

PART 1. READING COMPREHENSION. Maximum: 20 points.

TASK 1.1. Read the text and answer the questions (1-10). Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

Languages

Talking is the most common way for us to communicate, but the language we use can depend on where we live, who we're talking to and what we're trying to say. Some languages are spoken widely, and some are spoken by only a few people. There is even a language called Silbo Gomero spoken on La Gomera of the Canary Islands that's made up entirely of whistles!

There are roughly 6,500 spoken languages in the world today. However, about 2,000 of those languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers. If you were able to learn a new language every week, it would still take you 125 years to learn all 6,500!

There are lots of languages spoken around the world, but the most common first language is Mandarin, with more than 1,000,000,000 people using it as their main language. Most of those are in China and Taiwan, but Mandarin is quickly becoming a common second language for people to learn. You may even know a few words already!

Spanish and English are the next two most popular, with English being used as a way for many different countries to communicate. For example, when French people do business with people from Belgium, they'll usually use English when speaking to each other. It's also the common language for pilots from around the world, they use it when talking to airports or each other over the radio.

Some countries have one official language that almost everyone speaks, while other countries might have two or more main languages. At least half the people in the world speak more than one language. In Canada, for example, French and English are both national languages, and many areas speak both fluently. Here is a fun fact about Canada. The name Canada comes from the word 'kanata' which means 'settlement' or 'village' in the language of the indigenous St Lawrence Iroquoians.

Some languages have a lot in common, and that's because many years ago they came from a common parent language. For example, the Danish, Swedish, Norwegian and Icelandic languages are all similar as they were once part of the ancient Germanic region. Just like the Latvians and the Lithuanians were once Baltic people. Overtime people started pronouncing similar basic words differently. So if you know, one language, it can be a little easier to learn another one from a similar language family. You may surprise yourself at how quickly you can pick it up.

We learn our first language as children, but learning a second language can be difficult. If you want to learn a new language, the best way is to have someone to practice with. If they

know the language, that's even better. If not, you can practice together. This is also great when you're travelling. Try to use the local language whenever you can, you'll get better at it very quickly, and the locals will appreciate the effort.

1. La Gomera is an island.

True

False

2. In what relation is the amount 2,000 mentioned in the text?

A To show how many days you may need to pick up one of 1,000 languages.

B To show the number of people speaking a language as a second language in their country.

C To show the number of languages that are rare.

D To show the number of weeks in which you can learn all the world languages.

3. According to the passage, which of the following is true about the most common spoken language in the world?

A It is spoken by over a billion people as their first language.

B It is primarily spoken in Canada.

C It is the official language of the European Union.

D It is the most widely learned language as a second language.

4. Why is English a common language used by pilots from different countries?

A It is the official language of air traffic control.

B Most pilots are native English speakers.

C It is easier to learn than other languages.

D It allows pilots to communicate effectively.

5. Which countries are mentioned in the passage as having multiple official national languages?

A The United States and the United Kingdom

B France and Spain

C Belgium and Canada

D Germany and the Netherlands

6. What is the relationship between the Germanic and Baltic language families described in the passage?

- A They are completely unrelated.
- B They have a few similar words and grammar structures.
- C They share a common ancestral language.
- D They are mutually intelligible.

7. Which of the following is an example of a rare, specialized language mentioned in the passage?

- A kanata
- B Lithuanian
- C Silbo Gomero
- D French

8. Learning a second language is usually easy for everyone.

- True
- False

9. According to the passage, what is suggested as the best way to learn a new language?

- A Studying grammar and vocabulary alone.
- B Immersing yourself in the language by travelling.
- C Taking an online language course.
- D Practicing with someone who already knows the language.

10. The author believes that talking is the only way to communicate.

- True
- False

Task 1.2. Read the text and complete each gap (11-20) with ONE WORD.

My cousin Tom would make a wonderful doctor! He's still at school at the moment, and he hasn't decided (11) _____ he wants to do, but I really hope that he chooses (12) _____ study medicine and become a doctor.

Tom has got everything you need to (13) _____ a doctor. He's very intelligent, so (14) _____ people came to him with unusual symptoms, he would be able to use his knowledge and decide how to treat them. He's also calm, so he (15) _____ panic if people were seriously ill, and he would be good (16) _____ reassuring patients if they were frightened. Tom also has personal qualities which allow him to get on (17) _____ with everyone. He's very friendly and outgoing, (18) _____ his patients would like him. Most importantly, he really cares about people and wants to help them. This is what being a doctor is all about!

Tom definitely gets my vote (19) _____ the perfect doctor. I'm (20) _____ to keep trying to persuade him that he should choose this career path when he leaves school. Fingers crossed!

PART 2. USE OF ENGLISH. Maximum: 42 points.

Task 2.1. Which two words (A, B, C, D) in each group (1-10) are synonyms? Write your answers on the answer sheet.

1.	A	special	B	modest	C	common	D	unique
2.	A	stout	B	skinny	C	plump	D	scruffy
3.	A	resemble	B	combine	C	loosen	D	blend
4.	A	quick	B	slowly	C	rapid	D	patronising
5.	A	neglect	B	hold	C	edit	D	grasp
6.	A	average	B	extreme	C	ordinary	D	offensive
7.	A	ignore	B	stop	C	continue	D	block
8.	A	mobile	B	changeable	C	constant	D	violent
9.	A	loyalty	B	skill	C	ability	D	limitation
10.	A	bravery	B	fear	C	honour	D	courage

Task 2.2. Each correct answer is worth 2 points. Match the idioms with the definitions. There are extra definitions that you do not need. Write your answers on the answer sheet.

11.	a piece of cake	A. a waste of time B. have no idea C. easy D. tell a secret
12.	up in the air	
13.	Easier said than done.	
14.	I'm all ears.	

15.	let the cat out of the bag	E. more difficult than it seems
16.	don't have a clue	F. agree
17.	get the picture	G. very tired
18.	sounds fishy	H. suspicious
19.	pain in the neck	I. to listen intently
20.	see eye to eye	J. a big problem
		K. not sure
		L. fantastic
		M. sleep soundly
		N. understand

Task 2.3. Read the text and look carefully at each line (21-32). Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓). If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word. Look at the examples 0 and 00 to help you. Write your answers on the answer sheet.

For thousands of years, people have been writing. Some of the most ancient	(0) _✓_
stone carvings and cave art shows that humans have been writing in almost as	(00) _in_
long as humans have been around. From lots simple directions that tell people	(21) _____
which road to take to epic poems that are still or read today, well written	(22) _____
words often outlast their writer. Every country will have had several famous	(23) _____
writers, people who helped shape the country. In the past, only the most elite	(24) _____
and wealthy people learned when to read and write, but today it's not	(25) _____
uncommon for people to be able to read and write in several languages. If	(26) _____
you can do this, you are a definitely one of the lucky ones! The English	(27) _____

language is made up of 26 characters, and we combine them down to make	(28) _____
words. Other languages have different alphabets, such as the Korean	(29) _____
alphabet, which has 24 too, the Arabic alphabet has 28 characters, the	(30) _____
Russian alphabet has 33, but the most more alphabetic symbols are used in	(31) _____
Mandarin, which has over 50,000 characters. You'll need to know about 2,000 to read a newspaper.	(32) _____

PART 3. COUNTRY STUDY. Maximum: 18 points.

Task 3.1. Choose the correct answer. (2 балла за каждый верный ответ)

1. In Trafalgar Square in London you can find...

- A. Big Ben
- B. Buckingham Palace
- C. Nelson's Column
- D. Natural History Museum

2. How many crosses is the Union Jack made up of?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

3. What famous monument is the oldest?

- A. Big Ben
- B. Windsor Castle
- C. Stonehenge
- D. The Tower of London

4. How many bridges across the river Thames are there in London?

- A. 20
- B. 45
- C. 11
- D. 33

5. Where in London can you watch the ceremony of the Changing of the Guard?

- A. At Westminster Palace
- B. At Buckingham Palace

- C. At the Tower of London
- D. In Trafalgar Square

6. The Great Fire of London, which spread from Pudding Lane, took place in

- A. 1066
- B. 1666
- C. the 19th century
- D. 1677

7. The English Channel is most often translated into Russian as ...

- A. Англиканский канал
- B. Английский канал
- C. Ла-Манш
- D. Па-де-Кале

8. What is the smallest country in Great Britain?

- A. England
- B. Scotland
- C. Wales
- D. Isle of Man

9. Which city was known as New Amsterdam?

- A. New Orleans
- B. Los Angeles
- C. Seattle
- D. New York

Part 4. WRITING. Maximum: 20 points.

You have seen this announcement on an English-language website.

Competition!

Write an article about YOUR TIME TOGETHER WITH YOUR CLASS.

Remember to make your article interesting to read.

Give the article a title (заголовок). Use the introduction (введение) and conclusion (заключение).

The article must be **180-250 words long**.

We will publish the best articles on our website.