

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, krajské kolo 2025/2026, kategória 1A – úlohy

GRAMMAR

TASK I. Fill in the gaps (1-15) with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Write your answers into the spaces provided.

When Savannah Louise West first **1.** _____ **(try)** freeze-dried gummies, she was surprised by the new texture. “The crunch is so satisfying,” she says.

Freeze-dried candy **2.** _____ **(become)** popular in the US over the past three years. Normally chewy sweets, like Skittles, become light and crunchy, and their flavour **3.** _____ **(become)** stronger. A special oven removes moisture and makes the candy puff up. The market **4.** _____ **(grow)** when TikTok influencers showed off their favourite freeze-dried candy.

“Our customers are mainly under 45 as they **5.** _____ **(hear, likely)** about this type of candy on TikTok or other social platforms, and want to try something that **6.** _____ **(go)** viral at the moment,” says Zachry Barlett, a partner of an online business that **7.** _____ **(sell)** crunchy varieties of peach rings, gummy worms and ice cream. He explains that machines are cheaper now, so more small businesses can join the market.

The craze is big enough that major companies like Mars started **8.** _____ **(make)** their own products. Some experts say “freeze-dried” **9.** _____ **(not, be)** the best name because most candy has very little water. Instead, the vacuum oven **10.** _____ **(dry)** and expands the candy, **11.** _____ **(give)** it a crispy texture and stronger taste.

Not all candies are suitable for the freeze-dried process. A Tic Tac, for example, **12.** _____ **(not have)** enough moisture and **13.** _____ **(make, mainly)** up of crystals which don’t respond to the vacuum oven.

Some people think the trend **14.** _____ **(not last)**, but fans enjoy the new crunch. One problem is that the candy is fragile, can break easily in the bag, and it can be expensive. Even so, many producers **15.** _____ **(be)** optimistic.

(Adapted from David Silverberg: What are freeze-dried sweets and why are they popular?. *BBC*. December 9, 2025. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czdr8r7d7vmo>.)

Total _____ / 15 points

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VOCABULARY

TASK I. Read the text about recycling and complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

1. _____ (**globe**) Recycling Day, celebrated on March 18, raises
 2. _____ (**aware**) about reducing waste and encourages world leaders to improve recycling. Recycling prevents 700 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually, which contribute to climate change. Plastics are widely used, but they create 3. _____ (**pollute**) because they do not decompose 4. _____ (**natural**) and harm marine wildlife. People can help by using reusable bottles and avoiding plastic bags and disposable cutlery or straws. Governments have introduced legislation to reduce single-use plastics and plan deposit schemes to reward recycling. Despite progress, UK recycling rates have slightly declined, partly due to COVID-related disruptions. That is one of the reasons why this day should be brought to public attention as it highlights the necessity to reduce, reuse, and recycle for a 5. _____ (**sustain**) future.

(Adapted from BBC newsround: Recycling Day 2024. What is it? *BBC*. March 17, 2024. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/64987543>.)

Total _____ / 5 points

TASK II. Complete the gaps (6-15) with the correct form of the words in the box below. There are two extra words.

dizzy headache cough symptom cut digestive itchy fever throat pain rash medicine

- Tom was very tired and felt a sharp 6. _____ in his stomach. He also noticed a 7. _____ on his arm that was 8. _____ and red. Yesterday, he had a terrible 9. _____ behind his eyes and a slight 10. _____, so he decided to visit the doctor. The doctor examined his 11. _____ and ears and asked about his 12. _____ problems. Tom mentioned that he sometimes feels 13. _____ after standing up quickly. The doctor explained that these 14. _____ could be related to a virus. She advised him to rest, drink plenty of water, and take 15. _____ for the pain. If the issues continue, Tom should return for further tests.

Total _____ / 5 points (0.5 points each)

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READING COMPREHENSION

TASK I. Read the article below. The headings have been removed. For each paragraph (1-7), choose the best heading from the ones below the article. Write letters (A-H) into the spaces provided. There is one extra heading.

Seven travel trends that will define 2026

Data from major travel brands suggests that travel in 2026 will increasingly mirror how we live—or aspire to live, with the following trends predicted to shape the year.

1. _____

Hushpitality will be a major trend in 2026. More travellers want silence, comfort, and a break from digital overload. Many people now book digital-detox cabins because of burnout and screen fatigue. Destinations are responding—in Sweden, a “Map of Quietude” lists peaceful spots by sound level, while some retreats in the US offer complete darkness for several days.

2. _____

New digital tools will play a much larger role in planning holidays. Many travellers already rely on smart online assistants to organise their trips. These systems can handle tasks such as translation, itinerary suggestions, and digital check-ins, which reduces the amount of paperwork travellers must do. However, experts warn that depending too heavily on automated recommendations can push too many visitors toward the same destinations and may even make travellers more vulnerable to scams.

3. _____

A growing number of travellers prefer trips where they don’t make any decisions. Some destinations reduce choice for sustainability, such as self-navigating cars in the Faroe Islands. Others offer mystery trips, surprise itineraries, or cruises where passengers don’t know the route. This responds to “decision fatigue” and the desire for stress-free travel.

4. _____

Driving trips are becoming popular again. Social media shows millions of posts celebrating driving holidays. Some companies offer luxury road trips, but many travellers simply choose cars to save money. Behaviour experts note that the meaning of road travel varies between countries, but the trend is growing, especially in the UK and US.

5. _____

Travel is becoming more individual than ever. Special retreats are designed for particular life moments—such as breakup trips, grief retreats, menopause travel, or niche hobby tours. Experts say these trips give people a chance to focus on personal change and mark important emotional milestones. Many travellers now prefer experiences that feel meaningful and created just for them.

6. _____

More travellers want to avoid overcrowded tourist hotspots and visit quieter, less-known places. Interest is rising in destinations such as Toledo, Brandenburg, or even Iraq. In the UK, visitors are choosing Northumberland or Wales instead of the usual tourist counties. This shift is linked to the search for authentic experiences and a desire for adventures that feel unique.

7. _____

Literary travel and “set-jetting” (travel inspired by books, TV or films) will continue to grow. Hotels are offering reading retreats, themed rooms and libraries. Places connected to new films or series—such as Cornwall, the Yorkshire Moors and Greece—are expected to attract more visitors. Analysts say that in times of change, people turn to fiction, and travelling through the worlds of books and films offers a form of escape.

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A	Trust over choice
B	Culture over hedonism
C	Off-grid over tried-and-tested
D	Alone-time over company
E	Gen AI over admin
F	Roads over runways
G	Ultra-personalised over one-size-fits-all
H	Quiet over everything

(Adapted from Laura Hall: Seven Travel Trends that Will Define 2026. *BBC*. December 2, 2025. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20251201-seven-travel-trends-that-will-define-2026>.)

Total _____ / 7 points

TASK II. Based on the article, choose and circle the correct option (A-D) to answer the questions (8-10).

8. According to the text, why are digital-detox cabins becoming more popular?

- A. Because they are cheaper than traditional hotels.
- B. Because travellers want silence and a break from digital overload.
- C. Because they offer access to advanced smart-home technology.
- D. Because they are located close to major tourist attractions.

9. What is one potential downside of relying on digital tools for travel planning?

- A. They may encourage travellers to visit the same popular places.
- B. They often translate languages incorrectly.
- C. They increase the number of documents travellers need to complete.
- D. They prevent travellers from booking last-minute trips.

10. Why are some travellers attracted to mystery trips and reduced-choice holidays?

- A. They want carefree travel without decision-making.
- B. They want to learn survival skills in unfamiliar locations.
- C. They want to compare different travel companies.
- D. They prefer organising every detail themselves.

Total _____ / 3 points

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LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TASK I. You will hear a BBC reporter talking about the potential global impact of adopting a vegan diet. Listen carefully and for questions 1-3, circle the correct option (A-D). You will hear the recording twice.

1. What is the main recommendation from experts regarding meat consumption?

- A. Increase meat intake.
- B. Maintain current levels of meat consumption.
- C. Decrease the amount of meat eaten.
- D. Switch to only dairy products.

2. What is the main consequence of mass beef farming?

- A. It increases biodiversity.
- B. It contributes to deforestation.
- C. It has no environmental impact.
- D. It reduces farmland usage.

3. What is one potential benefit of adopting a plant-based diet?

- A. It could eliminate all diseases caused by poor diet.
- B. It is estimated to avoid 8 million deaths every year.
- C. It could help prevent some health issues and save lives.
- D. It has no significant impact on human health.

Total _____ / 3 points

TASK II. Based on the recording, write a number to complete the statements.

- 4. Around _____ percent of all greenhouse gases emitted by humans come from livestock production.
- 5. Meat and dairy typically provide only _____ percent of our calories.
- 6. There are around _____ billion cattle in the world today.
- 7. One study estimated that if everyone ate a vegan diet, around 8 million deaths could be avoided worldwide by _____.

Total _____ / 2 points (0.5 points each)

Autorka: Mgr. Paulína Paršová

Recenzentka: PaedDr. Anna Brisudová

Korektor: Joshua M. Ruggiero

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