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**ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РАБОТА УЧАСТНИКА  
ОЛИМПИАДЫ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ СПбГУ**

**2018–2019**

заключительный этап

Предмет (комплекс предметов) Олимпиады

ИНОСТРАННЫЙ ЯЗЫК (АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК)

Город, в котором проводится Олимпиада

Санкт-Петербург

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ВАРИАНТ 6

10-11 классы

**1. Comment on the following extract.**

Fixing the ‘problem’ of ageing is the mission of Silicon Valley, where billions is pouring into biotech firms working to ‘hack the code’ of life – despite concerns about the social implications. Some scientists believe it is possible to “solve ageing” and get people to live, healthily, more or less indefinitely. They say this is a moral rather than personal quest, while there is no absolute biological limit on human age, arguing that cellular immortality – in effect running the clock backwards – should be possible. Whether this will happen this century or not none can say. Such ideas are just speculation for now.

There are a number of scientists who intend to slow the aging process and currently study the problem in animal models. There have been attempts to develop drugs that will have the same effect on the aging process as a caloric restriction diet known as Caloric restriction drugs. Some drugs that are already approved for other uses have been studied for possible longevity effects on laboratory animals.

Meanwhile, there is an increasing number of people realising that the concept of anti-ageing medicine that actually works is going to be the biggest industry that ever existed. Serious people are doing research in this area and serious thinkers are thinking about this. Radical life extension isn't consigned to the realm of cranks and science fiction writers any more.

The possibility of being immortal has always fascinated people. The Elixir of life and the Philosopher's stone, for instance, were the most desirable substances that medieval alchemists were trying to make.

Nowadays the ~~the~~ scientists in the Silicon Valley are actually trying to find ~~(the)~~ solution to the problem of death. For me the idea of immortality is frightening. In my opinion, it creates more issues than it solves.

Firstly, the circle of life cannot be interrupted. People are born and they die, and that's the simple truth. The concept of extending life is not right, it contradicts human nature.

The scientific progress is of course speeding up. If ~~(the)~~ scientists do find a way of slowing the down ageing process, it will undoubtedly be a sensation. However if that is the case, special regulations should be imposed on the use of such drugs. If all the people in the world chose to live forever, the Earth might collapse. Either there should be a way of colonising other planets or a law should be created to limit the possibility of extending life.

Secondly, there is an issue of the cost of such drugs. Most people would probably be unable to afford to prolong their lives which might lead to a social conflict. ~~would~~ the rich live eternally, while the poor die of age?

All in all, I believe that the dangers of the idea outweighs the romanticism of living indefinitely. In any case, I am glad that I would be dead when such intervention might take place.

## 2. Read the fable and write down the moral it contains in the space below the fable.

### The Ass in the Lion's Skin Fable.

An Ass once found a Lion's skin which the hunters had left out in the sun to dry.

He put it on and went towards his native village.

All fled at his approach, both men and animals, and he was a proud Ass that day.

In his delight he lifted up his voice and brayed, but then every one knew him, and his owner came up and gave him a sound cudgelling for the fright he had caused.

Do not pretend to be someone else, this will never end well.

## 8. Insert the required articles where necessary. If no article is required put X.

1. He hadn't said a word since ~~the~~ X dinner began. 2. The National Gallery and the Albert Hall are the right places to visit when you come to the capital of the United Kingdom. 3. It was X late afternoon when we finally came to the Savoy Hotel after a long tiresome trip.

## 9. These are among the best novels of the English-speaking world. Who are their authors?

	Book	Author
1.	'The Old Curiosity Shop'	Ch Dickens
2.	'The Happy Prince'	Oscar wild
3.	'Sister Carrier'	Th. Dreiser
4.	'The Old Man and the Sea'	Ernest Hemingway
5.	'The Moon and Sixpence'	<del>S. Maugham</del> S. Maugham
6.	'The Quiet American'	Gr. Green
7.	'Pygmalion'	<del>W. Shakespeare</del> J. Galsworthy
8.	'Hamlet'	W. Shakespeare
9.	'Martin Eden'	J. London
10.	'The Man of Property'	Bernard Shaw

Authors: J. Galsworthy, W. Shakespeare, J. London, Oscar Wild, Ch. Dickens, Ernest Hemingway, Bernard Shaw, Th. Dreiser, S. Maugham, Gr. Green

## 10. Find and underline idioms in the sentences in the left column of the table. Write down your sentences with the same meaning but without the idiom in the right one.

	Sentences with idioms	Sentences without idioms
1.	Mr. Davis thinks he can <u>teach us the trombone</u> . He must have a <u>bee in his bonnet</u> .	Mr. Davis thinks he <del>can teach us</del> knows better. He must be mad.
2.	She likes to <u>have a finger in every pie</u> in the village.	She likes to know everything about everyone in the village
3.	When the missing money was noticed, she chose to disappear rather than <u>face the music</u> .	When the missing money was noticed, she chose to disappear rather than admit the problem.
4.	What you say is <u>double Dutch</u> for me.	What you say is not understandable.
5.	On the night of the play, Ann's father told her to <u>break a leg</u> .	On the night of the play, Ann's father wished her luck.

6. Answer the question and comment on the statement.

One can google any information in seconds, rather than searching for it in libraries. E-books save us precious time and money, while real books are made of woods, which causes reducing of forests and making the ecology worse. Do paper books have a chance for the future?

In the modern world, information is the key to success. People often say that ~~whoever~~ whoever possesses the information ~~possesses~~ possesses the world. It is true that nowadays information can be easily found online and that paper books are becoming the thing of the past.

However, ~~as it might be~~, I do not believe that there is a chance for ~~paper books~~ paper books in the future. Not only ~~because~~ are we running low on resources such as woods but it is also much more convenient to read a book online. Firstly, most of the books online are free ~~and~~ ~~do not~~ people have to pay for their production. Secondly, a paper book might be quite heavy, and ~~especially~~ the minimalist friend urges us to use our mobile phones for everything we can. Moreover, carrying a bag of books can seriously damage people's health. ~~For instance~~, most students in the past had spine ~~malfunction~~ <sup>issues</sup> due to their habit of carrying a bag of textbooks with them. Modern students try to minimize the risks and to make use of e-books and smartphones to save them time and energy.

Still, I believe that books as we know them once could soon become ~~a~~ <sup>the</sup> symbol of wealth. In other words, having ~~a library~~ <sup>books at home</sup> would be considered an attribute of being rich.

Because, as real books are made of woods, and there is a limited amount of forests our planet can produce, the cost of one book would be increasing. Overall, I think that paper books do have a chance to survive, but they will not be used by most of the population.

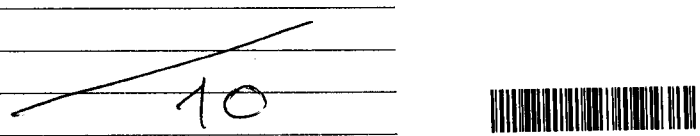
7. Explain the meaning of the following 2 words which reflect peculiarities of British and American cultures.

(1). The House of Commons <sup>is the</sup> lower chamber in the UK ~~parliament~~ <sup>government</sup>. The commons in ~~the~~ parliament are opposed to the Lords, the higher chamber. The peculiarity is that the word "common" in English means not only something that is ~~common~~ <sup>shared</sup> often, but also someone not smart or beautiful.

(2). FLOTUS ~~First Lady of the United States~~ stands for the First Lady of the United States. FLOTUS is the wife of the president in office. She ~~usually~~ <sup>sometimes</sup> attends major meetings alongside her husband. The current FLOTUS is Melania Trump, the wife of Donald Trump. The most famous FLOTUS is Hillary Clinton, <sup>wife of</sup> Bill Clinton, who ran for presidency herself in 2018.

~~major meetings alongside her husband. The current FLOTUS is Melania Trump, the wife of Donald Trump. The most famous one now is Hillary Clinton, the wife of Bill Clinton, who ran for presidency herself in 2018.~~

The moral of the fable is quite clear. However, there is still a point that the ~~Ass~~ <sup>Ass</sup> didn't ~~they~~ think his actions through. If he had a reason for putting the don's skin on, he would've known better than to prey.



3. Find and underline ten mistakes (lexical and grammar) and write the wrong variant in the left and the correct variant in the right column of the table below the text.

"The History of Plymouth Plantation" <sup>was</sup> had been written by William Bradford between 1620 and 1651. It is a kind of diary in which he was writing about the life of the Pilgrims. After the Pilgrims had been landed in Plymouth harbour, they <sup>ed</sup> unload the "Mayflower". Then all their <sup>self luggage</sup> things had been put in a dry place. Later, cottages were being built for someone. The pilgrims also had discussed <sup>problems</sup> things and had made laws for their small group. In the winter months over half of the Pilgrims died and over 40 became ill. For sometime all the work had been done by <sup>just</sup> only six or seven people. They fetched wood and made fires in everybody's houses. Food was cooked for the people who were ill, too.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant
1	"The History of Plymouth Plantation" had been written by William Bradford.	"The History of Plymouth Plantation" was written by...
2	After the pilgrims had been landed in Plymouth harbour...	After the pilgrims had landed in...
3	they unload the "Mayflower"	they unloaded the "Mayflower"
4	Then all their things ...	Then all of their things
5	had been put	were put

6	were being built	were built	+
7	had discussed	discussed	+
8	had made	made	+
9	had been done	was done (being done)	+
10	only six or seven	just six or seven	

## 4. Comment on the following quotation:

A friend to all is a friend to none

(Aristotle).

This famous Aristotle's pronouncement, though can be <sup>lex</sup> applied to any time period, has a particular meaning in the modern world, where it is possible to make friends online.

The quotation means that if you have too many friends, you do not have any real ones. I believe that the saying ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> true, and that ~~you~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~can't~~ <sup>cannot</sup> be friends with everyone.

If we consider an enemy the opposite of friend, then the absence of enemies must be alarming. A person who has an opinion most often meets disagreement and ~~is~~ consequently has enemies. ~~Being a friend to all~~ Therefore, being a friend to all requires one of two things: being unopinionated ~~and~~ <sup>are</sup> too soft to express your opinion, or pretending to be someone you are not. This last case has a direct connection to the modern ways of communication. Online people can be friends with anyone by pretending to be someone else. This means that nobody really knows you and that is the reason why you cannot call ~~any~~ any of them your friends.

A person who has moral principles and an opinion usually has friends who share his views and enemies who disagree with them. So, a friend to all is a friend to none.

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## 5. Comment on the story in pictures.



Once upon a time there lived Mr. Skindone. When he was walking down a small street of his hometown, he spotted an impressive figure of a thick-set man in a jacket. Mr. Skindone decided he wanted to look just as impressive as that man, so he bought a couple of magazines that showed how to ~~go~~ exercise. He took a bar and tried to lift it but failed and dropped the heavy end of the bar onto his toe. He was still determined to work on his body, so ~~dec~~ he thought he'd start with a punchball. Unfortunately, the ball pinched him in the face. Tired of being ~~humiliated~~ <sup>humiliated</sup> by the sports equipment, he made up his mind. Throwing the bar and the punchball into a rubbish bin, he went to the tailor and asked him to make a suit that would make his chest bigger. In the end he looked just as impressive as the man. He wanted to look like. ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> is almost always better to be quick-witted than physically strong, proved Mr. Skindone.

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