

**STAGE II DISTRICT STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
**Reading Comprehension Test for 8<sup>th</sup> Form Students**

**Text 1: <<Britain is at the Bottom of the Class in Foreign Languages>> From Premium Learning**

Britain has been proved to be the dunce of Europe when it comes to learning foreign languages, according to a recent report by the European Commission. More than half of other Europeans can speak at least one foreign language, and often two. However, 66% of the British population has absolutely no knowledge of any language apart from English and 51% thought that it would just be 'too difficult'.

Not everyone seems to have such a negative attitude. Compare these figures with Luxembourg, where only 2% could not speak a foreign language. Or Sweden, Denmark and Holland, where 80% of the population claims to speak English. To be fair, not all the other European countries were as good at languages. Fifty-six percent of the Portuguese, 53% of the Spanish and 51% of the French spoke only their own languages. According to the report, 18% of Britons claimed some knowledge of Spanish and 10% some German. None of this was in evidence recently when the British Tourist Centre (BTC) carried out a little experiment.

BTC hired researchers to pretend to be monolingual Spanish and German speakers. They had to contact hotels to ask questions about accommodation. Eighty-five per cent of the hotels contacted were unable to answer even one question in Spanish, and 90% were unable to answer anything in German. Even more embarrassingly, many of the hotel staff thought 'Deutsch' meant the same as 'Dutch'.

Unsurprisingly, the representative from the BTC was not pleased. The European Commission report found that 69% of people across the EU believed that everyone in the Union should be capable of speaking English as a foreign language. Is that really an excuse for our ignorance?

**Task 1. Decide if the statements are true or false**

1. Britain has proved to be the leader of Europe when it comes to learning foreign languages.
2. Less than half of other European countries cannot speak another foreign language.
3. Not all other European countries were as good at languages as Sweden, Denmark and Holland.
4. Two percent of people in Luxembourg speak a foreign language.
5. The BTC experiment concluded that less than 18% of Britons spoke Spanish or German.
6. Besides England, Portugal speaks the lowest number of foreign languages.
7. Ninety percent of the hotel staff contacted could not answer questions in German.
8. Many of the hotel staff in Britain thought Deutsch meant Dutch.
9. The representative from the BTC was not pleased that a minority of people speak English in the EU.
10. At the end of this text, 'our' is a pronoun referring to the Britons.

**Text 2: Application Letter from Princeton University**

Dear Student:

We are happy to see you applying to Princeton University. You will see from the application that we are interested in who you are, what you have accomplished academically and personally, and how you have organized your life so far. Your ability to make new ideas and express yourself with the written word is the key to our decision, because your writing reflects how you think. The best applications come from students who have spent time on their applications and essays, editing them many times and making their message the best.

Princeton has an honor system that we take seriously. At Princeton, students live by the values of fairness, principle, and intellectual honesty, and we expect every applicant to abide by these same rules throughout each stage of the application process.

Your application will be read thoughtfully and fairly when it arrives in our office. Please give it your best and know we will treat it carefully. We wish you well as you pursue your senior year in high school. If you have any questions, feel free to use the following website: <http://www.princeton.edu/admission>. Please let us know if we can be of any help.

Sincerely,

Janet Lavin Rapelye  
Dean of Admission

**Task 2. Choose the best option**

11. Princeton's honor system is...
  - A. a system of rules based on honesty.
  - B. a system of rules based on intelligence.
  - C. an agreement with the faculty at Princeton.
  - D. a statement of purpose.
  
12. Princeton University is interested to know that the applicant is all of the following EXCEPT:
  - A. respected as an individual
  - B. sluggish in submitting their application materials
  - C. capable of original and creative expression
  - D. well accomplished academically and personally
  
13. The best applications are...
  - A. the latest ones to be turned in.
  - B. the simplest ones.
  - C. the ones that students spend a long time working on.
  - D. the longest ones.
  
14. If you have questions about the application, you should...
  - A. send a personal letter to Janet Rapelye.
  - B. go to the website listed in the letter.
  - C. send an email to Janet Rapelye.
  - D. visit the university's campus.
  
15. According to the letter, the Dean of Admissions is probably...
  - A. a person helps students with financial problems.
  - B. a person who provides students a tour of the university.
  - C. a person who helps students choose a university.
  - D. a person who helps students with their application.

## Listening Comprehension Test for 8<sup>th</sup> Form Students

Most people think that the cat is an unintelligent animal, fond of ease, and caring little for anything but mice and milk. But a cat has really more character than most human beings, and gets a great deal more satisfaction out of life. Of all the animal kingdom, the cat has the most many-sided character.

He- or she- is an athlete, musician, an acrobat, a romantic, a fighter, a sport of the first water. All day long the cat lies about the house, takes things easy, sleeps by the fire, and allows himself to be pestered by the attentions of women and annoyed by children.

To pass the time away he sometimes watches a mouse-hole for an hour or two, just to keep himself from dying of boredom; and people get the idea that this sort of thing is all that life holds for the cat. But watch him as night comes, and you see the cat as he really is.

When the family sits down to tea, the cat usually puts in an appearance to get his share, and purrs noisily, and rubs himself against the legs of the family; and all the time he is thinking of a fight or a tree to climb that is coming in the night.

If there is a guest at the table the cat is very nice to him, because the guest is likely to have the best dinner. Sometimes, instead of recognizing this kindness with something to eat, the guest stoops down and pets the cat and says "Pretty cat, Nice cat!"

"Ow!" says the guest, "the cat stuck his claw into me!" The delighted family remarks, "Isn't it sweet of him? Isn't he smart? He wants you to give him something to eat."

The guest doesn't do what he wants to do- kick the cat through the window- so, with anger and pain in his eyes, he acts like the cat is funny, and cuts out a piece of fish from his plate and hands it to the cat.

The cat gingerly receives it, with a look in his eyes that says "Another time, my friend, now you understand my control," and purrs happily as he returns to a safe distance from the guest's shoe before eating it. A cat isn't a fool- not at all.

## Listening Comprehension Test for 8<sup>th</sup> Form Students

### Task 1. Choose the best option

1. According to the text, which of the following is not an assumption people hold about cats?
  - a. Cats are lazy
  - b. Cats are dumb
  - c. Cats are cunning
  - d. Cats only want milk and mice
  
2. According to the text, why does the cat like to watch a mouse-hole?
  - a. To greet visitors
  - b. To avoid boredom
  - c. To catch a mouse
  - d. To guard the house
  
3. Why is the cat really nice to visitors?
  - a. He likes to meet new people
  - b. He wants to be petted
  - c. He wants to make a good impression
  - d. He wants visitors to feed him dinner
  
4. Based on the text, what does the word “gingerly” mean?
  - a. Angrily
  - b. Sadly
  - c. Slyly
  - d. Happily
  
5. What statement best expresses the main idea of the text?
  - a. Cats make the best pets
  - b. Cats are great hosts
  - c. Cats, unlike dogs, are really man’s best friend
  - d. Cats are much smarter than people think

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

6. Cats are boring animals that do not have much character
7. According to the author, cats have many different professions
8. Cats do many different things to pass the time during the day
9. In general, cats are not interesting animals at night.
10. When the family has tea, the cat stays away and stays quiet
11. Cats act nice to guests because they want something
12. Cats will hurt a guest if they do not get what they want
13. The guest wanted to give the cat some fish
14. The guest gave the cat some fish because he didn’t want to get hurt anymore
15. Cats are much smarter than humans think.

## Listening Comprehension Test for 9<sup>th</sup> Form Students

Scientists have shown that Mozart has a positive effect on many things, but the great composer himself might be surprised that his music helps bananas ripen. A Japanese fruit company, Toyoka Chuo Seika, claims its bananas taste better after being exposed to Mozart's music for a week. The company has special "ripening chambers" that play wall-to-wall Mozart to its Philippine bananas non-stop for a week. Company officials say "String Quartet No. 17" and "Piano Concerto No. 5 in D major" are particularly good at sweetening the fruit. The company is very confident its methods work. It has started selling its fruit as "Mozart Bananas" in local supermarkets.

A spokesperson believes the bananas will become a hit throughout the rest of Japan once word gets out. Toyoka Chuo Seika is not the first Japanese company to experiment with classical music to produce better tasting food. The "Japan Times" newspaper reports this is the latest in a trend spanning ten years. It writes: "Over the past few decades, a wide variety of foods and beverages have been exposed to classical vibrations — soy sauce in Kyoto, udon noodles in Tokyo, miso in Yamagata, maitake mushrooms in Ishikawa and "Beethoven Bread" in Nagoya, to name a few." The paper reports on a 1973 study into music and plants by botanist Dorothy Retallack. It says: "After playing various kinds of music to plants for three hours daily, she found they "preferred" soothing classical, which made them flourish. Rock and country, on the other hand, had either a debilitating effect or none at all."

## Listening Comprehension Test for 9<sup>th</sup> Form Students

### Task1. Choose whether the statements are True or False.

1. Beethoven's music helps bananas ripen.
2. A Japanese fruit company bananas' taste better after listening to Mozart.
3. The Japanese company has ripening chambers for its bananas.
4. The company has started selling bananas as "Musical Bananas."
5. Playing music to bananas is the first experiment of its kind.
6. The Japan Times reported that soy sauce was the only sauce to be tested.
7. Dorothy Retallack's study says that plants like classical music.
8. Rock and country music sometimes had an effect.

### Task2. Choose the best answer.

1. Mozart might
  - a. like classical music.
  - b. be surprised his music helps ripen bananas.
  - c. like apples.
2. Bananas taste better
  - a. after being exposed to Mozart for a week
  - b. with chocolate.
  - c. when they are fresh.
3. The Japanese company is
  - a. always very hungry.
  - b. very confident its methods work.
  - c. sad that experiments didn't work.
4. A spokesperson believes
  - a. Bananas will become popular in Japan soon.
  - b. bananas are bad for you.
  - c. That people like other fruit better than bananas.
  - d. There will be a larger population of monkeys in Japan soon.
5. The "Japan Times" reports this is the latest in a trend spanning:
  - a. 1 year
  - b. 5 years
  - c. 10 years
  - d. 20 years
6. One of the foods tested is now called:
  - a. Davinci pizza
  - b. Franklin burgers
  - c. Shevchenko salad
  - d. Beethoven bread
7. A report from 1973 found that plants prefer:
  - a. Classical music
  - b. Rock music
  - c. Punk music
  - d. Disco music

## Reading Comprehension Test for 9<sup>th</sup> Form Students

### Snail Mail Vs. E-mail

By Kimelia Sachs, eHow Contributor

We live in a fast-paced society that is accustomed to things' happening quickly. The Internet and e-mail are just two of the inventions in the past few decades that illustrate this point. There is no doubt that e-mail makes life easier in many ways. It's inexpensive and fast--two things we like. However, while e-mail has its positive aspects, snail mail (mail sent through the postal system) has a more personal feel to it and is much more private than e-mail.

**The Facts:** There is no doubt e-mail is faster than snail mail. When communicating with someone in another state or country, e-mail is the practical route because most of the time email is immediate. Snail mail takes days and can be costly and sometimes impractical. Mailing a document that is several pages long costs more than one stamp; e-mailing that same document costs very little, if anything.

**History:** Benjamin Franklin appointed the first Postmaster General in 1775 and stamps were first issued in 1847. Mail has been delivered Monday through Saturday in the United States since 1863. Rural delivery for mail did not begin until 1896. E-mail emerged shortly after the Internet became a medium for public consumption. E-mail can be traced back to the 1960s, when those working with computer networks discovered a way to communicate with one another. In the 1980s, those with personal computers were among the first to communicate with other users on the same server.

**Considerations:** A piece of snail mail, handwritten notes and cards still carry some weight in society. Some events require a little more effort than needed to send an e-mail. For example, holiday greetings, birthdays, invitations to special events, thank-you notes and other special occasions may deserve more formality than an e-mail. One of the most important aspects to consider when deciding on the proper medium is the recipient of the e-mail. If he spends very little time online, it may take him awhile to get this e-mail message. If she doesn't like computers, it's best to avoid electronic communications.

### Benefits

The most obvious benefit of e-mail is that it is immediate. In an office setting, it is much easier to send an e-mail to an entire department. E-mail is also relatively cheap if not free in most cases. However, while snail mail is slower than e-mail, it is more personal. Though you can say the same things in an e-mail that you can say in a letter, a letter is something someone can touch and keep. Cards and letters can be filed away and saved as mementos.

### Warnings

While we like to think of our e-mail accounts as belonging to us, they don't. E-mail accounts can be hacked; individuals e-mailing sensitive material are somewhat at the mercy of hackers. E-mails can also be forwarded to literally hundreds of thousands of people. Many have suggested that when sending an e-mail it is best to think of it as a postcard rather than a letter in a sealed envelope. Moreover, e-mails sent from work do not actually belong to the sender. In fact, employees can break company laws regarding e-mail if they don't know what they are. The moral of the story - think carefully before choosing your mode of communication!

[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_5463282\\_snail-mail-vs-email.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_5463282_snail-mail-vs-email.html)

**Task one: Chose the multiple-choice item that makes the sentence correct.**

1. The Internet and e-mail emerged in the past
  - a. ten years
  - b. twenty years
  - c. few decades
  - d. century
2. E-mail makes life
  - a. more interesting
  - b. less difficult
  - c. faster
  - d. happier

3. Among other things, e-mail is
  - a. efficient and professional
  - b. cheap and slow
  - c. revolutionary and educational
  - d. fast and inexpensive
  
4. Snail mail is
  - a. Mail delivered by snails
  - b. Mail delivered electronically over the Internet
  - c. Traditional mail
  - d. The mail of the future
  
5. A typical snail mail letter takes \_\_\_\_\_ to arrive.
  - a. a couple of days
  - b. a day or two
  - c. a couple of weeks
  - d. a very long time
  
6. The first stamps were issued in
  - a. 1775
  - b. 1847
  - c. 1863
  - d. 1896

**Task two: Decide if the statements are true or false.**

7. E-mail traces its origins back to the 1970s.
8. Electronic mail has few positive aspects.
9. Snail mail is no longer needed, not even for special occasions.
10. E-mail is generally less personal than snail mail.
11. Hackers can easily hack our snail mail accounts, but not our e-mail accounts.
12. E-mails can be compared to a letter in a sealed envelope.
13. If an employee sends an e-mail from work, that e-mail may not belong to him.
14. Benjamin Franklin was the first Postmaster General of the United States.
15. Snail mail can be filed away and saved as mementos.



## Listening Comprehension Test for 10<sup>th</sup> Form Students

Many British people take their holidays in August. Our politicians are on holiday, so there is no political news. Our business and finance people are on holiday too, so there is not much business or financial news. And, worst of all, TV people and minor members of the royal family are on holiday too, so there is no news about [celebrities](#) to keep us happy. Newspaper reporters still have to find stories to fill the newspapers, however, and in August they find some strange things to tell us about. For example, in the past week we have all been entertained by the strange story of the cat in the wheelie bin. There is a YouTube video on the Listen to English website, which will show you what happened. In the video, we see a street. There are a few cars parked in the street, but there are no people anywhere. Perhaps they are all on holiday. In the foreground, there is a green object with a lid. It is a rubbish bin. Many British people have bins like this to put their domestic rubbish in. The bins have wheels on the bottom, so that it is easy to move them. We generally call them “wheelie bins”. So, this is a video about an empty street with three parked cars and a wheelie bin. It is just about the most boring video ever. Then a woman appears. She walks along the pavement past the wheelie bin. A cat jumps up on the wall beside her. The woman stops to stroke the cat, and to scratch it behind the ears, which cats love. Then she looks up and down the street. Perhaps she is looking to see if anyone else is around. Then she opens the lid of the wheelie bin, picks up the cat, puts the cat in the wheelie bin, and walks away. And the street is empty again, apart from the parked cars and the wheelie bin. The cat stayed in the wheelie bin for 15 hours before its owners rescued it. They wondered who had put it there. They had a [security camera](#) outside their house, and when they checked the recording, they found what you have just seen on the video. They told the newspapers and the TV what had happened, and for a few days we could read and watch all about the strange case of the cat in the wheelie bin.

People reacted to the video in one of two ways. Some people were outraged. How could someone do such a cruel thing to a little cat? Other people thought that it was one of the funniest things they had ever seen. Yes, alright, it was not good to put the cat in the wheelie bin, but it was also very funny. And we all wondered, why did the woman do this? Was she mad? Did she have a [grudge](#) against cats? Did she plan to put a cat in a wheelie bin that morning, or was it something she did [on the spur of the moment](#)?

Within hours of the video appearing on the internet, people telephoned the police to say that they knew who the woman was. A crowd of cat-loving people gathered outside her house, and the police had to come to tell them to go away. The woman says that she does not really know why she put the cat in the wheelie bin. It just seemed like a good idea at the time. And that is all the news from Listen to English. You always knew that the English were mad.

## Listening Comprehension Test for 10<sup>th</sup> Form Students

Task 1. Put the events in the correct order.

1. A crowd of cat-loving people gathered outside a ladie's house.
2. A woman stops to pet a cat.
3. A cat was in a wheelie bin for 15 hours.
4. A couple found their cat in a wheelie bin.
5. A cat jumped up on a wall.

Task 2. Choose if the statements are True or False.

1. There is a lot of news during the summer holidays.
2. There is a yellow bin to put trash in on the street.
3. An elderly man put the cat in the bin.
4. People didn't care the cat was in the bin.
5. The owners called their friends to laugh about the cat in the bin.

Task 3. Choose the correct answer.

1. Newspaper reporters
  - a. don't have to report in summer because of the break.
  - b. like to report about TV celebrities in the summer.
  - c. have to be creative and find interesting stories to cover in the summer.
  - d. go on break with celebrities in the summer.
2. Trash bins in the street are sometimes called "wheelie bins" because:
  - a. they are green.
  - b. they look like a wheel.
  - c. they have wheels under them.
  - d. people think it's a funny name.
3. When the video begins
  - a. there are people having a party in the street
  - b. there is a fight going on
  - c. there are two people sitting in a room drinking coffee
  - d. there is a empty street with parked cars but no people.
4. The owner's of the cat
  - a. never found the cat.
  - b. knew who had put the cat in the bin.
  - c. watched a video to see who had put the cat in the bin.
  - d. thought the cat had jumped into the bin.
5. The woman said
  - a. that she never put the cat in the bin.
  - b. that she liked putting cats in the bin.
  - c. that she wasn't sure why she put the cat in the bin.
  - d. that the cat asked to be put in the bin.

## Reading Comprehension Test for 10<sup>th</sup> Form Students

### Could Sea Otters Save the Planet?

“Furry swimming creatures could be star fighters in the struggle to stop global warming.”

Sea otters have another important job besides swimming around the Pacific Ocean and looking incredibly cute. Recent scientific studies suggest that these furry swimmers also take a big bite out of global warming.

How can a sea otter help slow down climate change? A sea otter's favorite meal is sea urchin, a spiny underwater animal that eats a type of seaweed called kelp. When sea otters eat their favorite chow, they keep the population of sea urchins down. That allows underwater forests of sea kelp to flourish.

These kelp forests reduce the amount of carbon dioxide, a harmful greenhouse gas, in the Earth's atmosphere. Carbon dioxide helps trap heat in the atmosphere. Experts say that too much of this gas leads to climate change, and many say that global warming may cause changes that could prove deadly for life on Earth.

### **BROKEN FOOD CHAIN**

Scientists say sea otters could help the planet just by eating, but there's one problem: There aren't enough sea otters to keep the sea urchin population in check. Therefore, sea urchin populations are rising while the number of kelp forests is falling.

In the past, sea otters almost became extinct because hunters killed them for their fur. Now, killer whales—another species brought back from the brink of extinction—may be significantly lowering sea otter populations. The number of otters is so low, they have been listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Scientist Chris Wilmers from the University of California, Santa Cruz, recently studied the effect sea otters have on global warming. His study found that when kelp forests lose their otters, "all you are left with is piles of urchins and very little else."

Wilmers says that if otters were restored to healthy populations along the coast of North America, the ocean ecosystem could keep around 10 million tons of carbon from entering the Earth's atmosphere.

By [Laura Leigh Davidson](#) | January 11 , 2011

## Reading Comprehension Test for 10<sup>th</sup> Form Students

**Task one: Chose the multiple-choice item that makes the sentence correct.**

1. Sea otters are indigenous to
  - a. the Atlantic Ocean
  - b. the Pacific Ocean
  - c. the Indian Ocean
  - d. The Mediterranean Sea
  
2. These furry swimmers could help to combat
  - a. littering
  - b. pollution
  - c. global warming
  - d. The Greenhouse Effect
  
3. Sea otters love to eat
  - a. fish
  - b. land urchins
  - c. kelp
  - d. sea urchins
  
4. Kelp forests help to reduce the amount of
  - a. Carbone dioxide
  - b. Hydrogen
  - c. Carbone monoxide
  - d. Calcium hydroxide
  
5. Humans hunt sea otters for their
  - a. oil
  - b. skin
  - c. fur
  - d. meat
  
6. Carbon dioxide is a \_\_\_\_\_ greenhouse gas.
  - a. poisonous
  - b. damaging
  - c. heavy
  - d. beneficial
  
7. Killer whales eat
  - a. sea otters and kelp
  - b. fish and kelp
  - c. sea otters
  - d. sea urchins

**Task two: Decide if the statements are true or false.**

8. The more sea urchins the less kelp; the less sea urchins, the more kelp.
9. If in healthy numbers, sea urchins could keep around 10 million tons of carbon from entering the Earth's atmosphere.
10. Scientist Chris Wilmers from the University of Santa Cruz recently studied the effect killer whales have on global warming.
11. Due to the number of otters being so low, the U.S. Endangered Species Act has listed them as threatened.

12. Humans hunt killer whales, killer whales hunt sea urchins, sea urchins hunt sea otters and sea otters eat kelp.
13. Both sea urchin populations and kelp forests are growing.
14. Carbon dioxide retains warmth in the atmosphere.
15. Wilmers says that otters will be restored to healthy populations along the coast of North America with the next few decades.

## Listening Comprehension Test for 11<sup>th</sup> Form Students

Once upon a time, in a land far, far way....no, hang on a minute, that's no good. All stories start like that. How about we have something different for this story. Mmm, I know: Very, very recently, in a place that is close to where I live, something strange and fascinating happened. It is a tale of mystery, that has changed our village forever. It all started on a warm Spring Sunday. It was a glorious, lazy afternoon. Church was over, and people were relaxing on their porches and in their gardens; children were running around playing, and the sound of birds chirping filled the air. It was approaching three o'clock. The bell tower of the local church overlooked the whole village, and when the hour was chimed, the sound would ring out in a clear and familiar way. Today, however, it was different. At first, the bells rang rhythmically, normally; nobody really took any notice as the sound was so well known and expected. But suddenly, there was a huge crashing of metal, like the bells were being thrown together. High notes and low notes were screaming in a violent, angry chaos. It went on and on.

Everybody looked up, stood up, and turned their heads towards the church on the hill. What on earth was going on? Who was up in the bell tower? Was this some kind of joke? A couple of men ran up the hill to see what was happening, but the angry noise continued until they were almost at the church door, when suddenly it stopped. Running out of the church, with a crazed look on her face, came Mrs Brompton, the church bell ringer and cleaner.

"Help!" she cried, her face pale, and her hair sticking up in all directions. "Ooo, it's horrible! Just horrible!" she yelled, grabbing the beard of one of the men, and shaking his head, as if to make him understand. "Ow!" exclaimed Mr. Meads, prying her hands off of his beard, "Now, Mrs Brompton, what on earth is going on? What's happened?" At those words, Mrs Brompton went very quiet, she wanted to speak but she couldn't. She grabbed Mr. Mead's beard again with one hand and tried to say something. "...a curse!" came out in a whisper, and, at that, her eyes rolled to the back of her head and she fainted, falling to the ground like lead.

After the ambulance took Mrs Brompton, the vicar and a group of men searched the church, every room, every nook, every staircase. They found nothing unusual. Even in the bell tower, nothing was out of place. The huge, metal bells hung silently, expressionless, but something about the room felt different. The group of men had assembled here again. Having found no clues at all, they automatically came back to the room where the chaos had started. They stood silently thinking. "Oh, Mrs Brompton's off her rocker, I'd say," said Jeffrey Mullins with a wave of his hand. But his humor wasn't reflected in the other faces. The vicar, Reverend Holtworth, had a particularly serious expression; his face was grey, and his eyes were heavy with thoughts. "It'll be nothing to worry about, I'm sure, vicar," said Thomas Black. "I bet Betsy just had a funny turn and got tangled up in the ropes." But Rev. Holtworth said nothing in response.

The sun was low in the sky as they left the church. The men headed down the path back to the village. Thomas Black stayed behind to talk to the vicar. Standing there, they could hear Jeffrey Mullins, "The old bat has given everybody something to talk about, hasn't she?" he said with a loud laugh, and the others joined in. Black and the vicar stood in silence for a few moments. "I'm sure when we hear from Betsy it'll all turn out to be nothing," Black said as if asking a question. The vicar said nothing in response, but gave Black a weak smile and a quick nod, as if to reassure him. "If you need anything, you know my number," called out Black as he headed down the path. The sun was setting now, and the birds had fallen silent. Rev. Holtworth stood staring at the bell tower, and uttered under his breath, "There was nobody in the bell tower this afternoon."

## Listening Comprehension Test for 11<sup>th</sup> Form Students

### Task1. Choose whether the statements are True or False

1. The narrator likes the structure of old fairy tales.
2. This story is not very significant to the narrator.
3. This is a story about a big city.
4. A bell ringing is the first major event of the story.
5. Mrs. Brompton is the church secretary.
6. Mr. Mead didn't have a beard.
7. Mrs. Brompton didn't scare anyone with her reaction.
8. The vicar laughed at Mrs. Brompton's statement.

### Task2. Choose the best answer.

1. The bells at the church
  - a. were the most beautiful part of the village.
  - b. always chimed in rhythm.
  - c. chimed differently when Mrs. Brompton rang them.
  - d. didn't chime on the day of the story.
2. The first people up the hill were
  - a. 3 boys that had been playing by the church.
  - b. 2 men that had run up the hill.
  - c. 2 vicars that worked at the church.
  - d. Mr. Black and the vicar.
3. Mrs. Brompton was
  - a. laughing when she came out of the church.
  - b. screaming for help when she exited.
  - c. very excited by all the noise in the church
  - d. asleep when the church bells rang.
4. When the men checked the bell tower
  - a. There was a man in the tower.
  - b. There was a bird in the tower.
  - c. The bells were still ringing.
  - d. The bells were silent but there was different about the room.
5. A vicar is a
  - a. Judge
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Fireman
  - d. Priest
6. When the men left the church
  - a. it was almost night.
  - b. they went to a party.
  - c. the sun was coming up.
  - d. they went back to town together.
7. The vicar thinks
  - a. everything is fine.
  - b. that Mrs. Brompton is crazy.
  - c. that something is wrong.
  - d. someone was in the bell tower today.

## Reading Comprehension Test for 11<sup>th</sup> Form Students

THE "Red Death" had long devastated the country. No pestilence had ever been so fatal, or so hideous. Blood was its **Avatar** and its seal — the redness and the horror of blood. There were sharp pains, and sudden dizziness, and then profuse bleeding at the pores, with dissolution. The scarlet stains upon the body and especially upon the face of the victim, were the pest ban which shut him out from the aid and from the sympathy of his fellow-men. And the whole seizure, progress and termination of the disease, were the incidents of half an hour.

But the Prince Prospero was happy and dauntless and **sagacious**. When his dominions were half depopulated, he summoned to his presence a thousand hale and light-hearted friends from among the knights and dames of his court, and with these retired to the deep seclusion of one of his **castellated** abbeys. This was an extensive and magnificent structure, the creation of the prince's own eccentric yet august taste. A strong and lofty wall girdled it in. This wall had gates of iron. The courtiers, having entered, brought furnaces and massy hammers and welded the bolts. They resolved to leave means neither of ingress or egress to the sudden impulses of despair or of frenzy from within. The abbey was amply provisioned. With such precautions the courtiers might bid defiance to contagion. The external world could take care of itself. In the meantime, it was folly to grieve, or to think. The prince had provided all the appliances of pleasure. There were **buffoons**, there were **improvisatori**, there were ballet-dancers, there were musicians, there was Beauty, there was wine. All these and security were within. Without was the "Red Death."

It was a voluptuous scene, that masquerade. But first let me tell of the rooms in which it was held. There were seven — an imperial suite. In many palaces, however, such suites form a long and straight vista, while the folding doors slide back nearly to the walls on either hand, so that the view of the whole extent is scarcely impeded. Here the case was very different; as might have been expected from the duke's love of the bizarre. The apartments were so irregularly disposed that the vision embraced but little more than one at a time. There was a sharp turn at every twenty or thirty yards, and at each turn a novel effect. To the right and left, in the middle of each wall, a tall and narrow Gothic window looked out upon a closed corridor which pursued the windings of the suite. These windows were of stained glass whose color varied in accordance with the prevailing hue of the decorations of the chamber into which it opened. That at the eastern extremity was hung, for example, in blue — and vividly blue were its windows. The second chamber was purple in its ornaments and tapestries, and here the panes were purple. The third was green throughout, and so were the casements. The fourth was furnished and lighted with orange — the fifth with white — the sixth with violet. The seventh apartment was closely shrouded in black velvet tapestries that hung all over the ceiling and down the walls, falling in heavy folds upon a carpet of the same material and hue. But in this chamber only, the color of the windows failed to correspond with the decorations. The panes here were scarlet — a deep blood color. Now in no one of the seven apartments was there any lamp or **candelabrum**, amid the profusion of golden ornaments that lay scattered to and fro or depended from the roof. There was no light of any kind emanating from lamp or candle within the suite of chambers. But in the corridors that followed the suite, there stood, opposite to each window, a heavy tripod, bearing a brazier of fire, that projected its rays through the tinted glass and so glaringly illumined the room. And thus, were produced a multitude of gaudy and fantastic appearances. But in the western or black chamber the effect of the fire-light that streamed upon the dark hangings through the blood-tinted panes, was ghastly in the extreme, and produced so wild a look upon the countenances of those who entered, that there were few of the company bold enough to set foot within its precincts at all.



## Reading Comprehension Test for 11<sup>th</sup> Form Students

**Task one: Chose the multiple-choice item that makes the sentence correct.**

1. The Red Death is
  - a. a powerful enemy army
  - b. the name of a carnival personage
  - c. a lethal disease
  - d. a very serious cold
  
2. The color that best characterizes the Red Death is
  - a. yellow
  - b. crimson
  - c. violet
  - d. beige
  
3. Prince Prospero and his subjects were living in a
  - a. small fortified town
  - b. large castle
  - c. mansion
  - d. monastery complex
  
4. It was thought that it was safe to live
  - a. both inside and outside the walls of their dwelling
  - b. only inside the walls of the castellated abbey
  - c. only outside the walls of the compound
  - d. no where - the plague was both inside and outside the walls
  
5. The prince was throwing a great
  - a. costume ball
  - b. birthday party
  - c. wedding
  - d. dinner party
  
6. The castellated abbey was composed of
  - a. six apartments
  - b. seven apartments
  - c. five apartments
  - d. eight apartments

**Task two: Decide if the statements are true or false.**

7. Prince Prospero was fearless and wise.
8. There were musicians, dancers and jugglers at the celebration.
9. It took a mere thirty minutes for the Red Death to kill its victim.
10. Each of the apartments had a different color scheme.
11. The fourth room was white.
12. Candles lighted the apartments.
13. Many of the guests congregated in the last apartment.
14. Blood is scarlet colored.
15. Among Prince Prospero's guests were knights, dames and peasants.

## Writing for 11<sup>th</sup> Form Students

1. You have been asked to write an essay presenting your views on technology. What kinds of technology do you use everyday? What do you consider some of the most important technological inventions? How do these inventions change our lives? Can too much technology be bad for us? Write an essay giving your opinion.

2. Imagine your ideal job. Write a formal letter to your future employer asking for this job. Describe the personal qualities (honest, hard-working, etc.) that make you an ideal candidate for this profession. Discuss what kind of skills or talents you have. What kind of education do you have for this job? Be sure to include experiences or things you have done to prove these things.

3. Which do you think is more important: to be disciplined and a hard worker, or to be creative? Write an essay on which quality you think is more important. What are the good and bad things about being creative? What are the good and bad things about being disciplined? Tell about a time you used creativity or discipline to solve a problem.

## Writing for 10<sup>th</sup> Form Students

1. An American is coming to teach English in your school. Your English teacher asks you to write him a letter about schools in Ukraine. Try to explain how your school will be different from an American school. Talk about the different customs in your town. Tell your future teacher what kind of things you want to learn and what kinds of activities you want to do in class.

2. Many people say, “too much of a good thing is bad for you.” Do you agree that moderation is a good thing, or is it okay to be extreme? Have you ever had so much of a good thing that it became a problem? Explain. Are there things that you enjoy too often and too much? How can you enjoy activities and things you like, but still have time for other things? Can moderation help your future?

3. There are many different ways to be a leader. What are some necessary characteristics of a good leader? Can everyone be a leader? Why is being or having a leader important? Can you give an example of a good leader?

## Writing for 9<sup>th</sup> Form Students

1. A famous travel guide company has contacted you. They want information about your town/village. Write a travel article about your town/village. Include the location of your village/town, places of interest, popular activities for different seasons, and how a traveler can find your village/town. Be sure to tell travelers what they need to know about your village (cultural differences, available conveniences, what they should be careful of doing, and where they can stay). Make sure you show your town/village as an interesting and fun travel destination.

2. Write an informal letter to a friend in another country. She wants to know about popular holidays in Ukraine. What is your favorite holiday? How do you celebrate this holiday? Be sure to include food, customs, important traditions and the history of this holiday. Are there holidays that are more popular among teenagers than among adults?

3. A 9<sup>th</sup> form class in Great Britain has contacted you. They want to know what it is like to be a 9<sup>th</sup> form student in Ukraine. Write an informal letter to British teenagers about what school life is like in Ukraine. How are the classes? What things do teenagers do after school? Are there many clubs or sports teams? What kind of social events are there? Do you think there are many differences between going to school in Ukraine and going to school in Britain? What do you think is important for British teenagers to know about teenagers in Ukraine?

## Writing for 8<sup>th</sup> Form Students

1. An international company wants to get a picture of sport in our country. Write what sports are played in our region, which ones are the most popular, which sport you have played and how you think sport can help people in their lives.

2. An English friend is spending the day at your home next Sunday. You want to tell her what to expect. Write a letter to your friend and tell her \ him who she \ he will meet, say what kind of meal she will have and tell how would you like to spend the day with her \ him.

3. Today many students in school have mobile phones. Many of them don't always turn their phones off before going to their lessons. Do you think it is necessary for pupils to have mobile phones? Do mobile phones interrupt teachers and students? Should teachers be able to take phones away from students?

## Speaking Comprehension Test for 10<sup>th</sup> Form Students

1. Physical education and art are considered important subjects in many schools.
  - What benefits do students receive by participating in these classes?
  - Should they be mandatory? Why?
  - Which of these two classes is more important? Why?
  
2. Some people argue that a film is never as good as its book version.
  - Do you agree with this statement?
  - What differences generally exist between books and their film adaptations?
  - If you could make any book into film, which would you choose and why?
  
3. In an effort to help others, many people donate their time and money to different organizations and causes.
  - Which of the two do you think is more valuable?
  - Do you think it is better to contribute locally or internationally?
  - Which organization or cause would you donate your time or money to if you could? Would it be time or money? Explain.
  
4. A recent study suggests that half of Europe's teenagers use the internet without parental supervision.
  - Do you believe that teenagers should be able to use the internet without supervision?
  - What are some potential problems with unsupervised internet use?
  - What measures should teenagers take to protect themselves against these threats?
  
5. Imagine you were invited to speak at an American university about Ukrainian culture.
  - What aspect of your culture would you be most proud to share?
  - What do you think they would be most surprised by?
  - What items would you bring to represent Ukraine?
  
6. “The shoes make the man,” is a popular saying.
  - What can you tell about person based on their cloths?
  - Is clothing a good way to judge people? Why or why not?
  - Does your clothing represent you accurately?
  
7. Some people say that they can't live without their mobile phone. Give example of an item you can't live without.
  - Why is this so important to you?
  - What was your life like before you had this item?
  - What would you do if you lost it tomorrow?
  
8. Our world has become dependent on technology.
  - What technology do you use daily?
  - What technology could you not live without?
  - How would people's lives be different without technology? Society?
  
9. It is said that learning more than one language allows you to “broaden your horizons,” do you agree or disagree?
  - How has learning English affected your life?
  - Are there any other languages you wish to speak? Why?
  - How has learning English helped you understand your culture?

10. The study of foreign languages is encouraged in many countries.

- Why did you decide to learn English?
- What is the hardest part about learning English?
- Describe the best way to achieve fluency in a foreign language.

11. Imagine you could live in any city in the world.

- Which city would you choose?
- What factors would influence your choice?
- Describe the lifestyle you would live in this city?

12. Of the people you have studied and read about, seen on television or known in person, select one you want to be like.

- What character qualities does this person possess?
- What are the achievements of this person that you find admirable?
- For what other reasons would you like to be this person?

13. Imagine you could meet one person, dead or alive, and talk to them.

- Who would it be? Why?
- What would you ask them? Why?
- Do you admire this person? Why or why not?

14. In secondary schools around the world pupils learn English as a second language.

- In your opinion, why it is important to learn English.
- What advantages does the study of English have for Ukraine?
- Will speaking English help you achieve your future plans? Why or why not?

15. Many schools all over the world require students to wear school uniforms.

- Why do you think the schools have this rule?
- Does your school require its pupils to wear a school uniform?
- In your opinion, do you think this is a good idea or a violation of pupils' rights?

16. A teenager's life can often be difficult and complicated.

- What problems do teenagers face today?
- Are adults aware of these problems, and do they help or make it worse?
- How will you help solve these problems when you grow up?

17. In secondary schools certain subjects are compulsory for all pupils.

- Should students choose which subjects are compulsory? Please explain.
- Do you believe students should be able to choose a subject different from their classmates?

Why?

- Discuss what subjects you would choose to take or not to take and why?

18. A pen pal from the USA decides to visit you in Ukraine.

- What will you tell him/her to prepare him/her properly for Ukraine?
- What meal will you make him/her to give him/her a little taste of Ukrainian cuisine?
- Where will you take him/her?

19. It is said that global warming/environmental change is a big problem in our world today.

- Do you think it is a big problem? Why or why not?
- What is the cause of this problem?
- What can be done to stop it?

20. What role does technology play in our society?

- What examples of technology have helped improve our lives?
- What examples of technology have actually made our lives worse?
- Would you rather live in a world with everything entirely dependent on technology or without any technology whatsoever?



## Speaking Comprehension Test for 11<sup>th</sup> Form Students

1. In Ukraine there are many forms of communication, such as mobile phones, email, letters, ect.

- What forms of communication are popular in Ukraine?
- Which is the most popular, which is the least popular, and why?
- Do you believe that certain types of communication will become obsolete? Which forms and why?

2. What role does technology play in our society?

- What examples of technology have helped improve our lives?
- What examples of technology have actually made our lives worse?
- Would you rather live in a world with everything entirely dependent on technology or without any technology whatsoever?

3. Imagine that you have been asked teach a class in Britain about Ukraine, most of the people in your class know almost nothing about Ukraine.

- What is the first thing you would say about Ukraine?
- What items would you bring to show people? How do these represent Ukraine?
- What event in Ukraine's history do you think is most important for people to know about? Why?

4. There are many different ways to be a leader.

- How have you been a leader at school, among your friends or in other ways?
- What are some necessary characteristics of a good leader? Can everyone be a leader?
- Why is being or having a leader important?

5. "Goals are dreams with deadlines."

- Explain this quote.
- What are some goals that you have set for yourself?
- Do you agree or disagree that it is important to set goals? Why?

6. "We should not just prepare for life, but live it."

- What does this statement mean to you?
- Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
- Right now, do you feel as though you are preparing for life or living it? In what ways?

7. Imagine that you are given a chance to live forever.

- Would you accept or refuse this offer? Why?
- What would influence your decision?
- How would this change the way you live your life?

8. Imagine you could talk to any person that ever lived.

- Who would it be? And Why?
- What would you ask them?
- Do you wish to be like this person? Why or why not?

10. Art and music classes, as well as sports, should be banned in schools in order to provide more time and money for lessons that are considered more academic such as foreign languages, maths and sciences.

- Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?
- How would banning art and music affect your school and your country?
- What do art and music bring to or take away from your school?

11. Ukraine is a nation made up of different traditions and cultural styles.
- Briefly describe these differences.
  - What traditions are you most proud of?
  - Please explain why they are important to you.
12. People usually play music that expresses their style and personality.
- What genre of music do you usually listen to, and what are some of your favorite songs, groups, and singers? Why?
  - Does this music express who you are, or part of who you are? Why or why not?
  - What do other people think about you when they hear you listening to this music? Is it true or not true?
13. A teenager's life can often be difficult and complicated.
- What problems do teenagers face today?
  - Are adults aware of these problems, and do they help or make it worse?
  - How will you help solve these problems when you grow up?
14. What stereotypes do you think foreigners have about Ukraine?
- Do you feel that these stereotypes are correct?
  - What stereotypes do you feel are particularly harmful for the Ukrainian people?
  - What can you do to change these stereotypes?
15. It has been said that the internet has changed the world for ever.
- What do you use the internet for?
  - How the internet changed the way we communicate and gain information world wide?
  - How do you think the internet influences culture and society?
16. People define "family" in different ways. What is your definition of a family?
- Can the definition of "family" change with time?
  - Is it possible to have more than one family? How?
  - What influences the perception of family change?
17. Most scientists argue that we live in a dangerous time of climate change.
- What are some of the biggest problems for our environment?
  - How can humans undo the damage they've done to the Earth?
  - What are people doing in your town or village to help, or harm, the environment?
18. The American President John F. Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."
- Do you think that you have a responsibility to contribute to your country? Explain.
  - Why do you think this is an important question?
  - What are some examples of things you can do for your country in order to improve it?
19. On Teacher's Day you are asked by the director to teach a third form English class.
- If you could pick any topic, which would you choose to teach? Why?
  - How would you maintain discipline in the classroom?
  - How would you reward your pupils for their classroom performance?
20. One of your friends wants to do some volunteer work during one of your school holidays.
- Suggest an activity that he/she could do.
  - Explain how this work will help the community.
  - Do you think that doing volunteer work is important for your community? For yourself?
- Explain.

## Speaking Comprehension Test for 9<sup>th</sup> Form Students

1. In secondary schools certain subjects are compulsory for all pupils.
  - Should students choose which subjects are compulsory? Please explain.
  - Do you believe students should be able to choose a subject different from their classmates?Why?
  - Discuss what subjects you would choose to take or not to take and why?
  
2. Imagine you are lost in the woods
  - What five things would you like to have in your backpack?
  - If you could have one other person with you, who would it be and why?
  - What is the first thing you would do when you got out of the woods?
  
3. Choose an athlete you admire
  - Describe the athlete's skills, character and personal achievement
  - Do you admire this person only for his or her skill, or do you admire his or her character as well?Why?
  - What characteristics would you like to develop in your own life? Why?
  
4. Your school is having a competition in which students are designing a new uniform.
  - What colors and styles would you use?
  - Why do you think your design would be chosen?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of school uniforms?

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5. Imagine you are the owner of a new museum
  - What type of museum would you like to own?
  - From which time period would most of your materials be from?
  - Who would be interested in visiting your museum?
  
6. Supermarkets are becoming more widespread and popular in the modern world, while traditional markets are becoming less common.
  - Where do you (your family) do most food shopping?
  - What advantages and disadvantages do you see with modern supermarkets?
  - Do you think that traditional markets will disappear? Why or why not?
  
7. Some people argue that a film is never as good as its book version
  - Do you agree with this statement?
  - What differences generally exist between books and their film adaptations?
  - If you could make any one book into a film, which would you choose and why?
  
8. Many people think that our parents greatly influence our personalities
  - Which personality traits do you share with your mother and father?
  - What makes you different from them?
  - Who has had more of an impact on you, your mother or your father? Explain.
  
9. If you had a week to travel out of your native country and an endless supply of money where would you want to go, and how would you get there?
  - What country would you travel to? Why?
  - What are the top three things you would do and why?
  - Would you travel alone, with a few people, or with many people? Why?

10. Your best friend is having a birthday soon. You are going to plan a surprise party.

- How would you surprise your friend?
- Describe the party's theme and decorations?
- What kinds of food and entertainment will you prepare? Why?

11 You would like to create your own personal website

- What kinds of information would you put on it and why?
- Who would be your audience?
- How would you advertise your website so that people would be interested?

12. You are starting your own band.

- What kind of music would you play? Why?
- Who would be in your band? What instruments would they play?
- What would your songs be about?

13. What role does food have in your life? What role does food play in culture?

• How are special dishes part of your favourite traditions, and why are they meaningful to you?  
What role does food have in your life? What role does food play in culture?

- If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would you eat? Why?
- Would you rather prepare all of your own food or eat at restaurants for the rest of your life?

14. You have been given \$500 to renovate and redecorate your home.

- Describe what your home looks like before renovation.
- What would you renovate? What new items would you purchase? Why?
- Describe what your home would look like after renovation.

15. Imagine that you have a younger brother or sister who has bad manners.

- What things does he or she do that you consider to be bad manners?
- How can you or your parents teach him or her good manners?
- Are good manners important for your future life?

16. Your parents would like you to have a profession which you are not interested in, but which will be very well paid. You would like to have a different profession, which interests you.

- Explain what profession you would like to have and why.
- Is it better to have a profession which you are interested in, or one which is well paid?
- What professions in Ukraine are well paid? Are any of these interesting to you?

17. Imagine that you will represent Ukraine for an international TV program, and speak about your country.

- What makes Ukraine different from other countries?
- What are the good things about Ukraine? What are you proud of?
- What would you like to change about your country, if anything?

18. What is the best gift you have ever been given?

- Who gave you the gift and what made it so special?
- What thoughtful gifts have you given to someone? Explain.
- Besides giving gifts, what other ways do we show our appreciation for people?

19. If you could spend as much money as you wanted at one store, which store would you choose?

- Why?
- What type of things would you buy? Describe some possible items.
- Are there any shops like this in your town? What other shops are there?

20. Some say that 'street smarts' are more important than 'book smarts'.

- What are the most important lessons you've learned outside of school?
- Do the lessons we need in life come mostly from school, or not?
- What do you think it means to have a 'complete or well rounded' education?

## Speaking Comprehension Test for 8<sup>th</sup> Form Students

1. A hero is traditionally a person who, in the face of danger, adversity or weakness, displays courage and the will for self sacrifice for some greater good of humanity.

- What traits define a hero for you?
- Does being in the right place at the right time make a hero or are people born that way?
- Who is your hero and why do you look up to them?

2. Many different languages are used around the world, even within a single country.

- What other languages would you want to learn to speak and why?
- How can language help connect people from different parts of the world?
- How would the world be different if only one language was spoken throughout the world?

3. The town government is going to do some advertising and wants ideas.

- What parts of your town or region should be advertised?
- What should they say about the people who live there?
- How can they attract tourists to your town or region?

4. If you could spend as much money as you wanted at one store, which store would you choose?

- Why?
- What type of things would you buy? Describe some possible items.
- Are there any shops like this in your town? What other shops are there?

5. Many people look back on their childhood fondly and remember a favorite toy.

- What was your favorite childhood toy and why?
- What are the characteristics of a good toy?
- How do the toys of today compare to toys in the past?

6. Everyone likes to relax in different ways. Some people even have a special place that only they know about.

- What special place do you like to go to for relaxation?
- What does it look like?
- What do you do there?

7. You want to cook your favorite dish tonight for dinner.

- What is your favorite dish and what ingredients are found in your dish?
- What equipment and utensils will you need to cook your dish?
- What steps will you have to take to make the dish?

8. Describe the 'house of your dreams'.

- What does your house look like?
- What is your favorite room and what is in it?
- Where in the world would your house be located?

9. A person you know is planning to visit your town or city.

- During what season would you recommend him or her to visit and why?
- What do you think this person would like and dislike about spending time in your town or city?

Why?

- What areas of interest would you show her or him first?

10. Imagine you get to move into your own apartment.

- What five things would you put in your apartment?
- Do you think you would keep your apartment clean or messy? Why?

- Would you invite anyone to live with you or would you stay there alone? Why?

11. “Traveling is no longer necessary because modern technology has made it possible to learn about the rest of the world from computers and televisions.”

- Do you agree with this statement?
- Why do people like traveling?
- Do you think foreigners could really understand Ukrainian life and culture without visiting Ukraine? Explain.

12. People are often interested in foreign people and cultures. Which foreign culture do you find most interesting?

- Which tradition from that culture would you like to experience?
- How has the classical understanding of that culture evolved over time?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of accepting foreign traditions into your own culture?

13. Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter. You have the opportunity to interview any person in the world.

- Who would you choose to interview?
- How has this person influenced people’s lives?
- What three questions would you ask first?

14. Imagine you have a magic mirror that allows you to see anything in the world.

- What would you choose to see?
- What would you do with this information?
- What could be dangerous about someone having access to such a powerful tool?
- How could you make the world a better place?

15. If you could learn any language besides Ukrainian, or English, what would it be?

- What are your reasons?
- Do you have any personal experience of being in a country and wishing you had known the language? What would the difference have been if you knew the language?
- What opportunities would it create for you?

16. How important is it for young people to have good role models?

- Who do you think is a good role model for young people in your country? Why?
- What would you most like to be admired for?
- What characteristics define a good role model for you?

17. A pen pal from the USA decides to visit you in Ukraine.

- What will you tell him/her to prepare him/her properly for Ukraine?
- What meal will you make him/her to give him/her a little taste of Ukrainian cuisine?
- Where will you take him/her?

18. Supermarkets are becoming more widespread and popular in the modern world, while traditional markets are becoming less common.

- Where do you (your family) do most food shopping?
- What advantages and disadvantages do you see with modern supermarkets?
- Do you think that traditional markets will disappear? Why or why not?

19. Many people think that our parents greatly influence our personalities

- Which personality traits do you share with your mother and father?

- What makes you different from them?
- Who has had more of an impact on you, your mother or your father? Explain.

20. Your best friend is having a birthday soon. You are going to plan a surprise party.

- How would you surprise your friend?
- Describe the party's theme and decorations?
- What kinds of food and entertainment will you prepare? Why?