

**G R A M M A R**

**Read the following text and fill in each gap with the proper verb tense or verb form. Write your answers in the spaces below the article. Spelling counts!**

By the time Scotland's Hunterston B nuclear power station **1... (close)** in January 2022, its dual reactors **2... (produce)** enough energy to power 1.8 million British homes for 46 years. It also provided over 500 jobs to people **3... (live)** in one of the country's most deprived areas. Now, a project borne on the tide of a new era of energy production will take its place.

The new XLCC factory, **4... (build)** at Hunterston in 2023, will not generate electricity. Instead, the site's 900 workers **5... (plan, create)** four high-voltage, direct current (HVDC) electricity cables that will stretch 3,800 km from Britain's south coast, beneath the sea, to a patch of desert in central Morocco. From there, they'll provide enough energy to power 7 million British homes and 8 percent of the UK's total electricity requirement by 2030.

HVDC technology **6... (exist)** since 1954, when Sweden **7... (connect)** the Island of Gotland to its mainland grid. HVDC cables experience low energy losses of around 2 percent, **8... (make)** them suitable for transporting electricity over long distances, **9... (compare)** to the 30 percent lost by alternating-current (AC) systems, which most energy grids operate on.

1.....

5.....

9.....

2.....

6.....

3.....

7.....

**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!**

Each 20-km chunk of the cable is produced by stretching copper or aluminium rods into a 69-mm-wide wire. A conveyor **10 ...** hauls the wire to the top of a 180-meter tower, **11 ...** an insulator is melted onto it **12 ...** three hours as it descends to the factory floor.

In the next step, the 20-km chunks **13 ...** be joined into a 160-km-long cable. **14 ...** can be a very difficult task. The joints are the weakest parts of **15 ...** HVDC cable and must be able to withstand the high temperatures and electromagnetic fields produced by the electricity-conducting core. To ensure every joint is perfect, joiners require specialist training that takes three years.

10.....

12.....

14.....

11.....

13.....

15.....

**Total Points: ...../15 pts**

## V O C A B U L A R Y

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

**Short Break in... Galway, Ireland**

Walking with me through Galway city's Eyre Square, my guide Liam Silke made a **1** ... for the John F. Kennedy memorial. The stone **2** ... with a bronze bas-relief of the US president marks the spot from which he addressed a star-struck crowd in June 1963.

"I was there!" cried Liam (he is also the town crier). "It was the moment when people of Irish **3** ... all over the world saw that coming home to visit was an option. TV was a new thing and watching the most famous Irish-American return to his roots had a big effect on the diaspora."

Since then, the harbour town on Ireland's far western edge, where the rushing River Corrib **4** ... into Galway Bay, has swelled to a city closing in on 100,000 people. Many incomers are of Irish heritage, but they have also been joined by large numbers of Spanish and other Europeans, a **5** ... Brazilian community, and students from India and Malaysia.

The new Galwegians add spice to this welcoming and walkable city **6** ... with brightly painted shops **7**... from traditional to cool and kitsch. Great hospitality plays first **8**... in old-fashioned cafés, pubs, and wonderful seafood restaurants, cheek by **9** ... with curry houses and the odd tapas bar. After dark, jig music wafts from countless cosy watering holes.

This diversity was key in the successful **10** ... to be the 2020 European Capital of Culture. Landscape, language, and migration are the themes under a slogan of 'Let the magic in'. Traditional Irish culture remains strong throughout the region. Galway's Gaeltacht – the area where Irish Gaelic is the main language – is the largest and most populated of its kind in Ireland.

- |    |            |             |             |             |
|----|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1  | A crossing | B beeline   | C guideline | D crosswalk |
| 2  | A pile     | B tablet    | C vault     | D plinth    |
| 3  | A descend  | B descent   | C homage    | D heir      |
| 4  | A sways    | B stirs     | C sweeps    | D skirts    |
| 5  | A sizeable | B spacious  | C hefty     | D abundant  |
| 6  | A brimming | B blinking  | C trimming  | D framing   |
| 7  | A changing | B departing | C turning   | D varying   |
| 8  | A violin   | B solo      | C fiddle    | D part      |
| 9  | A chin     | B jowl      | C cheek     | D ear       |
| 10 | A effort   | B bid       | C demand    | D offer     |

**Total Points: ...../10pts**

## 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 wetlands. Complete gaps 1-10 with a suitable phrase (A-M) from the list on the following page. Three phrases will remain unmatched. Write your answers in the space provided.**

It can be hell finding one's way across an extensive boggy moor—the partially dry, rough ground and the absence of any landmarks let the eye rove helplessly into the monotype distance. Everything undulates, the rise and fall share the same muted palette, and the senses dull. But a swamp is different: in it, in addition to water, there are trees and shrubs, **1**... . Although water and squelch are everywhere in a swamp, there are landmarks—downed trees or jagged stumps, a tenanted heron nest, occasional islands of high-ground hardwood stands called “hammocks” in the South. Yet the swamp traveller goes not in a straight line but slouches from quaking island to thick tussock to slippery, half-submerged log. Even with G.P.S. technology, big swamps **2** ... , and in the past many people with a reason to melt out of sight—Native Americans threatened out of their territory, runaway slaves, Civil War army deserters, or bloodyhanded murderers—have hidden in them.

Many people vaguely understand that wetlands cleanse the earth. In fact, they are carbon sinks that absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, and they are unparalleled in filtering out human waste, material from rotten carcasses, chemicals, and other pollutants. They recharge underground aquifers and sustain regional water resources, **3** ... . In aggregate, the watery parts of the earth stabilize its climate.

In the nineteenth century, the United States enlarged in a fever of land acquisition. Great oceans and lakes framed the country, and the interior roiled with tangles of rivers like unspooling silver ribbons. All that territory had once held a wealth of wetness—scientists have estimated that approximately two hundred and twenty-one million sopping acres existed in the early seventeenth century, much of it swamps— **4** ... .

The original occupants of the continent knew the rivers and swamps, the bogs and lakes, as they knew the terrain and one another. But for most English settlers and European newcomers, nature consisted of passive and inanimate substances and situations **5** ... . Preservation and care of nature were not what they had come for.

After a rainstorm, any curious child who drags a stick obliquely away from a rivulet sees the rivulet **6** ... ; the stick dragger has discovered the principle of drainage. It is this innate existential curiosity that has led humans to commit unthinking malfeasances against the natural world. Farmers grew up with shovel in hand ready to cut drainage ditches. The government was solidly on the side of drainage to increase land area, in part for incoming immigrants. In 1849, Congress passed the first of several swampland laws that turned federal wetlands over to the individual states with the right to dispense those water-sodden acreages for purposes of drainage.

By the nineteen-eighties, roughly half of America's wetlands had been wiped out. Aerial photography made wetland size estimates possible and in 1990 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a study showing that since the sixteen-hundreds, the country's treasury of wetlands **7** ... , and that some states had lost almost all their original wetlands.

The great Southern coastal swamps of the United States were and are treasures of the natural world. Some have been exploited and damaged beyond recognition; some are still rich and wonderful, **8** ... . Visitors can share the amazement and delight of the botanist William Bartram, whose exploratory travels in Georgia and Florida between 1765 and 1776 yielded writings and drawings that show a wild, tropical South.

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

(continued)

Bartram was the son of the Philadelphia Quaker John Bartram, who had been appointed Botanist for the American Colonies by George III. John Bartram made the country's first botanical garden on his Philadelphia property. Father and son often went on botanical expeditions together. One such was to Georgia's lower Altamaha, where in 1765 they first discovered the Franklania, in a sandhill bog. This small, beautiful tree is now extinct in the wild but continues to delight American gardeners, who grow specimens **9** ... collected by William Bartram on his Georgia travels.

At times, the travels were dangerous or pestiferous, as when Bartram fell asleep next to his campfire to enjoy "but a few moments, when I was awakened and greatly surprised, by the terrifying screams of Owls in the deep swamps around me which increased and **10** ... , in dreadful peals vibrating through the dark extensive forests." This past spring, in New Hampshire, I heard amorous owls similarly whooping and caterwauling in the woods.

**A** are places to get lost**B** with raised stream banks made of dry black soil**C** had shrivelled to a hundred and three million acres**D** buffering the excesses of drought and flood**E** forsake its original channel and follow the stick's trail**F** the country's swelling population pushed into the new territories**G** spread every way for miles around**H** waiting to be used to human advantage**I** preserved as wildlife refugia or parks**J** are met with complaints about noisy frogs and fears of flooding**K** all descended from those few samples**L** just as reeds and rushes are the hallmarks of a marsh**M** and two hundred years later many swamplands remained

1. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

Total points:...../10pts

**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 on combatting depredation. For questions 1 to 5, circle one correct answer according to the information you hear. You will hear the text only once.

1. The Greek researchers set out to devise a new deterrent because the old ways of keeping dolphins away from fishing nets \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. have been too costly to use
  - B. have put them at risk of injury
  - C. have not been effective enough
  - D. have been damaging fishing equipment
  
2. Based on previous research and the results of the present research endeavour, it can be concluded that spicy deterrents can ward away \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. other aquatic predators, but not dolphins
  - B. only mammals, but are ineffective on birds or insects
  - C. land mammals, insects, birds, and even fish
  - D. land mammals and certain aquatic predators
  
3. Plundering fishing nets for food turns out to be \_\_\_\_\_ used by dolphins.
  - A. one of the intelligent feeding methods
  - B. the most common feeding method
  - C. one of the easiest feeding methods
  - D. the most violent feeding method
  
4. As far as their eating habits are concerned, dolphins \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. avoid food that is too tough
  - B. can share their prey with other aquatic animals
  - C. are not picky in their choice of food
  - D. choose the most nutritious food in order to survive
  
5. Having completed the given study, the Greek research team \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. decided to stop dealing with this issue for a while
  - B. plans to continue investigating this topic
  - C. started looking for collaboration with other researchers
  - D. plans to formulate new research questions based on its results

**Zoznam použitej literatúry:**

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Autor: PhDr. Xenia Liashuk, PhD.

Recenzent: PaedDr. Anna Brisudová

Korektor: Joshua M. Ruggiero

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