

ENGLISH COMPETITION

2023.



EMBERI ERŐFORRÁS
TÁMOGATÁSKEZELŐ

FOR YEAR 9 AND 10 STUDENTS IN GRAMMAR AND SECONDARY
SCHOOLS

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR SCHOOL: _____

YOUR CLASS: _____

CATEGORY

SCORES: TASK 1 _____

TASK 2 _____

TASK 3 _____

TASK 4 _____

TOTAL _____



Nemzeti
Tehetség Program



EMBERI ERŐFORRÁSOK
MINISZTERIUMA

TEACHER'S (COORDINATOR'S) SIGNATURE: _____

TASK 1

In this article you have to form the right words that fit in the gaps (1-10). Use the words given in brackets. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Bagehot: Westminster's other cathedral

"Once in a royal David's city, stood 0. _____ (**low**) cattle shed." The soloist' voice sliced through the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, a small church in a corner of the Palace of Westminster, before a congregation of MPS, lords, cabinet ministers, aides, IT support staff and your correspondent.

Amid the singing, a woman marched down the aisle with a green piece of paper marked "VOTE". Sacred matters had to wait; profane politics called. There was a division over whether to carry out an impact 1. _____ (**assess**) on the effect a free trade deal with Australia and New Zealand would have on Britain's farmers. "And our eyes at last shall see Him," bayed the assembled singers as MPS gathered their winter coats and rushed to the voting lobbies. Religion is entwined with Britain's Parliament. The House of Commons begins its day with prayers. Since 2. _____ (**attend**) at prayers is the way to guarantee a seat for the day, even the 3. _____ (**god**) turn up. Britain has a religious constitution, with church and state fused, rather than separated. The king is head of the Church of England; Catholics may not ascend the throne. Head to the House of Lords, Britain's upper chamber, to find 26 Bishops from the Church of England 4. _____ (**debate**) everything from welfare to defence policy. At times, Parliament—filled with cloisters, saints and stained-glass windows—is as much a cathedral as a place of politics. Devotion in Westminster is not matched by the country at large. For the first time, only a 5. _____ (**minor**) of people identify as Christian in some form, according to the 2021 census. In 2001, 72% did. Now only 46% do. Weekly church attendance is now under 1m in a country of 67m.

Meanwhile, the ranks of the godless grow. In 2011, a quarter of people expressed no religion. Now 37% do. A religious constitution suits a godless country surprisingly well.

A gap between politicians and voters on religion has always existed. Before the second world war, British prime ministers tended towards scepticism even when Britain was still relatively devout, points out Mark Vickers, in his new book "God in Number 10". Clement Attlee, the post-war Labour leader, declared: "Believe in the ethics of Christianity. Can't believe the mumbo jumbo." Organised religion was associated with joyless Sundays, which was anathema to the 6. _____ (**ambition**) and often hedonistic men who ran Britain in the first half of the 20th century. David Lloyd George, the Liberal prime minister, said that "the thought of Heaven used to frighten men more than the thought of hell.

Now, the opposite applies. It is the norm for leading politicians to be people of faith, even if their voters are not. Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, is a Hindu and keeps a statue of Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed God, on his desk in Downing Street. Among the great offices of state, only James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, is not particularly religious. Even Boris

Johnson, once labelled a pagan by one 7. _____ (**admire**), called himself a “very, very bad Christian”.

Sir Keir Starmer would be the first avowedly atheist leader of Britain since Jim Callaghan, the Labour prime minister who led the country five decades ago. (Mr Johnson, the very bad Christian, chided Sir Keir with scripture: “‘The foolish man has said in his heart, there is no God.’ I’ll leave it at that.”)

Sociological rather than ecclesiastical reasons explain Britain’s surplus of godly MPS. Parliamentarians are joiners by nature. Turning up to church every Sunday and sitting alongside people one may not particularly like is good 8. _____ (**train**) for a career in politics. Geography plays its part. A country’s capital cannot help but shape a country’s politics. Despite its reputation as a hotbed of metropolitan liberalism, London is the most devout place in the country. One in four attends a religious service in the city each month, compared with one in ten outside the capital.

Political calculation rather than 9. _____ (**constitution**) limit stops faith from playing too large a role in British politics. There are few votes to be gained by scooping up a devout minority.

(Likewise, there are few to be gained by railing against the role of religion in public life.) Mr Sunak plays down the fact he is the first non-Christian leader of the country. “It’s also wonderful that it’s not that big a deal,” he told the Spectator. Most voters do not care either way, as long as religion does not intrude into day-to-day politics. When it does, the results are rarely good. Tim Farron, a former leader of the Liberal Democrats and a devout Christian, spent much of the 2017 general election being grilled on whether he thought homosexuality was a sin.

We do God

Since the state does not separate religion and politics, MPS are left to do it themselves. Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, has expressed unease over abortion after 12 weeks. During his pitch for leader in 2019, he said he would not touch the limit of 24 weeks. “I don’t think it defines my politics,” he said of his faith. A sense of restraint is necessary for all parts of the constitution to work and faith is no exception.

Britain’s 10. _____ (**settle**) on religion and politics may look ridiculous. But a secular constitution is no guarantee against neuralgic debates on faith. America divides church and state, yet religion infects politics. A narrative of exclusion is a potent thing, which evangelical Republicans have whipped up for decades, with great success. In Britain, religion permeates the constitution and daily life of politics to such an absurd degree it is hardly there at all. And so theocracy in theory becomes secular democracy in practice.

Instead, religion in British politics is like nitrogen in air: inert and ignored but there nevertheless. The devout can tell themselves that Britain is still a Christian country; the secular can console themselves that this has no effect. In the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, lawmakers crept back in after the motion was defeated (Ayes 192, Noes 296) to belt out more carols and hear a sermon. Keep religion in Parliament. It is the best way of keeping religion out of politics.

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TASK 2

In this article some words have been left out. Your task is to fill in the gaps (1-10) from the list (A-L). There is an extra word that you will not need to use. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

The laws of nature

There is a financial case for investing in biodiversity

The natural world is a **0.** _____ of beauty and wonder, but it also provides humans with essential services. Jungles, savannahs, and mangroves act as **1.** _____ against infectious diseases and storm surges. Forests channel moisture into rivers that irrigate crops, while their roots prevent landslides. At a gathering on Monday in Montreal, 196 governments from around the world **2.** _____ to protect and restore 30% or more of the Earth's water and land by 2030. Lofty promises about preserving the world's biodiversity have been made and broken many times before. One step towards avoiding yet more disappointment is to emphasise the close link between preserving biodiversity and the widely held goal of reaching net-zero carbon emissions.

The destruction of natural environments is depressing, **3.** _____ and hard to ignore. The area of coral reefs has halved since the 1950s and the rate of loss is accelerating. Some 10m hectares of forest are lost worldwide every year. Less known is the link between biodiversity and climate change. Each year more than a quarter of the carbon dioxide emitted by industry and agriculture is absorbed by natural ecosystems.

Around the world, investment in the energy transition is accelerating. Spending in 2022 on clean energy, for example, should reach \$1.4trn, roughly a fifth above the pre-pandemic level. Scores of countries and thousands of big companies have plans to get to net-zero emissions within the next 20-30 years. Given that biodiversity has an important role in meeting these carbon-reduction goals, you might think that it would **4.** _____ highly in these plans.

Not so. For example, Joe Biden's chief piece of climate legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act, contains about \$400bn of subsidies for clean energy and other initiatives yet has too little to say about biodiversity. Faced with tighter regulation of emissions and **5.** _____ schemes, many bosses are now dedicating more time and cash to cutting their firms' carbon footprints. But most still regard biodiversity as a nice-to-have luxury that is far beyond their **6.** _____.

That needs to change. Safeguarding biodiversity is an efficient way to control carbon emissions. More of the rising amounts of government spending being thrown at mitigating and adapting to climate change should be spent on it.

TASK 3

In this article some phrases have been left out. Your task is to fill in the gaps (1-10) from the list (A-L). There is an extra phrase that you will not need to use. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Waking up in Vietnam

by Benjamin Winnick

The three years I spent in Vietnam shaped my perceptions and 0) C. I encountered prejudice and 1) _____. I witnessed poverty and saw the developing world firsthand. And I learned how culture shapes life, work, and behavior.

At my high school, the International School of Ho Chi Minh City Americans were a minority. Most students were Vietnamese or Korean, among more than 20 nationalities. I encountered prejudice against America for the first time, though not from Vietnamese students. 2) _____, driven by objections to America's foreign policy but extending to its culture, history, and people.

I was not just Ben; I was "the American." I was torn between my own disagreement with U.S. foreign policy, 3) _____, and my desire to be accepted. There were also tensions among other groups, particularly between Koreans and Europeans. After enduring these tensions for over a year, 4) _____. During my sophomore year, I spearheaded the creation of the "Students for Tolerance Committee" to raise awareness and reduce hostility at school.

My school experiences were complemented by invaluable lessons about poverty and its problems that I learned from living in a developing country. In Vietnam, I saw families living in metal shacks. I saw people use the Saigon River as a toilet, drink its water, and bathe and wash their clothes in it. I saw children working in fields and 5) _____. Although I witnessed these events daily, my most direct experiences of poverty and cultural differences came from volunteering at Bien Hoa Orphanage.

The orphanage showed me the hardships orphans face. The air inside was filled with the stench of urine, feces, warm milk, mucus, and sweat. There were rooms filled with dozens of tiny mewling babies. When we, a group of nine volunteers, held the babies, we could feel their heavy, impaired breathing. Caring for so many tiny children was a Sisyphean task. Only two caregivers worked at a time, and 6) _____. They had little time to play with the children. We alleviated some of the strain but even as we held, rocked, fed and played with them, 7) _____. I would console one child, but as soon as I diverted my attention to another baby, the child I had just put down would resume howling.

At Bien Hoa, I learned that when people are concerned with survival, 8) _____. The women who worked at the orphanage seemed more concerned with keeping their jobs than with the children's welfare. They rarely let the children go outside because they feared that any injury, even a scratch or bug bite, would jeopardize their employment. When one of our teachers donated a pair of shoes, a woman on duty took them for her own child. When someone is in poverty, short-term gain is a higher priority than moral correctness. Perhaps moral correctness is a luxury reserved for those whose immediate needs are satisfied.

TASK 4

You are going to read an installment from a world-famous novel written by J. K. Rowling. The last couple of letters of some words are missing. Your task is to put in the missing letters on their lines in the text.

There is an example (0) at the beginning.

The whole of Gryffindor House was **0) obse s s e d** with the coming match. Gryffindor hadn't won the Quidditch Cup since the **1) lege**_____ Charlie Weasley (Ron's second oldest brother) had been Seeker. But Harry **2) dou**_____ whether any of them, even Wood, wanted to win as much as he did. The **3) enm**____ between Harry and Malfoy was at its highest point ever. Malfoy was still smarting about the mud-throwing **4) inc**_____ in Hogsmeade and was even more **5) fur**_____ that Harry had somehow **6) wor**_____ his way out of punishment. Harry hadn't forgotten Malfoy's attempt to **7) sab**_____ him in the match against Ravenclaw, but it was the matter of Buckbeak that made him most **8) dete**_____ to beat Malfoy in front of the entire school.

Never, in anyone's memory, had a match **9) appr**_____ in such a highly charged atmosphere. By the time the holidays were over, tension between the two teams and their Houses was at the breaking point. A number of small **10) scuf**_____ broke out in the corridors, **11) culmi**_____ in a nasty incident in which a Gryffindor fourth year and a Slytherin sixth year ended up in the hospital wing with leeks **12) spro**_____ out of their ears.

Harry was having a particularly bad time of it. He couldn't walk to class without Slytherins sticking out their legs and trying to trip him up; Crabbe and Goyle kept popping up **13) wher**_____ he went, and **14) slou**_____ away looking disappointed when they saw him surrounded by people. Wood had given instructions that Harry should be accompanied everywhere, in case the Slytherins tried to put him out of action. The whole of Gryffindor House took up the challenge **15) enthus**_____, so that it was impossible for Harry to get to classes on time because he was surrounded by a vast, chattering crowd. Harry was more **16) conc**_____ for his Firebolt's safety than his own. When he wasn't flying it, he locked it **17) secu**_____ in his trunk and frequently **18) das**_____ back up to Gryffindor Tower at break times to check that it was still there.

All usual **19) pur**_____ were abandoned in the Gryffindor common room the night before the match. Even Hermione had put down her books.

"I can't work, I can't concentrate," she said nervously.

There was a great deal of noise. Fred and George Weasley were dealing with the pressure by being louder and more **20) exub**_____ than ever. Oliver Wood was **21) cro**_____ over a model of a Quidditch field in the corner, **22) prod**_____ little figures across it with his wand and **23) mut**_____ to himself. Angelina, Alicia, and Katie were laughing at Fred's and George's jokes. Harry was sitting with Ron and Hermione, removed from the center of things, trying not to think about the next day, because every time he did, he had the horrible sensation that something very large was fighting to get out of his stomach.

"You're going to be fine," Hermione told him, though she looked positively terrified.

"You've got a Firebolt!" said Ron.

"Yeah . . .," said Harry, his stomach **24) writ**_____.

It came as a **25) rel**___ when Wood suddenly stood up and yelled, "Team! Bed!"

Harry slept badly. First he dreamed that he had overslept, and that Wood was yelling, "Where were you? We had to use Neville instead!" Then he dreamed that Malfoy and the rest of the Slytherin team arrived for the match riding dragons. He was flying at **26) brea**_____ speed, trying to avoid a spurt of flames from Malfoy's steed's mouth, when he realized he had forgotten his Firebolt. He fell through the air and woke with a start.

It was a few seconds before Harry remembered that the match hadn't taken place yet, that he was safe in bed, and that the Slytherin team definitely wouldn't be allowed to play on dragons. He was feeling very thirsty. Quietly as he could, he got out of his four-poster and went to pour himself some water from the silver jug **27) ben**_____ the window.

The grounds were still and quiet. No breath of wind disturbed the **28) tree**_____ in the Forbidden Forest; the Whomping Willow was **29) moti**_____ and innocent-looking. It looked as though the conditions for the match would be perfect.

Harry set down his goblet and was about to turn back to his bed when something caught his eye. An animal of some kind was **30) prow**_____ across the silvery lawn.

