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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

Дата 06. 03. 2019 Красногор

ВАРИАНТ 3

10-11 классы

1.Comment on the following extract.

Living for ever may be a terrible fate but living a lot longer in good health sounds like a wonderful one. As we reflect on the relation between time and experience, for instance, there is an interesting and important paradox to be observed: the more life is experienced as meaningful, the less we are aware of time. The activities that give us the most satisfaction and happiness are those in which we are totally absorbed. Performing music, doing sports, reading good books, writing texts: there are many examples of activities that demand all our attention. In those activities that constitute human happiness there seem to be no time and space, no subject and object. From this one may infer that what we basically seek as human beings is not more time to live, but meaningful experiences.

If your body could be kept going for a thousand years, in what sense would the you that exists now still be around then? It would be more like a descendant than it would a continuation of you. I sometimes find it hard to identify with my teenage self, and that was less than 40 years ago.

If I change, I eventually become someone else. If I don't, life becomes stagnant and loses its direction.

Even if we could survive for hundreds of years, focusing too much on the future always risks neglecting the present. There is a very real sense in which we only ever exist in the here and now.

Being fully alive requires staying yourself, safe and sound, in that present as fully as possible. Dreams of eternal life interfere with making the most of the reality of temporal life.

An eternal life has been the biggest human's dream for as long as humanity exists. But why do we even want to live forever? If all of us do, there goes a logical question: why do ~~some~~ ^{some} people commit suicide ~~sometimes~~?

The answer is quite simple. We don't want to simply exist forever, we want to live. And by "live" I mean all the good and ~~fast~~ fulfilling things that come with being alive. We want to experience love, friendship, joy, surprise all over again, we don't want this cycle to end. So, like all movie fans demand a sequel, we demand ~~a~~ the continuation of our lives. And if the movie is sad, we just want it to end.

But as Albus Dumbledore once said to young Harry Potter: don't dwell on your dreams. You will end up neglecting the present in the end. He always look forward to getting more, feeling more, but let me say two things. First: the future is overrated. It's ~~no~~ There's no use in focusing on it so much. Second: future consists of millions of "nows". By making the most of your life right now, at this very moment, you're shaping your own future. And if you live a life full of meaning and happiness now, you might even do without living forever. Your own temporal life would be just enough.

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

The Lion and the Fox Fable

The Lion and the Fox were hunting together.

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

1. The highest mountain chain, which is called X Himalayas, is situated in X Asia. 2. A dinner was substantial, but she asked to buy X ice after it. 3. Why not go to the Netherlands in X summer to practice the Dutch language. 4. When he left X school, he built houses in the West.

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

	Book	Author
1.	'Othello'	W. Shakespeare
2.	'The Grapes of Wrath'	J. Steinbeck
3.	'The Sea Wolf'	J. London
4.	'A Handful of Dust'	E. Waugh
5.	'Death on the Nile'	Agatha Christie
6.	'Our man in Havana'	Th. Dreiser
7.	'Sister Carrier'	Gr. Green
8.	'Twilight'	W. Faulkner
9.	'The importance of being earnest'	Oscar Wilde
10.	'The Pick Papers'	Ch. Dickens

Authors: Ch. Dickens, J. Steinbeck, Oscar Wilde, Gr. Green, J. London E. Waugh, W. Shakespeare, Th. Dreiser, Agatha Christie, W. Faulkner

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.	My washing machine is on its last legs. I've had it twenty-five years ago.	My washing machine is working poorly.
2.	We had to work hard at our last programmes, and they weren't always successful, but no pains, no games.	We had to work hard at our last programmes, and they weren't always successful, but you can't succeed without failures on your way.
3.	No ifs and buts, just do what I tell you.	Don't ask any questions, just do what I tell you.
4.	Stop wasting your time and start working at last. Time and tide wait for no man.	Life is short, you don't have time to waste.
5.	You'll have to mind your Ps and Qs when you meet your girlfriend's mother for the first time.	You'll have to behave when you meet your girlfriend's mother for the first time.

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6. Answer the question and comment on the statement.

Thinking - the maximum step of human knowledge. Yet the computer solves precisely formulated problems much more quickly than the person. However, the computer does not solve indistinctly formulated problems, and the person solves. Do you share the opinion that a computer can think?

One of the many things that makes us different from animals is the ability to think abstractly. Only a human can imagine images, make assumptions and contemplate. But computer is a human's creation. If the human put his intellectual abilities into a machine so it would be able to perform simple tasks, does it mean that eventually computers will also absorb our ability to think? Has it happened already?

I don't think it ever will. The human brain isn't thoroughly studied yet. How can we assume that computers can think if the process of human thinking is still a mystery to us? Besides, as the statement says, the computer can't solve indistinctly formulated problems. It's due to the fact that computers use simple algorithms for solving difficult problems, and when their algorithms don't work, they give up. A human, however, finds it easy to solve such problems because he's able to think alternatively, metaphorically. Why are we able to understand literature, poetry? Because we think in concepts. The computer can't think conceptually, it takes every written word literally, that's why it fails to find a solution to a problem that was written differently.

Maybe one day scientists will find a way to make computers think, but I don't think that machines will ever be comparable to man in that aspect.

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

(1) Shadow Cabinet is a place where all the important things connected with the government are decided. It's a group of people responsible for making decisions about America's destiny, and it's called a "shadow" Cabinet because the names of these people are often unknown.

(2) Tory is the name of a British Conservative Party which was formed in the 14th century. The party represents the interests of upper-middle and higher classes.

The Lion, on the advice of the Fox, sent a message to the Ass, proposing to make an alliance between their families.

The Ass came to the place of meeting, overjoyed at the prospect of a royal alliance.

But when he came there the Lion simply pounced on the Ass, and said to the Fox:

"here is our dinner for to-day. Watch you here while I go and have a nap. Woe betide you if you touch my prey."

The Lion went away and the Fox waited; but finding that his master did not return, ventured to take out the brains of the Ass and ate them up.

When the Lion came back he soon noticed the absence of the brains, and asked the Fox in a terrible voice:

"What have you done with the brains?"

"Brains, your Majesty! It had none, or it would never have fallen into your trap."

This story humiliates the naivety of some people, who are willing to go into the belly of the beast without any consideration. It was obvious that there could be no alliance between the predator and its prey, but the Ass was stupid enough to believe that the proposition was genuine and the Lion did not intend to do any harm. It is symbolic that the Fox ate the brains, and not something else. Why keep them if the Ass doesn't even use them?

The moral of the story isn't hard to determine. Don't be too trusting and naive, because there will always be people who would want to take advantage of it. The world is a cruel, cold place, and you have to be ready to face it. Moreover, you have to be ready to adapt to it. It doesn't mean you need to become as cruel and cold as the world is. It means you need to realize that not everyone will be as good and kind-hearted as you are, some people will want to harm and use you, manipulate you, and you will have to have the brains to fight back.

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.

When the old lady had returned to her flat she saw at once that burglars broke in during her absence, because the front door was open and everything in the flat was upside down. The burglars themselves were no longer there, but they probably just left because a cigarette still burnt on an ornamental table. She wondered if they found her jewellery and was rather hoping that they did. It was given to her by her late husband, yet she didn't like it and if it was stolen she would have get the insurance money.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant
1	had returned	returned

2	broke in	had broken in	+
3	just left	had just left	+
4	still burnt	was still burning	+
5	found	had found	+
6	was rather hoping	was hoping	—
7	did	had	+
8	late	latest	—
9	was stolen	had been stolen	+
10	would have get	would have got	—

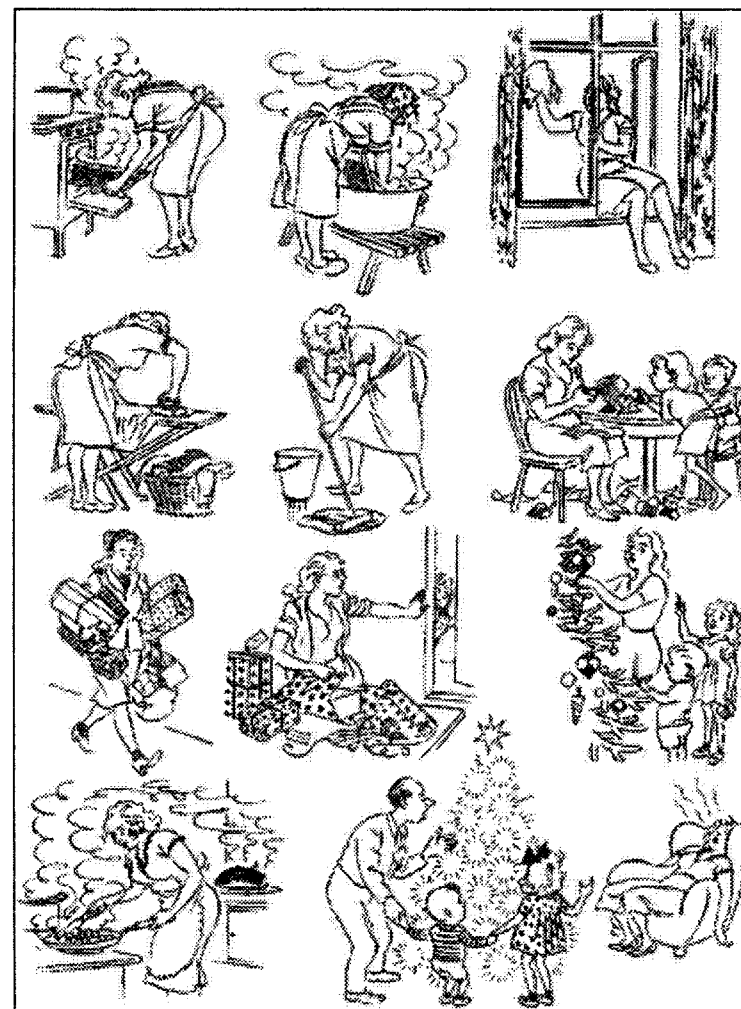
4. Comment on the following quotation:

There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.

(Aristotle)

Every action has its equal, opposite reaction. Whatever we do, whether it's us eating, talking or even starting a revolution, we get a reaction from the outside, be it society or just a single person. Reaction, however, cannot be the same, because there are as many opinions on the same subject as there are people existing on the planet. We can get both approval and criticism from different people for doing the same thing. So as long as we do something, say something, as long as we have our personal traits and opinions, there will be people to criticize us for it, and it's okay. As Chatsky from Griboyedov's play once exclaimed: "Who are the judges?" The things they say to disapprove of our behaviour could be applied to them as well. We're all human, we all make mistakes, and it's important to remember that those critics are no better. They're human too. So don't be afraid to do whatever you please, unless, of course, it harms people around you mentally or physically. You can't please everyone, it's simply impossible. Actually, no, I'm lying, it is possible and Aristotle said it: you have to be nothing. But would you want to lead that life? Would you want to do nothing, say nothing and be nothing? I don't think anyone does.

5. Comment on the story in pictures.



Being a mother and a wife in a patriarchal society is a 24/7 job with no pay. The woman has to ~~to~~ take care of ~~about~~ everything in the household. She has to cook three meals a day for the whole family. She has to wash the clothes, dry and iron them. Holiday preparations become a horror movie for her. Besides doing all the ~~use~~ usual household chores, she has to clean the windows, wash the floors, play with her children (at least that's not as exhausting as other activities are). Then she has to buy gifts for everyone, go grocery shopping (imagine how heavy these bags are to carry!) After that she wraps the gifts for her children, and they can't see it because their belief in Santa Claus and magic in general will simply shatter. Then she helps her children to decorate the Christmas tree, cooks the holiday dinner (which consists of more dishes than usual, because it's a special occasion). Where is she at the end of the day, when ~~to~~ her husband comes back from work and celebrates Christmas with their kids? She's finally getting rest, too exhausted to celebrate. The woman takes care of everyone and everything, but who will take care of her?