

READING 8th Form

Read the text. Choose the best answers.

Text : From: "Made in America: The History of Coca-Cola," Levi's to Barbie to Google, by Nick Freeth, 2005

Coca-cola is probably the world's best-known taste, and was the first truly global brand. Dr. John Stith Pemberton, a pharmacist from Atlanta, Georgia, invented the drink. He mixed the Coca-Cola syrup, which was combined with carbonated water to make a popular soda fountain drink, in the local Jacob's Pharmacy. The first customers, who paid a handsome 5 cents a glass, pronounced the drink to be "excellent," "delicious and refreshing."

Dr. Pemberton's partner and bookkeeper, Frank M. Robinson, suggested the product's unusual name and wrote it down in his florid handwriting, feeling that the "two C's would look well in advertising." The first advertisement for the drink appeared in the Atlanta Journal, and hand-painted oilcloth signs indicated which soda fountains offered the product. This was just the first step in a fantastic cooperation between the brand and advertising, which has made the trademark universally recognized. A continuous stream of slogans have entered the collective consciousness, from "Drink Coca-Cola" in 1886, the iconic "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" television advertisement of 1971, right up to the simple assertion "Real" of today's campaign.

From its original output of around nine drinks a day, Coca-Cola is now the world's most **ubiquitous** brand, serving over 1.3 billion drinks every day, around the world.

1. The coca-cola logo comes from ...
 - A. an idea that Dr. John Stith Pemberton had.
 - B. an advertisement in the Atlanta Journal.
 - C. Frank M. Robinson's belief that the name would market well.
 - D. the first customers at Jacob's Pharmacy.
2. Coca-cola has been advertised for about years.
 - A. 90
 - B. 120
 - C. 150
 - D. 200
3. Coca-cola first became popular with ...
 - A. young people who saw the TV commercials.
 - B. Dr. Pemberton's friends and family.
 - C. the customers at the local pharmacy.
 - D. Frank M. Robinson.
4. Coca-cola has become the popular and recognized product that it is today due to ...
 - A. its cheap price in Jacob's Pharmacy.
 - B. the first customers who drank it.
 - C. Dr. Pemberton's disgusting recipe.
 - D. the brand and advertising together.
5. "Ubiquitous" means ...
 - A. delicious.
 - B. existing everywhere.
 - C. important.
 - D. least popular.

Have you seen a football match recently? If you have, I'm sure that you heard lots of comments about the referee as well as about the players! Referees have a very difficult job. They have to make quick and important decisions in the middle of a fast-moving game. And, of course, there are thousands of people shouting at them too. The crowd is never happy when the ref sends off their favourite player. Also, in football today there still isn't the same technology as there is in other sports, like tennis. The job can get even more difficult when you're a woman who is refereeing a men's match!

There is no reason why there should not be the same number of male and female referees in the sport today. However, the number of female refs is still very low – particularly at the highest levels of professional football. This is something that one woman, Pat Dunn, who died in 1999, would have been very sad about.

Pat was the first woman in the UK to referee a men's football match but she wasn't allowed to do this for a long time. Pat was a strong supporter of women's rights in sport and became President of the Ladies' Football Association in 1969. Then she decided to train to be a referee. For a long time the Football Association refused to give her a certificate although she had passed the exams. But Pat continued fighting and she finally got permission in 1976. The next month she became famous when she refereed her first official FA game. Pat became a very good and successful referee and even saved a footballer's life. She helped him when he was injured during a match!

Today there are some famous female referees, like Bibiana Steinhaus from Germany who has just refereed the final of the Women's Football World Cup. Bibiana decided to become a referee at the age of 16 and later was the first female referee in the German men's professional league. But there are only a few like her.

Football is still mainly a men's game – both for players and referees. But for how long? Will we see more women referees in the future? We'd like to know what YOU think. So, please go online and leave a comment on our website. We'll print the most interesting ones in the magazine next week.

Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 6 The article is from a magazine. ____
- 7 The writer says that women are better referees than men. ____
- 8 Pat Dunn is still alive today. ____
- 9 Pat didn't get her referee certificate immediately. ____
- 10 Bibiana Steinhaus played in a football final. ____

Choose the best answers.

11. Referees have a difficult job because...
 - A they need to run fast.
 - B the players shout at them.
 - C they have to think quickly.
12. In the sport of tennis...
 - A they use more technology.
 - B there are more women players.
 - C there are bigger crowds.
13. Who was Pat Dunn?
 - A A woman football player.
 - B A nurse at football matches.
 - C An important member of the Ladies' Football Association.

14. When was the first female referee in the UK appointed?

A 1969

B 1976

C 1999

15. Bibiana Steinhaus...

A wanted to be a referee when she was a teenager.

B recently refereed a men's football final.

C plays in the top women's league.

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Listening Comprehension Test for 8th Form Students

It's summer again and we can't wait to go on our holidays. But not all holidays are so nice and relaxing! Here's another story in our series "A holiday that went wrong". Agnes, over to you.

Agnes: Last year I decided to go on a walking tour along the coast of the Baltic Sea. I was fed up with the idea of lying on the beach, sunbathing and doing nothing; what I wanted was an active holiday. I started the preparations in June. I was very excited about it, and I couldn't wait to start!

The first day was pretty good. I walked for about four hours in the morning, and about three in the afternoon. But when I got to the place where I planned to spend the night, it turned out that there was not a single bed left free. I had to sleep out on the beach. The second day started with heavy rain, so my things got very wet. On the third day I began to have problems with my shoes. They were supposed to be 'perfect trekking boots for all conditions', but it just wasn't true. My feet hurt so much that I had to take a bus to the nearest town to buy some other shoes. When I was there, I accidentally met an old friend. She invited me to her holiday home in the Lake District, but I refused to go because I wanted to keep walking along the seashore! So I did.

Next day, though, there was not only a problem with my shoes (I mean the new ones), but also another worry: there was no way to go! The track along the shore was blocked for some reason. I thought it would take me a long time to find another route. To make things worse, my feet hurt, so I didn't feel like waling any more. In the end, I decided to call my friend with a house in the Lake District. When she heard my voice, she said happily, 'Great! We'll be lying on the beach, sunbathing and doing nothing!' Well, I must say I quite liked this idea...

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Listening Comprehension Test for 8th Form Students

Task 1.

Decide if the statements are True (T) or False (F).

- _____ 1) Agnes didn't want to lie on the beach because she was bored with it.
- _____ 2) On the first day of her holiday, she spent about ten hours walking.
- _____ 3) She went to the town because she wanted to see her old friend.
- _____ 4) Even though she changed her shoes, her problems didn't stop.
- _____ 5) She had to stop her walking tour because she had lost her way.
- _____ 6) Agnes said that her bed at the hotel was uncomfortable.
- _____ 7) She had problems because she had bought the wrong kind of shoes.
- _____ 8) She asked her friend if they would be able to lie on the beach and do nothing.
- _____ 9) She didn't want to go to her friend's lake house at first.
- _____ 10) She started preparations for her trip very early.

Task 2.

Choose the best answer.

- 1) Agnes wanted to take a tour...
 - a) In a small town near the Baltic Sea.
 - b) Along the shore of the Baltic Sea.
 - c) Around the Lake District.

- 2) At the beginning of the second day...
 - a) it rained and Agnes got wet.
 - b) she began having shoe problems.
 - c) she met a friend in the town.
 - d) the road was blocked.

- 3) Agnes went to town...
 - a) on foot.
 - b) with an old friend.
 - c) by boat.
 - d) by bus.

- 4) On the third day, she didn't...
 - a) take a bus.
 - b) visit an old friend.
 - c) meet an old friend.
 - d) buy new shoes.

- 5) She didn't continue walking along the shore because...
 - a) she met her old friend.
 - b) there was no path.
 - c) it was raining.
 - d) the way was blocked.

Listening Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students

The Use of Force

I am the new doctor in the town of Williams, England. I am young looking for my age and my name is Henry Hunter. Yesterday, I received a note. The note said, "Please come down as soon as you can, my daughter is sick." They were new patients to me all I had was their name, OLSON.

When I arrived, the mother, a big, startled-looking woman opened the door. She said: "Is this the doctor?" and then let me inside her home. "In the back" she added. "You must excuse us doctor, we have her in the kitchen where it is warm."

The child was fully dressed and sitting on her father's lap near the kitchen table. He tried to get up, but I motioned for him not to bother. I took off my raincoat and started to look things over. I could see that they were all very curious about me, the new doctor in town.

When I approached the child, she was staring at me with cold, steady eyes. There was no expression on her face at all. She did not move and seemed quiet. She was an attractive little, blonde haired girl. Her face was flushed (red looking) and she was breathing rapidly. I realized she had a high fever. Her father said she had the fever for three days, and they did not know what caused it. He said his wife had given her some homemade medicine, but it did not help her at all.

Since there had been a lot of diphtheria sickness around, I asked if she had a sore throat. Both parents answered me at the same time, "No, she said her throat didn't hurt her." Her mother asked her again, "Does your throat hurt you?" The little girl's expression did not change and she did not move her eyes from my face, and she did not answer.

Well, I suppose we should take a look at her throat first. I smiled and in my best professional manner asked the child's first name. "Mathilda" they said. So I said "Mathilda, please open your mouth and let's take a look at your throat."

Nothing doing.

As I moved my chair a little nearer suddenly with one catlike movement both her hands tried to push at my face. She knocked off my glasses and they fell unbroken, several feet away from me on the kitchen floor. Both parents were very embarrassed and apologized for their daughter's behavior. "You bad girl", said the mother, "Look what you've done to the nice doctor's glasses!"

"Look here," I said to the child. "You are old enough to understand what I am saying. Will you open your mouth so I may see your throat by yourself, or shall we have to open it for you?"

Not a move. Even her expression hadn't changed. Her breaths however were coming faster and faster. Then the battle began!

The father tried his best, and he was a big man, but the fact that this was his only daughter, his dread of hurting her made him release her just at the critical times when I had almost gotten her mouth opened. We all were very frustrated. The father's fears of diphtheria made him tell me to go on and try again. The poor man was almost fainting because he was afraid of hurting her when he held her arms down.

Finally, her mother said, "That's enough Matilda! You WILL open your mouth for the doctor and let him help you get better!" Using that tone of voice ended the matter. Mathilda looked at her mother and did as she was told. She opened her mouth, I saw her red and white sore throat, indicating diphtheria, and I knew what she needed to be well again. .

Afterwards, I had a cup of tea with Mathilda's mother and father. When I finally left their home, I realized that a true force in the world is not only muscles, but also a mother's firm voice!

Listening Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students

The Use of Force

Task 1. Choose the best answer for the question:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mathilda's last name was: | 2. The doctor was: |
| a) Hunter | a) an older man |
| b) Williams | b) a young woman |
| c) Olson | c) a young man |
| d) Johnson | d) a woman |
| 3. They all lived in a town called: | |
| a) Hunter, England | |
| b) Williams, England | |
| c) Olson, England | |
| d) Johnson, England | |
| 4. Mathilda was sitting in: | |
| a) her father's lap | |
| b) in the warm kitchen | |
| c) a warm water | |
| d) both a and b | |
| 5. Mathilda was: | |
| a) playing with her father | |
| b) angry at her mother | |
| c) ignoring the doctor | |
| d) talking too much | |

Task 2. Decide if the statements are true or false.

6. Mathilda liked the handsome doctor right away.
7. Mathilda was flushed with fever.
8. The mother had bought some medicine from the store but it didn't work
9. It was quite easy for the doctor to diagnose Mathilda
10. Mathilda accidentally knocked the doctor's glasses to the floor.
11. Mathilda's father was not afraid to hurt her if needed
12. Pneumonia was a disease that had been going around the town
13. Mathilda was sick with diphtheria.
14. The doctor left the house mad after his diagnosis
15. A strong force in Mathilda's family is her father's voice.

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Speaking Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students

DIRECTIONS: *In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.*

1. Imagine you can choose a superpower: the ability to fly, super speed, or super strength.
 - a. Which superpower would you choose?
 - b. Why would you choose that power?
 - c. Would you use that power to help others or yourself?
2. Smartphones are everywhere now. And they are not just telephones- they are entire small computers, complete with apps, games, navigation, music and even the internet! How have smart phones changed communication?
 - a. Do you have a smartphone? What do you usually do with it?
 - b. Describe some apps that you know. What do they do?
 - c. How do you think communication will be different 20 years from now?
3. Every culture has literature that is important to it, including traditional stories and classic literature.
 - a. Describe the most famous traditional or classical literature in Ukraine.
 - b. Do you read this literature in school? How did you like it?
 - c. What have you learned about your culture or yourself by studying these stories?
4. Describe your favorite fairy tale/folk tale.
 - a. Who are the characters? Where do they live?
 - b. What happens in the story?
 - c. What is the message of the story?
5. Imagine that a genie is willing to teach you one skill or talent perfectly.

After you learn it, you will be one of the best in the world at that skill.

- a. What talent or skill would you learn?
 - b. Why would you learn that skill? Is it something you have always wanted to learn?
 - c. What would you do with your new talent or skill?
6. Describe someone who inspires you.
- a. How do you know this person? Tell us a little about them.
 - b. What do they do that inspires you?
 - c. What lessons have you learned from them that have changed the way you live your life?
7. If you could spend one hour with someone person from history who would it be?
- a. What would you talk about with them?
 - b. What would you do with them? Where would you go?
 - c. What is one question you think they might ask you?
8. All systems have their problems, education systems included. Think about your school.
- a. Why is it important to get an education?
 - b. What do you like about the teaching at your school? What don't you like?
 - c. If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be?
9. "Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others" -Plato
- a. What does this quote mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - b. Describe a good action that you saw that inspired you or gave you strength.
 - c. What can you do to try and inspire others?
10. "The greatest wealth is health." –Virgil
- a. What do you think this quote means? How important is health to you?
 - b. What do you do to stay healthy?
 - c. How does health affect our lives?
11. Describe the plot of your favorite movie.

- a. Who are the main characters? What are they like?
 - b. What happens to them?
 - c. Why do you like the movie?
12. Everyone has a hobby or something they are interested in.
- a. What hobbies are most popular with men in your country? With women?
 - b. Do you have the same hobby as anyone in your family? How did you learn this hobby?
 - c. Describe a hobby that you would like to try.
13. 90% of young people in Ukraine use the internet at least once a week. Many of them make friends on the internet.
- a. Have you ever made any friends on the internet? What are other ways to use the internet?
 - b. Do you think it is safe to meet people on the internet? What are the risks?
 - c. Would you ever meet a friend that you met on the internet in real life?
14. All children are taught to be polite, to say “please” and “thank you”, to ask permission for things, to greet people they know. These things together are referred to as “manners.”
- a. What are some other examples of good manners? What are some examples of bad manners in Ukraine?
 - b. Are manners important? What difference do manners make in society?
 - c. What do you think when you see someone with very bad manners?
Can you give an example?
15. Most people will never need to physically defend themselves, but it is very common for people to practice a martial art, such as boxing, karate, judo, or others.
- a. Have you ever studied a martial art? Did you know someone who has studied?
 - b. Why do people study martial arts? What benefits does it give them?
 - c. Do martial arts have a role in society today?
16. Fashion changes all the time, from year to year and from decade to decade.

- a. What clothes are fashionable now? What do people usually wear?
 - b. Is the current fashion practical?
 - c. Do you think it is important to stay fashionable?
17. An English proverb says, “The pen is mightier than the sword”
- a. What does this proverb mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - b. Do you believe that an idea or a poem or a book can change the world? Why or why not?
 - c. Describe a time that you used words and ideas to solve a problem instead of violence.
18. Everyone is good at something. Finding and nurturing that skill is one of the healthiest and most rewarding things that a person can do.
- a. Describe something that you are good at. Did you practice to become good at it?
 - b. How can you work to improve this ability? What motivates you to improve it?
 - c. How have you used this ability?
19. It is common for people to have pets. Sometimes the pets are large, like dogs or cats. Sometimes they are smaller, like fish, or birds. Talk about some pets you know.
- a. Do you have a pet at home? What kind of a pet?
 - b. What are the good things about owning a pet? Bad things?
 - c. What is the difference between a pet and another animal?
20. Everyone is good at something. Finding and nurturing that skill is one of the healthiest and most rewarding things that a person can do.
- a. Describe something that you are good at. Did you practice to become good at it?
 - b. How can you work to improve this ability? What motivates you to improve it?
 - c. How have you used this ability?

Reading Comprehension 9th form

From “About Coming of Age”

Source: http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/humanplanetexplorer/life_events/coming_of_age

Coming of age is the transition from child to adult, boy to man, girl to woman. But when exactly that happens – and how you celebrate or action the change - may depend entirely on where in the world you live.

In the UK, depending on your point of view, people come of age when they reach 16, 18 or 21 years old. At 16 you can get married without parental consent in England and Scotland, but you have to wait until you are 18 before you are allowed to vote, drink alcohol, or buy cigarettes. Turning 21, in comparison, has few legal effects but may be even more strenuously celebrated.

In other cultures, the graduation into adulthood may not depend on age so much as on experience and development. Young Hamar boys of Ethiopia, for instance, becoming a man is marked when they can run four times over the backs of their cattle, while the boys of Brazil's Xavante tribe come of age through a series of tasks including spending fifteen days immersed in water.

Only allowed to leave the water for the occasional sleep, the men-in-waiting are taken to the point of complete exhaustion under the watchful eyes and instruction of the village elders. Once their skin is sufficiently softened, the boys are then ritually scarred and their ears pierced with the bone of a jaguar. Having proved their stamina, they are finally painted with red dye as a sign of their transition to manhood.

Decide if the statements are true or false

1. In the USA people can get married at age 16 without parental consent.
2. Hamar boys have their ears pierced by the bone of a jaguar.
3. Hamar boys of Ethiopia and boys of Brazil's Xavante tribe come of age based on experience and development.
4. The coming of age ritual is more complex for the Xavante tribe than the Hamar boys of Ethiopia.
5. Being painted red can be seen as a badge of merit for the Xavante boys.

From The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint Exupéry

The sixth planet was ten times larger than the last one. It was inhabited by an old gentleman who wrote voluminous books.

"Oh, look! Here is an explorer!" he exclaimed to himself when he saw the little prince coming.

The little prince sat down on the table and panted a little. He had already traveled so much and so far!

"Where do you come from?" the old gentleman said to him.

"What is that big book?" said the little prince. "What are you doing?"

"I am a geographer," said the old gentleman.

"What is a geographer?" asked the little prince.

"A geographer is a scholar who knows the location of all the seas, rivers, towns, mountains, and deserts."

"That is very interesting," said the little prince. "Here at last is a man who has a real profession!" And he cast a look around him at the planet of the geographer. It was the most magnificent and stately planet that he had ever seen.

"Your planet is very beautiful," he said. "Has it any oceans?"

"I couldn't tell you," said the geographer.

"Ah!" The little prince was disappointed. "Has it any mountains?"

"I couldn't tell you," said the geographer.

"And towns, and rivers, and deserts?"

"I couldn't tell you that, either."

"But you are a geographer!"

"Exactly," the geographer said. "But I am not an explorer."

Choose the multiple-choice item that makes the sentence correct.

6. According to the text, a "geographer" is:

- A) An educated person who knows where features of the earth are located.
- B) An educated person who travels to different places.
- C) Someone who explores.
- D) Someone who looks for new information.

7. "Panted" means:

- A) breathed heavily
- B) sighed loudly
- C) drooled
- D) Cried

8. "Voluminous" means:

- A) geographical
- B) many
- C) beautiful
- D) large

9. Why does the geographer not know where the seas, rivers, towns, mountains, and deserts are located on his planet?

- A) Because he is not a scholar.
- B) Because he is not an explorer.
- C) Because it is not a professional.
- D) Because he writes books.

10. What do you think the geographer is writing about in his book?

- A) The story of the little prince.
- B) The geography of his planet.
- C) The story of an explorer.
- D) The story of a man who has a real profession.

From Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

“What in the world are you going to do now, Jo?” asked Meg, one snowy afternoon, as her sister came tramping through the hall, in rubber boots, old sack and hood, with a broom in one hand and a shovel in the other.

“Going out for exercise,” answered Jo, with a mischievous twinkle in her eyes.

“I should think two long walks this morning would have been enough! It's cold and dull out; and I advise you to stay warm and dry, by the fire, as I do,” said Meg, with a shiver.

“Never take advice! Can't keep still all day, and, not being a pussy-cat, I don't like to doze by the fire. I like adventures, and I'm going to find some.”

Meg went back to toast her feet and read Ivanhoe; and Jo began to dig paths with great energy. The snow was light, and with her broom she soon swept a path all round the garden, for Beth to walk in when the sun came out; and the invalid dolls needed air. Now the garden separated the Marches' house from that of Mr. Laurence. Both stood in a suburb of the city, which was still country-like, with groves and lawns, large gardens, and quiet streets. A low hedge parted the two estates. On one side was an old, brown house, looking rather bare and shabby, robbed of the vines that in summer covered its walls, and the flowers which then surrounded it. On the other side was a stately stone mansion, plainly betokening every sort of comfort and luxury, from the big coach-house and well-kept grounds to the conservatory and the glimpses of lovely things one caught between the rich curtains. Yet it seemed a lonely, lifeless sort of house; for no children frolicked on the lawn, no motherly face ever smiled at the windows, and few people went in and out, except the old gentleman and his grandson.

Choose the multiple-choice item that makes the sentence correct.

11. The character Jo could be best described as:

- A) Cold and dull
- B) Adventurous and independent
- C) Tired and opinionated
- D) Introverted and boring

12. According to the text:

- A) It is a winter afternoon.
- B) It is a winter evening.
- C) Both Meg and Jo enjoy snow.
- D) Both Meg and Jo enjoy reading.

13. According to the text, “tramping” means:

- A) Running loudly
- B) Running quickly
- C) Walking quietly
- D) Walking heavily

14. The “old, brown house” is:

- A) Separated from the mansion by a wooden fence.
- B) A symbol of every comfort and luxury.

- C) Covered with pretty vines and flowers in the summer.
- D) Lonely and lifeless.

15. The “stately stone mansion” is:

- A) Inhabited by two people.
- B) Covered with pretty vines and flowers in the summer.
- C) Simple and dilapidated.
- D) Lively and full of children.

10th Form Listening

The Iditarod Sled Dog Race

Abridged

From a news story by
CNN San Francisco Reporter Dan Knapp

3/7/99

Every year in Alaska there is a big race with sleds pulled by dogs. On the day of the race, the Alaskan huskies seem eager to go on what may be the world's longest and most difficult race. It is called the Iditarod dog sled race.

The voice of the race announcer booms over the streets of Anchorage as the racers set off on their long journey "They're off. The last great race..."

Fifty-six sleds leave downtown Anchorage to start the race. A sled leaves every two minutes. It will take ten days to two weeks before they reach the finish line at Nome on the other side of Alaska. The men and women who guide the sleds are called mushers.

Linda Joy, a musher says "It's not important to win, I have a yearling team and I want as many happy tails when I cross the finish line."

Russell Lane is a full-blooded Eskimo. He thinks his rookie, or very first, run may help his people maintain a tie to the old ways. "I'm the only musher from the Arctic slope, so I'm real proud to be representing my people."

One musher from Australia, Stephen Carrick, says he knows why he runs the race when he crosses the finish line. "I did it last year. When I got to Nome, the sensation was awesome and I knew I had to have more of this."

Dee Dee Jonrowe has finished in the top ten racers in eight other races. "I was just telling my husband, happy birthday, today's his birthday and his present is sending me out of town."

Gary Collins, an actor, helps the race by giving money. He and others get to ride on the sleds for 20 miles of the trail. They are called Iditariders. The day the race starts is an exciting event in Anchorage. There's a big crowd to watch the race start. The trail loops around Anchorage, and smaller crowds of fans cheer the sleds on.

Twenty miles out of Anchorage the ceremonial part of the race is over and its time to get serious about the Iditarod. For the one thousand miles, it's just the mushers and their dogs on the frozen land.

Racer Aaron Burmeister says of the first day "Really there's not a whole lot of strategy, just get yourself into the schedule and get rolling."

And try to enjoy the ride.

10th Form Listening

Tasks

Task 1.

Choose the best answer.

- 1) The big dog sled race in Alaska is called the
 - a) Arctic Slope
 - b) Iditarod
 - c) Eskimo
 - d) Nome
- 2) Many of the dogs that pull the sleds are
 - a) Huskies
 - b) Wolves
 - c) Beagles
 - d) Collies
- 3) Men and women who guide the sleds are called
 - a) Eskimos
 - b) Mushers
 - c) Rookies
 - d) Yearlings
- 4) The finish line for the race is in
 - a) Anchorage
 - b) Eagle River
 - c) Nome
 - d) Arctic Slope
- 5) The Iditarod dog sled race is known as the world's
 - a) worst race
 - b) longest and most difficult race
 - c) most ceremonial race
 - d) easiest race
- 6) The people in Anchorage
 - a) don't like the race
 - b) wish the race was someplace else
 - c) make a big event of the race
 - d) are iditariders
- 7) A rookie run means:
 - a) a straight course
 - b) the first time
 - c) last place
 - d) first place
- 8) In the Iditarod, sleds travel on
 - a) paved roads
 - b) snow and ice
 - c) rivers
 - d) dirt roads
- 9) One Eskimo musher believes that the race will help his people
 - a) become more famous
 - b) earn a lot of money
 - c) maintain their traditions
- 10) Aaron Burmeister says that in the beginning racers *don't* need
 - a) a schedule
 - b) dogs
 - c) strategy

Task 2.

Decide if the statements are True (T) or False (F).

- 1) For most mushers, the most important part of the race is to win.
- 2) The Iditarod is held every year in Northern Canada.
- 3) One racer from Australia said that he felt terrible when he got to Nome.
- 4) Dee Dee Jonrowe usually finishes in the top ten racers.
- 5) An actor named Gary Collins is making a movie about the race.

Reading Comprehension 10th Form

From **“Important Questions Answered: Is Belgium Still the Chocolate Capital of the World?”**

By: Laura Beck, *Jezebel*, 2012

The BBC reports that countries such as Australia and Japan are rising up through the chocosphere. In fact, the next World Chocolate Masters is happening in Paris in November 2013 and entrants are coming from 20 different countries. Also, how do we all secure tickets to this immediately? My inner Augustus Gloop is literally bursting at the seams with excitement.

As far as the Belgian's packing up their candy thermometers and going back to a time without chocolate, Veerle de Pooter, a magazine writer who has also worked as a chef for the country's federal government, says "Just because one [non-Belgian] chef happens to win a few prizes, sponsored by a chocolate brand, I don't think Belgian chocolatiers should start to quake in their boots." Since only Germany sells more chocolate abroad, I think de Pooter is probably right.

Of course, while Belgium is still Queen de Chocolat, their association with chocolate has terrible roots — cocoa was first shipped from the Congo, one of their African colonies. Not to be a super downer, but as we all know, chocolate can come from some incredibly human-rights-violating sources. When I binge on the good stuff, I stick to the Food Empowerment Project's list of fair-trade chocolatiers that don't fund child slavery. Well, this story took a turn for the worse.

Point is, nobody is the boss when it comes to chocolate, but everyone else is gonna have to really pop-off to officially take the chocolate crown from Belgium. Personally, I hope it's somewhere on the continents of Africa or South America because, you know, that's where the heart of the delicious product comes from.

Decide if the statements are True or False

1. The World Chocolate Masters is a competition in which chocolatiers compete for international prestige.
2. This year the World Chocolate Masters will take place in France.
3. Veerle de Pooter is a French writer and chef.
4. de Pooter is worried that Belgium is losing its place in the chocolate-making world.
5. Germany sells the most chocolate internationally.
6. The cocoa that Belgium uses to make its chocolate comes from South America.
7. The cocoa used to make chocolate can be controversial because of how the laborers in those countries are treated.
8. The Food Empowerment Project condemns chocolatiers that don't fund child slavery.
9. The author of this article thinks that other countries will have to try very hard to surpass Belgium in its chocolate-making expertise.
10. The author hopes that Mexico wins the World Chocolate Masters competition this year.

from **“Philadelphia”**

Source: http://www.englishforeveryone.org/PDFs/Level_8_Passage_3.pdf

Philadelphia is a city known for many things. It is where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, and it was also the first capital of the United States. But one fact about

Philadelphia is not so well-known: it is home to nearly 3,000 murals painted on the sides of homes and buildings around the city. In fact, it is said that Philadelphia has more murals than any other city in the world, with the exception of Rome. How did this come to be?

More than 20 years ago, a New Jersey artist named Jane Golden started a program pairing troubled youth with artists to paint murals on a few buildings around the city. From this small project, something magical happened. The young people involved helped to create magnificent pieces of art, but there were other, perhaps more important benefits. The young people learned to collaborate and get along with many different kinds of people during the various steps required to paint and design a mural. They learned to be responsible, because they needed to follow a schedule to make sure the murals were completed. They also learned to take pride in their community. It is hard for any resident to see the spectacular designs and not feel proud to be a part of Philadelphia.

Take a walk around some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia, neighborhoods full of broken windows and littered front steps, and you will find beautiful works of art on the sides and fronts of buildings. Of course the murals are not just in poor neighborhoods, but more affluent ones as well. Special buses take tourists to different parts of the city to see the various murals, which range from huge portraits of historical heroes, to cityscapes, to scenes depicting the diverse ethnic groups that call Philadelphia home. As a result of its success, the mural program has now become the nation's largest public art program and a model for other cities throughout the country seeking to help troubled youth.

Choose the best option

11. In the passage, "collaborate" means:
 - A. To work alone.
 - B. To work hard.
 - C. To be creative.
 - D. To work together.
12. What was the most important thing this project taught the participants?
 - A. Painting skills and techniques
 - B. Responsibility and pride in the city
 - C. Key historical events and figures
 - D. The geography of Philadelphia
13. What is the nationwide impact of this program?
 - A. There are similar programs in other countries.
 - B. There are similar programs in other cities.
 - C. Crime rates are decreasing.
 - D. There is no nationwide impact.
14. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. An art program that helps troubled youth
 - B. Encouraging youth to participate in community service
 - C. Improving Philadelphia's tourist industry
 - D. Inexpensive city beautification

15. Why did the author describe the “broken steps and littered front steps”?
- A. To discourage people from visiting Philadelphia
 - B. To create a sense of contrast between Rome and Philadelphia
 - C. To illustrate the contrast of the poorer and wealthier neighborhoods
 - D. To illustrate the contrast between the beautiful mural and its surrounding

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Speaking Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students

DIRECTIONS: *In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.*

1. Zoos are places where animals are collected for study and education. The first zoo was created by the Egyptians in 3500 BC! But many people think that keeping animals in zoos is not right, and that it is cruel to keep animals in cages.
 - a. What do you think of zoos? Have you ever visited a zoo, petting farm or animal preserve?
 - b. What are the positive and negative aspects of zoos?
 - c. Do you think that it is cruel to keep animals in zoos? Why or why not?

2. “A good traveler has no fixed plans and is not intent on arriving.” – Lao Tzu
 - a. What does this quote mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - b. Describe a memorable journey that you took with your family or friends.
 - c. How has technology changed the ways we travel, and what we do as we travel?

3. “What are you going to do when you grow up?” is a commonly asked question of teenagers.
 - a. What is your answer to this question?
 - b. What type of preparation and/or training will it involve in order to join this occupation?
 - c. What are your responsibilities likely to be in this occupational field?
 - d. Why is this an ideal job for you?

- e. How will it affect others?
4. “I'm not smart, but I like to observe. Millions saw the apple fall, but Newton was the one who asked why.” –William Hazlitt
 - a. What does this quote mean to you? What does Hazlitt say is the difference between seeing and understanding?
 - b. Do you agree that there is a difference between seeing and understanding? Why or why not?
 - c. How observant are you? How has that helped you in life?
 5. Traditionally we say that people have 5 senses; seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, and tasting.
 - a. What sense is your favorite? Give some examples of why you like it.
 - b. If you had to lose one sense, what would it be?
 - c. Describe your favorite smell, or favorite sound. Where does it come from?
 6. “Tragedy is when I cut my finger; comedy is when you fall down the stairs.” Mel Brooks
 - a. What does this quote mean to you?
 - b. What kinds of things do you find funny?
 - c. Do you agree with this quote?
 7. Humans have accomplished some amazing things while we have been on this planet. Things like the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and other things have been declared “wonders of the world.”
 - a. What are some new wonders of the world? What do you think are the greatest things that humans have accomplished?
 - b. What are some of the wonders, or famous buildings or monuments of your country? Have you ever visited them?
 - c. Which would you prefer to see, human wonders or natural wonders?
 8. 34% of Ukrainians between the ages of 15 and 24 have jobs, and even more of them do some work or are looking for work. Jobs and employment are a huge part of life, and as you get older, it is something you must spend some time thinking about.

- a. What kinds of jobs are the most common in your region?
 - b. What kind of job would you like to have, if you could have any job? Why?
 - c. Have you ever had a job, or known someone your age who has? Did that person like it?
9. Musical styles change so quickly, sometimes year by year! And of course the music of today is very different from the music of 20 or 30 or 40 years ago. What do you think of the changes in musical style over time?
- a. What kind of music do your parents listen to? Do you like that music, too?
 - b. What do you think of traditional Ukrainian music? How does it compare with current popular music?
 - c. How and where do you usually listen to music? Are you alone or with friends? Do you buy songs or listen to music online?
10. The relationship between neighbors is different everywhere. In many parts of America, people often know their neighbors but aren't really friends with them. In some places, people go years without ever meeting their neighbors! In a few places, people are good friends with their neighbors. What is the relationship between neighbors like in Ukraine?
- a. What do you think of your neighbors? Are you friends with them?
 - b. What kind of a person would make the perfect neighbor? Describe them.
 - c. Are your neighbors important in your life at all? Why or why not?
11. Imagine that an alien has to Earth. Explain basketball to them.
- a. What are the rules of basketball?
 - b. What do people like about basketball? Why do we play it?
 - c. Do you like basketball? Describe a personal experience with basketball.
12. Fashion changes all the time, from year to year and from decade to decade.
- a. What clothes are fashionable now? What do people usually wear?
 - b. Is the current fashion practical? Should clothing be practical?
 - c. Do you think it is important to stay fashionable?

13. An English proverb says, “The pen is mightier than the sword”
- What does this proverb mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - Do you believe that an idea or a poem or a book can change the world? Why or why not?
 - Describe a time that you used words and ideas to solve a problem instead of violence.
14. All children are taught to be polite, to say “please” and “thank you”, to ask permission for things, to greet people they know. These things together are referred to as “manners.”
- What are some other examples of good manners? What are some examples of bad manners in Ukraine?
 - Are manners important? What difference do manners make in society?
 - What do you think when you see someone with very bad manners? Can you give an example?
15. Describe your favorite fairy tale/folk tale.
- Who are the characters? Where do they live?
 - What happens in the story?
 - What is the message of the story?
16. Every culture has literature that is important to it, including traditional stories and classic literature.
- Describe the most famous traditional or classical literature in Ukraine.
 - Do you read this literature in school? How did you like it?
 - What have you learned about your own culture by studying these stories?
17. Everyone is good at something. Finding and nurturing that skill is one of the healthiest and most rewarding things that a person can do.
- Describe something that you are good at. Did you practice to become good at it?
 - How can you work to improve this ability? What motivates you to improve it?
 - How have you used this ability?

18. An English proverb says, “No man is an island.”

- a. What does this mean to you?
- b. Do you think that it is important to connect with people?
- c. Describe a time when you felt alone. How did you connect with people?

19. In 200,000 years, humans have risen to be one of the most successful animals on the planet. Today there are more than 7 billion humans on earth, and we affect the planet in many ways.

- a. What traits or characteristics have made humans such a successful species?
- b. Describe one way that humans have changed the planet.
- c. Have humans made more positive or negative changes? Explain your reasoning.

20. 15 % of the population in Ukraine is older than 60. In many cultures, it is considered important to respect your elders and to care for them.

- a. Is it important to respect your elders? How do you and Ukrainian culture show respect for them?
- b. What things can we learn from old people? What role do they play in your life?
- c. What do you know about the life of your grandfather or grandmother? Do you know any stories about them?

Listening Comprehension 11th Form

Back in the days before Mother returned to her teaching career, she raised hatching eggs to supplement our farm income. These fertilized eggs were taken to the local chick hatchery where they were incubated to produce baby chicks to sell to local farmers. These eggs were worth more than regular unfertilized eggs that were used for food. During those hard times every penny counted.

Each week we took a thirty-dozen case of eggs to the feed store to exchange for chicken feed. If there was any credit remaining after buying the feed it went for staple foods such as flour, sugar and salt for us. The best part of getting the feed was picking out the cloth prints that the feed came in. In those days the feed was packaged in nice cotton sacks of various colors and patterns. This was a marketing strategy of the feed company who wanted to promote their brand of feed. It certainly worked. Feed sacks, when emptied and thoroughly washed, were used to make curtains, dish cloths, quilts, aprons and best of all, clothes for the family.

Mother was very careful to buy sacks whose patterns matched until there was enough material for the project she had planned. The 50-pound sack of feed yielded more than a yard of material. If the item planned took three yards of fabric that meant buying three sacks of feed of the same print design. As I grew older I accompanied my parents to the store to be sure Mother got a particular print.

"Mom, we have two of these green ones with the lavender violets and we need one more," I said.

"Ok, honey, we'll get that one. Is there another one you like? We have to get two sacks of feed today," Mother said.

"I have been looking for that nice blue one with the white daisies. I really wanted a dress out of that, but I've looked all over and I don't see that pattern anywhere." I said.

What a disappointment it was to find that the feed store had sold out of a favorite print of which a special dress was planned. You just had to wait and see if they got in another shipment that contained that print.

From my birth on my mother made all of my clothes. She was a good seamstress and anything she made was well tailored. This included the clothes made from feed sacks. There was no stigma attached to wearing feed sack garments. However, it was not unusual to find that your best friend also had a dress made from the same print. If their mothers could sew, all farm children had some item of clothing made from feed sacks.

I don't know if the proprietors of the feed stores were glad when the feed companies quit using printed cotton sacks, but the farm women knew that was the end of an era. In my mother's estate we found a stack of those old prints, carefully laundered and folded. I have heard that modern day quilters diligently seek after these cotton prints. I'm not ready to part with them yet. Maybe I'll make a quilt.

Task 1 Decide if the statements are true or false

- ____ 1. The mother of the family sold dresses to supplement the farm income.
- ____ 2. Every week the family took eggs to the feed store.
- ____ 3. Feed sacks were washed and sold off again.
- ____ 4. The author's mother was a good seamstress.
- ____ 5. There was always a great choice of prints at the store.
- ____ 6. The author was never satisfied with her buys.
- ____ 7. It was not shameful to wear clothes made of feed sacks.
- ____ 8. Farm women liked it when the sacks were not longer made of printed cotton.
- ____ 9. Business people are now looking for old prints to exhibit them at the museums.
- ____ 10. The author will more than likely make her own quilt.

Task 2 Choose the best option

1. What was the mother's previous, original profession?
 - A. a teacher
 - B. farmer
 - C. a seamstress
 - D. a quilter
2. The fertilized eggs were
 - A. sold as food
 - B. used to produce baby chicks to sell to local farmers
 - C. sold to local farmers
 - D. eaten by the family
3. Which of the following were the feed sacks not used for?
 - A. to make clothes for the family
 - B. to make curtains
 - C. to make blankets
 - D. to make carpets
4. On the farms...
 - A. children's clothes were usually of the same designs
 - B. children were ashamed of wearing clothes made of feed sacks
 - C. children's clothes were made by hired seamstresses
 - D. children's clothes were bought at the local store
5. What eventually happened to the feed sacks?
 - A. the feed companies began using a different type of printed cotton sacks
 - B. the feed companies began using more printed cotton sacks as a marketing strategy
 - C. the feed companies stopped using printed cotton sacks
 - D. the feed companies went out of business

Reading Comprehension Test for 11th Form Students

Text 1: Adapted from the BBC news article “Barbie, the iconic plastic toy doll model, is getting three new body types this year”

Barbie, the iconic plastic toy doll model, is getting three new body types this year. The U.S. company behind the famous toy, Mattel, is adding "tall, curvy, and petite" body shapes to its line-up of the fashion dolls. Several skin tones, eye colors, and hair styles will also be added to the collection, the company said.

Barbie's figure has come under fire for years, with critics arguing it set an unrealistic body image for girls. With the new body shapes, the toy makers say they are "offering girls choices that are more reflective of the world they see today." Last year, the company introduced 23 new dolls to its Fashionistas line with varied skin and hair colors, and a highly publicized flat foot - replacing Barbie's signature heels. With this year's update, the Barbie Fashionistas line will feature: 33 new dolls, 30 hair colors, 24 hairstyles, 22 eye colors, 14 face shapes, seven skin tones, and four body shapes – original, plus tall, curvy, and petite.

"We are excited to literally be changing the face of the brand - these new dolls represent a line that is more reflective of the world girls see around them. The variety in body type, skin tones and style allows girls to find a doll that speaks to them," Mattel executive Evelyn Mazzocco said.

The new dolls will go on sale worldwide in the spring of 2016. True to life, Mattel warned that "not all clothes will fit all dolls." Barbie Millicent Roberts has a very controversial reputation and it mostly stems from her long legs, tiny waist, ample bosom, slender neck, and flowing blonde locks. Some argue her body shape would be unobtainable and unsustainable if scaled up to life-size. They claim she would not be able to stand up because her body frame would be so unbalanced. A real-life Barbie would simply fall over.

TASK 1. Decide if the sentence is true or false

1. Barbie Millicent Roberts inspired the Barbie doll.
2. The new Barbie dolls will be more racially diverse than in the past.
3. Barbie's look has changed because toy makers want the doll to be a more representative model for children.
4. The new Barbie line will not include the original Barbie body shape.
5. The term “flat foot” mentioned in the article refers to the ability to wear a new type of footwear.
6. Barbie has had a very controversial reputation
7. If Barbie dolls were real people, they would not be able to stand up.
8. Mattel executive Evelyn Mazzocco issued a statement to formally apologize for previous models of the Barbie doll.
9. Barbie has been controversial mostly because her outfits can be too revealing.
10. The toy makers say they chose to change Barbie's body type because they wanted to make more money.

Text 2: Adapted from A. Chemin’s “Handwriting vs. Typing: Is the Pen still Mightier than the Keyboard?”

No one can say precisely how much handwriting has declined, but in June a British survey of 2,000 people reported that one in three participants had not written anything by hand in the previous six months. On average, they had not put pen to paper in the previous 41 days.

While these statistics may not be global, one thing is certain: with modern technology, we can produce text so fast that handwriting is disappearing from the workplace. The United States has adjusted for this state of affairs by removing “cursive” writing – in which the pen is not lifted between each character – from its Common Core Curriculum.

This reform prompted lively controversy. In an editorial published on September 4th, 2013, the Los Angeles Times hailed it as a step forward. “Schools shouldn’t cling to cursive based on the romantic idea that it’s a tradition, an art form, or a basic skill whose disappearance would be a cultural tragedy. Of course, everyone needs to be able to write - but longhand printing generally works fine.”

Still, some states, such as Indiana, have opted to go on teaching cursive in school. Without this skill, they assert, students won’t be able to read birthday cards from their grandparents, comments by teachers on their assignments, or the original, handwritten text of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. “I have to say,” one critic countered, “I can’t remember the last time I read the Constitution.”

TASK 2. Choose the best option

11. How many Americans were surveyed?
 - A) 0
 - B) 2,000
 - C) 41
 - D) 1,000
12. Based on the article, what is most strongly supported opinion towards cursive writing?
 - A. It is outdated and not necessary anymore
 - B. Knowing cursive is essential for a well-rounded education
 - C. Cursive is equally as important as typing
 - D. Longhand printing is prettier than cursive writing
13. Which of these is not an argument for teaching cursive in schools?
 - A. Students should be able to read handwritten notes from their grandparents
 - B. Cursive is an aesthetic art form
 - C. Handwriting is being replaced by typing and technology
 - D. Cursive is a cultural tradition that can connect students with important history
14. Which opinion would the author most likely disagree with?
 - A. Cursive writing will continue to decline in popularity
 - B. Writing has no place in the work environment
 - C. The loss of cursive is a cultural milestone

D. Teachers can make their annotations in cursive or longhand

15. It can be said that writing by hand:

A. Is no longer necessary for the average person

B. Is a lost art form

C. Use in Britain has greatly decreased

D. Is not important in most countries

Stage II National Students Olympiad in the English Language

Speaking Comprehension Test for 11th Form Students

DIRECTIONS: *In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.*

1. In 200,000 years, humans have risen to be one of the most successful animals on the planet. Today there are more than 7 billion humans on earth, and we affect the planet in many ways.
 - a. What traits or characteristics have made humans such a successful species?
 - b. Describe one way that humans have changed the planet.
 - c. Have humans made more positive or negative changes? Explain your reasoning.
2. In many cultures, women traditionally do most of the cooking. In America, women cook 78% of dinners. But it is becoming more and more common for men to cook, for many reasons.
 - a. Does your father/brother/you cook?
 - b. Is it important for men to know how to cook? Why or why not?
 - c. Would it change the family if fathers cooked?
3. In America, it is considered bad luck to meet a black cat, or to walk under a ladder, good luck to find a penny, and if your ears burn it means someone is talking about you. These are some common superstitions- old beliefs that people still sometimes hold onto.
 - a. What are some superstitions in Ukraine? What things are supposed to bring good or bad luck? Are there other superstitions?
 - b. Where do you think superstitions come from? Do people still believe in them?
 - c. Do you believe in superstitions? Why or why not?

4. “Some people go to priests; others to poetry; I to my friends.” –Virginia Woolf.
 - a. What can people get from these three things; religion, poetry, and friendship?
 - b. What do you think Virginia Woolf is saying about herself in this quote?
 - c. Where do you find comfort and help?
5. “Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart.” –Khalil Gibran
 - a. What do you think the poet is expressing in this quote?
 - b. What does this quote mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - c. Describe a time when you met someone whose character was different from their appearance.
6. Everyone is good at something. Finding and nurturing that skill is one of the healthiest and most rewarding things that a person can do.
 - a. Describe something that you are good at. Did you practice to become good at it?
 - b. How can you work to improve this ability? What motivates you to improve it?
 - c. How have you used this ability?
7. 15 % of the population in Ukraine is older than 60. In many cultures, it is considered important to respect your elders and to care for them.
 - a. Is it important to respect your elders? How do you and Ukrainian culture show respect for them?
 - b. What things can we learn from old people? What role do they play in your life?
 - c. What do you know about the life of your grandfather or grandmother? Do you know any stories about them?
8. Urbanization is the process of people moving into the city, causing it to grow and expand. Cities all over the world are getting bigger and more crowded.
 - a. Do you think it is better to live in the city or in the country. Why?
 - b. Is it a good thing for so many people to move into the city? What are some positive or negative effects?

- c. If you could live in any place, in any city or any country, where would you live? Why?
- 9. Dreams are part of our sleep cycle, and are important for the brain.
 - a. Do you think that dreams have meaning?
 - b. Can you describe one dream that you've had?
 - c. Do dreams have any traditional meaning in your culture? If so, what?
- 10. Scientists have found liquid water on Mars. Astronauts are running a simulation of a trip to Mars. Some world leaders have even said that they want to send people to Mars. In your lifetime it might become possible to visit Mars.
 - a. Do you think that exploring space is important? Is it necessary? Why or why not?
 - b. If you could live on Mars, would you? Why or why not?
 - c. What do you think would be the challenges of living on Mars?
- 11. Humans have accomplished some amazing things while we have been on this planet. Things like the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and other things have been declared "wonders of the world."
 - a. What are some new wonders of the world? What do you think are the greatest things that humans have accomplished?
 - b. What are some of the wonders, or famous buildings or monuments of your country? Have you ever visited them?
 - c. Which would you prefer to see, human wonders or natural wonders?
- 12. Musical styles change so quickly, sometimes year by year! And of course the music of today is very different from the music of 20 or 30 or 40 years ago. What do you think of the changes in musical style over time?
 - a. What kind of music do your parents listen to? Do you like that music, too?
 - b. What do you think of traditional Ukrainian music? How does it compare with current popular music?
 - c. How and where do you usually listen to music? Are you alone or with friends? Do you buy songs or listen to music online?

13. An English proverb says, "The early bird gets the worm."
- What does this mean to you?
 - Describe a time when you benefitted by being the first person to volunteer.
 - There is another saying that states, "The second mouse gets the cheese." What does this mean? How is it different from the previous saying?
14. Imagine that an alien has to Earth. Explain basketball to them.
- What are the rules of basketball?
 - What people like basketball? Why do we play it?
 - Do you like basketball? Describe a personal experience with basketball.
15. All children are taught to be polite, to say "please" and "thank you", to ask permission for things, to greet people they know. These things together are referred to as "manners."
- What are some other examples of good manners? What are some examples of bad manners in Ukraine?
 - Are manners important? What difference to manners make in society?
 - What do you think when you see someone with very bad manners? Can you give an example?
16. Many people enjoy gambling. Some do it just a little, but there are many people who are addicted to gambling, and who lose tremendous amounts of money.
- Do you believe that gambling is a problem? Why or why not?
 - Is there a difference in risk? Is there such a thing as good risk and bad risk? What's the difference?
 - Describe one time that you took a risk and how it turned out.
17. "TV is chewing gum for the eyes." Frank Lloyd Wright, famous architect
- What do you the speaker means by this?
 - How much time do you spend watching TV? Is that too much time or do you wish you could watch it more?
 - Is TV artistic? Do you think that culturally important things happen on TV? Why?

18. The internet has made it easier than ever before to find people with similar interests and hobbies. Many of these people have formed into groups called subcultures, with their own unique culture and philosophy. Some examples include, goth, emo, punk, cosplayers, gamers, hipster, steampunk, etc.

- a. Describe one subculture that you know of. How do they look? Act? What are they interested in?
- b. Is there any subculture that you are interested in knowing more about or joining?
- c. Do you think that subcultures are a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

19. What do you think the most important invention of the last 100 years has been?

- a. How has that invention changed people's lives?
- b. How has that invention changed your life?
- c. What would the world be like without that invention?

20. Two years ago, the mayor of New York City made it illegal to sell soda larger than a certain size. The people of New York were very angry about this.

- a. Why do you think he made this law? What problem might he have been fighting?
- b. Why do you think the people became so angry over a law about soda?
- c. Do you think that it is right for the government to tell people what they can and can't do with their own bodies?

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Speaking Comprehension Test for 8th Form Students

DIRECTIONS: *In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.*

1. One study has shown that teens spend an average of 27 hours per week online.
 1. What do teens usually do online?
 2. How much time do you spend online? What do you do online?
 3. Do you think it is healthy to spend too much time online? How much time is too much time?
2. Explain football to an alien that has never seen it before.
 1. How do you play football? What are the rules?
 2. How do you keep score? How do you win?
 3. Why do so many people watch football?
3. You use technology every day, from the stove that you cook food on, to the mobile phone in your pocket. It has changed almost every part of life.
 1. What technology is most important in your life?
 2. How do you use that technology? Do you need it in your daily life?
 3. Imagine living without that technology. What would it be like?
4. "Well done is better than well said." ~Benjamin Franklin
 1. What does this quote mean to you?
 2. Do agree with this quote?
 3. Describe a time when you did more than you said you would
5. Describe the perfect house
 1. What does it look like? Where is it located in the world?
 2. What is more important to you, its location or its appearance?
 3. Describe one room in the house that is special to you.
6. Imagine that you are alone on a desert island and have three things with you.
 1. What three things do you want to have on the desert island?
 2. How will you use these things to survive?
 3. Would you like to live on the desert island or try to be rescued?
7. Describe your brother or sister or a close friend.
 1. What do they look like?
 2. What do you like about their personality? Give an example.
 3. What don't you like about their personality? Give an example.
8. If you could be in any TV show, what would it be?
 1. Would you be a new character or an existing one?
 2. How would you introduce yourself to the plot?
 3. What relationship would you have with the other characters?

9. Imagine that you are writing an email to a new friend in America. Your friend has asked about your town.
 1. Describe your town or village to your friend.
 2. What places and buildings are there? How big is the town? How many people live there?
 3. What do you do for fun? What is the nearest city?
10. Describe a time when you had a problem with a friend and how you overcame it.
 1. What was the problem? How did the problem start?
 2. How did you and your friend resolve the problem?
 3. Did you get help from any other friends or family members?
11. It is especially important for young people to eat healthy food in order to maintain their growing bodies. Think about the food you eat.
 1. Describe what you eat on a typical day. What do you have for breakfast? Lunch? Dinner?
 2. What do you eat that isn't healthy but is really tasty?
 3. Do you think that you have a healthy diet? Why?
12. Imagine you are making your favorite dish for a friend.
 1. What ingredients do you need?
 2. Who taught you to make this dish?
 3. Do you have any special memories connected to this dish?
13. Thomas Edison said, "Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration."
 1. What does this quote mean to you?
 2. Do you usually work hard to achieve your goals or rely on brilliant ideas?
 3. Describe a time when you had to work very hard in order to complete a difficult task.
14. As you get older you have more responsibilities and are usually expected to help your parents.
 1. What are some responsibilities that you have at home?
 2. Do you always fulfill all of your responsibilities there?
 3. Who is the most responsible person in your family? Explain some of their responsibilities.
15. The average person who plays video games spends more than 6 hours every week playing video games.
 1. Do you think that video games are a waste of time?
 2. Can we learn anything from video games?
 3. Do you play video games? Why/why not?
16. Describe the perfect vacation
 1. Where would you travel to?
 2. Who would you travel with? How long would you stay?
 3. What is things you would do there?
17. Someone has offered to take you shopping for one day, and will buy you anything that you want from one single store, no matter the price.
 1. What store would you choose to go to? Why?
 2. What things would you buy from that store? You can buy as many things as you want.

3. Why would you choose those things? What would you do with them?
18. Describe the best holiday memory you have
 1. Where did you go? What did you do?
 2. Who did you go with?
 3. What happened that made it so memorable?
19. Imagine you can choose a superpower: the ability to fly, super speed, or super strength.
 1. Which superpower would you choose?
 2. Why would you choose that power?
 3. Would you use that power to help others or yourself?
20. Imagine that a genie is willing to teach you one skill or talent perfectly. After you learn it, you will be one of the best in the world at that skill.
 1. What talent or skill would you learn?
 2. Why would you learn that skill? Is it something you have always wanted to learn?
 3. What would you do with your new talent or skill?

Writing Comprehension Test for 11-th Form Students

1. You want to learn to drive, but your parents won't let you. They want you to wait until you are older. Write a letter to an American friend in which you:
 - Complain about your parents' decision
 - Explain
 - Explain why you need to drive
 - Ask for advice.
2. Some people say that advertising encourages us to buy things we really do not need. Others say that advertisements tell us about new products that may improve our lives. Which viewpoint do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer
3. Some educators argue that every child in every school should have access to computers. Others believe that the value of computers in the classroom is overrated and that computers may actually interfere with the learning process. Which point of view do you agree with? Why? How important are computers in the classroom? What are the advantages and disadvantages of having computers in schools?

Writing Comprehension Test For 10th Form Students

1. Pirate products are sold all around the world. They are cheaper than the original products and easily available. However, they are illegal. Write an essay listing the advantages and disadvantages of using pirated products and your opinion of them. Are you for or against them? What would happen if they were not allowed anywhere at all any longer?
2. You have just come back from a trip to a place abroad which you loved. Write an essay for a school English magazine in which you recommend the place to all your readers and explain why travelling is valuable experience for young people. Include the following:
 - a short description of the place: the location, environment, atmosphere, etc.
 - what you liked about the place and why you would recommend it
 - the benefits for young people of travelling to different places.
3. Sometimes someone asks you a question and you know the answer is not going to be pleasant for that person to hear. Do you tell the truth and hurt the person's feelings or do you lie? How can you be honest and not hurt someone? Why is honesty difficult and when is it important? How do you feel when someone has been dishonest with you

Writing Comprehension Test For 9th Form Students

1. In countries all over the world, people are learning English. How are people and countries affected by the widespread use of English? What attitudes towards English do they have? Why do you think English is important for the future and how do you see it in your future? Do you think that in the future one language will become more important than another? What are the advantages and disadvantages of speaking only one language?
2. Your new friend is coming to your town\ village. It's sad but he is coming when you are away. Write him a letter and tell him what places he should go to, what things he should do, and what things he should eat and drink.
3. Imagine that there is a competition in which students are asked to describe the way schools would look in the future. You have decided to enter this competition and write a detailed description of the

school of the future. Comment on the look of the school, its location and facilities, subjects taught and timetable and other activities.

Writing Comprehension Test For 8th Form Students

1. A foreign student is coming to live with your family and attend school with you for a year. Write him a letter and tell about your family, your home, your community and your school. Since you and he will be together a lot tell him about yourself: your likes and dislikes, your hobbies, etc.

2. Write an article for your school magazine about a sporting event you saw recently. Explain what the event was and where it took place. Say what happened, describe how you felt at different times during the event

3. In today's world, people are very mobile; they can travel to and live in many different places. Some people choose small towns and villages and others only want to live in a big city. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each location? In your opinion where is the best place to live and why?