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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.

*As the environmental situation deteriorates, scientists all around the globe strive to establish a less destructive relationship between the man and the nature. One of their attempts in this field is*

to incorporate some elements of wildlife into a modern city, with New York City being one of the first examples of this method.

The main goals of the project are efficient. First, most of modern provide additional space for bird and insect habitats. Second, increased amount of vegetation helps to reduce the carbon dioxide levels, improving the air quality in the city.

However, the discussed enterprise can pose a substantial threat to the flora and fauna of the meadow. Thus, the impact of the pollutants of a modern city's atmosphere on plants and animals has not been studied yet. There is some evidence, however, that these pollutants can be one of the causes for a variety of diseases in different organisms.

All points considered, will the new development be the cure or the poison for the natural habitat of a city?

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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 above statement elicits selfishness from several perspectives. As far as I am concerned, living as one wishes to live has nothing to do with selfishness. Instead, it is a right one can and should exercise in his/her life. Furthermore, it is this right that encourages non-las thinking and independent decision-making, making the existence of a free individual in a democratic society possible. Contrary to living independently from others' opinions, selfishness implies the domination of one's opinion over the others. A selfish person imposes his/her views on the other people without asking about their attitude towards it. Therefore, selfishness is the abuse of the right of freedom of thought, which violates that of the other people. Thus, selfish people

one refuse to consider.

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

The White House | The White House is the official residence of the President of the USA. Due to its importance as a symbol of Presidential power, it has become a landmark of Washington, D.C., where it is situated. The White House is an important part of American culture, appearing in many films, books and paintings.

## 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	W. Somerset Maugham —
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	Charles Dickens —
8. The Painted Veil	Agatha Christie —
9. Our Mutual Friend	Kenneth Grahame —
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

85 points  
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or threat to the society, making the compromise of social order, anti-human political aspects possible. There ~~was~~ is a lot of five examples of such situations in global history, with the most extreme being Fascist states in 20 century Europe.

Good (10)

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	in	over
2	sized	sized
3	making	made
4	need	needed
5	there	there
6	the	so article needed
7	the	a
8	raised	rose
9	in spite	instead
10	before	ago

7

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 fun as both of us don't have much money.
2. Bad news come first.
3. Let sleeping dogs lie.



Roger met with his agent every Saturday on the outskirts of the city. There, he briefed them so that they would show the best suitable property possible. He thought his meetings to be as confidential as possible. After he was gone!

After months of unsuccessful attempts to find a suitable house, Mrs. Bonham suddenly went out from Roger's sight. Never had I seen him so relaxed - he was on cloud nine!

Time had passed, and he saw Mrs. Bonham with one of his nearest property agents with the wealth he had lost long ago! Then, he understood that the woman had known everything from the very beginning.

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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 cloud nine after receiving the news of my promotion.
2. The browser was as slow as molasses, but it worked.
3. After some reflection, he decided to like the bullet.
4. The roads were full of traffic and we were travelling at a snail's pace for two hours.
5. I was left out in the cold in the annual promotions in the company.
6. My wife's night owl, but I like to be in bed by 10 o'clock.
7. I go out for walks in a blue moon.
8. We only see the glamor and money in showbiz. But the other side of the coin is that only one in hundreds reach there.
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.

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**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.

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

Sunday roast

(a). The origin

Every family gathers on a Sunday roast for great food and to reinforce the family ties

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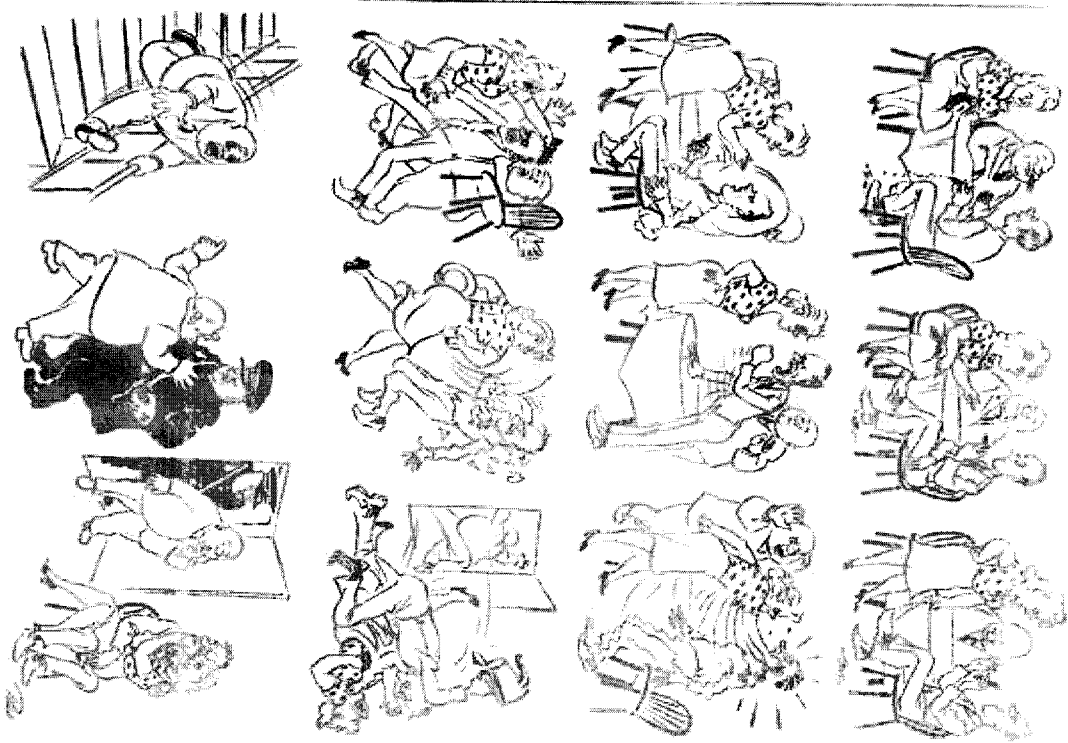
(b). The ingredients

Beef, potatoes, carrots, special sauce (may vary from

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4. God keeps those who help themselves
5. You will really see your friends' true value when you call upon them in a time of crisis.
6. Opera is not for beggars.
7. When in Rome, one is not anywhere else.
8. Once bitten, ~~one~~ one will never be bitten again.
9. Don't judge a book by its cover.
10. The grass is greener on the other side.

5. Comment on the story in pictures:



### Love-hate Relationship

Parkins liked being at our place. Every time he came, we would sit at our small table for hours, smoking three cigarettes and discussing our quite unimportant lives. My wife Laura, who was remarkably shy, would usually remain silent

during our meetings.  
One day, Laura had forgotten to put an ashtray on the table, which Parkins left unnoticed during a heated debate. Suddenly, Laura peered at Parkins with rage — she had noticed a pile of ash on our carpet! I had never seen her so angry. To my surprise, Parkins stood up, lit the candle and began to scold! I started to calm him down, but soon the situation went out of my control. I only saw a meeting ending more of frantic laughter and cracking furniture with two human-like figures in the middle. I could not manage with it by myself so I sprung out of the house, seeking for help. Luckily, I bumped into a policeman. I murmured about the fight, and we hurried towards my house. Was I surprised when I saw them together, sat at my table? They lived happily ever since, and I did not.

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.

Seen, I would find out what my opinion of her had been completely wrong.