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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

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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.

Unfortunately, over the years the authorities seemed to turn a blind eye on environmental problems. But today more and more people are concerned, and thus, climate change is deemed as an extremely burning issue.

As the author of the article has said, even rural areas are not considered safe for the wild species, inasmuch as they are full of pesticides. Moreover, most people are also aware of such problems as global warming, air and water pollution. But instead of talking about these serious issues, people should tackle them. One of the solutions is to create wildlife corridors enabling some species to thrive in the city, to thrive in cities. While the author of the article put it as an "ambitious" project, implying that only a few people will agree to take part in it, I wholeheartedly believe that this idea will resonate with the majority of people and business companies, as we are all gradually becoming eco-friendly.

It is still possible to reverse detrimental effects of human influence on the environment. And I hold that the idea of implementing the wildlife corridors sounds promising and gives hope for the better and greener future of the humanity.

10

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.

Sometimes people confuse selfishness and self-confidence. While self-confidence is supposed to help a person attain his or her utmost goals and boost his or her self-esteem, selfishness is more of a handicap than of an asset.

A selfish person ~~but~~ firmly believes that he or she outperforms others in every aspect. Such people genuinely think that their problems and adversities are much more significant, that's why they don't take into account difficulties of others. They want everybody to deal with. Dealing with a problem of a selfish person is bound to be ~~done by~~ a concern of all his/her surroundings, but in return this person will never ever do something. That's why more often than not it is relatives and friends who suffer from selfishness person's selfishness, but not him. Over the years people may not realize that they are selfish as such, but ~~then~~ the surroundings are sure to suffer.

Of course, there is no black and white issue, ~~and even~~ a selfish person might

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

The White House - the residence of the US president. It is located in Washington D.C., the USA.

5

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	Charles Dickens -
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	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~~

8

75 Jacob 116

intelligence, she began to realize that something went awry between her and Roger. But she was too shy and afraid to ask ~~straightforwardly~~ ^{whether he wanted to marry her or not}, ~~then~~ so she begged me to talk to Roger about ~~a foreseen~~ the wedding. There was a pretty obvious rationale behind this action. She was planning to eavesdrop and through ~~in~~ ^{thus} understand his true intentions. ~~I wasn't a friend of Ruth, but Ruth's friend, but as soon as I heard the idea, I agreed. You might blame me for being a not being a trustworthy friend.~~ Although I wasn't Ruth's, but Roger's friend, I immediately agreed. You might blame me for ~~being~~ not being a trustworthy friend, but I was doing it for a good cause. I knew the sufferings of my friend, so I was determined to stop them. ~~Once Ruth No sooner had Ruth heard about Roger's real feelings, than she burst into tears. Never did I see her again.~~

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

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 as molasses, but it worked.
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 pace for two hours.
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 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.

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

~~the~~ If my memory doesn't fail me, ^{turkey as a part of Sunday roast} it was introduced in the 17th century. Now it is a tradition.

(b). The ingredients

Turkey, carrots, potatoes, onions

have some other good aspects ^{of his/her character} But one thing is certain: selfishness is the quality everyone should eradicate.

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	take in	take —
2	would use	had used —
3	size	sized —
4	making	made +
5	need	needed +
6	there	their +
7	raised	was was raised rising —
8	in spite of	instead of +
9	more light	lighter +
10	before	ago —

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 cheap and funny as both of us don't have much money.
- + 2. Bad news travels fast.
- + 3. Let sleeping dogs lie.



4. God helps those who help themselves
5. You will really see your friends' true face when you call upon them in a time of crisis.
6. Opera is not theatre.
7. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
8. Once bitten, twice shy.
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:

8



One day Thomas Shelby was going to meet his old friends, now a married couple, ~~at~~ the Smiths. It was a nice evening in the Smith's house, and three friends were chatting about their everyday life, reminiscing those days of youth and smoking. But suddenly Tom noticed something strange. Henry Smith while smoking a cigarette, Henry Smith was ~~disgusting~~ The burnt part of the cigarette which Henry Smith was smoking was on

the floor. Tommy had known ^{the} Smiths since his early childhood, so it was incomprehensible how Mary could come to terms with it, as she always hated dirt and untidiness. In fact, she couldn't. Once she saw the flakes on the floor, Mary told her husband to clean it all up. But Henry refused. And here the argument began to escalate. They were shouting at each other in the most offensive and rude way. Then Mary slapped Henry right in the face. They were beating each other with literally everything that was nearby, like chairs and plates. They were fighting so angrily, that Henry was afraid of their and his own lives. He immediately ran down the steps to call the police, because he was sure this fight would end up as a catastrophe. The police officer was taken aback when he heard the story. Without any hesitation, Tom and the police officer entered the room ready ~~to stop~~ to stop domestic abuse. But much to their surprise, the Smiths were neither shouting nor fighting. They were kissing!

10

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.

For almost three months they were spending all their leisure time trying to find an appropriate house. Notwithstanding Ruth's lack of