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САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РАБОТА УЧАСТНИКА  
ОЛИМПИАДЫ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ СПбГУ

2019–2020

заключительный этап

Предмет (комплекс предметов) Олимпиады ИНОСТРАННЫЙ ЯЗЫК (АНГЛИЙСКИЙ)

Город, в котором проводится Олимпиада

Ромов - на Дону

Дата

15.02.2020

ВАРИАНТ 3

1. Comment on the following extract.

*A Wet Year Causes Stress For Farming*

The damage from the destructive spring flooding in the Midwest of the USA has been followed by a miserable autumn that is making a bad farming year worse. It was the wettest year on record for the lower 48 states, with the kind of extreme rainfall events that are increasingly associated with climate change. And then autumn came in with unseasonably heavy rains and snow. Over all, farmers reported being unable to plant because soils were saturated throughout the spring and many farmers couldn't get crops in the ground.

The intense downpours are characteristic of climate change. The trends are clear – climate change has changed the atmosphere itself. And the rains are falling hard not in the middle of the growing season, when it could be of the most use, but in the spring and autumn. After the wettest September on record the soil has become so saturated that it won't support heavy equipment like combines and beet harvesters, – they sink in and get stuck. Farmers report that they were only able to harvest two-thirds of their crop.

The year, as hard as it was for corn farming, does not mean shortages of food, feed, ethanol or exports. But it is adding to the financial squeeze on many farmers and for many farmers, the troubles of this year are likely to stretch into the next. Mr. McDougall, the North Dakota farmer, said "That will mean "round-the-clock work" in a few months if conditions are favorable. "That's part of farming, I guess".

Nowadays the influence of climate changes on our lives has become under close scrutiny. The severe damage from the floodings, is which is the most important environmental problems.

Our society depends ~~fully~~ on nature and is extremely ~~vulnerable~~ to its problems. The intense droughts make it impossible for farmers to ~~grow~~ crops and, therefore, diminishes their income. The damage ~~done~~ <sup>done</sup> by bringing can stay unnoticed for other people ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> the mass production and highly developed economics, but it definitely has ~~its impact~~ <sup>destructive impact</sup> on the soil, and ~~another~~ <sup>another</sup> farm plantations, and makes it impossible to ~~grow~~ <sup>grow</sup> crops in the future.

It is my strong opinion that ~~people started~~ environmental problems are the result of the human activity and we should ~~start~~ solve them for our prosperous future.

as soon as possible

## 2. Comment on the following statement:

(Aristotle)  
There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing

In our modern society people tend to criticise others for their appearance, behaviour or even way of thinking. It happens because of the lack of self-confidence and respect for ~~personal~~ <sup>personal</sup> choice, other's privacy. ~~I can say with conviction that it is practically impossible to not to become even part of this~~ <sup>I share the Aristotle's point of view on this</sup> problem. It is practically impossible to stay away from criticism. ~~The only way out of it is only~~ <sup>being with nothing can save you from it. However, if</sup> losing your personality ~~leading to a private life~~ <sup>style does not work - being uncriticised. People</sup> always find the reason to blame somebody. In many cases you become a victim of criticism ~~because~~ <sup>because</sup> somebody is jealous simply jealous of your achievements.

I can say with conviction that criticism is ~~only~~ <sup>only</sup> has a positive side. It leads to your self-development and motivates for further improvement. changes. You should not be afraid of it, but be pleased to receive it get it.

## 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.

How do birds know where to migrate?

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

A donkey and an elephant

An elephant ~~stands~~ <sup>stands</sup> for ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Republican vote, and is associated with the Republican Party, while a donkey symbolizes the Democratic Party.

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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. Jane Eyre                                   | Charlotte Brontë    |
| 2. The Grapes of Wrath                         | John Steinbeck      |
| 3. An American Tragedy                         | Theodore Dreiser    |
| 4. The Picture of Dorian Gray                  | Oscar Wilde         |
| 5. Of Human Bondage                            | W. Somerset Maugham |
| 6. Brave New World                             | Aldous Huxley       |
| 7. Cat's Cradle                                | Kurt Vonnegut       |
| 8. Oliver Twist; or, the Parish Boy's Progress | Charles Dickens     |
| 9. Absalom, Absalom!                           | William Faulkner    |
| 10. The Wings of the Dove                      | Henry James         |

Authors: Theodore Dreiser, Kurt Vonnegut, John Steinbeck, Aldous Huxley, Oscar Wilde, Charlotte Brontë, William Faulkner, W. Somerset Maugham, Henry James, Charles Dickens.

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the fence inspired him. No need ~~to say~~ that  
I was amazed. We spent a nice evening and  
talked a lot about art.  
I could be calling everything that happened to Louisse  
~~see~~ ~~occasions~~ ~~may~~ ~~influence~~ ~~our~~ ~~life~~ ~~in~~ ~~general~~ ~~and~~  
~~even~~ ~~change~~ ~~our~~ ~~attitude~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~future~~.

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

The Trinity River, the Cumberland River, the River Severn, the River Avon, the River Trent, the  
Yukon River, the River Thames, the River Tweed, the River Dee, the River Foyle

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.

- My sister ~~is~~ a big cheese in the family and people had to follow her whims no matter how  
silly they sounded.
- I've been a vegetarian for donkey's years but then I suddenly started eating meat again.
- Be careful. Politicians are known to be all talk and no trousers.
- We'd planned to go away for the weekend, but it all went pear-shaped with my average grades.
- I was sitting on the fence when I applied to such good colleges with my average grades.
- She used to be a very passionate woman who wore her heart on her sleeve, but repeated rejections and  
mistreatment at the hands of the ones she trusted made her go into a shell and bottle her  
emotions up.
- We were hoping to have an exciting party, but in the end, it turned out to be a damp squib.
- After smoking for so long, I should have never tried quitting cold turkey.
- We were all ears we waited for them to announce the winner.
- I'm not really interested in fashion, but once in a blue moon I bought a  
fashion magazine, just to see what people are wearing.

Idioms: once in a blue moon, be a damp squib, for donkey's years, go pear-shaped, be a big  
cheese, sit on the fence, bark up the wrong tree, be all talk and no trousers, quit cold turkey, wear  
one's heart on one's sleeve, be all ears

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

Black pudding

(1). The origin traditional comes  
This national dish originates from Stornoway,  
Scotland.

(2). The ingredients  
It is made with pork blood, beef suet, pork fat,  
oatmeal, or cereal.

Forty percents of bird species migrate every year, with some traveling tens thousands miles. (Arctic  
terns fly about 50,000 miles every year, from the pole to the pole.) Migrating birds can even find  
their destinations if researchers make them to start from unusual locations, according to an article in  
the Conversation by Richard Holland, the senior lecturer in animals cognition at the Bangor  
University. How are they doing it? Holland and his team published a study last year suggesting that  
some songbirds use a magnetic map to navigate long distances, but no body knows how they can  
detect the Earths magnetic field.

|    | The wrong variant          | The correct variant        |
|----|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1  | tens thousands             | ten thousand               |
| 2  | make them to start         | make them start            |
| 3  | at the Bangor University   | at Bangor University       |
| 4  | forty percents             | forty percent              |
| 5  | travelling                 | traveling                  |
| 6  | animals's cognition        | animal cognition           |
| 7  | destinations from the pole | destination from pole      |
| 8  | to an article              | to the article             |
| 9  | the Earths magnetic field  | the Earth's magnetic field |
| 10 | no body                    | nobody                     |

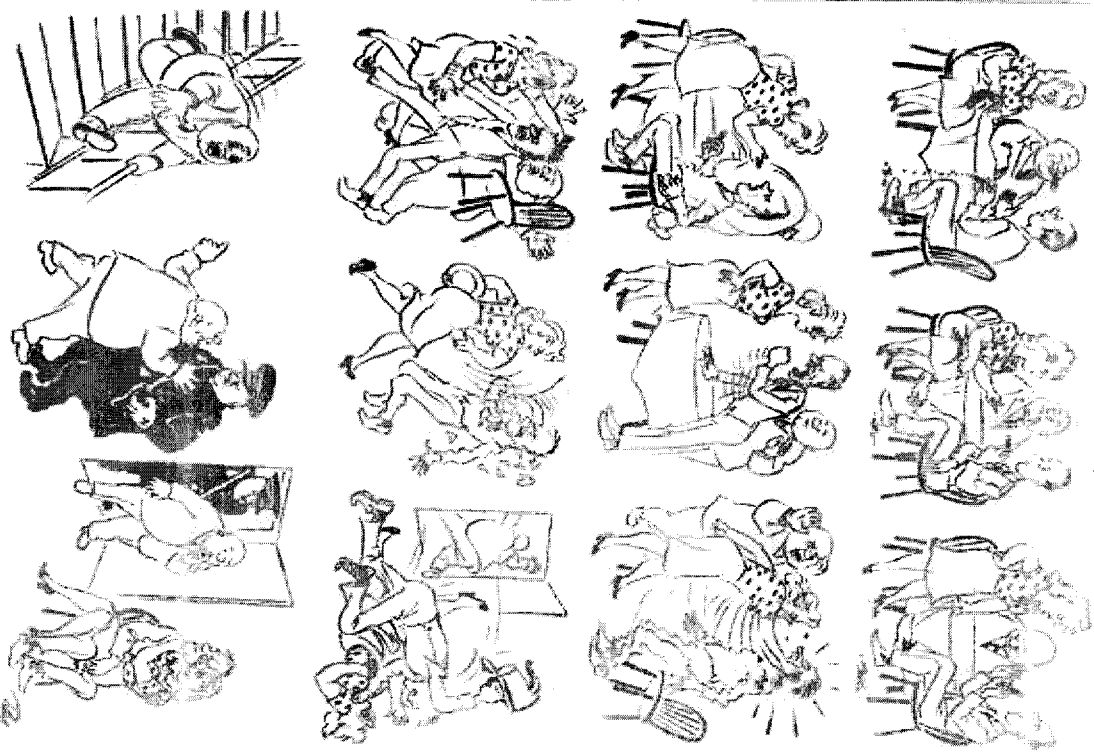
4. Below is a number of famous colourful quotes that came down to us from time immemorial.  
They are all based on logic and common sense, so can you possibly make a full phrase, adding  
some words.

Example: All roads LEAD TO ROME

- It's a matter of trust time, and money
- Christmas comes but once a year.
- All good things come to an end.
- No gain no pain
- What goes around comes around
- When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war.
- It takes money to make money.
- Trying to find my contact lens on the floor was like  
looking for a needle in a haystack.
- Don't cry over spilt milk.
- Anna complains all the time. I can't stand the site of her.



## 5. Comment on the story in pictures:



and their feelings are beyond all standards and norms. ~~Although I think the couple should not have argued in front of their friend, but there~~

## 6. Write the appropriate ending to the story given below

## Lautisse Paints Again

(after H.A. Smith)

Everybody knows by this time that we met Lautisse on board a ship, but few people know that in the beginning, Betsy and I had no idea who he was.

At first he introduced himself as Monsieur Roland, but as we talked he asked me a lot of questions about myself and my business and finally he asked me if I could keep a secret and said: "I am Lautisse."

I had no idea who he was. I told Betsy and after lunch we went up and talked to the ship's librarian, asked him a few questions. And then we found out that my new friend was probably the world's best living painter. The librarian found a book with his biography and a photograph. Though the photograph was bad, we decided that our new acquaintance was Lautisse all right. The book said that he suddenly stopped painting at 53 and lived in a villa in Riviera. He hadn't painted anything in a dozen years and was heard to say he would never touch the brush again.

Well, we got to be real friends and Betsy invited him to come up to our place for a weekend. Lautisse arrived on the noon train Saturday, and I met him at the station. We had promised him that we wouldn't have any people and that we wouldn't try to talk to him about art. It wasn't very difficult since we were not very keen on art.

I was up at seven-thirty the next morning and I remembered that I had a job to do. Our vegetable garden had a fence around it which needed a coat of paint. I took out a bucket half full of white paint and a brush and an old kitchen chair. I was sitting on the chair thinking, when I heard footsteps and there stood Lautisse. I said that I was getting ready to paint the garden fence but now that he was up, I would stop it. He protested, then took the brush from my hand and said, "First, I'll show you!" At that moment Betsy cried from the kitchen door that breakfast was ready. "No, no," he said. "No breakfast, - I will paint the fence."

When he was leaving, he shook my hand and said that he hadn't enjoyed himself so much in years. We didn't hear anything from him for about 10 days but the newspapers learnt about the visit and came to our place. The next day the papers had quite a story and the headlines said: ...

Think of the ending of the story. What did the headlines say? Why? What happened to Lautisse and the author?

"...Lautisse Paints Again" I could not imagine that his visit to our place ~~could~~ have such an effect on him. He had never touched a brush before and now he was working on a new masterpiece as if the newspaper articles were right.

I looked out of the window. The fence Lautisse painted was snow-white. I thought that my friend the whole day and decided to visit him.

As I entered the room I saw Lautisse fully occupied with painting. He did not notice me. I came up closer and saw at the canvas. On the white background there was a white fence outlined with black.

That day we went for a walk and he told me that exactly at my place he overcame had overcome a long-lasting crisis. The fence painting

The story is about a conflict between a married couple husband and wife. It seems like they had been having a nice talk with a friend until the woman noticed ashes on the floor. Then a dreadful scene opened up for their friend. The couple started beating each other and they were crying and screaming. One may find it to have such a kind of relationships is inappropriate to abusing relationships. Moreover, the fact that the friend he called a policeman is also out of order. Family issues should not be strangers' and even political social workers should not interfere in it help.

According to the ending of the story, it turns out that the couple is quite happy with their relationships, and the aggressive attitude to each other. They cannot be judged for their love they have each other sincerely.