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САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ



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**ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РАБОТА УЧАСТНИКА
ОЛИМПИАДЫ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ СПбГУ
2019–2020**

заключительный этап

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

Город, в котором проводится Олимпиада САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГ

Дата 23 февраля 2020

ВАРИАНТ 6

1. Comment on the following extract.

How a Rooftop Meadow of Bees and Butterflies Shows N.Y.C.'s Future

As bird and insect populations plummet, sounding new alarms about the health of the natural world, one promising arena where humans can help is also a surprising one: cities. In New York, scientists and officials are calling for residents and companies to do their part, with projects as ambitious as the rooftop meadow and as simple as choosing native plants for home window boxes.

A Greenpoint building in New-York is part of a push to combat climate change and make the city more welcoming to wildlife. The wild-looking meadow on the roof of the building creates a welcoming environment for the bees and butterflies of the season. Tall grasses glow in the afternoon sunlight. Silver orbs that look like alien spacecrafts shimmer nearby.

For some species, scientists say, cities can be more hospitable than rural and suburban areas, because fewer lawns and farms mean fewer pesticides. The green roof in Brooklyn draws endangered monarch butterflies, a panoply of birds and wild bees that are native to New York City but threatened by what scientists have called an "insect apocalypse."

Green roofs like the one in Greenpoint are expected to multiply under a city law that will require new buildings to be topped with green spaces or solar panels.

It is difficult to quantify the effect of wildlife corridors, scientists say, but research shows that such corridors increase the number of species and individual creatures able to thrive in cities and may serve as a patchwork of habitats in the future.

This extract gives some interesting examples of New-York citizens helping to improve the conditions for the local fauna. In my opinion, it is very important for people to acknowledge the amount of damage done to different species of birds and insects in the city areas. I also strongly believe that

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people should do something about it, so it is vital that articles like that are spread widely. The article mentioned two main solutions for the problem, both of which I find useful. I think that most buildings in city areas should have rooftop meadows to attract wildlife. However, when it comes to simple citizens, I suggest that all choose to plant a common flower in their area on the balcony so that bees and other insects have better conditions. To sum up, I believe, we should do everything that's possible to help wildlife creatures in city areas thrive and prosper.

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2. Comment on the following statement:

Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live.

The author of the statement believes that selfishness isn't only about the selfish person, but also affects people around him/her. I agree with this opinion. From my personal experience selfish people have great influence on their friends and family. Usually, in a society we have to care for each other, however some people ignore that. By not helping another person, they indirectly demand that he/she should solve problems himself/herself, which is exactly what the statement implies.

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

The White House - the residence of the President of the USA, located in Washington D.C.

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

	Book	Author
1.	Nineteen Eighty-Four	George Orwell +
2.	The Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame +
3.	Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain +
4.	The Great Gatsby	Francis Scott Fitzgerald +
5.	Kim	Rudyard Kipling +
6.	The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde +
7.	Death on the Nile	Agatha Christie +
8.	The Painted Veil	W. Somerset Maugham +
9.	Our Mutual Friend	Charles Dickens +
10.	The Sun Also Rises	Ernest Hemingway +

Authors: ~~Agatha Christie, Kenneth Grahame, W. Somerset Maugham, Francis Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Rudyard Kipling, Charles Dickens, Oscar Wilde, Mark Twain, George Orwell~~

$$30 + 56 = 86 \text{ points}$$

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- he started. Mrs Barlow interrupted: "I know. You aren't going to marry me, are you?" Roger was stunned. He was not expecting such an immediate answer. "It's ok", she continued. "I get that you don't love me, nobody does. But why buy the house, if we aren't going to live there together?" She started snobbing. "Are you going to keep it? You bought it with our money for yourself, didn't you? You liar!" Roger answered shortly: "No." He then gave her a hug and explained that the house is hers now and apologised for cancelling the marriage. They sat silently for an hour, when he left not before saying "Sorry" one final time. It was enough for Ruth. At least it was her first man, who apologised, which gave her hope. So, although Roger betrayed her, he also gave her what she needed the most - hope?

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7. Here is the list of universities. Seven of them are in the USA and three are located in other countries. Find them and cross out.

Princeton University, Macquarie University, James Cook University, Yale University, Carnegie Mellon University, Georgetown University, Clark University, Imperial College, Drexel University, Dartmouth College

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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. I was on cloud nine after receiving the news of my promotion. +
2. The browser was as slow, but it worked. ^{as molasses}
3. After some reflection, he decided to bite the bullet. +
4. The roads were full of traffic and we were travelling at a snail's for two hours. ^{pace} +
5. I was left out in the cold in the annual promotions in the company. +
6. My wife's a night owl, but I like to be in bed by 10 o'clock. +
7. I go out for walks once in a blue moon. +
8. We only see the glamor and money in showbiz. But the other is that only one in hundreds reach there. ^{side of the coin} 1
9. I am dizzy. I'm feeling under the weather. +
10. We told her it was a delicate situation but she went into the meeting like a bull in a china shop. 7

Idioms: on cloud nine, the other side of the coin, left out in the cold, a bull in a china shop, bite the bullet, once in a blue moon, under the weather, night owl, at a snail's pace, (as) slow as molasses.

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

Sunday roast

(a). The origin

Sunday roast is considered to be a traditional British dish, usually served during family dinner on Sundays.

(b). The ingredients

Meat (pork, chicken, sometimes beef), butter, salt, sugar, pepper (or other spices)

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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 most blackboards green and not black?

Before blackboards were large enough to take in an entire wall in a classroom, students would use individual size boards making of slate or wood that had been painted in black. So the first blackboards, were in fact, black. Once teachers realized they need more space to teach there students, they put the multiple boards of slate together on the wall to make bigger blackboards. Finally, as the demand for blackboards raised, companies started making them out of steel plates coated with green porcelain-based enamel in spite of the traditional dark slate. This way the boards were more light, less fragile, and easier to ship. This is what the school was like a 100 years before.

	The wrong variant	The correct variant	
1	take in	take up	+
2	making of	made of	+
3	had been painted	was painted	+
4	need	needed	+
5	there	their	+
6	raised	increased	—
7	in spite of	instead of	+
8	the school	school	+
9	100 years before	100 years ago	—
10	individual size	individual-size	—

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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. When my friend and I go out, it is always _____ as both of us don't have much money.
2. Bad news _____
3. Let sleeping dogs snore

1/2



4. God helps those _____ who help themselves
5. You will really see your friends' worth _____ when you call upon them in a time of crisis.
6. Opera is not _____.
7. When in Rome, _____.
8. Once bitten, not beaten _____.
9. Don't judge a book by its cover _____.
10. The grass is greener on the other side of the fence _____.

5. Comment on the story in pictures:



In this short comic we can see the unpredictable nature of love. We can see three people having a chat at the table. The men are smoking, so the ash falls on the floor eventually, which drives the lady, presumably the wife of the man she's shouting at, mad. They end up fighting each other, while the guest is trying to calm them down. His efforts seem to have no effect, so he rushes to tell the policeman, before they kill each other. However, as we see in the last picture, the couple is

hugging as if nothing ever happened. This comic shows how complex the relationship between the loved ones can get, to an extent where other people think that they are on the verge of divorce, while everything ends peacefully.

6. Write the appropriate ending to the story given below

The Escape

(after W.S. Maugham)

Roger Charing was no longer young when he fell in love with Ruth Barlow and he had had enough experience to make him careful; but Ruth Barlow had a gift that makes most men defenceless. This was the gift of pathos. Mrs. Barlow was twice a widow. She had splendid dark eyes and they were the most moving I ever saw. They seemed to be always on the point of filling with tears and you felt that her sufferings had been impossible to bear. Mrs. Barlow was one of those unfortunate persons with whom nothing goes right. If she married the husband beat her; if she employed a broker he cheated her; if she took a cook she drank.

When Roger told me that he was going to marry her, I wished him joy. As for me I thought she was stupid and as hard as nails.

Roger introduced her to his friends. He gave her lovely jewels. He took her everywhere. Their marriage was announced for the nearest future. Roger was very pleased with himself, he was committing a good action.

Then suddenly he fell out of love. I don't know why. He realized that Ruth Barlow had made up her mind to marry him and he swore that nothing would make him marry her. Roger knew it wouldn't be easy. Roger didn't show that his feelings to Ruth Barlow had changed. He remained attentive to all her wishes, he took her to dine at restaurants, he sent her flowers, he was charming.

They were to get married as soon as they found a house that suited them; and they started looking for residences. The agents sent Roger orders to view and he took Ruth to see some houses. It was very difficult to find anything satisfactory. They visited house after house. Sometimes they were too large and sometimes they were too small; sometimes they were too far from the centre and sometimes they were too close; sometimes they were too expensive and sometimes they wanted too many repairs; sometimes they were too stuffy and sometimes they were too airy. Roger always found a fault that made the house unsuitable. He couldn't let his dear Ruth to live in a bad house.

Think of the ending to the story and write it in the space below.

They ended up choosing a cosy house not far from the centre. As soon as they bought the house, Roger decided it was time to tell the truth. "You see, Ruth..."