

AJ

**Květen I / Máj I
2024**

Počet účastníků: 2066
Čistá úspěšnost: 43,4 %
Korig. úspěšnost: 43,8 %
Hrubá úspěšnost: 52,7 %
Průměrné skóre: 26,0
Medián skóre: 25,7

Počet úloh: 60
Max. možné skóre: 60,0
Max. dosažené skóre: 60,0
Min. možné skóre: -17,3
Min. dosažené skóre: -12,0
Směr. odchylka skóre: 16,6

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

What Conspiracy Theorists Say about The Large Hadron Collider (LHC)

1.

The Large Hadron Collider was shut down _____ prior to being turned on again.

- (A) due to rusty components
- (B) to undergo upkeep**
- (C) due to a three-year warranty
- (D) due to a change in management

2.

What is true about the Higgs boson, according to the recording?

- (A) It is another name for the dark matter.
- (B) It has acquired its name after a person involved in particle research.**
- (C) It is an acronym of the names of five scientists.
- (D) It is a particle that gains a lot of mass from its surroundings quickly.

3.

This year the conspiracy theorists have claimed that _____.

- (A) Doctor Strange is a real-life figure working in CERN
- (B) the centre of the Earth will be relocated
- (C) a gate to a parallel dimension could be opened**
- (D) a dimension where everyone goes mad is about to be discovered

4.

Has the LHC proven the existence of other dimensions so far?

- (A) Yes, there has been one case recorded.
- (B) No, it has not, but theoretically it could.**
- (C) No, in fact, it has proven there are no other dimensions.
- (D) No, it cannot possibly prove or disprove the existence of other dimensions.

5.

What would be a piece of evidence for the existence of other dimensions, according to the recording?

- (A) the detection of dark matter
- (B) a particle of an unknown element
- (C) a recording containing a comprehensible message
- (D) the presence of an altered form of known particles**

6.

Should the LHC create black holes, they _____.

- (A) would not be visible at all, not even with a microscope
- (B) could destroy the planet Earth
- (C) could cause a collapse of the LHC
- (D) would not be of a permanent nature**

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 news about the Hangzhou zoo in China's Zhejiang province.

The zoo _____.

- (A) saw the visitor numbers plummet after accusations of one of their animals being fake
- (B) tried to conceal the fact that one of their bears is a disguised staff member named Angela
- (C) **refuted the rumours that their bear is actually a human dressed up in a bear suit**
- (D) admitted that they made one of the staff members impersonate a bear

8.

You hear information about the history of aviation.

Which of the following statements is true?

- (A) Hot-air balloons were first launched into the sky in 1903.
- (B) The first recorded manned flight of a hot-air balloon took place in 1794.
- (C) **Soon after the first manned flight of a hot-air balloon, the balloons became commonplace.**
- (D) It is a common misconception that it was the Wright brothers who orchestrated the first flight of a hot-air balloon.

9.

You hear about a strange criminal case that happened in Basel in 1474.

What happened?

- (A) A person was burned alive for performing witchcraft that involved a chicken.
- (B) **A rooster was sentenced to death over a witchcraft allegation.**
- (C) An immense crowd of townsmen and peasants protested against killing a rooster.
- (D) A medieval lawyer refused to represent a chicken that was subsequently executed.

10.

You hear someone talking about the "doiri" ritual, recently completed by Kogen Kamahori.

What does completing the ritual involve?

- (A) proving the ability to use a flaming sword
- (B) **forgoing food and drinks**
- (C) proving you can speak with the Buddhist deity Acala
- (D) promising 100,000 times that you will protect the faithful

11.

You hear about an interesting project in China.

Chinese scientists are watching animals at zoos to _____.

- (A) learn more about the group dynamics of birds
- (B) verify if animals can detect the presence of groundwater
- (C) **predict that an earthquake may strike**
- (D) identify unusual chicken individuals for further experiments

12.

You hear news about a fish spotted in the streets of Florida.

The former director of the Florida Museum of Natural History said that _____.

- (A) it is impossible to determine whether the fish was a shark
- (B) the fish was most likely a full-grown shark
- (C) **the fish seemed to be a young shark**
- (D) the story about the fish was but a juvenile hoax

2. Reading

Reading 1

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

QUESTIONS 13–20

Life's happiness curve

"I hope I die before I get old," wrote the musician Pete Townshend in 1965, neatly encapsulating our culture's veneration of youth – and disdain for those benighted souls who no longer possess it. **(A)** The 20-year-old Townshend was to be disappointed: last month he turned 70. But over the decades he may have revised his views on the grimness of growing old, because evidence suggests the ageing process isn't necessarily a steady descent into misery. **(B)**

This isn't to say that the idea of the mid-life crisis has had its day. In general, people seem to begin their lives with a high degree of contentment. From the age of around 18 we become gradually less happy, reaching a nadir in our 40s. A study has shown that over the 30 years from teen to middle age, life happiness scores dip by an average of around 5-10%.

However, the happiness curve is U-shaped. As we enter our 50s, our levels of contentment take off again and keep rising. **(C)** So, when we're in our 60s, it's likely that we have never have been happier. (The upward trend doesn't continue indefinitely, though: unsurprisingly, levels of happiness usually dip in the last couple of years of life.) We are, of course, talking averages here – broad statistical trends. Nevertheless, it's a pattern that's been detected in many large-scale studies.

The U-shaped curve is seen in both sexes, though men tend to be happier than women (albeit women smile more). **(D)** And, would you believe, researchers have even claimed to have detected it in great apes. A study of 500 chimpanzees and orangutans rated for happiness by their zoo keepers indicated a primate mid-life crisis at around the age of 30 – a finding that led to speculation that some (as yet unidentified) age-related biological influence is at work.

The U-shaped curve theory has its dissenters. Yet evidence for its existence keeps on coming. But what are the reasons? Two theories are particularly popular in the scientific literature. The first is economic: essentially, it all boils down to the effect of work on our wellbeing. The downward curve of contentment begins as we enter employment in early adulthood and accelerates as work takes up more and more of our time in mid-life. But we reap the rewards as we enter our 50s – we now have time to enjoy the fruits of our frenetic mid-life labour. The other dominant theory is psychological. We start off in life with high hopes, which we gradually realise are unlikely to be fulfilled. Middle age brings a new sense of realism; a determination to enjoy life as it is; and thus an increase in happiness.

13.

According to the first paragraph of the text, our culture _____.

- (A)** shows disrespect for both young and old people alike
- (B)** admires old people for their wisdom while despising the young
- (C)** hardly differentiates between the young and the old
- (D) worships the young and scorns the old**

14.

The second paragraph states: "This isn't to say that the idea of the mid-life crisis has had its day." Which of the following options best describes what this statement means?

- (A)** The idea of the mid-life crisis is outdated.
- (B)** The idea of the mid-life crisis was established a long time ago.
- (C) The idea of the mid-life crisis still has some merit.**
- (D)** The idea of the mid-life crisis has its dissenters.

15.

Evidence suggests that on average, _____.

- (A)** people in their 50s are less happy than both people in their 40s and people in their 60s
- (B)** people in their 50s are more happy than both people in their 40s and people in their 60s
- (C)** people in their 50s are less happy than people in their 40s, but more happy than people in their 60s
- (D) people in their 50s are more happy than people in their 40s, but less happy than people in their 60s**

16.

In the final years of life, levels of happiness _____.

- (A)** remain fairly stable
- (B)** usually increase
- (C)** reach their peak
- (D) tend to diminish**

2. Reading

17.

The study described in the fourth paragraph of the text showed _____.

- (A) **evidence for a slump in happiness in middle-aged apes**
- (B) what age-related biological influence stands behind the mid-life crisis
- (C) that some people experience the mid-life crisis as soon as they reach their 30s
- (D) that apes experience, on average, a weaker mid-life crisis than humans

18.

The word “nadir” in the second paragraph of the text is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) unhappiness
- (B) stability
- (C) the best moment
- (D) **the worst moment**

19.

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

1. The levels of happiness show a decline throughout our 20s and 30s.
2. Humans are on average less happy than other primates.
3. Despite smiling more, women tend to be less happy than men.
4. Several large-scale studies have disproved the existence of the U-shaped happiness curve.

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

20.

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

On the contrary – it shows that happiness is likely to increase as we head towards old age.

Where would the sentence best fit?

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

2. Reading

Reading 2

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

21.

With her project, the photographer, Stephanie Sinclair, not only wants to draw the attention of Western countries to the phenomenon of child marriage, but also to show that in areas where women are forced to spend their lives taking care of the household, it is the local communities that suffer the most. "Child marriage is a cruel tradition that is thankfully slowly disappearing. But we want to see it disappear faster," Sinclair concluded.

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

1. Child marriage is also typical in Western countries.
2. Sinclair was married off as a child.
3. The tradition of child marriage is gradually waning.

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

22.

New lighting of the historical square was the final step in the renovation of Tabor's urban conservation area, which started in the early 1990s. Both street lighting and the architectural lighting of historical buildings needed to be renovated. The renovation of the lighting had two phases. The first started in autumn 2004, the second in spring 2005. Both were completed in autumn 2005.

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

- (A) **The historical square in Tabor got new lighting.**
(B) It is cheaper to renovate lighting in several phases.
(C) The renovation of Tabor's urban conservation area is still underway.
(D) All the historical centre of Tabor but the square has been renovated.

23.

At the starting signal, all skiers leave the starting line and race to the ski poles placed at a distance of 20 to 50 meters. The poles are stuck in the ground in a line parallel to the starting line and there is always one pole less than the number of skiers. Whoever is left without a pole in the round leaves the game. The last skier left in the game wins.

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

- (A) At the finish line, skiers stick the poles into the ground in a line parallel to the starting line.
(B) **In each round, one skier leaves the game.**
(C) There is always one skier less than the number of poles.
(D) The poles are lying on the ground, 20 to 50 meters from each other.

24.

The digital flow of information may be a very powerful tool to help achieve the level of cooperation needed for fast product improvement. It is efficient digital flow of information that has helped the *Nabisco* company become number one in virtually all sectors it does business in.

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

- (A) The digital flow of information is absolutely indispensable for product improvement.
(B) The digital flow of information has made *Nabisco* number one in the improvement of virtual products.
(C) ***Nabisco* does business in more than one sector.**
(D) The main business activity of *Nabisco* is improving the digital flow of information in other companies.

25.

In the 5th century BC, Greek artistic sculpture abandoned the archaic static scheme and for the first time, it depicted movement. Unfortunately, most of the sculptures from this period survived only in Roman copies from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, giving only an approximate idea of the lost originals.

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

- (A) The Romans failed to accurately depict movement in sculptures.
(B) The Romans usually copied those Greek sculptures that used the static scheme.
(C) The first to use a static scheme in sculpture were the Greeks in the 5th century BC.
(D) **Before the 5th century BC, Greek artistic sculptures did not yet depict movement.**

26.

The break-up of the landmass into smaller continents led to the creation of large shallow basins on the Earth, increasing significantly the area that absorbed carbon dioxide thanks to algae. Gradually, the concentration of carbon dioxide was diminishing over 2.5 million years, weakening the greenhouse effect. As a result, global temperatures gradually decreased. Eruptions, namely in the Indian Ocean, then pumped greenhouse gases back into the atmosphere, making the climate slowly warm again.

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

- (A) **The break-up of the landmass into smaller continents led to a temporary climate cooling.**
(B) The weakening of the greenhouse effect gradually led to the decrease of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
(C) The warming of the climate due to eruptions in the Indian Ocean is the main cause of the greenhouse effect.
(D) Eruptions in the Indian Ocean were caused by the decrease in global temperatures.

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

Sleepless nights make people more selfish and asocial

A study, (27) by researchers in the US, found losing just one hour of rest could kill people's desire to help others, even relatives and close friends. The team noted that a bad night appeared to dampen activity in the part of the brain that encouraged social behaviour.

"We discovered that sleep loss acts as a trigger of asocial behaviour, reducing the (28) desire of humans to help one another," said Prof Matthew Walker, co-author of the study. "In a way, the less sleep you get, (29) social and more selfish you become." The team suggests that a chronic sleep deficit could harm social bonds and compromise the altruistic instincts that shape society.

The team examined the willingness of 160 participants to help others with a "self-reported altruism questionnaire", (30) they completed after a night's sleep. Participants responded to different social scenarios (31) a scale from "I would stop to help" to "I would ignore them".

In one experiment involving 24 participants, the researchers compared answers from the same person after a restful night and after 24 hours without sleep. The results revealed a 78% decline in self-reported eagerness to help others when (32).

The team then performed brain scans of those participants and found that insufficient rest was associated with reduced activity in the social cognitive brain network, a region involved in social behaviour. A lack of sleep impaired the drive to help others (33) of whether they were asked to help strangers or close relatives.

27.

- (A) was conducted
- (B) conducting
- (C) **conducted**
- (D) was conducting

28.

- (A) inserted
- (B) insipid
- (C) **innate**
- (D) ingested

29.

- (A) more
- (B) the more
- (C) less
- (D) **the less**

30.

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

31.

- (A) in
- (B) for
- (C) as
- (D) **on**

32.

- (A) are tired
- (B) **tired**
- (C) tiresome
- (D) have tired

33.

- (A) because
- (B) no matter
- (C) **regardless**
- (D) although

3. Use of English

QUESTIONS 34–40

Brochs: The mysterious circular symbols of Scotland

Hundreds of ancient stone towers, known as brochs, (34) the Scottish Highlands in the North of Scotland. These mysterious Iron Age monuments exist nowhere else but there. Yet, while these circular dry-walled structures are as symbolic a feature as any in the Scottish Highlands, their purpose continues to (35) experts.

What is known is that around 2,000 years ago, local tribes started harvesting local stone to build massive prehistoric buildings with walls 5 m thick and stretching 13 m high. To date, anywhere from 100 to 500 broch sites have been identified, with the densest concentration centred in Scotland's northern Caithness and Sutherland counties, as well as the Northern Isles. While early archaeologists thought that brochs (whose name (36) from the Scottish word for "fort") were the citadels of local chieftains, more recent excavations suggest that the structures were more likely used (37) residential rather than defensive purposes.

Now, in an effort to better understand the true purpose of these prehistoric towers, an ambitious initiative called the Caithness Broch Project is aiming to reconstruct a full-scale broch from scratch using traditional methods. By relying on archaeological evidence from broch sites and (38) the same dry-stone masonry techniques Iron Age tribes would have used, builders are aiming to understand whether the organisation of Iron Age Highland societies (39) around brochs or whether brochs evolved to fit the shifting needs of Highland societies.

What's more, by creating a modern attraction modelled on a historical blueprint, architects are hoping that visitors will gain a newfound (40) for these iconic buildings that have long shaped the Scottish landscape.

34.

- (A) point
- (B) **dot**
- (C) square
- (D) angle

35.

- (A) seize
- (B) research
- (C) **baffle**
- (D) handle

36.

- (A) describes
- (B) departs
- (C) **derives**
- (D) divides

37.

- (A) **for**
- (B) as
- (C) like
- (D) more

38.

- (A) incorporated
- (B) **incorporating**
- (C) incorporate
- (D) being incorporated

39.

- (A) **revolved**
- (B) resonated
- (C) revealed
- (D) resolved

40.

- (A) pleasure
- (B) **appreciation**
- (C) evaluation
- (D) contempt

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.

According to the UK National Poisons Information Service, the number of people who have been bitten by snakes has rocketed in recent years as more and more people keep snakes as pets.

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

- (A) risen rapidly
- (B) plummeted
- (C) stricken
- (D) stagnated

42.

The historian conducted meticulous research, examining countless primary sources and cross-referencing multiple accounts to ensure accuracy.

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

- (A) brief
- (B) original
- (C) negligent
- (D) thorough

43.

Stephan Hawking, a staunch advocate of space exploration, claimed that colonizing space is the only way to ensure humanity’s survival.

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

- (A) lawyer
- (B) promoter
- (C) explorer
- (D) founder

44.

He pored over the questions, studying every little detail, until he couldn’t keep his eyes open anymore.

In the context of the sentence above, the expression “pored over” is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) asked
- (B) spilled
- (C) rushed through
- (D) examined

45.

It is imperative that we keep the content of this conversation secret, otherwise we risk serious consequences.

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

- (A) conceivable
- (B) critical
- (C) confidential
- (D) recommended

46.

We are going on a trip tomorrow _____ it is raining in the morning.

- (A) whether
- (B) but for
- (C) in case of
- (D) unless

47.

There is no point _____ to drive unless you already have a car.

- (A) will learn
- (B) learn
- (C) at learning
- (D) in learning

48.

Whenever something goes wrong, everyone blames it _____ me.

- (A) for
- (B) on
- (C) to
- (D) at

49.

Hurry up! There are _____ tickets left!

- (A) hardly no
- (B) hardly some
- (C) hardly none
- (D) hardly any

50.

_____ from school, I was forced to find a job because my parents refused to support me financially any more.

- (A) Had been expelled
- (B) Having been expelled
- (C) To be expelled
- (D) Have been expelling

51.

As a teenager, I didn’t have very good people skills – I _____ something inappropriate.

- (A) should always say
- (B) have always said
- (C) had always been said
- (D) would always say

52.

All our problems boil _____ one thing: lack of trust. Unless we start trusting each other, it will never get better.

- (A) around
- (B) down to
- (C) through
- (D) back to

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://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.

If you feel lonely, maybe you should **befriend** the neighbour's kids and play together. (FRIEND)

54.

He took the remark about inviting children to the wedding into **consideration**. (CONSIDER)

55.

She doesn't know what to do – she is terribly hesitant and finds it hard to make a **decision**. (DECIDE)

56.

The film about Queen Victoria was **historically** inaccurate. (HISTORY)

57.

I do not want to eat sausages full of food **additives**. (ADD)

58.

In the long term, it is not sustainable to **rely** exclusively on fossil fuels – we should look for other sources of energy. (RELIANCE)

59.

The army began to **withdraw** from the east of the country and the entire force will have left by the end of the week. (WITHDRAWAL)

60.

We were all shocked – the test was **extraordinarily, inordinately** difficult, so most people failed. (ORDINARY)

END OF THE TEST

Počkejte na pokyny zadávajícího. / Počkajte na pokyn administrátora.

Sources:

- Questions 1–6: adapted from <https://www.iflscience.com>
- Questions 13–20: adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com>
- Questions 27–33: adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com>
- Questions 34–40: adapted from <https://www.bbc.com>

