

ГОСКИЙ 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)

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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.

It is undeniable that our planet is a treasury. But even the knowledge of this fact does not prevent us from doing harm to it. Human activity leads to diverse problems, among which the ecological problem is the most

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

- + 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 a spanner in the works.
- + 5. We had fun and games trying to bath the dog.
- + 6. She was as cold 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 holes than Swiss cheese.
- + 9. That child is a real pain in the neck.
- + 10. He has his head in if he thinks he can pass his test without studying.

Idioms: cool as a cucumber, head in the clouds, piece of cake, dead 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.

Cornish pasty

(a). The origin
The names reflects the city of Cornwall in England.

(b). The ingredients or undercooked pastry, uncooked vegetables or meat

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

The Capitol is an American political institution where the home of the U.S. Congress is. It is located in Washington D.C. The Building itself is famous for a huge dome.

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

	Book	Author
1.	Kim	Rudyard Kipling

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 the 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	Red systems used	red systems had used
2	on spectrum	on the spectrum
3	it's	it's
4	to see of any color	to be seen than any color
5	others colors	other colors
6	Railroad's	railroad
7	telling it a part	telling it apart
8	at the night	at night
9	the most simple	the simplest
10	changed over to	changed to

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.*

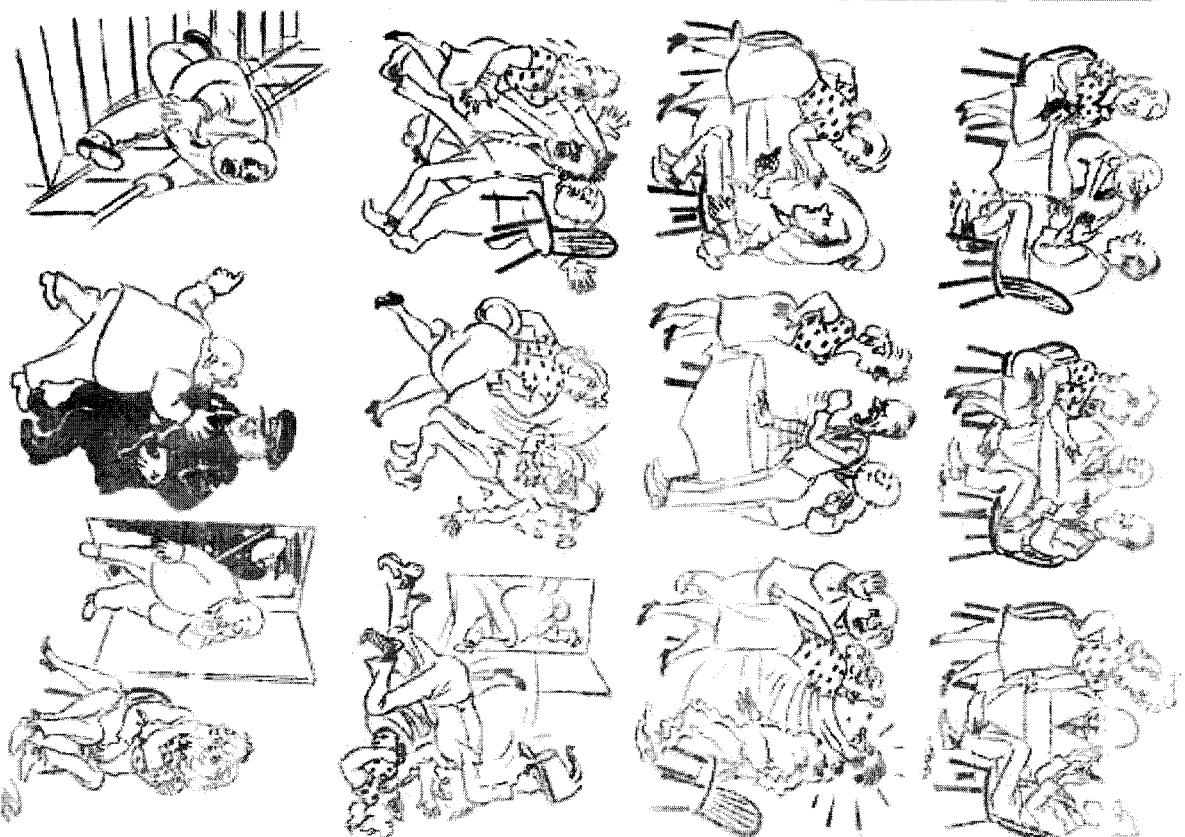
Example: All roads lead to Rome

1. Haste makes waste +
2. Love rules the world +
3. Money has _____
4. _____ at midstream +
5. Every cloud has a silver lining +
6. First impressions are usually false +
7. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched +

8. A cat has nine lives.
9. Still waters run deep.
10. Among the blind the deaf person is a king.

5. Comment on the story in pictures:

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THE POWER OF LOVE

Once upon a time Tim and Anna White came to Dr. Brown, ~~to have a consultation~~ local family psychologist. They finally managed to admit that there were certain problems in their relationship and decided to improve the situation. The therapy ~~was very~~ well until the topic of household chores was raised. Anna could not put up with the fact that Dr. Brown sided with her husband.

They both believed that it was Anna's responsibility to do everything about the house. "You do nothing but watch TV all the time!" shouted Mrs. White. "I bring home the bacon!" Mr. White exclaimed. "That's not an excuse," said Anna and slapped Tim. Although the psychologist tried to stop the couple, they went on fighting. They were shouting, cursing, throwing furniture and either at each other. When Tim was on the verge of killing his wife, Dr. Brown rushed to get help. Together with the policeman Dr. Brown returned to his apartment. Both of them were completely speechless by finding the Whites hugging each other. The spouses looked absolutely overwhelmed and happy. "Thank you very much for your help, Dr. Brown! We found the solution to our problem," said the Whites and passionately kissed.

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.

Garrad was immensely impressed by the work of art he saw. The painting differed from what Bill had already created and that ~~the~~ the dealer ~~was~~ the took the dealer aback. He was glad that Bill managed to make ~~as~~ a fresh start and overcome his crisis. Garrad assured the painter ~~that~~ of the great value of his work. Although Bill could not even think of such a confidence, he was happy to please Garrad. With a further inspiration Bill completely changed his style to painting, creating masterpieces one by one. Being a