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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

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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.

Nowadays, the question of ageing tends to arouse much controversy. Many people hope that some drugs will be invented in order to make one's life longer. ~~But~~ many outstanding scientists are working on this problem. ~~But~~ is the endless life something that humanity really needs?

According to all religions and almost all traditional moral concepts, humans are and should be mortal. This is the ~~unbreakable~~ cycle of life that is never to be changed: people die, so their descendants could take their place. Every person has his or her mission in our world, and when this mission is completed, he or she should go.

However, ~~or extremely long life~~ spiritual point of view is not the only one from which immortality seems to be absolute evil. As we know, the Earth is overpopulated. Even if the length of people's lives remains the same, in 50 years we will already suffer from the deficiency of fresh air and drinking water. It is hard to imagine what our planet will look like if people live as long as 90, 100, 150 years. No doubt, ~~and~~ if this happens, our life will become it will be almost impossible to survive on the Earth.

In my opinion, scientific experiments on anti-ageing medicine should not go further than making up cosmetics for women to look younger. This is that very question where ~~per~~ a man must not try to trick the nature. People die - this is a sad truth. ~~But~~ let us not try to break this essential law. also an essential law, so let us not try to break it.

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.

The given fable appears to be a perfect illustration for a reasonable proverb: "There is nothing hidden that is not shown".

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

1. He hadn't said a word since X dinner began. 2. The National Gallery and the Albert Hall are X 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 X 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 Wilde
3.	'Sister Carrie'	Th. Dreiser
4.	'The Old Man and the Sea'	Ernest Hemingway
5.	'The Moon and Sixpence'	S. Maugham
6.	'The Quiet American'	Gr. Green
7.	'Pygmalion'	Bernard Shaw
8.	'Hamlet'	W. Shakespeare
9.	'Martin Eden'	J. London
10.	'The Man of Property'	J. Galsworthy

Authors: J. Galsworthy, W. Shakespeare, J. London, Oscar Wilde, 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 teach us the trombone. He must <u>have a bee in his bonnet</u> .	Mr. Davis thinks he can teach us the trombone. He must have gone crazy.
2.	She likes to have a finger in every pie in the village.	She likes to intervene into every affair 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 face the consequences of her action.
4.	What you say is <u>double Dutch</u> for me.	What you say is nonsense for me, I do not understand you.
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

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?

Nowadays, more and more people are getting concerned about the future of the paper books. It is said that in the epoch of IT technologies e-books will definitely take the place of the usual ones, being much more convenient and economical. So, should we say goodbye to paper books?

In my opinion, no. The thing is that e-books have a number of substantial drawbacks, which may contribute to their loss in a fight with regular books. Firstly, e-books might negatively affect one's health, ~~then~~ as the radiation ~~all~~ electronic devices give off is imminent to e-books as well. Moreover, one's ~~eyes~~ eyes may ~~become~~ get tired after a long time of reading an e-book. Secondly, e-books are not so convenient as they seem to be: one has to charge them always. For example, one must always remember to charge them. And last but not least, e-books will never be able to create the beautiful atmosphere of reading, ~~that~~ ^{while} paper books ~~can~~ ^{can} ~~not~~ ^{not} do it. Turning the pages, smelling the ink - what ~~can~~ ^{can} contribute better to the feeling of miracle? And reading, of course, is nothing but a miracle.

In conclusion, I would like to say that paper books are a considerable part of our culture. ~~From the examples above~~ As we can judge from the examples above, they appear to be ~~really~~ have many advantages that e-books do not have. So, I still believe that paper books have all chances for the future.

10

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

(1). The House of Commons is a lower house of British Parliament. There are 650 members of the House of Commons, ~~which~~ ^{all of which} are elected. The House of Commons is located in Westminster.

5

(2). FLOTUS - First Lady of The United States - is the traditional name of the hostess of the White House in USA, who is ~~normally~~ ^{traditionally} married to the wife of the ruling President.

4

3

In the story above, an Ass wanted everyone to ~~respect~~ ^{respect} him and be afraid of him. He thought that he could make his dream true by pulling on a lion's skin. At first, ~~the~~ Ass was ~~so~~ successful, but the moment he brayed in delight everyone knew who ~~was~~ ^{really} was in the lion's skin. Finally, the Ass was strictly punished by his owner.

In my opinion, ~~this fable~~ the sense of this fable is that it is impossible to achieve satisfaction and happiness with the help of outward changes only. The only way to fix the problem is to fight with the reason of it, while trying to conceal ~~your~~ ^{one's} nature and pretend to be someone else brings no long-term success.

10

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" 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 unload the "Mayflower". Then all their things had been put in a dry place. Later, cottages were being built for someone. The pilgrims also had discussed 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 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	had been written	was written +
2	was writing	wrote writes -
3	had been landed	landed -
4	unload	unloaded +
5	had been	were -

6	were being built	were built	+
7	had discussed	discussed	+
8	had made	made	+
9	in the winter months	in winter months	—
10	had been done	was done	+

4. Comment on the following quotation:

A friend to all is a friend to none

(Aristotle).

One of the most wisest Greek philosophers Aristotle once said: "A friend to all is a friend to none". Even after thousands of years, this quotation remains extremely reasonable. So, let us try to suggest what namely Aristotle meant by his words. To begin with, it is obvious that friendship is always about some kind of connection between people, the spiritual energy people share with each other. No doubt, the amount of this energy in every person is not endless, so, the more people he or she gives it to, the weaker a bond between them is.

Moreover, it is hard to imagine how a person can be a friend to everyone because on some level he or she will find out that he (she) is a friend to people who are enemies to each other. Such friendship ~~thus~~ this person will have to lie to ~~some~~ one of these two people, not to both. So how can we regard something built on ~~dishonesty~~ as true friendship?

Besides, friendship is always connected to spending time with your friends. And if you are friends with everyone, it is unbelievable that you will manage to find time for every one of them. And a person who always has to choose between his friends, what kind of friendship is this?

To sum up the above, I still believe that Aristotle was absolutely right: true friendship is something very personal, that cannot be something that just is not you have with everyone.

~ 8

5. Comment on the story in pictures.



The pictures above seem to perfectly illustrate one famous proverb: «By hook or by crook», which means that if a problem cannot be solved in another way, it will be solved in another way. The pictures show a man of weak constitution who wants to become strong and hefty. In order to achieve this objective, he starts doing some sport exercises. However, the hero of the pictures appears to be terrible at sports, so all his attempts to do them failed. But, the man is eager to reach his goal anyway, so he just goes to the shop and buys a suit that makes him look big and powerful.

In my opinion, these pictures are an excellent example of one's sharp mind, that can help to find a way out from every situation. Never lose the will to achieve success, continue fighting, think differently, seek new methods — this is what the given pictures teach us.

9