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ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РАБОТА УЧАСТНИКА

ОЛИМПИАДЫ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ СПбГУ

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заключительный этап

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Город, в котором проводится Олимпиада ЧЕЛЯБИНСК

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ВАРИАНТ 3

10-11 классы

1. Comment on the following extract.

Living for ever may be a terrible fate but living a lot longer in good health sounds like a wonderful one. As we reflect on the relation between time and experience, for instance, there is an interesting and important paradox to be observed: the more life is experienced as meaningful, the less we are aware of time. The activities that give us the most satisfaction and happiness are those in which we are totally absorbed. Performing music, doing sports, reading good books, writing texts: there are many examples of activities that demand all our attention. In those activities that constitute human happiness there seem to be no time and space, no subject and object. From this one may infer that what we basically seek as human beings is not more time to live, but meaningful experiences.

If your body could be kept going for a thousand years, in what sense would the you that exists now still be around then? It would be more like a descendant than it would a continuation of you. I sometimes find it hard to identify with my teenage self, and that was less than 40 years ago.

If I change, I eventually become someone else. If I don't, life becomes stagnant and loses its direction.

Even if we could survive for hundreds of years, focusing too much on the future always risks neglecting the present. There is a very real sense in which we only ever exist in the here and now.

Being fully alive requires staying yourself, safe and sound, in that present as fully as possible. Dreams of eternal life interfere with making the most of the reality of temporal life.

The author of the text reflects on the ^{Such topics as} ~~to matter~~ of time and the perception of ourselves during our lives. ^{the relation between our experience and it} He claims that we are less aware of time when our life is experienced as meaningful, in other words, when we are totally absorbed ⁱⁿ this or that activity. In his or her opinion, humans seek not more time to live, but these meaningful experiences.

Then the ^{or she} author poses a question: 'How would the perception of ourselves change, if we were to live a thousand years?' He or she assumes that we would perceive ourselves as a completely new person, but not as a continuation of ourselves. According to the author, when we change, we become someone else.

However, we should not neglect the present by focusing on the future ~~too much~~ because to be alive means to ^{stay} be yourself and to live here and now.

In my opinion, we should spend our lives being dedicated to something which makes us feel meaningful. But the greatest art is to be fully aware of the present without ^{Personally, I share the author's opinion.} worrying about the future or regretting about the past because these 'future' and 'past' versions of ourselves are not equal to us ^{in the present moment.} in the present moment.

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2. Read the fable and write down the moral it contains in the space below the fable.

The Lion and the Fox Fable

The Lion and the Fox were hunting together.

8. Insert the required articles where necessary. If no article is required put X.

1. The highest mountain chain, which is called the Himalayas, is situated in X Asia. 2. The dinner was substantial, but she asked to buy X ice after it. 3. Why not go to X Netherlands in X summer to practice the Dutch language. 4. When he left X school, he built houses in the West.

9. These are among the best novels of the English-speaking world. Who are their authors?

	Book	Author
1.	'Othello'	W. Shakespeare
2.	'The Grapes of Wrath'	Gr. Green J. Steinbeck
3.	'The Sea Wolf'	J. London
4.	'A Handful of Dust'	E. Waugh
5.	'Death on the Nile'	Agatha Christie
6.	'Our man in Havana'	Gr. Green W. Faulkner
7.	'Sister Carrier'	Th. Dreiser
8.	'Twilight'	W. Faulkner W. Faulkner
9.	'The importance of being earnest'	Oscar Wild Oscar Wild
10.	'The Pick Papers'	Ch. Dickens

Authors: Ch. Dickens, J. Steinbeck, Oscar Wild, Gr. Green, J. London E. Waugh, W. Shakespeare, Th. Dreiser, Agatha Christie, W. Faulkner

10. Find and underline idioms in the sentences in the left column of the table. Write down your sentences with the same meaning but without the idiom in the right one.

	Sentences with idioms	Sentences without idioms
1.	My washing machine is on its last legs. I've had it twenty-five years ago.	My washing machine is on the verge of breaking down. I've had it twenty-five years ago.
2.	We had to work hard at our last programmes, and they weren't always successful, but no pains, no games.	We had to work at our last programmes, and they weren't always successful, but, despite failures, we shouldn't give up.
3.	No ifs and buts, just do what I tell you.	Just do what I tell you with without opposing it.
4.	Stop wasting your time and start working at last. Time and tide wait for no man.	Stop wasting your time and start working at last, otherwise you will run out of time and will not manage to finish the work.
5.	You'll have to mind your Ps and Qs when you meet your girlfriend's mother for the first time.	You'll have to mind your manners (and language) when you meet your girlfriend's mother for the first time.

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6. Answer the question and comment on the statement.

Thinking - the maximum step of human knowledge. Yet the computer solves precisely formulated problems much more quickly the person. However, the computer does not solve indistinctly formulated problems, and the person solves. Do you share the opinion that a computer can think?

Artificial Intelligence ^(AI) has become a buzz-word nowadays because ^{either both} not only ordinary people ^{and} and scientists are concerned about the questions whether a computer can think, ^{and if it will be able to replace the human one day} or if it will be able to replace the human one day. In my opinion, even in one hundred years computer will not be advanced and intelligent enough to think as humans do. However, it might be able to imitate human's cognitive processes. ^{For example,} Recently the world has been shocked by the fact that the Artificial Intelligence managed to win a chess game over the best player in the world. But the chess as a kind of game has a limited number of ways ^{how} who the chesses can be moved, so that it is possible to install all this combinations in the core of the computer. Moreover, computers are not influenced by stress or other emotions, which ~~weak~~ make mental activity slower.

However, AI is still incapable of solving tasks which ^{that} require creativity, and I doubt that it will be able to do so in the future. Personally, I assume that only ^{the} a human can ~~s~~ think creatively and, therefore, raise to the versatile challenges, for instance, problems which are formulated indistinctly.

7. Explain the meaning of the following words which reflect peculiarities of British and American cultures.

(1). Shadow Cabinet is a term in Westminster political system. Shadow Cabinet is an organisation which consists of the politicians who oppose the policies and decisions of the ruling party. All of them can voice their opposition and address public to make it be against the ~~des~~ ruling party's decisions too.

(2). Tory stands for Conservative party in British Parliament. The members of this party are often ^{informally} called 'Tories'. Such great Prime Ministers as Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill belonged to this party. It is also common knowledge that Great Britain is a bipartisan country. So, the main rival of the Conservative Party is the Labour Party. They have the opposite points of views of different issues. For example, the Tories, unlike Labourists, are against the creation of the welfare state and introducing other social reforms. The conservative party also supports the constitutional monarchy. When there was a strong conservative party in the USA (XIX century), its members were also called Tories.

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The Lion, on the advice of the Fox, sent a message to the Ass, proposing to make an alliance between their families.

The Ass came to the place of meeting, overjoyed at the prospect of a royal alliance.

But when he came there the Lion simply pounced on the Ass, and said to the Fox:

"here is our dinner for to-day. Watch you here while I go and have a nap. Woe betide you if you touch my prey."

The Lion went away and the Fox waited; but finding that his master did not return, ventured to take out the brains of the Ass and ate them up.

When the Lion came back he soon noticed the absence of the brains, and asked the Fox in a terrible voice:

"What have you done with the brains?"

"Brains, your Majesty! It had none, or it would never have fallen into your trap."

The moral of this fable can be paraphrased the following way: 'People who are love ~~flatter~~ easily fall into simple primitive traps'.

^{being flattered} The Ass is the ^{royal} impersonment of a stupid, but selfish person ^{it} who is flattered ~~to~~ because it was offered to become a member of the ^{royal} Leonine family. However, this proposal turned out to be a trap because ~~the~~ ^{the} Lion simply wanted to eat the Ass. ~~It~~ ^{It} Actually, it was obvious that two absolutely different animals cannot become ~~a~~ ^{royal} relatives. This fact emphasises ~~the~~ ^{the} silliness of the Ass who was blinded by flatter.

So, this fable warns us not to be too naive and not to believe apparent lies even if they ~~but~~ ^{but} up our self-esteem.

moral —

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.

When the old lady had returned to her flat she saw at once that burglars broke in during her absence, because the front door was open and everything in the flat was upside down. The burglars themselves were no longer there, but they probably just left because a cigarette still burnt on an ornamental table. She wondered if they found her jewellery and was rather hoping that they did. It was given to her by her late husband, yet she didn't like it and if it was stolen she would have get the insurance money.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant
1 —	the old lady	an old lady

2	at once	immediately
3	broke in	had broken in
4	Just left	had just left
5	still burnt	was still burning
6	found	had found
7	did	had
8	late	tatest latest last
9	was stolen	had been stolen
10	had returned	returned

4. Comment on the following quotation:

There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.

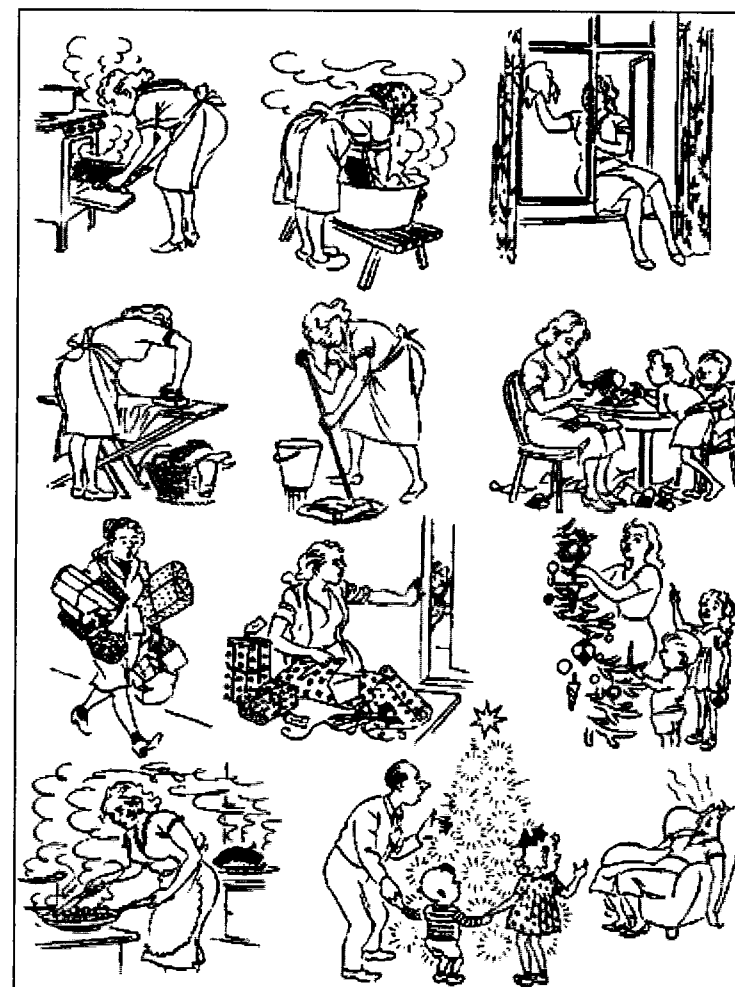
(Aristotle)

There is ~~now~~ ^{no} denying the fact that great people who contributed to changing the world for the better were often harshly criticised. But in this case I can refer to the Aristotle's quote, which means 'whatever you do, you will be ~~criticised~~ criticised for it'.

However, not only great historical figures were objects to criticism. Everyone comes in for a good deal of criticism on a daily basis because there will always be ones who consider your actions to be bad, incorrect, or weird. ~~But~~ ^{And} this is not the case when you should give up and quit what you enjoy doing. Of course, we should adhere to objective criticism because it helps us to find ~~our~~ ^{our} weak points and ~~master~~ ^{improve} them. But when a person aims to hurt you by his or her offensive remarks, you should ~~then~~ ^{disappointed with their lives} ignore pay no attention to ~~it~~ ^{them}. Such toxic critics are ~~unhappy~~ ^{deep down in their souls} that is why they want others to feel useless and unsuccessful.

Despite the fact that this Aristotle's quotation has become a truism, you should really bear it in mind in order not to become passive and reluctant to everything in fear of being ~~criticised~~ criticised.

5. Comment on the story in pictures.



Mrs. Smith was preparing for the Christmas. She took a day-off to spend this holiday with her family. She woke up at the crack of dawn and set about cooking special dishes such as 'lime pie' or a baked goose. Then she suddenly realised that her children's clothes were untidy, so she had to wash ^{it}. While all these small garments were drying, Mrs. Smith suddenly noticed that the windows ^{in her house} were too dirty. 'What a nightmare! We can't celebrate such a special holiday surrounded by dust and dirt,' she thought and started cleaning the windows. No sooner had she finished the cleaning, than the clothes ^{was} were dry. Apparently, it needed to be ironed. So, Mrs. Smith spent the following two hours doing it. She ^{was} ^{afterwards} ^{cash} saw her sight on the floor. She wondered: 'Why is it so ^{there is so much dust on it} terribly dusty?' And began to wash every corner in the house. Then her children broke in: 'Mommy, mommy, remember you promised to spend this Christmas with us? You said that we would make decorations for the Christmas tree!!!' Mrs. Smith simply could not refuse because, indeed, she had promised ^{so}. Her son inquired: 'Mommy, what present did you prepare for me?' It suddenly dawned on Mrs. Smith that she had absolutely forgotten to buy presents!!!

She ran to the shops as if she were a professional sprint runner. After having done the shopping, Mrs. Smith returned back home to wrap all the presents. She felt like Julius Caesar because she had to pack all the toys in the colorful paper with one hand and to wave to her children: not to allow them to enter with another. 'MARY! MARY! I'VE BROUGHT THE TREE! YE IT NEEDS TO BE DECORATED!', shouted her husband. She However, she did not derive a great pleasure from decorating it because she had to follow all the tall orders of her children where to place this or that toy. Finally she served all the dishes so that they were hot and appealing.

'Mary!! Mommy!', shouted her family when Mrs. Smith eventually zonked out in the armchair in the living room.