

Listening (Конкурс понимания устной речи)

Вариант 1

Listen to a story and mark the statements below (1-10) with "T" if they are true and "F" if they are false. You will hear the story twice.

1. Sir James Paul McCartney was a famous trumpet player and a pianist in the rock band *The Beatles*.
2. After *The Beatles* broke up in 1960, McCartney continued his musical career.
3. Linda McCartney was a musician.
4. "Yesterday" became one of the most covered songs in popular music history.
5. McCartney was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice.
6. McCartney has created, or co-created, 42 songs that reached the top on the Billboard Hot 100.
7. For his contributions to rock 'n' roll McCartney was knighted.
8. McCartney is one of the most popular solo performers who has written classical and electronic music.
9. McCartney's interests do not extend far beyond music.
10. He married for the second time a New York citizen Nancy Shevell in 2011.

Вариант 2

Listen to the story about how Penguin Paperbacks appeared and mark the statements below (1-10) with “T” if they are true and “F” if they are false. You will hear the story twice.

1. Allen Lane was a 19th century publisher.
2. It was Agatha Christie who gave Allen the idea of publishing cheap editions of contemporary literature.
3. The working people in England did not go to bookshops because they could not afford to buy expensive books.
4. The symbol for Penguin Paperbacks was drawn at London Zoo.
5. Penguin books that contained detective fiction were blue.
6. The price was sixpence a copy.
7. Allen Lane had to leave London because the working conditions of the staff were not satisfactory.
8. Penguin books were popular with the soldiers because they were a good way to kill time.
9. Ten works of Bernard Shaw were published by Penguin in 1946.
10. Penguin has never had any problems with law.

Вариант 3

Listen to part of the lecture about the life and writings of Edgar Allan Poe and mark the statements below (1-10) with “T” if they are true and “F” if they are false. You will hear the story twice.

1. Edgar Poe is world known particularly for his poems.
2. Poe's stories are incredibly true to life.
3. Poe's parents played in different theatres all over the US.
4. Edgar Poe was effectively orphaned at a very early age.
5. Both of his adoptive parents loved Poe very much.
6. Poe attended school from five to seventeen.
7. University education was not readily available to the majority of young people at that time.
8. Allan didn't give Poe enough money to make ends meet.
9. Poe was allowed to take things for free because Mr Allan was very popular with the local people.
10. Poe lived and studied in the company of the young men who didn't gamble.

Reading (Конкурс понимания письменной речи)

Вариант 1

Task 1

Read the text from which eight sentences have been removed. Choose from sentences A-L the one which fits each gap (1-8). There are four extra sentences which you do not need to use.

THE BIRDS

On December 3rd the wind changed during the night and it was winter. Until then the autumn had been a pleasant one. [1]

Nat Hocken, because of a wartime disability, did not work full-time at the farm. He worked three days a week, and they gave him the lighter jobs.

Although he was married with children, he did not much enjoy the company of others, so he preferred to work alone. [2] Then, at midday, he could look down at the sea and watch the birds while he ate. Autumn was best for this, better than spring. In autumn the birds that stayed to pass the winter came in great flocks. They circled in the sky and landed to feed on the rich earth. But even when they fed they seemed to do it without hunger, without desire. [3]

[4] Down on the beach they waited for the tide. They had more patience, but after feeding they too flocked and circled and cried. Perhaps, thought Nat, a message comes to the birds in autumn. Winter is coming. Many of them will die. [5] Perhaps the birds do the same.

The birds had been more restless than ever this year. [6] There were many more than usual, Nat was sure of this. He said something about it to the farmer when work was finished for the day.

"Yes," said the farmer, "there are more birds than usual; I've noticed it, too. And some of them are not even afraid of machines. I have an idea that the weather will change. It will be a hard winter. That explains the birds' behaviour."

The farmer was right and it was that night that the temperature suddenly dropped. [7] Even the air in the small bedroom had turned cold. Nat pulled the bedclothes round him, moved closer to the back of his sleeping wife, and stayed awake, thoughtful, worried without cause.

Then he heard the tapping on the window. He listened, and the tapping continued. The sound annoyed him, so Nat got out of bed and went to the window. As he opened it, something brushed against his hand, cutting the skin. [8] It was a bird of some kind; he could not tell more than that.

- A. It pleased him when he was given a gate to mend or a wall to build at the edge of the farm land.
- B. He helped with the supper, and then he went up to the bedroom and listened.
- C. The leaves had stayed on the trees, golden red, and the earth was rich where the farm workers had turned it.

- D. Then it was gone, over the roof, behind the house.
- E. As he worked in his fields, the figure of the farmer was lost for a moment in a great cloud of circling, crying birds.
- F. Nat watched them, and he watched the seabirds too.
- G. There was nothing in the fields except the waiting, watching birds.
- H. Then they returned to the skies again.
- I. People who are worried about an early death force themselves to work or go crazy.
- J. Nat woke just after two and heard the wind in the chimney.
- K. Hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands...
- L. There's food for them out there in the fields.

Task 2

Read the extracts and answer the question below. In some cases, there is more than one answer. The selection of the right answers is provided in the right column. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Which section or sections mention(s) the following?

0. This treatment can help cancer patients.	A
9. This treatment can lower our blood pressure.	-----
10. This treatment can kill pain.	----- -----
11. This treatment is successfully used in treating emotional problems.	----- ----- -----
12. This treatment arouses sceptical attitudes to traditional medicine.	-----
13. This treatment is centuries old.	----- -----
14. This treatment uses very small doses of medicines.	-----
15. This treatment has been found to be several times more effective than a couple of others examined.	-----
16. This treatment is preferred by many patients for some particular reason.	_____

A. Music's Surprising Power to Heal

How does music help people?

When the body is stressed, our heart beats faster, and we take in more air. Studies show that music can help us reduce the effect of this by lowering blood pressure and the respiration rate.

Music can also help to reduce pain by helping the body to increase the production of endorphins (natural pain relievers).

Some hospitals also use music therapists to help seriously sick patients. For example, teaching cancer patients to sing and play simple musical instruments can help to make them more positive, and encourage them to co-operate more in their own treatment.

Music can also help overcome mental, emotional and physical handicaps, because within each person there is a part which only music is able to reach. Doctors find that patients with serious communication problems can improve by learning to express themselves through music, movement, and dance.

The benefits of music are not confined to people who are ill. Music can help us in our daily lives. For example, you can prepare yourself for important occasions such as an exam, or a big match, by humming an appropriate tune. It can also act as a tension or pain reliever for activities such as going to the dentist, or it can simply give expression to our moods. Listening to music gives your brain a break and helps you get through the day.

B. Power of Flower Therapy

Essences are the latest manifestation in a long tradition of using flower elixirs for health and well-being. Numerous ancient cultures, including those of Egypt, Malaysia and Africa, used flowers to treat emotional states, while in Europe essences were used in the 16th century by the great healer Paracelsus to treat his patients' emotional problems.

Around 70 years ago, the British physician, Dr Bach established his 38 flower remedies based on common trees and plants such as oak, walnut, clematis and mustard.

But how can a flower, however exotic, heal a traumatised mind? The answers would send most orthodox doctors into laughter. They explain that the essences work on a vibrational level, invigorating and balancing our psyche. While everything in life vibrates to a certain frequency, the essence of flowers apparently vibrates on a very high level and so affects our bodies at their most subtle level. Rather than dealing with the dense matter of flesh and blood, the remedies go straight to the core of our being, working from the very inner levels out to the denser fabric of the emotional and physical body.

C. Acupuncture

In Chinese medicine, *chi* is the energy flow of the body. Healthy people have an even flow of *chi*. Acupuncture, which was first mentioned in documents dating a few hundred years before the Common Era, can make a person's energy flow more balanced again. Before starting treatment, the acupuncturist reviews the patient's

medical history. He also takes the patient's pulse. By doing this, he can decide whether the patient's body is being affected by either blockages or surges of energy. The body's energy flow can be increased or reduced by inserting and twisting the needles.

In acupuncture, needles are inserted at an acupuncture point, then aligned with energy pathways called "meridians", which connect internal organs with points along the body's surface. The needles are rotated clockwise or anticlockwise, according to whether energy is to be stimulated or damped down.

The Chinese use acupuncture as an anaesthetic. Some people prefer acupuncture to conventional treatment because they believe they are in better control of their bodies, and because they receive a more personal treatment.

D. Homeopathy

Homeopathy is based on the principle of using "similars" or "like to treat like". A German doctor, Samuel Hahnemann, found that using substances at extreme dilutions and shaking them violently produced a correspondingly more powerful effect. He noticed a similarity between the effects of taking quinine and the symptoms of malaria. He experimented on his family and friends, getting them to take doses of quinine and then 98 other substances to see what the effect of each substance was. So those human guinea pigs were the "provers" of the substances. He found that if he gave tiny doses of the same substance to a patient suffering from an illness which had identical symptoms, then the illness would be cured.

This process of "potentising" has become the key feature of homeopathy. For example, a substance called Obsequia is extracted from the berries of holly. It is used in minute doses in homeopathy for headaches but in large doses it is lethal.

E. Colour Therapy

Colour therapy is a form of healing, which has been extensively used worldwide in one form or another. A lot of people know that working in an environment of a particular colour can enhance productivity. Clinical studies have shown how green, for example, promotes overall healing, and is used, therefore, in the design of hospitals. Red, on the contrary, is a stimulating colour, and should be avoided where there is a danger of aggravating mental disturbances. Blue, on the other hand, acts as a pacifier - it has the opposite effect from red.

But colour therapy takes this a step further. It involves use of specific colours found in foods to treat illnesses, through the eating of different coloured foods. Thus all orange foods, for instance carrots, pumpkins, apricots, peaches and so on are good for stimulating the heart, strengthening the bones and teeth, as well as for tackling lung problems.

Basically, the colours are divided into either stimulating colours or sedating colours. Orange is a stimulating colour, as is red. Blue, on the other hand, is a sedating colour. Green and purple are midway between. They are very balanced colours.

F. Cup of Cocoa May Keep Doctor Away

A study by scientists in the United States has found that a cup of hot cocoa is rich in powerful antioxidants. Previous studies have also shown that these chemicals, which can protect against a range of diseases and reduce the effects of ageing, are found in cocoa. In 1998, a study of more than 8,000 Americans found that chocolate, which is made from cocoa, may even extend life.

This latest study suggests that cocoa may be richer in antioxidants than better known "healthy" drinks like tea and red wine. They are all rich in polyphenols, chemicals that have an antioxidant effect on the body. This means they can "mop up" free radicals - charged particles produced by the body which can damage cells and trigger diseases like cancer. Dr Chang Yong Lee and his colleagues at Cornell University in New York carried out tests to measure antioxidants levels in tea, red wine and cocoa. A cup of cocoa came out on top. Their study found that it was twice as rich in antioxidants as a glass of wine, up to three times richer than a cup of green tea and up to five times richer than black tea.

Although cocoa is found in many other products, such as chocolate, the researchers said that drinking it was the best way of harnessing its health benefits.

Вариант 2

Task 1

Read the text from which eight sentences have been removed. Choose from sentences A-L the one which fits each gap (1-8). There are four extra sentences which you do not need to use.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Some people believe that inventions occur as the need arises. [1] As it happened, it was Alexander Graham Bell.

Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. [2] His grandfather in London, his uncle in Dublin and his father, Mr. Alexander Melville Bell, in Edinburgh, were all professed elocutionists. The latter published a variety of works on the subject, several of which are well known, especially his treatise on Visible Speech, which appeared in Edinburgh in 1868. [3] Graham Bell, his distinguished son, was educated at the Royal High School of Edinburgh, from which he graduated at the age of thirteen. At the age of sixteen he secured a position as a pupil-teacher of elocution and music in Weston Home Academy at Elgin in Morayshire. The next year he spent at the University of Edinburgh. From 1866 to 1867 he was an instructor at Somersetshire College at Bath, England. [4]

In 1870 he moved with his family to Canada where they settled at Brantford, Ontario. Before he left Scotland, Alexander Graham Bell had turned his attention to telephony, and in Canada he continued an interest in communication machines. [5] In 1873 he accompanied his father to Montreal, Quebec, where he was employed in teaching the system of visible speech. The elder Bell was invited to introduce the system into a large day school for mutes at Boston. [6] Alexander Graham Bell published more than one treatise on the subject at Washington, and it is mainly through his efforts that thousands of deaf mutes in America are now able to speak almost, if not quite, as well as people who are able to hear.

At Boston he continued his research in the same field. [7] With financing from his American father-in-law, on March 7, 1876, the U.S. Patent Office granted him Patent Number 174,465 covering "the method of, and apparatus for, transmitting vocal or other sounds telegraphically... by causing electrical undulations, similar in form to the vibrations of the air accompanying the said vocal or other sound", the telephone. [8] It is clear that several people were researching similar devices. However, supporters of Bell claim that his was the first fully working design. After obtaining the patent for the telephone, Bell continued his experiments in communication, which culminated in the invention of the photophone transmission of sound on a beam of light — a precursor of today's optical fiber systems.

A. Alexander Graham Bell received the Centennial prize awards for both the multiple telegraph and the telephone.

- B. He came from a family associated with teaching elocution.
- C. He designed a piano which could transmit its music over a distance by means of electricity.
- D. Alexander and his brother became interested in the subject.
- E. The story is told that in 1870 one of the experts at the U.S. Patent Office left his job because he felt that everything had been invented.
- F. While still in Scotland he is said to have turned his attention to the science of acoustics with a view to ameliorating the deafness of his mother.
- G. He came from a family of famous circus actors, working in different cities.
- H. And he endeavoured to produce a telephone which would not only send musical notes, but articulate speech.
- I. But he declined the post in favour of his son, who soon became famous in the United States for his success in this important work.
- J. In this he explains his ingenious method of instructing deaf mutes by means of their eyesight, how to articulate words, and also how to read what other persons are saying by the motions of their lips.
- K. From this point of view, someone else might have invented the telephone.
- L. It should be noted that the question of who invented the telephone continues to be debated.

Task 2

Read the extracts from guidebooks about famous sights and answer the question below. In some cases, there is more than one answer. The selection of the right answers is provided in the right column. The first one (0) has been done for you.

About which sight is the following mentioned?

0. Its geographical situation being an attraction to visitors.	F G
9. Its relevance to modern life.	-----
10. The achievement of its designers.	----- -----

11. The uncertainty about its purpose.	-----
12. The enormous size of the site.	----- ----- -----
13. Its role as a depository for the country's treasures.	-----
14. The fact that it is unrivalled.	-----
15. Its connection to the country's military history.	-----
16. The fact that it is used as a place for celebrations today.	----- -----

A. Magic Circles of Stonehenge, England

The county of Wiltshire is most famous for the great stone monuments of Stonehenge and Avebury, and the huge earth pyramid of Silbury. No written records exist of the origins of these features and they have always been surrounded by mystery.

Stonehenge is the best known and probably the most remarkable of prehistoric remains in the UK. It has stood on Salisbury Plain for about 4,000 years. There have been many different theories about its original use and although modern methods of investigation have extended our knowledge, no one is certain why it was built. One theory is that it was a place from where stars and planets could be observed. It was discovered that the positions of some of the stones related to the movements of the sun and the moon, so that the stones could be used as a calendar to predict such things as eclipses.

At one time, people thought that Stonehenge was a Druid temple. The Druids were a Celtic religious group who were suppressed in Great Britain soon after the Roman conquest.

Stonehenge is a very popular place for tourists to visit, and since the 1980s it has become especially popular with large groups of people including hippies and modern Druids to travel there to celebrate the summer solstice on 21st June.

B. The Pyramids of Cheops, Egypt

Cheops left behind him a colossal piece of work, his pyramid. Up to the reign of Rhampsinitus, Egypt was excellently governed and very prosperous. Cheops, his successor, compelled his subjects to labour as slaves for him. Some were forced to drag blocks of stone from the quarries in the Arabian hills to the Nile, where they were ferried across and taken over by others who hauled them to the Libyan hills. The work went on in three-month shifts, a hundred thousand men in a shift.

It took ten years to build the track along which the blocks were hauled, a work of hardly less magnitude than the pyramid itself for it is 923.5 metres long and 18.47 metres wide and 14.78 metres high at its highest point, and is constructed of

polished stone blocks decorated with carvings of animals. It took ten years to build, including the underground burial chambers on the hill where the pyramids stand.

C. Taj Mahal, India

The Taj Mahal is regarded as the most perfect jewel of the Muslim art in India. This huge mausoleum was built by Shah Jahal in memory of his beloved wife and has become a great symbol of passion. It is a fairy-tale marvel of white marble and its gardens have been laid out formally around it. The material to build was brought in from all over India with the help of elephants. The exterior decorations are as beautiful as the interior, and the colossal height of the tomb makes it look as if it were climbing into the skies. Visitors are struck by how romantic it must be to have such a tomb built in your honour, especially as no one has built anything since to equal this devotion.

D. Canterbury Cathedral, England

The approach to Canterbury cathedral through the magnificent Christ Church Gate affords a dramatic first view of this splendid building. The gate itself was built between 1517 and 1520, less than 20 years before Henry VIII dissolved the Abbey of Christ Church, to which the Cathedral belonged.

The size of the cathedral is not immediately apparent because the eastern end is hidden at first and the eye is irresistibly held by Bell Harry, the central tower. Dating from the late 15th century, this was the last major feature of the Cathedral to be built. It is just under 76 metres high and its stone facing conceals 1.5 million bricks within - at the same time it was the first major building to be constructed of brick since Roman times.

Entering the cathedral by the porch at the western end of the nave you are immediately confronted by the splendour of soaring pillars which lead the eye heavenwards to the intricate vaulting of the ceiling. This work ranks among the greatest achievements of the medieval mason, yet the nave is almost the newest part of the Cathedral. Dating from 1400, it is the work of Henry Yevele, Edward III's mason, who also built the nave of Westminster Abbey.

E. The Colosseum, Italy

The design concept of this great amphitheatre in the centre of Rome has influenced almost every sports stadium since, including those still built today. It is largely made of stone and its innovative design divided the seating into sections to allow maximum viewing. Today the wooden arena floor no longer exists, but the walls and corridors which ran underneath are visible in the ruins. The skeleton exists today as a symbol of the celebration and suffering that took place at the events the building hosted.

F. Edinburgh Castle, Scotland

Mighty Edinburgh Castle dominates its city like no other castle in Europe. For 3,000 years, humans have sought safety on the Castle Rock, 134 metres above sea level. The Honours of Scotland - the oldest crown jewels in the British Isles - and the Stone of Destiny, Scotland's ancient Coronation Stone - are all kept here. There are also military museums for two of Britain's oldest regiments, as well as the National War Museum.

Edinburgh Castle has played many roles over many centuries. It has been a residence for Scotland's monarchs, a prison for her enemies, a repository for her treasures - but it has always been a military stronghold. To this day, the Army has a military and ceremonial presence here.

The castle has become the home of the world-famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which is staged annually in August during the Edinburgh International Festival.

G. The Wooden Magic of Kizhi, Russia

Kizhi is a national park in Karelia. It is situated on an island in the northern part of Onezhskoye Lake. In the 17th century, there was an ancient Russian settlement on this island. All the buildings in the settlement were made of wood. Later, in the 20th century, other wooden buildings were brought to Kizhi from various parts of Karelia.

Visitors to Kizhi are struck by the breathtaking view of the wonderful churches. The most precious is Preobrazhenskaya Church, which was built in 1714 without the use of a single nail. It is 37 metres high and has twenty domes of different sizes on five levels. The effect is really spectacular.

Walking along the island you can also see old wooden peasant houses, mills, forges and stables. Various tools and household objects are on display in these buildings and you can watch craftsmen in traditional Russian costumes making different souvenirs particular to the area such as wooden toys, glass beads and earrings, patchwork etc.

Вариант 3

Task 1

Read the text from which eight sentences have been removed. Choose from sentences A-L the one which fits each gap (1-8). There are four extra sentences which you do not need to use.

Making a Great First Impression

When you meet someone for the first time, especially when it is business related, the first impression you make strongly impacts the course of any future relationship you might have with that person or company. If you get it right the first time, you increase your chances of getting the job or winning the client. [1]

"See no evil, smell no evil, hear no evil" is a good adaptation of the traditional three-monkey saying to keep in mind as you prepare to meet someone for the first time. [2] So be sure to get it right.

See No Evil

Appearance is very important. [3]

Whether you are a man or a woman, clean, up-to-date yet conservative business suits are your best bet for making a good impression. Avoid dressing casually or in overly trendy clothing, as your chances of offending the person you are meeting greatly increase when you do.

Personal grooming is also essential for making a good impression. Make sure that your hair is clean and well styled. Facial care for men should be taken into account: either clean shaven or with a neatly trimmed beard and/or moustache. [4]

Hands and nails are very noticeable at interviews and business meetings. Your hands and fingernails should be clean. Your fingernails' length and colour, if you paint them, should always be conservative and look professional.

Body language is another dealmaker or breaker. Poor body language includes bad posture - perhaps a slouched, overly-relaxed demeanour, the appearance of boredom with yawning or daydreaming, nervous habits such as nail biting, scratching skin, relentless tapping of shoes, chewing gum, answering or checking your mobile phone, checking the time, sighing, or appearing arrogant - all things to avoid when making a first impression.

Smell No Evil

Scent forms an extremely important part of a good or bad first impression. Since most people are uncomfortable telling others how they smell, you may not know that your body odour is offensive. Chances are if your clothes are not freshly washed, if you did not take a shower today or forgot to wear deodorant, or if you perspire more than normal, you should be worried about the scent you give off.

[5] These products should be used in moderation so they do not risk annoying

anyone.

Bad breath is another real turnoff that can cost you the job or business deal. [6] Keep a spare toothbrush and toothpaste in your office desk and have a supply of breath mints and gum on hand to help keep your breath fresh and inoffensive. However, remember to take your gum out of your mouth before the meeting.

Hear No Evil

What you say and how you say it is also important in an interview or business meeting. Speak clearly and confidently, and use good grammar and proper pronunciation.

Poor language skills, obscenities, slang, or words of negativity offend an audience. Too much or not enough talking can also turn a meeting sour. [7]

Whether you are interviewing for a new career or meeting with new or current clients, you must understand how to create a positive, lasting first impression in order to advance your professional development. [8] Look at yourself and those around you. Improve on your weaknesses and perfect your strengths. Make your first impression matter.

- A. At a job interview or business meeting, you need to look clean, smart and well groomed.
- B. If you don't look right, smell right, or speak correctly at the first meeting, you increase the possibility of offending someone and losing any future opportunities for cooperation.
- C. Matching conservative shoes, jewellery, and accessories are also essential.
- D. Poor listening skills, particularly the dreadfully bad habit of always interrupting others, are true meeting mistakes.
- E. If you get it wrong, you risk losing all future opportunities with that person, job opportunity, or business deal.
- F. Many people still thought there was more to it.
- G. Avoid eating onions or garlic, drinking coffee, or smoking cigarettes prior to a meeting.
- H. Excessive perfume, cologne, and heavily scented hair products should also be avoided.
- I. Make-up for women should be minimal and in lighter shades than typically worn when going out in the evening.
- J. Instead, a firm handshake and a friendly, confident greeting will help you get through any meeting successfully.
- K. Experts believe that the combination of colour and sound produces a special effect.
- L. We are all constantly competing in the business world.

Task 2

Read some information about different TV channels and answer the questions below choosing from the TV channels (A-E). Some of the channels may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Which TV channel or channels:

0. has taken some popular programmes off the air?	A
9. has a website you can visit?	-----
10. lets you comment on TV programmes?	-----
11. specializes in documentaries?	-----
12. has the newest programmes from abroad?	-----
13. gives you the chance to see pop groups?	-----
14. broadcasts quiz shows?	-----
15. hasn't started broadcasting yet?	-----
16. has moved a programme to a different time?	-----

A. TV 12

TV12 is entering its fifteenth year in broadcasting stronger than ever. Our mix of programmes has changed over the years and, although some old favourites might have gone, we continue to provide viewers with a quality product. Documentary series such as "Seeing Eye" and drama productions including "My Other Selves" and "Farpoint" continue to build on our reputation. In a new direction, the six o'clock news moves to a later slot and its place is taken by the new sitcom "A Bird in the Hand". This programme, together with "Pop Pick", the show that brings you the latest news from the music world, makes TV 12 the place for early evening family entertainment.

"Stop the World", the new series from Martin Goodman, is the highlight of TV 12's drama schedule. This controversial drama will be prime-time viewing and replaces "Football Special". More information is available on our webpages.

B. MAXI

MAXI has gone from strength to strength over the last three years. Recent changes in management have brought a fresh approach and new ideas.

"On Your Mind" is our new feedback programme where you, the viewers, give

your opinions on what you see. Ring our helpline to find out when we'll be in your area!

We haven't forgotten the kids in our new schedule and they'll be thrilled at the return of that old favourite "Captain Power". Yes, he's back in an all-new adventure. Teenagers will also love our new series of "Rivington Grove", the soap that deals with the problems they're facing in real life. Its responsible approach has been praised by the critics, and the ratings just keep going up. One feature we won't be changing is our afternoon quiz slot, where "Linkword" will continue to keep you guessing and phoning in.

C. The Wonder Channel

The Wonder Channel is coming on air this March. From "Mind Matters" to "TechnoTalk", we bring you all the latest news from the worlds of science and technology. Dedicated to providing high-standard educational programmes, The Wonder Channel has worked with programme makers to produce fun, informative shows. Join Matthew Green as he looks at the beginnings of today technology in "Eureka"!

The Wonder Channel takes seriously the threat of technology to the environment. Every week, follow "Planet Focus", with news of problem spots around the world. From Brazil to Beijing, we will be asking the experts what can be done to lessen the impact of technology.

As part of our goal to educate, we'll be making factsheets to go with our programmes. Find them on-line, or write to us and we'll send them to you.

D. TVK

TVK's action-packed schedule brings you the best in children's TV. If it's the latest craze from Japan you're looking for, then we'll have it here on TVK. Remember that we were the first to bring you "Ultimate Power Fighters", based on the popular computer game.

Our Saturday mornings are full of all your favourites, and there are one or two surprises, as well. Wait till you see "Saturday Club", with some great ideas about what to do with your weekend. We'll be out and about looking for people with unusual interests so watch out for us near you. We'll also have your favourite bands live, so let "Saturday Club" help you get the weekend off to a great start!

Another new programme this season is "Kid Challenge", Sally Merton poses the questions as teams from around the country compete for prizes. Don't miss the action on your favourite channel!

E. WBC

For sixteen years, WBC has been bringing you discussion programmes, the latest news and current affairs programmes and analysis from our experts. All that continues as we go round the clock. Now, you'll get all the same reliable content

twenty-four hours a day.

Our new format means even more “Sam Prince Talking Straight”, with Sam interviewing the people behind the headlines. Sam also brings you “Round Up” at its new time of nine o’clock, where he looks at the stories in the press and tells you who to believe. With news on the hour every hour, followed by our complete sports result service, WBC will be the channel that keeps you up-to-date.

F. National Geographic

Since National Geographic channel is one of the most popular TV channels in the world for the thinking minds, it doesn’t really need any introduction. Our TV channel is an American pay television network which provides non-fictional TV programmes: documentaries with factual contents, involving nature, science, culture, and history, plus some reality and pseudo-scientific entertainment programmes. Then, its primary sister network worldwide, including the United States, is “Nat Geo Wild”, which focuses on animal-related programming only.

In fact, the programmes on National Geographic TV channel are so diversified, as well as educational, interesting, informative, entertaining and serious, that once a person watches our programmes, he or she becomes hooked to it. Of course, our TV channel is not without some controversy, but it is also true at the same time that no other channels let you see and explore the world in the way that National Geographic does, whether you see how a tiger hunts in a forest or how Antarctica melts.

Besides, all the programmes on our TV channel are so unique and educational that you can watch it with your entire family while enjoying some quality family time together.

USE OF ENGLISH (Лексико-грамматический тест)

Вариант 1

Task 1

In the text that follows, fill in the blanks with missing prepositions. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Facts and Fiction

Many (0) of the people one reads about (1) _____ fiction are based (2) _____ a real historical person. For example, the man who gave Robert Louis Stevenson the idea (3) _____ his Dr Jekyll was William Brodie, a Scottish businessman, who lived in Edinburgh in the 18th century.

Brodie, who was born in 1741, was the son (4) _____ a rich furniture maker. Quite early (5) _____ his career he showed his ability (6) _____ hard work and became a leader of the community and a high-ranking official of the city of Edinburgh.

But Deacon Brodie, as he was called, had a secret life which nobody knew (7) _____. (8) _____ day he was a well-known and respected citizen and (9) _____ night he became a thief.

His life (10) _____ crime started at the age of 27, when he robbed a bank (11) _____ 800 pounds. For the next eighteen years, he carried (12) _____ robberies without being found out. But, like most thieves, he finally made a mistake.

In 1786 he joined (13) _____ with two others and together they planned to break (14) _____ the offices of the Scottish Customs Department. Their plan went wrong: they were surprised (15) _____ a Customs official who set (16) _____ the alarm. His companions were caught but Brodie got (17) _____.

He managed to get to Amsterdam, intending to make his way (18) _____ there to America. But, unfortunately for him, one of the others informed the police, who caught up (19) _____ Brodie the night before he was due to leave for America. He was taken back to Scotland and sent (20) _____ trial in Edinburgh.

Task 2

Choose the right answer. The first one (0) has been done for you.

A Visit to Aunt Mabel

It had stopped raining (0) **by** the morning. Tom (21) ... late and came downstairs to find a plate of bacon and eggs kept warm in the oven, and a flurry of domestic activity already in progress. Chairs were being shunted to and fro, crates of glasses manhandled up the stairs, tables set out, draped in immense damask cloths, unused for years. Small vans burst into the forecourt through the arch of the gate-house, to park at the front door and unload pot-plants, piles of plates, crates of wine, trays of freshly (22) ... rolls.

When Tom asked for a job to do, he was given the exhausting (23) ... of carrying big sackfuls of logs up the back stairs, as fuel for the many open fires. Aunt Mabel was (24) ..., large-footed, wrapped in a garden apron, apparently tireless. On his forth (25) ... upstairs with a sack of logs on his back, Tom came upon her on the kitchen landing, peacefully mixing up dinners for her dogs.

He set down his sack and straightened his aching shoulders. "This is worse than the salt mines. How many more of these do I have to (26) ... up?" "Oh, my darling. I didn't realise you were still (27) ... it. I thought you'd stopped." He laughed. "Nobody told me to stop." She laughed too. Then she looked (28) ... the massive watch on her wrist. "Let's have dinner," she said.

0	a) in	b) on	c) at	d) by
21	a) raised	b) stood	c) awoke	d) got
22	a) chopped	b) baked	c) squashed	d) stewed
23	a) act	b) activity	c) exercise	d) task
24	a) everywhere	b) nowhere	c) anywhere	d) elsewhere
25	a) travel	b) trip	c) cruise	d) voyage
26	a) bring	b) take	c) give	d) put
27	a) making	b) performing	c) doing	d) fulfilling
28	a) by	b) from	c) for	d) at

Task 3

Complete the idioms below with a suitable colour. Some colours can be repeated.

Example: Tony can't be trusted yet with too much responsibility, he's still too *green*.

29. They fell deeper and deeper in the _____ and then went bankrupt.
30. When Paul saw my new car, he was _____ with envy.
31. The news of their marriage came as a bolt from the _____ .
32. My mother has got _____ fingers. Everything she plants in the garden grows well.
33. Anyone who hears his story thinks he sees _____ elephants. It's just such a far-fetched story, and very hard to believe.
34. After that argument yesterday, I assure you he will be in a lot of people's _____ books for quite some time!
35. Alice is working in Europe, she hardly ever has the time to call her parents. They only hear from her once in a _____ moon.

Task 4

Choose a, b, c or d to answer the questions:

36. The Prime Minister of Great Britain is....
- a) the candidate who obtains the most votes
 - b) the Leader of the party which receives the most votes
 - c) the leader of the party which has the most members in the House of Commons
 - d) the person who presides over the House of Commons
37. Which is the longest?
- a) an inch
 - b) a mile
 - c) a kilometre
 - d) a yard
38. Which city do Cockneys come from?
- a) New York
 - b) Los Angeles
 - c) Glasgow
 - d) London
39. Which day is not observed in Britain?
- a) St Valentine's Day
 - b) Thanksgiving Day
 - c) Mother's Day
 - d) Guy Fawkes' Night
40. When do Scottish people celebrate "Hogmanay"?
- a) 31st December
 - b) 1st May
 - c) 1st January
 - d) 4th July
41. High school is... .

- a) a college b) a university
 c) a very good school d) the upper grades of secondary school

42. Which of the following expressions means the same as "I'm over the moon"?

- a) I'm on top of the world. b) I'm down and out.
 c) I'm dead beat. d) I'm a bit on edge.

43. What is nicknamed "The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street"?

- a) a popular pub in Soho
 b) the Bank of England
 c) the street in the City of London
 d) the statue to Queen Victoria

44. Which of the following phrases does not refer to money?

- a) I'm a bit hard up. b) Let's go Dutch.
 c) I'm up to my eyes. d) Let's split the bill.

45. Which of the former Commonwealth realms has changed its name?

- a) Fiji b) Ceylon c) Ghana d) Kenya

Task 5

Match each literary character from column A to the author from column B.

There are two extra names in the authors' column.

A	B
46. The Happy Prince	a) William Shakespeare
47. Carrie	b) Sir Walter Scott
48. Hastings	c) Theodore Dreiser
49. Falstaff	d) Margaret Mitchell
50. Lady Rowena	e) Oscar Wilde
	f) Agatha Christie
	g) Pamela L. Travers

Вариант 2

Task 1

In the text that follows, fill in the blanks with missing prepositions. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Starting at college

It was Jenny's first day (0) **at** college. She got (1) _____ at a quarter to seven, dressed (2) _____ the clothes she had chosen the night before, had a quick cup of coffee and was (3) _____. As she stood waiting (4) _____ the bus she realized how excited she felt. She was getting (5) _____ from school and all its rules and regulations, was going to meet lots of new people and was about to start a course she really wanted to do, business studies. She was determined to have a successful career (6) _____ business and doing the course was the first step.

The entrance hall was full of new students just like her. She looked (7) _____ the notice and saw where the business studies students were supposed to meet. She found her way (8) _____ a large room where there were about fifty other students who all seemed to be the same age as her. Then a member of staff came (9) _____ and introduced himself as their course tutor. He explained how the course was organized and, what work would be expected (10) _____ the students. There was also a lot of practical information to do (11) _____ the college and its buildings. Then the whole group was taken (12) _____ the library, where they learned where to find books and journals related (13) _____ their studies. They were also shown (14) _____ the study centre which had computers (15) _____ student use and the "quiet" room, a place where work could be done (16) _____ any noise or distraction.

Jenny went to have lunch in the canteen (17) _____ some people from her course and found that they came (18) _____ a number of different schools in the area. After lunch they had their first class, and Jenny realised that she was going to have to work hard to succeed (19) _____ her studies. In the evening she went (20) _____ with some of her new friends to celebrate the start of new life at college.

Task 2

Choose the right answer. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Look After Your Eyes

The eye is one of the most astonishing (0) **organs**. But although our (21) ... dominates how we understand the world (22) ... us, most people take it for granted, giving little thought to the complex processes that enable them to see, until one day they (23) ... they have a problem. From midlife onwards several different eye conditions become (24) ... and by the age of 45 most people have noticed that they can't see as well as they once could. Some of these problems can be (25) ... with glasses or contact lenses while others need medical treatment or surgery. But there is plenty that you can do yourself to keep your eyes healthy. It's essential to have eye tests (26) Many diseases can be only detected by careful testing. In bright sunshine always wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from high (27) ... of ultraviolet light. Avoid eye strain by limiting the amount of time you spend in front of a computer (28) Eat plenty of vitamins A, C and E.

0	a) parts	b) organisms	c) bodies	d) organs
21	a) view	b) vision	c) look	d) gaze
22	a) around	b) between	c) behind	d) among
23	a) remember	b) realise	c) recognise	d) recollect
24	a) local	b) typical	c) popular	d) common
25	a) corrected	b) examined	c) checked	d) marked
26	a) occasionally	b) sometimes	c) regularly	d) rarely
27	a) doses	b) portion	c) levels	d) range
28	a) screen	b) disk	c) processor	d) keyboard

Task 3

Complete the idioms below with a suitable colour.

Example: Tony can't be trusted yet with too much responsibility, he's still too green.

29. In most countries, goods that are scarce are usually freely available on the _____ market provided you have the money to pay for them.
30. After several weeks of discussions, the group was given the _____ light, and could finally go ahead with the new project.
31. I was given my _____ slip last week, so I've got to find a new job now.
32. Their company is finally out of the _____ now. They've managed to pay back their loan, and now they're making profit!
33. She went as _____ as a sheet when she heard about the accident.
34. Jim has always had a big _____ streak running down his back, don't expect him to change now!
35. It was a complete bolt from the _____ for us, we had no idea that they were having problems, let alone getting divorced!

Task 4

Choose a, b, c or d to answer the questions:

36. Where is Ben Nevis situated?
- a) in England b) in Wales
c) in Scotland d) in Northern Ireland
37. When was the British Commonwealth of Nations set up?
- a) in 1926 b) in 1931 c) in 1949 d) in 1953
38. What does RP stand for?
- a) a learned London society b) a university degree
c) a sports club d) standard British English
39. Which days are official public holidays in Britain?
- a) 24th, 25th and 26th December b) 24th and 25th December
c) 25th and 26th December d) 25th, 26th and 27th December
40. To put someone's back up means... .
- a) to make someone angry or annoyed
b) to pull someone's leg

- c) to pick someone's brains
- d) to give someone the cold shoulder

41. Which of the idioms in the following sentences is not used correctly?

- a) He's not being serious. He's speaking *with his tongue in his cheek*.
- b) I'm sure someone is talking about me - I can feel *my ears burning*.
- c) If you can't afford the train fare, you can always try *to thumb a lift*.
- d) He was a very good pianist. He is so *light-fingered*.

42. Which of the following definitions fits the expression "He's all thumbs"?

- a) He is very big-headed.
- b) He is very clumsy.
- c) He's sick and tired.
- d) He is up and about.

43. Which of the following is not a vegetable?

- a) courgette
- b) lettuce
- c) aubergine
- d) prawn

44. Which is the most natural response to the question: "Cup of tea?"

- a) I could do with one.
- b) Oh, this is on me?
- c) Help yourself.
- d) No, it's my round.

45. What is a limerick?

- a) a joke
- b) a rhyme
- c) a song
- d) a game

Task 5

Match each literary character from column A to the author from column B.

There are two extra names in the authors' column.

A	B
46. David Copperfield	a) William Shakespeare
47. Tess	b) Charles Dickens
48. Lady Windermere	c) Theodore Dreiser
49. Hercule Poirot	d) Thomas Hardy
50. Petruchio	e) Oscar Wilde
	f) Agatha Christie
	g) Pamela L. Travers

Вариант 3

Task 1

In the text that follows, fill in the blanks with missing prepositions. The first one (0) has been done for you.

The VW Beetle

The Volkswagen Beetle is one (0) **of** the best known cars in the world. (1) _____ all accounts, it defined a whole generation of people.

It all began (2) _____ 1935 when Ferdinand Porsche designed the car (3) _____ his own and later presented it (4) _____ the German public.

Although back then it was criticized (5) _____ its shape and its noise level, the car went (6) _____ to become a legend. During World War II, the Volkswagen factory was burnt (7) _____, but this did not discourage the manufacturers (8) _____ continuing their work. (9) _____ the end of the war, Volkswagen had its factory rebuilt (10) _____ the Allies, among others.

In 1946, Volkswagen named the car 'Type I' to mark a new start (11) _____ the company. Within two years, the first Beetle convertible was produced. Although complaints (12) _____ the noise persisted, the Volkswagen designers made every effort to improve their model. They always believed it was only a matter (13) _____ time before everyone fell (14) _____ the Beetle - and they were right!

(15) _____ the years, sales grew dramatically and (16) _____ 1972 the Beetle had made its way into history books as the most produced car ever! Its production reached twenty million cars in 1981, a high percentage (17) _____ which were exported to the United States.

In 1999, the new Beetle went (18) _____ sale. This model is not simply a more fashionable version (19) _____ the original one. It is a completely new, modern car which has definitely come a long way (20) _____ the 1935 model.

Task 2

Choose the right answer. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Digital Art

Digital art is the art (0) **form** for the 21st century. Now computers (21) ... the workplace and increasingly the home, we have the tools to (22) ... all of us artists. Computer art is challenging our (23) ... about who is an artist and what is an original piece of art.

There are computer programs (24) ... copy the random nature of creativity so that

you can produce an original work of art. Computer programs also allow us to produce as many reproductions as we want, but each (25) ... will not be an exact copy differing slightly from the others. This will please buyers who are looking for an original piece of art.

The most impressive computer art is based on "fractal geometry". Fractal geometry was (26) ... by Benoit Mandelbrot in the 1970s. Fractals are apparently irregular or chaotic shapes that are made (27) ... from smaller repetitions of the same shape. They have been used by mathematicians to model natural features that appear random: from the distribution of galaxies in space to the (28) ... branches grow on trees. Try downloading one of the many free fractal programs available on the Internet and try it yourself.

0	a) part	b) type	c) shape	d) form
21	a) decide	b) dominate	c) solve	d) spread
22	a) create	b) do	c) produce	d) make
23	a) idea	b) topic	c) theme	d) subject
24	a) where	b) how	c) what	d) which
25	a) view	b) picture	c) sight	d) look
26	a) opened	b) accepted	c) discovered	d) invented
27	a) of	b) off	c) by	d) up
28	a) road	b) path	c) way	d) avenue

Task 3

Complete the idioms below with a suitable colour. Some colours can be repeated.

Example: Tony can't be trusted yet with too much responsibility, he's still too green.

29. Last week Pauline decided to quit her job out of the _____, and go travelling for a year!

30. I was _____with envy when my neighbour drove up in a brand new Jaguar.
31. Are you afraid to fight? You're not _____, are you? Come on, don't be a coward!
32. I wanted to apply for a visa but a friend told me there is so much _____ tape, I've decided to forget about it.
33. Sometimes it is better to tell a _____ lie than to hurt someone's feelings.
34. By many of his fans, Wayne Rooney is seen as the _____ boy of his football team.
35. Bill just wanted to get out of work so he told his boss a little _____ lie and said he had a doctor's appointment.

Task 4

Choose a, b, c or d to answer the questions:

36. Where is the Lake District situated?
- a) in England b) in Scotland c) in Wales d) in Northern Ireland
37. What is Humpty Dumpty?
- a) a toy b) an egg c) an animal d) a monster
38. What important historical event happened in 1066?
- a) the Roman invasion
- b) the Danish invasion
- c) the Battle at Waterloo
- d) the Battle of Hastings
39. Which holiday is traditionally celebrated on 25th January?
- a) Burn's Night b) Hogmanay c) Eisteddfod d) Guy Fawkes' Night
40. Which is not a traditional English dish?
- a) scrambled eggs b) bacon and eggs c) porridge d) haggis
41. Which of the phrases below is the continuation of the proverb "If you want a thing done properly,..."?
- a) try, try, try again
- b) do as the Romans do

c) do it yourself

d) there's a way

42. Which of the phrases completes the notice "... of the dog"?

a) Keep out b) Be afraid c) Beware d) Stay away

43. What does the phrase "I'm broke" mean?

a) I am physically unwell.

b) I have just broken my leg.

c) I am in a bad mood.

d) I haven't got any money.

44. What is "Irish coffee"?

a) coffee with cream and whiskey added b) coffee without sugar

c) coffee with milk d) decaffeinated coffee

45. What does the idiom "go Dutch" mean?

a) to leave without saying goodbye

b) to go out for a meal

c) to share the cost of a meal with someone

d) to leave a restaurant without paying for your meal

Task 5

Match each literary character from column A to the author from column B.

There are two extra names in the authors' column.

A	B
46. Mary Poppins	a) William Shakespeare
47. Prospero	b) Jack London
48. Holden Caulfield	c) Theodore Dreiser
49. Ashley	d) Margaret Mitchell
50. Martin Eden	e) Jerome David Salinger
	f) Agatha Christie
	g) Pamela L. Travers

