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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.

Nowadays people strongly strive to achieve immortality even more desperately than they used to do several decades ago. Science is thought to be the key to all locks, the solution ~~for~~ of all problems. The human race does not want to age, instead, it longs for either eternal, or at least longer life.

It seems odd to wish for neverending existence, which might just as well turn out to be disastrous. Shall one imagine that the life does not end, instead, it carries on without any prospect of finishing at some point, it sends shivers down one's spine. The taste of living, the strength of emotions, the vivid colour ~~for~~ ~~more~~ vividness of memories are inevitably enhanced by the thought that one day, it might all simply end, one will definitely ~~no~~ cease to exist sooner ~~or~~ later. Therefore, people try to live and enjoy every moment of this sublimely existence, whereas immortality will kill the rapture of ~~simply~~ breathing and being, it will soon get us bored and make us crave for death.

Naturally, the ability to prolong the life of a human being is quite another story, due to the fact that many people die too early because of diseases or accidents. Moreover, a longer life can be beneficial for those who are engaged in science and have many more inventions and discoveries ~~in~~ ahead of them.

However, such biological changes are to be imposed only if a person agrees to them willingly. Some people might cherish the idea of approaching death and welcome it as a transformation into another form of life. Others, on the contrary, might just as well dream of seeing all there is to see in the world, or of achieving their personal aims. Nevertheless, science should be developed without affecting human rights and liberties.

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.

Many of us are ashamed of what they are, we try to seem different to impress those around us, to achieve the set goals, or to protect ourselves from the

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

1. He hadn't said a word since the 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 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'	J. Galsworthy
2.	'The Happy Prince'	Oscar Wilde
3.	'Sister Carrier'	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'	Ch. Dickens
8.	'Hamlet'	W. Shakespeare
9.	'Martin Eden'	J. London
10.	'The Man of Property'	Bernard Shaw

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 fixed on this idea.
2.	She likes to have a finger in every pie in the village.	She likes to engage in everything around, even if it is none of her 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 to deal with the consequences.
4.	What you say is double Dutch for me.	What you say is absolutely not understandable to 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 told her to wish her good luck.

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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, people are glued to the screens of their smartphones, ~~the~~ disappearing in the digital realm, not ~~express~~ expressing any desire to turn back to the reality. Tablets and e-books enable us to read nearly anything we want at any time and in any place. The benefits of such devices are obvious. Nevertheless, we still buy paper books as presents, ~~or~~ or purchase the favourite stories in the printed edition.

Digitalisation is what makes this society absolutely different from those before. This does have certain disadvantages, though. For example, the glowing screens influence our eyesight, causing ^{health} problems and ~~disorders~~. Besides, not every book can be downloaded or found online. Even though we might carry a whole library in the pocket, we still stretch out our hands for a paper book. Why is that? It happens naturally, as feeling a certain object ^{in the hand} is more usual than owning a virtual one. Furthermore, it is easier to look through a paper book to find a quotation or to ~~re~~ start reading from a precise point. Books also have the pleasant smell and that no ~~or~~ tablet can transmit. Unfortunately, some people are allergic to ~~books~~ dust that builds up between the pages, so they are doomed to read only digital ^{books}. ~~Nonetheless~~, From the ecological point of view, books can be either made from recycled paper, or campaigns can be launched to plant more trees. In Finland, for instance, around 70% of forests are private property, and, ~~it~~ still being cut out, they are quickly ^{reborn} as owners want to keep their land safe. Such business is extremely beneficial.

~~at~~ Needless to say, paper books are still popular among us. It is easy ~~easy~~ to delete a book from a device, but a paper one will live on, and you can ~~never~~ reread it any moment.

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

(1). The House of Commons The British Parliament is divided into two parts, or Houses, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The first one was historically built up of noble people, whereas the members of the second one were chosen ~~to~~ among so to say "common" people and, unlike the noble ~~one~~ ones, could not keep their place in ^{the} Parliament forever. The House of Commons is one of the places where laws are introduced, discussed, and established by the government.

(2). FLOTUS FLOTUS stands for the Freedom Law of the United States, which ~~means~~ means the Constitution. The latter is the most germane document of the USA, as it establishes the rights and the liberties of the people in this country.

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cruel outer world by trying to be what we are not.

The above-mentioned fable tells the reader of an ass who ~~he~~ pretended to be a lion but was easily ~~detected~~ recognised by its braying. In a nutshell, it transmits the basic idea that shall one hide under a false image, sooner or later, one way or another, the truth will reveal itself, the real ~~one~~ personality will show. It is ridiculous to impose a fake image, to try to deceive the people around us, as the mask cannot be kept forever.

In order to be, rather than to seem, one should completely change what they are in order to acquire the desired qualities. However, an ~~the~~ ass can never become a lion, and thus, it ~~without~~ is hopeless to try to change something that is inborn. Of course, a donkey does have a mane and four legs, but it can never get sharp teeth and learn to eat meat instead of grass. Same goes for people, it is silly and pointless to mislead ~~people~~ others just to get punished later on for own stupidity.

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	a kind of diary	a kind of a diary -
3	had been landed	had landed +
4	unload	unloaded +
5	had been put	were put +

6	were being built	were built	+
7	had disussed	discussed	+
8	had made	made	+
9	^{for} sometime	for some time	—
10	had been done	was being done	—

4. Comment on the following quotation:

A friend to all is a friend to none

(Aristotle).

Every person is unique, every human is different, ~~or~~ it is a plain truth that ~~many~~ everybody knows. People share various ~~ple~~ political views, they ~~are~~ do not always see eye to eye in religious questions or ~~their~~ ^{moral} principles. One day, each of us feels that they belong to a certain group of people, while another one brings negative emotions to ~~their~~ ^{our} hearts.

Nevertheless, there are people of a rather pious type who are ready to trade their principles and beliefs for a penny. If somebody is a friend to everyone around, this person is not to be trusted, as ~~they~~ ^{they} can easily betray the "friends". ~~this~~ ^{they} person is inclined to be libertine and abjure easily, ~~turning~~ ^{turning} away from those who ~~were~~ ^{were} considered ~~themselves~~ to be friends of theirs, turning their back on everyone but themselves. ~~Egoism~~ ^{Egoism} should be ~~to~~ ^{be} healthy, because at some point, an odious person who is ~~sweet~~ ^{sweet} to everybody will turn into a traitor, a heartless beast who lacks self-respect and respect for others. Obviously, people do change their views and might object to something that used to be dear to them. However, not having any ~~own~~ ^{own} beliefs is way ~~worse~~ ^{worse}, it shows that the ~~person~~ ^{person} is either easily ~~at~~ ^{at} lured by anyone and is dependent on anybody but ~~oneself~~ ^{oneself}, or this person is ill-hearted. It is impossible to like everybody around you, to get along well with anyone, as the difference in viewpoints brings about disagreements.

Certainly, it is mostly beneficial for the ~~person~~ ^{person} regarded type of people, but once the society understands the ~~means~~ ^{means} of such a person, ~~the~~ they will be sent to Coventry, as nobody wants to deal with a traitor.

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5. Comment on the story in pictures.



Timothy looked at the big, muscular, man who glanced at him and snifted in disgust. Tim was rather lanky and in comparison to the strong opponent, he seemed even ~~to~~ ^{more} hapless and miserable.

Tim sighed and bought another magazine in desperate search for a remedy for his problem. Looking through the pages, he came across a rather promising advertisement of a new gym just round the corner. He headed directly to the place ~~and~~ ^{and} having set up his mind to turn into a handsome sportsman. In the gym, he was offered to purchase a few pieces of equipment, which he did. However, he was absolutely incapable of lifting ~~now~~ ^{now} any of them. Unsurprisingly, he hurt himself several times, as his physical form was far from an agreeable one.

Timothy was so ~~pissed~~ ^{pissed} that he got rid of all the useless equipment and headed ~~directly~~ ^{directly} to the local ~~boutique~~ ^{boutique} tailor. There, as his demand was, he acquired an amazing suit filled with ~~porolone~~ ^{porolone} that gave the effect of muscles, making Tim seem stronger and, evidently, more ~~attractive~~ ^{attractive}. The former vanished in a blink of an eye as Tim checked himself out in the mirror. "Now I look fabulous, oh my!" he whispered, being proud of his ~~so~~ ^{so} smart solution for the quagmire.

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