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ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РАБОТА УЧАСТНИКА

ОЛИМПИАДЫ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ СПбГУ

2018–2019

заключительный этап

Предмет (комплекс предметов) Олимпиады **ИНОСТРАННЫЙ ЯЗЫК (АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК)**

Город, в котором проводится Олимпиада

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Казань.

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.

In the given extract the author states that the following thesis:
in order to be and feel alive, human beings need to lead meaningful lives, stay themselves and not to regret the present. And to illustrate that he uses the idea of an eternal life. Of course, there are some points on which I would willingly agree. However, I do have some thoughts opposing the author's ones.

For one thing, I see the statement about humans seeking meaning in their lives more than longevity as true. Some scientists, for instance, even claim that there is a new existential crisis, which is the reason for high suicide rates all over the world.

Nonetheless, I can't dare say that the changes in ourselves make us someone else. Even from the biological point of view there is a reason to oppose. What I mean is that human body fully regenerates every seven years. Providing that, can we still claim that we become someone else? Moreover, it's even difficult to say what the "term" "self" means as we are constantly shaped by our mothers, our friends, by the books we read, etc. And all of the above makes us change to a certain extent.

By and large, the author definitely provides us with a thoughtful text. However, not until there will be at least one normally person in the world will we be able to conclude on what was wrong and what was right.

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 the Netherlands in X summer to practice X 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'	J. Steinbeck
3.	'The Sea Wolf'	J. London
4.	'A Handful of Dust'	E. Waugh
5.	'Death on the Nile'	A. Christie
6.	'Our man in Havana'	Gr. Green
7.	'Sister Carrier'	Th. Dreiser
8.	'Twilight'	W. Faulkner
9.	'The importance of being earnest'	O. Wilde
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 <u>on its last legs</u> . I've had it twenty-five years ago.	My washing machine is very old. 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 <u>no pains, no games</u> .	We had to work hard at our last programmes, and they weren't always successful, but the failures are just a part of any work.
3.	No <u>ifs and buts</u> , just do what I tell you.	No excuses, just do what I tell you.
4.	Stop wasting your time and start working at last. <u>Time and tide wait for no man</u> .	Stop wasting your time and start working at last. Time passes faster than you think.
5.	You'll have to <u>mind your Ps and Qs</u> when you meet your girlfriend's mother for the first time.	You'll have to be aware of what you say and be polite when you meet your girlfriend's mother for the first time.

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?

Thinking is, indeed, a very complicated topic. First and foremost, this term should be strictly defined and be clarified before being discussed, for some people include many other different notions (in this term) that are also related to cognitive functions. For instance, those might be cognition, attention, reasoning, analysing, etc. I see thinking as all of the above.

As a result, when asking me whether I agree with the opinion given in or not, I would rather say no. Inasmuch as human thinking is a complex biological process involving electrical activity of the brain, and even that, meanwhile, consumes a lot of energy to calculate this process, my answer would be negative. "Thinking" is the term which is used to be associated with humans but not machines. Conservative though it may sound, we have another word to describe computer's "thinking" - operating.

However, I think that this can be said about the computers. To sum up, I would say that the idea of computers thinking seems ridiculous for to me to some extent. However, this has just been said about the computers of our days. But what will be in the future?

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

(1). Shadow Cabinet is a part of House of Commons in British Parliament which opposes the Cabinet. Shadow Cabinet is formed after the election.

(2). Tory is a former political party in the U.S. which no longer exists. It is considered to be a successor of the Federalist party. It lasted between the second and the third quarters of XIX century. In the UK Tory is also a political party belonging to the Conservative wing. This party used to oppose Whigs. Both of the terms are nicknames.

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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 story tells us about the Lion and the Fox which had the Ass fallen their prey. The Lion told the Fox not to touch the dead Ass before the first had returned. Yet when the lion came back, he didn't find the brains of the animal. The Fox gave him a scintillating reply, saying that the Ass should have been more conscious about the implying offer of the lion. Considering that, we can conclude that the moral of the story is following: always be aware of your enemies do.



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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	burglars broke	burglars had broken

2	found	had found
3	was hoping	hoped
4	was stolen	had been stolen
5	still burnt	still was burning
6	insurance money	payback
7	they probably just left	they probably had just left
8	ornamental	ornamented
9	the old lady	an old lady
10	get	got

4. Comment on the following quotation:

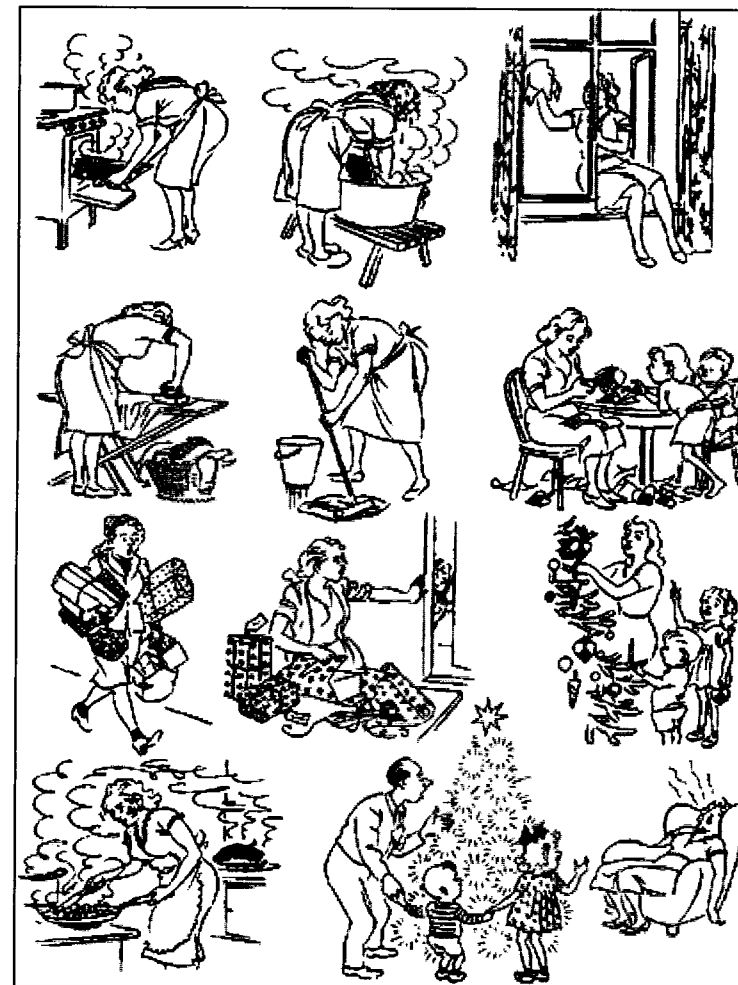
There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.

(Aristotle)

It is There is no gainsaying of how much some of us are afraid of being criticised. Such people are sometimes called ~~people~~ people pleasers and avoiding criticism is a big problem for them. However, all of us have a little part of a typical people pleaser. Those that shy fear lives in each of us, and it's absolutely normal. The real thing is that we have to manage to deal with this fear - this is what Aristotle implies in his statement.

He also means that there are thousands of aspects in which we can be disliked and hence, criticised: our appearance, our habits, our behaviour - simply everything. But nothing is the opposite of everything, and only nothing can't be scolded or chastised - and that is what Aristotle says. We all have different tastes, values and preferences, so whatever you do, say or even be - as it stated in the quote - there will always be someone who is unhappy with that.

5. Comment on the story in pictures.



The story illustrates an ordinary woman preparing her abode for a holiday, namely, Christmas.

We can see that her day is ^{household and some special} brim-full of activities. Such as ironing, cooking, shopping, adorning the Christmas tree. It can also be seen that she does all of the activities on her own. Moreover, in some pictures this the latter is highlighted, that is to say, in the pictures where the woman packs Christmas presents and hangs the adornments on the tree. The fact that she tries to do everything by herself is clear by looking at body language of the woman: a strong stopping gesture made with an arm and

In the following picture ^{palatium} a strict gaze, both of which are addressed to the children.

However, the irony of this story awaits us at the end of the story. Here the woman lies on an armchair powerlessly (she is also moaning, I assume). The preparation for the holiday took her too much efforts so she didn't have enough of physical strength to celebrate.