

8197 САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ



ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РАБОТА УЧАСТНИКА
ОЛИМПИАДЫ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ СПбГУ
2019–2020

заключительный этап

Предмет (комплекс предметов) Олимпиады ИНОСТРАННЫЙ ЯЗЫК (АНГЛИЙСКИЙ)

Город, в котором проводится Олимпиада Ростов-на-Дону

Дата 15 февраля 2020

ВАРИАНТ 3

1. Comment on the following extract.

A Wet Year Causes Stress For Farming

The damage from the destructive spring flooding in the Midwest of the USA has been followed by a miserable autumn that is making a bad farming year worse. It was the wettest year on record for the lower 48 states, with the kind of extreme rainfall events that are increasingly associated with climate change. And then autumn came in with unseasonably heavy rains and snow. Over all, farmers reported being unable to plant because soils were saturated throughout the spring and many farmers couldn't get crops in the ground.

The intense downpours are characteristic of climate change. The trends are clear – climate change has changed the atmosphere itself. And the rains are falling hard not in the middle of the growing season, when it could be of the most use, but in the spring and autumn. After the wettest September on record the soil has become so saturated that it won't support heavy equipment like combines and beet harvesters, – they sink in and get stuck. Farmers report that they were only able to harvest two-thirds of their crop.

The year, as hard as it was for corn farming, does not mean shortages of food, feed, ethanol or exports. But it is adding to the financial squeeze on many farmers and for many farmers, the troubles of this year are likely to stretch into the next. Mr. McDougall, the North Dakota farmer, said "That will mean "round-the-clock work" in a few months if conditions are favorable. "That's part of farming, I guess".

human kind
Nowadays the humanity faces the consequences of its own
actions. The environmental problems, which are caused by heavy
traffic, deforestation, the work of factories and the use of plastics,
influence different spheres of our life including the ones we depend

on in our everyday life. For instance, farming has become less productive in the past several years. Due to heavy rains and bad weather conditions, resulted from climate change, farmers farmers have to deal with over-saturated soil and the destruction of the crops. Consequently, it is obvious that by harming the environment people deprive themselves of the food which is vital for their own survival.

2. Comment on the following statement:

There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing (Aristotle)

The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle suggests in his statement that in order to avoid criticism and blunt remarks from the public, a person must not speak, act in any way or even exist.

Personally speaking, I agree with his opinion. Indeed, the society we know and live in is totally aggressive and brutal. People are unscrupulous, inquisitive and persistent in a bad matter. That is why even a slightest form of not "going with the flow" or standing out of the crowd by saying something different from what everybody thinks or creating something innovative can result in to a violent wave of negativity and dissatisfaction coming on you from the people around you.

Unfortunately, this phenomenon is quite common in all corners of the globe which makes the whole situation even more disgusting and sorrowful.

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.

How do birds know where to migrate?

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

A donkey and an elephant

"A donkey" is a person who is a republican, while "an elephant" means a demagogue.

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

	Book	Author
1.	Jane Eyre	Charlotte Brontë
2.	The Grapes of Wrath	John Steinbeck
3.	An American Tragedy	Theodore Dreiser
4.	The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde
5.	Of Human Bondage	W. Somerset Maugham
6.	Brave New World	Aldous Huxley
7.	Cat's Cradle	Kurt Vonnegut
8.	Oliver Twist; or, the Parish Boy's Progress	Charles Dickens
9.	Absalom, Absalom!	William Faulkner
10.	The Wings of the Dove	Henry James

Authors: Theodore Dreiser, Kurt Vonnegut, John Steinbeck, Aldous Huxley, Oscar Wilde, Charlotte Brontë, William Faulkner, W. Somerset Maugham, Henry James, Charles Dickens.

He is waiting for the right moment to come out into the lights. But it has not been easy for me or Betty either. The constant visits from investors and art collectors offering me to sell my fence made me move to another place. I hope it ends as soon as possible.

7. Here is the list of rivers. Seven of them are in the UK and three are located in other countries. Find them and cross out. 10

The ~~Friday~~ River, the Cumberland River, the River Severn, the River Avon, the River Trent, the Yukon River, the River Thames, the River Tweed, the River Dee, the River Foyle

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. 10

- 1. My sister was a big cheese in the family and people had to follow her whims no matter how silly they sounded. +
- 2. I've been a vegetarian for donkey's years but then I suddenly started eating meat again. +
- 3. Be careful. Politicians are known to be all talk and no trousers. +
- 4. We'd planned to go away for the weekend, but it all went pear-shaped. +
- 5. I was barking up the wrong tree when I applied to such good colleges with my average grades. +
- 6. She used to be a very passionate woman who wore her heart on her sleeve, but repeated rejections and mistreatment at the hands of the ones she trusted made her go into a shell and bottle her emotions up. +
- 7. We were hoping to have an exciting party, but in the end, it turned out to be a damp squib. +
- 8. After smoking for so long, I should have never tried to quit cold turkey. +
- 9. We were all ears as we waited for them to announce the winner. +
- 10. I'm not really interested in fashion, but once in a blue moon, I bought a fashion magazine, just to see what people are wearing. +

Idioms: once in a blue moon, be a damp squib, for donkey's years, go pear-shaped, be a big cheese, sit on the fence, bark up the wrong tree, be all talk and no trousers, quit cold turkey, wear one's heart on one's sleeve, be all ears

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

Black pudding

- (1). The origin was first made in The black pudding originated from Stornoway, Scotland in the nineteenth century. +
- (2). The ingredients is a blood sausage that The black pudding consists of oatmeal cereal, pork blood and beef suet. +

Forty percents of bird species migrate every year, with some traveling tens thousands miles. (Arctic terns fly about 50,000 miles every year, from the pole to the pole.) Migrating birds can even find their destinations if researchers make them to start from unusual locations, according to an article in the Conversation by Richard Holland, the senior lecturer in animals cognition at the Bangor University. How are they doing it? Holland and his team published a study last year suggesting that some songbirds use a magnetic map to navigate long distances, but no body knows how they can detect the Earths magnetic field.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant
1	Forty percents	forty percent
2	traveling	travelling
3	tens thousands	ten thousand
4	the at the Bangor University	at Bangor University
5	make them to start	make them start
6	no body from the pole to the pole	notably estimations from pole to pole
7	animals cognition	animal cognition
8	to an article	to the article
9	no body	nobody
10	the Earths magnetic field	the Earth's magnetic field

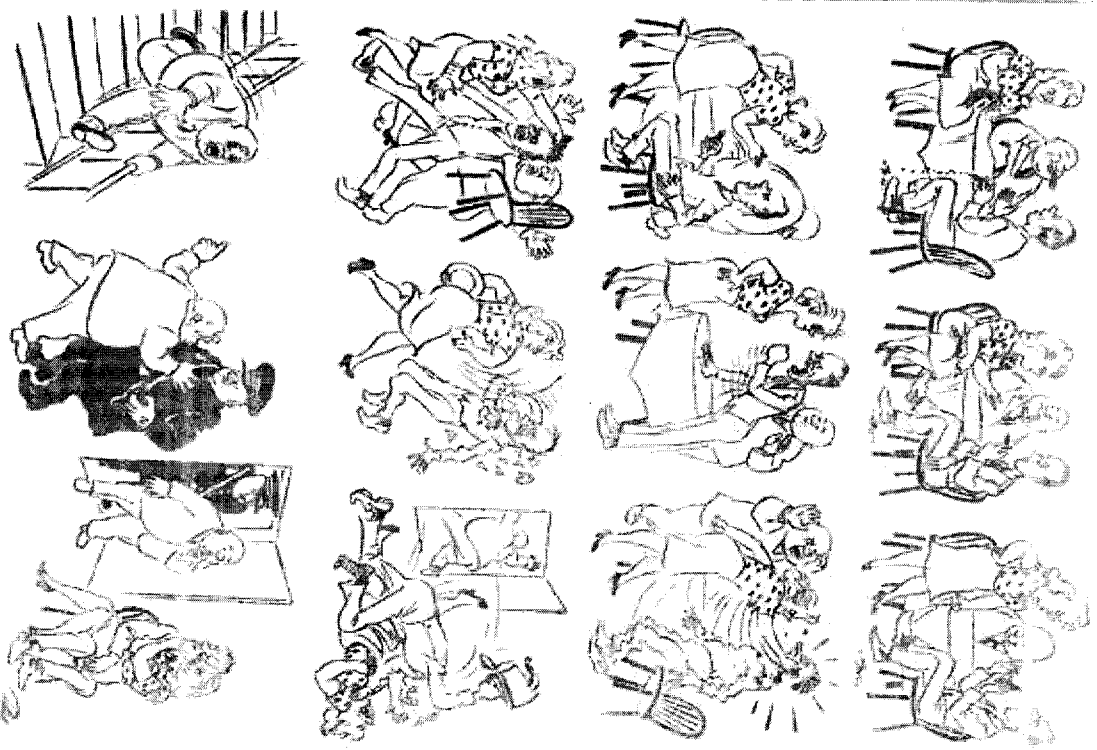
4. Below is a number of famous colourful quotes that came down to us from time immemorial. They are all based on logic and common sense, so can you possibly make a full phrase, adding some words.

Example: All roads LEAD TO ROME

- 1. It's a matter of time and money! +
- 2. Christmas comes but once a year. +
- 3. All good things come to an end. +
- 4. No gain no pain. +
- 5. What goes around comes around. +
- 6. When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war. +
- 7. It takes money to make money. +
- 8. Trying to find my contact lens on the floor was like looking for a needle in a haystack. +
- 9. Don't cry over spilt milk. +
- 10. Anna complains all the time. I can't stand the sight of her. +



5. Comment on the story in pictures:



John and Rosie were known to be quite an unorthodox couple as they always argued with each other about some silly little things. One day they invited their mutual friend Greg over to a dinner to have a small talk and to discuss everything that had been going on in their lives. As they were having a meal, John lighted one of his cigars to relax, when suddenly, everything seemed to be normal until Rosie saw that her favourite item of furniture in the apartment was now destroyed. She immediately started the next thing John knew, his wife was shouting at him with all her force and anger. In response, he said: "I'm the man in this house and you can't talk to me like that." But she did not listen on the contrary, she stepped her husband right in the face. That transformed their disagreement into another phase where all the chairs, dishes and kitchen appliances including even a kettle were used as weapons in their fight.

As for Mr. Greg, he was in absolute shock. He did not know what to do. "Should I run or should I stop them from killing one another?" he murmured. The first option seemed to be only perfect way out of this.

horrible situation, so he ran without looking back. Then a surprising thing happened: as the guest was about to leave the house, a policeman appeared on the doorstep and was willing to help the man.

At last, when the two of them entered the ~~apartment~~ apartment, John and Rosie were hugging each other passionately sitting on the only chair left untouched. Attributed and Rosie wrote the appropriate ending to the story given below. Greg I have never seen in my life!

Lautisse Paints Again

(after H.A. Smith)

10

Everybody knows by this time that we met Lautisse on board a ship, but few people know that in the beginning, Betsy and I had no idea who he was.

At first he introduced himself as Monsieur Roland, but as we talked he asked me a lot of questions about myself and my business and finally he asked me if I could keep a secret and said: "I am Lautisse."

I had no idea who he was. I told Betsy and after lunch we went up and talked to the ship's librarian, asked him a few questions. And then we found out that my new friend was probably the world's best living painter. The librarian found a book with his biography and a photograph. Though the photograph was bad, we decided that our new acquaintance was Lautisse all right. The book said that he suddenly stopped painting at 53 and lived in a villa in Riviera. He hadn't painted anything in a dozen years and was heard to say he would never touch the brush again.

Well, we got to be real friends and Betsy invited him to come up to our place for a weekend.

Lautisse arrived on the noon train Saturday, and I met him at the station. We had promised him that we wouldn't have any people and that we wouldn't try to talk to him about art. It wasn't very difficult since we were not very keen on art.

I was up at seven-thirty the next morning and I remembered that I had a job to do. Our vegetable garden had a fence around it which needed a coat of paint. I took out a bucket half full of white paint and a brush and an old kitchen chair. I was sitting on the chair thinking, when I heard footsteps and there stood Lautisse. I said that I was getting ready to paint the garden fence but now that he was up, I would stop it. He protested, then took the brush from my hand and said, "First, I'll show you!" At that moment Betsy cried from the kitchen door that breakfast was ready. "No, no," he said. "No breakfast, - I will paint the fence."

When he was leaving, he shook my hand and said that he hadn't enjoyed himself so much in years. We didn't hear anything from him for about 10 days but the newspapers learnt about the visit and came to our place. The next day the papers had quite a story and the headlines said: ...

Think of the ending of the story. What did the headlines say? Why? What happened to Lautisse and the author?

"Our beloved painter is back! The world has been given a new masterpiece created by the most talented artist Lautisse." They called it "The Fence" which meant that I was now the owner of the newest and the most discussed piece of art of the modern age.

You may say that the press wouldn't not have known about Lautisse if I had not told them. But I did not. I kept tried tried to keep it a secret. It is a common fact that the press knows everything about everyone, and this case was not an exception.

As for Lautisse, he had to get away from it all for a while.