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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

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ВАРИАНТ 5

1. *Comment on the following extract.*

Ocean Pollution

If Columbus, Magellan and the other great explorers were to re-enact their journeys today, they would marvel at yet another wonder of the new world—vast currents of pollution and debris slicking the surface of hundreds of thousands of square miles of the Atlantic and Caribbean. More than 665,000 square miles of waters atop the American continental shelf and in the Caribbean are blighted by the floating pollutants.

Scientific surveys undertaken have found the Atlantic ocean's waters to be littered with floating oil, tar and chunks of plastics. Studies have found waste in the Pacific, too. Scientists conclude that in the future "we can anticipate that our children will set sail into a plastic sea, accompanied by all the no-deposit-no-return products of our technology."

How the plastics manage to get into the oceans is a mystery to scientists at this point. Chemical contamination of the ocean, such as by these petroleum and plastic products, is widely viewed by scientists as a potential danger to the world fish population and indeed to the whole chain of marine life. In a few cases, for example, fish have been known to swallow plastics and die from intestinal obstructions.

There are suspicions that refined petroleum products may be injurious to the reproduction of some forms of marine life. Hydrocarbons have been found in the livers of fish from the Georges Bank off New England and plankton off the Louisiana coast. But the full extent of the peril is still unknown.

Lx The picture this extract paints is as gruesome as it is
devastatingly sad. It is impossible to deny the damage to our
planet's bodies of water caused by humankind, since there is
so much research to prove it. Le
Chemicals, plastics and other waste floating in the water

are undoubtedly posing a threat to marine life, its diversity, health and reproduction systems. As stated in the extract, fish sometimes mistake plastic bags and other debris for food, thus swallowing it and then dying of intestinal obstructions. This should be enough to alarm people and make them reevaluate the cost of throwing litter or refusing to clean up oil spills before the damage becomes irreversible.

What truly terrifies me though, is the notion that the full extent of this pollution problem is ^{unknown}. There is no telling the ^{total} our thoughtless actions have ^{caused} on oceans and other bodies of water. That being said, however, I strongly believe ^{that} we shouldn't wait until scientists can confidently state the exact numbers. We should act now.

The conclusion made by scientists that future generations will most definitely experience "a plastic sea" ~~should provide further~~ is a great incentive to change the way we act. The fact that our children might not get a chance to witness the incomparable beauty of seas and oceans without the added bonus of their eyes landing on chunks of garbage wherever they look should instill fear and desire to not let that happen.

All in all, it is safe to say that the problem of ocean pollution discussed in the extract has become global and ~~people~~ ^{we} should unite ~~their~~ ^{our} efforts to work towards a better, cleaner future while ~~they~~ ^{we} still can.

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2. Comment on the following statement:

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give (Winston Churchill)

Winston Churchill is widely known as one of the most influential political figures of the 20th century. He is also often regarded as one of the best philosophers of his generation (and he has the Nobel Prize for literature to prove it). His quote "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give" is ~~an~~ ^a testament to his ability to eloquently express simple, yet genius notions.

This statement focuses on the difference in ^{the meaning of} two terms: "a living" and "a life". This distinction is in the following: "a living" is something strongly linked with ~~our~~ ^{our} physical being, ~~the~~ ^{our} health, our wealth, the food we eat, the car we drive, et cetera. In other words, we can say that this term is used to describe the bottom of Maslow's ^{famous} pyramid. However, by looking at the word "life", we can see that it has more to do with the way we perceive the world, our mental and spiritual fulfillment, ^{for emotional} mindfulness and life aspirations. So, the top of the pyramid. With this difference in mind, it is not hard to figure out the meaning of the phrase. The money we earn, the status we have

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

Bangers and mash

(a). The origin

It's a traditional workers' dish that is easy to make and is both delicious and ^{enough to provide} ~~enough to provide~~ ^{to provide} working (and farming) people energy ^{nutritious}. The dish got its name because sausages reminded people of something you could "bang" with ^(drumsticks, or tools).

(b). The ingredients

"Bangers" traditionally are ^{sausages} ~~chicken legs~~, while mash represents mashed potatoes.

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

Royal Assent is a British term, which reflects the tradition linked ^{with} ~~to~~ the Royal Family.

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

	Book	Author
1.	Tess of the d'Urbervilles	Thomas Hardy +
2.	Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus	Mary Shelley +
3.	Uncle Tom's Cabin	W. Somerset Maugham —
4.	The Moon and Sixpence	Henry James —
5.	Wuthering Heights	Emily Brontë +
6.	Great Expectations	Charles Dickens +
7.	The Last of the Mohicans	James Fenimore Cooper +
8.	The Hound of the Baskervilles	Arthur Conan Doyle +
9.	Martin Eden	Jack London +
10.	The Bostonians	Harriet Beecher Stowe —

Authors: Mary Shelley, Emily Brontë, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Arthur Conan Doyle, Charles Dickens, Henry James, James Fenimore Cooper, Jack London, W. Somerset Maugham, Thomas Hardy.

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Poor George! I wondered now what else Tom had done. I was prepared for the worst. George could hardly speak. Then he said: ...

Think of the ending of the story. What happened to Tom?

"I always knew the day would come and my ^{devil-may-care} brother would anger someone who would not give into his charm. And I was right..." George proceeded to tell me how Tom crossed the path of a very respected and feared businessman. The man, whose name George was too afraid to say, lost to Tom in a card game. His anger was entirely justified - Tom cheated - and he decided to bring the gambler to court.

Tom, frightened by this, asked George to defend him, to which the older brother ~~formerly refused~~ ^{But then} Tom started blackmailing George, and that ~~goaded him~~ ^{got him} into helping which worked in the end. The tension in the courtroom was palpable. George did his best, as losing ~~this case~~ ^{his case} meant letting ^{go} of his retirement plans. Alas, the authority of the man Tom so carelessly angered ~~was~~ ^{was} weighed more than George's words on the jury's scale.

George stopped and looked me in the eyes. He then said one last thing: "At least he can't cause me any more trouble in jail".

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

Bath, Birmingham, Derby, ~~Oakland~~, Peterborough, Bakersfield, Worcester, Wells, Swansea, Pittsburgh

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.

- "Wow, he really ^{put the cat among the pigeons} when he revealed to the team that he was leaving for a new club at the end of the season."
- After he came to know that I'm close to the power in the organization, he changed his tune.
- Max fell head over heels in love with his colleague and wants to marry her.
- I had to burn the midnight oil for nearly three months to write my first book.
- The manager was giving him stick in front of the team today.
- Jack ^{made no bones about} getting a hike in his salary.
- "Oh my, here we go. He's ^{gotten on his high horse} again."
- Mass media has traditionally been up in arms with the government of the day.
- The new tax has proved to be a banana skin for the government.
- The CEO was really throwing his weight around in that meeting.

Idioms: put the cat among the pigeons, get on his/her high horse, throw one's weight around, give someone stick, banana skin, head over heels, up in arms, make no bones about something, change one's tune, burn the midnight oil.

in the society and other things "we get" contribute to the comfort of our living conditions, the quality of life. However, we can only "make a life by what we give", which means that our attitude towards others, the way we behave with our friends and families (as well as total strangers), our selflessness and generosity can all affect how satisfied we are with the life we lead, how welcomed we feel ^{in the world}. Only by giving we can achieve the sense of fulfilment we so deeply crave.

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 always see the same face of the moon?

Here on Earth, we can always see the "man in the moon" because the same surface faces toward us no matter where is the moon in it's orbit. That's why the moon is tidally locked with Earth, meaning that our gravitational pull keeps it rotate on its axis at a speed that's coordinated with its orbit around our planet. We humans didn't get a look at the moon's another side unless 1959, when the Soviet Luna spacecraft took the first photoes and scientists realized its much different: There are few large lava seas like the ones on side facing us and much more impact craters.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant
1	face	side
2	in	on
3	where is the moon	where the moon is
4	it's	its
5	rotate	rotating
6	another	other
7	unless	until
8	photoes	photos
9	its	it's
10	on side	on the side

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

- Where there's a will, there is success.
- Money is the root of all evil.
- Beggars can't be choosers.
- Practice makes perfect.
- You can't make an omelet without cracking an egg first.
- No man can do it all.
- There are two sides of the same coin.
- Rome wasn't built in one day.
- The first hundred years are the best.
- Make haste and don't lose sight of the goal.

5. Comment on the story in pictures:



The story depicted here is ~~both quite unusual and~~ a vivid example of how many people want to appear perfectly in front of strangers (especially strangers who have the power of law on their side), with the reality of the situation being the complete opposite.

The first picture gives us an overview of the scene: two men and a woman sitting round the table having a good-natured conversation. However, in the second picture the story starts to unfold.

The man on the right (who is the woman's husband) has dropped ash

from his cigarette on the carpet. This seemingly mundane situation ~~provokes~~ the fury in his wife. Their guest, scared for their and his own safety, tries to be a good citizen and calls for authorities, but when he comes back the ~~situation~~ ^{conflict} is ~~not~~ ^{apparently} resolved.

This bittersweet story can ~~both~~ provide you with a good laugh and with food for thought. There can be many explanations: either the family just wanted to get rid of the guest or they were genuinely fighting but desired to avoid unnecessary attention from the authorities. Either way, this amusing story is worth taking a look at.

6. Write the appropriate ending to the story given below

The Ant and The Grasshopper

(after W.S. Maugham)

The other day I saw my friend George Ramsay lunching in a restaurant. I never saw an expression of such deep gloom. He was staring into space. I was sorry for him: I suspected at once that his unfortunate brother had been causing trouble again.

I went up to him. "How are you?" I asked. "Is it Tom again?" He sighed. "Yes, it's Tom again."

I suppose every family has a black sheep. In this family it had been Tom. He had begun life decently enough: he went into business, married and had two children. The Ramsays were respectable people and everybody supposed that Tom would have a good career. But one day he announced that he didn't like work and that he wasn't suited for marriage. He wanted to enjoy himself.

He left his wife and his office. He spent two happy years in the various capitals of Europe. His relations were shocked and wondered what would happen when his money was spent. They soon found out: he borrowed. He was so charming that nobody could refuse him. Very often he turned to George. Once or twice he gave Tom considerable sums so that he could make a fresh start. On these Tom bought a motor-car and some jewellery. But when George washed his hands of him, Tom began to blackmail him. It was not nice for a respectable lawyer to find his brother shaking cocktails behind the bar of his favourite restaurant or driving a taxi. So George paid again.

For twenty years Tom gambled, danced, ate in the most expensive restaurants and dressed beautifully. Though he was forty-six he looked not more than thirty-five. He had high spirits and incredible charm. Tom Ramsay knew everyone and everyone knew him. You couldn't help liking him.

Poor George, only a year older than his brother, looked sixty. He had never taken more than a fortnight's holiday in the year. He was in his office every morning at nine-thirty and never left it till six. He was honest and industrious. He had a good wife and four daughters to whom he was the best of fathers. His plan was to retire at fifty-five to a little house in the country. His life was blameless. He was glad that he was growing old because Tom was growing old, too. He used to say: "It was all well when Tom was young and good-looking. In four years he'll be fifty. He won't find life so easy then. I shall have thirty thousand pounds by the time I'm fifty. We shall see what is really best to work or to be idle."

