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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 *Чебоксары*  
Дата 19.03.19

ВАРИАНТ 4

10-11 классы

**1. Comment on the following extract.**

There's no known limit to how long humans can live, scientists say. The wish to extend the human lifespan has a long tradition in many cultures. Optimistic views of the possibility of achieving this goal through the latest developments in medicine feature increasingly in serious scientific and philosophical discussion. Focusing on interventions in biological ageing, one can distinguish between research that is first and foremost aimed at prolonging life by slowing or even arresting ageing processes and research that is directed at combating the diseases that seem to be intrinsically connected with biological ageing.

We seem to be enjoying now the new buzz about defeating ageing. For a long time scientists have been on a crusade to inspire the world to embark on a scientific quest to eliminate ageing and extend healthy lifespan indefinitely. It is a difficult job because the world is considered to be in a

"pro-ageing trance" happy to accept that ageing is unavoidable, when the reality is that it's simply a "medical problem" that science can solve. If a consequence of increasing health is that life is extended, that's a good thing, but the most important part is keeping people healthy as long as possible. Just as a vintage car can be kept in good condition indefinitely with periodic preventative maintenance, so there is no reason why, in principle, the same can't be true of the human body.

According to the author, modern science made it possible for humans to prolong their life expectancy. People have been eager to slow ageing process since ancient times so it seems that our dream has finally come true. However, getting old is a normal part of human life and oversteering this process can cause overpopulation.

To my mind, there are some things to be written in favour of prolonging life. Firstly, scientific methods of increasing lifespan include improving people's health by curing such diseases as cancer and <sup>heart</sup> heart-related problems. Doctors also inspire people to stick to a healthy lifestyle. Secondly, if human beings are able to live longer, there will be more employees on the labour market which will be extremely beneficial for economies.

On the other hand, prolonging lifespan will finally lead to the increase in the world's population which is already a global problem. For instance, if people lived over a hundred years or even became immortal, there would be no place left for the newborn beings to live. In the end, mankind would have to move to some other planet.

In conclusion I would like to point out that increasing life expectancy is a ~~rather~~ controversial issue. There are ~~certain~~ some uncertainties about the future where people will live much longer than they do nowadays, but the views are still quite optimistic. In the end, who does not want to live forever?

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

### The Dog and the Shadow Fable.

It happened that a Dog had got a piece of meat and was carrying it home in his mouth to eat it in peace.

Now on his way home he had to cross a plank lying across a running brook.

As he crossed, he looked down and saw his own shadow reflected in the water beneath.

Thinking it was another dog with another piece of meat, he made up his mind to have that also.

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

1. On the whole they had X good weather. 2. the Browns are going to spend the week-end in the Lake District. 3. The sky was still dark in the East, but at X dawn it would clear up. 4. Though the rain ceased at X noon, the air still felt moist.

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

	Book	Author
1.	'David Copperfield'	Charles Dickens
2.	'An American Tragedy'	Th. Dreiser
3.	'The Quiet American'	J. London
4.	'The Great Gatsby'	F. Scott Fitzgerald
5.	'Cakes and Ale'	Gr. Green
6.	'Richard III'	W. Shakespeare
7.	'The Hound of Baskervilles'	A. Conan Doyle
8.	'Tender is the Night'	F. Scott Fitzgerald
9.	'Martin Eden'	S. Maugham
10.	'Murder on the Orient Express'	Agatha Christie

Authors: Gr. Green, Ch. Dickens, F. Scott Fitzgerald, A. Conan Doyle, S. Maugham, Th. Dreiser, Agatha Christie, W. Shakespeare, F. Scott Fitzgerald, J. London

## 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.	If you're late to the interview, you'll <u>miss the boat</u> for the job.	If you're late to the interview, you'll miss the chance to be employed.
2.	He seems to be involved in some <u>monkey business</u> or other.	He seems to be involved in some useless affair or other.
3.	We couldn't <u>make heads or tails</u> out of the instructions of our boss.	We couldn't make out the instructions of our boss.
4.	So who told you she'd got the job? – Oh, let's say, <u>a little bird</u> told me so.	– Oh, let's say, I'm not supposed to tell who told me.
5.	The lion's <u>share</u> of the museum's budget goes on special exhibitions. <u>The great deal</u>	The <del>major</del> part of the museum's budget goes on special exhibitions.

6. Answer the question and comment on the statement.

The Internet and e-books have provided the world of education with the incredible facilities. Do you believe that the Internet will absorb all the knowledge, become the crucial source of know-how and replace traditional paper books, with positive and negative consequences?

As far as I am concerned, the Internet has, indeed, become the main source of information nowadays. There are both pros and cons of this fact.

The <sup>major</sup> advantage of e-books and the Internet is their convenience. A person needs a smartphone or a PC to provide himself with all the necessary information instead of carrying several heavy books. Moreover, e-books are more environmentally-friendly as there is no need to cut trees to produce them.

The disadvantage of electronic sources of information is the loss of reading and learning skills. Nowadays we need to look through a couple of web-sites to find all the information we need, which reduces the amount of knowledge we actually memorize.

To sum up, the Internet and e-books have obvious merits among the other sources of information. Despite this fact, I ~~am~~ personally believe that traditional paper books will not disappear in the nearest future as nothing can replace their effect on human minds.

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

(1). The City is a short for the New York City.

(2). A Donkey and an Elephant is a famous fable that shows an argument between a Donkey and an Elephant. There is no need for a Donkey to argue with an Elephant, because they have different point of views.

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So he made a snap at the shadow in the water, but as he opened his mouth the piece of meat fell out, dropped into the water and was never seen more.

The moral of the fable can be expressed in this proverb: 'A bird in a hand is worth two in a bush.' It means that one should be delighted and grateful for what he ~~has~~ already has. If he makes an attempt to double his property, he ~~will lose~~ <sup>runs a risk</sup> of losing everything. As for this story, 'a bird' is the piece of meat and 'a bush' is the water. Trying to get another piece of meat, which ~~has~~ not even exist, the Dog was left without any lunch. Actually, this fable teaches people not to follow the Dog's <sup>trap</sup> example.

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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.

"Frankenstein" is a name that is known by many people today. But not everybody knows that Victor Frankenstein is the main character in a horrible story <sup>horror</sup> of Mary Shelley. The book had been written <sup>was</sup> at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Mary Shelley was only twenty years old when she had written it. In the story Frankenstein, a scientist, had wanted to create a "person", but unfortunately, he had created a "monster". The monster wanted to love by people, but nobody had liked him. That's why he had became violent and started killing people. In the end he also killed Victor Frankenstein.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant	
1	character <u>in</u> a story	character <u>of</u> a story	
2	the book <u>had been</u> written	the book <u>was</u> written	+
3	<u>at the beginning</u> horrible story	<u>in the beginning</u> horror story	+
4	she <u>had</u> written it	she <u>wrote</u> it	+
5	<u>had</u> wanted to create	wanted to create (beg. had)	+

6	unfortunate	unfortunately	+
7	had created	created	+
8	wanted to love	wanted to be loved	+
9	he had become violent	he became violent	+
10	nobody had liked him	nobody liked him	+

#### 4. Comment on the following quotation:

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

In his saying Winston Churchill, a British prime-minister, states the two opposite views of life - a material and a non-material ones. He means that a person needs to make money, to get certain income to stay alive and at least make both ends meet. But the true meaning of a human life is to dedicate it to <sup>other</sup> people, art, nature conservation or anything else that he considers important. A life that has made the world better in a certain way or made people a little happier is certainly not wasted. If life is a huge beach we walk on, we leave our footsteps on its sand. That is the actual meaning of our existence.

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#### 5. Comment on the story in pictures.



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One day a family consisted of two parents and a baby made up their minds to ~~grow~~ plant a hundred of tulips in their backyard. First of all, they tilled the ground and laid the seeds. Then they were to water the flowers <sup>every day</sup> so that they would grow as beautiful as possible. The family dedicated all their love and affection to their small garden. Everyone was working hard, even the baby, so they were doing their best.

In a few weeks the tulips have finally bloomed. They were all different in colour - red, pink, purple and yellow. All the neighbours admired the small garden and tried to guess why the flowers were so charming. The secret was that they were grown with love.

In order to congratulate his wife on their new garden, the husband picked a single flower and gave it to her. Then they went home. On seeing this, the baby decided to show his mother even more affection and so he picked all the tulips. There is no need to say the parents were shocked, but they did not punish the boy as the smile on his face was worth more than a hundred flowers.

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