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САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ



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ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РАБОТА УЧАСТНИКА  
ОЛИМПИАДЫ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ СПбГУ

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заключительный этап

Предмет (комплекс предметов) Олимпиады ИНОСТРАННЫЙ ЯЗЫК (АНГЛИЙСКИЙ)

Город, в котором проводится Олимпиада САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГ

Дата 23.02.2020

ВАРИАНТ 6

1. Comment on the following extract.

*How a Rooftop Meadow of Bees and Butterflies Shows N.Y.C.'s Future*

As bird and insect populations plummet, sounding new alarms about the health of the natural world, one promising arena where humans can help is also a surprising one: cities. In New York, scientists and officials are calling for residents and companies to do their part, with projects as ambitious as the rooftop meadow and as simple as choosing native plants for home window boxes.

A Greenpoint building in New-York is part of a push to combat climate change and make the city more welcoming to wildlife. The wild-looking meadow on the roof of the building creates a welcoming environment for the bees and butterflies of the season. Tall grasses glow in the afternoon sunlight. Silver orbs that look like alien spacecrafts shimmer nearby.

For some species, scientists say, cities can be more hospitable than rural and suburban areas, because fewer lawns and farms mean fewer pesticides. The green roof in Brooklyn draws endangered monarch butterflies, a panoply of birds and wild bees that are native to New York City but threatened by what scientists have called an "insect apocalypse."

Green roofs like the one in Greenpoint are expected to multiply under a city law that will require new buildings to be topped with green spaces or solar panels.

It is difficult to quantify the effect of wildlife corridors, scientists say, but research shows that such corridors increase the number of species and individual creatures able to thrive in cities and may serve as a patchwork of habitats in the future.

Judging by the information provided the so-called wildlife corridors (bees) actually are an efficient way of preserving various species and enabling them to survive in urban areas. In the modern world it has become quite difficult for wildlife

to find a safe place for itself, thus such measures as green spaces are a good idea.

Nowadays there is a great number of problems humanity has to deal with. However, one of the most serious ones is probably the situation with nature and wildlife. Modern technologies and industries have made different species' survival quite difficult. Therefore, some measures need to be taken, and so-called wildlife corridors are a ~~very~~ brilliant idea.

The way they work is very simple: these corridors are actually spots in various cities where nature is preserved in such condition that it is able to provide different species of birds and insects with agreeable habitat. What is more, the research showed that such green spaces may serve 'a patchwork of habitats' in future years. Taking all of that into consideration, no wonder that cities are now turning into a great place for animals to live.

To sum up, the idea of helping wildlife by such measures is a bright and promising, thus it should be promoted and spread worldwide.

10

## 2. Comment on the following statement:

Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live.

one of → Selfishness has always been a topic of heated discussions. Perhaps it is not a ~~new~~ reason for that is misunderstanding for different people understand selfishness differently. There is an opinion ~~that~~ saying that being selfish means 'asking others to live as one wishes to live'. But is it really so?

Well, to be honest, I quite agree with this point of view. If we try to look at the question realistically, we should accept that in fact all of us live as we want to live or at least aim at living so, and there's nothing bad about it. If true, ~~exist~~ is the one who wants the world to serve his pleasure and expects everyone to look up to him and his wishes. ~~The~~ One person who can surely be called selfish is, for example, Dorian Gray who loved himself so much he was even capable of murdering a man for his own need and not really feeling bad about it. That is ~~egotism~~, when you consider other people nothing more than resources.

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

The White House

It is the official residence of the US President, situated in Washington D.C. It's called white because of the colour of the stone it's built of.

5

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

	Book	Author
1.	Nineteen Eighty-Four	George Orwell +
2.	The Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame +
3.	Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain +
4.	The Great Gatsby	F. S. Fitzgerald +
5.	Kim	Rudyard Kipling +
6.	The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde +
7.	Death on the Nile	Agatha Christie +
8.	The Painted Veil	W. S. Maugham +
9.	Our Mutual Friend	Charles Dickens +
10.	The Sun Also Rises	Ernest Hemingway +

Authors: Agatha Christie, Kenneth Grahame, W. Somerset Maugham, Francis Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Rudyard Kipling, Charles Dickens, Oscar Wilde, Mark Twain, George Orwell

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105

one particularly because it had a breathtaking view of the sea, and Ruth was mad about it. Roger had no other choice but to agree. When they moved there he promised himself to tell everything to Ruth on their first morning in that amazing house. But when he woke up she wasn't in bed. She found her on the upper floor near the big window where she had shot herself looking at the beloved sea. The note she'd left said: 'I love you don't go I have to leave. Please bring me to the sea, and I'll find rest. Bye, Roger.'

He had never travelled to the sea since then.

7. Here is the list of universities. Seven of them are in the USA and three are located in other countries. Find them and cross out.

Princeton University, Macquarie University, James Cook University, Yale University, Carnegie Mellon University, Georgetown University, Clark University, ~~Imperial College~~, Drexel University, Dartmouth College

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. I was on the cloud nine after receiving the news of my promotion.
2. The browser was as slow as molasses.
3. After some reflection, he decided to bite the bullet.
4. The roads were full of traffic and we were travelling at a snail's pace for two hours.
5. I was left out in the cold in the annual promotions in the company.
6. My wife's a night owl but I like to be in bed by 10 o'clock.
7. I go out for walks once in a blue moon.
8. We only see the glamor and money in showbiz. But the other side of the coin is that only one in hundreds reach there.
9. I am dizzy. I'm feeling under the weather.
10. We told her it was a delicate situation but she went into the meeting like a bull in a china shop.

**Idioms:** on cloud nine, the other side of the coin, left out in the cold, a bull in a china shop, bite the bullet, once in a blue moon, under the weather, night owl, at a snail's pace, (as) slow as molasses.

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

#### Sunday roast

(a). The origin

The meal is usually prepared for Sunday breakfast. It consists of eggs, pork, bread and sometimes tomatoes.

(b). The ingredients

Eggs, pork, bread and sometimes tomatoes.

and treat them rubbish.  
To conclude I'd like to ~~overstate~~ state that being selfish and living 'your own life' is not the way you live it. It is not the same thing, so that's why selfishness should be defined as 'wanting people to fulfill your wishes'.

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 most blackboards green and not black?

Before blackboards were large enough to take in an entire wall in a classroom, students would use individual size boards making of slate or wood that had been painted in black. So the first blackboards, were in fact, black. Once teachers realized they need more space to teach there students, they put the multiple boards of slate together on the wall to make bigger blackboards. Finally, as the demand for blackboards raised, companies started making them out of steel plates coated with green porcelain-based enamel in spite of the traditional dark slate. This way the boards were more light, less fragile, and easier to ship. This is what the school was like a 100 years before.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant
1	take in	take up +
2	size	sized -
3	painted in black	painted black +
4	need	needed +
5	there	their +
6	raised	rose +
7	making of	made of -
8	before	ago -
9	a 100 years	a hundred years -
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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. When my friend and I go out, it is always as both of us don't have much money.
2. Bad news travels fast +
3. Let sleeping dogs lie ~





4. God helps those who help themselves
5. You will really see your friends' face when you call upon them in a time of crisis.
6. Opera is not \_\_\_\_\_
7. When in Rome, do as Romans do
8. Once bitten, \_\_\_\_\_
9. Don't judge a book by its cover
10. The grass is greener on the other side of the fence

5. Comment on the story in pictures:



A Meg and Ted were sitting in the kitchen discussing plans for holidays, and Mike, a friend of Ted's, was also there enjoying the company. It was a cozy evening and everyone was in a pleasant mood. Unfortunately, this idyllic was to be broken by Ted's inaccuracy: he was inattentive and shook off the ashes of his cigarette right on the beautiful carpet to

loved by Meg. She was mad at once for the ashes were hot and burnt a hole in the carpet. She was red in the face and completely angry at Ted. "How can you even sit here smoking when you know I'm allergic to it?" screamed Meg. "And I'm allergic to your knitting!" shouted Ted and threw the sock she had been knitting out of the window. Then the fight began and it was difficult to tell who was about to win. Meanwhile Mike ran for help. Thank God, he found a policeman and brought him to the battlefield. But both of them were stunned when they saw Meg and Ted sitting together calm and delighted. "We found a solution," they told. "Burnt all socks and carpets in the fireplace and will never smoke and knit in the future!"

6. Write the appropriate ending to the story given below

### The Escape

(after W.S. Maugham)

Roger Charing was no longer young when he fell in love with Ruth Barlow and he had had enough experience to make him careful; but Ruth Barlow had a gift that makes most men defenceless. This was the gift of pathos. Mrs. Barlow was twice a widow. She had splendid dark eyes and they were the most moving I ever saw. They seemed to be always on the point of filling with tears and you felt that her sufferings had been impossible to bear. Mrs. Barlow was one of those unfortunate persons with whom nothing goes right. If she married the husband beat her; if she employed a broker he cheated her; if she took a cook she drank.

When Roger told me that he was going to marry her, I wished him joy. As for me I thought she was stupid and as hard as nails.

Roger introduced her to his friends. He gave her lovely jewels. He took her everywhere. Their marriage was announced for the nearest future. Roger was very pleased with himself, he was committing a good action.

Then suddenly he fell out of love. I don't know why. He realized that Ruth Barlow had made up her mind to marry him and he swore that nothing would make him marry her. Roger knew it wouldn't be easy. Roger didn't show that his feelings to Ruth Barlow had changed. He remained attentive to all her wishes, he took her to dine at restaurants, he sent her flowers, he was charming.

They were to get married as soon as they found a house that suited them; and they started looking for residences. The agents sent Roger orders to view and he took Ruth to see some houses. It was very difficult to find anything satisfactory. They visited house after house. Sometimes they were too large and sometimes they were too small; sometimes they were too far from the centre and sometimes they were too close; sometimes they were too expensive and sometimes they wanted too many repairs; sometimes they were too stuffy and sometimes they were too airy. Roger always found a fault that made the house unsuitable. He couldn't let his dear Ruth to live in a bad house.

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

But that couldn't last forever. Finally, they visited a house that was a real wonder, and Ruth pledged Roger to buy that