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ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РАБОТА УЧАСТНИКА  
ОЛИМПИАДЫ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ СПбГУ  
2019–2020

заключительный этап

Предмет (комплекс предметов) Олимпиады ИНОСТРАННЫЙ ЯЗЫК (АНГЛИЙСКИЙ)

Город, в котором проводится Олимпиада УФА

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ВАРИАНТ 8

1. Comment on the following extract.

*What is biodiversity?*

The air you breathe, the water you drink and the food you eat all rely on biodiversity, but right now it is in crisis – because of us. Biodiversity is the most complex feature of our planet and it is the most vital. It is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms and all its interactions.

The huge global biodiversity losses now becoming apparent represent a crisis equalling climate change. Biological species are becoming extinct due to the changing weather patterns, extensive fires and man-made disasters, such as oil-spills.

Biodiversity is comprised of several levels, starting with genes, then individual species, then communities of creatures and finally entire ecosystems, such as forests or coral reefs, where life interplays with the physical environment. These myriad interactions that have been making Earth habitable for billions of years are now being threatened.

For many people living in towns and cities, wildlife is often something you watch on television. But the reality is that the air you breathe, the water you drink and the food you eat all ultimately rely on biodiversity.

Some examples are obvious: without plants there would be no oxygen and without bees to pollinate there would be no fruit or nuts. Others are less obvious – coral reefs and mangrove swamps provide invaluable protection from cyclones and tsunamis for those living on coasts, while trees can absorb air pollution in urban areas.

When scientists explore each ecosystem, they find countless such interactions. If undamaged, this produces a finely balanced, healthy system which contributes to a healthy sustainable planet.

The main idea of the text is that ~~biodiversity~~ biodiversity plays a crucial role in ~~the survival and proper functioning of~~ our survival and proper functioning on Earth, and this important mechanism is threatened by human industrial activity.



20 millionaires!  
And without further ado, Garmond called his friend and arranged an auction which was a step toward Bill's new life.

7. Here is the list of subway stations. Seven of them are in London and three are located in other cities. Find them and cross out.

- Green Park, Cannon Street, Franklin Street, Penn Station, Piccadilly Circus, Barbican, Bond Street, Moorgate, Christopher Street, Tottenham Court Road

8. Below is the list of some of the funniest English idioms, most of which came from British English. Match them with the situations given both lexically and grammatically.

- 1. She was nervous about her driving test, but it ended up being a piece of cake.
- 2. I loved the first film but the sequel is a different kettle of fish.
- 3 I forgot to water my flowers, and now they're as dead as a doornail.
- 4. I was almost ready to go out but losing one of my shoes really threw the a spanner in the works
- 5. We <sup>had fun and</sup> ~~gained~~ trying to bath the dog.
- 6. She was as cool as a cucumber during her job interview.
- 7. You're calling me stupid? Talk about the pot calling the kettle black.
- 8. You can do better, Mary. This essay has more <sup>naïves</sup> in it than Swiss cheese
- 9. That child is a real pain in the neck
- 10. He has his head in the clouds if he thinks he can pass his test without studying.

Idioms: cool as a cucumber, head in the clouds, piece of cake, dead as a doornail, more holes than Swiss cheese, a different kettle of fish, throw a spanner in the works, pot calling the kettle black, a pain in the neck, have fun and games.

9 (1). Explain the origin and name the principal ingredients of the traditional British dish:

Cornish pasty

(a). The origin

This dish originated in Cornwall, which is located in the south-east of Great Britain. The Cornish people used to make it for special occasions, using the cheap ingredients that they had.

(b). The ingredients

The dish consists of flour, eggs, milk and meat, and resembles a pie.

(2). Explain the meaning of the following words(word) which reflect peculiarities of British or American cultures:

The Capitol is an important building in the USA, where many governmental meetings and events take place. It is located in Washington, D.C. and is considered the seat of government of the US.

10. Read the titles of some of the best novels in English. Who were these novels written by?

Book	Author
1. Kim	Rudyard Kipling

To sum up, I believe that Thoreau was right when he made the presented statement. It means that being hard-working and kind makes you successful and famous, while too much dreaming and hoping can lead to tiredness and dissatisfaction with your current life and job. I completely agree with ~~that~~ <sup>these</sup> words and think that it is important for everybody in our society to understand their true meaning.

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.

Why are traffic lights green, yellow, and red?

Red for stop has the most simple explanation: Red has the longest wavelength of any color on spectrum of visible light, and as such its easier to see from far away than others colors. Railroad's systems used red as a stop signal long before the automobiles were on the roads. Trains originally used a white light to mean "go," but engineers probably had a harder time telling it a part from the light of stars and other lanterns, so green took its place. Yellow was the original choice for stopping signs because it was easier to see than red at the night, but as reflective paint, streetlights, and headlights proliferated, the signs were changed over to red. Yellow is the second-easy color to see from a distance, so it was added as the "caution" signal in traffic lights.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant
1	its	it's
2	Railroad's	Railroad
3	used	had been using
4	harder	hard
5	a part	apart
6	stopping signs	stop signs
7	at the night	at night
8	changed over	changed
9	second-easy	second easiest
10	of any color	of all colors

4. Below is a number of famous colourful quotes that came down to us from time immemorial. They are all based on logic and common sense, so can you possibly make a full phrase, adding some words.

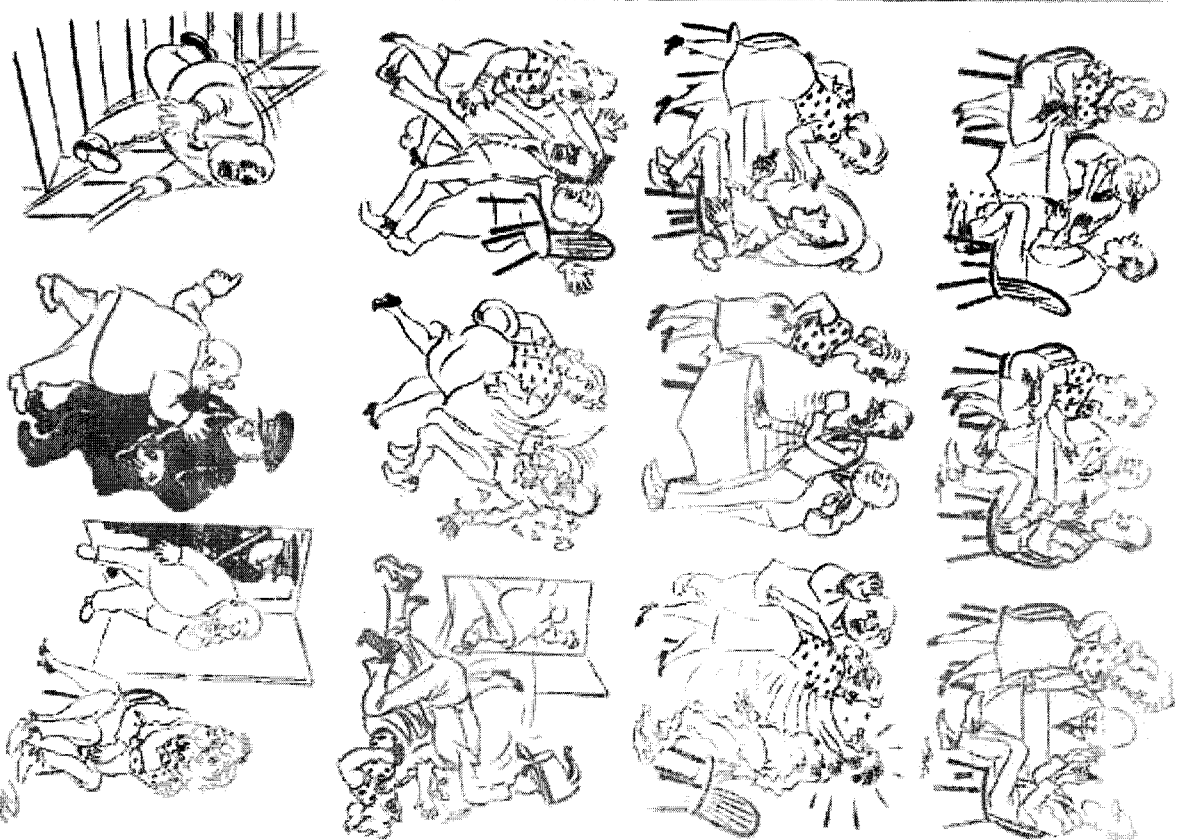
Example: All roads LEAD TO ROME

- 1. Haste makes waste
- 2. Love is blind
- 3. Money has no worth
- 4. Change horses
- 5. Every cloud has a silver lining
- 6. First impressions are the most important
- 7. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched

8. A cat has nine lives \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Still waters run deep \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Among the blind the one-eyed is a king \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Comment on the story in pictures:

8



2



I find this story rather funny and entertaining, but I also think that such situations can be very dangerous ~~at times~~ and happen quite often, unfortunately. It was ~~very~~ <sup>an</sup> extremely irresponsible of the woman in a suit to just leave the house when there was a fight. She should have called the police and the ambulance instead of asking a policeman, who was just passing by to help him. The two could have severely injured each other, and the fact that it took them a few minutes to make up indicates that their relationship ~~from~~ <sup>dynamic</sup> is unhealthy and toxic. They should have had a honest conversation to work through the problem, and the quick fix that they had doesn't mean that they won't argue again. Overall, the presented story is tragic and indicative of serious ~~to~~ <sup>issues that our</sup> society faces.

#### 6. Write the appropriate ending to the story given below

##### A Good Start

Bill liked painting more than anything in life. He started painting when he was 15 and people said that as a painter he had quite a lot of talent and had mastered most of the technical requirements. At 22 he had his first one-man show when he was discovered by the critics and his pictures were all sold out. With the money he could afford to marry Leila, rent a studio and stop being a student. To complete his education he went to Italy but after 5 months all the money was spent and he had to return.

Bill never had another show like the first one, though he became a better painter. The critics did not think him modern enough and said he was too academic. From time to time he managed to sell some of his paintings but eventually things had got very tight and he was obliged to look for a job.

The day before he went for an interview with his uncle Bill was especially gloomy. In the morning he went up to one of his unfinished pictures in the studio but he felt he couldn't paint. He threw down his brush and a bright red spot appeared on the board already covered with black and yellow paint from his previous work. The board had been used to protect the floor and was at that moment a mixture of bright colours.

When Bill left, Leila got down to cleaning the studio. She took up the board and put it against the wall to clean the floor. At that moment Garrad, Bill's dealer, came in. Bill had asked him to come, look at his work and arrange a show but the dealer had for some time been uncertain on the matter. So he was looking around the studio, explaining how the gallery was booked up for a year and how he could not really promise Bill a show yet for two years or so. Suddenly the board against the wall attracted his attention.

Think of the ending to the story and write it in the space below.

~~The painting was a masterpiece. It looked like an unfinished painting, definitely a brilliant one, but it was a masterpiece that could be sold for millions. Garrad came closer and carefully examined the board. A peculiar ornament of red, black, and yellow splashes reminded him of lazy evenings in Italy, bright sky with golden clouds, the restless sea... of suddenly, Bill entered the room and saw Garrad. He asked, 'What are you doing here?' The dealer remained silent for a moment, but then he smiled happily and hugged Bill, who was astonished and didn't know what to do. 'You are a genius! Billy, you really are', cried Garrad. 'What are you talking about?' 'This painting is fantastic, it will make billions for us.'~~