

MATURA Z JĘZYKA ANGIELSKIEGO 2025

ROZUMIENIE TEKSTÓW PISANYCH

Read the text and answer the questions (Task 4.1–4.4).

Text:

An excerpt from the preface to a fictional biography of Charles Dickens, narrated by one of his acquaintances.

I often find myself contemplating the uncanny sequence of events that led to my longstanding relationship with Charles Dickens, a man whose literary genius was unrivaled in his era. Had it not been for a chance encounter at a charity event organized by Lady Ashcroft, I might never have crossed paths with him. At that time, I was a young lawyer struggling to make ends meet, and Dickens was already a well-known figure in the London social circles.

It was a particularly rainy evening, and I remember thinking I should have declined the invitation altogether. But as fate would have it, I arrived late and found myself seated next to him at dinner. He spoke with such passion and insight about his upcoming novel, and I found myself engrossed in the conversation. Our meeting seemed purely coincidental, yet it turned out to be the turning point in my career. Dickens offered me a role as his legal advisor, which not only improved my financial situation but also introduced me to the fascinating world of publishing.

Reflecting on those days, I realize how easily our paths could have diverged. Had Lady Ashcroft seated me elsewhere or had I chosen to skip the event, I would have missed the opportunity of a lifetime. But Dickens had a way of drawing people to him, almost as if it were inevitable. I can now proudly say I was there to witness the conception of some of his greatest works, and I am eternally grateful for that one evening that changed everything.

Questions:

4.1. In the first paragraph, the narrator suggests that:

- A. certain events are beyond our control and can shape our lives.
- B. social status plays a crucial role in one's career.
- C. making new acquaintances is the key to success.
- D. a desire to become successful often leads to disappointment.

4.2. Based on the narrator's description, his initial impression of Charles Dickens was that he:

- A. was arrogant and dismissive of others.
- B. appeared unapproachable and distant.
- C. was captivating and inspiring.
- D. seemed uninterested in casual conversations.

4.3. When recalling his meeting with Dickens, the narrator feels:

- A. regretful for not seizing more opportunities.
- B. thankful for the life-changing encounter.
- C. puzzled by how quickly their friendship developed.
- D. worried that he had made a poor first impression.

4.4. In the final paragraph, the narrator uses the phrase "our paths could have diverged" to highlight:

- A. his uncertainty about his career choices.
- B. the randomness of life's defining moments.
- C. his dissatisfaction with his previous profession.
- D. the inevitability of their meeting.

POPRAWNE ODPOWIEDZI

1. 4.1. A. certain events are beyond our control and can shape our lives.
2. 4.2. C. was captivating and inspiring.
3. 4.3. B. thankful for the life-changing encounter.
4. 4.4. B. the randomness of life's defining moments.

Task: Read the text and answer the questions (4.1–4.4).

Text:

An excerpt from a fictional memoir by Emily Hartley, a renowned botanist.

I still remember the day I decided to leave the bustling city life behind and pursue a quieter existence in the countryside. I had been working tirelessly at the botanical research institute, but something was missing. Despite the accolades and achievements, I felt disconnected from the very plants I was studying.

One afternoon, a colleague mentioned a secluded village nestled in the Cotswolds, known for its rich biodiversity and untouched landscapes. On a whim, I rented a small cottage there for a few months. Those were the most transformative weeks of my life. I spent countless hours observing the flora, sketching every leaf and petal. My isolation allowed me to reconnect with the natural world in a way I had never experienced before.

Ironically, it was in that isolation that I found companionship. The locals were initially cautious around the “stranger botanist,” as they called me. But over time, I formed unexpected friendships that proved to be just as nurturing as the wildflowers that surrounded me. One neighbor, Mrs. Willoughby, invited me for tea, and we spoke for hours about the history of the village and its unique ecosystem. Her stories were fascinating, but it was her genuine warmth that made me feel truly at home.

Returning to the institute months later, I was a changed person. The countryside had not only deepened my understanding of botany but had also reminded me of the importance of human connections. I began incorporating more community-focused initiatives in my projects, ensuring that my research was not only academically valuable but also enriching for the people it touched.

Questions:

4.1. In the first paragraph, Emily implies that:

- A. her research had lost its sense of purpose.
- B. city life was distracting her from her work.
- C. she was uninterested in her colleagues' opinions.
- D. the countryside was always her true passion.

4.2. Based on Emily's description, her initial interaction with the villagers can be described as:

- A. immediately welcoming and supportive.
- B. tense and confrontational.
- C. hesitant but gradually accepting.
- D. indifferent and dismissive.

4.3. When recalling her time in the countryside, Emily feels:

- A. regretful for not staying longer.
- B. grateful for the opportunity to connect with nature.
- C. frustrated by her limited resources there.
- D. nostalgic about the isolation.

4.4. In the last paragraph, Emily mentions incorporating community-focused initiatives to emphasize:

- A. her desire to leave the institute permanently.
- B. the value of connecting her work to people's lives.
- C. the need for more research funding.
- D. her ambition to become a famous botanist.

POPRAWNE ODPOWIEDZI

Oto poprawne odpowiedzi do tekstu:

- 4.1. A. her research had lost its sense of purpose.
- 4.2. C. hesitant but gradually accepting.
- 4.3. B. grateful for the opportunity to connect with nature.
- 4.4. B. the value of connecting her work to people's lives.

Task: Read the text and answer the questions (4.1–4.4).

Text:

An excerpt from the memoir of Jonathan Reed, a renowned travel writer.

When I look back at the journey that changed my life, it all started with a simple conversation at a café in Barcelona. I was a young writer then, struggling to get published, and contemplating whether I had chosen the right career path. A stranger seated next to me—a seasoned explorer with a sun-weathered face—noticed my notebook filled with unfinished drafts and struck up a conversation. He spoke about the mystical landscapes of Patagonia, the rugged beauty of its mountains, and the solitude of its vast plains.

His stories lit a fire within me. He encouraged me to explore the world beyond what was familiar, to step out of my comfort zone and embrace the unknown. That very evening, I booked a one-way ticket to South America, not knowing what awaited me.

The experience was transformative. I spent six months trekking through the Andes, living with indigenous communities, and witnessing nature in its purest form. I wrote feverishly, filling page after page with descriptions of the places and people I encountered. For the first time, my words felt alive.

By the time I returned to Europe, I was no longer the same person. My travel notes became the foundation of my first published book, which received acclaim and marked the beginning of my career as a travel writer. It was that unexpected conversation in Barcelona that set everything in motion. I often wonder what would have happened if I hadn't met that stranger—if I had simply walked out of the café without speaking to him.

Questions:

4.1. In the first paragraph, Jonathan suggests that his career:

- A. was already well-established at the time of his trip.
- B. lacked a sense of direction and purpose.
- C. was hindered by financial difficulties.
- D. was strongly supported by his peers.

4.2. Based on Jonathan's account, the stranger's stories about Patagonia:

- A. were exaggerated to impress him.
- B. convinced him to give up writing.
- C. sparked his desire to travel and explore.
- D. made him feel inadequate in his profession.

4.3. Jonathan's time in South America can be described as:

- A. a turning point that renewed his passion for writing.
- B. an extended vacation that helped him relax.
- C. a series of unfortunate events that he struggled to overcome.
- D. a period marked by severe isolation and loneliness.

4.4. In the last paragraph, Jonathan reflects on his encounter in the café to highlight:

- A. the importance of planning every detail of one's career.
- B. how random events can have a profound impact on one's life.
- C. his regret for not having pursued travel earlier.
- D. the fleeting nature of human connections.

POPRAWNE ODPOWIEDZI

Oto poprawne odpowiedzi do tekstu:

- 4.1. B. lacked a sense of direction and purpose.
- 4.2. C. sparked his desire to travel and explore.
- 4.3. A. a turning point that renewed his passion for writing.
- 4.4. B. how random events can have a profound impact on one's life

Task: Read the text and answer the questions (4.1–4.4).

Text:

An excerpt from the journal of Amelia Donovan, an aspiring chef.

When I first moved to Paris, I was overwhelmed by the fast-paced environment and the high expectations in the culinary world. The prestigious cooking school I enrolled in was known for its rigorous training and relentless critique. There were days when I doubted my abilities, wondering if I was truly cut out for this demanding profession.

One evening, after a particularly grueling class, I wandered into a small, unassuming bistro tucked away on a quiet street. There, I met Pierre, an elderly chef who owned the place. He invited me to sit by the kitchen, where I watched him prepare a simple yet exquisite dish of ratatouille. We talked about food, passion, and perseverance.

Pierre shared stories of his early days, struggling as a young chef in a city that showed no mercy to beginners.

His words resonated deeply with me. He reminded me that the true essence of cooking wasn't in the complexity of the dish, but in the love and care poured into each creation. Inspired by his humility and wisdom, I returned to school the next day with a renewed sense of purpose.

Over the following months, I began to approach my training differently, focusing on the joy of cooking rather than the pressure to excel. My teachers noticed the change, and I was soon given opportunities to showcase my work. That small bistro visit transformed my perspective and became a pivotal moment in my culinary journey.

Questions:

4.1. In the first paragraph, Amelia expresses that she:

- A. felt confident and ready to take on challenges.**
- B. was unsure of her decision to pursue a culinary career.**
- C. wanted to quit the cooking school due to harsh criticism.**
- D. preferred working in smaller, less demanding kitchens.**

4.2. Based on Amelia's description, Pierre's approach to cooking can be described as:

- A. focusing on simplicity and authenticity.**
- B. emphasizing complex techniques and rare ingredients.**
- C. adhering strictly to traditional French cuisine.**
- D. using food as a competitive tool.**

4.3. Amelia's visit to Pierre's bistro had what effect on her?

- A. It made her reconsider her career choice.**
- B. It pushed her to take a break from cooking.**
- C. It helped her rediscover her passion for cooking.**
- D. It discouraged her from trying new recipes.**

4.4. In the final paragraph, Amelia attributes her success to:

- A. the intense training she received at the school.**
- B. her natural talent and determination.**
- C. the chance encounter with Pierre and his advice.**
- D. the support of her teachers and classmates.**

POPRAWNE ODPOWIEDZI

Odpowiedzi:

- 4.1. B. was unsure of her decision to pursue a culinary career.
- 4.2. A. focusing on simplicity and authenticity.
- 4.3. C. It helped her rediscover her passion for cooking.
- 4.4. C. the chance encounter with Pierre and his advice.

Task: Read the text and answer the questions (4.1–4.4).

Text:

An excerpt from the memoir of Michael Turner, an architect reflecting on his early career.

When I first started out as an architect, I had a very rigid idea of what I considered good design. My professors had always emphasized the importance of precision and symmetry, and I believed that only complex, innovative structures could truly be considered masterpieces. It wasn't until I took on a project to restore an old, abandoned library in a small town that my perspective shifted.

The library was in a state of complete disrepair. The walls were cracked, and the roof had long since caved in. Yet, as I walked through the space, I could see the beauty hidden beneath the decay. I began speaking with the locals—many of whom still remembered visiting the library as children. They described it not as an architectural marvel, but as a place of memories, warmth, and community.

I realized then that architecture was more than just about aesthetics or innovation. It was about creating spaces that people connect with, that evoke a sense of belonging. As I worked on the restoration, I focused not only on preserving the structural integrity of the building but also on maintaining its character. I kept the original wooden beams, the mosaic floor, and even the creaky staircase that generations had walked up and down.

When the project was completed, the library reopened not as a grand, imposing structure, but as a familiar, welcoming space where the community once again felt at home. This project taught me more than any textbook ever could: that true design is about understanding the soul of a place and the people who inhabit it.

Questions:

4.1. In the first paragraph, Michael reveals that he initially:

- A. preferred restoring old buildings rather than creating new ones.**
- B. focused primarily on community needs when designing structures.**
- C. believed only grand and intricate designs were valuable.**
- D. was unsure if he should pursue architecture as a career.**

4.2. Based on Michael's description, his interaction with the locals helped him:

- A. realize that his original plan for the library was flawed.**
- B. understand the emotional significance of the building.**
- C. change his mind about working in small towns.**
- D. discover his dislike for large-scale projects.**

4.3. Michael's approach to the library's restoration was to:

- A. modernize it with cutting-edge technology.**
- B. completely transform its original structure.**
- C. focus on preserving its historical elements.**
- D. increase its size and functionality.**

4.4. In the last paragraph, Michael reflects that the library project taught him:

- A. the value of preserving architectural traditions.**
- B. how difficult it is to work on restoration projects.**
- C. that understanding a building's essence is more important than innovation.**
- D. the importance of symmetry and complexity in design.**

POPRAWNE ODPOWIEDZI

Oto poprawne odpowiedzi do tekstu:

- 4.1. C. believed only grand and intricate designs were valuable.**
- 4.2. B. understand the emotional significance of the building.**
- 4.3. C. focus on preserving its historical elements.**
- 4.4. C. that understanding a building's essence is more important than innovation.**