

S P E A K I N G – R O L E P L A Y

Student

While on an exchange programme to the U.S.A., you have decided to make a case for why a 200-year-old disused church should not be knocked down in your city centre in order to build a new office block. Explain the importance and attractiveness of the church for the town and suggest uses that it could be put to.



Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 2C2 – riešenia a úlohy

S P E A K I N G – R O L E P L A Y

Teacher

You teach a student from Slovakia who has decided to present a case for why a 200-year-old disused church should not be knocked down in their city. You would like to contradict them, and have decided to support the idea of building a new office block, which can provide jobs for people living in the city, can make the city more modern, etc.

S P E A K I N G – P I C T U R E S

Look at the pictures related to people enjoying adventures. Discuss all the pictures, focusing on:

- probable reasons for choosing such an adventure;
- the advantages and disadvantages of being involved in such activities;
- your attitude towards seeking adventure.



L I S T E N I N G T A P E S C R I P T**(Please read once.)**

You will hear an interview with Andrea Bocelli, a famous opera singer. For questions 01-05, choose the best answer (A), (B), (C), or (D).

I: Mr Bocelli, as one of the great opera singers of our generation, what has the genre taught you about life?

Bocelli: It's a training that started when I was still a child. My parents tell me that even as a baby in my cot, I showed a rapt and powerful emotional reaction to music! I was entranced by the sounds! These extreme stories touched my heart and I didn't yet have the necessary framework of experience to measure myself against them. However, I can say that opera has taught me about strength, weakness, heroism, and the contradictions, tragedies, and comedies that human feelings can arouse. Opera has the capacity to arouse our emotions; it has the power to make us think about good and evil.

I: Has opera's innate romance also taught you about love?

Bocelli: Of course songs like "Time to Say Goodbye" still arouse a lot of emotion in me even now, when I perform it at a concert. It's a song that has become a classic in its own way, all around the world, entering into people's hearts... But I think that by interrogating our own conscience, we can always obtain the answers that are important, including with regards to love. Love is the language that we all share at a global level, the emotion that motivates our whole lives. For me, music is more my preferred source of consolation and inner richness. It's a tool for opening up our hearts and minds, helping us to overcome difficulties and instilling trust and positivity.

I: Can you point to a time in your life when music helped you in that way?

Bocelli: Life has been good to me. I've received so much more than I have been able to give back so far. All the same, I can't deny that I have had difficult times, like everyone else. When my father died, for example, or during a difficult period when I couldn't spend as much time with my children as I wanted... It was a painful situation, and as a result I risked losing my enthusiasm for my career. But even in that case, music was an important consolation. More recently, the version of "Ave Maria" that I wrote for my new album, *Believe*, spilled straight from my soul, during this dark period of the pandemic. Working through that pain, which we've all experienced during these months, I spent a lot of time at the piano, at home, and suddenly this melody came forth.

I: What do you think makes music such an effective healer?

Bocelli: Well, I think all forms of art help in general—and so does the art of living, of passing the days creatively. Any art form can be a balm for the soul. That's what art is, when it's linked to good. Being a musician, I'm probably biased, but I think that the language of music is special in that it follows paths that penetrate the most intimate areas of our psyche, contributing to our spiritual development... Music touches the soul, it stirs passion, it moves us and can make us better people. It's no coincidence that 2,000 years ago a famous Roman politician, Cato the Younger, warned that soldiers shouldn't listen to music because it would make them unfit to wage war! (*Laughs*)

I: Does the intense nature of opera and gospel ever make you feel tired?

Bocelli: It's true that before stepping on stage, a singer, like an athlete before a competition, has to undergo scrupulous training that demands total dedication. Before a performance, I follow a strict diet and maintain the utmost concentration, keeping silent if possible, so as not to tire my vocal cords. I have sometimes felt moments of tiredness after a very gruelling tour de force. But the relationship you establish with your audience, in the theatre, live, is irreplaceable. In this past year of enforced rest, I've really been missing that relationship. I consider live singing to be like a moment of encounter, boosted by the pleasure of meeting again, of breathing the same air, face to face with each other, sharing emotions. The experience of a live concert is an absolute must: I say that as an artist and as a man.

A N S W E R K E Y

GRAMMAR – 15pts

01 did not/didn't stretch 02 had/'d taken 03 was put down / had been put down
04 were imagining 05 had/'d been 06 wanting 07 to aim 08 had been doing / were doing
09 was doing 10 do you say 11 did 12 must have looked 13 did 14 waiting 15 be

VOCABULARY – 10pts (SPELLING COUNTS!) - 0.5 for each

01 pressure 02 directorship 03 refreshingly 04 professional 05 themselves 06 vulnerability
07 classical 08 non-professional 09 insider 10 cynicism 11 essence 12 foundation
13 broaden 14 less 15 entrepreneurs 16 hugely 17 Scottish 18 self-awareness 19 something
20 whenever

READING COMPREHENSION – 10pts

01 I 02 F 03 K 04 C 05 M 06 A 07 L 08 J 09 G 10 D

VOCABULARY – PROGRESSIVE TEST

e.g. cut in – interrupt/join
 cut out – remove/omit
 cut up – cut into pieces
 cut across – take a shortcut

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – 5pts

01 B 02 D 03 D 04 A 05 C