mark your answer on the answer sheet.

### A sudden genius

Derek had just left a job with a mobile communications service when he decided to visit his mother and friends back in Sioux Falls. During an indoor pool party, which his friend Rick was throwing to please a girl he was hopelessly chasing, Derek began doing backflips off the edge of the pool. Completely oblivious to the keen interest of the ladies around him, he moved down the shallow end of the pool shouting for someone to hurl a football over the water, so he could make a leaping catch. He slapped his face on the water surface, dove and hit his head on the concrete 3 feet below.

Ignoring Derek's unwillingness to see a doctor, his mother took him to the hospital where a CT scan of his bruised and swollen head showed he'd suffered a severe concussion. No sign of internal bleeding was evident but doctors kept him there overnight for observation. He was released the next morning to his mother's house where he slept for the better part of five days.

Feeling much better despite a persistent headache, Derek visited Rick to say goodbye before heading back to Colorado. After a short conversation, Derek noticed a small Casio keyboard across the room and his fingers started to twitch. "As we were talking, I kept looking over at the keyboard," says Derek. "I was just drawn to it." Since the incident, he'd been seeing what looked like black-and-white squares scrolling from left to right across his mind. He had thought it was just fogginess that would go away. As he approached the Casio, it was as if his body was intuitively reading them as notes or groups of notes. His once trembling fingers flew fluidly across the keys, releasing an unstructured and new, yet melodic, piece of classical music.

In the weeks that followed, Derek gradually lost 35% of his hearing, started getting debilitating headaches and to his utter horror became extremely sensitive to light, especially fluorescents. Still, nothing compared to the fact that his mind was continuously and unbearably flooded with squares and tunes and rhythms. His hands were tapping out beats even in his sleep and he had to let the music drain from his body like a release valve. Playing was the only thing that seemed to bring him peace.

And yet, as clamorous and cramped as his mind became, he says he never once wished for the music to stop. His mother said that the pain was the price he had to pay for his wondrous gift. For a time, he was terrified of losing it – afraid that a fall, a bump on the head or a night of heavy drinking might scare off the muse. Or that it might just disappear as inexplicably as it had arrived. His curiosity was disturbed by the persistent fear that the root of it all was something deadly that would bring his life to a halt.

He was reassured when his mother found an online article explaining the phenomenon that had altered his life so abruptly. When the left hemisphere of the brain is damaged due to a blow to the

head, a stroke or dementia, undamaged tissue is recruited from the right hemisphere as a way to compensate for the loss. The right side, where creativity dwells, is then released from the logical and analytical tyranny of the left, freeing the previously untapped creative potential that had been hidden there since birth.

**13** Why did Derek ask his friends to throw the ball into the swimming pool?

- A** He wanted to play catch in the shallow end.
- B** He was trying to be in the centre of attention.
- C** The ladies forced him to do something risky for fun.
- D** He intended to jump after it and catch it while in the air.

**14** Why was Derek kept in the hospital for the night?

- A** He needed a lot of sleep.
- B** He had lost a lot of blood.
- C** His mother insisted that he stay.
- D** He needed further medical supervision.

**15** What is true of the music Derek started playing at Rick's house?

- A** It was a classical piece written by a known composer.
- B** It had a regular, recurring pattern of metre and melody.
- C** It was the product of images he'd seen in his mind's eye.
- D** It was from a music score he had found on the keyboard.

**16** What was the most challenging problem for Derek after the accident?

- A** The music appeared without stopping.
- B** He suffered too many headaches.
- C** He had to live in the dark.
- D** He was partially deaf.

**17** What was Derek's biggest concern?

- A** That he would live his life in pain.
- B** That his condition has no explanation.
- C** That he would lose his sudden genius.
- D** That his gift was caused by a terminal illness.

**18** How can the phenomenon Derek experienced be explained?

- A** It is a hidden potential in the left hemisphere of the brain.
- B** It is the consequence of the brain's ability to recover from trauma.
- C** It is an error in the connection between the two brain hemispheres.
- D** It is a consequence of too much online research about the condition.

## Task 3

### Questions 19-24

Read the text on the next page.

For each question (**19-24**), choose the sentence (**A-H**) that best fits the gap.

There are **two** sentences that you do **not** need.

Mark your answer on the answer sheet.

There is an example at the beginning (**0**→**I**).

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### The Lost Language of Easter Island

A wooden fish could help linguists learn more about the writing system known as rongorongo

On the outskirts of Hanga Roa, Easter Island's only town, the Museo Rapa Nui has a small but striking collection. It includes a rare female version of the monolithic statues known as moai, and sets of piercing moai eyes made from white coral and red volcanic rock. (0) \_\_\_\_\_. Raised on a stand, as if held up by a proud fisherman, it is the colour of chocolate and roughly the size and shape of an oar blade.

This unique fish represents a great – and unsolved – linguistic puzzle. (19) \_\_\_\_\_. Some resemble human forms, animals and plants, while others are more abstract – circles, crosses, squares. This is rongorongo, the only indigenous writing system to develop in Oceania before the 20<sup>th</sup> century and one of the last remaining mysteries on Easter Island.

According to oral traditions, rongorongo tablets were brought to the island by the first settlers between the years 800 and 1200. (20) \_\_\_\_\_. Some believe it long predated European contact in 1722, while others argue it emerged as late as the 1770s, after the Rapanui people saw European writing for the first time during a Spanish expedition to the island.

Since then, the Rapanui population has faced disease, epidemics, piracy, slavery and religious indoctrination, leading to its inevitable decline. Sadly, the same has happened to rongorongo – only a fragmentary understanding of the script has survived among the Rapanui locals. Over the years, there have been various attempts to decipher the script, but it has proved a difficult task.

(21) \_\_\_\_\_. Only 26 rongorongo objects exist, some have only a few lines of text.

A major breakthrough happened in the 1990s when the key to the script's structure was proposed. Based on years of research and contrary to some previous assumptions, it is now argued that the language's similarities with Western writing are few – mainly just the linearity and left-to-right reading direction. Rongorongo is a word-writing script and each sign represents an object whose name is to be spoken aloud. (22) \_\_\_\_\_. Building on them, the reader fills in a good deal of unwritten text from memory. And human memory is unreliable.

We still remain a long way from being able to read long passages of rongorongo. Only limited information has been gathered from Rapanui people, and most of it still cannot be identified.

(23) \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers have announced an algorithm that could automatically decipher a lost language, without needing advanced knowledge of its relation to other languages. Although the researchers didn't look at rongorongo, their work could potentially help to improve our understanding of the script.

Linguists, who highlight the importance of including Rapanui people in efforts to decipher the tablets, aren't optimistic that rongorongo will ever be fully understood. Nevertheless, the indecipherable glyphs still generate significant pride on the island, as well as intrigue. (24) \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, the script is as much a mystery for them as for the rest of the world.

- A** Regardless of the word of mouth, academics disagree about when the writing system emerged.
- B** Claims to have deciphered rongorongo tablets have been confirmed by other linguists.
- C** However, these signs are merely symbolic prompts.
- D** It is covered with rows of stylized signs, so called glyphs.
- E** For the locals they are a source of great admiration and awe towards their ancestors.
- F** This is mainly so due to the lack of artefacts.
- G** It appears religious rituals were used for that.
- H** But there are hopes machine learning could help in the future.
- I** **With so much to see, it's easy to overlook the carved wooden fish in a glass cabinet.**

## Task 4

## Questions 25-32

Read the text below.

For each question (25-32), choose the answer (A, B, C or D) that best completes the sentence.

Mark your answer on the answer sheet.

There is an example at the beginning (0→A).

## Zipper

Have you ever thought what life might be like without the humble zipper? In a stiff breeze, it's handy to have a jacket that zips (0) \_\_\_\_\_. Blue jeans probably wouldn't be fun to wear without zippers either!

If you go on a camping trip, your suitcase or backpack might spill its contents everywhere (25) \_\_\_\_\_ it is zipped shut. You might also get cold at night if your sleeping bag doesn't zip up.

The inventor of the sewing machine, Elias Howe, received a patent in 1851 for an 'Automatic, Continuous Clothing Closure' but didn't market it, because he was too busy (26) \_\_\_\_\_ the sewing machine.

Over 40 years later, Whitcomb Judson improved upon Howe's idea and designed a fastener for shoes. The product was launched at the World's Fair in Chicago, but it (27) \_\_\_\_\_ much success.

The modern zipper was eventually designed in 1913 by Gideon Sundback. His design increased the number of fastening elements (28) \_\_\_\_\_ 10 per inch and included two rows of interlocking teeth and a slider. It was the first fastener to resemble a zipper. But Sundback didn't come up (29) \_\_\_\_\_ the name! The name "zipper" was developed by the company that used this device on the rubber boots they produced.

Early on, zippers were mainly used on boots and it (30) \_\_\_\_\_ another 20 years before the fashion industry began to use zippers on clothing. One of the first uses was replacing the buttons on men's trousers with zippers.

It was a long way up for this mechanical wonder that has kept our lives "together" (31) \_\_\_\_\_ many ways. The zipper was invented by several dedicated inventors, though (32) \_\_\_\_\_ convinced the general public to accept it in everyday life. It was the fashion industry that made the novel zipper the popular item it is today.

0

- A up
- B off
- C down
- D on

**25**

- A** unless
- B** if
- C** when
- D** since

**26**

- A** promoting
- B** to promote
- C** having promoted
- D** promote

**27**

- A** won't have
- B** hasn't had
- C** hadn't had
- D** didn't have

**28**

- A** with
- B** for
- C** to
- D** in

**29**

- A** from
- B** as
- C** in
- D** with

30

- A took
- B were
- C ran
- D passed

31

- A on
- B in
- C for
- D with

32

- A nor
- B none
- C never
- D neither

## Task 5

### Questions 33-40

Read the text on the next page.

For each question (**33-40**), choose the answer (**A-K**) that best completes the sentence.

There are **three** options that you do **not** need.

Mark your answer on the answer sheet.

There is an example at the beginning (**0→L**).

## Brown rice – source of health

Whether it is for lunch and dinner or special occasions (0) \_\_\_\_\_ birthdays and marriages, rice is almost always a part of the menu. Rice, (33) \_\_\_\_\_, is not white in its original form. It is in the process of milling brown rice seeds and polishing them that white rice is produced. Brown rice contains the bran, or the outer layer of the rice, which is rich in vitamins and minerals that milling destroys. White rice is just brown rice with most of the beneficial nutrients removed and is (34) \_\_\_\_\_ less healthy.

Brown rice is high in dietary fibre content and other essential nutrients. It has got a lower glycaemic index than white rice. The higher the glycaemic index, the higher the chances of a (35) \_\_\_\_\_ in blood glucose levels. Raised blood glucose levels (36) \_\_\_\_\_ to diabetes, so brown rice reduces such risks.

Brown rice takes longer to digest (37) \_\_\_\_\_ its high fibre content. As (38) \_\_\_\_\_ cuts down the frequency of hunger, gaining excess weight from oily or sugary foods is prevented. Weight gain encourages the development of type 2 diabetes.

Studies have found evidence that brown rice may help (39) \_\_\_\_\_ the health of the heart and the blood vessels. It is rich in B vitamins and magnesium. The deficiency of (40) \_\_\_\_\_ two is associated with heart failure and heart attacks.

Brown rice contains a natural compound which is used in the treatment of cancers of the breast, liver, colon and blood. Studies have shown that a higher percentage of dietary fibre offers protection against some forms of cancers. Also, the polyphenols present in brown rice have antioxidant properties which prevent damage to cells.

- A** due to
- B** there
- C** improve
- D** however
- E** rise
- F** lead
- G** this
- H** since
- I** thus
- J** these
- K** arise
- L** like