

ПЛЕХАНОВСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ 2023/2024 ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ

1 вариант (10-11 класс)

I. LISTENING TEST

You will hear volunteers talking about their activities. You will hear the extracts twice.

1 – 2. Which TWO activities that volunteers do are mentioned?

- A. decorating
- B. cleaning
- C. delivering meals
- D. shopping
- E. childcare

3 - 4. Which TWO ways that volunteers can benefit from volunteering are mentioned?

- A. learning how to be part of a team
- B. having a sense of purpose
- C. realising how lucky they are
- D. improved ability at time management
- E. boosting their employment prospects

What has each of the following volunteers helped someone to do? There are more options than you need.

5	Habib	A	overcome physical difficulties
6	Consuela	B	rediscover skills not used for a long time
7	Minh	C	improve their communication skills
8	Tanya	D	solve problems independently
9	Alexei	E	escape isolation
10	Juba	F	remember past times
		G	start a new hobby



II. READING

Task 1. You are going to read an article about the Oxford dictionary. For questions 1 - 5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

The Oxford English Dictionary

The first edition of what was to become the Oxford English Dictionary consisted of twelve tombstone-sized volumes. When it was completed in 1933, its name changed. The years that followed saw another five supplements being published as additions were made and then fifty years after it was first published, a second edition was brought out, with an amazing twenty-two volumes.

The Oxford English Dictionary, or OED for short, is a complex book which defines over half a million words with thoroughness and accuracy. The guiding principle when it was first conceived was that it would depend on gathering quotations from the published or otherwise recorded use of English and employ these to illustrate the sense of every single word in the language. The publishers still adhere rigorously to this method, and it is this which sets the OED apart from many other dictionaries. The rationale behind this labour-intensive way of compiling the tomes was that by including quotations, the dictionary would demonstrate the full range of characteristics of each and every word with precision. Quotations also serve to show how words develop and change over time, undergoing subtle shifts in meaning and use.

The finding and publishing of quotations of usage may be a flawed approach to making definitive pronouncements as to the origins and meanings of words, of course, but to its nineteenth-century lexicographers, it was the best way that had been devised. In fact, it is a method which has still not been bettered. When the project was begun back in the 1850s, the aims and intentions of those involved were bold and laudable, but the commercial drawbacks to such an approach were immense. How could the compilers keep up with the evolution of the language they had undertaken to catalogue and actually one day bring out their work? However, they were not dissuaded and strove valiantly to produce a work which was uncommonly large and bulky and, as is still the case today, extremely expensive. Yet it is nevertheless accepted that it has a value which far outweighs its price or its size - no self-respecting library would be without it, after all.

The OED wears its status with a certain self-assurance and supplies its definitions with an air of certainty. While some may call the language of the dictionary outdated and even arrogant, it continues to sell well and to be quoted in schools, courtrooms and parliaments around the English-speaking world whenever the exact meaning of a word may be called into question. No one can deny, though, that a number of eccentricities exist in the book, not only in the choice of meanings but also in the editors' choice of spellings. In fact, a small academic industry has developed in which modern scholars complain about the perceived sexism and racism in the book as well as its outdated imperial stance on many things. Whether a critic or not, however, anyone who actually uses the book cannot fail to be impressed by it as a work of literature as well as to marvel at the wealth of lexical information it contains. It seems to have the power to inspire lasting and real affection and no one can deny it its place as the most significant reference book ever written. Given the importance of the complex and varied language it records on a global scale, the OED will probably be the most important book of its kind ever written, a vast historical and cultural record of language.

1. What is the main reason why compilers of the OED collect quotations?

- A. to include every single word in the language
- B. to demonstrate how words change
- C. to make the dictionary unique
- D. to provide full information about the usage of words



2. The lexicographers' approach to collecting information about words

- A. was not perfect.
- B. allowed precise definitions to be made.
- C. was later improved on.
- D. facilitated their work.

3. What is the writer's opinion of the original project?

- A. It was an ambitious yet worthwhile undertaking.
- B. It took into account the changing nature of the language.
- C. The dictionary produced was too big.
- D. The expense involved exceeded the profits.

4. The writer implies that

- A. the OED is the only dictionary that can be trusted.
- B. people have confidence in the OED.
- C. the OED is an old-fashioned publication.
- D. criticism of the dictionary is unjustified.

5. Which of the following best sums up the writer's view of the OED?

- A. It is a respected work.
- B. It provokes disagreements.
- C. Its importance outweighs any of its imperfections.
- D. Its definitions are accurate.

Task 2. You are going to read the text about space. For questions 6 - 10 choose the correct heading (A – H) for sections (I -V) from the list of headings below. For questions 11 – 14 decide if the statements are TRUE, FALSE or information IS NOT GIVEN.

List of Headings

- A. How the problem of land scarcity has been overcome in the past
- B. Various predictions about future solutions to a lack of space
- C. The effects of population growth on land availability
- D. The importance of the new British Library
- E. An expanding population
- F. A description of a mega-city
- G. A firm belief that human habitation of outer space will occur
- H. The importance of having an international space station

- 6. Section I
- 7. Section II
- 8. Section III
- 9. Section IV
- 10. Section V

Space

Section I

The world has changed dramatically since Thomas Malthus's work an "Essay on the Principle of Population", first published in 1798, argued that by the mid 1800s the unrestricted expansion of the human population would outgrow the agricultural land available to supply humanity with food.



Over 150 years have passed since this theoretical milestone, but mankind, admittedly somewhat more cramped, is still expanding and will continue to do so.

Section II

The impact of unfettered population growth is clear for all to see. Urbanization is now a more evident worldwide phenomenon than previously as even greater numbers of people drift from rural areas to vast cities all over the world like Tokyo, Mexico City and Mumbai (37.7 million, 21.9 million and 25.1 million inhabitants in 2022 respectively) in their quest for a better life. These mega-cities, i.e. conurbations with an estimated population of more than 10 million people, are springing up in every continent. Now teeming with humanity, they are hungry for one increasingly valuable resource: land.

While developments in agricultural technology ensure humanity may be able, by and large, to feed the people flocking to these great metropolises, the expansion of the human race is fuelling an unprecedented appetite for real estate. Space, whether it be for personal or public use, corporate or national, human or flora/fauna, is now at a premium as we move into a new century. Not only is more land required for accommodation, but also for a wide range of infrastructure facilities. Transport systems including roads within and between cities need to be constructed or upgraded to create motorways; green fields are turned into airports; virgin forest is stripped to provide food and firewood. In poorer regions, this newly exposed land becomes desert, completing the cycle of destruction.

Section III

Hitherto, the most common practice for the utilization of expensive space for living and working has been to build upwards; hence, the demand for ever higher buildings, both apartment and commercial, in major cities like New York, Shanghai and Singapore all vying with each other for the tallest buildings. There has also been a tradition for building underground, not just for transport systems, but for the storage of waste, depositories for books etc. as in London, where The British Library housing millions of books has been built largely underground. Recent years have seen more novel construction developments around the world. In the past, in many countries, Holland and the UK included, marshes and flood plains have been reclaimed from the sea. Like the city of Venice in Italy, housing complexes and even airports have now been constructed off-shore to amazing effect. In Japan, Kansai International Airport has been built off-shore on a man-made island at vast expense and in Dubai a very imaginative and expensive housing complex in the shape of a palm tree has been erected just off the coast on land created by a construction company. However, these and other developments are at risk from rising sea levels as a consequence of global warming.

Section IV

But where will the human race go when planet earth is full? There have been many theories put forward about the human population moving to outer space. Marshall Savage (1992, 1994), for example, has projected that the human population will reach five quintillion throughout the solar system by the year 3000, with the majority living in the asteroid belt. Arthur C Clarke, a fervent supporter of Savage, argued that by the year 2057 there would be humans on the Moon, Mars, Europa, Ganymede, Titan and in orbit around Venus, Neptune and Pluto. Freeman Dyson (1999) favoured the Kuiper belt as the future home of humanity, suggesting this could happen within a few centuries.

Section V

Habitation in outer space in huge stations is no longer just a dream, but a reality. A permanent international space station now orbits the earth. The first commercial tourist recently went into outer space with more trips planned for the near future. This is only a beginning, but the development of space hotels is not far-off. There is no knowing where mankind may end up. But the ideas about off-world habitation are not fanciful and I am sure I am not alone in fantasizing about summer holidays spent watching the moons rising in some far-flung planet or on a floating hotel somewhere on the Andromeda nebula.



Questions 11-14

Choose

- TRUE** if the statement reflects the claims of the writer
FALSE if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer
NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

11. The destruction of land for food and firewood is linked to desertification.
A. TRUE B. FALSE C. NOT GIVEN
12. Shortage of space has also led to underground building construction.
A. TRUE B. FALSE C. NOT GIVEN
13. The building of the airport in Japan cost much more than that of the housing complex in Dubai.
A. TRUE B. FALSE C. NOT GIVEN
14. The concept of the habitation of outer space by mankind is unimaginable.
A. TRUE B. FALSE C. NOT GIVEN

Task 3. You are going to read an article in which people talk about turning their hobbies into careers. For questions 15 - 22, choose from the sections of the article (A-E). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Turning a Hobby into a Career

It may seem idealistic or risky to exchange one's regular job for the uncertainty of earning your living from a hobby - but more and more people are attempting to do just that.

A

I had piano lessons when I was young, and I did have some talent. But it soon became obvious I'd never be good enough for a career on the concert stage. In a way, I was lucky. If I hadn't realised early on that I'd never make it as a performer, I probably would have carried on dreaming that my big break would come. As it is, I became a music teacher instead, and in my free time I started to dabble in the technical side of music production. Then an aunt died, leaving me some cash, and I suddenly realised I could finally set up my own recording studio! Of course, there is a downside to turning a hobby into a career. I love my job so much that I used to work seven days a week, but after a while I realized I was getting burnt out -you need to switch off occasionally. My job has definitely added depth to the way I listen to music; now I can really understand why someone's using a certain technique or piece of equipment.

B

When I left college I started working in a bank, but my heart was never really in it. The problem was partly the environment: I don't like working in an office. I'm more of an outdoor person - and I'd always been crazy about surfing. Well, one summer while I was in Cornwall on holiday, I got chatting to the owner of a surf shop. He said he wanted to sell up and I jumped at the chance to buy the business from him! Looking back, I can see how lucky I was. It's incredibly difficult to set up a shop like that from scratch. Besides, being such an avid surfer myself, I assumed a lot of other people must share that interest-which isn't the case! Obvious when you think about it, but it took me a while to realise what a naïve attitude that was. Now that I've learnt the ropes, I'm thinking either of expanding - more shops, managers and so on - or diversifying, perhaps producing my own surf boards! I actually think the second option is more likely because it's a subject which interests me a lot.



C

I'd always been a serious amateur photographer, and when I left school I wanted a job that would allow me a lot of free time for my hobby. So I got a job as a waiter, working evenings only. Around that time I also offered to help my uncle out in his studio. He was a professional photographer, and I'd go along at the weekends and act as general unpaid dogsbody. I got an insight into the business, which made me wonder whether I too could earn a living from photography. So I saved, set myself up as a professional photographer and tried to survive solely on my earnings from selling pictures. However, after a while I realised it simply wasn't going to happen. So I swallowed my pride and got some work as a sales representative for one of the big camera manufacturers, which takes me round the country to trade fairs and so on, demonstrating the latest equipment. I'm doing quite well in that line of work, although I've noticed one odd thing: now that my hobby is my work, more or less, I've had to find another way to switch oil. In fact, I've taken up fishing.

D

My first job was with an insurance company, but I was hardly a model employee. I loathed my job, and instead of selling insurance, I used to wander around the city's numerous art galleries. I have no creative talent of my own, but I can recognise it in the work of others. I soon picked up quite a lot of knowledge about contemporary art. Then one day I got talking to the manager of an art gallery. She mentioned a new gallery that was going to be opened and suggested I apply for the job of manager. At first, I was doubtful, but I realized I had nothing to lose, so I applied and was asked to go for an interview. I think the fact that I was so obviously crazy about art impressed the owners. To my surprise, I've turned out to be quite a good saleswoman. Of course, most people come into the gallery just to look around, but when someone shows an interest in one of the works on show, I don't immediately start to persuade them to buy it. I just chat about the work and what makes it interesting to me. People feel reassured when they sense your enthusiasm.

E

I wanted to study graphic design when I left school, but I didn't have good enough grades to go on to art school. Instead, I got a job in a garage, and for the next ten years I worked as a car mechanic. But while I was working, I did some evening courses in industrial design and got lots of books on the subject. I was interested in the practical side of construction, too: I even built a car of my own from spare parts. Then I got the idea of building a bike - a four-wheel delivery bike - and the next thing I knew, my wife was urging me to set up my own company! I had to take a very deep breath before I finally took the plunge. I'd done my best to prepare for it, taking a course in business management in my spare time, and I knew I'd be working longer hours for less money, at least at first. The big difficulty was the uncertainty of not knowing how much would be coming in each month. And things were pretty tough for the first few years, although I never regretted it. Looking back, I can see that I underestimated the amount of paperwork I'd have to do. I somehow thought I could just concentrate on the nice stuff - designing!

In which section of the article are the following mentioned?

15. valuable experience gained from voluntary work
16. an enhanced appreciation of other people's work
17. neglecting a job
18. thoughts about the future
19. encouragement from a family member
20. finding an alternative leisure pursuit
21. the value of assessing one's abilities objectively
22. an unexpected talent for a particular job



III. USE OF ENGLISH

Task 1. An experienced journalist is talking to a new young reporter. For questions 1 – 9 complete his advice below using phrasal verbs (A – L) from the box. The meanings of the verbs to insert are given below the text. In two parts of question 6 one phrasal verb is used. There are more phrasal verbs than you need.

A	leak out	E	sound out	I	confide in
B	write up	F	hang out	J	stake out
C	root out	G	look forward to	K	give up
D	run out of	H	worm out of	L	pick up

Professional journalists gather news in a number of different ways. A lot of your time will be spent trying to (1) _____ information, and that can be boring – going to record offices, surfing the Internet, reading press releases put out by government departments, and that sort of thing. It's also important to (2) _____ with other journalists and see what you can (3) _____ from them. Occasionally stories pop up when politicians or film stars (4) _____ someone who is not discreet. You might also discover news stories that (5) _____ accidentally.

Be especially alert when interviewing celebrities. If they just think you're trying to (6) _____ private information (6) _____ them to create a scandal, they won't give you anything. And they hate it when paparazzi (7) _____ their homes day and night without their consent.

With politicians, it's best to (8) _____ these VIP about various topics to find out what they want to talk about; don't be aggressive – that won't get you anywhere. Just like celebrities, if they think you're trying to ferret out a story that's going to thrust them in the public eye and cause them embarrassment, they'll keep quiet and you'll get nothing.

And last but not least, take your time when you (9) _____ your stories. Don't rush the process as every news report inevitably puts its own spin on events. So, remember that a newspaper may be taken to court for libel or defamation of character if it publishes an untrue story that, for example, wrongly accuses someone of something.

- 1) search for and find something that is difficult to find
- 2) to spend a lot of time somewhere or with someone, relaxing and enjoying yourself
- 3) learn by chance
- 4) tells something private or secret to someone
- 5) became known
- 6) getting information from someone who does not want to give it
- 7) watch continuously
- 8) get an opinion from
- 9) to prepare a report, article etc in its final form, especially using notes that you made earlier:



Task 2. For questions 10 - 16 decide which grammatical and syntactical structures (A - L) the following sentences contain?

- A. Adverbial Clause of Concession
- B. Third Conditional
- C. Adverbial Clause of Manner
- D. Complex Subject (Nominative with the Infinitive)
- E. Interjection
- F. Adverbial Clause of Result
- G. Homogeneous Parts of Sentence
- H. The Nominative Absolute Participle Construction
- I. Complex Object (Objective with the Infinitive)
- J. Mixed Conditional
- K. The Subjunctive Mood
- L. 'Extra Information' Relative Clause

10. If I *had taken* my father's advice, I *would be* much happier now.
11. *The work having been completed*, the workers went home.
12. The airplane was flying at such a height *that we could hardly see it*.
13. Lai Ho restaurant, *where a friend works*, is a really good restaurant.
14. *However busy he is*, he will find time to help us.
15. I *called* at Jack's house but *didn't find* him at home.
16. I demand that everybody *be present* at the meeting.

Task 3. In the following task, the situations are very informal, e.g. between very close friends or relatives, when we sometimes use very casual or even ironic responses. For each spoken item 17 – 23 on the left find the most natural response (A - K) on the right. There are more responses than you need.

Colloquial Responses

17	Where shall I put your case?	A	It takes all sorts.
18	I'll pay you back soon.	B	Flattery will get you nowhere.
19	I think Jack is a very odd chap.	C	No way!
20	We need a decision soon.	D	Serves you right.
21	People say you're very generous.	E	My lips are sealed.
22	I've eaten too much. I feel ill.	F	That'll be the day!
23	Did you catch the train?	G	Let me sleep on it.
		H	Get a life!
		I	Yes, by the skin of my teeth.
		J	Cheers!
		K	Dump it anywhere.



Task 4. For questions 24 - 30 complete these sentences choosing from the following words (A – O) which collocate with the word “point”. There are more options than you need.

A	strong	F	sore	K	minor
B	valid	G	whole	L	vantage
C	low	H	talking	M	sticking
D	break-even	I	boiling	N	talking
E	brownie	J	yellow	O	a jumping-off

24. I never take work with me on holiday. The ____ point of a holiday is to relax.
25. Don't talk to Peter about driving lessons. It's a _____ point. That's the third time he's failed his test.
26. The holiday was a disaster, but the really _____ point came when we had to evacuate the hotel in the middle of the night because someone set off the fire alarm!
27. Can you imagine! When we were in the theatre yesterday we were lucky enough to have a good _____ point when the famous film star passed and we got some really good photographs.
28. You might get _____ points from the boss for volunteering to do things around the office, but it won't translate into a pay raise or promotion.
29. Don't tease her anymore – she has a low _____ point.
30. I know you're unhappy with their offer, so just consider it _____ point and come up with a counteroffer.

Task 5. For questions 31 – 35 decide whether these sentences are grammatically CORRECT or INCORRECT.

31. UK consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
A. CORRECT B. INCORRECT
32. Have you ever been to the British Museum?
A. CORRECT B. INCORRECT
33. Seychelles are a group of islands in Indian Ocean.
A. CORRECT B. INCORRECT
34. River Volga flows into Caspian Sea.
A. CORRECT B. INCORRECT
35. Jack is a student at Liverpool University.
A. CORRECT B. INCORRECT

Task 6. For questions 36 – 43 choose the sentence A, B, C or D.

36. 'Remember to insure your luggage before the flight,' my father said.
A. My father said that I must to insure my luggage before the flight.
B. My father reminded me to insure my luggage before the flight.
C. I was told by my father if I had insured my luggage before the flight.
D. Before the flight my father reminded me of my luggage being insured.
37. 'I wonder why Sue didn't come to the meeting.' 'She _____ about it.'
A. couldn't know B. might not have been known
C. must have unknown D. might not have known



38. It is desirable that she _____ present at the conference. Our director demands that everybody _____ at 3 o'clock.
- A. were....had been coming B. will be.... have come
C. be.... come D. being would come
39. We gave our guests some home-made ice cream.
- A. It was some home-made ice cream been given to our guests.
B. Home-made though it was the ice-cream, it was tasty.
C. What we gave our guests was some home-made ice cream.
D. It was our guests who giving home-made ice-cream.
40. We were shocked to hear the news of Alice _____.
- A. having fired C. who has been fired
B. having been fired D. to have fired
- 41.
- A. Such is the popularity of the play that the theatre is likely to be full every night.
B. Such popular the play is that the theatre is likely to be full every night.
C. Such full house at the theatre every night is due to the likeliness of the play.
D. Such likeable is the play that its popularity makes the full house at the theatre every night.
- 42.
- A. My brother has a red Italian expensive fast sports car.
B. My brother has a fast red Italian expensive sports car.
C. My brother has an Italian fast expensive red sports car.
D. My brother has an expensive fast red Italian sports car.
- 43.
- A. They lived in a brick semi-detached three-bedroomed brand - new house.
B. They lived in a semi-detached three-bedroomed brand - new brick house.
C. They lived in a brand - new brick semi-detached three-bedroomed house.
D. They lived in a brand - new three-bedroomed semi-detached brick house.

Task 7. Country Studies. For questions 44 -48 choose the best answer A, B, C or D.

44. Which of these famous characters in English literature was not an orphan?
- A. Jane Eyre ("Jane Eyre")
B. Peter Pan ("Peter Pan")
C. Jim Hawkins ("Treasure Island")
D. Oliver Twist ("Oliver Twist")
45. What is the largest state in the USA?
- A. Montana
B. Arizona
C. Alaska
D. Texas



46. Which of these geographical place-names were given after the British travelers and explorers?

- 1) The Hudson Bay
- 2) The Cook Strait
- 3) The Tasman Sea
- 4) The Drake Passage
- 5) The Bering Strait
- 6) All of them

- A. 2, 3, 4
- B. 1, 2, 4
- C. 1, 3, 5
- D. 6

47. One of Shakespeare’s best known lines “A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!” is a quote from a play:

- A. Macbeth
- B. Henry V
- C. King Lear
- D. Richard III

48. Queen Elizabeth I maintained peace inside her previously divided country; and created an environment where the arts flourished. Which event took place during her long reign (1558–1603)?

- A. Spanish Armada was defeated
- B. Westminster Abby was constructed
- C. Isaak Newton discovered the universal law of gravity
- D. The Gunpowder Plot was attempted

Transfer all your answers to the answer sheet

