



## NÁRODNÍ SROVNÁVACÍ ZKOUŠKY

# AJ

### TEST Z BŘEZNA/MARCA 2020

---

Datum konání zkoušky: 7. března 2020

Počet řešitelů testu: 1 519

Počet úloh: 60

Průměrná vynechanost: 12,8 %

Správné odpovědi jsou označeny.

Max. možné skóre: 60

Max. dosažené skóre: 60

Min. možné skóre: -17,3

Min. dosažené skóre: -9,3

Průměrné skóre: 31,0

---

#### Pokyny ke zkoušce:

- Test obsahuje 60 úloh.
- Je rozdělen do 3 oddílů, na řešení prvního máte 23 minut (délka nahrávky), na každý další 20 minut.
- Pracujte vždy jen na příslušném oddílu, časy nejsou převoditelné.
- U každé úlohy s výběrem možností je jen jedna správná odpověď.
- Za každou správnou odpověď získáte bod, za špatnou odpověď (s výjimkou posledních 8 úloh) část bodu ztrácíte.
- Nejlepší je řešit nejdříve snadné úlohy a k náročnějším se vrátit.
- Nebuďte nervózní z toho, že nevyřešíte všechno, to se povede málokomu.

## 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

**Paris, Shanghai, Rome... teacher takes children out of school for a better education**

Listen to a story about Sue Cowley, a teacher who took her children out of school and on a journey across Europe and Asia.

(adapted from: [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com))

1.

At the beginning of their journey, Sue Cowley's daughter was \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) three years old
- (B) **eight years old**
- (C) ten years old
- (D) eleven years old

2.

The family had a set of "road school rules", which obliged the children to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) **keep a travel diary**
- (B) spend some time each day reading a book
- (C) learn about the history of the place they were visiting
- (D) study an A4 page from a textbook each day

3.

While the Cowley family was travelling, the government \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) made it illegal for children to miss more than two days of school in a row
- (B) admitted that learning doesn't only happen in schools
- (C) made the rules regarding term-time absence more liberal
- (D) **adopted stricter measures to prevent children from missing school**

4.

Travelling has taught the Cowley children to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) **better handle unanticipated situations**
- (B) have high expectations of themselves and other people
- (C) expect only positive experiences
- (D) be more responsible with money

5.

When they returned from their trip, the Cowley children \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) **returned to regular school without any major problems**
- (B) struggled a lot when they had to go back to school
- (C) decided to go to a boarding school
- (D) refused to take conventional classes again

6.

How does Sue Cowley feel about going travelling again?

- (A) She might want to travel again one day, but now she is just happy to be home.
- (B) **She finds the prospect of going travelling again very enticing.**
- (C) She would love to go travelling again, but doesn't have the money.
- (D) She isn't really keen on going travelling again, because she finds it quite dangerous.

## 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 talking about what happened to a Polish charity, EcoLogic.

The charity workers \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) will have to pay a fine of 2,000 pounds for placing a tracker on the back of a bird
- (B) have travelled some 3,700 miles to eastern Sudan to look for their GPS tracker
- (C) **will have to pay for phone calls made by an unknown person in Sudan**
- (D) received a huge phone bill after spending 20 hours calling to Sudan

8.

You hear a piece of news from Belgium.

According to the recording, Facebook has taken down some posts featuring paintings because \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) **they portrayed naked people**
- (B) they displayed violence
- (C) they were from the 17th century
- (D) they presented a skewed portrait of the Flemish culture

9.

You hear a story about a famous scientist, Albert Einstein.

In response to a plan proposed by a church, Einstein said that he \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) didn't want to be immortalized as a statue
- (B) must become more religious
- (C) would make a big donation to the church
- (D) **mustn't engage in any outrageous behaviour**

10.

You hear information about a new, unusual service offered to newlyweds.

Those who decide to use the service will \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) **have a personalised engraved plaque launched into space**
- (B) be able to take a wedding picture with an astronaut
- (C) be given an object collected from the Earth's orbit
- (D) have a selected space object named after them

11.

You hear a piece of news from Iceland regarding a religious movement called Zuism.

Currently, Zuists are hoping to be granted permission to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) publish a collection of pagan stories
- (B) use the ruins of an old Sumerian temple for their meetings
- (C) **build a place of worship**
- (D) be registered as an official religion

12.

You hear part of an interview with a famous novelist, Irvine Welsh.

How does Mr. Welsh characterize the place where he is living right now?

- (A) **There is a sense of looming doom.**
- (B) People there do not care much about their appearance.
- (C) The city centre is full of posh students and tourists.
- (D) There are many novelists like him, who want to get inspiration.

## Reading 1

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

### QUESTIONS 13–20

Read about four unique, extraordinary places that you can visit and for each of the questions below, choose from the places A – D. The places may be chosen more than once.

#### A – Star City, Russia

During the development of the Soviet space programme, a secret air force facility in the woods near Moscow was transformed into a settlement called Star City, where prospective cosmonauts would undergo physical, technical, and psychological preparation for space flight. Following the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, the curtain of secrecy was lifted, and the centre opened its doors to the public. Today, a handful of companies offer tours of the facility, during which visitors can wear a spacesuit, take a ride in the centrifuge, or board a zero-gravity flight that simulates weightlessness where they can experience what it feels like to be suspended in mid-air. A museum of space travel and exploration contains an impressive collection of vintage spacesuits and capsules charred from re-entering the atmosphere.

#### B – Temples of Damanhur, Italy

In a village in the foothills of the Alps you can find The Federation of Damanhur, an eco-friendly and spiritual community established in the 1970s. Beneath the village there are five levels of subterranean temples decked out in startling new age splendour. The Federation of Damanhur is based on neo-pagan and new-age beliefs with emphasis on creative expression and was named after the Egyptian city of Damanhur. The temples were created under the direction of Oberto Airaudi. From 1978 to 1992, members of the community worked 24 hours a day in shifts to excavate 8,500 cubic metres of earth. Each hall, and hallway, was decorated in a different theme, with murals, stained glass windows, mirrors, and mosaics. The 70s-style artwork depicts many things, from the International Space Station to a forest of endangered animals. The perimeter of one of the circular rooms is cluttered with statues, due to the directive that each member of the community must carve a statue in their own likeness.

#### C – Cathedral in Mejorada del Campo, Spain

In the quiet town of Mejorada del Campo, 25 minutes from Madrid, local man Justo Gallego is on a mission from God. The 90-year-old is erecting a cathedral; all by himself. When dangerously ill with tuberculosis in 1961, he promised the Virgin that if she saved him, he'd raise a cathedral as thanks. Five decades later and his wobbly masterpiece, built using scavenged materials, is almost complete. With teetering towers, lumpy cement and handmade stained glass, the construction looks part-Gaudí, part papier-mâché. But this church is the real deal. It's even got an apse and a transept. On a given day you'll find Justo on the roof laying tiles, hanging from a pillar, or chatting to dumbstruck visitors who trickle in. Entrance is free; a donation is appreciated.

#### D – Colobraró, Italy

Italians are big on superstition but their obsession reaches a climax in Colobraró, a tiny town in deep Basilicata. Despite the breathtaking views, Colobraró has a reputation for being the most cursed town in Europe. The name, derived from Coluber (which means serpent in Latin), had always evoked unease but the curse originates in the 1960s when a lawyer said in court: "If what I say is false, may this chandelier come down." And it did, prompting locals to think it was a jinx. There are stories of buses crashing against balconies and legends of babies born with two hearts. Recently however, the mayor of the town has decided to turn the curse into a blessing – and a moneymaking venture – with the launch of a themed festival. Actors dressed as demons, corpses and grave-diggers accompany visitors through a maze of winding alleys stopping at open-air performances where the jinx is personified by Hamlet's ghost. Shops sell various amulets, claiming they serve as a protection against malicious spirits.

*(adapted from: [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com))*

13.

Which place contains sculptures portraying the people who made them?

- (A) Star City
- (B) **Temples of Damanhur**
- (C) Cathedral in Mejorada del Campo
- (D) Colobrarro

14.

Which place was constructed using discarded items?

- (A) Star City
- (B) Temples of Damanhur
- (C) **Cathedral in Mejorada del Campo**
- (D) Colobrarro

15.

In which place can visitors purchase items that allegedly protect them from evil forces?

- (A) in Star City
- (B) in the Temples of Damanhur
- (C) in the Cathedral in Mejorada del Campo
- (D) **in Colobrarro**

16.

Which place was built mainly as an act of gratitude?

- (A) Star City
- (B) Temples of Damanhur
- (C) **Cathedral in Mejorada del Campo**
- (D) Colobrarro

17.

Which place has a name that comes from another word for snake?

- (A) Star City
- (B) Temples of Damanhur
- (C) Cathedral in Mejorada del Campo
- (D) **Colobrarro**

18.

Which place had people working on its construction around the clock?

- (A) Star City
- (B) **Temples of Damanhur**
- (C) Cathedral in Mejorada del Campo
- (D) Colobrarro

19.

Which place is located under the ground?

- (A) Star City
- (B) **Temples of Damanhur**
- (C) Cathedral in Mejorada del Campo
- (D) Colobrarro

20.

In which place can visitors experience what it feels like to be floating?

- (A) **in Star City**
- (B) in the Temples of Damanhur
- (C) in the Cathedral in Mejorada del Campo
- (D) in Colobrarro

## Reading 2

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

### QUESTIONS 21–28

#### **Salt not as damaging to health as previously thought, says study**

*Salt may not be as damaging to health as is usually claimed, according to a controversial new study which suggests campaigns to persuade people to cut down on salt may only be worthwhile in countries with very high sodium consumption, such as China.*

The World Health Organization recommends cutting sodium intake to no more than 2g a day – the equivalent of 5g of salt – because of the link to increased blood pressure, which is in turn implicated in strokes. But no country has ever managed to get population salt or sodium intake that low, the authors of the study published in the Lancet medical journal point out. The study was conducted in 2018 by Prof Andrew Mente and colleagues and it was very large, involving more than 90,000 people in 18 countries. (A) But it immediately ignited a simmering row with other scientists.

In the study, Mente shows that the detrimental effects of sodium on health – raised blood pressure and strokes – only occur in countries with extremely high salt intake, such as China, where the liberal use of soy sauce leads to average sodium intake of 5g a day. The study also states that very low intake of salt actually leads to heart attacks and deaths. (B)

In 2016, the same team published a study with similar results, also in the Lancet medical journal, looking at individuals. It was lambasted by critics, who called it “bad science”, and its findings were rejected by the American Heart Association. (C) The latest 2018 study immediately came in for heavy criticism as well. “The authors have not addressed any of the serious criticisms from the wider scientific community of their 2016 study,” says Graham MacGregor, professor at Queen Mary University of London. “These criticisms included the use of ill participants in the study, which most likely led to reverse causality – those suffering with heart disease don’t eat much food, and consequently eat less salt, but it is the illness that leads to their death, not lower salt intake.” (D)

Tom Sanders, professor at King’s College London, shares MacGregor’s doubts. “There are no known mechanisms that could explain Mente’s conclusions”, he says and points out that campaigns to lower salt intake have been beneficial in Britain. “Average intake of salt in the UK has fallen over the past 30 years from over 12g per day to 8g per day, and this has been accompanied by a fall in average blood pressure of the population.” But it is not easy to persuade people to forgo salt, say Franz Messerli and Louis Hofstetter, experts from Switzerland and New York. They cite Sir George Pickering, who wrote more than half a century ago: “The rigid low-sodium diet is insipid, unappetising and intolerable. To stay on it requires the self-control of a religious zealot.”

*(adapted from: www.theguardian.com)*

21.

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

- (A) observed
- (B) **carried out**
- (C) published
- (D) contained

22.

According to the text, Mente’s 2018 study “immediately ignited a simmering row with other scientists”. Which of the following statements most accurately expresses what this sentence means?

- (A) **The study has given rise to heated arguments in the scientific community.**
- (B) The study has been completely ignored by other scientists.
- (C) The study has instantly received a positive response.
- (D) The study made a lot of scientists feel ashamed about their poor accomplishments.

23.

As for Mente’s 2016 study, the American Heart Association \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) praised it for its meticulous methodology
- (B) rejected the widespread criticism of the study
- (C) **did not accept the results as valid**
- (D) incorporated the findings into their health recommendations

24.

Among other things, the 2016 study was criticised because \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) it didn’t involve people suffering from a heart disease
- (B) there weren’t enough participants
- (C) **it involved people in poor health**
- (D) it failed to take into account other sources of sodium than food

25.

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

- (A) **convince**
- (B) recommend
- (C) support
- (D) prohibit

26.

According to Sir George Pickering, \_\_\_\_\_ a low-sodium diet.

- (A) **only people with extraordinary self-discipline can stick to**
- (B) those with an ascetic lifestyle usually refuse to keep
- (C) only rigid, intolerable people would dislike
- (D) people who struggle with willpower often switch to

27.

Which two of the following people are mentioned to have cast doubts on Mente’s 2018 study?

- I. Graham MacGregor
- II. George Pickering
- III. Tom Sanders
- IV. Franz Messerli

- (A) I and II
- (B) **I and III**
- (C) I and IV
- (D) II and III

28.

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

*This suggests moderate salt intake may be protective.*

Where would the sentence best fit?

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

## 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 29–35

## No kidding: Why Thomas Thwaites lived as a goat in Switzerland

There are people who choose to live like dogs, but Thomas Thwaites had other ideas. When modern life in London really got his goat, he decided to become one – for three days anyways. Jobless and (29) with the stresses of everyday life, the life of an animal seemed a lot more appealing.

“While I was walking the dog of a friend, I noticed that the dog just seemed really happy about life, and I thought to myself that it would be really great to be that dog for a day,” the 35-year-old researcher said. (30) by the meaty diet, Mr Thwaites decided to live as a goat since goats are herbivores. He got prosthetic “goat legs” from a clinic in Manchester as well as a specially designed fake goat’s stomach, which would (31) the grass before it reached his real stomach.

(32) the fact he spent a lot of time running across the hills, enjoying the nature, it turned (33) life as a goat wasn’t all about kidding around all day. “I suffered quite a lot as a goat, because I was constantly falling over. Nor were the goats particularly pleased with me being around.”

As eccentric as this story may (34) sound, Thwaites has a valid point. The further we get from nature, (35) we want to resemble it. As we become more like machines, wirelessly connected, we want to be animals, apparently roaming carefree.

(adapted from: [www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk))

29.

- (A) eager
- (B) **fed up**
- (C) broken in
- (D) contented

30.

- (A) Told off
- (B) Encouraged
- (C) Eating
- (D) **Put off**

31.

- (A) disappear
- (B) mow
- (C) choke
- (D) **digest**

32.

- (A) Although
- (B) Even
- (C) **Despite**
- (D) In spite

33.

- (A) up
- (B) into
- (C) around
- (D) **out**

34.

- (A) indifferently
- (B) insecurely
- (C) **initially**
- (D) indefinitely

35.

- (A) more closely
- (B) closely
- (C) **the more closely**
- (D) closer



## QUESTIONS 36–42

## Study says that forgetful people may in fact have superior intelligence

Do you find that you are constantly forgetting things or misplacing important objects? If so, you probably feel bad about it or self-conscious of this unfortunate trait of yours. Well, if you (36) feel slightly ashamed of your forgetfulness, we've got some good news for you. A recent study has found that having an (37) mind is actually a form of intelligence as it shows that your brain is only focused on the important things. This conclusion was (38) by researchers who studied data on memory loss and brain activity in both humans and animals.

The authors of the study, Paul Frankland and Blake Richards of the University of Toronto, discovered that people who try to remember everything often have a hard time (39) important decisions. Richards says: "It's important that the brain forgets irrelevant details and (40) focuses on the important stuff. We all admire people who can smash Trivial Pursuit or win at Jeopardy, but the fact is that evolution shaped our memory not to win a trivia game, but to make intelligent decisions."

If you think about it, having too much information in your head means that it will be competing to be remembered, which makes you (41) focus. Furthermore, with information now readily available to everyone at the click of a button it's not really worth (42) useless knowledge unless you want to impress someone.

(adapted from: [www.indy100.com](http://www.indy100.com))

36.

- (A) have
- (B) are
- (C) **do**
- (D) start

37.

- (A) **absent**
- (B) omitted
- (C) offended
- (D) adverse

38.

- (A) **drawn**
- (B) placed
- (C) spotted
- (D) dragged

39.

- (A) to make
- (B) make
- (C) that make
- (D) **making**

40.

- (A) while
- (B) **instead**
- (C) that
- (D) begins

41.

- (A) **lose**
- (B) lost
- (C) losing
- (D) be lost

42.

- (A) **storing**
- (B) to store
- (C) store
- (D) to be stored

## Grammar and Vocabulary

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

43.

Students who violate the school rules will face disciplinary consequences.

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

- (A) diminish
- (B) are subject to
- (C) **fail to respect**
- (D) make up

44.

Participation in the after-school activities is voluntary, but children usually do at least one of them.

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

- (A) obligatory
- (B) enjoyable
- (C) beneficial
- (D) **optional**

45.

Lately, fundraising has been a core part of our efforts – it is essential for our company to receive regular monetary contributions.

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

- (A) problematic
- (B) underfinanced
- (C) controlled
- (D) **central**

46.

At our university, a romantic relationship between a lecturer and a student would most certainly be frowned upon.

In the context of the sentence above, the expression “frowned upon” is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) punished
- (B) forbidden
- (C) **disapproved of**
- (D) encouraged

47.

In his speech, the politician shared his stance \_\_\_\_\_ nuclear power plants.

- (A) by
- (B) **on**
- (C) at
- (D) in

48.

When I met my husband, I was still a student but he \_\_\_\_\_ for 3 years.

- (A) was already working
- (B) **had already been working**
- (C) has already been working
- (D) has already worked

49.

Paul promised he \_\_\_\_\_ my secret to anyone, and yet somehow the whole school knows!

- (A) won't have told
- (B) wasn't told
- (C) doesn't tell
- (D) **wouldn't tell**

50.

I would never be friends with someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ – in my opinion, dishonesty is one of the worst personal qualities.

- (A) dependable
- (B) **deceitful**
- (C) sharp-witted
- (D) generous

51.

The twins were so similar that even their parents couldn't \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) recognize each other
- (B) **tell them apart**
- (C) determine
- (D) confuse them

52.

John got offended when his classmates made fun of his new haircut. He wasn't used \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) to be laughed at
- (B) to laugh at
- (C) **to being laughed at**
- (D) to be laughing at

## Word formation

Use the word in brackets at the end of each sentence to form a new word that fits the 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.

It has been shown that **excessive** alcohol consumption can lead to stomach and liver problems. (EXCESS)

54.

Rachel's bridesmaid came down with flu, so Rachel had to find a **replacement** (REPLACE)

55.

I wasn't criticising you – I **merely** said that I have a different opinion. (MERE)

56.

My father's expectations of me are totally **unreasonable** – I mean, there's no way I could ever live up to his expectations. (REASON)

57.

Doctors are trying to reduce the infant **mortality** rate in Africa. (MORTAL)

58.

Scarlett likes to give her friends presents that are truly **meaningful** and from the heart, so she often makes something herself. (MEANING)

59.

The tax system of our country is incredibly complicated – the government should really make an effort to **simplify** it. (SIMPLE)

60.

His new car is only **marginally** better than his old one. (MARGIN)

## END OF THE TEST

Počkejte na pokyny administrátora. / Počkajte na pokyn administrátora.