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РГТСКИЙ 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 4

1. Comment on the following extract.

Recycling Is in Crisis. Could These Innovations Be the Answer?

Since China stopped accepting much of the world's recyclable waste last year, many countries have been faced with the challenge of how to deal with their own trash. Leaders in Australia made bold moves toward eventually banning the export of any recyclable waste. The ultimate goal is to prevent the waste from ending up in the ocean, they said, summing it up in one slogan: "Our waste – our responsibility". Australia's commitment also involves developing new approaches to recycling that waste.

Sixteen miles north of Melbourne, there is a road paved with the equivalent of 200,000 plastic bags and 63,000 glass bottles. It is the first road in the world made of Reconophalt, a combination of recycled materials and asphalt.

Factories that reprocess materials like plastic, glass and paper are usually large, expensive operations that produce one or a few recycled products. But researchers at the University of New South Wales in Sydney are exploring the possibility of "microfactories": small, modular machines that can be used together in various combinations to create new materials. The system is designed to "decentralize" recycling as there's more than enough waste available, and there's more than enough demand.

"At the end of trying to reduce, reuse and recycle, there will always be some fraction of residue material," said Pete Shmigel, the chief executive of the Australian Council of Recycling. But it still gives us fantastic experience and hope for the future".

The text given raises quite an important problem - how do we cope with the ecological disaster? I consider myself to be a person who really could make a difference in the world, that is why ecology issue really concerns me.

I am greatly relieved that there are people like Pete Shmigel who do indeed care about our planet. If we could get more young minds into finding a solution for our common problems, we would resolve this in no time.

From my point of view, that is the exact purpose of the text given. Every single text has a purpose. Whether it is to entertain the reader, share opinion or raise an important problem. We need to spread the message of this text worldwide so people could finally get involved in saving our green planet.

But why do we need to do this? What difference can our choice make? I strongly believe that it is past time we opened our eyes and realized that we are torturing our planet. We should stop drowning earth in plastic and think for a moment. What would we do if earth would be so polluted it became uninhabitable? There is nothing we actually could do.

The text provides us with a perfect example of how to turn a problem into a solution. The whole road made of the recycling series as an emblem of the fact that the battle is not lost. Humanity has faced a lot of difficulties but managed to cope with every single one through international cooperation and support. I believe slogan: "Our waste - our responsibility" should become a symbol of international struggle with air, water and soil pollution. Only together we can make our little planet greener again.

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2. Comment on the following statement:

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant (R.L. Stevenson).

In my opinion R.L. Stevenson's statement: "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant" means that the result for the time being is not as important as what you're doing to achieve something in the future.

I believe that one should never forget that every victory is a result of a hard training. There are hundreds of thousands of proofs implying that thought. "You reap what you sow" or "What goes around, comes around". Every single day of your life you should try to become a better version of yourself and you have to work hard for that.

Some people may say that good result has nothing to do with hard work and that it relies on luck. Luckily, yes, luck is an aspect of our lives that could make an impact, but that

(2). The ingredients of eggs and sausages. Eggs and sausages are fried in bread so it would look like a fried potato with eggs and meat on the inside.

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

Tory - is a person who is very conservative. Toryism is a traditionalist movement in Britain. People who identify themselves as "tory" usually don't like any changes in the society.

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

Book	Author
1. Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury
2. White Fang	Jack London
3. Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen
4. Ulysses	James Joyce
5. East of Eden	John Steinbeck
6. The Catcher in the Rye	J.D. Salinger
7. Gulliver's Travels	Jonathan Swift
8. A Farewell to Arms	Ernest Hemingway
9. The Woman in White	Wilkie Collins
10. Vanity Fair	William Makepeace Thackeray

Authors: James Joyce, J.D. Salinger, Ray Bradbury, Jane Austen, Wilkie Collins, Jonathan Swift, Jack London, William Makepeace Thackeray, John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway.

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Everyone denied possessing the ring and soon enough German princess looked devastated. And she would have just without her precious ring if it hadn't been for the maid who came in. Everyone was shocked, my uncle's jaw dropped when he saw his maid wearing that notorious ring on her index finger. Guests started whispering who would have admitted that there was a thief in Uncle Octavian's house!?

"- Camilla, dear, where did you get that ring?" my uncle asked, trying to sound as calm as possible.
- "But Master Octavian, you gave it to me yourself! You also said it looks like it costs fifty cents and only a maid would wear it!" she answered, surprised.
- "I believe I had too much full-bodied wine" my uncle said, with a frozen smile on his face.

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

Lake Superior, Great Salt Lake, Lake Michigan, Lake Windermere, Lake St. Clair, Lake Albert, Lake Oahe, Lake Ontario, Illama Lake, Fort Peck Lake

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. The government ~~beat around the bush~~ about this issue for the past five years, but they must make a decision sooner or later! *time*
- 2. We reached the airport *in the nick of time*. In fifteen minutes the plane took off.
- 3. She may want to argue, but *it takes two to tango* and I won't stoop to her level.
- 4. Her confession *was a real eye-opener*. I never knew she could behave this way.
- 5. Don't *beat around the bush* - get to the point! *the ball is in his court*
- 6. I have helped him in every way I can - *ants in his pants* now. *the ball is in his court*
- 7. Billy just won't sit still in class. I think he's got *ants in his pants*.
- 8. He keep trying to get it published but I think he is *an arm and a leg*. *flogging a dead horse*
- 9. These shoes cost me *an arm and a leg*.
- 10. I *beat around the bush* and picked the kids up on the way to the supermarket. *killed two birds with one stone*

Idioms: sit on the fence, be a real eye-opener, ants in one's pants, in the nick of time, the ball is in one's court, it takes two to tango, kill two birds with one stone, flog a dead horse, beat around the bush, an arm and a leg.

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

Scotch eggs

(1). The origin

It is a traditional British dish that is often served at pubs. Was invented by poor people who would combine everything they had into one dish.

Sat is never a justification for simply being lazy. In my mother tongue there is a proverb that could be interpreted in English like: "If you enjoy to ride in the sledge - you should enjoy carrying the sledge". To reach a logical conclusion I would say that you have to plant as many seeds as you can if you want to reap a fruitful harvest.

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 some people left-handed?

About 90 percents of humans are righties, and its not at all clear why that proportion continues to hold. If there were a major evolutionary advantage to being left-handed, more people would have the trait; if there were a clear disadvantage, it would have disappeared. The last thinking between scientists is that a large number of different genes effect handedness, according to the Smithsonian Magazine. Many of the genes that have been studying play a part in the body's left-right symmetry, and certain mutations can lead to unusual organ placements (like the heart being on the right side despite of the left).

	The wrong variant	The correct variant
1	percent	percent
2	were	was
3	evolutionarily	evolutionary
4	were	was
5	have disappeared	disappeared
6	thinking	agreement
7	effect	affect
8	studying	studied
9		
10	despite	instead

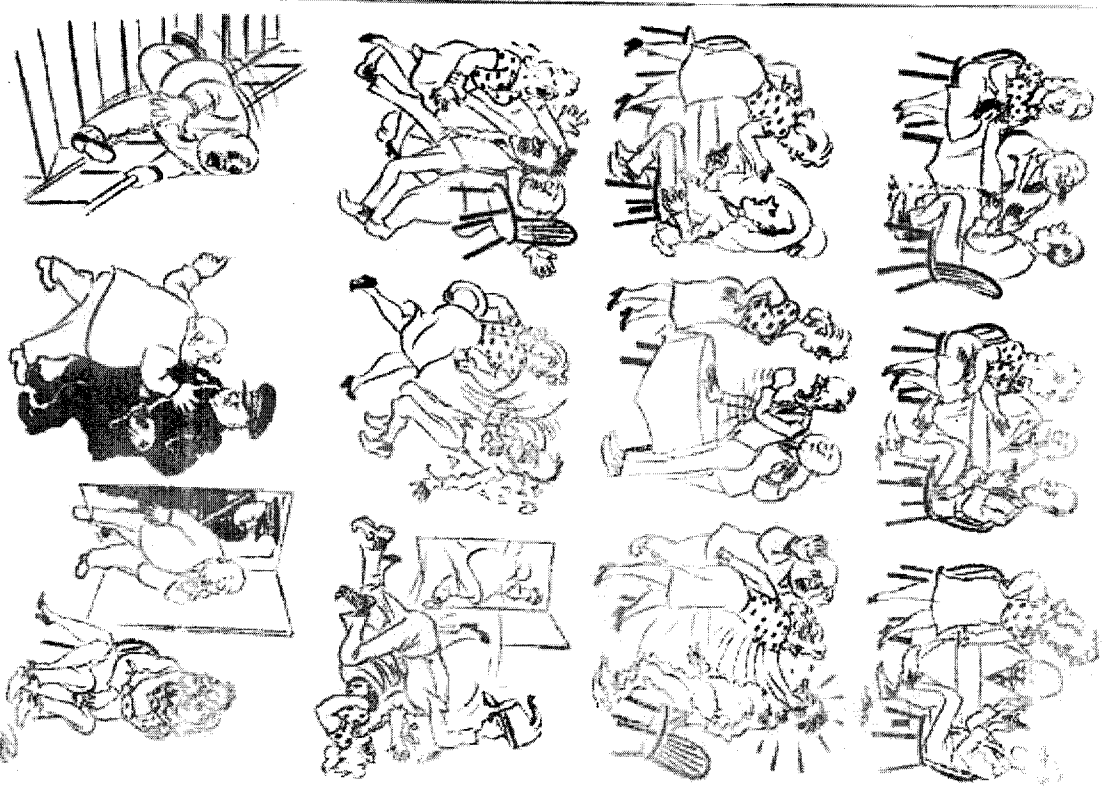
4. Below is a number of famous colourful quotes that came down to us from time immemorial. They are all based on logic and common sense, so can you possibly make a full phrase, adding some words.

Example: All roads LEAD TO ROME

- 1. I often think of my loved ones and long for the day I will see them again.
- 2. There is nothing new in the Bible.
- 3. A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.
- 4. Don't put the cart before the horse.

5. Half a loaf is better than none. +
6. You cannot get blood from stone. +
7. East or West, home is the best. +
8. Early to bed and early to rise, +
9. Let bygones be bygones. +
10. Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, ~~and unto God the things that~~ ~~are God's~~

5. Comment on the story in pictures:



You know what they say, right? Do not judge a book by its cover. ✓
This story happened to my Auntie. God bless her fifteen years ago. Her ex-husband was a rich man, who thought she could buy anything and anyone. But my Auntie wasn't like this. She was and is a noble woman, who may be having problems with anger. But that isn't the

point of the story! Her husband liked to smoke a cigarette with his friend - Mr. Jones. My Aunt thought Mr. Jones' to be an arrogant man, but she changed her mind one day. They were chatting at my Aunt's apartment when Mr. Jones left quite a lot of cigarette ash on the floor. My Aunt told him to clean that mess up but he refused. That is when they got in a fight. It was verbal at first but then it became physical. My Aunt's ex-husband, poor soul, was so scared he would run away to get the coastable to stop the fight. But when he came back he saw my Auntie making out with Mr. Jones! Guess who is my Uncle? That's right. Appearances can indeed be deceiving.

6. Write the appropriate ending to the story given below

The Dinner Party

(after N. Monsarrat)

Rich people do have their problems. They are seldom problems of finance, but there are other, more genuine problems. They are the problems of behaviour.

Let me tell you a story which happened to my uncle Octavian a full thirty years ago. At that time I myself was fifteen. My uncle Octavian was then a rich man. He was a charming and accomplished host whose villa was an accepted rendezvous of the great. He was a hospitable and most amiable man – until January 3, 1925.

There was nothing special about that day in the life of my uncle Octavian, except that it was his fifty-fifth birthday. As usual on such a day he was giving a party for twelve people. All of them were old friends.

I, myself, aged fifteen, was deeply privileged. I was allowed to come down to dinner. It was exciting for me to be admitted to such company, which included a newspaper proprietor of exceptional intelligence and his fabulous American wife, a recent prime-minister of France and a distinguished German prince and princess. I should also stress that they were all old and intimate friends of my uncle Octavian.

Towards the end of a wonderful dinner, my uncle leant forward to admire a magnificent diamond ring on the princess's hand. She was a handsome woman. She turned her hand gracefully towards my uncle. Across the table, the newspaper proprietor leant across and said: "May I also have a look?" She smiled and nodded. Then she took off the ring and held it out to him. "It was my grandmother's – the old empress," she said. There were exclamations of delight and admiration. The ring was passed from hand to hand. For a moment it rested on my own palm, gleaming splendidly. Then I passed it on to my neighbour. As I turned away again, I saw her pass it on.

It was some 20 minutes later when the princess stood up and said: "Before we leave you, may I have my ring back?" ... There was a pause, while each of us looked expectantly at his neighbour. Then there was silence.

The princess was still smiling, though less easily. She was unused to asking for things twice. The silence continued, I still thought that it could only be a practical joke, and that one of us – probably the prince himself – would produce the ring with a laugh. But when nothing happened at all, I knew that the rest of the night would be dreadful.

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

