

AJ

**Březen / Marec
2024**

Počet účastníků: 1 630
Čistá úspěšnost: 53,0 %
Korig. úspěšnost: 53,7 %
Hrubá úspěšnost: 60,5 %
Průměrné skóre: 31,8
Medián skóre: 33,7

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

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

Why small tasks feel so therapeutic

1.

Doing household chores often makes the speaker feel _____.

- (A) full of hedonism
- (B) content and pleased**
- (C) bored and repetitive
- (D) depressed and uncomfortable

2.

The speaker mentions that sometimes, the most relaxing activity of the day is _____.

- (A) finishing work before the deadline
- (B) tidying up the workplace**
- (C) playing old records
- (D) making dots on paper

3.

During the pandemic, people took an interest in looking after their homes _____.

- (A) to ease their feelings of uncertainty**
- (B) because they felt pressured by YouTube videos
- (C) to make their living places more hygienic
- (D) because they had too much spare time

4.

Puttering may be useful because _____.

- (A) it is superficial
- (B) it keeps our mind busy**
- (C) it makes us practise structured forms of meditation
- (D) it helps us devote fewer resources to household tasks

5.

The mental health benefits of washing the dishes were _____.

- (A) the subject of a vast range of studies
- (B) studied using two groups of participants**
- (C) disproved by a group of university researchers
- (D) studied by 51 researchers at Florida State University

6.

In the study conducted by researchers at Florida State University _____.

- (A) the two groups read a different text**
- (B) both groups read an identical text but then took a different questionnaire
- (C) the two groups read the same text but only one group washed the dishes
- (D) both groups were instructed to focus on the sensations that washing the dishes produces

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 piece of information about a unique garden.

This garden _____.

- (A) is the largest vegetable garden in Canada
- (B) is famous for the tomatoes that are the only of its kind
- (C) supplies grocery stores all across Canada
- (D) **was a possible obstacle turned into an opportunity**

8.

You hear information about a strange exhibit displayed in Queensland Museum.

The exhibit shows _____.

- (A) **amphibians set up like convicts**
- (B) live animals native to South and Central America
- (C) toads holding canes to punish convicts
- (D) cane toads killed by a car

9.

You hear news from Saudi Arabia about a camel beauty pageant.

Some of the camels _____.

- (A) were disqualified because their breeders had received Botox injections
- (B) **were ruled out of the competition due to alleged cosmetic alterations**
- (C) had been paid to advertise Botox injections, facelifts and other cosmetic procedures
- (D) were disqualified for not having undergone any cosmetic procedure to prepare for the competition

10.

You hear someone talk about the cochineal – a small insect.

The cochineal _____.

- (A) was used by the people of Central America as a defence against ants
- (B) was used by Spanish invaders to make red dyes in Europe more muted
- (C) feeds on the bright red sap of the prickly pear cactus
- (D) **was used by the people of Central America to dye their textiles bright red**

11.

You hear a person presenting their life hack.

According to the speaker, _____.

- (A) **even a small contribution to reach her goal counts**
- (B) taking deep breaths for ten minutes can help
- (C) only dishes, laundry and cleaning the living room matter when at home
- (D) cleaning progress should be written down every day

12.

You hear a piece of news about OpenStax, Rice University's educational technology initiative.

OpenStax _____.

- (A) provides students with over 14 million books
- (B) has made one billion dollars by publishing its own books
- (C) **has been sponsored by a number of institutions**
- (D) is organizing protests against high prices of textbooks

2. Reading

Reading 1

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

QUESTIONS 13–20

The chemical imbalance theory of depression

The chemical imbalance theory of depression is well and truly dead. A paper by Joanna Moncrieff and colleagues has caused a splash. The paper provides a review of other systematic reviews and meta-analyses that confirm there is no evidence to support the idea that depression is caused by disturbance of the brain's serotonin system – in other words, by a chemical imbalance. **(A)**

But the death of the chemical imbalance theory has no bearing on whether antidepressants that affect the serotonin system are effective. These medications weren't developed on this premise. In fact quite the opposite is true – the chemical imbalance theory was based on an emerging understanding of how antidepressants were shown to work.

The first two antidepressant medications, both discovered in the 1950s, were observed to help people with depression as a side-effect of their hoped-for functions. Iproniazid was developed as a treatment for tuberculosis, and imipramine as an antihistamine. Since both were shown to increase brain levels of serotonin, it was concluded that depression must be caused by low levels of serotonin. Researchers set out to demonstrate this in patients with depression, but most of these studies suffered from selectively reported results and from having an insufficient number of study subjects. **(B)** In short, the findings were unreliable, and since then larger studies and meta-analyses made it clear the hypothesis wasn't supported.

Few psychiatrists believed the chemical imbalance theory. It never fitted with the way they could see that antidepressants worked, with serotonin function changing hours after taking the medication but depression not showing improvement for about four weeks.

The new paper by Moncrieff and colleagues, while not saying anything new, does us all a favour by reiterating the message that has been clear for some time: there is no evidence to support the chemical imbalance theory. Their message has been amplified by the widespread media attention the article has received. Many people claim that the study undermines the effectiveness of antidepressants. **(C)** This claim is not correct and shows a misunderstanding of how medical science works. Medicine is pragmatic. It has often established that a treatment works well before it has understood how it works.

The evidence that antidepressants which affect the serotonin system are effective in treating depression is convincing to most reasonable assessors. They are not effective for as many people with depression as we might hope, but they are, overall, more effective than placebo treatments.

In truth, we still don't really know how or why antidepressants work. The brain is a complex organ. **(D)** But – we still don't have a clear idea about how general anaesthetics work either. Still, few people would refuse an anaesthetic when contemplating serious surgery on this basis. So, when contemplating whether an antidepressant might be an option for someone with depression, it is of little consequence that its mechanism of action is incompletely understood.

13.

Why did people in the 1950s think that depression must be caused by low levels of serotonin in the brain?

- (A)** Because several reliable studies have conclusively demonstrated this is the case and most psychiatrists believed it too.
- (B)** Because most people back then would take serotonin supplements and reported they were feeling better.
- (C)** Because those antidepressants which did not contain serotonin were shown to be ineffective.
- (D)** Because the first two antidepressant medications were shown to increase the level of serotonin in the brain.

14.

What has made psychiatrists doubt the theory that depression is caused by disturbance of the brain's serotonin system?

- (A)** That those antidepressants which affect the brain's levels of serotonin are about as effective as a placebo treatment.
- (B)** That after the ingestion of antidepressants, it takes weeks for the brain's levels of serotonin to change.
- (C)** That patients with depression who take serotonin supplements usually experience a worsening of symptoms.
- (D)** That there is a considerable lapse of time between the induced change in serotonin function and the alleviation of depression symptoms.

15.

The paper by Joanna Moncrieff received _____.

- (A)** hardly any mention in the media
- (B)** widespread criticism by most scientific journals
- (C)** extensive media coverage
- (D)** unparalleled praise in the medical community

2. Reading

16.

What does the text say about general anaesthetics?

- (A) Unlike with antidepressants, we fully understand the way they work.
- (B) They were discovered by chance when treating patients with tuberculosis.
- (C) They work on the principle of disrupting the chemical balance of the brain, but we don't know how exactly.
- (D) **Just like antidepressants, they are based on a mechanism of action which is not entirely understood.**

17.

According to the text, which two of the following statements about antidepressants are true?

- 1) Antidepressants in fact do not increase the level of serotonin in the brain.
 - 2) Antidepressants have been shown to be ineffective in most people with depression.
 - 3) The mechanism of action of antidepressants when treating depression is not entirely clear.
 - 4) In people with depression, placebo treatment has been found to be less effective than antidepressants which affect the serotonin system.
- (A) 1 and 3
 - (B) 1 and 4
 - (C) 2 and 3
 - (D) **3 and 4**

18.

The word "emerging" in the second paragraph of the text is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) fading
- (B) scientific
- (C) **growing**
- (D) surprising

19.

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

Even though many experts had already known this to be the case, these researchers have done us a favour by corraling the evidence.

Where would the sentence best fit?

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

20.

Which of the following options best summarizes the main message of the text?

- (A) Since it has been demonstrated that the long-held belief of depression being caused by chemical imbalance is false, doctors should stop prescribing antidepressants.
- (B) **Even though it has been concluded that depression is not caused by low levels of serotonin, antidepressants that affect the serotonin system may still be effective.**
- (C) Since antidepressants which increase brain levels of serotonin are quite effective, depression must be caused by low levels of serotonin in the brain.
- (D) The first antidepressants were in fact developed for other illnesses than depression and only treated depression as a side-effect.

2. Reading

Reading 2

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

21.

Education shall be based on the principles of

- a) equal access of all citizens to education without any discrimination based on race, colour, sex or nationality;
- b) considering the educational needs of an individual;
- c) mutual respect, deference, toleration of opinions, solidarity, and dignity of all parties involved in education (teachers, pupils, parents etc.).

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

- (A) Teachers are obliged to cater to all the needs of their pupils.
- (B) Education is based on equal opportunities for all pupils regardless of their educational achievements.
- (C) **One of the principles of education is that teachers and pupils respect each other.**
- (D) Principles of education are often not met.

22.

According to Mumford, an American philosopher, the invention of the watch was much more important for the Industrial Revolution than the invention of the steam engine. The ability to accurately measure time symbolised a sort of control over natural elements. It enabled the true building of civilization that only then could start. At the time, a watch wasn't available to everyone; some cost as much as a family house.

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

- (A) According to Mumford, the invention of the steam engine was not at all important for the Industrial Revolution.
- (B) The invention of the steam engine became a symbol of humanity's control of natural elements.
- (C) The invention of the watch preceded the invention of the steam engine.
- (D) **The ability to accurately measure time was important for the building of civilization.**

23.

A significant feature of Jack Daniel's American whiskey is its maturation in barrels. All Scotch and Irish whiskeys are aged in reusable barrels and are coloured with caramel colouring. But the Jack Daniel's distillery uses new barrels made from fresh American white oak. The insides of the barrels are seared with a fierce flame before being filled. As the whiskey is left to age in the barrels, warm periods alternate with cold ones, and the wood of the barrels expands and contracts.

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

- (A) Each whiskey is coloured and sweetened with caramel colouring.
- (B) **In the production of Irish whiskey, barrels can be used repeatedly.**
- (C) Whiskey causes the wood of the barrels to expand and contract.
- (D) Oak is the most suitable wood for making distillery barrels.

24.

The settlement of Puhoi experienced its greatest boom in the 1920s. During this period, a lot of the surrounding land was turned to cattle farms, so the settlement survived even the Great Depression in relative prosperity. Moreover, the settlement was by that time getting firmly embedded in New Zealand society. After completing primary school, many children were sent to Auckland for studies. The successful ones graduated from universities and started a professional career. Some of them married someone outside the community, bringing their families closer to ordinary New Zealanders.

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

- (A) **Cattle farming was flourishing in the vicinity of Puhoi in the 1920s.**
- (B) Children from Puhoi used to go to Auckland to primary school.
- (C) Until the 1920s, ordinary New Zealanders were not able to visit the settlement of Puhoi.
- (D) Cattle breeders and other farmers were not affected by the Great Depression at all.

2. Reading

25.

More than 18 billion kilometres from home, the space probe Voyager 1 has left the Solar System. If its instruments are correct, the probe will enter the interstellar space. The long lifespan of the probe that has been travelling through space for 35 years now was enabled by the isotope plutonium 238. Throughout the entire voyage, the nuclear decay triggered by the fission of plutonium nuclei creates heat that is converted into electricity needed for the probe's instruments. Experts believe that Voyager 1 will keep sending data for another 10 years.

Which of the following statements **cannot** be inferred from the text?

- (A) The space probe Voyager 1 was launched more than 30 years ago.
- (B) Plutonium can produce energy for decades.
- (C) **The Solar System is about 18 billion kilometres long from one side to the other.**
- (D) There is a technology that allows heat to be transformed into electricity.

26.

Fifty million years ago, there were primates the size of shrews, antelopes the size of rabbits and horses as small as dogs. Then, the incoming ice age made mammals grow larger. Large bodies were better suited to regulate their temperature and better adapted to migration.

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

- 1) It is not yet known what caused mammals to become larger.
- 2) Over the last 50 million years, animals have undergone the biggest evolutionary changes in history.
- 3) Over millions of years of evolution, the sizes of animal species remained the same.

- (A) **none**
- (B) only 3
- (C) 1 and 2
- (D) 1 and 3

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

Computer Bugs

You must have heard the term “computer bug” or “software bug” as it is (27) in IT parlance but where did the term actually come from? Although modern “bugs” have only existed (28) the invention of computers and software, the use of the term “bug” is much older indeed. The first recorded use of the term “bug”, with regards to an error or malfunction in a machine, comes from none other than Thomas Edison.

Techopedia defines “computer bug” as “an error, fault, or flaw in a computer program”. Most bugs occur due to mistakes made by developers when (29) the source code. Bugs may also occur due to errors within components and operating systems (30) by the programs in question. The term ‘buggy’ is often ascribed to programs that contain large numbers of bugs or bugs that seriously compound the software’s functionality.

Some bugs lead to issues with security and might, for example, enable a malicious user to bypass firewalls (31) obtain unauthorised access or privileges. But it should (32) that computer viruses are not bugs: computer viruses replicate, (33) bugs do not, as they are errors in code and do not tend to be transmitted from one computer to the next.

27.

- (A) ubiquitous
- (B) pending
- (C) insignificant
- (D) unconfirmed

28.

- (A) before
- (B) without
- (C) till
- (D) since

29.

- (A) constructed
- (B) being constructed
- (C) are constructing
- (D) constructing

30.

- (A) are used
- (B) used
- (C) be used
- (D) using

31.

- (A) in order to
- (B) due to
- (C) except for
- (D) so that

32.

- (A) notes
- (B) be noted
- (C) note
- (D) be noting

33.

- (A) when
- (B) if
- (C) despite
- (D) while

3. Use of English

QUESTIONS 34–40

Polar bears found thriving despite lack of sea ice offer hope for species

Polar bears have become the furry face of the climate crisis, with experts (34) the animals could be all but extinct in a (35) of decades as the Arctic sea ice they hunt from melts away.

But now researchers say they have found a group of them in south-east Greenland who are surviving (36) a lack of sea ice for much of the year. The team say the polar bears have clung on thanks to freshwater ice from glaciers that discharge into the sea.

Despite expectations of a decline (37) polar bear numbers in the Arctic, the discovery offers a glimmer of hope, because the conditions in south-east Greenland today are similar to those expected in the high Arctic towards the end of the century.

Dr Kristin Laidre and colleagues report their studies revealed the presence of two distinct groups isolated from other bear populations by landscape features (38) the mountainous terrain to the west, open water to the east and the lack of suitable habitat to the south.

At first (39), the conditions of south-east Greenland may seem an unlikely habitat for polar bears, as sea ice is present for less than a third of a year. But as glaciers move towards the ocean, the ice that breaks off can aggregate in front of the glacier, providing what Laidre calls a “floating landscape” from which they can hunt year-round.

It is not the first time polar bears (40) to move along glacial fronts, but the team say the newly identified group is unusual in that such features are essential for their survival.

34.

- (A) suggested
- (B) had suggested
- (C) **suggesting**
- (D) suggest

35.

- (A) many
- (B) **matter**
- (C) terms
- (D) few

36.

- (A) under
- (B) because
- (C) although
- (D) **despite**

37.

- (A) with
- (B) on
- (C) about
- (D) **in**

38.

- (A) such
- (B) that
- (C) **including**
- (D) on

39.

- (A) step
- (B) fact
- (C) watch
- (D) **glance**

40.

- (A) **have been found**
- (B) is found
- (C) were find
- (D) find

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.

The study revealed a significant disparity in healthcare access between rural and urban areas.

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

- (A) similarity
- (B) disruption
- (C) dispute
- (D) **inequality**

42.

It was a challenging hike, with steep climbs and treacherous terrain; nonetheless, they persisted and reached the summit.

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

- (A) moreover
- (B) consequently
- (C) surprisingly
- (D) **however**

43.

Birds in the dry zones usually breed in response to rainfall, with more offspring produced during years with higher rainfall.

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

- (A) hide
- (B) migrate
- (C) **reproduce**
- (D) hunt

44.

Planting trees around the neighbourhood can help mitigate the effects of air pollution.

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

- (A) monitor
- (B) **alleviate**
- (C) deteriorate
- (D) maintain

45.

Several newspapers made allegations of fraud and corruption at the local council.

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

- (A) **accusations**
- (B) alterations
- (C) contradictions
- (D) aspirations

46.

Anne arranged her books on the shelf by genre _____ find them easily.

- (A) so that
- (B) for the purpose of
- (C) **so as to**
- (D) so

47.

Before he became a writer, he _____ long hours in a factory to support his family.

- (A) has worked
- (B) will have worked
- (C) **would work**
- (D) was used to work

48.

– Have you been to the hairdresser?

– Yes, I have just _____.

- (A) been cut my hair
- (B) **had my hair cut**
- (C) my hair cutting
- (D) got cut my hair

49.

I ? to move to a different city and start a new life.

The sentence above would be grammatically **incorrect** if we replaced the question mark with the verb _____.

- (A) decided
- (B) yearned
- (C) **postponed**
- (D) refused

50.

She filed a formal complaint because she felt her colleague’s sarcastic remarks were completely out of _____.

- (A) head
- (B) offence
- (C) spot
- (D) **line**

51.

You are saying he has finished the assignment already? That’s unbelievable. He _____ on it all night!

- (A) must to work
- (B) **must have been working**
- (C) must had been working
- (D) must worked

52.

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

- (A) Athletes often *peak* in their physical abilities during their twenties.
- (B) We planned our trip during the *peak* season when the city is most vibrant.
- (C) The mountain *peak* was covered in snow.
- (D) **Before starting to read the book, he took a *peak* at the last page.**

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.

When the crime happened in the office, the **suspect** was supposedly at home, waiting for pizza delivery. (SUSPICION)

54.

He does not want to believe he is seriously ill – he is in **denial**. (DENY)

55.

Jane decided to **submit** her contest entry even though she wasn't particularly satisfied with it. (SUBMISSION)

56.

India is getting **increasingly** urbanised, with one third of the total population living in cities. (INCREASE)

57.

The teacher has **silenced** the noisy classroom by raising her hand. (SILENT)

58.

If you want to **unleash** your full potential, you must believe in yourself and never be afraid to take risks. (LEASH)

59.

The queen ruled the **kingdom** with fairness and kindness. (KING)

60.

Mary was a **studious** child who spent all her free time reading. (STUDY)

END OF THE TEST

Počkejte na pokyny administrátora. / Počkajte na pokyn administrátora.

Sources:

- Questions 1–6: adapted from <https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20220323-puttering-around-why-small-tasks-feel-so-therapeutic>
- Questions 13–20: adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com>
- Questions 27–33: adapted from <https://interestingengineering.com/the-origin-of-the-term-computer-bug>
- Questions 34–40: adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/16/polar-bears-found-thriving-greenland-despite-lack-of-sea-ice-offer-hope-for-species>

