

# AJ

**Březen I / Marec I  
2025**

Počet účastníků: 1 761  
Čistá úspěšnost: 50,1 %  
Korig. úspěšnost: 50,5 %  
Hrubá úspěšnost: 58,2 %  
Průměrné skóre: 30,1  
Medián skóre: 31,7

Počet úloh: 60  
Max. možné skóre: 60,0  
Max. dosažené skóre: 60,0  
Min. možné skóre: -17,3  
Min. dosažené skóre: -7,0  
Směr. odchylka skóre: 15,7

# 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 Secret Life of Beatrix Potter

Listen to the recording about Beatrix Potter, a famous author of children's books.

1.

According to the recently found journals, Beatrix's behaviour in private can be best described as \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) reserved and appropriate
- (B) indifferent and calm
- (C) **outspoken and stubborn**
- (D) grim and bitter

2.

Why couldn't Beatrix Potter find a publisher for her book at first?

- (A) **Because she wanted the book to be sold at a cheap price.**
- (B) Because nobody believed the story would be interesting to children.
- (C) Because the book was too short.
- (D) Because the book was not illustrated.

3.

What happened in year 1902?

- (A) Beatrix self-published The Tale of Peter Rabbit.
- (B) Several publishers turned Beatrix down.
- (C) A publisher released an extended version of her book.
- (D) **A shortened version of Beatrix's book was published.**

4.

Buying a farm in the Lake District \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) was only carried out to please her family
- (B) was an act of honouring her late fiancé
- (C) **was an expression of autonomy for Beatrix**
- (D) put Beatrix and her family in debt

5.

The house that Beatrix bought \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) was unfortunately falling apart
- (B) was an inspiration for a storybook she wrote
- (C) **was located in a picturesque landscape**
- (D) was not typical for the English countryside

6.

After Beatrix's death \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) **a lot of her properties were passed on to a charity**
- (B) her shepherd moved into the Hill Top farm
- (C) 20% of her assets were inherited by the National Trust
- (D) her shepherd erected a tombstone in the garden of her house

# 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 a short extract about pineapples.

Pineapples \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) were once worn as crowns
- (B) were much sweeter in the 15th century than today
- (C) were successfully grown in Europe when first imported
- (D) **would often get spoiled when transported to Europe**

8.

You hear a short story about two men, Mr. Symmons and Mr. Combs.

What unusual thing happened in the story?

- (A) Mr. Symmons and Mr. Combs discovered a very rare owl species.
- (B) The two men moved in together due to a shared hobby.
- (C) The two men realised they shared the same garden.
- (D) **The two men were communicating together without being aware of it.**

9.

You hear someone describe the situation in Africa.

In Africa, \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) most people use community phones
- (B) 63% of people live in areas without paved roads
- (C) less than half of the population has access to tap water
- (D) **cell phone service is more common than a drainage system**

10.

You hear information about Vatican City.

According to the recording, which of the following statements is true?

- (A) All inhabitants of Vatican City are automatically assigned four kinds of passports.
- (B) People living in Vatican City must not have more than one passport.
- (C) All children born in Vatican City have lifelong citizenship.
- (D) **One kind of passport that a resident of Vatican City may have is a diplomatic one.**

11.

You hear someone talk about Winnie the lamb.

According to the recording, which of the following statements is true?

- (A) Winnie has rejoined the rest of her flock in Suffolk.
- (B) Winnie's back legs suddenly stopped working while she was grazing near a church.
- (C) A charity managed to cure Winnie's spinal abscess so her legs started working again.
- (D) **Winnie was supplied with a walking frame with wheels.**

12.

You hear information about the origins of alcohol.

According to the recording, which of the following statements is true?

- (A) The first farmers were drinking alcohol on a daily basis.
- (B) The very first alcohol was made as a by-product when making bread.
- (C) **The oldest traces of alcohol were found in a container meant for drinking.**
- (D) Until about 9,000 years ago, alcohol was only prepared in China.

## 2. Reading

### Reading 1

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

#### QUESTIONS 13–23

#### Do life hacks work? The truth is, we'll never know

“Want to lose weight? Buy smaller plates.” “Mindfulness at work: a superpower to boost productivity.” “Leaving Facebook can make you happier.” That’s what headlines would have you believe. But do any of these life hacks work? The truth is, we don’t know. And, in a very real sense, we can’t ever know, because of limitations that are inherent in the design of the relevant experiments – not just those on weight loss, mindfulness or social media, but just about all experiments in what we might call “lifestyle science”. That, at least, is the implication of a new study by psychologist Nicholas Coles. We’ll get to his work in a minute, but first let’s go back to the German city of Mannheim in 1988.

It was here that psychologist Fritz Strack conducted a study that has since become a staple of psychology textbooks. In the experiment, half the participants were asked to hold a pen in their teeth (which forced their mouth into a smile) and half in their lips (which forced their mouth into a neutral pout) while they viewed a selection of cartoon strips. **(A)** Sure enough, the participants who were smiling when they saw the cartoons rated themselves as more amused than the participants who were pulling a neutral expression. Strack seemed to have shown that our facial expressions determine our moods, rather than vice versa.

For the next couple of decades, Strack’s findings stood unchallenged. That is until 2011, when psychology hit its “replication crisis”. **(B)** This is when psychologists started worrying about how many of the long-established findings would hold up to the scrutiny of replication – in other words, if we did the same experiment again, would we get the same result? The replication crisis wasn’t kind to Strack’s study (and many, many others). Two large-scale replication studies – one in 2016 and one in 2022 – found that the mood boost from holding a pen between your teeth was, at best, infinitesimally small. **(C)** Once we begin digging deeper, though, the findings of the 2022 study start to cast light on issues beyond mere “replication”: the research team found that the happiness boost from “smiling” was bigger for those participants who had correctly figured out the hypothesis that was being tested.

Psychology researchers have long known that participants will often guess the experimenter’s hypothesis and behave in a way that supports it. **(D)** What has been unclear, however, is why this happens. This is exactly what Coles set out to investigate in his latest study and it turned out that participants’ behaviour in experiments is primarily shaped by their beliefs – not by their motivation to help the experimenter. Coles’ findings were clear: the results of psychology experiments are predicted by how much the participants personally believe in the claim being tested.

Let’s say, for example, we want to know whether mindfulness meditation really makes us more productive at work. We run a study, and sure enough, our participants show higher productivity after doing the mindfulness course than before. But according to Coles’ study, it is impossible to determine to what extent it was the mindfulness course that helped, and to what extent the participants’ belief that the mindfulness course would help simply made them work harder. The problem unearthed by Coles’s study is that we can never know how much of the observed results are only due to participants’ beliefs. There is a silver lining, though. Given the power of our prior beliefs, the usefulness of any particular life hack in and of itself is often irrelevant: if you truly believe that something works, then, for you at least, it will.

13.

The word “staple” in the second paragraph of the text is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) summary
- (B) important part**
- (C) innovation
- (D) main controversy

14.

The expression “silver lining” in the last paragraph of the text is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) a downside
- (B) a dispute
- (C) a positive side**
- (D) the final conclusion

15.

Strack’s experiment involved \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) making all the participants laugh by showing them a selection of cartoon strips
- (B) making the participants create a comic strip with a pen either inserted between their teeth or held in their lips
- (C) presenting the participants with cartoons while forcing their face into a specific expression**
- (D) making the participants assess their own mood prior to the beginning of the experiment

## 2. Reading

16.

The central question of the replication crisis is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) how many of the long-established findings have in fact been deliberately manipulated
- (B) **whether established research findings can be reliably reproduced**
- (C) how many replications psychologists usually make when conducting an experiment
- (D) whether the methodology of Strack's study was correct

17.

The findings of Strack's experiment \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) have so far been standing unchallenged
- (B) were shown to have been intentionally falsified
- (C) **failed to be reliably reproduced**
- (D) have been removed from psychology textbooks

18.

The study conducted in 2016 found that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) people who force their mouth into a smile consequently find cartoons much more fun
- (B) **the effects of forcing your mouth into a smile on your mood are negligible**
- (C) most experiments in the field of psychology cannot be successfully replicated
- (D) the results of a study depend on whether the participants believe in the hypothesis which is being tested

19.

According to Coles, the outcomes of psychology studies are influenced \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) above all by the level of the participants' motivation to help the experimenter
- (B) by the ability of the participants to follow the experimenter's instructions to the letter
- (C) by whether or not the experiment has already been successfully replicated
- (D) **by the degree of personal conviction the participants hold towards the hypothesis being tested**

20.

Which of the following statements about the relationship between the mindfulness course and the boost in productivity is true, according to the text?

- (A) The mindfulness course itself boosts productivity more than the participants' belief in its efficacy.
- (B) **It is impossible to determine how much of the boost in productivity is attributable to the mindfulness course itself and how much to the participants' belief in its efficacy.**
- (C) The boost in productivity is, in fact, solely determined by the real efficacy of the mindfulness course itself.
- (D) The boost in productivity is, in fact, solely determined by the participants' belief in the efficacy of the mindfulness course.

21.

Which two of the following are listed in the text as examples of life hacks?

- 1) Switching to smaller plates can help you slim down.
- 2) Embracing Facebook can lead to happiness.
- 3) Practicing mindfulness can enhance your productivity.
- 4) Being productive at work can make you more mindful.

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

22.

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

*To be exact, with happiness measured on a seven-point scale, the increase shown by the pen-in-teeth participants worked out at 0.04 – effectively zero.*

Where would the sentence best fit?

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

23.

Which of the following statements best sums up the text?

- (A) **It is impossible to determine if life hacks truly work because the relevant studies are affected by the level of participants' belief in the efficacy of the life hack.**
- (B) The replication crisis in psychology has, above all, shown that most life hacks do not truly work.
- (C) Participants of psychology experiments usually correctly guess the hypothesis being tested, which makes the results of such studies invalid.
- (D) Unfortunately, the experiment conducted by Fritz Strack did not withstand the scrutiny of replication.

## 2. Reading

### Reading 2

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

24.

In antiquity, land was mostly private and its ownership was associated with civil rights (in ancient Athens, for example, only landowners had the right to vote), or with advantages when paying taxes. Land was inherited and could be traded, but this was not done much – because of the link to other rights, it was not exactly a standard commodity. The economic independence of landowners was linked to political freedom; it is no coincidence that in Sparta, in contrast to Athens, land ownership was, with perhaps a few exceptions, collective.

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

- (A) In antiquity, land could only be owned by those who had full civil rights and paid taxes.
- (B) In ancient Athens, people who didn't own land didn't have the right to vote.**
- (C) In ancient Sparta, land was traded more often than in ancient Athens.
- (D) Land was the most commonly traded commodity in ancient Athens next to gold and olives.

25.

Due to Idi Amin's regime, Uganda remained relatively isolated for many years. It is only recently that tourists have started to go there. However, the annual number of visitors to Uganda's huge Rwenzori National Park, for example, is smaller than the number of tourists on Kilimanjaro in a single day.

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

- 1) The influx of tourists into Uganda only began with the rise of the ruler Idi Amin.
  - 2) Almost the entire area of Uganda is covered by the Rwenzori National Park.
  - 3) Most tourists visiting Uganda go there to visit the Rwenzori National Park.
- (A) none
  - (B) only 1
  - (C) only 2
  - (D) only 3

26.

A person's musical talent is manifested by an unusual enlargement of certain areas of the cerebral cortex. This applies, for example, to the *planum temporale*, an auditory part of the cerebral cortex located in the left hemisphere, which tends to be enlarged in individuals with absolute pitch.

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

- 1) People with absolute pitch tend to have an enlarged *planum temporale*.
- 2) The cerebral cortex contains an auditory part.
- 3) Musically gifted people have larger brains overall.

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

27.

The American basketball team played eight games at the 1992 Olympics and won all of them easily. They averaged 117 points per game and only in one game did they have fewer than 110 points. The team did not take a single timeout during the entire tournament. The only team that could offer some resistance were the Croatians, but they lost twice.

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

- (A) The Croatians finished second at the 1992 Olympics.
- (B) Each team played eight games in the basketball tournament at the 1992 Olympics.
- (C) In each basketball game, a team can take just one timeout.
- (D) At the 1992 Olympics, the American basketball team scored more than 117 points in at least one game.**

### 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 28–35

##### Lioness seen in Berlin

Last week, residents on the south-western outskirts of Berlin were urged to stay indoors after overnight sightings of a “dangerous animal”, suspected to be an escaped lioness. Brandenburg police advised people living in the nearby districts to (28) from walking in the woods and to keep pets or farm animals indoors.

Authorities used helicopters, drones and thermal imaging cameras to track (29) the big cat, which police believed was resting in a wooded area. A veterinarian and two armed hunters were on site and under orders to either stun the animal or shoot it (30).

The Brandenburg police spokesperson, Daniel Kiep, said, “Around midnight two passers-by spotted one animal chasing after another. One was a wild boar and the other appeared to be a big cat – a lion. The two men recorded a video on their phones and it has been confirmed that we are probably dealing with a lion.” Police said at a press conference that two officers had seen the animal in two separate (31) overnight, but that there had been no further (32) since.

Fire services in Brandenburg said the large animal was (33) a lioness. However, the director of a circus in the Teltow area told local media he was not aware of any lions (34) in circuses or private zoos in the area and said the animal could be a misidentified Caucasian shepherd dog. Police said they had not been informed of any lion escape in the area. Berlin’s two zoos both confirmed that they weren’t missing any animals from their enclosures.

One day later, German officials called off their search for a suspected lioness after finding no evidence of a big cat on the (35) in Berlin’s suburbs. They now believe the creature was a dog.

28.

- (A) remove
- (B) avoid
- (C) **refrain**
- (D) stop

29.

- (A) for
- (B) **down**
- (C) by
- (D) up

30.

- (A) to dead
- (B) die
- (C) deadly
- (D) **dead**

31.

- (A) inhibitions
- (B) **instances**
- (C) inclusions
- (D) inferences

32.

- (A) lookouts
- (B) **sightings**
- (C) outlooks
- (D) visions

33.

- (A) **presumably**
- (B) responsively
- (C) respectively
- (D) pre-eminently

34.

- (A) be held
- (B) **being held**
- (C) been held
- (D) having held

35.

- (A) loss
- (B) leash
- (C) escape
- (D) **loose**

### 3. Use of English

#### QUESTIONS 36–43

##### Europe's heatwaves: warnings from Hades

The weather map of southern Europe remains a deep, sinister red, as the heat (36) above 40°C in most places and closer to 50°C in Sicily and Sardinia. June was the hottest month recorded on Earth for 120,000 years. Extreme heat, wildfires and floods are (37) parts of the US, Canada, Japan, South Korea, India and China.

Global warming is not the sole explanation for the hellish impact of Cerberus and Charon, the heatwaves named after mythical denizens of Hades. Like in 2016 – the hottest year ever recorded – the emerging El Niño, a climate event marked by Pacific Ocean warming and extreme weather, is pushing temperatures higher this summer. Each time this phenomenon occurs, typically (38) 0.2°C to the average global temperature, it heats up a planet that is already warmer than before.

The hotter the Earth gets, (39) the danger of feedback loops and unanticipated events. With Cerberus, we have entered, according to the World Meteorological Organization, “uncharted territory”. Loss of life, mass migration and crop losses as a result of extreme weather are already a stark new reality. Worse is almost certainly (40).

But (41) with these colossal and immediate challenges, European politics is showing alarming signs of inaction. Last week, a core piece of the European Union's green deal was only passed (42) the narrowest of margins, after being heavily watered down.

Cerberus and Charon are searing reminders that the climate emergency cannot be (43) on hold as other crises are addressed. Europe is heating up faster than any other continent, but its politics is not keeping pace.

36.

- (A) sinks
- (B) **soars**
- (C) scores
- (D) fastens

37.

- (A) repairing
- (B) racing
- (C) radiating
- (D) **ravaging**

38.

- (A) could add
- (B) adds
- (C) **adding**
- (D) added

39.

- (A) great
- (B) is greater
- (C) **the greater**
- (D) much greater

40.

- (A) come
- (B) comes
- (C) having come
- (D) **to come**

41.

- (A) facing
- (B) be faced
- (C) have faced
- (D) **faced**

42.

- (A) of
- (B) in
- (C) under
- (D) **by**

43.

- (A) seen
- (B) **put**
- (C) given
- (D) made



### 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.

44.

With further technological changes, many traditional skills may become obsolete as automation and AI transform job requirements.

In the context of the sentence above, the word “obsolete” is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) unique
- (B) sought after
- (C) **outdated**
- (D) confusing

45.

The advertisement for the miracle weight loss product was misleading, as it promised instant results without any effort, targeting vulnerable individuals who seek quick and easy solutions.

In the context of the sentence above, the word “misleading” is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) **deceptive**
- (B) incomprehensible
- (C) overrated
- (D) accurate

46.

When I moved to Munich, I knew \_\_\_\_\_ there, so I felt quite isolated initially.

- (A) hardly someone
- (B) hardly no one
- (C) **hardly anyone**
- (D) hardly none

47.

I eat too many sweets. I would like to \_\_\_\_\_ on them.

- (A) cut by
- (B) cut off
- (C) cut in
- (D) **cut down**

48.

If you toss a coin repeatedly, it should land heads and \_\_\_\_\_ about an equal number of times.

- (A) eagles
- (B) toes
- (C) **tails**
- (D) tales

49.

The wind has been howling \_\_\_\_\_ the storm began.

- (A) **since**
- (B) when
- (C) while
- (D) before

50.

Hemingway is considered \_\_\_\_\_ the greatest writer of the twentieth century.

- (A) he had been
- (B) being
- (C) **to have been**
- (D) he was

51.

– Would you mind if I smoked here?

– I’d rather \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) you won’t
- (B) you not
- (C) **you didn’t**
- (D) you don’t

52.

Not only \_\_\_\_\_ the text, but she also created the illustrations.

- (A) **did she write**
- (B) she wrote
- (C) writing
- (D) she did write

### 3. Use of English

#### Word formation

Use the word in brackets at the end of the sentence to form a new word (different from the word provided) 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://en.oxforddictionaries.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.

Sarah received a very **mysterious** package, with no return address and a cryptic note inside. (MYSTERY)

54.

She **eagerly** opened the gift, curious to see what was inside. (EAGER)

55.

The hairdresser used a flat iron to **straighten** her client's curly hair. (STRAIGHT)

56.

Despite the challenges, she remained **faithful** to her principles. (FAITH)

57.

The book's final chapter contained a shocking **revelation**, **revelment** that changed the entire story. (REVEAL)

58.

He was the worst teacher I have ever had the **misfortune** to meet, a source of endless frustration and despair. (FORTUNE)

59.

The benefits of regular exercise usually far **outweigh** the temporary discomfort and promote overall well-being. (WEIGH)

60.

Only one **applicant** responded to the recently listed position of office manager, and he doesn't look very competent. (APPLY)

#### END OF THE TEST

Počkejte na pokyn administrátora. / Počkajte na pokyn administrátora.

## Sources:

- Questions 1–6: adapted from [www.newyorker.com/news/letter-from-the-uk/the-secret-life-of-beatrix-potter](http://www.newyorker.com/news/letter-from-the-uk/the-secret-life-of-beatrix-potter)
- Questions 13–23: adapted from [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)
- Questions 28–35: adapted from [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)
- Questions 36–43: adapted from [www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jul/18/the-guardian-view-on-europes-heatwaves-warnings-from-hades](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jul/18/the-guardian-view-on-europes-heatwaves-warnings-from-hades)

