



International English Olympiad
“Formula of Unity” / “The Third Millennium”
Year 2025/2026. Qualifying round
Tasks for grades R7–R9



The last day to send your answers is **November 13**.

All the information about the Olympiad and the instruction for participants: <https://www.formulo.org/ru/olymp/2025-lang-ru/>
and <https://www.formulo.org/en/olymp/2025-lang-en/>

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

1. (10 points) Fill in the gaps with one of the given words.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| [1] The company had to call _____ the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. | A) against |
| [2] She plans to bring _____ her children with strong moral values. | B) up |
| [3] We need to carry _____ all our plans despite the difficulties. | C) forward |
| [4] They decided to hang _____ all their old family photos. | D) through |
| [5] They are planning on moving _____ a new spacious flat. | E) after |
| [6] Many people turn _____ their former friends during the conflict. | F) off |
| [7] Scientists put _____ a logical argument, but nobody believed. | G) down |
| [8] Could you look _____ my plants while I'm on vacation? | H) without |
| [9] It's impressive how she can go _____ sleep for days. | I) onto |
| [10] The car started to break _____ on the highway. | J) into |

2. (10 points) Answer the questions about the article "Is AI Making Us Smarter Or Just More Reliant on Technology?" by Krish Desai.

Is AI Making Us Smarter Or Just More Reliant on Technology?

Picture this. You're staring at a blank screen, unsure how to start an essay or solve a tough math problem. In seconds, AI can generate the answer, explain the process, and even make it sound better than you could on your own. So, you are left with a question: do you attempt the work yourself or use AI to "help" expedite the process?

Let me backtrack a bit. Imagine this same scenario just a mere 3-4 years ago, where AI models were not well-known at all. You would have forced yourself to finish that essay, although it would have made the process take many hours longer.

Many people think that AI has caused students and people in general to become "dumber", as everywhere, it feels like skipping the struggle is just a click away. Now, we have to ask ourselves the million-dollar question: Is AI technology actually harmful to us, and making us "dumber" compared to the AI-less generations? Or are we simply using our resources to our benefit?

What is AI?

This term has been a big buzzword in society for the past year or so, but many people do not know the extent impact of AI on society and how it even works.

So what even is AI? You are probably well aware of ChatGPT as a form of AI, but in reality, AI has many more uses, and you probably use it every single day without even realizing it.

AI, short for Artificial Intelligence, is basically technology that can "think" in ways that usually require human intelligence. At its core, AI relies on algorithms and massive datasets to "learn" patterns and improve its accuracy. Machine Learning trains systems to improve over time without being programmed for every single outcome. It explains why ChatGPT has such a range of vocabulary!

Think about when Spotify suggests your next favorite song. That's AI. When Netflix somehow knows exactly what show you want to binge next.

That's AI too. Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant all rely on AI to understand your voice and respond like a person would. Even Snapchat filters that turn you into a dog or make your face swap with a friend? Yep, that's AI. Even your for you page on social media uses AI as it adapts to what you like to watch, as you may have already recognized.

And it doesn't stop there. Cars like Tesla use AI to detect pedestrians and drive themselves on highways. Banks use it to catch fraud in real time.

Even doctors are using AI to scan medical images and detect diseases earlier than humans can. And of course, tools like ChatGPT can write essays, solve math problems, or explain things in seconds.

The Benefits of AI: Smarter, Faster, More Efficient

There is no denying that AI has boosted productivity in ways we could not even imagine a few years ago. Tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and AI-assistants allow businesses to thrive, and people earn new skills quickly, generate ideas, and solve problems at lightning speed. AI can even code full apps now.

In fact, if used properly, AI actually improves the potential to make us smarter. It can open up pathways for things not possible before.

We know AI is more efficient than any other technology readily available, but did you know to what effect?

AI has the power to significantly boost our economy exponentially. A 2023 McKinsey report found that generative AI could add up to \$4.4 trillion annually to the global economy. Contrary to what you have thought, using AI actually helps students with writing assignments if used in the correct manner. A Stanford study showed that students using AI writing tools improved their draft quality by nearly 30% compared to those without it.

Even in everyday life, AI is making processes much faster. According to GitHub, programmers using AI assistants like Copilot completed coding tasks 55% faster than those working alone. In other words, instead of replacing work, AI is amplifying it. With the right balance, people can use AI to learn quickly, reduce busywork, and, as a result, achieve more as a person.

The Risks: Over-Reliance and Lost Skills

It's hard to imagine what the drawbacks are of technology that adds \$4.4 trillion to the global economy, but in reality, there are many drawbacks. With AI so available, people may skip the struggle that comes with real learning. Struggle is often where the deepest understanding is built. The hour spent solving a math worksheet, or the struggle to finish an essay without help.

Over time, this reliance could erode critical thinking and creativity, leaving people dependent on technology rather than building skills themselves. Nowadays, students are breaking crucial study habits since they have been using AI as a fallback plan, and this attitude carries on to how they act/react in adulthood.

We've seen this kind of shift before. Calculators made complex math quicker, but also caused some people to lose basic arithmetic skills. GPS helps us get anywhere instantly, but many can't read a map anymore. AI could have a similar effect on memory, problem-solving, and even originality if we lean on it too heavily.

A study shows that AI technology has a very significant impact on people, eventually leading to dementia in their old age. As a result, dementia is progressing and appearing at a younger age than ever.

Final Verdict: Is AI Making us Smarter?

AI is not making us inherently dumber. It is simply a tool, and like any tool, its value comes from the way we use it.

AI is redefining what intelligence looks like in a world where information and technology are abundant and rapidly changing. Yes, in some instances, we are losing skills that have defined us for years. However, this comes with a valuable trade-off: being able to have exponentially higher amounts of capabilities and achieve more as people.

If we rely on AI to do all the heavy lifting, we risk losing the struggle that builds critical thinking and creativity. It all depends on whether we let AI think for us or let it push us to think better.

Maybe the better question isn't "Is AI making us smarter or dumber?" but "What kind of thinkers will we become in an AI-driven world?" Humans have never been "dumb" when using new and improved tools. We have always adapted to the tools available, from fire to the printing press to the internet. AI is just another tool in the rapidly developing society.

The real challenge is not resisting it or surrendering to it, but learning how to integrate it into our lives without losing the parts of thinking that make us human. If we can strike that balance, then AI WILL be the reason we find success.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [11] What is the main concern about AI's impact on human intelligence according to the article?
 - A) AI will replace human completely
 - B) People may lose critical thinking skills due to over-reliance
 - C) AI will make humans physically weaker
 - D) AI will cause widespread unemployment
- [12] Why does the author argue that AI can actually make us smarter?
 - A) Because it can solve problems faster than humans
 - B) It provides access to more information
 - C) It helps us learn new skills more efficiently
 - D) AI can replace human thinking completely
- [13] What analogy does the author use to illustrate the potential negative impact of AI?
 - A) Comparing AI to the invention of the wheel
 - B) Drawing parallels with the introduction of calculators and GPS

- C) Comparing AI to the printing press
- D) Linking AI to the industrial revolution
- [14] According to the article, what is the key to using AI effectively?
 - A) Using AI for all tasks to maximize efficiency
 - B) Avoiding AI completely to preserve human skills
 - C) Finding a balance between AI use and independent thinking
 - D) Delegating all creative tasks to AI
- [15] Why does the author mention dementia in the context of AI?
 - A) To show that AI causes mental illnesses
 - B) To highlight potential long-term cognitive effect
 - C) To scare readers about AI's dangers
 - D) To prove that AI makes people forgetful
- [16] What is the author's perspective on the role of struggle in learning?
 - A) Struggle is unnecessary in the age of AI
 - B) Struggle helps build deep understanding
 - C) Struggle should be avoided for efficient learning
 - D) Struggle makes learning more enjoyable
- [17] How does the author view AI in terms of human evolution?
 - A) As a threat to human survival
 - B) As just another tool in human development
 - C) As a replacement for human intelligence
 - D) As the end of traditional learning methods
- [18] What is the primary benefit of AI according to the article?
 - A) It makes people smarter automatically
 - B) It increases productivity and efficiency
 - C) It eliminates the need for education
 - D) It replaces human creativity
- [19] Why does the author discuss historical technological advancements?
 - A) To show that AI is the most important invention
 - B) To prove that AI is dangerous like previous technologies
 - C) To demonstrate how humans have adapted to new tools
 - D) To argue that AI is different from previous technologies
- [20] What is the central question the author poses about AI's future impact?
 - A) Will AI replace human jobs?
 - B) How will AI change the nature of human thinking?
 - C) Will AI make humans lazy?
 - D) Can AI solve all human problems?

3. (10 points) There are 10 beginnings of small dialogues. Complete them. Choose the best answer for each situation from the list.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [21] — Are we _____ about the deal?
— Not really. Mike doesn't support us.
- [22] — Any updates?
— A few. Let me bring you _____ .
- [23] — Would you rather start with this game or that one?
— I'd prefer the first one. We barely know anything about each other, so we should _____ somehow.
- [24] — The figures show that we are losing our profit. Any ideas?
— Let's _____ . We need extreme changes.
- [25] — Do you trust the investor? It's a brand-new company.
— That's why we can rely on them, they are _____ of mobile industry.
- [26] — Our plan has failed! What a bad luck...
— Don't worry. In this business, new products always _____ .
- [27] — Do you believe in our success?
— No doubts! Our start-up is a complete _____ on the market.
- [28] — Do you want to be aware of all the details?

- Sure, please keep me _____ .
- [29] — I don't see any other options to boost our skills, everything has been used more than twice.
— Let's breathe in and out and _____ .
- [30] — When do we launch the project?
— We have to _____ on it in 5 days.
- A) In the loop
B) Push the envelope
C) Up to speed
D) Crash and burn
E) On the same page
F) Think outside the box
G) Break the ice
H) At the cutting edge
I) Get the ball rolling
J) Game changer

4. (5 points) Find lexical mistakes in these sentences. There is only ONE wrong word in every line. Write it down without correcting this mistake.

For example: He is so intelligent: he knows the rules of behavior and norms of etiquette. - The wrong word is "intelligent". So you write in the answer sheet: intelligent.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [31] On the one hand, I totally disagree with his opinion. On another hand, I could understand his choice, if I were the victim.
- [32] If someone calls, tell hello. You'd better be polite when clients call.
- [33] Such a nice cabinet! Your previous office was a complete disaster: a lot of unnecessary furniture and dust everywhere.
- [34] Our ex-principle must have been a nice guy, but he didn't get on well with some employees.
- [35] What a disgusting situation! They don't know how to behave themself. However, I'm not going to teach them.

5. (5 points) Find one extra word in every line which is not necessary and makes this sentence wrong. Write it down into the answer sheet.

For example: I don't not like it. - The extra word is "not". So you write in the answer sheet: not.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [36] When I was a child, I was used to go swimming on Sundays. But then, when I grew up and changed my hobbies, I stopped doing it. Now am not fond of swimming at all.
- [37] I know that the Smiths have sold their house. It's an old news. Tell me something more interesting!
- [38] If I had influenced on them, we wouldn't have any problems now. I should have done it another way.
- [39] Don't make me to say it again! I can't stand such situations!
- [40] I'd like to listen to your opinion one more time. I deeply respect it, but I am totally disagree.

6. (10 points) Unscramble the words. All of them are connected with famous people, places or cultural concepts. Then match each place/name/concept with one fact from the list that describes this phenomenon.

For example:

1) II Qneel Etbahsilta - Queen Elizabeth II

The fact: A) She ruled the country for 70 years.

So you write in your answer sheet: 1A.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- | | | |
|------|------------------|--|
| | | A) It is a metaphor, comparing a group of people with an object and describing a blended society. Its origin refers to a famous play. |
| [41] | eshaarkepes | B) This person's most famous role is based on a series of books about wizards |
| [42] | ptomgnitel | C) The first visitor of this place was a botanist. |
| [43] | meradricaname | D) This person's date of birth provokes a lot of questions and debates. |
| [44] | bobithno | E) This concept has its roots in the American Revolution when perseverance and dedication to work was one of the main values. |
| [45] | ebecqu | F) This place revived an old recipe |
| [46] | olicroelmwlvver | G) This person is strongly associated with creating a written constitution and great changes in the government and the state's regime. |
| [47] | feralddclifanie | H) This place was created to be a decoration but then turned out to be popular among tourists. Now it's a famous landmark. |
| [48] | sinnbeve | I) This landmark is located on the border between Canada and the United States. |
| [49] | hiutirmusmbes | J) This American author managed to be published only once while being alive. |
| [50] | tehrcimetlaralgm | |