

**Федеральное государственное бюджетное образовательное учреждение
высшего образования
Российская академия народного хозяйства и государственной службы
при Президенте Российской Федерации
Олимпиада школьников РАНХиГС по Иностранному (английскому) языку
2024 – 2025 учебный год
10-11 класс
Заключительный этап
Вариант 1**

Task 1.a. Listen to the presentation twice. Identify and write down the secrets to success mentioned in the presentation. Each answer must start with the first letter(s) provided below. Write one word only for each answer.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Task 1.b. Listen to the following extract from the presentation three times.

a) Mark the pauses with a slash (/).

b) Underline the stressed words.

And the first thing is / passion. / Freeman Thomas says, / "I'm driven by my passion". / TED-
sters do it for love, / they don't do it for money. / Carol Coletta says, / "I would pay someone /
to do what I do." / And the interesting thing is /, if you do it for love, / the money comes
anyway!

Task 1.c. Answer the analytical questions. Write not less than 10 words and not more than 20.

1. What would be the meaning of the sentence "I would pay someone to do what I do." if "pay" is stressed?
2. What would be the meaning of the sentence "I would pay someone to do what I do." if "would" is stressed?
3. How do the pauses and stresses engage the audience and make the speech more memorable?

Task 2. Read the short biography of a successful entrepreneur below. After reading, answer the questions as if you were in the entrepreneur's shoes. **Be imaginative** in your answers, stepping into the mindset of a highly driven entrepreneur.

Your answers should be **30–40 words long**.

Biography: Elon Musk

Elon Musk, born in South Africa in 1971, is one of the world's most influential entrepreneurs. As the founder of SpaceX and co-founder of Tesla, Musk has revolutionized the space and electric vehicle industries. His childhood was marked by an insatiable curiosity, and he taught himself programming at an early age. After moving to the U.S., Musk studied at the University of Pennsylvania before launching his first company, Zip2, which he later sold for \$307 million. Despite his success, Musk has faced numerous challenges, including intense public scrutiny and work-life balance issues. Today, he is known for his relentless work ethic, visionary ideas, and commitment to sustainability. Musk has six children and has expressed hope that his innovations will secure a better future for humanity.

1. How did your childhood experiences, such as teaching yourself programming, influence your ambitions later in life?
2. Balancing work and family can be difficult. How do you manage to stay connected with your children while leading multiple companies?
3. What motivates you to maintain such a relentless work ethic despite personal challenges?
4. What inspired you to start SpaceX and take on the challenge of space exploration?
5. Tesla has changed the automotive industry. What do you believe is the key to creating disruptive innovations?
6. What was the biggest challenge you faced while building your companies, and how did you overcome it?

Task 3. Rearrange the words below to form a grammatically correct and meaningful sentence. After forming the sentence, answer the analytical question provided for each.

1. **Correct Sentence:** To focus on one's goals is essential to achieving success./To focus on achieving one's goals is essential to success.

Analytical Question: Why is the infinitive "to focus" used as the subject in this sentence instead of a gerund?

Answer:

2. **Correct Sentence:** Rarely does one see such dedication and commitment/commitment and dedication.

Analytical Question: Why is inversion used in this sentence instead of the standard subject-verb order?

Answer:

3. **Correct Sentence:** Had we not started preparations earlier, we would have missed the deadline./Had we started preparations earlier, we would not have missed the deadline.

Analytical Question: What is the significance of using the third conditional here?

Answer:

4. **Correct Sentence:** The author of this article argues persuasively / persuasively argues that global warming requires immediate action.

Analytical Question: Why is the verb "argues" in the present tense, even though the events may not be happening now?

Answer:

5. **Correct Sentence:** The central debate remains the role of ethics in scientific progress. /The role of ethics remains the central debate in scientific progress. /The central debate in scientific progress remains the role of ethics. /In scientific progress, the central debate remains the role of ethics. /The role of ethics in scientific progress remains the central debate.

Analytical Question: What part of speech is the word "**remains**" in the sentence? Which tense is used and why?

Answer:

Task 4. Choose the correct answer and paraphrase the sentence in your own words by **changing the sentence structure** and **using synonyms or antonyms** to express the same idea.

1. Ann's injuries took a long time to **C heal** completely and she has been left with several scars.

Suggested paraphrase: Ann's injuries required a significant amount of time to fully recover, and she has been left with a few scars.

2. I'm used to being woken in the morning by the birds **D twittering** outside my window.

Suggested paraphrase: I've grown accustomed to waking up in the morning to the sound of birds singing just outside my window.

3. I'm in the **B dark** as to where Chris was last night.

Suggested paraphrase: I have no clue about Chris's whereabouts last night.

4. Jane is a sympathetic listener. She lent me an **C ear** when I lost my job.

Suggested paraphrase: Jane is a great listener. She gave me her full attention when I told her I lost my job.

5. Let's make a dash for the train now as the rain seems to be **A easing** off.

Suggested paraphrase: Let's hurry for the train now, as it seems like the rain is starting to lighten up.

6. She **A entrusted** her daughter to the care of a babysitter for the evening.

Suggested paraphrase: She left her daughter in the babysitter's care for the evening.

7. The engineer **C whacked** the machine with a hammer and, miraculously, it roared back to life.

Suggested paraphrase: The engineer struck the machine with a hammer, and to everyone's surprise, it started working again.

8. The Oscar winning actress simply **A exuded** charm and professionalism in her acceptance speech.

Suggested paraphrase: The Oscar-winning actress radiated confidence and grace while delivering her acceptance speech.

9. "He **D swiped** my rubber, miss!" shouted the boy.

Suggested paraphrase: "He took my eraser, miss!" yelled the boy.

10. The teacher was adamant and stuck to his **B guns** about the date of the final exam.

Suggested paraphrase: The teacher was firm in his stance about the date of the final exam and didn't change his mind.

Task 5. Match 10 genres with 12 text extracts, including 2 odd ones that do not match any of them (e.g., 1-A). Analyze any 6 extracts from the list below by explaining:

Purpose: What is the aim of this genre?

Audience: Who is this text extract for?

Language Features: explain how specific words, phrases, or grammar patterns make the expression suitable for the genre.

1. Old English Poetry (H) - H. "Lo, the noble warrior, he who bore the shield, marched steadfast through shadowed glades."

- **Purpose:** Preserve cultural heritage, celebrate heroic deeds, and convey moral values through vivid imagery, rhythmic language, and oral storytelling traditions.
- **Audience:** Scholars, literature enthusiasts, or those interested in historical or cultural traditions, particularly people studying early English language and storytelling techniques.
- **Language Features:** Words like "*noble warrior*" and "*shadowed glades*" evoke vivid imagery of heroism. The archaic phrasing ("*Lo*") elevates the tone, suitable for oral storytelling traditions.

2. Scientific Article (D) - D. "The findings indicate a significant correlation ($p < 0.05$) between the variables, as detailed in Table 2."

- **Purpose:** To present research findings with precision and objectivity.
- **Audience:** Academics, researchers, or professionals seeking reliable and detailed information.
- **Language Features:** Phrases like "*correlation ($p < 0.05$)*" and "*variables*" reflect technical terms or domain-specific vocabulary used in scientific articles.

3. Spoken Anecdote (E) - E. "So, there I was, right in the middle of the crowd, and guess what? I bumped into my old teacher!"

- **Purpose:** To entertain and engage through casual storytelling.
- **Audience:** Friends, family members or acquaintances in informal settings.
- **Language Features:** The informal and conversational tone is evident through the use of casual expressions like "So, there I was" and "guess what?" These phrases mimic natural speech and create a sense of spontaneity. The use of the past tense ("bumped into") reflects a personal recounting of an event. The sentence structure is simple and dynamic, making it engaging for listeners. Additionally, the exclamation mark adds excitement and emphasis, reinforcing the lively nature of spoken anecdotes.

4. Political Speech (A) - A. "Fellow citizens, it is with great hope and resolve that we embark on this journey toward a brighter future."

- **Purpose:** To inspire and persuade people toward a shared goal or vision.
- **Audience:** The general public or political supporters.
- **Language Features:** Inclusive phrases like "*Fellow citizens*" and aspirational vocabulary ("*great hope and resolve*") motivate the audience. Future-oriented verbs ("*we embark*") convey determination, appealing to collective goals.

5. Business News (L) - L. "Stocks surged on Thursday as tech giants reported record earnings, lifting investor sentiment across global markets."

- **Purpose:** To inform readers about market trends and financial developments.
- **Audience:** Investors, professionals, and those following economic news.
- **Language Features:** Phrases like "*stocks surged*" and "*investor sentiment*" use industry-specific terminology. Compound sentences efficiently connect multiple pieces of information relevant to business audiences.

6. Crime Thriller Novel (C) - C. "The dark alley reeked of dampness and fear, the sound of faint footsteps echoing against the brick walls."

- **Purpose:** To entertain people, to create suspense and immerse readers in a tense, thrilling atmosphere.
- **Audience:** Fans of mystery and suspenseful storytelling, book lovers in general
- **Language Features:** Descriptive phrases like "*reeked of dampness and fear*" evoke a vivid, eerie setting. Present participles ("*echoing*") add immediacy, keeping the reader engaged.

7. Personal Diary Entry (K) - K. "Dear diary, today was an absolute disaster! First, I overslept, and then I spilled coffee all over my laptop. What a day!"

- **Purpose:** To reflect on personal experiences and emotions.
- **Audience:** The writer themselves, for private self-expression.
- **Language Features:** The use of informal language ("Dear diary," "What a day!") establishes a personal and emotional tone, typical of diary writing. Exclamation marks emphasize the writer's frustration and heightened emotions. The first-person perspective ("I overslept," "I spilled coffee") personalizes the entry, making it intimate and reflective. The structure is casual and conversational, with short, direct sentences that convey the writer's sense of distress and frustration. The choice of words like "absolute disaster" heightens the emotional impact and emphasizes the writer's reaction to the events.

8. Historical Documentary Script (B) - B. "In 1066, William the Conqueror defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, marking a turning point in English history."

- **Purpose:** To educate and inform about significant historical events.
- **Audience:** Viewers interested in history and cultural knowledge.
- **Language Features:** Proper nouns like "*Battle of Hastings*" ensure historical specificity. Chronological details and past-tense verbs ("*defeated*") provide clarity for the audience.

9. Legal Document (G) - G. "The parties hereto agree to abide by the terms set forth in Sections 3(a) and 3(b) of this Agreement."

- **Purpose:** To establish binding agreements with precise, unambiguous language.
- **Audience:** Legal professionals and parties entering into formal agreements.
- **Language Features:** Terms like "*hereto*" and "*set forth*" are precise legal jargon. The structured format with sections ("*3(a)*") ensures clarity for legal contexts.

10. Instruction Manual (F) - F. "Turn the device off. Open the battery compartment by sliding the cover down. Insert the batteries with the positive end facing up."

- **Purpose:** To guide users through specific tasks clearly and efficiently.
- **Audience:** General users needing step-by-step instructions.
- **Language Features:** Imperative verbs like "*Turn the device off*" and concise, direct sentences ensure clarity. Sequential phrasing helps users follow instructions in logical order.

Odd options:

I. "The trees whisper secrets only the moon understands, a cryptic code in the language of shadows and wind."

J. "LOL, did u see that vid? Omg I was laughing sooo hard 😂😂😂!!! U gotta check it out."

Task 6. Read a 5-paragraph essay about a specific topic. The essay contains **five fallacious arguments** (logical errors) and **one additional fallacy** included as an example to guide you. Your job is to:

1. **Identify the fallacies** in the essay by sentence number.
2. **Explain why the sentence is fallacious** (why it weakens the argument). Your explanation should be **20-35 words**.
3. **Rewrite the fallacious sentence** to make it logical and improve the argument.

In your answer include:

- The **sentence number** you identify as fallacious.
- The **explanation** of the fallacy.
- The **corrected version** of the sentence (this is not part of the word count).

Example:

Fallacy 0: Sentence 3

- **Explanation:** The sentence claims fast food is the primary cause of obesity without considering other contributing factors such as lack of exercise or genetics.
- **Improved sentence:** Fast food is one of several factors contributing to obesity, alongside lack of exercise, genetics, and other dietary habits.

Essay: Should fast food be banned?

1. In recent years, fast food has become a controversial topic due to its impact on health, society, and the environment. 2. Consequently, some believe banning fast food is the best solution to these issues. 3. Fast food is the primary reason for obesity in modern society, as it is unhealthy and consumed too frequently. 4. People who eat fast food are lazy and unwilling to cook healthy meals for themselves. 5. Therefore, banning fast food would completely eliminate obesity and other health problems related to poor diets. 6. Furthermore, fast food is responsible for environmental degradation. 7. Packaging waste from fast food chains is the sole cause of pollution in urban areas. 8. For example, eliminating fast food would immediately resolve major environmental issues. 9. Supporters of the ban also claim that fast food encourages poor eating habits in children. 10. Children who see advertisements for fast food cannot control themselves and end up eating unhealthy food, which proves that marketing is entirely to blame for poor diets. 11. In conclusion, banning fast food seems like the most straightforward way to address obesity, environmental harm, and unhealthy lifestyles. 12. Although some may oppose this, it is clearly the most effective solution for public health and sustainability.

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Заключительный этап
Вариант 2**

Task 1.a. Listen to the presentation twice. Identify and write down the secrets to success mentioned in the presentation. Each answer must start with the first letter(s) provided below. Write one word only for each answer.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Task 1.b. Listen to the following extract from the presentation three times.

- a) Mark the pauses with a slash (/).
- b) Underline the stressed words.

And the first thing is / passion. / Freeman Thomas says, / "I'm driven by my passion". / TED-sters do it for love, / they don't do it for money. / Carol Coletta says, / "I would pay someone / to do what I do." / And the interesting thing is /, if you do it for love, / the money comes anyway!

Task 1.c. Answer the analytical questions. Write not less than 10 words and not more than 20.

1. What would be the meaning of the sentence "I'm driven by my passion" if "I" is stressed?
2. What would be the meaning of the sentence "I'm driven by my passion" if "driven" is stressed?
3. In what way do the speaker's choices of pausing and stressing contribute to persuasion or inspiration?

Task 2. Read the short biography of a successful entrepreneur below. After reading, answer the questions as if you were in the entrepreneur's shoes. **Be imaginative** in your answers, stepping into the mindset of a highly driven entrepreneur. Your answers should be **30–40 words long**.

Elon Musk

Elon Musk, born in South Africa in 1971, is one of the world's most influential entrepreneurs. As the founder of SpaceX and co-founder of Tesla, Musk has revolutionized the space and electric vehicle industries. His childhood was marked by an insatiable curiosity, and he taught himself programming at an early age. After moving to the U.S., Musk studied at the University of Pennsylvania before launching his first company, Zip2, which he later sold for \$307 million. Despite his success, Musk has faced numerous challenges, including intense public scrutiny and work-life balance issues. Today, he is known for his relentless work ethic, visionary ideas, and commitment to sustainability. Musk has six children and has expressed hope that his innovations will secure a better future for humanity.

1. If you could change one aspect of your personal life, what would it be, and why?
2. What role does your family play in your decision-making process for major projects?
3. How do you teach your children the values and lessons you've learned through your career?
4. Sustainability is a major focus of your work. Why is it so important to you, and how do you ensure it remains a priority?
5. How do you handle public criticism and setbacks in your career?
6. If you could give one piece of advice to young entrepreneurs, what would it be?

Task 3. Rearrange the words below to form a grammatically correct and meaningful sentence. After forming the sentence, answer the analytical question provided for each.

1. **Correct Sentence:** Unless conflicting priorities are resolved, organizational productivity will decrease significantly.

Analytical Question: Why is the word "unless" used here, and how does it change the meaning of the sentence compared to "if"?

Answer:

2. **Correct Sentence:** Communication is an essential skill in the success of the modern workplace.

Analytical Question: Why is the noun "communication" placed as the subject of the sentence, and what effect does this have on its tone?

Answer:

3. **Correct Sentence:** There is a global shift occurring in societal values toward sustainability.

Analytical Question: Why is "there is" used at the beginning, and what function does it serve in the sentence?

Answer:

4. **Correct Sentence:** To thrive, organizations must embrace calculated risk-taking.

Analytical Question: Why is the infinitive "to thrive" used here, and how does it contribute to the purpose of the sentence?

Answer:

5. **Correct Sentence:** Were it not for technological advancements, this task would be impossible.

Analytical Question: Which conditional is used here, and what does it imply about the current situation?

Answer:

Task 4. Choose the correct answer and paraphrase the sentence in your own words by **changing the sentence structure** and **using synonyms or antonyms** to express the same idea.

1. It was only when he had been unemployed for six months that Neil's situation hit **C home**

Suggested paraphrase:

2. Maggie is so moody and unpredictable. She's apt to fly off the **A handle** without any real cause.

Suggested paraphrase:

3. My neighbour has threatened to **B take legal action** over our dispute about property boundaries.

Suggested paraphrase:

4. The heavy rain lashed down **B continuously** throughout the night without letting up.

Suggested paraphrase: Rain poured heavily all night long, showing no sign of stopping.

5. As long as you have the most **C essential** ingredients for the recipe, you can make do without the other things.

Suggested paraphrase:

6. Always having had **A itchy** feet, Tara is off again, backpacking to India.

Suggested paraphrase:

7. I think you **C touched** / **D hit** a nerve when you mentioned Ralph's forthcoming retirement.

Suggested paraphrase:

8. After six months of convalescence in a nursing home, Simon is finally on the **D mend**.

Suggested paraphrase:

9. The economic situation makes many people unwilling to take the **C plunge** and open their own businesses.

Suggested paraphrase:

10. We'll keep you **D posted** of any further changes in the examination specifications.

Suggested paraphrase:

Task 5. Match 10 genres with 12 text extracts, including 2 odd ones that do not match any of them (e.g., 1-A). Analyze any 6 extracts from the list below by explaining:

Purpose: What is the aim of this genre?

Audience: Who is this text extract for?

Language Features: explain how specific words, phrases, or grammar patterns make the expression suitable for the genre.

1. **Old English Poetry (I)** - I. "As the sun rose over the battlefield, the soldiers stood in formation, their weapons gleaming in the early light, ready for the battle ahead."

Purpose: To depict a heroic scene, emphasizing valor and readiness for battle.

Audience: Readers or listeners interested in epic tales and heroic deeds.

Language Features: Words like "soldiers stood in formation" and "weapons gleaming" create vivid imagery of heroism. The use of "ready for the battle ahead" reflects the anticipation and courage typical in epic poetry.

2. **Scientific Article (B)** - B. "The subject sample size was 300, and the data were analyzed using a multi-variable regression model to ensure robustness in the findings."
Purpose: To present research findings with clarity and objectivity.
Audience: Researchers, academics, or professionals who require precise and reliable data.
Language Features: Technical terms such as "*subject sample size*" and "*multi-variable regression model*" ensure that the text is professional and focused on methodology. The passive voice "*were analyzed*" highlights the focus on research rather than the researcher.
3. **Spoken Anecdote (E)** - E. "Imagine the scene: I was standing in line when out of nowhere, a pigeon dropped a whole slice of pizza right in front of me!"
Purpose: To entertain and engage through a personal, humorous story.
Audience: Friends, acquaintances, or anyone in an informal social setting.
Language Features: Casual expressions like "*Imagine the scene*" and "*out of nowhere*" create a conversational, spontaneous tone. The storytelling structure makes it easy for the audience to visualize and enjoy the anecdote.
4. **Political Speech (A)** - A. "We must act now, for the future of our children and the generations to come depends on the decisions we make today."
Purpose: To inspire and persuade the audience to take action for the greater good.
Audience: The general public or political supporters.
Language Features: Phrases like "*We must act now*" and "*the future of our children*" appeal to the audience's sense of urgency and responsibility. The use of future-oriented language motivates action toward a common goal.
5. **Business News (L)** - L. "The stock market showed mixed results today, with tech companies performing better than expected while traditional industries faced declines."
Purpose: To inform readers about stock market performance and financial trends.
Audience: Investors, financial professionals, and individuals interested in economic developments.
Language Features: Terms like "*stock market*," "*tech companies*," and "*declines*" are common in business reporting. The comparative structure (e.g., "*performing better than expected*") helps convey the current economic situation.
6. **Crime Thriller Novel (H)** - H. "And in the darkness, the murderer lurked, watching his victim, waiting for the right moment to strike."
Purpose: To create suspense and build tension around a crime or mystery.
Audience: Fans of crime and thriller genres.
Language Features: Descriptive language like "*lurking*" and "*waiting for the right moment*" creates an eerie and suspenseful atmosphere. The dark tone and active verbs like "*watching*" build anticipation for the crime to unfold.
7. **Personal Diary Entry (K)** - K. "The defendant has been found guilty of the charges outlined in Section 5, and the court hereby orders the following actions to be taken. It can't be forgotten. Let me leave it here."
Purpose: To reflect on personal events and express emotions.
Audience: The writer, for self-reflection.
Language Features: The informal and introspective tone, along with the use of first-person perspective ("Let me leave it here"), suggests personal reflection. The phrase "It can't be forgotten" emphasizes strong emotions, which is characteristic of diary entries.

The structure is casual and unfiltered, aligning with the private and expressive nature of personal journals.

8. **Historical Documentary Script (D)** - D. "The victory was a triumph of the human spirit, a moment that will live forever in the annals of history."

Purpose: To educate and inform the audience about historical events.

Audience: Viewers interested in learning about significant historical moments.

Language Features: Phrases like "*triumph of the human spirit*" and "*live forever in the annals of history*" add gravitas and emotional weight, emphasizing the importance of the historical event.

9. **Legal Document (G)** - G. "In the event of a breach, the user will be notified via email, and corrective actions must be taken within 72 hours to prevent data loss."

Purpose: To provide clear, binding instructions or agreements.

Audience: Legal professionals or individuals entering into formal contracts.

Language Features: Precise terms such as "*breach*" and "*corrective actions*" make the document formal and legally enforceable. The passive construction keeps the focus on actions rather than individuals, maintaining clarity.

10. **Instruction Manual (F)** - F. "To assemble the chair, first attach the seat to the base using the provided screws. Then, tighten it with a wrench to secure it."

Purpose: To guide the user through a series of steps to complete a task.

Audience: People who need practical, step-by-step guidance.

Language Features: Imperative verbs such as "*Turn*" and "*Insert*" provide clear, direct instructions. The use of sequence in the steps ("*first*" and "*then*") helps users follow the procedure easily.

Odd Options:

C. "The rain fell in torrents, splashing against the windows as the wind howled outside, rattling the panes."

J. "Hey, did you catch that hilarious meme last night? I couldn't stop laughing!"

Task 6. Read a 5-paragraph essay about a specific topic. The essay contains **five fallacious arguments** (logical errors) and **one additional fallacy** included as an example to guide you. Your job is to:

1. **Identify the fallacies** in the essay by sentence number.
2. **Explain why the sentence is fallacious** (why it weakens the argument). Your explanation should be **20-35 words**.
3. **Rewrite the fallacious sentence** to make it logical and improve the argument.

In your answer include:

- The **sentence number** you identify as fallacious.
- The **explanation** of the fallacy.
- The **corrected version** of the sentence (this is not part of the word count).

Example:

Fallacy 0: Sentence 3

- **Explanation:** This is a **fallacy**, as it claims cars are the main reason for air pollution in cities without considering other contributors like factories, heating systems, and other forms of transportation.
- **Improved sentence:** Cars contribute significantly to air pollution in cities, but other factors, such as industrial emissions and public transport, also play a substantial role.

Essay: Should cars be banned in city centers?

1. In recent years, the issue of car usage in city centers has become a significant debate due to its impact on pollution, congestion, and public safety. 2. Consequently, many argue that banning cars in city centers is the only way to solve these problems. 3. Cars are the main reason for air pollution in cities, as they emit harmful gases that damage the environment. 4. People who drive in city centers are inconsiderate and care only about their own convenience. 5. Therefore, banning cars would completely eliminate air pollution and make cities cleaner. 6. Additionally, cars are responsible for most traffic accidents in urban areas. 7. For instance, if cars were banned, there would be no more accidents, ensuring absolute safety for pedestrians and cyclists. 8. Some also claim that cars make public spaces less enjoyable by creating noise and taking up space. 9. As a result, banning cars would instantly transform city centers into peaceful, enjoyable places for everyone. 10. In conclusion, banning cars from city centers seems to be a clear and effective solution to address pollution, traffic accidents, and quality of life. 11. While some may oppose the ban, it is undeniably the best way forward for cities.