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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.

Previously, slowing down the aging process was a subject of science fiction, but now it is becoming a reality. Many ~~professors~~ people are currently working on different ways to prolong a human life and achieve near-immortality. However, radical life extension — if successful — poses as a potential threat. This death avoidance could be a direct cause of overpopulation, which in turn would lead to poverty, hunger and lack of acceptable living conditions.

~~Slowing down the aging process~~
Slowing down the aging process could be ground-breaking, but it could also be extremely dangerous. Many of the possible ramifications are not accounted for, but there is still time as well as hope for a brighter future.

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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.

This fable can be interpreted differently. To my mind, the moral of this story is that the ~~appearance~~ ~~of appearance~~ ~~does not~~ ~~that~~ appearance does not

9p

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

1. He hadn't said a word since λ dinner began. 2. ~~The~~ X National Gallery and X 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' | Gr. Green |
| 2. | 'The Happy Prince' | Oscar Wilde |
| 3. | 'Sister Carrie' | J. Galsworthy |
| 4. | 'The Old Man and the Sea' | Ernest Hemingway |
| 5. | 'The Moon and Sixpence' | James Joyce S. Maugham |
| 6. | 'The Quiet American' | Theodore Dreiser |
| 7. | 'Pygmalion' | Bernard Shaw |
| 8. | 'Hamlet' | William Shakespeare |
| 9. | 'Martin Eden' | Jack London |
| 10. | 'The Man of Property' | Charles Dickens |

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 have a bee in his bonnet. | Mr. Davis thinks he can teach us the trombone. He must be crazy. |
| 2. | She likes to have a finger in every pie in the village. | She likes to meddle with meddle in others' business. |
| 3. | When the missing money was noticed, she chose to disappear rather than face the music. | When the missing money was noticed, she chose to disappear rather than deal with the consequences. |
| 4. | What you say is double Dutch for me. | What you say is incomprehensible for me. |
| 5. | On the night of the play, Ann's father told her to break a leg. | On the night of the play, Ann's father wished her good luck. |

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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?

It is no secret that technology is advancing rapidly. In the last couple of decades smartphones have replaced music ~~players~~ players, recorders, even calendars. And now e-books are slowly replacing regular books, paper books.

Electronic books have many advantages over paper books. They are cheaper, eco-friendly, etc. However, paper books are not going anywhere any time soon. Many people enjoy the aesthetic of reading paper books, not e-books. Older generations are not fans of technology either. The question is ~~what~~ whether paper books stand a chance in the battle with electronics much further down the timeline.

The answer is yes. Firstly, paper books would always stay will always be the last resort in case of emergencies. Secondly, they will become the new aesthetic (similarly to how some still listen to old record players). Therefore, paper books are not going anywhere.

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

(1).The House of Commons is one of the two Houses of the British Parliament (the other one is the House of Lords).

(2).FLOTUS stands for First Lady of the United States. FLOTUS is the wife of the President of the United States (POTUS). The current FLOTUS is Melania Trump.

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reflect what is underneath the surface and the change of appearance does not change ~~what is~~ the personality. No matter how fancy the clothes ~~are~~ put on are, they do not resonate with the soul of the person wearing them and the person stays the same.

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 | + |
| 3 | had been landed | had landed | + |
| 4 | unload | unloaded | + |
| 5 | had been put | were put | + |

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----------------|---|
| 6 | were being built | were built | + |
| 7 | someone | everyone | + |
| 8 | had discussed | discussed | + |
| 9 | had made | made | + |
| 10 | had been done | was being done | |

4. Comment on the following quotation:

A friend to all is a friend to none

(Aristotle).

When Aristotle said that a friend to all is a friend to none, he put very different meanings behind each use of the word "friend". [The first "friend", the "friend to all" is ~~essentially~~ essentially not a real friend ~~at all~~ to anyone. Even though he might appear kind and supportive, ~~there~~ there is no sign ~~of~~ of him when trouble comes and he is really needed. In contrast, the second "friend" ~~that~~ is the true friend or rather the set of real friends' qualities.] "A friend to all is a friend to none" means a person who is on good terms with everyone does ~~not~~ not truly care for anybody and is not close ~~enough~~ enough with either of them to consider them friends.

8

5. Comment on the story in pictures.



2

The main character of the comic is insecure about his appearance. He is skinny and weak, but wants to be muscular and strong. He tries lifting weights and boxing to achieve his desired look, but, sadly, fails at both. He then reaches out to a tailor, who makes him a suit exaggerating his features, making him appear bigger and (by association) stronger than he really is.

~~This comic shows how some people use shortcuts and even~~ ~~deceit~~ ~~to achieve their goals~~ ~~instead of~~ ~~putting in actual work.~~ ~~It also highlights the toxicity of~~ ~~body-shaming and gender roles~~ ~~("men are supposed to be~~ ~~strong").~~

This comic reflects how some people use shortcuts and even ~~deceit~~ ~~to achieve their goals~~ ~~instead of~~ ~~putting in actual work.~~ It also highlights the toxicity of body-shaming and gender roles ("men are supposed to be strong").

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