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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 **Термь**

Дата **16.03.2019**

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 text, the author expresses his thoughts about advantages and disadvantages of eternal life as well as one's life's "feeling". To begin with, many people dream of eternal life, but they have no idea that it might be not as pleasant as they think. However, their dreams are about to come true because nowadays average life time has increased comparing to the past. Living forever becomes more and more possible because nowadays there is a cure to almost every disease and scientists are working on extending human cells' lifetime.

As for me, it's better to live a short life full of bright experience than a long and dull life. Eternal life is a curse because everything seems last forever and you wish it ended but it will not. On the other hand, eternal life gives you eternal opportunities, but you don't really need them because you have lost the interest in ~~the~~ living.

I am convinced that as our life can't be eternal yet, we should make most of ~~the~~ it. There is no point in paying too much attention to the future because then we can't enjoy the present. We should not forget that one day we'll leave this world behind and ^{try to} live a life we will remember.

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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 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'	W. Faulkner
5.	'Death on the Nile'	Agatha Christie
6.	'Our man in Havana'	O. Wilde
7.	'Sister Carrier'	Gr. Greene
8.	'Twilight'	E. Waugh
9.	'The importance of being earnest'	Th. Dreiser
10.	'The Pick Papers' wick	Ch. Dickens

Authors: ~~Ch. Dickens~~, J. Steinbeck, Oscar Wilde, 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 isn't working properly and is about to break. I've had it 25 years ago.
2.	We had to work hard at our last programmes, and they weren't always successful, <u>but no pains, no games</u> .	We had to work hard at our last programs, and they weren't always successful, but you can't become successful without working hard.
3.	No ifs and buts, just do what I tell you.	Do what I tell you and don't argue with me.
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 is limited, and you can't make it stop or go slower.
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 pay attention to details 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?

In my opinion, it is early days to claim that a computer can think. Although computer technology is developing extremely rapidly these days, the real Artificial Intelligence exists only in fiction (books) and scientists' dreams. However, thinking computers are definitely the shape of things to come. Scientists are working hard on developing the AI and we are already able to use some of their inventions. For example, the voice assistants ~~such~~ such as Siri, Google Assistant and Yandex's Alisa are made close to the AI. But inventing AI can bring unexpected circumstances. Letting a machine think independently of humans can result in a machine riot. Comparing to an ordinary person, an intelligent machine is much more mighty. So, scientists should pay attention to the other side of the coin and be responsible for their inventions. To prove this, I will remind you of the A-bomb invention. The nuclear technologies seemed to be a great invention at first, but eventually it resulted in a possibility of nuclear war which can destroy all our planet in just a few seconds. To sum up, I can say that we are on the threshold of developing the Artificial Intelligence, but we must be very careful using it. Scientists should think twice before letting ~~the~~ a machine think because it can become a threat to the humanity.

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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 legal opposition in Britain. It is formed from members of the party which is not currently in power. Its head is the head of the party which got the second largest number of seats in the Parliament. It discusses the same matters as the actual cabinet of Ministers in general, the government's policy regarding current events and situation in the country and the world.

(2). Tory is the name of the Conservative party in Britain. "Tory" is a name of Irish cattle driver. This party supports the Crown and Monarchy in Britain.

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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."

After reading this fable, I can say that it contains two morals.

Firstly, this ~~maxim~~ fable tells us not to be too simple-minded and naive. We should first figure out all the ins and outs of the matter before participating in it and check if a person is trustworthy before believing him.

Secondly, this fable is written to teach us a lesson that sometimes it can be useful to be a bit cunning. If you are wise and sharp-minded, you can find a way out of almost every unpleasant situation, like the fox did.

In a nutshell, this fable is about the benefit which clever people have on stupid ones.

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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	had returned	returned

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2	broke in	had broken in	+
3	just left	have just left	.
4	burnt	was burning	+
5	found	had found	+
6	open	opened	
7	late	latest	
8	in surance	insurance	
9	would have get	would get	+
10	did	had	+

4. Comment on the following quotation:

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

(Aristotle)

Aristotle, the ~~outstanding~~ outstanding Ancient Greek philosopher, stated that it is almost impossible to avoid criticism.

Although he lived ages ago, the problem which he talked about still exists, and probably nowadays it is even worse because rudeness and bullying in the society are prospering.

No matter how flawless you are, people will manage to find a fault in you, because they have the feeling when they realize that someone is better than they are. So, people raise their self-esteems by lowering yours. When ~~criticizing~~ criticizing a person, the critic feels superior to his 'victim'. In addition, people are more likely to blame you than to praise you because criticising is much easier. When you praise someone, you admit that he or she is better than you in some way and sometimes it is hard for your self-esteem.

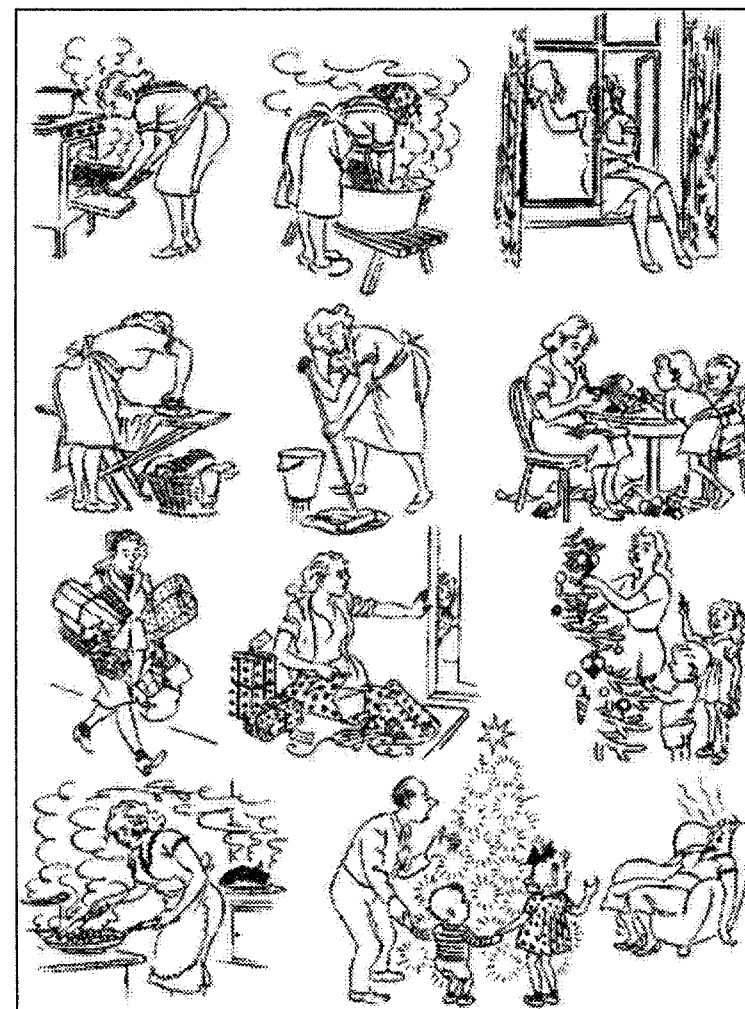
Thus, as Aristotle stated, the only way to avoid criticism is not to make people envy you because criticism is often based on envy and not to stand out by your words or actions so that there will be nothing to argue about.

I am ~~convinced~~ convinced that ~~this~~ criticism is a serious problem and we need to fight it. We should always remember that there's no accounting for tastes and be a bit kinder to each other.

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5. Comment on the story in pictures.



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This set of pictures contains a story about the importance of the mother's role in the family. Actually, many people underestimate women, saying that they are weak and incapable of doing work. But in fact, being a mother is ^(a) really hard work. A mother has to do the cleaning, ironing, washing and cooking as well as she has to look after the children, take care of them and raise them. Sometimes she even can't get a single minute to have a little rest and take care of herself.

A mother considers the needs of her family more important than her own needs. To my mind, we shouldn't take our mothers' efforts for granted and we must be really thankful.

We should take care of our mothers just like our mothers take care of us.

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