

Listening (конкурс понимания устной речи)

Task 1.

Вариант 1

Listen to the text and mark the statements below with “T” if they are true or “F” if they are false. You will hear the recording twice.

1. Grasslands are home to many species of animals.
2. Grasslands are only found in Africa and Asia.
3. Grasslands are known by different names in various parts of the world.
4. Grasses can regrow quickly even after being consumed by animals.
5. During the dry season, grasslands do not change at all.
6. Many plant-eating animals in grasslands draw predators' attention.
7. It takes farmers a long time to transform natural grassland into the land suitable for farming.

Правильные ответы:

1. T; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. F; 6. T; 7. F

Вариант 2

Listen to the text and mark the statements below with “T” if they are true or “F” if they are false. You will hear the recording twice.

1. Over four million people live in the Arctic.
2. The sea ice in the Arctic absorbs most of the sun's rays.
3. Human activities have contributed to the warming of the Arctic.
4. Climate change has made the Arctic cooler in recent decades.
5. The Arctic has an impact on ocean currents around the world.
6. Rod Downie believes that sustainable development in the Arctic is not important.
7. Rod Downie is a wildlife programme manager.

Правильные ответы:

1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. F; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F

Вариант 3

Task 1. Listen to the text and mark the statements below with “T” if they are true or “F” if they are false. You will hear the recording twice.

1. The Amazon rainforest covers about 10% of the Earth's surface.
2. A new species is discovered in the Amazon every day.
3. The Amazon rainforest is not important for human resources like food and medicine.
4. The Amazon rainforest is crucial for the global climate because it stores a large amount of carbon.
5. The trees in the Amazon let out a large amount of water into the atmosphere daily.
6. Indigenous lands in the Amazon are currently safe from destruction.
7. The Amazon has never needed our help more than now.

Правильные ответы:

1. F; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T

Task 2.

Вариант 1

You will hear four short extracts in which people are talking about successful people. For speakers 1-4, choose from the statements below what each speaker says about success. There are three statements which you do not need to use. You will hear the recording twice.

- A.** The Internet can help people succeed because they can show their work directly to a large audience.
- B.** You can be successful but not famous.
- C.** Successful people have often managed to overcome failure.
- D.** Being successful means being famous.
- E.** Successful people are usually very young when they begin their career.
- F.** TV talent contests can make people successful very quickly.
- G.** Famous people only get noticed through record companies and art galleries.

Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4

Правильные ответы:

Speaker 1 – C

Speaker 2 – F

Speaker 3 – A

Speaker 4 – B

Вариант 2

You will hear four short extracts in which people are talking about work experience. For speakers 1-4, choose from the statements below what each speaker says about work experience. There are three extra statements which you do not need to use. You will hear the recording twice.

A. It has always been my ambition.

B. My experience will help with the course I want to do.

C. My work experience will give me the qualifications I need.

D. It's rare to be able to do your hobby as your work experience.

E. I wish I had worked there for longer.

F. It's hard to get a job without qualifications these days.

G. My work experience gave me more confidence.

Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4

Правильные ответы:

Speaker 1 – F

Speaker 2 – B

Speaker 3 – A

Speaker 4 – D

Вариант 3

You will hear four short extracts in which people are talking about ambitions. For statements below, choose from the list (A-G) how each speaker feels about ambition. There are three extra statements which you do not need to use. You will hear the recording twice.

A. You can have a very happy life without being ambitious.

B. Ambitions are something only rich people can have.

C. My ambition is the only thing that inspires me in my daily life.

- D. You'll probably just be disappointed because you've failed.
 E. Some ambitions are pointless, but others are very useful in life.
 F. If you really want something, you can have it.
 G. People can have ambitions only in their childhood.

Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4

Правильные ответы:

Speaker 1 – F

Speaker 2 – D

Speaker 3 – E

Speaker 4 – A

Task 3.

Вариант 1

Listen to the radio interview and choose the correct answer. You will hear the recording twice.

- At the beginning of the radio programme we learn that
 a digital detox is a type of alternative medicine.
 the presenter wants to disconnect from all electronic devices.
 nowadays, more and more people are taking a digital detox.
- Amanda's job involves
 being online round the clock.
 taking photos and videos at fashion shows.
 spending a lot of time online.
- Amanda got the idea for a digital detox
 while surfing the net.
 because she had long dreamt of changing some habits of hers.
 thanks to a book she had read.
- As the first step to changing her digital habits, Amanda turned off
 notifications from her family.
 most of the noises her phone made.
 all notifications.
- Amanda often checked her phone
 to answer urgent calls.
 to develop automatic habits.
 to distract herself from reality.
- Both Amanda and the presenter

believe that people should not waste time standing in lines.
spend a lot of time waiting for trains.
think that smartphones help people pass time.

7. Which of the statements is true?
Amanda never used to check her phone in front of her friends.
Amanda didn't like spending time with her family.
Amanda used her phone when she was with other people.
8. Amanda and her partner
looked forward to switching off their devices on Saturday.
did not enjoy a digital detox week.
did not find it difficult to spend two days without digital devices.
9. How does the presenter feel about not using digital devices a whole weekend?
enthusiastic.
terrified.
doubtful.
10. Amanda believes that
for everyone the first step of a digital detox should be a weekend without devices.
all people should do a digital detox at the same pace.
the presenter will not be disappointed with a digital detox.

Правильные ответы:

1. nowadays, more and more people are taking a digital detox.
2. spending a lot of time online.
3. thanks to a book she had read.
4. most of the noises the phone made.
5. to distract herself from reality.
6. think that smartphones help people pass time.
7. Amanda used her phone when she was with other people.
8. did not find it difficult to spend two days without digital devices.
9. doubtful.
10. the presenter will not be disappointed with a digital detox.

Вариант 2

Listen to the radio interview and choose the correct answer. You will hear the recording twice.

1. The guest of the radio programme is
a nursery school teacher.
a student.
a person whose job is to teach others.
2. The presenter is not good at
giving speeches in public.
teaching students.

understanding oral speech.

3. Which of the statements is true?

The presenter feels confident while listening to native German speakers.
It is difficult for the presenter to speak German.
The presenter has some knowledge of German.

4. According to Gabriella,

in an exam you can listen to the same text as many times as you need.
exams are similar to situations in real life.
many people do better in speaking than in listening.

5. The presenter feels uncomfortable communicating in real life because

people get annoyed when he asks them to repeat something.
he doesn't know what to say.
people speak too fast for him to understand.

6. Gabriella says that

it is always advisable to pretend you understand everything.
having small talk with a stranger is more important than getting some information at a bank.
it is useless to pretend you understand everything if the conversation is important to you.

7. The presenter dreads

opening bank accounts.
not being able to get some official documents.
failing to understand something important in a bank or a government office.

8. One of the strategies Gabriella describes involves

practising listening skills at home.
making a list of questions you might be asked.
asking a lot of questions.

9. Gabriella is sure that

if you don't ask questions, the other person will think you understand everything.
not asking questions is impolite.
if you ask short questions, others are likely to answer them.

10. Which of the statements is NOT true, according to the text?

A lot of people have difficulty doing listening tasks.
Summarising what the other person said can help you.
There are no practical ways to help you understand native speakers.

Правильные ответы:

1. a person whose job is to teach others.

2. understanding oral speech.
3. The presenter has some knowledge of German.
4. many people do better in speaking than in listening.
5. people speak too fast for him to understand.
6. it is useless to pretend you understand everything if the conversation is important to you.
7. failing to understand something important in a bank or a government office.
8. asking a lot of questions.
9. if you ask short questions, others are likely to answer them.
10. Summarising what the other person said can help you.

Вариант 3

Listen to the radio programme and choose the correct answer. You will hear the recording twice.

1. The world's first passenger train
took a long time to build.
travelled from London to Manchester.
was constructed in England.
2. According to the text, Edward Entwistle
is a well-known person.
was an inventor.
was the first engine driver in the world.
3. Entwistle worked in an engineering company because
he wanted to help Stephenson construct the first engine.
his parents were engineers.
his parents wanted him to become an engineer.
4. The manager of the plant suggested that Edward should drive the "Rocket"
because
he was the youngest person working there.
Stephenson thought young people would be more suitable for the job.
there was no grown-up man who could drive it.
5. Which of the statements is true?
Edward was reluctant to become an engine driver.
Edward knew everything about steam engines.
Edward leapt at the chance to drive the "Rocket".
6. The Liverpool and Manchester Railway
is notorious for train crashes.
was opened in the 18th century.
is almost 200 years old.

7. During the test run
there was only one person on the engine.
a tragedy happened.
the "Rocket" covered about fifty percent of the whole distance.
8. The "Rocket's" historic journey
was reported to be a success.
was more strenuous than Edward had expected.
was scheduled on a weekday.
9. Edward stopped driving the "Rocket" because
he couldn't cope with the job.
he was responsible for the tragedy.
his health deteriorated.
10. Which of the statements is NOT true?
Edward Entwistle worked on a ship.
Edward was very young when he stopped working as an engine driver.
Edward never changed jobs.

Правильные ответы:

1. was constructed in England.
2. was the first engine driver in the world.
3. his parents wanted him to become an engineer.
4. there was no grown-up man who could drive it.
5. Edward leapt at the chance to drive the "Rocket".
6. is almost 200 years old.
7. the "Rocket" covered about fifty percent of the whole distance.
8. was scheduled on a weekday.
9. because his health deteriorated.
10. Edward never changed jobs.

Reading (Конкурс понимания письменной речи)

Task 1.

Вариант 1

Read the text. For questions 1-7 choose the answers which you think fit best. There is only one right answer to each question.

Red squirrels used to be a common sight in British forests and countryside. However, fewer than 140,000 individuals are thought to be left and most of them are found in Scotland. In contrast, grey squirrels are now so common that they are seen as a pest and can be legally trapped and destroyed. The population decrease in red squirrels is claimed to be due to the introduction of the grey squirrel from North America, but disease and the loss of its native woodland habitat have also played a major role in the decline of the red squirrel in Britain.

At first glance, the two species of squirrel are similar. They both have a distinctive long tail, which helps the squirrel to balance when jumping from tree to tree, and the same large eyes, small ears and powerful back legs. However, the grey squirrel has a clear physical advantage over the red. The red squirrel has a typical head-and-body length of 19 to 23 centimetres, a tail length of 15 to 20 centimetres and a body weight of 250 to 340 grams. Compared to this, the grey squirrel is a larger animal. The head and body measures between 23 and 30 centimetres long and the tail is between 19 and 25 centimetres long. Adult grey squirrels are heavier, weighing between 400 and 600 grams. This size allows them to store more fat and helps them to survive a harsh winter which would be fatal to their smaller cousins.

So why are red squirrels losing out in competition with grey squirrels? Size is one factor but there are others. Red squirrels live high up in trees, whereas greys spend more of their time on the ground. This means that any reduction in forest habitat greatly affects the red squirrel population.

Another reason for the grey squirrel's success is its ability to use food provided by humans. Like the fox, the grey squirrel can survive in an urban environment because of its intelligence and adaptability. The other problem for the red squirrel is disease. Both squirrels carry the parapox virus. While this does not seem to affect grey squirrels, it is fatal to reds.

There does not seem to be much we can do to help red squirrels survive. Some politicians support destroying populations of grey squirrels but this would be seen as cruel by most people in Britain. However, red squirrels have been successfully introduced from other countries and they could be effectively protected in places like the Isle of Wight and Anglesey, where there are no grey squirrels.

Another question is whether we should protect red squirrels at all. Worldwide, they are not an endangered species, so many scientists would prefer government conservation funding to be spent on other endangered animals.

1. According to the first paragraph, what is the main reason for the decline in the red squirrel population in Britain?

- Loss of its habitat and illness
- Hunting and persecution by humans
- Spread of disease from the grey squirrel
- Competition with the grey squirrel

2. Which of the following best describes the physical differences between red and grey squirrels?

- Red squirrels are larger and heavier than grey squirrels.
- Grey squirrels have longer tails and larger eyes compared to red squirrels.
- Red squirrels have a smaller body size but are better adapted to harsh winters.
- Grey squirrels are generally larger, heavier, and have a longer tail than red squirrels.

3. How do the behaviours of red and grey squirrels differ in terms of their use of habitat?

- Red squirrels prefer to live in dense forests, while grey squirrels prefer open woodlands.
- Grey squirrels spend time mainly at the bottom of the trees, whereas red squirrels prefer to live primarily in the trees.
- Red squirrels are more adaptable and can thrive in both urban and rural environments.
- Grey squirrels are less able to utilise food sources provided by humans in urban areas.

4. Which of the following is a reason for the grey squirrel's success in competing with the red squirrel?

- The grey squirrel's immunity to the parapox virus
- The grey squirrel's ability to store more fat for the winter
- The grey squirrel's larger size and greater adaptability
- All of the above

5. What is the main argument against conserving the red squirrel population in Britain?

- The cost of conservation efforts is too high for the government.
- Red squirrels are not considered an endangered species globally.
- Destroying grey squirrel populations can lead to global environmental changes.
- The introduction of red squirrels from other countries has not been successful.

6. Which of the following characteristics do both red and grey squirrels share?

- Large eyes and small ears
- Ability to survive harsh winters
- Preference for urban environments
- Susceptibility to the parapox virus

7. Based on the information in the last paragraph, which of the following statements about the conservation of red squirrels is true?

- Red squirrels are being successfully reintroduced to areas where grey squirrels

are absent.

The British government actively supports programmes to get rid of grey squirrel populations.

Protecting red squirrels is a priority as their population has decreased sharply.

Efforts to conserve red squirrels have been largely unsuccessful due to the challenges they face.

Правильные ответы:

1. Competition with the grey squirrel
2. Grey squirrels are generally larger, heavier, and have a longer tail than red squirrels.
3. Grey squirrels spend time mainly at the bottom of the trees, whereas red squirrels prefer to live primarily in the trees.
4. All of the above
5. Red squirrels are not considered an endangered species globally.
6. Large eyes and small ears
7. Red squirrels are being successfully reintroduced to areas where grey squirrels are absent.

Read the text again. Match the beginnings (8-11) and the endings (a-d) of the sentences.

8. As red squirrels are not globally endangered,	a. grey squirrels have a size advantage, weighing up to 600 grams compared reds to 340 grams.
9. While both species share similar features like long tails and powerful legs,	b. grey squirrels thrive in urban environments and can benefit from human food sources.
10. While red squirrels tend to inhabit higher tree canopies, making themselves more vulnerable to habitat destruction,	c. some people doubt that they should be protected.
11. With fewer than 140,000 individuals remaining, mostly in Scotland,	d. red squirrels are being defeated by the introduced grey squirrel from North America.

Правильные ответы:

8.c 9.a 10.b 11.d

Вариант 2

Read the text. For questions 1-7 choose the answers which you think fit best. There is only one right answer to each question.

Using your mobile phone. Putting on your headphones. Staring out of the window with a blank look on your face. Those are all classic ways to avoid talking to strangers on public transport. However, this may not be the best thing to do for your well-being. Recent research by Nicholas Epley, a professor of behavioural science

at the University of Chicago, and Juliana Schroeder, a PhD student, reveals that people are happier when they chat with other passengers rather than ignoring them.

The inspiration for the research came from Epley's own daily commute. Humans are, by nature, social animals, and being social is key to our happiness. However, the commuters that Epley saw every day were behaving in very antisocial ways, avoiding all communication as if they were sitting next to a rock. He wondered why nearly everyone acted against their social nature in this situation. Is talking to a stranger on a train truly less pleasant than sitting in silence? Or is everybody wrong?

To find out, Epley and Schroeder designed two experiments. In the first, Epley simply asked people to imagine starting a conversation with another passenger. Would it be a pleasant thing to do? Would they feel happy afterwards? In the second study, they asked commuters to actually start conversations with strangers on their journey, and then to complete a survey about the experience.

His studies revealed a difference between people's expectations of talking to strangers and the reality. In the first study, people generally said it would neither be a pleasant thing to do nor increase their happiness. In addition, they felt that most strangers would not want to chat. In contrast, the second experiment showed that people enjoyed their commute more when they talked to a stranger and their general level of happiness increased. It also revealed that the reaction of their conversation partners was positive because they all took part in the conversations, even though they were not aware it was an experiment.

Based on the findings, Epley feels that train carriages filled with silence, blank expressions and little eye contact are the result of basic misunderstandings and false expectations. Despite what everyone thinks, strangers are happy to chat and chatting makes you happier. Once people make the decision to start a conversation, they find this connection to others improves their own lives.

Since publishing the research, Epley has put his findings into action and changed his own commuting behaviour. He no longer uses his mobile phone and he starts conversations with opening lines as simple as 'I like your hat'. He often finds himself sitting next to someone he has talked to before, which 'just makes it more pleasant'. As Epley says, 'Other people are people too, and it turns out they'd like to get to know you.'

1. What do people do to avoid talking to strangers on public transport?

They read a book or a newspaper.

They pretend to have a nap.

They prefer to use their mobile phones or look out of the window.

They are preoccupied with their own thoughts.

2. What did Epley notice about commuters during his daily commute?

They were very friendly

They were behaving antisocially

They were reading newspapers

They were listening to music

3. What was the purpose of the first experiment in the study?

To find out what people thought of talking to strangers
To make people feel uncomfortable
To measure silence on trains
To ask people about their favourite music

4. What was the key finding of the second experiment conducted by Epley and Schroeder?

People enjoyed their commute more and their overall happiness increased when they talked to strangers.

People did not enjoy their commute more and their overall happiness did not increase when they talked to strangers.

The strangers they talked to did not want to engage in conversation.

The strangers they talked to were not aware the conversations were part of an experiment.

5. How did people's expectations about talking to strangers compare to the reality?

Expectations were higher than reality

Expectations were lower than reality

They were exactly the same

People had no expectations at all

6. How did Epley change his own commuting behaviour after the research findings?

He started using his mobile phone more to avoid talking to strangers.

He began making eye contact with other passengers but did not initiate conversations.

He stopped using his mobile phone and started conversations during his journey.

He didn't change his previous behaviour of avoiding interaction with other passengers.

7. What is the key message conveyed by the research findings?

People should avoid talking to strangers on public transport as it is unpleasant.

People should always try to talk to strangers on public transport.

Talking to strangers on public transport has no impact on people's happiness.

Talking to strangers on public transport is more enjoyable and beneficial than people expect.

Правильные ответы:

1. They prefer to use their mobile phones or looking out of the window.

2. They were behaving antisocially

3. To find out what people thought of talking to strangers

4. People enjoyed their commute more and their overall happiness increased when they talked to strangers.

5. Expectations were lower than reality

6. He stopped using his mobile phone and started conversations during his journey.

7. Talking to strangers on public transport is more enjoyable and beneficial than people expect.

Read the text again. Match the beginnings (8-11) and the endings (a-d) of the sentences.

8. Epley noticed that many commuters acted antisocially, avoiding communication, and he wondered	a. to talk to strangers and then share their experiences.
9. Since then, Epley has changed his own commuting habits,	b. starting a conversation with a stranger and analyse whether it would be enjoyable.
10. In the second experiment, commuters were encouraged	c. choosing to interact with others instead of isolating himself.
11. In the first experiment, people were asked to imagine	d. if this behavior was truly better than talking to strangers.

Правильные ответы:

8.d 9.c 10.a 11.b

Вариант 3

Task 1. Read the text. For questions 1-7 choose the answers which you think fit best. There is only one right answer to each question.

For most of us, an ordinary day will probably include boiling the kettle for a cup of coffee, preparing a meal on the cooker or in the microwave (using fresh ingredients from the fridge) and maybe loading the washing machine with the family's dirty clothes. These are all household gadgets that we take for granted and wouldn't dream of doing without. But how did people manage in the not-so-distant past?

The Industrial Revolution was marked by the invention of steam power and the use of mass production, but was this technological progress also reflected in the home? For poor families, the answer is 'no', but for the aristocracy and for well-off middle-class homes, then the answer is a definite 'yes'. Although the gadgets which were used in the Victorian kitchen relied on hand power rather than electricity, they were sophisticated machines which could accomplish many of the jobs which today we do with modern appliances. They had food processors to chop food, machines to slice bread and even a gadget to make ice cream!

Perhaps the most important task in any household, old or modern, is cooking, which today we do on a gas or electric cooker. The Victorian kitchen used an iron range which consisted of a kind of iron box with a coal fire – this heated the oven and the hotplates and also boiled water. Although this style of kitchen stove was efficient, it certainly wasn't convenient. Coal had to be carried in regularly and ashes removed throughout the day. A servant would have to light the stove in the early hours of the morning and keep it burning all day.

How did the Victorians keep things cold without electricity? Both the rich and the poor used other food preservation techniques, such as keeping food in salt or vinegar, or smoking it in order to make it last longer. However, the very rich had ice houses. They were built underground, near water sources. During the winter, ice blocks were

taken from these sources into the ice houses. The blocks stayed frozen even during the warm summer months.

The task of washing, ironing and folding clothes may seem never-ending, but that's nothing compared to how tiring and time-consuming it was in Victorian times. As there was no running water, it usually had to be carried some distance, before being boiled in a huge pot over a wood or coal fire. And then just add soap? No, because the soap had to be made by hand, using a mixture of fat and ashes! In wealthier households, the clothes would be put into a dolly, a kind of bucket with a long wooden pole which was used to hit and move the clothes around. The whole process would take an entire day!

So, next time you take a carton of cold milk out of the fridge, press a button on your electric cooker or complain about having to put on the washing machine, spare a thought for the women of the Victorian era, who spent most of their lives doing what electricity and modern gadgets do for us in a few minutes!

1. According to the article, which of these activities is part of our daily routine?
 - Reading a book
 - Boiling the kettle for coffee
 - Going for a walk
 - Watching television
2. What technological advancement marked the Industrial Revolution?
 - Electricity
 - Steam power
 - Mass production
 - Household gadgets
3. How did household gadgets differ in poor families and wealthy families in the past?
 - Poor families had more gadgets.
 - Wealthy families had more advanced gadgets.
 - Both had the same gadgets.
 - Poor families used electric gadgets.
4. What was one disadvantage of the Victorian kitchen stove?
 - It was too expensive.
 - It was too small for cooking.
 - It could not boil water.
 - It required regular coal deliveries and maintenance.
5. Where were ice houses typically built?
 - Under water sources
 - In the kitchens of wealthy homes
 - Underground, near water sources
 - On rooftops for better cooling
6. What did people in Victorian times have to do to wash clothes?
 - Carry water from a distance and boil it in a pot
 - Use a washing machine

Use cold water from the tap
Buy soap from the store

7. Why does the text suggest we should have sympathy for Victorian women?
Household chores took up a lot of time.
They lacked access to modern labour-saving devices.
They had to carry heavy loads of water and coal.
All of the above

Правильные ответы:

1. Boiling the kettle for coffee
2. Steam power
3. Wealthy families had more advanced gadgets.
4. It required regular coal deliveries and maintenance.
5. Underground, near water sources
6. Carry water from a distance and boil it in a pot
7. All of the above

Read the text again. Match the beginnings (8-11) and the endings (a-d) of the sentences.

8. Victorian kitchens had impressive hand-powered gadgets for chopping food and even making ice cream, but cooking but as they used iron ranges heated by coal for cooking,	a. and rich families also had ice houses to keep food cold.
9. Without running water and washing powder to do the laundry,	b. on modern appliances that we often take for granted.
10. Today tasks, like making coffee, cooking meals, and doing the laundry, rely	c. the whole process took an entire day.
11. To make food last longer everyone used methods like salting or smoking food for preservation	d. it required constant attention from servants.

Правильные ответы:

8.d 9.c 10.b 11.a

Task 2.

Вариант 1

Read about people who describe their feelings at the top of Mount Everest and match the questions to the texts (A-E). Each text may be used more than once. When two answers are required, they can be given in any order.

The highest mountain in the world

A. Haraldur Orn Olafsson, Iceland

To me Everest was like a mystical mountain from a different world. So taking the last few steps to the summit was my biggest moment in climbing, and it was like walking into space. I felt more like an astronaut than a climber, looking down on the Himalayan giants and the valleys below. It was a joyful moment and I felt a great sense of achievement and relief. Everest is a gigantic mountain that you must stay focused on all the time. You have to push hard and have luck on your side, but the rewards are great. I shall never forget it.

B. Erik Weißenmayer, USA

I don't climb mountains to prove to anyone that blind people can do this or that. I climb for the same reason that an artist paints a picture: because it brings me great joy. But I'd be lying if I didn't admit my secret satisfaction in facing those cynics and blowing away their doubts, destroying their negative stereotypes, taking their narrow parameters of what's possible and what's not and then shattering them into a million pieces. When those parameters are rebuilt, thousands and thousands of people will live with fewer barriers placed before them, and if my climbs can play a small role in opening doors of opportunity and hope for those who will come after us, then I am very proud of what we were able to achieve.

C. Rodrigo Jordan, Chile

On the summit of Everest, my climbing partner Cristián García-Huidobro took a picture of the footprints he left on the snow as he approached it. The steps of only one climber but the collective effort of many. Is it the summit of Everest which really matters? To me what really matters are the people with whom I climb: the climbers with whom I share the extreme experience of attempting Everest. They help you become more understanding and tolerant. The human experience is the highest reward in deep adventure. On the summit of Everest, I experienced the most intense expression of the collective art of mountaineering.

D. Brigitte Muir, Australia

In 1988 when I started on my project to climb the highest peak on each continent, I was someone who was good at starting things but not so good at finishing them. I swore to myself that I would not stop until I had climbed the 'seven bloody mountains' as my fellow mountaineer Jon Muir called them. It took me nine years to complete the task, doing the ascent of Everest on my fourth go. And by the way, I never stood on top of Everest: I sat on it. "No more up" was my first thought from the summit. I then recorded a message to all Australians asking them to take care of the country and its wilderness. The climb gave me the confidence to meet new challenges in my life. If you believe in something, you can make it happen.

E. Denis Urubko, Kazakhstan

My aim was to reach the summit without oxygen or Sherpa support. In the spring of 2000 we arrived at the foot of Everest. After setting up the camps, we were caught

by a storm on the South Col, where we spent three nights at 8,000 metres. And although we were already exhausted we made an attempt. The weather was terrible and on the way my emotions were slightly deadened, but I still remember the joy that filled my soul. The goal was reached in an honest way with sporting principles that I have remained faithful to. Being at the summit was a moment of truth and with Everest in my heart I became a stronger person.

Which of the people states the following?

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| I was proud of having done something difficult and felt content. | 1.____ |
| The team is what is important in mountaineering. | 2.____ |
| The weather affected my progress. | 3.____ |
| A photo symbolises our achievements. | 4.____ |
| I compare myself to someone whose profession is different. | 5.____ |
| I wanted to do it without assistance. | 6.____ |
| A lot of people thought that someone like me could never climb Everest. | 7.____ |
| I did something rather different from what is expected perhaps. | 8.____ |
| I wanted my climb to make the world a better place. | 9.____ 10.____ |

Правильные ответы:

1.A 2.C 3.E 4.C 5.A 6.E 7.B 8.D/B 9.B/D 10.B/D

Вариант 2

Task 2. Read about people who talk about their jobs and match the questions to the texts (A-E). Each text may be used more than once. When two answers are required, they can be given in any order.

A. Dave, a designer

I am a passionate designer and I love my job. I enjoy creating beautiful and functional designs that help people. One of the biggest advantages of being a designer is the ability to express my creativity every day. I find joy in solving problems and making ideas come to life. However, the job also has its challenges. Sometimes, clients have different opinions, which can be frustrating. Deadlines can be stressful, too. Despite these difficulties, I feel fulfilled when I see my work appreciated. For me, being a designer is not just a job; it's a way to share my vision with the world.

B. Robert, an office manager

My main responsibility is ensuring the business is operating smoothly on a day-to-day basis without any problems. Being a manager means that some of the most important skills to possess are leadership skills. You also need great people skills, as listening, talking and understanding are all crucial. Depending on the day, I will

either work in the office or have a meeting with clients. I meet many clients each month, and so have to maintain a neat appearance at all times. My work also involves motivating my team, and I have to do my best so that other people in the office can work efficiently. Ultimately this can mean there is a lot of pressure!

C. Pam, a volunteer at an animal centre

I am proud to be able to say that I make a difference in my community by making it safer for animals. I spread the word about being a responsible pet owner, and assist with fundraising events. Walking dogs at the shelter also means I am physically quite fit! The job can sometimes be tough, particularly when I have to be the bearer of bad news if, for example, an animal becomes ill. I feel honoured to be able to help the animals here and dream of working full time in this line of work. There is a new opening for a supervisor at the shelter, and I think I'm going to send in an application!

D. Nancy, a school teacher

I remember being really passionate about my subject at school and my love for the subject is what inspired me to teach it; it just makes me tick. I adore being creative and thinking of new ways to teach the children something. Being a sociable person, I also really enjoy the interaction with children that teaching provides. They can provide such laughs! The main drawback which many teachers find is the work-life balance. Mine isn't too bad, but I do have to work at home quite often - even after the school day has finished.

E. Kevin, an author

I've always wanted to write. The pleasure I feel from putting myself in someone else's shoes is just immense, and I love creating different worlds away from this dreary two-bedroom house in this busy industrial city. I have been working from home for many years as a freelance writer, and thoroughly enjoy the freedom it gives me. For example, I can choose when to work - personally, my best working times are first thing in the morning and last thing at night. I love the fact that I don't have to commute every day at 7am either. I must admit though that sometimes I wish I had colleagues to bounce ideas off - asking my wife is fine, but sometimes it would be useful to hear a couple of opinions on a new idea.

Which person / people

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| prides themselves on helping the community? | 1.____ |
| discusses how important it is to work well with staff? | 2.____ |
| mentions a sad and unpleasant aspect of their job? | 3.____ |
| use creativity in their job? | 4.____ 5.____ 6.____ |
| value their communication skills? | 7.____ 8.____ |

enjoys being free to choose when to work? 9.____

sometimes feels annoyed when discussing something with their clients? 10.____

Правильные ответы:

1.C 2.B 3.C 4.E/A/D 5. A/D/E 6. D/A/E 7.B/D 8. D/B 9.E 10.A

Вариант 3

Read about the people who say what they would like to get for their birthdays and match the questions to the texts (A-E). Each text may be used more than once. When two answers are required, they can be given in any order.

A. Sonia, housewife and mother, 33

We've just bought our first flat so money's very scarce. Something for the flat would be good - a mirror perhaps or a table lamp. Either of those would be good. I've been making stuff like curtains myself. Have even managed a couple of book-cases and they look quite good and are pretty stable. I think it'll be quite some time before I have the leisure to read any of the books on the shelves, though!

B. Matt, designer, 28

It's hard to choose. If you'd asked me yesterday, I'd probably have gone for something to wear. I was feeling that I had nothing much interesting to put on. But then my brother gave me a pile of great clothes he doesn't wear anymore, so I'm quite well set up now. I don't have much wardrobe space in my flat so I don't want anything extra now. CDs are always good, of course, or books though there's always a risk you'll be given something you've already got - or that you wouldn't want to read or listen to. I find I sometimes don't get round to actually spending book or music tokens, so they're a bit of a waste. I think what I'd really go for would be a proper coffee machine. You can get one of those for under fifty quid, can't you? That should help me to start the day feeling fresh and in a good mood.

C. Suzi, shop assistant, 35

I work in a clothes shop so I can get lots of fashionable clothes at a discount - that's the main reason why I work there! I love clothes. For a present, though, I like things that I'd never buy myself, things that are real treats. A weekend in Paris, that's my ideal present. But, of course, it would cost a bit more than £50, unfortunately. I once gave my mum a night in a really classy hotel in London and she said that was one of the best presents she'd ever had. I think I'd go for something a bit like that myself. Perhaps tickets to the theatre for me and a friend. Musicals, that's what we really like, but they're so expensive these days that we hardly ever go. So that would make the best present for me.

D. Alan, doctor, 45

Well, it would have to be something to do with sport as that's how I relax. Golf's my favourite sport, probably, but I'm pretty well set up with everything I need. I suppose

I could do with a new tennis racquet but I think I'd rather choose my own. I know what would be perfect, a set of last year's issues of Golfing Today and a subscription for the next year too - that would come to less than £50 but would be a fantastic gift. They are always sold out when I try to get a copy. You can learn a lot from it - one of the people I play with claims he's learnt all his tips from there and he always beats me! I'd certainly like to improve my game and show him a thing or two for a change.

E. Gia, mechanic, 26

I used to work as a nurse and had a very busy and fulfilling job but now staying at home all day with three small children, I feel as if my brain's going a bit flabby. My body is too but I'm already working on that - I make sure I play tennis at least once a week and I'm also trying to eat more healthily. It's too tempting just to finish off what the children have left on their plates. To get my brain going is going to be harder, though. I think I'd like a course, a book and a cassette, to help me learn a new language. I could use it whenever I had a few spare moments so it would be quite a realistic thing for me to manage, I think.

Which of the people states the following?

- | | |
|---|---------|
| My perfect present would be above the price allowed. | 1.____ |
| I want something to help me learn about a specific skill. | 2.____ |
| My flat is not spacious enough. | 3.____ |
| I'm trying to lose weight. | 4.____ |
| I've been given clothes that I like. | 5.____ |
| I've been quite successful at making things. | 6.____ |
| I know exactly what sports equipment I want. | 7.____ |
| What I'd like would fit in a small envelope. | 8.____ |
| I don't go to work now. | 9.____ |
| I'm short of money at the moment. | 10.____ |

Правильные ответы:

1.C 2.D 3.B 4.E 5.B 6.A 7.D 8.C 9.E 10.A

Use of English (Лексико-грамматический конкурс)

Task 1.

Вариант 1

Read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

When I started my new job, everything was overwhelming and complicated. Out of the **1. _____**, my manager asked me to complete a challenging project. First, I got cold **2. _____** but then I decided to go with the **3. _____**. But all the same I had a **4. _____** feeling that something unexpected would happen. True enough, working on the project I made a terrible mistake that might ruin my career. Well, I got my **5. _____** burnt. Fortunately, my co-worker gave me a hand, he stayed calm, not turning a **6. _____** and showed me how to turn a corner. That situation made me stronger and I began to stand on my own two feet.

Eventually, things started to get better as I worked hard. I took on more responsibilities and was in my **7. _____**. Even though I sometimes was **8. _____** with envy seeing others succeed easily, I reminded myself to keep an open **9. _____** and stay focused.

In conclusion, life often throws **10. _____** at you, but you need to take it as it comes. The important thing is to always do your best and keep a stiff upper lip.

Правильные ответы:

1. blue
2. feet
3. flow
4. gut
5. fingers
6. hair
7. element
8. green
9. mind
10. curveballs

Вариант 2

Task 1. Read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

Travelling to new places is always a **1. _____** of fresh air. Last summer, I travelled to Italy. I had set my **2. _____** on visiting Rome, and when I finally got there, it was magical. However, it wasn't always easy. At first, I felt like I was thrown in at the **3. _____** end because everything was so different. Sometimes navigating through the city felt like trying to clear a **4. _____**.

One day I missed the bus back to my hotel. It was getting dark and I got cold 5. ____ as the area around me didn't look very friendly. Luckily, a kind local helped me, and it was like I was saved by the 6. ____ .

One evening, while enjoying a beautiful sunset, I realised that travelling is like a whole new 7. ____ game. You experience new cultures and meet different people. Some experiences are challenging, but others are fantastic. Sometimes you might feel like you're in a black 8. ____ , but then, in the 9. ____ of an eye, everything becomes wonderful. So, if you want to travel, plan everything well, and you'll have it in the 10. ____ . It's worth it.

Правильные ответы:

1. breath
2. heart
3. deep
4. hurdle
5. feet
6. bell
7. ball
8. hole
9. blink
10. bag

Вариант 3

Task 1. Read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

The generation gap shows different attitudes and values between younger and older generations, often leading to misunderstandings. Elders may feel that younger people are always trying to land on their 1. ____ without considering the hard work it takes to succeed. On the other hand, youngsters might feel that their elders do not know the 2. ____ when it comes to modern technologies and social issues.

Misunderstanding can be a real pain in the 3. ____ , especially when discussing important topics like education or career choices. Sometimes, adults give a cold 4. ____ to the ideas of their children. They believe they know life better. However, it's important to be all 5. ____ and listen to each other to bridge the generation gap.

Open discussions about feelings can help clear the 6. ____ , even if someone accidentally puts their 7. ____ in it by saying something insensitive.

Sometimes discussion in the family raises very personal issues where everyone shares their minds and experience. It's vital not to poke their 8. ____ into the life of your nearest and dearest without permission. Even though the advice is on the tip of the 9. ____ , it would be better for the older generation to turn a blind 10. ____ to their first reaction and keep on conversation instead.

Правильные ответы:

1. feet
2. score
3. neck
4. shoulder
5. ears
6. air
7. foot
8. nose
9. tongue
10. eye

Task 2.

Вариант 1

Rearrange the letters in bold to make adjectives to complete the sentences.

Australia is a fascinating country located in the **11. NUTEHRSO** hemisphere. It is known for its **12. IUEQNU** landscapes and diverse wildlife.

One of the most intriguing places in Australia is the Outback. It is the **13.IDTRSE** region with little to no precipitation during the year. In contrast, the **14. NTERNHRO** part of Australia has a tropical climate with lush rainforests and vibrant ecosystems. Here, you can find the Great Barrier Reef, one of the most famous **15.NURAALT** wonders.

Правильные ответы:

- 11.** southern
- 12.** unique
- 13.** driest
- 14.** northern
- 15.** natural

Вариант 2

Rearrange the letters in bold to make adjectives to complete the sentences.

Sharks are often seen as **11. CRSYA** creatures, but shark attacks are rare. There are different types of sharks, from big ones like the Great White Shark to small ones like the Dwarf Lantern Shark. But is there anything more **12. GSRNAUODE** in the sea? Yes! The blue-ringed octopus is **13. RHSRETO** than your little finger and its blue rings get brighter when it's scared. People think it looks **14. RTYPET**, but if you see one, don't pick it up! It hasn't got sharp teeth, but its sting is more **15. OOSUSNOPI** than the cobra snake, and worse than a shark bite!

Правильные ответы:

- 11.** scary
- 12.** dangerous

- 13. shorter
- 14. pretty
- 15. poisonous

Вариант 3

Task 2. Rearrange the letters in bold to make adjectives to complete the sentences.

The Maya lived in a **11. RLAEG** area ranging from Central America into southern Mexico. The area is known as Mesoamerica. Like the ancient Romans and Greeks, the Maya left behind **12. EMKBRRLAEA** examples of their life and culture. From their art, writing, and architecture, we can tell that the Maya were an **13. IGAMZAN** civilization.

The **14. ENITANC** Maya lived in three main regions of Mesoamerica. In the north, there was dry, scrubby land, which was not good for farming. In the south soil was rich and good for farming. In the eastern and central regions there was a **15. APOLICTR** rainforest. This was the heart of Maya civilization.

Правильные ответы:

- 11. large
- 12. remarkable
- 13. amazing
- 14. ancient
- 15. tropical

Task 3.

Вариант 1

Read the text and complete the sentences with the correct word from the list.

Example: 0. special

This laptop is really **0.(special/peculiar/especially/specially)** to me. I bought it when I was at university. I had never had one before and I wanted the best model available. I didn't have enough money as I had to pay the rent and tuition **16.(fees/fares/cost/price)**. Being a medical student I spent all my time studying and never **17.(considered/thought/regarded/dreamt)** having a part-time job. I didn't want to **18.(lend/borrow/mortgage/rent)** money from my parents although I was sure they wouldn't **19.(deny/reject/refuse/resist)** to help me. Taking out a bank **20.(credit/loan/installment/mortgage)** was not an option, either. Yet, I needed a laptop **21.(badly/well/strongly/much)** and I was **22.(short/insufficient/adequate/lack)** by quite a big sum of money. So, I **23.(made/did/gave/took)** the plunge and joined an ambulance crew. I never **24.(regretted/resigned/resisted/rejected)** this decision. Not only did I save enough money but also gained **25.(priceless/invaluable/worthless/expensive)** skills, which boosted my confidence.

Правильные ответы:

61.fees 17.considered 18.borrow 19.refuse 20.loan 21.badly 22.short 23.took
24.regretted 25.invaluable

Вариант 2

Read the text and complete the sentences with the correct word from the list.

Example: 0. fascinated

I didn't know much about orcas until I saw them in a show. I was so **0. (fascinated/fascinating/fascination/amazing)** by their incredible performance that I decided to find out more about these **16.(submarine/aqua/aquarium/marine)** mammals. They are the largest member of the dolphin family. You can easily **17.(recognise/recall/revise/remember)** them by their black and white colouring. Orcas can be **18.(found/founded/fond/funded)** in every ocean. Smart and social, orcas make a wide **19.(variation/various/variants/variety)** of sounds. In the **20.(nature/wilderness/habitat/wild)**, orcas live in tight-knit family groups that share a sophisticated culture that is passed **21.(in/out/across/down)** through generations. Watching them in their natural **22.(inhabitant/inhabited/habit/habitat)** must be an unforgettable experience. These beautiful mammals are part of marine park entertainment, performing shows for audiences. However, they suffer a lot in **23.(cage/captive/captions/captivity)**. This was **24.(breathtaking/heartbreaking/outbreak/breakthrough)** news to me. I hope that someday there will be a ban on using orcas, dolphins and other mammals for entertainment. Now, I want to become a marine biologist and **25.(defend/safe/safety/protect)** animals living in seas and oceans.

Правильные ответы:

16.marine 17.recognise 18.found 19.variety 20.wild 21.down 22.habitat
23.captivity 24.heartbreaking 25.protect

Вариант 3

Read the text and complete the sentences with the correct word.

Example: 0. ideal

According to our teachers, I am an **0.(best/first/special/ideal)** student. They say I always work hard and am actively **16.(included/related/contained/involved)** in the learning process. I have a good educational background and **17.(succeed/able/capable/manage)** to do exceptionally well in all subjects. I am never late **18.(for/in/at/on)** lectures and seminars and hand **19.(out/in/about/around)** my essays on time. Consequently, I **20.(achieve/reach/fulfill/earn)** excellent results. I am **21.(respected/respectable/respectful/respecting)** by all the teachers because I am always **22.(eager/anxious/impatient/interested)** to learn. Unlike many others, I

have never been caught **23.(cheating/to cheat/deceive/cheat)**. Besides, I take part in lots of extra-curricular activities. My mother **24. (has/gets/shows/takes)** great pride in my achievements. It sounds like I am a real role model, aren't I? Come on, stop being so **25.(trusting/trusted/trustworthy/trust)**. I wish I were, but I am just a daydreamer and a lazybones.

Правильные ответы:

16.involved 17. manage 18. for 19. in 20. achieve 21. respected 22. eager 23. cheating 24. takes 25. trusting

Task 4.

Вариант 1

Listen to music excerpts and guess the performing musician for each excerpt.

26.

Adele 'When We Were Young'
Olivia Rodrigo 'Déjà vu'
Mariah Carey 'Almost Home'
Ariana Grande 'We Can't Be Friends'

27.

Adele 'When We Were Young'
Taylor Swift 'You Belong with Me'
Mariah Carey 'Almost Home'
Ariana Grande 'We Can't Be Friends'

28.

Michael Jackson 'The Way You Make Me Feel'
Elvis Presley 'Return to Sender'
Frank Sinatra 'Strangers in the night'
The Beatles 'Now and Then'

29.

Elvis Presley 'Return to Sender'
The Beatles 'Now and Then'
Justin Bieber 'Anyone'
Frank Sinatra 'Strangers in the night'

30.

Adele 'When We Were Young'
Olivia Rodrigo 'Déjà vu'
Mariah Carey 'Almost Home'
Ariana Grande 'We Can't Be Friends'

Правильные ответы:

26.Adele 'When We Were Young'
27.Ariana Grande 'We Can't Be Friends'
28.Frank Sinatra 'Strangers in the night'

- 29.The Beatles 'Now and Then'
30.Mariah Carey 'Almost Home'

Вариант 2

Listen to music excerpts and guess the performing musician for each excerpt.

26.

- Frank Sinatra 'Strangers in the night'
Olivia Rodrigo 'Déjà vu'
Michael Jackson 'The Way You Make Me Feel'
Justin Bieber 'Anyone'

27.

- Justin Bieber 'Anyone'
Frank Sinatra 'Strangers in the night'
Michael Jackson 'The Way You Make Me Feel'
Ariana Grande 'We Can't Be Friends'

28.

- Taylor Swift 'You Belong with Me'
Olivia Rodrigo 'Déjà vu'
Ariana Grande 'We Can't Be Friends'
Mariah Carey 'Almost Home'

29.

- Olivia Rodrigo 'Déjà vu'
Ariana Grande 'We Can't Be Friends'
Mariah Carey 'Almost Home'
Adele 'When We Were Young'

30.

- Justin Bieber 'Anyone'
Frank Sinatra 'Strangers in the night'
Elvis Presley 'Return to Sender'
Michael Jackson 'The Way You Make Me Feel'

Правильные ответы:

- 26.Michael Jackson 'The Way You Make Me Feel'
27.Justin Bieber 'Anyone'
28.Olivia Rodrigo 'Anyone'
29.Adele 'When We Were Young'
30.Elvis Presley 'Return to Sender'

Вариант 3

Listen to music excerpts and guess the performing musician for each excerpt.

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Adele 'When We Were Young'
Taylor Swift 'You Belong with Me'
Mariah Carey 'Almost Home'
Ariana Grande 'We Can't Be Friends'

29.

Justin Bieber 'Anyone'
Frank Sinatra 'Strangers in the night'
Elvis Presley 'Return to Sender'
Michael Jackson 'The Way You Make Me Feel'

30.

Michael Jackson 'The Way You Make Me Feel'
Elvis Presley 'Return to Sender'
Frank Sinatra 'Strangers in the night'
The Beatles 'Now and Then'

Правильные ответы:

26. Olivia Rodrigo 'Déjà vu'
27. Adele 'When We Were Young'
28. Ariana Grande 'We Can't Be Friends'
29. Elvis Presley 'Return to Sender'
30. Frank Sinatra 'Strangers in the night'