

ПЛЕХАНОВСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ
ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ
Очный этап 2024-2025
10 - 11 класс

LISTENING TEST

You will hear five short extracts in which different people are talking about living in a village. Each extract has two questions. For questions 1 – 10 choose the correct answer A, B or C. You will hear the recording twice.

Speaker 1

- 1. What does the first speaker like about living in a village?**
A. the friendly people B. the outdoor activities C. the peaceful atmosphere
- 2. She would prefer a bus service which**
A. the villagers would be able to organise themselves.
B. would provide daily access to the town.
C. would be used for short trips within the village.

Speaker 2

- 3. The second speaker thinks small local businesses are declining because**
A. rural crafts are no longer in demand.
B. local property is getting too expensive.
C. the local work force is not skilled enough.
- 4. What does he think the villagers should do to bring more work to the area?**
A. use their own savings to set up new businesses
B. wait for the state to create jobs for the unemployed
C. look for public money to supplement investment

Speaker 3

- 5. What does the third speaker think about shopping by computer?**
A. It might prove a useful development.
B. It might be hard to adapt to it.
C. It might make an amusing change.
- 6. She feels the government should**
A. lower petrol prices for rural areas.
B. expand the existing public transport service.
C. develop new transport systems.

Speaker 4

- 7. What does the fourth speaker think about working at home?**
A. It's an opportunity to make new contacts.
B. It saves him the daily journey.
C. It provides him with useful leisure time.
- 8. Who does he think should construct the village sports facility?**
A. the local council B. the villagers themselves C. a group of local teenagers

Speaker 5

- 9. What does the fifth speaker regret?**
A. moving to the countryside
B. losing a source of income
C. not supporting the local amenities
- 10. What aspect of village life would she like to be involved in?**
A. improving public transport B. supplying necessities C. helping with education

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Task 1. Read an article about polyglots, people who speak many languages. For questions 1 - 8, choose from the people [A-D]. The people may be chosen more than once.

Natural Born Linguists

[A] Boyanka Stoyanova

Being multilingual is fundamental to who I am because I think in different languages. My mind starts a thought in one language, then finds a particular word in another language that fits exactly what I am thinking. Each language resonates with me in a distinct way. Bulgarian makes me more melancholic because of its minor tone, for example. There's a downside, though: when I'm in a monolingual environment for too long, I yearn to switch to a different language. I have to think 'will this person understand me if I say something in language X?' I had an early start at learning languages. I moved to the US from Bulgaria when I was three and learnt English quickly. For some reason though, my primary teacher didn't think I was bright enough to study languages at secondary school, which just goes to show you that general academic achievement isn't always a good indicator of one's ability to learn a language. If I had studied languages the formal way in school, I would never have become a polyglot.

[B] Simon Richards

I was always fascinated by languages and accents – I tried to mimic them all the time when I was a child. At school I was always drawn to the kids who had some link to abroad and I wanted to find out more. I got to study languages at school and university eventually, and it grew from there. Today, my daily life is multilingual. I often get mistaken for other nationalities and I honestly no longer regard nationality as important. It seems almost odd for me to talk about being just British now. Learning languages is an endless and ongoing process for me, which I intend to continue for as many years as my body and mind will allow. When I'm really in the learning zone, my focus is narrow and I try to forget about my other languages. If I didn't, I'd go mad. I simply start a new language and don't think about the others, unless I see obvious links to help the learning process and to understand grammar.

[C] Anthony Fields

I used to spend long summers in Greece and Japan as a child, trying to play with the other kids, but none of them spoke any English. It struck me how nice it would be to be able to talk to anybody in the world, regardless of what language they spoke. Pronunciation is the most important thing for me. So I start off really basic, focusing on that. Once I feel more confident, I move on to music from the language to tune in further. The dead time when you're on a bus or doing any mundane task is ideal for squeezing in crucial subconscious language learning, which will pay off in the long run. Learning new languages never stops: there is always more to learn. But my student days are almost over and the prospect of searching for a career is looming closer - so I am thinking about taking a couple of languages to a much higher level. Speaking other languages at native level is an entirely different task to just being a polyglot.

[D] Liam Clarke

I did poorly in languages in school. I barely passed German and, until I was 21, I only spoke English. I moved to Spain after graduating; after six months, I still hadn't learned any Spanish. I kept telling myself that I didn't have the language gene. Eventually, I decided to put my excuses aside and dive in. It took a while, but as soon as I had a basic conversation, I got hooked. That was ten years ago, and since then I've travelled the world, learning many languages. I don't think visiting the country where the language is spoken is really that necessary nowadays, because of the internet. But if you do travel, it opens a lot of interesting doors. I recently had a birthday lunch with four generations of Italians, for example. No way would that have happened if I'd only spoken English. The initial stage is the hardest, but the only real way to get through this is to grin and bear it. I've learned to ignore the fact that I'm making mistakes. That confidence allows me to strive for the next level.

Which person mentions

1. a lack of concern about their identity?
2. advice about when to fit in an important aspect of language acquisition?
3. a means of coping with the most challenging phase of language acquisition?
4. a description of the stages in a person's language learning method?
5. an early appreciation of an advantage of being multilingual?
6. a long-term view of their own language learning?
7. an emotion brought on by the sound of a language?
8. appreciation for an experience arising from being a polyglot?

Task 2. Read four extracts from articles in which scientists give their views on zoos. For questions 9 - 12, choose from the scientists [A-D]. The scientists may be chosen more than once.

The Role of Zoos

[A]

I'm very well aware of the downsides of maintaining wild animals in captivity, but the fact that they're far from ideal for the particular specimens which are unfortunate enough to be held captive doesn't mean that zoos can't help wildlife in general. Those who would like them all to close should remember that many people can't afford to go and see animals in their natural habitat. I condemn completely the practice of having animals such as dolphins and monkeys put on shows for visitors, but having one of the zoo keepers give a short talk on an animal while children look at it is an excellent way of teaching them about wildlife. Furthermore, zoos, particularly the bigger, more famous ones, have become leaders in projects such as the reintroduction of captive-born animals to the wild, which are boosting efforts to save those threatened with extinction.

[B]

Having worked in many different zoos over the years, I have developed something of an ambivalent attitude towards them. Zoos have always been in the entertainment business, and as long as the animals are not suffering, and the tricks they are asked to carry out are activities they would do naturally, that's fine. This doesn't mean, however, that I like

seeing animals in cages. Animals in zoos are plagued with mental and behavioural problems which lead to a drastically shortened life expectancy. Far more could be done to improve their quality of life, but unfortunately, many boards and directors see their zoos as a community resource similar to the local pool or library, and fail to consider the needs of the animals when it comes to allocating budgets.

[C]

The work that zoos do on a global level to co-ordinate population management of endangered species has made a real difference. One notable success in this area is the case of the Californian condor, for instance. Having said that, I still question whether we should be keeping animals in zoos at all. In recent decades, huge sums have been spent on improving the habitats of animals at many zoos, but ultimately we have to accept that an enclosure, however stimulating, isn't the right place for a wild creature. If we have to keep animals in captivity, then surely safari parks, in which the humans are enclosed in vehicles, while the animals roam free, are a better alternative. Additionally, by setting wildlife in a more natural environment, they provide real opportunities for visitors to develop their understanding of the animals, which is a claim I have never believed when it's made by zoos.

[D]

I imagine that many of the strongest critics of zoos rarely set foot in one, but I would urge them to take another look. Entry charges are high, but when you look at the first-class facilities for both visitors and animals, you can see that the money is being used wisely. Zoo animals across the globe now live in conditions which closely resemble their natural habitat and allow them to behave in as natural a way as possible. It's unfortunate that, despite making these changes, some zoos have chosen to continue the practice of having animals perform for the crowds. These distasteful displays have no place in modern society. The emphasis now needs to be firmly on the well-being of animals - not just those in zoos, but also those whose continued existence in the wild is in question. This is an area where zoos could do much more to make use of their considerable expertise.

Which scientist

9. has a different opinion from A on whether traditional zoos serve an educational purpose ?
10. has the same opinion as A on using zoo animals as a form of entertainment?
11. shares an opinion with A on the contribution that zoos make to conservation?
12. has a different opinion from D on the financial choices which zoo managers make?

Task 3. For questions 13 – 22 read the text and do the tasks below it.

Museums of Fine Art and Their Public

The fact that people go to the Louvre museum in Paris to see the original painting Mona Lisa when they can see a reproduction anywhere leads us to question some assumptions about the role of museums of fine art in today's world.

One of the most famous works of art in the world is Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa. Nearly everyone who goes to see the original will already be familiar with it from reproductions, but they accept that fine art is more rewardingly viewed in its original form.

However, if *Mona Lisa* was a famous novel, few people would bother to go to a museum to read the writer's actual manuscript rather than a printed reproduction. This might be explained by the fact that the novel has evolved precisely because of technological developments that made it possible to print out huge numbers of texts, whereas oil paintings have always been produced as unique objects. In addition, it could be argued that the practice of interpreting or 'reading' each medium follows different conventions. With novels, the reader attends mainly to the meaning of words rather than the way they are printed on the page, whereas the 'reader' of a painting must attend just as closely to the material form of marks and shapes in the picture as to any ideas they may signify.

Yet it has always been possible to make very accurate facsimiles of pretty well any fine art work. The seven surviving versions of *Mona Lisa* bear witness to the fact that in the 16th century, artists seemed perfectly content to assign the reproduction of their creations to their workshop apprentices as regular 'bread and butter' work. And today the task of reproducing pictures is incomparably more simple and reliable, with reprographic techniques that allow the production of high-quality prints made exactly to the original scale, with faithful colour values, and even with duplication of the surface relief of the painting.

But despite an implicit recognition that the spread of good reproductions can be culturally valuable, museums continue to promote the special status of original work.

Unfortunately, this seems to place severe limitations on the kind of experience offered to visitors.

One limitation is related to the way the museum presents its exhibits. As repositories of unique historical objects, art museums are often called 'treasure houses'. We are reminded of this even before we view a collection by the presence of security guards, attendants, ropes and display cases to keep us away from the exhibits. In many cases, the architectural style of the building further reinforces that notion. In addition, a major collection like that of London's National Gallery is housed in numerous rooms, each with dozens of works, any one of which is likely to be worth more than all the average visitor possesses. In a society that judges the personal status of the individual so much by their material worth, it is, therefore, difficult not to be impressed by one's own relative 'worthlessness' in such an environment.

Furthermore, consideration of the 'value' of the original work in its treasure house setting impresses upon the viewer that, since these works were originally produced, they have been assigned a huge monetary value by some person or institution more powerful than themselves. Evidently, nothing the viewer thinks about the work is going to alter that value, and so today's viewer is deterred from trying to extend that spontaneous, immediate, self-reliant kind of reading which would originally have met the work.

The visitor may then be struck by the strangeness of seeing such diverse paintings, drawings and sculptures brought together in an environment for which they were not originally created. This 'displacement effect' is further heightened by the sheer volume of exhibits. In the case of a major collection, there are probably more works on display than we could realistically view in weeks or even months.

This is particularly distressing because time seems to be a vital factor in the appreciation of all art forms. A fundamental difference between paintings and other art forms is that there is no prescribed time over which a painting is viewed. By contrast, the audience encounters an opera or a play over a specific time, which is the duration of the

performance. Similarly, novels and poems are read in a prescribed temporal sequence, whereas a picture has no clear place at which to start viewing, or at which to finish. Thus artworks themselves encourage us to view them superficially, without appreciating the richness of detail and labour that is involved.

Consequently, the dominant critical approach becomes that of the art historian, a specialised academic approach devoted to ‘discovering the meaning’ of art within the cultural context of its time. This is in perfect harmony with the museum’s function, since the approach is dedicated to seeking out and conserving ‘authentic’, original readings of the exhibits. Again, this seems to put paid to that spontaneous, participatory criticism which can be found in abundance in criticism of classic works of literature, but is absent from most art history.

The displays of art museums serve as a warning of what critical practices can emerge when spontaneous criticism is suppressed. The museum public, like any other audience, experience art more rewardingly when given the confidence to express their views. If appropriate works of fine art could be rendered permanently accessible to the public by means of high-fidelity reproductions, as literature and music already are, the public may feel somewhat less in awe of them. Unfortunately, that may be too much to ask from those who seek to maintain and control the art establishment.

Questions 13 -17 Complete the summary using the list of words, A-L, below. Write the correct letter, A-L, in boxes 13 - 27 on your answer sheet.

A	institution	E	paints	I	basic technology
B	mass production	F	artist	J	readers
C	mechanical	G	size	K	picture frames
D	public	H	underlying ideas	L	assistants

The value attached to original works of art

People go to art museums because they accept the value of seeing an original work of art. But they do not go to museums to read original manuscripts of novels, perhaps because the availability of novels has depended on _____ (13) for so long, and also because with novels, the _____ (14) are the most important thing. However, in historical times artists such as Leonardo were happy to instruct _____ (15) to produce copies of their work, and these days new methods of reproduction allow excellent replication of surface relief features as well as colour and _____ (16). It is regrettable that museums still promote the superiority of original works of art, since this may not be in the interests of the _____ (17).

For questions 18 - 22 decide if the following statements agree with the views of the writer in the text? Choose A, B or C.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----|--|
| A. | YES | if the statement agrees with the views of the writer |
| B. | NO | if the statement contradicts the views of the writer |

C. NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

18. Art history should focus on discovering the meaning of art using a range of media.
19. The approach of art historians conflicts with that of art museums.
20. People should be encouraged to give their opinions openly on works of art.
21. Reproductions of fine art should only be sold to the public if they are of high quality.
22. In the future, those with power are likely to encourage more people to enjoy art.

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USE of ENGLISH

Task 1. For questions 1 - 6, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Climate and Weather

Climate and weather, which are mainly created by the air around us, profoundly affect the lives and distribution of animals and plants. Climate can be a dominating force on the character of landscapes. For example, warmth and wetness all the year round allow the growth of tropical jungles, which are natural _____ (1) troves, with an incredible diversity of species. _____ (2) cold, windswept areas can muster only a scattered selection of living things. The daily weather patterns that _____ (3) up in the long term to the climate are caused by great masses of air rising and mixing, for the atmosphere is never still. Some of the motion is _____ (4) the fact that the envelope of gases rests on a spinning globe; because air is thin it is not dragged along at the same speed as the Earth, but tends to _____ (5) behind. A more important _____ (6) of turbulence, or air movement, however, is the Sun.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. A prize | B treasure | C fortune | D trophy |
| 2. A Subsequently | B Conversely | C Simultaneously | D Eventually |
| 3. A make | B join | C add | D load |
| 4. A along with | B apart from | C due to | D given that |
| 5. A lag | B getting strayed | C be delaying | D lingering |
| 6. A root | B spring | C font | D source |

Task 2. For Questions 7 – 13 complete each sentence by using a particle from the list on the left [A – I] and one from the list on the right [J – R] to make a three-word phrasal verb. There are more particles than you need. You can use the particles more than once.

A	down
B	away
C	out
D	off
E	in
F	round
G	up
H	back
I	through

J	in
K	of
L	on
M	with
N	up
O	for
P	off
Q	to
R	away

7. Jack always listens to the news in order to keep _____ what's happening.
8. The Smiths were very snobbish. They looked _____ anyone they thought came from the wrong part of town.
9. The new manager said that we should do _____ these silly rules in our office.
10. The boss was ill so his assistant had to stand _____ him.
11. Adrian took Julia to the best restaurant in town to make _____ keeping her waiting for so long.
12. Unfortunately, Morris had to drop _____ the competition because of the knee injury.
13. We were disappointed because the musical we visited yesterday didn't really live _____ our expectations.

Task 3. Some linguists say that loan words make up 80% of the contemporary English language. For questions 14 - 18 choose the language [A, B, C or D] these borrowed words originate from.

14. alphabet, biology, geometry, logic, metamorphosis, music, theatre, physics, zoo
 A. Latin B. Persian C. Italian D. Greek
15. algebra, arsenal, assassin, elixir, sugar, syrup, zero
 A. Arabic B. Turkish C. Persian D. Greek
16. banana, barricade, canyon, cigar, embargo, guerilla, guitar, mosquito, tornado
 A. Portuguese B. Italian C. Spanish D. French
17. bungalow, jungle, loot, polo, pyjamas, shampoo, thug
 A. Yiddish B. Hindi C. Swahili D. Gujarati
18. bonsai, geisha, kamikaze, kimono, origami, ninja, samurai, sushi
 A. Japanese B. Greek C. Mandarin D. Russian

Task 4. For questions 19 - 29 complete the words in the passage below choosing the endings [A – R] from the box. There are more options than you need. You may use

the endings more than once.

A	- leg	G	- cycle	M	- plet
B	- pod	H	- logue	N	- rangle
C	- o	I	- uagenarian	O	- opus
D	- lingual	J	- tet	P	- enarian
E	- glass	K	- ruped	Q	- cle
F	- ped	L	- athlon	R	- leg

A Bright Life

George Willis was a remarkable person. Born in 1900, he was too young to go into uniform in the First World War, so he finished his schooling and went to university instead. Like most Oxford colleges, his college was built round a quad_____ **(19)** and a photograph of him there shows him wearing a mono _____ **(20)** in his eye, one of his many eccentricities. He rode a tricycle, declaring it to be safer and more stable than a bicycle.

His subject was zoology and he took special interests of four-legged creatures called quad_____s **(21)**, developing a special affection for elephants. However, all animal life fascinated him and he was often seen in the Oxfordshire countryside, observing wildlife through his binoculars or setting up his tri_____ **(22)** to record it in photographs. Marine creatures also attracted him, especially, for some reason, the oct_____ **(23)** and squid.

He was also creative in such diverse fields as engineering (he proposed a scheme for monorail transport in London) and music (he formed a jazz sex_____ **(24)**). He travelled widely and spoke French so well that he was completely bi _____ **(25)**. He was a fine sportsman and won many prizes in the pent_____ **(26)**. At the age of 72 he wrote his first play, a strange piece which consisted of a duologue between Shakespeare and Churchill. As an octog _____ **(27)** he was still active and talkative, although conversations with him tended to be rather long-winded. Always optimistic, he looked forward to continuing his busy life and to becoming a cent____ **(28)** and celebrate his 100th anniversary. He lived with his wife and had two sons and a daughter, whose birth as tri _____s **(29)** in 1927 he described as the happiest event in his eventful life.

Task 5. For questions 30 – 36 choose the correct answer [A, B or C].

30. If a politician is said to have weathered the storm, has he

- A. got through some problems?
- B. created some problems?
- C. been impeached?

31. If someone is pulling your leg is he or she

- A. motivating you to work harder?
- B. trying to fool you about something?
- C. attacking you?

32. **If you show someone the ropes, are you**
A. helping them?
B. threatening them?
C. selling something to them?
33. **If a machine is on the blink, it**
A. is working correctly.
B. is not working at all.
C. is working, but not correctly.
34. **A sticking point in a negotiation is**
A. something which is difficult to agree on
B. something which everyone agrees on
C. a compromise.
35. **If someone has a bone to pick with you, they want to**
A. move on after an argument
B. talk about something you have done which has annoyed them
C. stop you from doing something.
36. **If the boss was foaming at the mouth when it emerged how much money had been lost ,**
A. he was feeling sick
B. he was spitting at people
C. he was very angry.

Task 6. For questions 37 – 43 choose the grammatically correct sentence [A, B, C or D] that has a similar meaning to the first sentence.
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37. **Although we enjoyed the holiday, we were glad to be home.**
A. Much as we enjoyed the holiday, we were glad to be home.
B. Whatsoever we were glad to be home, we enjoyed the holiday,
C. Nevertheless we indeed enjoyed the holiday, everyone was glad to be home.
D. Indeed, we enjoyed the holiday, whereas everyone were glad to be home.
38. **The teacher said, ‘I’d like you to work on exercise 5 on page 127’.**
A. The teacher said that it was exercise 5 on page 127 which she would like to work on.
B. The teacher told to us to make exercise 5 on page 127.
C. ‘It is you who has to work on exercise 5 on page 127’, the teacher told the class.
D. The teacher said, ‘What I’d like you to work on is exercise 5 on page 127’.
39. **Jason didn’t worry at all about his exams.**
A. Jason was unsure about his success at the exams.
B. Not at all are exams worried Jason.
C. It is the exams that Jason worries about.
D. Jason didn’t worry in the least about his exams.
40. **The snowfall was so heavy that all the trains had to be canceled.**
A. So heavy did it snow that all the trains had to be cancelled.
B. So heavy was the snowfall that all the trains had to be canceled.
C. All the trains had to be canceled as so heavily the snowfall was.
D. Such many trains had to be cancelled due to the heavy snowfall.

41. **Even though the food is excellent, there is still room for improvement.**
 A. The food being excellent, though it needs being improved.
 B. Still is there the room for improvement however the excellence of food.
 C. Excellent though the food is, there is still room for improvement.
 D. In spite of being improved, the food is excellent anyway.
42. **'I don't think I have ever met this man,' Alice said.**
 A. Alice admitted not to having seen this man.
 B. The meeting with this man had completely disappeared from Alice's memory.
 C. Alice doubted whether she had ever met that man.
 D. Alice said that she didn't think that she has ever met this man.
43. **If the government raised interest rates, they would lose the election.**
 A. Should the government raised interest rates, they would sure lose the election.
 B. Were the government to raise interest rates they would lose the election.
 C. Unless the interest rates raises, the government would lose the election.
 D. Providing the election lost, the government would raise interest rates.

Task 7. Country Studies. For questions 44 – 48 choose the correct answer [A, B, C or D].

44. **The Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island in New York harbour was _____ .**
 A. assembled in Germany
 B. designed and built in the USA
 C. designed by an Italian engineer
 D. a gift from the people of France
45. **John Lennon international airport is located in _____.**
 A. Manchester
 B. Liverpool
 C. Newcastle
 D. Bristol
46. **Three of these people were prominent British scientists who invented a turbojet engine, the world's first man-made plastic, the world's first cash machine. Which of these people is famous for his achievements in another activity?**
 A. William Thackeray
 B. Alexander Parkes
 C. Frank Whittle
 D. John Shepherd-Barron
47. **The Union Jack (the national flag of the United Kingdom) has influenced the design of many flags worldwide, particularly in former British colonies. Some of the British Commonwealth countries now have a Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner of their own flags as a symbol of their historical ties with the UK. Which of these countries' flags doesn't have it?**
 A. Australia
 B. Fiji
 C. Jamaica
 D. New Zealand
48. **Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest presidents of the USA. Which of these facts is true about him?**
 A. He was the tallest president of all times.
 B. The California Gold Rush began during his office.
 C. He was the only US president who was assassinated.
 D. He attended Napoleon's coronation at Notre Dame Cathedral in 1804 while he was serving as the American ambassador in the U.K.

Transfer all your answers to the answer sheet

WRITING

Futurologists predict that in the future all vehicles will be driverless and the only people travelling inside them will be passengers.

Do you think the advantages of driverless vehicles outweigh the disadvantages? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge and experience.

Write 180-200 words in the lines provided below.