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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 ЛОСКВА

Дата 09.02.2020

ВАРИАНТ 2

1. Comment on the following extract.

Bush Fires in Australia

SYDNEY, Australia — More than 85 fires burned across Australia’s east coast on Tuesday, 40 of them out of control, as state officials warned that catastrophic conditions would worsen, with intensifying winds blowing flames toward larger cities. More than 100,000 homes are at risk. The fires have already caused four deaths and destroyed more than 150 properties, with a handful more added every few hours. Maps from fire officials showing the areas likely to burn showed blazes potentially doubling in size over the next 24 hours. Schools close and firefighters get air support.

Drier-than-normal conditions set the stage for danger, as there is fuel both on the ground, with dry leaves, and in the branches of trees that are dying or dead. And if something ignites, high winds threaten to carry the flames far and wide.

Scientists, firefighters and mayors pointed out the clear connections between climate change and the extended and more intense fire seasons in Australia, California and other places around the world. Climate scientists comment on the catastrophe saying: “There’s clearly a human fingerprint on the temperature increases since 1950 — all the weather patterns are occurring in a planet that is warming and warming because of human activity.”; “We’re really missing the opportunity to prepare for future life in Australia”.

So, the further we ignore the problem and avoid these conversations, the more we’re really missing the opportunity to get the public ready for what is upon us.

This extract, probably taken out of a news article, illustrates how terrible the consequences of human ignorance ~~is~~ are. The bush fires in Siberia, in America, rainforest and now in Australia in less than a year — that is the cost of corporate greed and our inaction towards it, and it cannot stay the same.

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What does corporate greed have to do with fires, you ask? Well, it says in the extract that the catastrophe was caused by ~~human activity~~ ^{human activity} — forest overproduction of goods in order to get more profit. And here we should really ask ourselves — what does it matter how much corporations earn if our home is on fire?

The matter is, none of this profit goes to the people whose houses are destroyed, to the animals that are killed and all those who now face the consequences. Sure, most companies reacted to catastrophe and donated money, but it was nothing compared to the harm they caused (take Amazon, donating less than his owner's thrifty income).

To make sure each and every person on Earth is prepared to solve this problem, we must take action. We must reduce consumption to reduce production. We must spread awareness, because we can't face an issue we fail to recognise. And as long as people in power pay little to no attention to scientists and red-activists, as long as people claim global warming is fake, our forests will burn and our houses will follow.

This extract gives plenty of food for thought, but one other thing I would like to mention is the biblical story of the Great Flood. God promised not to bring it upon humankind ever again — perhaps we could bring the Great Fire upon ourselves.

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2. Comment on the following statement:

Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it (Henry David Thoreau).

In today's world, success — whether you determine it as general wealth, stable relationships or spiritual security — is considered to be crucial in life of all people. It should not come as a surprise, then, that the number of ~~psycho~~ psychologists, life coaches and other murders claiming to know the keys to success has increased. But if we look at some real-life examples, how many of these brilliant inventors remained actors and thriving businesspeople, really turned to these online classes from no means for advice? Few of them did, and most a vast majority did not even think of what greatness they could achieve. Instead, they worked hard for years, won scholarships to universities — or dropped out of school to work on their ideas day-in, day-out — in other words, they did their jobs and did them well.

Following success is an exhausting and time-consuming journey, but it is only a journey for those who take it and not for those who ~~prefer to sit and wait~~ ^{prefer to sit and wait} for their dreams to come true. Henry David Thoreau put it best when he said: 'Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.'

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

Cream tea

(a). The origin

Cream tea originates from a common British tradition of tea parties, involving tea imported from colonies (i.e. Indian tea) and British dairy.

(b). The ingredients

Cream tea is basically tea with milk or cream; sometimes there is also alcohol, as in cream coffee drunk in Ireland.

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

Blue state is an expression that looks similar to a Russian one, which means 'to be drunk'. It's probably not the same.

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

Book	Author
1. Emma	Jane Austen +
2. A Farewell to Arms	Ernest Hemingway +
3. The Portrait of a Lady	William Faulkner —
4. The Call of the Wild	Daphne de Maurier —
5. A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	Mark Twain +
6. Dombey and Son	Charles Dickens +
7. Moby-Dick; or, The Whale	Jack London —
8. Rebecca	Jane Austen Henry James —
9. Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe +
10. The Sound and the Fury	William Melville — 4

Authors: Henry James, Daphne de Maurier, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Jack London, William Faulkner, Daniel Defoe, Herman Melville, Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway.

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Purcell sighed with sudden relief. He walked to the window and stared out. Just outside, his peculiar customer had stopped. He was holding the cage shoulder-high, staring at his purchase. Then, opening the cage, he reached inside and drew out one of the doves. He tossed it into the air. He drew out the second and tossed it after the first. They rose like balls and were lost in the smoky gray of the wintry city. For an instant the liberator's silent gaze watched them. Then he dropped the cage and walked away.

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

Purcell stared at the cage for a minute. Then he turned around, as if looking for something. Another pair of doves, although not as snow-white as the first, was sitting in a cage at the entrance. ~~Purcell~~ The man sighed, bit his lip and hastily searched in his pocket. He took out an old wrinkled five dollar note and threw it over the cashier's desk - then laughed, grabbed the dove cage and ran out onto the street.

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

- Denali, Mount Evans, Mount Yale, Mount Everest, Maroon Peak, Mount Pinchot, Nanga Parbat, Cloud Peak, ~~Mount Ossa~~, West Buffalo Peak

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. It was shocking how Manchester United ~~did~~ a Devon Lough in the last minutes of the match against Arsenal.
- 2. You simply put on the stain remover, leave it for an hour and Bob's your uncle, the stain's gone.
- 3. At this point, the con artist chew the fat with all her money.
- 4. We've got enough beer in this party to cobbler dogs with.
- 5. I can't say I like Bob. I've once or twice had a row with him. He is a bit hairy at the heels.
- 6. The team's manager keeps promising title after title, but he seems like all talk and no trousers.
- 7. Yea, right! You will get Justin Bieber to ask you on a date when pigs fly!
- 8. Come on, Bob! Tell us what you think about our little party. What's the matter? Get your tongue?
- 9. "The women have gone to one of their friend's house to do a runner," John smiled.
- 10. Danny says he has several laptops and smartphones he wants to sell for cheap - sounds like they fell off the back to me.

Idioms: when pigs fly: cat gets your tongue; be a bit hairy at the heels; do a Devon Lough; all talk and no trousers; Bob's your uncle; chew the fat; to cobbler dogs with; do a runner; fall off the back of a lorry

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 do we sleep?

All though the actual mechanism of sleep is already poorly understood, we do know why we need to do it: Brains seem needing the downtime in order to stay organized, and particularly to strengthen new neural connections that allow us remember what we had learned. And we know why we shouldn't go without: Long-term sleep deprivation can cause hallucinations, psychosis, heart disease, and immune-system dysfunction. "Every physiologic system in the body, and every operation of the mind, is powerfully enhancing by sleep when we get it, and demonstrably impaired when we don't get enough," Matthew P. Walker, PhD, professor of neurosciences and psychology at University of California, Berkeley, told the Reader's Digest.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant
1	all though	although +
2	already	yet + ~
3	needing	to need +
4	allow us remember	allow us to remember +
5	dysfunction	dysfunction -
6	enhancing	enhanced +
7	demonstrably	demonstratively -
8	go without	go without it -
9	immune-system	immune system -
10	Berkeley	Berkeley -

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.

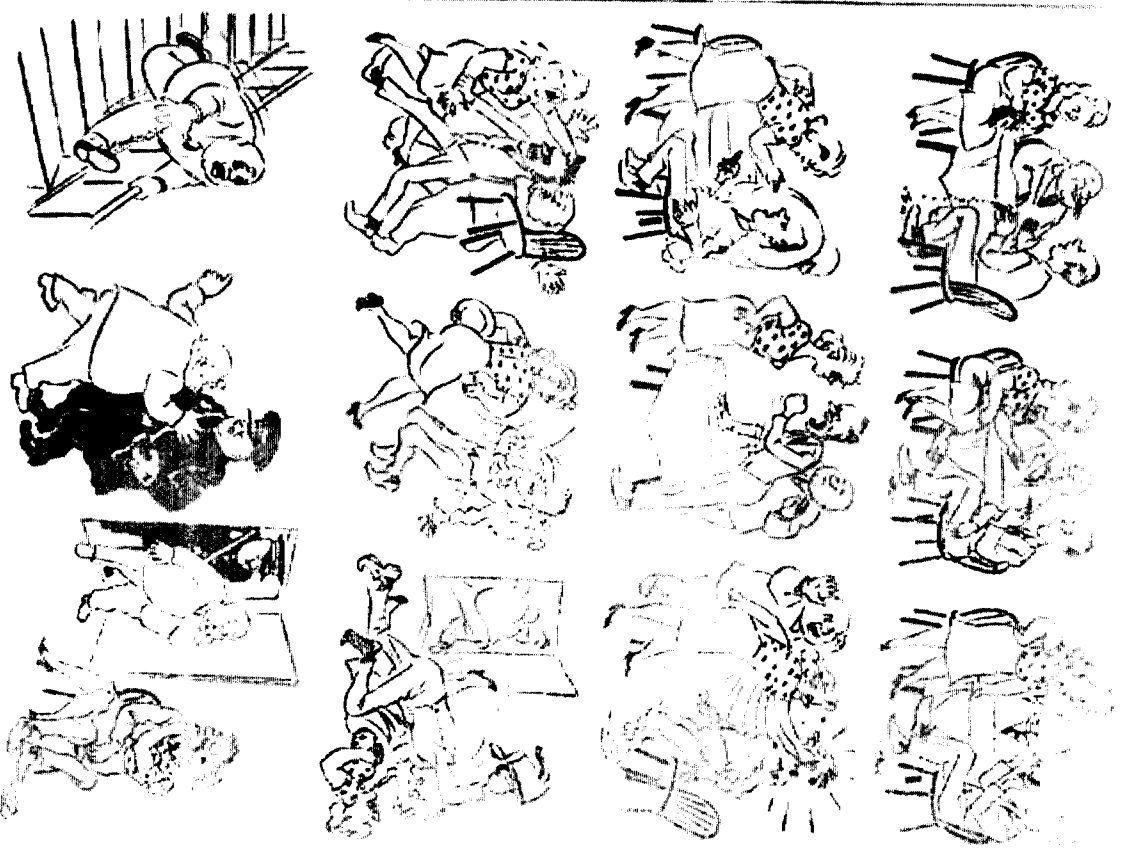
Example: All roads LEAD TO ROME

- 1. It takes two to tango + ~
- 2. Of course he'll get what he wants. Money opens all doors +
- 3. Death is inevitable ~
- 4. Clothes do not make a man +

5. People who live in glass houses must have a hard time cleaning the whole thing.
6. Kill the goose that lays golden eggs +
7. Too far East is West +
8. God helps those who help themselves +
9. Lend your money and you'll never see it again +
10. Curiosity killed the cat +

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5. Comment on the story in pictures:



The story takes on a stereotypically distorted penmanities of marriage, showing the relationship between spouses in anecdotal manner — quite inappropriate to my taste. The author of this episode ironically points out that arguments, abuse and domestic violence are normal and expected in any couple's life, so they shouldn't be taken seriously. This might sound pretentious, but I don't see

any other way to interpret the events in pictures. The bald gentleman quite naturally ~~was~~ runs for help after witnessing a brutal fight — and, to his embarrassment, finds out there was nothing worthy of making a fuss about. Is this supposed to be funny? If so, pardon my poor sense of humour and let me go. Still, hopefully you don't find this funny either. Disagreements between lovers and friends are perfectly fine and should be dealt with, but when it comes to fighting, it must be dealt with urgently and preferably through court. In that sense the last picture is a real red flag — most probably both the wife and the husband believe nothing but hypocrisies — they still love each other and any minor misunderstanding should be forgotten. That is not okay. Unless this story is created to portray Stockholm syndrome, it is also not okay.

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6. Write the appropriate ending to the story given below

Caged

(after L.E. Reeve)



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Purcell owned a pet shop. He considered himself something of a professional man.

Each morning, when the routine of opening his shop was completed, it was the proprietor's custom to perch on a high stool, behind the counter, unfold his morning paper, and digest the day's news.

It was a raw, wintry day. Having completed his usual tasks, Mr. Purcell again mounted the high stool and unfolded his morning paper.

There was a bell over the door that rang whenever a customer entered. This morning, however, for the first time Mr. Purcell could recall, it failed to ring. Simply he glanced up, and there was the stranger, standing just inside the door, as if he had materialized out of thin air. From the first instant he knew instinctively, that the man hated him; but out of habit he rubbed his hands, smiled and nodded.

"Good morning," he beamed. "What can I do for you?"

The man stared closely at Purcell, as though just now aware of his presence. He said, "I want something in a cage."

"I see," hastened the storekeeper, not at all certain that he did. "Now let me think. A white rat, perhaps? I have some very nice white rats."

"No!" said the man. "Not rats. Something with wings. Something that flies."

"A bird!" exclaimed Mr. Purcell.

"A bird's all right." The customer pointed suddenly to a cage which contained two snowy birds.

"Doves? How much for those?"

"Five-fifty," came the prompt answer. "And a very reasonable price. They are a fine pair."

"Five-fifty?" The man was obviously disappointed. He produced a five-dollar bill. "I'd like to have those birds. But this is all I've got. Just five dollars."

Mentally, Mr. Purcell made a quick calculation, which told him that at a fifty cent reduction he could still reap a tidy profit. He smiled kindly "My dear man, if you want them that badly, you can certainly have them for five dollars."

The man laughed "I've earned these 5 dollars in ten years! They gave me five dollars," laughed the man, "and a cheap suit, and tell you not to get caught again."