

AJ

Únor / Február 2024

Počet účastníků: 1006
Čistá úspěšnost: 56,8 %
Korig. úspěšnost: 57,4 %
Hrubá úspěšnost: 63,4 %
Průměrné skóre: 34,1
Medián skóre: 36,0

Počet úloh: 60
Max. možné skóre: 60,0
Max. dosažené skóre: 60,0
Min. možné skóre: -17,3
Min. dosažené skóre: -4,0
Směr. odchylka skóre: 15,9

1. Listening

Listening 1

You will hear a text which is followed by several tasks. You will be given time to look through the relevant tasks before you listen. You will hear the recording twice. Solve the tasks based solely on the information in the recording.

QUESTIONS 1–6

The history of vampires

1.

Which of the following is **not** mentioned in the recording as a vampire trait?

- (A) having sharp teeth
- (B) being repelled by garlic
- (C) **being hurt by sunlight**
- (D) consumption of blood

2.

In the past, traditional beliefs held in Europe revolved around the fear that _____.

- (A) a person could be buried alive by mistake
- (B) a vampire could harm both the living and the dead
- (C) the living could turn into vampires
- (D) **the deceased could pose harm to the living**

3.

In the past, people sometimes mistakenly assumed that _____.

- (A) a corpse's teeth had become sharper
- (B) a corpse's skin had shrunk
- (C) a corpse would decompose fast
- (D) **a corpse's teeth had grown longer**

4.

Pope Benedict XIV said that _____.

- (A) the existence of vampires could not be disproved
- (B) vampires should be persecuted
- (C) **vampires were a mere delusion**
- (D) it was fallacious to claim vampires to be fictional

5.

The anti-vampire rituals in New England _____.

- (A) **were claimed to have curative properties**
- (B) were copied from European rituals
- (C) resulted in 60 casualties
- (D) were replaced by witch trials

6.

In the 1960s, _____.

- (A) **a floating figure was claimed to have been spotted in a graveyard**
- (B) the president of the British Occult Society claimed he was a vampire
- (C) an anti-vampire ritual was conducted near London's Highgate Cemetery
- (D) a corpse resembling a vampire was dug up in London's Highgate Cemetery

1. Listening

Listening 2

You will hear a series of short unrelated extracts. There is one task for each extract. You will be given time to read the relevant task before you listen. You will hear each extract twice. Solve the tasks based solely on the information in the recording.

7.

You hear someone talk about items which people take with them on their journeys.

On the Apollo 16 mission, astronaut Charles Duke _____.

- (A) took a snap of himself on the Moon to show it to his family upon his return
- (B) refrained from leaving photos on the Moon, aware of the destructive power of solar radiation
- (C) carried an amulet in his small personal pouch to ensure a smooth voyage
- (D) **left photos on the Moon for future generations**

8.

You hear someone describe a story from an airport.

What happened?

- (A) A member of the airport staff broke into an airport shop and stole an octopus.
- (B) **A stray caused financial damage by feasting on marine food.**
- (C) A cat stole \$1,000 in cash from an airport delicatessen shop.
- (D) A stray cat brought a squid and an octopus which it had caught to an airport shop.

9.

You hear news about a strange sphere of unknown origin that has washed up on a Japanese beach.

According to the recording, the most plausible explanation for the origin of the sphere is that it is _____.

- (A) an item from the manga series Dragon Ball
- (B) a stray mine
- (C) a device used for espionage
- (D) **a mooring buoy**

10.

You hear someone talk about a book, *The White Tiger*, by Aravind Adiga.

The story _____.

- (A) describes how a boy overcame various obstacles to become a rickshaw puller
- (B) consists of letters sent by an ordinary boy to the Chinese premier
- (C) **narrates the protagonist's cunning rise from poverty to wealth**
- (D) overlooks the brutal injustices and corruption in Indian society

11.

You hear news about space exploration.

China is planning to _____.

- (A) team up with the US to ensure a permanent lunar presence
- (B) **send three unmanned spacecraft to the Moon**
- (C) use nuclear fusion to launch a spacecraft
- (D) send astronauts to the Moon

12.

You hear a piece of news about a campaign launched in Zurich, Switzerland.

The campaign is trying to educate dog owners on how to _____.

- (A) **prevent their dogs from getting their paws burned**
- (B) protect their dogs from stepping on something sharp
- (C) sew shoes for their dogs
- (D) teach their dogs to cooperate with the police

2. Reading

Reading 1

Read the following text and solve the tasks based solely on the information in it.

QUESTIONS 13–20

Four-day week could be within reach for British workers

Five days on, two days off has been the defining pulse of British labour for more than 80 years. But as 70 UK companies embark on the largest trial yet of a four-day working week, the working calendar may finally be changing. An increasingly confident four-day week campaign argues that working shorter hours boosts productivity, cuts carbon emissions and improves the balance between work and family life – all without cutting pay. **(A)** Firms taking part in the six-month trial will be monitored by academics.

But if the idea that Friday is the new Saturday sounds too good to be true, it may be. It has some heavyweight critics. Economist Robert Skidelsky advocates reducing working hours where the benefits of automation can be accrued, but cautioned that working shorter hours for the same pay – the principle of the four-day week campaign – is out of reach for “people in the gig economy who have to scrape and do several jobs to keep up a standard of living”.

A drive for more, not less, work is also being seen abroad. In China, companies are squeezing in more hours through the brutal-sounding 996 system – 9am to 9pm, six days a week. Elon Musk is the poster boy for entrepreneurs to “work as hard as hell” with 100-hour weeks. **(B)**

“I think that switching to the four-day working week is unstoppable,” said Andrew Barnes, who founded the four-day week campaign after seeing a trial in New Zealand increase worker productivity to 125% of previous levels. **(C)** “The five-day working week was designed for the repetitive manufacturing industry in the 1920s and we are applying that to the 21st century. It makes no sense. That’s why I think the four-day working week will ultimately become the norm.”

Lorraine Gray, the chief executive of a call centre business in Glasgow, has 350 members of staff who work only Monday to Thursday. She said that since the company first trialled the switch in 2016, productivity had increased by 29% and now only 12% of staff left each year, compared with 17% previously. She said call centres often suffered from “Monday-itis” – workers pretending to be sick in order to get a long weekend. After switching to the four-day week, the number of workers calling in sick dropped to almost zero. In fact, many sick days were previously taken by staff only needing a couple of hours off for an appointment, but with the Friday now available for “personal admin” that has largely stopped.

Proponents of the shorter working week say that this change is possible because in the traditional work pattern, so much time is wasted at work because of distractions. **(D)** But squeezing the same amount of work into fewer hours may only be possible for people who manage their own workload; it is harder to boost productivity in occupations such as hospitality and public services such as nursing and policing.

13.

Look at the four letters (A) to (D) in the text. These indicate where the following sentence could be added to the text.

Nevertheless, in the UK, North America and across Europe a more relaxing four-day working week is becoming reality for some.

Where would the sentence best fit?

- (A) (A)
- (B) **(B)**
- (C) (C)
- (D) (D)

14.

The expression “cautioned” in the second paragraph of the text is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) criticised
- (B) **denied**
- (C) concealed
- (D) warned

15.

The expression “squeezing” in the last paragraph of the text is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) losing
- (B) stretching
- (C) **cramming**
- (D) accepting

16.

What does Robert Skidelsky think about the four-day working week?

- (A) He believes it is a bad idea because people in the West should work more, not less.
- (B) He is adamant that it is suitable merely for people in the gig economy.
- (C) He is in favour in general but he is afraid the new concept could lead to a loss of jobs.
- (D) **He thinks it is not feasible for some groups of people.**

2. Reading

17.

Which of the following options best summarizes what Andrew Barnes says?

- (A) Working shorter hours will make employees less productive.
- (B) The four-day working week is not suitable for the 21st century.
- (C) **The four-day working week will eventually prevail because the five-day working week is outdated.**
- (D) Reducing working hours is especially necessary in the manufacturing industry.

18.

Why have employees at Gray's call centres stopped taking so many sick days?

- (A) They have been less ill as a result of the working hours change.
- (B) They were punished for abusing sick days hence stopped taking them.
- (C) They don't need sick days any more due to being able to work from home.
- (D) **They can use their Friday off to arrange their personal things.**

19.

Which of the following benefits can come from reduced working hours, according to the four-day week campaign?

- 1) less carbon in the atmosphere
- 2) more jobs on the market
- 3) increased shareholder value of companies
- 4) more time with family for employees

- (A) **1 and 4**
- (B) 2 and 3
- (C) 2 and 4
- (D) 3 and 4

20.

Which of the following statements best sums up the information in the text?

- (A) In the UK, people are less diligent than in China, which is criticized by Elon Musk.
- (B) Even though people are more productive if they work fewer hours, they are also more often sick.
- (C) **A four-day working week makes employees more efficient but might not be available to everyone.**
- (D) Soon enough, everyone in the Western countries will only work four days a week.

2. Reading

Reading 2

Answer the following questions using **only** the information given in or implied by the text.

21.

Diplodocus was undoubtedly one of the longest dinosaurs that ever lived on Earth. Its body could be over 30 meters long. It was slim, so it did not weigh more than two or three of today's elephants. It had a long whip-like tail and a bent snake-like neck with a surprisingly small head shaped like that of a horse.

Which of the following statements can be inferred from the text with certainty?

- (A) The basic mass unit used for dinosaurs is one elephant.
- (B) ***Diplodocus*'s head was surprisingly small.**
- (C) *Diplodocus* had a snake-like tail and a short neck.
- (D) *Diplodocus*'s tail could be over 30 meters long.

22.

We have been informed for several decades now that smoking tobacco products is very harmful to our health: for instance, the use of cigarettes increases the risk of developing lung cancer. Yet, more than 25% of inhabitants of the Czech Republic over 15 years of age smoke cigarettes every day.

Which of the following statements can be inferred from the text with certainty?

- (A) At 15 years old, 25% of teenagers smoke.
- (B) More than 25% of inhabitants of the Czech Republic develop lung cancer in their lifetime.
- (C) **More than 25% of inhabitants of the Czech Republic over 15 years of age have an increased risk of lung cancer development.**
- (D) Information about the harmfulness of cigarettes has been available on cigarette packets for decades.

23.

The accumulation of organic matter in primordial oceans may have led to the condensation of polymers – the basic components of the first living cells. Experiments in this direction, however, have so far failed to show a further path from these basic compounds to the simplest living cells capable of reproduction.

Which of the following statements can be inferred from the text with certainty?

- 1) The basic components of the first living cells may have originated in the primordial oceans.
 - 2) The simplest cells capable of reproduction originated in the primordial oceans by condensation.
 - 3) The only way to achieve the condensation of polymers is through the accumulation of organic matter.
- (A) **only 1**
 - (B) only 2
 - (C) 1 and 2
 - (D) 1 and 3

24.

Rubens was one of the leading figures of Catholic Europe in his time – he was fluent in French, German, Italian, Latin and Spanish. His refined manners and education made him perfectly suited to the position of ambassador and diplomat. Also a universally popular painter, he fulfilled his qualifications for these positions to the full.

Which of the following statements can be inferred from the text with certainty?

- (A) Catholic Europe valued learning as the highest virtue.
- (B) Rubens was a successful translator, ambassador, and painter in his time.
- (C) **For Rubens, success in the field of art was not mutually exclusive with diplomatic success.**
- (D) In Rubens's time, refined manners were necessary for artistic success.

25.

Among earth-sheltered homes, those located on a gentle, more or less south-facing slope are the cheapest and the simplest to build. The common and living rooms are usually designed to overlook the surrounding countryside and to get light and heat thanks to the frontage of the house facing south, while utility areas (laundry rooms, workroom, cellars) are located in the rear section of the building embedded in the slope. The embedding of the house may save a lot of energy.

Which of the following statements can be inferred from the text with certainty?

- (A) Only sunny southern slopes are suitable for the location of earth-sheltered homes.
- (B) The section of a house embedded in the slope is always the most energy-intensive part of the house.
- (C) **Embedding a part of the house in the slope may be favourable for energy saving.**
- (D) All earth-sheltered homes are surprisingly cheap and very simple to build.

26.

Nowadays, 17% of the total US income is divided among one per cent of the wealthiest American citizens. In the 1980s, the inequalities were much lower. Only slightly over 5% of the total US income was then divided among one per cent of the wealthiest American citizens.

Which of the following statements can be inferred from the text with certainty?

- (A) The average income of Americans excluding the one per cent of the richest has decreased compared to the 1980s.
- (B) 17% of the US population nowadays consider themselves wealthy, while in the 1980s it was only 5%.
- (C) The income of Americans belonging to the richest one per cent has increased by about 12% compared to the 1980s.
- (D) **Unlike in the 1980s, the wealthiest one percent of American citizens nowadays share as much as 17% of the total US income.**

3. Use of English

Multiple choice cloze

Fill in the numbered gaps in the following short texts with the most suitable word or phrase from the options offered.

QUESTIONS 27–33

Why ‘the voice of God’ got booted out of documentaries

At the 1990 Academy Awards, the nominations for the category “documentary” featured a surprising number of actors. Fast forward to this year’s ceremony and the actors had gone quiet. All the shortlisted films **(27)** one had no booming star narrator. In fact, they had no traditional narrators at all.

This could, of course, be a quirk of the Academy’s ever-changing preferences, or an anomalous year. But, says Dr Catalin Brylla, the traditional, authoritative “voice-of-God” documentary narrator has indeed become **(28)** species, as audiences have turned against their “pretentious objectivity” in favour of more personal accounts.

From the 1990s onwards, this led to a rise in personality-led documentaries, made by directors who would narrate their own films. But in recent years, even this form of narration seems to **(29)**.

The voiceover artist Mike Cooper **(30)** that the trend may well be cyclical. “For a while, it felt like there were voiceovers on everything, but if you go back further to some films from the 1960s and 70s, you’ll find out that they were made completely without voiceovers”. Either way, Cooper is sanguine about the fortunes of his profession, given that voiceovers on other formats aren’t **(31)**.

Lasse Barkfors believes what we’re seeing in documentaries may be a reaction to the intense individualism brought on by social media. “**(32)** the past two decades,” he says, “there’s been a lot of ‘me’.” The decline of narrators seems to suggest that documentary-makers are handing some of the power back to their audiences – presenting them with the evidence and the voices of those involved, **(33)** letting them find their own messages.

27.

- (A) only
- (B) of
- (C) **but**
- (D) even

28.

- (A) a voracious
- (B) **an endangered**
- (C) a common
- (D) a natural

29.

- (A) **be declining**
- (B) declined
- (C) had declined
- (D) declining

30.

- (A) turns out
- (B) messes up
- (C) **points out**
- (D) puts off

31.

- (A) disappeared
- (B) disappear
- (C) **about to disappear**
- (D) to disappearing

32.

- (A) Behind
- (B) On
- (C) **Over**
- (D) While

33.

- (A) **then**
- (B) than
- (C) which
- (D) that

3. Use of English

QUESTIONS 34–40

Second World War Bomb

Heatwaves sweeping Europe this summer **(34)** not just record high temperatures and scorched fields: the drought-stricken waters of Italy's river Po are running so low that they revealed a previously **(35)** Second World War bomb.

On Sunday, military experts carried out a controlled explosion of the 450-kg bomb, **(36)** was discovered on 25 July near the northern village of Borgo Virgilio, close to the city of Mantua in the country's north. The bomb was found by fishermen on the bank of the river Po **(37)** a decrease in water levels caused by drought.

About 3,000 people living nearby were evacuated for the disposal operation, the army said. The area's airspace was shut down, and navigation along that stretch of the waterway, as well as traffic on a railway line and state road nearby, were **(38)**. "At first, some of the inhabitants said they would not move, but in the last few days, we think we have persuaded everyone," said Borgo Virgilio's mayor, Francesco Aporti, adding that if people had refused to go, operations **(39)**.

Bomb disposal engineers removed the fuse from the US-manufactured device, which the army said **(40)** 240 kg of explosive. Then the bomb squad, escorted by police, transferred the device to a quarry about 45 km away, where it was destroyed.

34.

- (A) has brought
- (B) **have brought**
- (C) have been brought
- (D) has been brought

35.

- (A) empowered
- (B) **submerged**
- (C) embarked
- (D) subtracted

36.

- (A) while
- (B) who
- (C) what
- (D) **which**

37.

- (A) while
- (B) in order to
- (C) **due to**
- (D) because

38.

- (A) **halted**
- (B) detached
- (C) hauled
- (D) exposed

39.

- (A) had been postponed
- (B) would have postponed
- (C) **would have been postponed**
- (D) would postpone

40.

- (A) consisted
- (B) **contained**
- (C) convicted
- (D) complied

3. Use of English

Grammar and Vocabulary

Fill in the gaps in the following sentences with the most suitable word or phrase from the options offered.

41.

As he was leaving the football stadium, he was jostled by fans of the other team. It was unpleasant, but thankfully nothing more than that happened and he was unhurt.

In the context of the sentence above, the word “jostled” is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) kicked and punched
- (B) congratulated
- (C) **pushed around**
- (D) seen

42.

The sailors’ mutiny was swiftly quashed by naval authorities, leading to severe punishments for those involved.

In the context of the sentence above, the word “mutiny” is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) request
- (B) **rebellion**
- (C) laziness
- (D) blunder

43.

The invaders pillaged the village, looting homes and taking valuables by force.

In the context of the sentence above, the word “pillaged” is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) **plundered**
- (B) burned down
- (C) settled in
- (D) abandoned

44.

The email from management about the company’s future restructuring did nothing to assuage the employees’ fears of losing their jobs.

In the context of the sentence above, the word “assuage” is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) assure
- (B) remind
- (C) **lessen**
- (D) persuade

45.

The company’s financial woes and the plunge in share value has led the management to take a raft of measures to avoid bankruptcy.

In the context of the sentence above, the word “woes” is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) development
- (B) earnings
- (C) **troubles**
- (D) goals

46.

In the following sentence, the word “loose” must be replaced with the word “lose” for the sentence to make sense:

- _____
- (A) If I see any trespassers, I will *loose* the dogs on them.
 - (B) A bear has escaped the zoo and is now on the *loose* – please watch out for your pets.
 - (C) **The economic crisis has caused many people to *loose* their jobs.**
 - (D) The potatoes are sold *loose*, not in bags.

47.

It is not easy to be retired – I am not used _____ so much free time.

- (A) to have
- (B) **to having**
- (C) having
- (D) I have

48.

They went swimming _____ the fact that the sea was rough and their safety was at risk.

- (A) although
- (B) even if
- (C) thanks to
- (D) **in spite of**

49.

Not only _____ the keys at school, but she also lost her phone, so she had to wait for her parents to come home and let her in.

- (A) she might leave
- (B) she didn’t leave
- (C) she has left
- (D) **did she leave**

50.

If it _____ for my mum’s support, I would never have become a doctor.

- (A) **hadn’t been**
- (B) wouldn’t be
- (C) wouldn’t have been
- (D) hasn’t been

51.

With no other options left, he had to resort _____ his parents for help.

- (A) to ask
- (B) **to asking**
- (C) asking
- (D) and ask

52.

A 30-year-old man _____ to 5 years in prison for assault.

- (A) **has been sentenced**
- (B) was sentencing
- (C) has been sentencing
- (D) have been sentenced

3. Use of English

Word formation

Use the word in brackets at the end of each sentence to form a new word that fits the gap. Write only one word in each gap. **Please write neatly in capital letters. Illegible answers will be considered to be incorrect.**

Please note that only words listed in either Cambridge Dictionary (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>) or Oxford English Dictionary (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>) or Webster's Dictionary (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>), which are not marked as archaic or obsolete, will be accepted as correct answers.

Example: The Mona Lisa is one of the most _____ paintings in the world. (FAME)

F A M O U S

53.

I hope this car will **outlast** my previous one, which I only had for one year. (LAST)

54.

The article's title was intentionally **misleading**, drawing readers in with false promises. (LEAD)

55.

Street food in South Korea has **traditionally** been seen as part of the popular culture. (TRADITION)

56.

The witness was called to **testify** in court about what he had seen on the night of the incident. (TESTIMONY)

57.

It is often said that travel **broadens** your mind. (BROAD)

58.

An **assessment** of air quality conducted in Prague revealed surprising and unexpected results. (ASSESS)

59.

There is very little physical **resemblance** between the two brothers. (RESEMBLE)

60.

The sunset over the ocean created a **poetic, poetical** ambiance. (POETRY)

END OF THE TEST

Počkajte na pokyny administrátora. / Počkajte na pokyn administrátora.

Sources:

- Questions 1–6: adapted from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/vampires-europe-new-england-halloween-history>
- Questions 13–20: adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jun/10/unstoppable-four-day-week-could-be-within-reach-for-british-workers>
- Questions 27–33: adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2022/jul/13/struck-dumb-voice-of-god-booted-out-documentaries-ascension>
- Questions 34–40: adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/08/second-world-war-bomb-discovered-in-italys-dried-up-river-po>

