

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

## GRAMMAR

**Read the text below and fill in each gap with a proper verb tense or verb form. Write your answers in the spaces below the article. Spelling counts! There is an example at the beginning (0).**

With no plans, I set off from John O’Groats to travel down south to Dover. Friends and family -0- ... (not/think) I’d last a mile.

Since coming to England from Ethiopia eight years ago, -1- ... (lose) parts of my cultural identity. I felt like I -2- ... (stick) in a monotonous, isolated routine studying for a biochemistry degree at Imperial College London, without the family-centred lifestyle I was used to. Back in Ethiopia, I’d be surrounded by my aunt, grandparents, friends.

So this year, I -3- ... (take) 12 months out and moved to my uncle’s house in Leeds. The change helped me try new things, like cycling: as a child, I -4- ... (ride/never) a bike. I bought one in a charity shop. My friends told me that it -5- ... (make) for a 10-year-old and donated an adult-sized bike to me.

The bike -6- ... (spend) two years in my friend’s garden, so it was in bad shape. I spent a month taking it to a repair shop. I also joined a project called the Hackspace – it’s a community-run workshop for makers – and built a wooden bicycle. It -7- ... (make) of recycled materials: I used an old flip-flop for the brake. The Hackspace’s director, Mark, suggested I go to John O’Groats and cycle all the way down to the south. At first, I thought that was ridiculous, but then reconsidered it: I wanted to do something new.

I -8- ... (not/plan) any logistics, hoping to figure things out as I went. My friends and family didn’t think I’d last a mile. Maybe they had a point: the first three nights were terrible. I hadn’t brought a tent to sleep in; only a tarp to cover myself. I’d packed light, relying only on one cotton shirt. The wind and rain were rough.

0 didn’t think

05 \_\_\_\_\_

01 \_\_\_\_\_

06 \_\_\_\_\_

02 \_\_\_\_\_

07 \_\_\_\_\_

03 \_\_\_\_\_

08 \_\_\_\_\_

04 \_\_\_\_\_

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## GRAMMAR-continued

**Continue reading the text and fill in the gaps with ONE word. Use only function words. Write your answers in the spaces provided below the text. Spelling counts! There is an example at the beginning (00).**

I feared my bike would fall apart -00- ... the time I reached England. But I was always offered help. When my chain broke near Newcastle, some cyclists helped me hitchhike to a shop, which then fixed it -09- ... free. A man in the Bedfordshire village of Haynes replaced my front wheel with one from his daughter's bike, then let me sleep -10- ... his van.

I wondered if I would face racism. I did have some tricky encounters, but hopefully I've changed their minds. I also got -11- ... know Ethiopians in Britain, -12- ... followed my progress on social media. Whenever I reached -13- ... city with a sizable Ethiopian population, they would offer to host me.

The last few days were hard. I had been catching up with my friends in London, and leaving felt difficult. But again, people helped. One lady in Faversham hosted me in her house. We watched Avatar together. Later, -14- ... Ethiopian who'd seen my TikToks booked me a hotel room in Canterbury. The next day, I reached Dover. A party of 10 Ethiopians travelled from London to meet me, with food, music, and a trophy: a small bike -15- ... my name on it. My journey came to an end.

00 \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

12 \_\_\_\_\_

09 \_\_\_\_\_

13 \_\_\_\_\_

10 \_\_\_\_\_

14 \_\_\_\_\_

11 \_\_\_\_\_

15 \_\_\_\_\_

(Adapted from: TESERA, K. 2025. *Experience: I cycled the length of the UK on a wooden bike*. In: *The Guardian [online]*. 2025. [cit. 2025-12-27]. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/life-andstyle/2025/dec/26/experience-cycled-uk-john-ogroats-dover-wooden-bike>).

**Total points: \_\_\_\_\_ / 15 pts**

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## VOCABULARY

*Read the text below. Use the word given in brackets and form a word that fits in each space. Write your answers in the spaces provided. There is an example at the beginning (00).*

It starts in a flood of red: a red-curtained stage, red flashing lights. It's Lady Gaga, so theatrics are par for the course. As the lights go up it becomes clear she's not standing on a -00- *giant* (giantess) stage but, in fact, wearing it.

A militaristic bodice extends into the swooping -01-\_\_\_\_\_ (velvety) drapes of a 7.5-metre-high gown. "It's not just a dress; it's a moving piece of art, an engineering feat," says the Australian-Taiwanese -02-\_\_\_\_\_ (design) Samuel Lewis, who dreamed up its design, and created it in -03-\_\_\_\_\_ (collaborate) with Athena Lawton. The extent of the costume only becomes -04-\_\_\_\_\_ (apparently) when Gaga's skirt opens to -05-\_\_\_\_\_ (revealing) a metal cage underneath, with dancers writhing and reaching behind its steel bars. Lewis had to push his limits to dream of – and -06-\_\_\_\_\_ (achievement) – this design.

It isn't the first time that Gaga and the 26-year-old designer have worked together. Aside from designing all the looks in the tour's first act, Lewis dressed her for several occasions, for example a grey illusion gown made of hand-dyed silk, for a sense of -07-\_\_\_\_\_ (decompose) and Abracadabra – a red-boned -08-\_\_\_\_\_ (silken) dress that plays to Lewis's love of corsetry.

Since graduating from Florence's Polimoda in 2024, Lewis has quickly become known among celebrity circles for bringing together meticulous engineering and a kind of -09-\_\_\_\_\_ (chaos), grungy romanticism; a mix that makes his work feel kinetic and disciplined. He throws himself into -10-\_\_\_\_\_ (complication) construction – Russian-doll dresses within dresses, impeccably boned corsets, pieces that move, fit together, and -11-\_\_\_\_\_ (transformation) into other things. These pieces have to work, to bear weight, and withstand -12-\_\_\_\_\_ (exert) on a stage. Designing for beauty is one thing; designing to survive a -13-\_\_\_\_\_ (perform) is wholly another.

Lewis brushes off the suggestion that he's -14-\_\_\_\_\_ (precocious) talented, preferring instead to talk about his spider's web of influences. His cultural diet moves in "waves" but film is a big part of it. Right now he is hooked on Jim Jarmusch's Tilda Swinton-led film from 2013 about vampires who have been -15-\_\_\_\_\_ (live) (or should that be undead?) a little too long, set across Tangier and Detroit.

His pieces are -16-\_\_\_\_\_ (heavy) informed by "'70s rock and '80s and '90s grunge," he says, and often concerned with "fabrics that might not be perfect, that have a sense of decay".

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He mishmashes Debbie Harry with sumptuous Victoriana, gravitating towards silhouettes that track the shape of a body, then **-17-**\_\_\_\_\_ (contortion) to become a touch fantastical. “I wasn’t always the best designer but, through the pursuit of being a better designer – watching movies, reading books, listening to music, seeing art – I’ve been able to become better. You need to **- 18-**\_\_\_\_\_ (engagement) with things to become better; I’m a firm **-19-**\_\_\_\_\_ (believe) in that.”

Lewis’s personal style also leans into the sex appeal and fervour of ’70s rock: the flares, the peaked collars, the gothic boots. “Putting outfits together is a way to **-20-**\_\_\_\_\_ (accessible) that design mind, even when I’m not actually designing,” he says. His style might not always be practical: “I’ve been known to pull out a heeled boot on a hike.”

(Adapted from: VENKATARAMAN, D. 2025. ‘An engineering feat’: the 26-year-old Australian making costumes for Lady Gaga. In: *The Guardian* [online]. 2025. [cit. 2025-12-26]. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2025/nov/29/an-engineering-feat-the-26-year-old-australian-making-costumes-for-lady-gaga>).

**Total points: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10 pts**

Participant Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**VOCABULARY: PROGRESSIVE TEST**

*List as many words related to an airport as possible. You will score 1 point for every 5 correctly spelled answers. For example: crew*

*Total points: \_\_\_\_\_ pts*

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## READING COMPREHENSION

*Read the following article about the longest walk in the world. For questions 01-10, decide which of the sentences (A-M) below the article best fits into each of the numbered gaps in the article. There are three extra sentences.*

**The Longest Walk in the World Traverses 16 Countries**

Let's be clear: Nobody has accomplished this walk to date. It passes through 16 countries, and while the distance itself isn't totally impossible, -01- that make it unlikely that anybody will ever do it.

Here's why.

Let's start with the endurance of the journey. It would take 562 days to complete if you walked for eight hours a day without resting. That would be a considerable feat for even -02-. The dramatic elevation change alone — 76.5 miles (123,114 metres) — means the experience would be equivalent to climbing up Mount Everest 13 times, according to Global Rescue.

This length of an expedition would also require -03- to acquire the permits and visas to legally pass through 16 different countries and potentially hundreds of local provinces. Border crossings and checkpoints would likely take you off the optimal route, -04-. You would also need to stay informed about world news as you travel since many of the areas you must pass through could be experiencing civil unrest or natural disasters.

Pack weight would also be an issue for solo travellers traversing extreme climates and weather conditions. You could always -05- for insulated, waterproof items as you head north, but the amount of medical and survival gear needed to stay safe would add considerable bulk and weight.

Even with the newest ultralight gear, every ounce you need would add up and cause severe wear and tear to your back and joints. These items come at considerable premiums, and -06- just with hiking boots alone. The very best hiking boots, for instance, last for approximately 500 miles (804 kilometres). So, at roughly \$200 a pair, -07- on footwear alone to complete the journey.

The walk also has shortcuts through several remote and rural areas, which would make it difficult to replenish your pack with food and water along the way. Even with access to a smartphone or satellite communication device, -08-, making it challenging to translate, pay for goods – and services, and stay on the route without a portable map app.

A thru-hike from Cape Town, South Africa, and Magadan, Russia, would be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. You would have the opportunity to witness -09-. The hypothetical route takes you through wildlife reserves in Botswana, the Pyramids of Giza, and the Al-Khazneh Temple at Petra, Jordan. It's safe to say you would have a lifetime of stories by the time you ended your -10- of Siberia.

**READING COMPREHENSION-continued**

- A** months of research and meticulous planning
- B** you'd need to budget nearly \$6,000
- C** the most highly trained athletes and thru-hikers
- D** long-distance walks inspire many
- E** you would pass through several dead spots
- F** preparation alone wouldn't be enough
- G** swap out your warm-weather gear
- H** some of the world's many natural and historical wonders
- I** your bank account would quickly dwindle
- J** the route remains largely unmapped
- K** adding more time and distance to the journey
- L** arduous journey in the vast expanses
- M** it's the complications of the walk

<b>01</b>	_____
<b>02</b>	_____
<b>03</b>	_____
<b>04</b>	_____
<b>05</b>	_____
<b>06</b>	_____
<b>07</b>	_____
<b>08</b>	_____
<b>09</b>	_____
<b>10</b>	_____

**Total points:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 10 pts

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**LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

*You will hear a conversation with famous supermodel Heidi Klum speaking about how aging changes everything. Answer multiple-choice questions 01-05 by selecting the correct option (A, B, C, or D). Circle the best answer based on the information provided. You will hear the recording only once.*

**01 How old is Heidi?**

- (A) 50, turning 51 soon.
- (B) 51, about to turn 52.
- (C) 52, just had a birthday.
- (D) 35 years old.

**02 What surprised her most about aging?**

- (A) Losing her strength and stamina quickly.
- (B) The change in her metabolism over time.
- (C) The rapid decline in her eyesight around age 40.
- (D) The need to use more skincare products.

**03 What does Heidi appreciate more about herself as she has got older?**

- (A) She loves herself more than ever before.
- (B) She is bothered by gaining weight and her extra curves.
- (C) She regrets paying less attention to her appearance when she was younger.
- (D) She embraces change and feels comfortable in her body despite her weight gain.

**04 What is a key factor Heidi credits for healthy skin?**

- (A) Maintaining a healthy diet and good nutrition.
- (B) Following a strict exercise routine.
- (C) Using many different skincare products.
- (D) Avoiding cooking at home and eating out.

**05 What important lesson does Heidi want to pass on to her children?**

- (A) How to cook complex meals from different cuisines.
- (B) The importance of eating healthy food as fuel for the body.
- (C) To avoid eating smoothies and unhealthy snacks.
- (D) That taste is the most important factor when choosing food.

*(Adapted from: INTNER, K. 2025. Heidi Klum's Secret to Aging Well Is Being "Super in Love". In: Harper's Bazaar [online]. 2025. [cit. 2025-11-2]. Available from: <https://www.harpersbazaar.com/beauty/health/a63800902/heidi-klum-beauty-interview-aging/>).*

**Total points: \_\_\_\_\_ / 5 pts**

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Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – krajské kolo 2025/2026

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