

Олимпиада школьников «Покори Воробьевы горы!»

2024/25

Заключительный этап

Английский язык

11 класс

Вариант 2

Блок 1. Лексико-грамматический тест (20 баллов)

Task 1. *For questions 1-10 Read the text below. Choose the correct option from the brackets. Transfer your answers into the answer sheet. Each correct answer earns you 1 point.*

Patience **1 (has been / was / had been)** a necessity, not a virtue, when I was younger. Waiting was simply a part of your life. You **2 (had to / should / might)** wait for letters to arrive, for photos to be developed, for your favourite song to play on the radio. There was no instant access, no "skip" button.

Back then, if you arranged to meet a friend, you **3 (would stand / should stand / must stand)** by the clock tower and wait, hoping they hadn't forgotten. Now, a delayed reply to a message **4 (likely to make / is bound to make / should have made)** people uneasy, as if silence means something is wrong.

Technology **5 (had reshaped / reshapes / has reshaped)** our sense of time completely. We are rarely forced to pause or be alone with our thoughts. **6 (If / Unless / While)** I love the convenience of modern life, I can't help but wonder if we've lost something valuable.

We **7 (used to know / had used to know / were used to knowing)** how to sit still, how to let anticipation build. Waiting **8 (hadn't been / wasn't used to being / wasn't)** seen as wasted time—it was part of the experience.

That's not to say life was better then. Many things are **9 (a lot / much / far more)** efficient now. But I do think we **10 (could benefit / should have benefited / had benefited)** from remembering that not everything needs to be instant.

Task 2. Match two halves of the sentences below. There is **one** extra letter you do not need to use. Transfer your answers into the answer sheet (boxes 11-20). Each correct answer earns you 1 point.

11. The Chess World Championship is one of the most anticipated events in the world of professional chess,

12. Yet, every championship is surrounded by controversy,

13. This year's event sparked debate when the reigning champion unexpectedly withdrew,

14. For journalists covering the championship, the challenge is not just reporting moves

15. I remember following the 2018 championship,

16. And I wrote so as

17. Another common observation is that past champions

18. It is understandable that not every player supports the current format,

19. When I attended a press conference after a particularly tense match,

20. That was the year people said defensive strategies were dominating the tournament,

A but finding compelling narratives behind the games.

B bringing together the finest players from across the globe.

C to explain why some players preferred shorter time controls, believing them to be more thrilling and decisive.

D whether due to disputed rulings, unexpected upsets, or discussions about the format.

E leaving fans speculating about the future of the title.

F when every drawn game led to endless discussions about whether classical chess was losing its appeal.

G I noticed how the players carefully chose their words to avoid giving rivals any psychological advantage.

H while players insisted they were simply adapting to modern preparation techniques.

I as some argue for a return to older match structures.

J would have handled certain positions differently, often sparking debates on online forums.

K despite its rich history and undeniable prestige.

Блок 2. Понимание и интерпретация письменного текста (40 баллов)

Task 3. Read two texts on the four-day workweek. For questions 21-30 choose the best answer from A-C and find the evidence in the texts. Transfer your answers into the answer sheet (boxes 21-30). Each correct answer earns you 1 point.

Text 1. The four-day workweek has gained significant attention as companies experiment with reducing working hours without lowering salaries. Advocates argue that this approach enhances productivity, well-being, and job satisfaction. Studies indicate that employees with an extra day off often perform more efficiently, as they feel more refreshed and motivated. Additionally, a shorter workweek improves mental health and work-life balance, giving workers more time for hobbies, family, and personal growth. Furthermore, companies adopting this model often see reduced absenteeism and higher staff retention. However, it's not all sunshine and roses. Not all businesses can implement a four-day schedule easily. Some roles require constant availability, making it difficult to maintain productivity. Nevertheless, in many industries, restructuring work processes has proven to be a game-changer. Experts believe that with the right planning, companies can maximise output while giving employees the flexibility they desire. The challenge lies in finding the right balance between efficiency and reduced hours and reassessing the day-to-day operations of various enterprises.	Text 2. While the four-day workweek offers promising benefits, it also presents challenges. Many businesses fear that reducing hours will lower productivity and disrupt operations in different domains, including client relationship management. Some industries, particularly those requiring round-the-clock service, struggle to adapt to a condensed schedule. For instance, healthcare, retail, and customer support often require continuous coverage, making shorter weeks difficult to implement. Moreover, employees in some companies report feeling increased pressure to complete the same workload in fewer days, leading to stress rather than relief. Additionally, coordinating schedules in teams where some work four days while others follow a traditional five-day model can be complex. Despite these concerns, pilot programmes in multiple companies across the globe show that, when implemented correctly, the four-day workweek can boost morale and efficiency. Success depends on rethinking workflow, prioritising essential tasks, and embracing new productivity strategies. Companies must carefully assess whether this shift aligns with their operational needs and workforce capabilities.
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Which text does this sentence refer to? Choose A – Text 1, B – Text 2 or C – both.

21. Employees who work fewer days often feel happier and healthier.
22. Some businesses worry that a four-day workweek might reduce efficiency.
23. Not all industries can implement this system easily.
24. Workers are more loyal to the company when their working hours are shorter.

25. *Having more free time helps people manage stress and avoid burnout.*
26. *The idea of reducing the number of working days has both advantages and downsides.*
27. *Some companies believe that shorter weeks could harm customer service.*
28. *Many organizations have been testing this approach.*
29. *In some cases, employees feel pressure to do the same work in less time.*
30. *Rethinking how businesses operate is crucial to making the four-day workweek work.*

Task 4. *Write an essay summarising and evaluating the key points from both texts. Use **your own words** throughout as far as possible, and **include your own opinion** in your answer. Write 220-250 words. You can get a maximum of 30 points for this task.*

Follow the structure for writing this type of essay:

- *Introduction, in which you make a plain reference to the topic of the two texts;*
- *The main body, where you elaborate on the points presented in both texts, comparing and contrasting them (including your opinion);*
- *Conclusion (closing remark without new ideas).*

Блок 3. Творческое задание (40 баллов)

Task 5. Write a blog post (approximately 250-280 words) on the following topic:
"If Social Media Didn't Exist"

Reflect on how your daily life, relationships, and communication would change if social media platforms disappeared. Would it make life simpler or more challenging? Would it help or harm the way people connect and share information? Share your thoughts and imagine how people might adapt.

Use the following plan for writing a blog:

- 1. Write an engaging introduction.*
- 2. Separate your blog into 2-3 paragraphs. Use headings to separate new ideas. A few headings will keep your readers interested in your blog post.*
- 3. At the end of your blog post, give the reader a reason to leave a comment. Ask a question or invite readers to share their own ideas or links.*