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САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГСКИЙ 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.

serious The Earth is in ecological crisis nowadays. There are numerous global problems such as water and air pollution, global warming, deforestation, ozone holes etc. One of them is biodiversity crisis which is very dangerous despite many people.

think otherwise. Not everyone knows that a number of species disappears forever every day and even a larger number is on the brink of ~~extinction~~ extinction. People tend to consider it unimportant just because they have never heard of these species, but the truth is that every single plant and animal matters. Extinction of some species affects the functioning of the food chain, and as humans are on the top of it, all the changes affect them too even if they do not notice it.

Lx St We live in a consumer society where most people care only about their own needs, so the main ~~problem~~ reason of biodiversity losses is human activity. But if we continue living like this, ~~our~~ our lovely planet will soon be destroyed. We need to remember to think what we leave for the future generations and save the Earth so that our sons and daughters and grandchildren will be able to experience ~~of~~ all the beauty of the Earth like we do. But a single person can not change the situation, we all need to work together, to unite our powers. Only then we can help our world prosper.

(9)

## 2. Comment on the following statement:

Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it. (Henry David Thoreau)

Lx By saying these words the author was trying to tell that success does not come to you easily. Only those who work hard reaching their goals can achieve them. These people do not think much about becoming successful, they have a different purpose. On the contrary, those who only dream about becoming famous or rich or important someday and do almost nothing to become closer to their dreams, will never be successful.

We have all heard stories about great scientists and social workers who dedicated their lives to their work and research. They didn't do the things which they are famous for for themselves or for fame and money. Their only motive was helping the people and the society. That is why they are the greatest people with the greatest achievements - they didn't do it for success itself. And that's why the world will always remember them and their deeds.

In conclusion I would like to say that you should spend

2.	For Whom the Bell Tolls	Ernest Hemingway +
3.	Slaughterhouse-Five	Kurt Vonnegut +
4.	Great Expectations	Charles Dickens +
5.	Persuasion	Jane Austen +
6.	A Handful of Dust	Evelyn Waugh +
7.	Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog)	Jerome K. Jerome -
8.	Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury +
9.	Cakes and Ale	W. Somerset Maugham +
10.	The Ambassadors	Henry James +

Authors: Jane Austen, Ray Bradbury, Evelyn Waugh, Rudyard Kipling, Henry James, Kurt Vonnegut, Jerome K. Jerome, W. Somerset Maugham, Charles Dickens, Ernest Hemingway.

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7. Here is the list of subway stations. Seven of them are in London and three are located in other cities. Find them and cross out.

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

8. Below is the list of some of the funniest English idioms, most of which came from British English. Match them with the situations given both lexically and grammatically.

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 cool 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 in it than Swiss cheese
9. That child is a real pain in the neck
10. He has his head in the clouds if he thinks he can pass his test without studying.

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

9 (1). Explain the origin and name the principal ingredients of the traditional British dish:

#### Cornish pasty

(a). The origin

Cornwall mines

(b). The ingredients

beef, turnip, potato, onion

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

The Capitol is a government building in the USA. It is located on a hill. It has white walls and a huge white dome which was built later than the building itself.

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

	Book	Author
1.	Kim	<u>Rudyard Kipling</u>

more time doing something to achieve your goals than thinking about success itself, because taking actions is the only way ~~to success~~ to success.

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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.

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 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	<u>a part</u>	<u>apart</u> +
2	<u>color</u>	<u>colors</u> -
3	<u>others</u>	<u>other / the other</u> +
4	<u>used</u>	<u>have been using</u> -
5	<u>stars</u>	<u>the stars</u> -
6	<u>its</u>	<u>it's / it is</u> +
7	<u>second-easy</u>	<u>second easy</u> -
8	<u>harder</u>	<u>hard</u> -
9	<u>at the night</u>	<u>at night</u> +
10	<u>proliferated</u>	<u>have proliferated</u> -

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 is blind.
3. Money has no smell.
4. Don't cross the river at midstream.
5. Every cloud has its silver lining.
6. First impressions are often misleading.
7. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

- + 8. A cat has nine lives.  
 + 9. Still waters run deep.  
 + 10. Among the blind the one-eyed man is a king.

5. Comment on the story in pictures:



It is a common sight when married couples argue, especially the ones who live together for a long time. They can fight tooth and nail. People in long marriages tend to become easily enraged by some minor matters. But arguing is normal because wives and husbands never stop loving each other and they will make peace before you know it. Here's a story which illustrates this statement.

A ~~married~~ married couple was having lunch with an old friend. The ~~men~~ smoked cigars, and the ashes dropped on the floor. The wife noticed it and became very angry ~~with~~ her husband. They started ~~yelling~~ at each other, then even fighting. Their fight became very fierce: the wife slapped husband's cheek, then hit him with a plate so that it broke. Their friend got scared they will injure each other, so he called the police. But when the police arrived, the wife was sitting on her husband's knees and they were hugging. This story proves that no matter how fiercely couples fight, they will always make peace really soon, because love is stronger than anything.

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.

'Oh, this is impressive', Garrad said. 'I see Bill wants to try himself in something new, this painting is really fresh'. At first, Leila tried to say that it was painted by accident, but then she realised it was a big chance for her husband to be successful again. The dealer told that he could arrange a modern art show for Bill if he painted more like this. When Bill heard the great news, he had mixed feelings, but started painting.

Three years have passed. Bill became a famous impressionist under the nickname 'B. H. Picasso'. He possessed so much money that he could afford moving to Italy with Leila. He wasn't happy, though. Making \$10000 artwork was a matter of minutes and it made no sense to him. On one of his shows, which was as successful as all the others, he had an emotional breakdown. 'This isn't art!', he ~~exclaimed~~ exclaimed and tipped all his paintings apart. This was his last show ever.