Participant Number: _____

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 35. ročník, celoštátne kolo 2024/2025, kategória 2C1 – úlohy

G R A M M A R

Read the following text and fill in each gap with a proper verb tense or verb form. Write your answers in the spaces below the article. Mind the correct word order of all the words in the brackets. Spelling counts!

Flora Collingwood–Norris **1… (play)** with her new puppy, Stitch, while wearing a favourite second-hand find: a coral cashmere sweater. Stitch, an excitable black poodle mix, jumped up and grabbed her sleeve—and tore several holes in it with her sharp teeth. Collingwood-Norris, now 37, wasn't about to toss the item out. "I **2 … (can, bear, throw away, not)** nice clothing just because of a hole," she explains. As a knitwear designer based in Galashiels, Scotland, she **3 … (be used to, make)** her own sweaters, but after she **4 … (leave)** with a handful that **5 … (have)** Stitch-inflicted holes, she **6 … (decide, tackle)** a new skill: mending. She began by reading a book called *Make Do and Mend*, about the innovative thriftiness that emerged during World War II.

Instead of **7 … (try, make)** the repair as small as possible, she turned to "visible mending," a trend in repairing clothes that **8 … (leave)** an intentionally obvious fix. Sewers add flowers, bright plaid squares, or other small designs to damaged clothes. "Every time you **9 … (do)** a repair, it's like **10 … (have)** a new garment in your wardrobe," says Collingwood-Norris.

1. _____ **6.** _____

2. _____ **7.** _____

3. _____ **8.** _____

4. _____ **9.** _____

5. _____ **10.** _____

Continue reading the text and decide which ONE word best fits each gap (11-15). Write your answers in the space provided below the text. Spelling counts!

Sadly, we have become accustomed **11 …** replacing things instead of repairing them—and the garbage is piling **12 …** . Worldwide, we toss out 92 million tonnes of textiles every year. Electronic waste is **13 …** growing problem: An estimated 50 million tonnes of it is created each year around the world. In Canada, e-waste has more than tripled in the last 20 years, reaching nearly one million tonnes in 2020.

The good news is that fixing things **14 …** help solve the waste problem. It's part of a larger shift toward a circular economy—the idea that instead of tossing out items **15 …** they are broken or out of date, we reuse, repair, or refurbish them, keeping them out of the landfill for as long as possible.

(Adapted from Milne, V. 2023. The fix-it revolution. *Reader's Digest Canada*, October 2023, pp. 84-89)

11. _____ **14.** _____

12. _____ **15.** _____

13. _____

Total Points ……../15 pts

Participant Number: _____

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 35. ročník, celoštátne kolo 2024/2025, kategória 2C1 – úlohy

V O C A B U L A R Y

Complete gaps 1-10 in the following passage with the most suitable answer (A-D). Circle your answers.

Schoolchildren are not the only ones who can no longer write or read cursive. Fewer and fewer of us put pen to paper to record our thoughts, correspond with friends, or to jot down a grocery list. Instead of begging a celebrity for an autograph, we request a selfie. Many people no longer have the skill to do more than **1 …** their name in an **2 …** script, and those who do will see that skill atrophy as they rely more on computers and smartphones. A Toronto newspaper recorded the **3 …** of a pastry instructor who realised that many of his culinary students couldn't properly pipe an inscription in **4 …** on a cake.

What does it mean to live without handwriting? The skill has **5 …** gradually, and many of us don't notice our own loss until we're asked to handwrite something. We are far more likely to use our hands to type or swipe.

The researchers studying how technology transforms the way we write and learn are **6 …** to ecologists who warn of species decline or environmental pollution. We face a future without handwriting. Researchers worry that **7 …** the pen for the keyboard will lead to any number of unforeseen negative consequences. "The digitisation of writing **8 …** radical transformations of the very act of writing at a sensorimotor, physical level and the (potentially far-reaching) implications of such transformations are far from properly understood," notes Anne Mangen, who studies how technology transforms literacy. Like species decline, skills decline gradually.

It is popular to assume that we have replaced one old-fashioned, inefficient tool (handwriting) with a more convenient and efficient alternative (keyboarding). But like the decline of face-to-face interactions, we are not accounting for what we lose in this **9 …** for efficiency, and for the **10 …** ways of learning and knowing, particularly for children. A child who has mastered the keyboard but grows into an adult who still struggles to sign his own name is not an example of progress.

(Adapted from Rosen, C. 2025. Reading the last rites for the art of handwriting. *The Guardian Weekly*, 31 January 2025, pp. 40-44)

1	A	doodle	B	scramble	C	scrawl	D	draft
2	A	illegible	B	challenging	C	unfathomable	D	preposterous
3	A	remorse	B	Plea	C	protest	D	lament
4	A	icing	B	Filling	C	crumble	D	custard
5	A	languished	B	deteriorated	C	impaired	D	debilitated
6	A	related	B	Equal	C	identical	D	akin
7	A	quitting	B	abandoning	C	negating	D	renouncing
8	A	requires	B	evokes	C	entails	D	produces
9	A	trade-off	B	standstill	C	sellout	D	onset
10	A	insurmountable	B	unfeasible	C	unrecoverable	D	irreparable

Total Points ……../10 pts

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R E A D I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

Read the following article about bear watching in Katmai National Park and Preserve. Complete gaps 1-10 with a suitable clause (A-M) from the list on the following page. Three clauses will remain unmatched.

Around 2,200 brown bears live in Katmai National Park and Preserve's four million acres, and its Pacific coast, separated from the rest of the park by the Aleutian Range, is home to some of the highest densities of brown bears ever recorded. Abundant coastal food sources like sedges, salmon, and razor clams mean that bears can gather in large numbers and **1 …** . That makes food-rich areas like Hallo Bay, accessible by bush plane or boat, some of the best brown-bear viewing in the park.

Brown bears have been part of my life for as long as I can remember. In their 20s, my parents spent their summers running one of Alaska's first brown-bear-viewing camps on the rugged coast just north of the Katmai border. Brown bears were revered in our household, and we regarded them as individuals, with—as research now shows—their own personalities. "Living with bears demands respect," my mother told me. "We were honored **2 …** ."

Their five years as bear guides, in the mid-1980s, took place during a pivotal shift in thought in Alaska, where brown-bear tourism had previously been synonymous with trophy hunting. Biologists and field staff at the nearby McNeil River State Game Sanctuary were learning to read brown bear behavior, challenging longtime assumptions that **3 …** . They discovered that if humans behaved equally predictably—by limiting visitors to small guided groups, respecting the bears' behavior and space, and never exposing the animals to human food—the bears could grow tolerant of a human presence over time. I grew up regularly visiting McNeil River and assumed that gazing out at a landscape of 40 bears at a time was normal.

At McNeil, I learned to notice how **4 …** : snatching airborne fish from waterfalls, "snorkeling" after fish in eddies, or waiting downstream for larger bears' scraps. Mother bears can be hovering and attentive parents that discipline their cubs—or they can be comparatively lax, letting them run wild.

The Katmai coast is accessible only by air or sea, and its remoteness, coupled with its plentiful natural food sources, helps make bear viewing here as safe as it is. Far from roads or settlements, Katmai's brown bears have never learned to associate humans with food or harm.

Dave Bachrach has led brown-bear trips in Katmai for over 20 years. Now 67, he is steady and relaxed, and speaks with calm authority, **5 …** as the glacial silt that forms this coast. Following his example allows tourists to fit, for a few hours, into the bears' world.

Each time we spot a bear, Bachrach reads its behavior. If the bear appears relaxed, we can watch for a while to see what it does. If **6 …** —moving away from us, yawning, or, in extreme cases, huffing—we give it space and leave it alone. We must never provoke behavior, let bears get too close, and most important, never let even a crumb of our food fall to the ground. The bear guides who took over from my parents learned this the hard way when **7 …** where a bowl of fruit had been left out on a counter. After a bear got in, it sat on their porch for days, wanting more.

By midafternoon, Bachrach leads us up a ridge of driftwood separating the meadows and the ocean. In a wide field, a pair of fluffy blond cubs tumble in the grass while seven or eight more bears graze in the far distance. On the other side, below a gravel beach, an amber bear wanders the glacial mudflats. It's searching for razor clams, which **8 …** with its jaws and dexterous claws.

Participant Number: _____

R E A D I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N
(continued)

The image of a bear as a ferocious carnivore shows only one facet of an intelligent and highly complex animal. In the wild, brown bears rarely fight. They spend their days searching for food, resting, playing, traveling, and caring for their young.

And they're omnivores, much like humans. A 2022 study found that bears are less carnivorous than previously thought. When bears emerge from their dens in the spring in Katmai, they feast on sedges and dig for razor clams at low tide. As the salmon run from late June through September, the bears move to the mouths of salmon-filled rivers, but **9 …** . By the time they return to hibernation, they can have increased their body weight by 50 percent.

To be in tune with what bears are doing is to be in tune with what foods are in season—and by extension, **10 …** . A healthy bear is a sign of a healthy ecosystem.

(Adapted from Johnson, A. 2024. Welcome to brown bear paradise. *National Geographic*, vol. 246, no. 03, September 2024, pp. 76-91)

A to be visitors in their world

B they'll also continue eating grass and berries

C surrounded by bears in every direction

D bears honed unique fishing tactics

E what's happening in their environment

F it is vital to the bears' winter survival

G it shows any signs of anxiety

H still have plenty to share

I a door once blew open to a cabin

J dressed in the same muddy gray

K they sit down facing away from us

L it will either crush or pry open

M bears were unpredictable

Total Points ……../10 pts

Participant Number: _____

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L I S T E N I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

You will listen to a report about recent research in climate science. For questions 1 to 5, circle one correct answer according to the information you hear. You will hear the text only once.

1. An increasing disparity in Earth's solar energy balance, detected by NASA's space tools, appears to be primarily caused by _____.

   A. melting ice revealing darker surfaces
   B. heat-trapping greenhouse-gas emissions
   C. the lower reflectivity of water absorbing more heat
   D. a decline in reflective hazes from reduced pollution

2. George Tselioudis and his team have found that the reduction of the Earth's reflective cloud cover _____.

   A. is speeding up due to global warming
   B. has been difficult to detect in the last twenty years
   C. is noticeable despite being modest in size
   D. will increase in its scale in the near future

3. The existing weather satellite imagery demonstrates a trend where both the cloud band at the equator and the cloud bands in the midlatitudes _____.

   A. have become thicker
   B. have shifted towards the poles
   C. have stopped spreading sideways
   D. have decreased in size

4. Tselioudis's conclusions about the cloud coverage trend differ from earlier research conclusions by Norman Loeb in _____.

   A. the scale of the detected changes across the globe
   B. the role of pollution reductions as a driving factor
   C. the impact of the changes according to the hemispheres
   D. the precision of the satellite tools used for measurement

5. Concerning future developments, global circulation changes _____.

   A. are difficult to predict due to ambiguous evidence
   B. will be related to the air movement over the eastern Pacific Ocean
   C. are likely to intensify with increasing global warming
   D. will be easier to trace based on the reported research results

Total Points ……../5 pts

Zoznam použitej literatúry:

Johnson, A. 2024. Welcome to brown bear paradise. *National Geographic*, vol. 246, no. 03, September 2024, pp. 76-91.

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