



Федеральное государственное автономное образовательное учреждение
высшего образования

«Российский государственный гуманитарный университет»
(ФГАОУ ВО «РГГУ»)

ОЛИМПИАДА РГГУ ДЛЯ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ ПО ИНОСТРАННОМУ ЯЗЫКУ

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

2024/2025 учебный год

Отборочный этап

10 класс

Вариант № 25-ОШ-1-10 Английский язык

На выполнение олимпиадных заданий отводится 120 минут. Вам предлагается выполнить три категории заданий. При выполнении заданий внимательно читайте инструкцию к каждому заданию.

Максимальное количество баллов за ответы:

- Часть 1. (Reading) - 26 баллов;*
- Часть 2. (Use of English) - 62 балла;*
- Часть 3. (Cultural Study) - 12 баллов.*

Part 1. Reading

Read the four texts and answer the questions below by indicating which text each question relates to: A, B, C, D, or None.

Please note that there are two questions which do not refer to any of the texts.

Text A – RAISING A SMILE

Historically, humour has often been seen in a very negative way. For example, about two and a half thousand years ago, Plato, the famous Greek philosopher, wrote about the ‘malevolent nature of humour’. For him, it meant trying to give yourself a sense of superiority by making fun of other people, and he taught that only people of lesser worth did this.

Modern psychology, however, regards humour with more respect. Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, saw laughter as a means of safely discharging nervous energy. It provides relief and self-gratification and makes potentially damaging conflicts harmless. While this approach is still very influential, more recent work in psychology has also focused on the social value of being funny, the useful role of the well-timed joke or light remark in everyday encounters.

Text B – WHAT IS A JOKE?

What exactly, is a joke? Why do we laugh at certain kinds of stories and what are the essential characteristics of being funny? For humour to exist, there must be an essential **incongruity** – an unexpected conflict or inconsistency between two ideas which is resolved as a joke. This may come about because the punch line bears an unexpected relationship to the opening part of the

story. This corny old joke also relies on a simple double meaning:

My dog has no nose.

Then how does he smell?

Terrible!

Another regular feature of humour is displacement. Here the most obvious interpretation of the situation is displaced by a less obvious or expected one. Take, for example, a typical psychiatrist joke:

Doctor, I keep thinking that there are two of me.

OK, but don't both speak at once.

Appreciation of humour depends very much on your reference point. Group loyalties, political opinions and ethnic background all influence the way a joke is received and how funny people find it. Because of this, a joke can rebound on the teller. One story, for example, begins by making women the **butt** of a male chauvinist observation, but then the sting is in the tail of the joke: "Women are born without a sense of humour so that they can love men without laughing at them."

Text C – THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING FUNNY

Studies of persuasion have revealed that humorous people are perceived as being more likeable and this in turn enables them to have greater influence. In one experiment, trained psychology graduates played the role of sellers in a bargaining situation. They were to bargain with people over the price of a painting. Some were instructed to take a humorous approach while others made no jokes at all and bargained in a straightforward serious way. It was found that the dealers with the more light-hearted attitude were able to get a significantly higher price for the painting. What humour does, in this context, is to reduce the buyer's feelings of threat and anxiety and to establish a more related relationship with the seller. Both trust and attraction are increased and the buyer feels able **to make concession** without **losing face**.

The implications of this study are quite important. If humour can aid the salesman, then it can also work in a similar way with the buyer. Making jokes which do not threaten the self-esteem of the person who is trying to sell you a car or a new refrigerator may allow you to win concessions. Humour can be used as a persuader in other social contexts and is useful in opening conversations with the opposite sex. Establishing a relaxed mood helps a relationship to develop quickly.

Remarks or actions that people would often not see as very funny are sometimes found quite hilarious in group settings. This is the result of an effect known as 'social facilitation.' If one person laughs, then this greatly increases the likelihood that others will, and – because they are laughing – members of the group perceive the object of humour as funnier.

This illustrates one way in which you can increase your influence if you can get people to laugh with you, then you have already established a degree of leadership that you can later build on. It can also improve your image and **standing** in conversation with a group of friends.

Text D – RELEASING AND DISPLACING EMOTIONS

Many researchers believe that being genuinely funny can only be achieved by returning to a more childlike view of the world. This may be associated with the fact that comedians adopt humour early in life as a way of getting people to like them, and then use it to maintain their attention.

Many comedians have reported that their use of humour developed in early schooldays and was a means of coping with anxiety-producing situations. Such strategies were rewarded with laughter by classmates who lacked the confidence themselves to go against accepted values in the way that most humour requires. **Defiance** of convention continues into the adult life of comedians. The professionals tackle taboo subjects without inhibition and this gives them considerable social value. By encouraging us to laugh at the subjects that give rise to our anxieties, they help us safely to discharge tensions.

Humour may also be a displacement of aggression. The professional comic is thought by

psychoanalysts to be an angry person whose skills allow him to channel his aggression in a socially acceptable and productive manner. Another psychoanalytic view of the personality of comedians suggests that they are depressed people, but with enough strength of character to transfer the depressed emotions into creative expression.

For all of us, humour is not only an invaluable social tool; it also provides a useful way of coping with personal frustrations and emotional difficulties. Making a joke about a problem enables us to communicate the nature of our true feelings to others. By laughing about them, we achieve a more relaxed mood in which we are better able to understand and resolve conflicts.

Tasks 1-14. (14 points)

Example: Which text includes the information about the fact that comedians learn to be funny early in life?

- A
- B
- C
- +D
- None

001. Which text describes a change in attitude over the centuries?

- A
- B
- C
- D
- None

002. Which text describes the effect being in a group has on the way a remark is perceived?

- A
- B
- C
- D
- None

003. Which text is about the personal factors that can affect the way in individual reacts to a joke?

- A
- B
- C
- D
- None

004. Which text is about the fundamental psychology of comedians?

- A
- B
- C
- D
- None

005. Which text describes the subversive nature of humour?

- A
- B
- C
- D
- None

006. Which text states the unpredictability that is a characteristic of jokes?

- A
- B
- C
- D
- None

007. Which text criticizes those who make fun of others?

- A
- B
- C
- D
- None

008. Which text describes how subjects that are normally forbidden can be raised?

- A
- B
- C
- D
- None

B. Read the four texts again and answer the following questions by choosing the correct option.

009.

In Text B, the underlined noun 'incongruity' can be best replaced with:

- disarrange
- discrepancy
- disregard
- disorder

010.

In Text B, the underlined phrase "butt" means the same as:

- target
- deadline
- score
- buckler

011.

In Text C, the underlined phrase "make concessions" means the same as:

- persuade someone to give you something
- refuse credence
- turn down the offer
- distribute responsibilities

012.

In Text C, the underlined word "standing" means the same as:

- profession
- job
- reputation
- work

013.

In Text C, the underlined phrase **“lose face”** means the same as:

- feel pity
- feel tired
- feel humiliated
- feel nervous

014.

In Text D, the underlined word **“defiance”** means the same as:

- show mercy
- show patience
- show goodwill
- show no fear or respect

Tasks 15-26. (12 points)

Read the article and choose the best option to complete the text – a, b, c, or d.

Seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, is a type of depression that follows the seasons, with most SAD sufferers (015. _____) symptoms during winter months. These symptoms include disturbed sleep and difficulty staying awake during the day. For many people, SAD is a (016. _____) condition which causes some discomfort, but no severe suffering. This form of SAD is sometimes referred to as ‘winter blues’. For others, however, it is a serious illness which might (017. _____) them living a normal life.

SAD is clearly a response to the (018. _____) of daylight hours and the lack of sunlight in winter. It is mainly found among people living in high (019. _____). However, it is rare in those living within 30 degrees of the Equator, where daylight hours are long and constant. The relationship between (020. _____) daylight and SAD is not clearly understood. It is thought that it affects the brain’s production of hormones serotonin and melatonin, but precisely (021. _____) depression is (022. _____) by a fall in the production of these hormones is an area for further research.

The most common treatment for SAD is light therapy in which sufferers are exposed to a very bright light, of at least ten times the intensity of ordinary domestic lighting, for up to four hours per day. This is (023. _____) in around 85% of cases. Patients who do not respond to light therapy are usually prescribed antidepressant drugs, although there is a growing (024. _____) in psychotherapy for SAD sufferers, enabling them to relax and (025. _____) with the problems (026. _____) by illness.

015.

- feeling
- facing
- experiencing
- finding

016.

- mild
- medium
- lenient
- slight

017.

- limit
- prevent
- obstruct
- prohibit

018.

inadequacy
shortage
scarcity
shortening

019.

distances
latitudes
degrees
spirits

020.

weakened
contracted
reduced
lowered

021.

if
why
whether
that

022.

released
acquitted
exonerated
triggered

023.

efficient
active
effective
productive

024.

enthusiasm
attention
popularity
interest

025.

cope
manage
face
confront

026.

resisted
induced
rejected
repressed

Part 2. English in Use

Tasks 27-36. (20 points)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. DO NOT CHANGE the word given. DO NOT USE SHORT FORMS. The number of words you should write is specified in each sentence. Type the needed words. The words of your answers should be divided by one space.

Example:

0. They took advantage of the day-off at work and went to the seaside. (3 words)

most

They _____ of the day-off at work and went to the seaside.

= **made the most**

027. There is a business meeting taking place on the third floor.

progress

There is _____ on the third floor. (5 words)

028. He doesn't drive because he's afraid of having an accident.

fear

He doesn't _____ an accident. (5 words)

029. I don't mind being alone at weekends.

on

I don't mind _____ at weekends. (4 words)

030. I'm sure he lost his key.

have

He _____ his key. (3 words)

031. Gary is proud of the fact that he is never late.

on

Gary _____ being early. (4 words)

032. His smooth manner didn't deceive us.

taken

We were _____ his smooth manner. (4 words)

033. Terry was rude but Anne got her revenge on him.

being

Ann paid Terry _____ to her. (4 words)

034. Hard work was what caused Jill's success.

put

Jill's success can _____ hard work. (4 words)

035. It's possible that the fire was caused by an electrical fault in the gym.

likelihood

In _____ of the fire in the gym was an electrical fault. (4 words)

036. You should really stop behaving like a child.

though

It's high time you _____ a child. (6 words)

Tasks 37-41. (10 points)

Choose the sentence in reported speech which is a summarized version of the first sentence in direct speech.

EXAMPLE:

0.

"No, you really must stay the night, Sophia", Ann said.

-Ann invited that Sophia would stay the night.

-Ann told Sophia that she would have to stay the night.

+Ann insisted that Sophia stayed the night.

-Ann said that Sophia mustn't stay the night.

037.

"Is this the first time you have applied for a managerial post?" Mr Roberts asked Fiona.

Mr Roberts wanted to know how many times she had applied for a managerial post.

Mr Roberts wondered if that was the first time she applied for a managerial post.

Mr Roberts asked whether that was the first time she had applied for a managerial post.

Mr Roberts doubted that she applied for a managerial post for the first time.

038.

"I would invite more people if I had a bigger flat", he said.

He was going to invite more people next time.

He promised that more people could come to a bigger flat.

He boasted about having a bigger flat and invited more people.

He remarked that he would invite more people if he had a bigger flat.

039.

"Don't you ever discuss my problems behind my back again!" my best friend said.

My best friend asked me if I had ever discussed her problems behind her back.

My best friend demanded that I don't discuss her problems behind her back again.

My best friend warned me never to discuss her problems behind her back again.

My best friend advised not discussing her problems behind her back again.

040.

"You must not leave your car even to make photos of wild animals", the ward said to them.

The ward warned them not to leave the car as it was absolutely prohibited.

The ward asked them not to leave the car as it might be dangerous.

The ward recommended them to take photos from the car.

The ward persuaded them that the best photos of wild animals could be taken only from the car.

041.

"I was to have met him at his office yesterday", she said.

She agreed that she had had an appointment with him the previous day.

She insisted on having seen him in his office the previous day.

She said that they had arranged a meeting in his office the previous day, but it didn't happen.

She announced that she was dating him.

Tasks 42-51. (20 points)

The following sentences test your ability to recognize grammar and usage errors. Each sentence contains either a single error or no error at all. No sentence contains more than one error. The error, if there is one, is underlined and lettered. If the sentence contains an error, select the one underlined part that must be changed to make the sentence correct. If the sentence is correct, select choice E. In choosing answers, follow the requirements of standard written English.

EXAMPLE:**0.**

The film was not bad (A), but I could (B) feel impatience radiating (C) from her and knew she was longing leaving (D). No error (E)

-A

-B

-C

+D

-E

042.

Mr. Grove's prediction may well (A) turn out to be true; yet (B) news organizations no longer (C) fear of an imminent upheaval (D). No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

043.

Deforestation (A) has been successful in some areas where the soil crust has been (B) carefully broken up (C), fertilizers applied, and the whole (D) system carefully cultivated. No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

044.

How long would it take real police (A) to come? A jiffy (B), they had said. What was a jiffy in terms of (C) minutes (D). No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

045.

Catherine stared (A) at him, her heart lifting (B); there was (C) as though some unbearable burden had been removed from deep (D) inside her. No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

046.

All the (A) stores had stayed (B) open till nine tonight; there was (C) only a few minutes past (D). No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

047.

She was enormously enjoying her fourth martini; she glowed inside like (A) brightest globe (B) on the twelve-foot (C) Christmas tree that almost touched the oak-beamed (D) ceiling. No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

048.

Most of the (A) boats that had been (B) around them all day had disappeared, and the water seemed to be (C) their (D) alone. No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

049.

Again she wanted to leave before something happened (A) and she asked (B) the simplest (C) of questions to which she would undoubtedly have to answer (D) a demoralizing "I don't know". No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

050.

Britain's (A) pot-holed roads (B) have been blamed for 50% increase (C) in accident against local authorities in a study being published (D) today. No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

051.

It was a pleasant gift shop, populated and run (A) by gracefully aged (B) suburbanite (C) women dressed in cute pink (D) smocks. No error (E)

A

B

C

D

E

Tasks 52-57. (12 points)

Read this passage and match the underlined words in sentences with idioms. There are 6 gaps in the text, but 8 idioms. Two idioms are extra.

My friend Doug has really done well for himself in life. I'm very proud of him and all of his achievements! We get together every year or so for a two or three-day hike in Oregon. It's a great time to reflect on how life is going, talk about old times and have new adventures. Let me tell you a little bit about Doug.

It was clear from the beginning that he was (052. _____) (*becoming successful*). He did very well in school, and everyone knew he was a (053. _____) (*very intelligent person*). Not only were his grades good, but he was also an outstanding athlete, as well as keeping his nose clean. Some accused him of being (054. _____) (*without fault not having problems or mistakes*), but that didn't bother him. He wasn't going to let anyone rain on his parade!

After he graduated from college, he decided to go to New York. As the song goes: "If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere!" Back in those days, New York was a hotbed of innovation. Doug was a product design specialist and had some great designs (055. _____) (*ready*). Unfortunately, he didn't immediately succeed. Things weren't easy in the beginning, and it took him a while to learn the ins and outs of the Big Apple. In any case, it soon became clear to him that he needed to make some (056. _____) (*extra goodwill*) with his director. He decided he would volunteer to create a presentation for a new product at the company's yearly dog and pony show.

The boss wasn't so sure, but the decision about who would make the presentation wasn't (057. _____) (*not changeable*). In the end, the manager decided that Doug would do a good job. Doug gladly accepted the challenge and decided to make quite an impression. He wasn't exactly going to reinvent the wheel, but he knew he could improve on past presentations. He felt that giving great presentation would improve his standing in the company.

The day of the presentation arrived, and, no surprise, Doug did an outstanding job. His presentation was informative, and he didn't blow any smoke. Where there were problems, he pointed them out and made suggestions as to how to improve the situation. Long story short, because of his excellent presentation the director realized that he was a genuine article. Doug started taking more and more responsibility at the company. Within three years, he had sealed the deal on the development of two of his best ideas. As they say, the rest is history.

052.

Smart cookie
Going places
On tap
Squeaky clean
Brownie points
Loose ends
Going separate ways
Carved in stone

053.

Smart cookie
Going places
On tap
Squeaky clean
Brownie points
Loose ends
Going separate ways
Carved in stone

054.

Smart cookie
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 On tap
 Squeaky clean
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 Loose ends
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 Squeaky clean
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 Loose ends
 Going separate ways
 Carved in stone

Part 3. Cultural Study

Task 58-63. (12 points)

Read the following passages (Texts 1-6) and identify the phenomenon each text or extract tells about. Choose the phenomena from the list coming after the texts.

Text 1

The holiday is observed on February 2. Punxsutawney Phil is said to have made springtime predictions in the tradition's past. It is predicted that there were six more weeks of winter if he saw his shadow.

058.

The Super Bowl
 Polar Bear Plunges
 Royal Ascot

‘Beating the Bounds’
 Bog Snorkeling
 Padstow’s ‘Obby’ Oss
 Groundhog Day
 Royal Maundy Service
 Wassailing in the apple orchards

Text 2

“...plenty of friends and family, even those who aren’t typically football fans, join together to watch the game”

059.

Groundhog Day
 Polar Bear Plunges
 Royal Ascot
 ‘Beating the Bounds’
 Bog Snorkeling
 Padstow’s ‘Obby’ Oss
 Royal Maundy Service
 The Super Bowl
 Wassailing in the apple orchards

Text 3

...participants plunge into a body of water despite its freezing conditions. Immersion in a chilly body of water is one of the most frequent causes of hypothermia.

060.

Groundhog Day
 The Super Bowl
 Royal Ascot
 ‘Beating the Bounds’
 Bog Snorkeling
 Padstow’s ‘Obby’ Oss
 Royal Maundy Service
 Wassailing in the apple orchards
 Polar Bear Plunges

Text 4

One of the most prestigious horse racing occasions. It is renowned for its lengthy history, elegant aesthetic, and regal influence. It lasts for five days, from Tuesday to Saturday. The occasion is well-known for its stringent dress code and affiliation with chic and current apparel.

061.

Groundhog Day
 The Super Bowl
 Royal Ascot
 Polar Bear Plunges
 ‘Beating the Bounds’
 Bog Snorkeling
 Padstow’s ‘Obby’ Oss
 Royal Maundy Service
 Wassailing in the apple orchards

Text 5

In a customary ceremony participants walk the area's perimeter to define and confirm the area's borders. The ceremony serves to preserve historical information and ensure that the community is aware of the boundaries.

062.

Groundhog Day
The Super Bowl
Polar Bear Plunges
Royal Ascot
'Beating the Bounds'
Bog Snorkeling
Padstow's 'Obby' Oss
Royal Maundy Service
Wassailing in the apple orchards

Text 6

Participants swim across a trench that is filled with water. It is thought to have started in the 1970s as a method to earn money for a nearby charity in the small Welsh town of Llanwrtyd Wells. Since then, it has grown in popularity.

063.

Groundhog Day
Bog Snorkeling
The Super Bowl
Polar Bear Plunges
Royal Ascot
'Beating the Bounds'
Padstow's 'Obby' Oss
Royal Maundy Service
Wassailing in the apple orchards