

**ПЛЕХАНОВСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ
ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ
Очный этап 2024-2025
8- 9 класс**

LISTENING TEST

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1-8, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You will hear the recording twice.

- 1. You hear two friends talking about a science website. What do they agree about?**
A. The information on the website is useful for homework.
B. The graphics are better than on similar websites.
C. The website is easy for everyone to use.
- 2. You hear a teenager talking to her mother on the phone. What is she doing?**
A. asking her mother for some money
B. telling her mother about a bargain
C. persuading her mother to do something
- 3. You hear two classmates discussing a history project. The boy thinks that the project will**
A. be easy to complete on time.
B. involve some interesting research.
C. prove useful for his future studies.
- 4. You hear part of a radio programme. What is the programme about?**
A. a song B. a concert C. a singer
- 5. You hear a brother and sister talking about a party they organised. How does the girl feel now?**
A. relieved that it is over
B. glad so many people came
C. proud to have organised it so well
- 6. You hear a teacher talking to some students on a geography trip. The teacher wants the students to**
A. follow a specific route.
B. take notes while he is talking.
C. photograph some unusual rocks.
- 7. You hear a teenage tennis player talking about her new coach. She says her coach**
A. understands the pressures she faces.
B. has given her more confidence.
C. wants her to change her technique.
- 8. You hear a brother and sister talking about a long car journey they are going to go on. What does the boy say about it?**
A. He expects it to be rather dull.
B. He is glad that they will set off early.
C. He wishes they could go by bus instead.

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READING

Task 1. Read a magazine article about tweenagers, a word used to describe an age group of children who are not yet teenagers. For Questions 1 – 8 choose the most suitable heading from the list [A – I] for each part of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

- A.** Tweenagers readily accept what they're told
- B.** Factors affecting tweenage behaviour
- C.** The young are getting older every day
- D.** The commercial value of Teenage market
- E.** Basically a tweenager remains a child
- F.** Tweenagers have real spending power
- G.** Tweenagers are in control of what they do
- H.** The end of childhood for tweenagers
- I.** The need to belong is very strong

1

Tweenagers. It's one of those labels that marketing and advertising people stick onto new consumer groups to persuade them to buy more of the products that are suitable for their life-style. In the case of tweenagers, it's the eight to twelve-year-olds who want to grow up as fast as they can, and who copy the fashions and behavior of the teenagers they can't wait to become.

2

In the UK there are about four million children in this age group. According to recent research, pocket money has risen by 32% over six years. Tweenagers are marketer's dream. The market for children's clothes, music, mobile phones and so on in this category is estimated to be worth about £30 billion.

3

Most of these children have lived through a period of economic wealth and, according to recent research, pocket money has risen by 32% over six years. Consequently, tweenagers are a marketer's dream.

4

From a psychologist's point of view, up until the age of eight, a child's family is his or her most important and biggest influence. From eight onwards, other influences become important – particularly friends of the same age, and role models from the world of entertainment and sport.

5

Eight to twelve is a broad age range and includes various levels of maturity. There are still ten-year-olds who are secretly happier playing with dolls or toy cars than shopping for the

latest fashion labels or watching soaps on television. But the pressure of friends means it's quite hard for them to follow their real interests as they want to fit in with their peer group.

6

Before the age of eleven or twelve children have not developed the capacity for abstract thinking. This means that they receive information from the media but are not very likely to question what they see and hear. A teenager can watch something and ask questions like: "Are they just trying to sell me something?" Teenagers rebel and protest but tweenagers take it all at face value, so are much more easily persuaded.

7

Many teachers of this age group also comment on the fact that tweenagers are into pop culture and fashion from the age of eight onwards. Most children of today get a lot less physical freedom than previous generations, but a lot more freedom of choice. Many stay up late to watch what they like on television and make friends with who they like.

8

One teacher who has taught this age range for a number of years said, "I like tweenagers. By the time they are eight or nine most of them have developed a sense of humour, and they really make me laugh. In spite of their fashionable lifestyles, they are still quite innocent. The important thing is that they may look like teenagers, speak like teenagers and want to be teenagers, but they are still just children".

Task 2. Read an article about learning a second language. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences [A-G] the one which fits each gap [9-14]. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

How to Be a Better Second Language Learner

There is a lot of evidence which suggests that it is better to learn a second language when you are still young, ideally before the age of 11, and that once you are a teenager it is more difficult to learn a foreign language. This might be true but there are plenty of examples of adults who have started to learn a second language later in life and still managed to achieve a very good level. There are lots of factors involved in how well people are able to learn and use a second (or third or fourth) language and age is only one of them. **[9]**

Here are some tips which might help you.

Firstly, you are likely to learn a language more quickly the more exposure you have to it. It therefore makes sense to try to spend time in a country where the language is spoken. You do not necessarily have to go and live in the country long term but try to make frequent visits so that you often have to use the language for genuine communication and see and hear the language all around you. It is important that even if your visits are short they are frequent so that you do not forget everything you have learnt in between one trip and the next. **[10]** If you go with friends who speak your language it is unlikely you will have much need to use the language you are trying to learn. Probably the best thing to do is to go alone and enroll on a language course so that you will have some instruction and help with the language from a teacher and you will also meet other people in a similar situation to yourself. Of course this might not be possible, it might be too far away or too expensive. Don't worry, even if you stay in your own

country and learn another language there are still things you can do to make the experience more effective.

It is possible to try to teach yourself; you can buy some books, borrow material from a library or follow an online course but the best thing to do is sign up to have language classes with a qualified teacher. It is more fun to attend classes with other people and you can often help each other and learn things from other students so you are likely to make more rapid progress than if you try to study on your own. [11] In addition, you want a teacher who will give you homework and correct it for you and guide you in what other things you can be doing outside of class by yourself.

One thing you should definitely try to do is read in the language you are studying as reading is the best way to increase your vocabulary. [12] When you are reading you will probably come across language you are already familiar with in new and different contexts. This helps to broaden your knowledge. For example, you might see verbs you already know in different forms. It doesn't matter what you read, and the best advice is to read something that you would read in your own language. Reading in a foreign language can be difficult, so it is important that you choose something you are interested in and would enjoy in your own language. You can even read a book you have already read in your own language.

When you come across new words or expressions try to guess their meaning rather than looking them up in a dictionary. It is not usually necessary to understand every single word. If you really want to check the meaning of something underline it and come back to it later. That way you won't interrupt the flow of your reading. When you come to recording new words or expressions either in class or from reading it is really important to write whole sentences and use meaningful examples. [13] A big problem when you try to use the language you are learning is inaccurate translation. You shouldn't try to construct sentences and phrases the same way you do in your first language as this often results in something that sounds strange or even something that makes no sense at all. The best way to avoid this is to learn whole expressions and sentences and not to focus too much on individual words.

If possible, you should try to listen to the language too. You can do this by listening to the podcasts or watching films. [14] Short episodes of teen sitcoms are better than films as films can be very long and the language is often very colloquial and informal. And finally, ideally you should practice speaking and communicating in the language with someone who knows the language better than you. This doesn't need to be a native speaker but should be someone who can correct you and help you with things you don't know.

- A. And you need a teacher to explain things to you and more importantly to correct you if you make any mistakes.
- B. Like with reading try to choose things you are interested in already and would listen to or watch in your own language.
- C. Another point to consider is how you spend your time while you are there.
- D. This means you are more likely to want to finish it and keep going when it gets difficult.
- E. Try to write things which are real and true for you as this will make it easier to remember.

- F. It is also a good way of reinforcing the grammatical structures you already know.
- G. So the good news is that if you are learning a language as a teenager or adult there is no reason why you should not reach a good level if you really want to.

Task 3. Read an article in which four people talk about cheating in exams. For questions 15-22 choose from the people [A-D]. The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person or people:

- 15. was caught cheating in an exam?
- 16. didn't let a friend copy their work?
- 17. regrets trying to cheat in an exam?
- 18. didn't get caught because a friend helped them?
- 19. tried to cheat by writing notes on a part of their body?
- 20. only tried to cheat in the subject they weren't good at?
- 21. thinks it is always wrong to cheat?
- 22. thinks there is nothing wrong with cheating?

Cheating in Exams

A

This happened when I was about 14 years old. The last exam of the year was history, which had always been my worst subject. I was useless at remembering dates and people's names so I decided to write the dates and names of the important events we'd studied on the inside of my arm and then wore a jumper to cover it up so no-one could see. Unfortunately though, it was a really hot day. I really wanted to take my jumper off but I couldn't. I realised after about ten minutes that there was no way I would be able to look at what I'd written without the teacher seeing and I just wished I hadn't done it. I felt so hot and uncomfortable and was really worried about the teacher seeing and catching me that I didn't do very well in the test at all. I was too distracted. I think I probably would have got a better result if I hadn't tried to cheat. I learnt a good lesson though. I never tried to cheat again after that.

B

My friend and I had the same surname so we always ended up sitting next to each other, or one behind the other, in exams at school. We worked out this system where we would pass a piece of paper to each other with the answers to the questions. Sometimes we just passed it by hand if we were sitting close enough and other times we'd throw it on the floor for the other person to pick up. It was quite a good system and I think over lots of exams we probably helped each other equally so it was fair and I'm sure we both got higher marks. Unfortunately a teacher did see us doing it once. I was just leaning down to pick up a paper my friend was passing back to me when a teacher appeared out of nowhere and picked it up first. There was no way we could deny what we were doing, it was so obvious. The teacher didn't say anything until the end of the exam and then when she collected our papers she wrote a big zero at the top. We didn't do it anymore after that, it had been good before but we decided it wasn't worth the risk.

C

I used to always cheat in my maths exams when I was at school. We were allowed to take a calculator with us into the exam and I used to write all the important formulae that we were supposed to remember on the inside of the calculator case. I did it lots of times. I don't regret it at all. I was quite good at maths anyway but I'm sure I got better results as a result of cheating. In other exams like chemistry and physics, I sometimes wrote notes on bits of tissue then pretended I needed to blow my nose and looked at my notes during the exam. It worked really well. There was only one time I was almost caught; I dropped the tissue on the floor by accident just as a teacher was walking past. He was about to pick it up when my friend, who had also seen what had happened, deliberately knocked over his water bottle. The teacher was so busy clearing up the water I think he forgot about me. If you're clever enough to work out a way to cheat and not get caught then I think you deserve to get good marks. It's like that in the real world; if you can do something more easily and with less hard work then you will. Why not?

D

I've never cheated in an exam and really don't see the point. I mean sooner or later people will find out if you know something or not. If you cheat to get better results then you're lying to yourself as well as to everyone else. Rather than spending your time thinking of really clever and original ways to cheat without anyone realising, you should just spend that time studying. I'm sure it will help you a lot more in the long run. A friend once tried to read my answers in an exam while pretending to pick something up off the floor. As soon as I realised I covered my work so he couldn't see. He was quite annoyed with me afterwards but I didn't think it was fair that he should do well because of my hard work.

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USE of ENGLISH

Task 1. For Questions 1 – 7 read the definitions of people involved in education and vocational training and match them with their names from the box [A – L]. There are more options than you need.

A	apprentice	E	caretaker	I	graduate
B	post-graduate	F	lecturer	J	pupil
C	headteacher	G	scholar	K	tutor
D	undergraduate	H	pupil	L	vice-chancellor

Who Is Who in Education

1. A student who has completed a first degree course at a university or college.
2. Either a teacher at a university who teaches small groups of students or someone who privately teaches one pupil or a small group of pupils, often at home.
3. A person who teaches at a college or university.
4. A young person who works for a number of years with someone - usually for low wages in order to learn their skills, e.g. a hair-dresser.
5. A person who studies an academic subject in depth, e.g. Biology, Physics, Greek, Chemistry, etc. and knows a lot about it.
6. A student at a college or university who is studying for his or her first degree.
7. The person in charge of a school.

Task 2. For questions 8 –16, read the text below and decide which answer [A, B, C or D] best fits each gap.

Off the Beaten Track

The expression ‘getting off the beaten track’ is used to (8) _____ to the experience of avoiding famous tourist attractions and choosing instead to explore less well-known places when travelling.

For many people the whole (9) _____ of travel is to visit cities such as Moscow or Kazan that have a great (10) _____ as places of beauty and historic importance. Furthermore, they are not particularly (11) _____ by the crowds that are usually found in such locations. But for others who have more of a (12) _____ of adventure, a good holiday must (13) _____ unfamiliar experiences, even taking some risks.

Travelling off the beaten track may be done by some students who don't (14) _____ to a rigid plan, but make decisions about what to do depending on how they feel. Other travelers prefer to spend money on guided tours to unusual locations. Such tours are designed to (15) _____ their particular needs, and all the arrangements are made for them. However people choose to get off the beaten track, the hope is always the same: to have a special, often unique (16) _____ of a different culture.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 8. | A represent | B indicate | C refer | D mention |
| 9. | A worth | B point | C aim | D profit |
| 10. | A favour | B approval | C reputation | D opinion |
| 11. | A bothered | B shocking | C surprise | D nervously |
| 12. | A driving | B impression | C mood | D sense |
| 13. | A to provide | B be given | C involve | D searching |
| 14. | A fix | B stick | C fasten | D attach |
| 15. | A satisfying | B comply | C agree | D meet |
| 16. | A experience | B sharing | C life-time | D knowing |

Task 3. For questions 17 – 21 choose an animal from the box [A – H] and fill in the gaps in the sentences. The meanings of the idioms are given below the text.

A	hare	E	bear
B	dog	F	tortoise
C	snail	G	bird
D	pig	H	bull

I was trying to finish my essay for my English class by the end of the week, but it all seemed to be going **at a _____(17)_____ 's pace** and I was not very motivated. So I decided to **take the _____(18)_____ by the horns**. I stayed up until after midnight every day for four days and worked on my essay. I was tired in the mornings, and went round **like a _____(19)_____ with a sore head** all day, but, in the end I managed to **kill two _____(20)_____s with one stone**: I finished the essay and I read a number of important books I should have read weeks before. My last essay was a bit of a **_____ (21)_____ 's breakfast**, but I'm hoping this one will get a better grade.

17. very slowly
 18. to face the situation and act positively
 19. feeling very bad-tempered and irritable all day
 20. to do two useful things in one go
 21. a mess

Task 4. For Questions 22 – 28 complete each sentence by using a particle from the list on the left [A – H] and one from the list on the right [I – P] to make a three-word phrasal verb. There are more particles than you need. You can use the particles more than once.

A	down	I	in
B	on	J	of

C	out		K	on
D	off		L	with
E	in		M	up
F	through		N	for
G	back		O	off
H	up		P	to

22. If you really want to become slim, you can start by cutting _____ the amount of cakes and chocolate you eat!
23. We've run _____ beans, so would you like peas instead?
24. My cousin refuses to face _____ the fact that he's no longer as young and fit as he used to be.
25. John has gone _____ some kind of virus, so he won't come to the party.
26. I don't go _____ sport very much apart from the occasional game of tennis.
27. Can you imagine! This magnificent house dates _____ to 1583.
28. Though he had left two hours before us, he was travelling so slowly that we soon caught _____ him.

Task 5. For questions 29 –36, read the text below. Use the word given in CAPITALS at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

An Interesting New Planet

Until recently, the (29) _____ of planets outside our own solar system was difficult to prove. Now, thanks to increasingly (30) _____ equipment, hundreds have been discovered orbiting distant stars. Recent (31) _____ of the nearest star to Earth, Proxima Centauri, have led to a (32) _____ discovery: a rocky planet similar in size to the Earth which may have liquid water on its surface. Although the new planet is (33) _____ closer to Proxima Centauri than the Earth is to the Sun, there is still a (34) _____ of life there. This is because the star is much smaller and cooler than our sun, so conditions on the planet may be comfortable enough to support life. Temperatures on the planet will be (35) _____ on whether there is an atmosphere surrounding it. Travelling to Proxima Centauri and exploring its planet is totally (36) _____ at the moment. Despite it being one of the nearest stars to the Sun, it would take thousands of years to get there using current technology.	EXIST SENSE INVESTIGATE SIGNIFY CONSIDER POSSIBLE DEPEND REAL
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Task 6. For questions 37 – 45 choose the correct answer [A, B, C or D].

37. _____ Maggie always handed in her homework late, the quality of her work was high.
A. Although B. Therefore C. However D. So that
38. Brian would have flown to Dubai if the airport _____ due to heavy snowfall yesterday.
A. hadn't been open C. hadn't been closed
B. had been closed D. would be closed
39. _____ Tom wrote his essay in an hour, John needed a whole day to do his.
A. In order to B. Owing to C. Whereas D. In spite
40. Alice wondered _____ look after her cat while she _____ on holiday the next month.
A. if her neighbour could, was C. was her neighbour able to, was
B. could her neighbour, was D. whether her neighbour could, would be
41. I don't think you will be able to solve this problem _____ legal advice.
A. without a C. without something
B. without any D. without having no
42. It is amazing that hot air ballooning _____ by people as a hobby for relaxation attracts so many enthusiasts.
A. is following B. following C. is followed D. followed
43. _____ being one of the most intelligent students in the class, Michael's exam result was disappointing.
A. Because B. Despite C. However D. Although
44. Customers can buy most things _____ in this supermarket.
A. much expensive C. more cheaply
B. much more cheaper D. little more cheaply
45. 'You just don't practise enough,' said the teacher, 'and _____ you're not likely to improve'.
A. as well as B. however C. unless D. therefore

Task 7. Country Studies. For questions 46 – 50 choose the correct answer [A, B, C or D].

46. Being the biggest city in the USA New York has several common nicknames. Which one is about another city?

- A. "Melting Pot" C. "The Big Apple"
B. "The Swinging City" D. "The City that never Sleeps"

47. _____ is a major road in the City of Westminster in the West End of London, running from Tottenham Court Road to Marble Arch. It is Europe's busiest shopping street, with around half a million daily visitors, and has approximately 300 shops.

- A. Portobello Road C. Fleet Street
B. Oxford Street D. Downing Street

48. Sir Henry Rider Haggard was an English writer of adventure fiction romances set in exotic locations. In 1885 he wrote one of his most popular novels, 'King Solomon's Mines' which first introduced an English professional big game hunter and adventurer Allan Quatermain. In total Allan Quatermain's adventures were detailed in 18 books. Which of these Haggard's books is about another hero's adventures?

- A. A Tale of Three Lions**
- B. The Holy Flower**
- C. The Ivory Child**
- D. Montezuma's Daughter**

49. Choose the list of the following longest-reigning monarchs in Britain by the length of their reign.

- A. Elizabeth II, Victoria, George III, James VI**
- B. Victoria, Elizabeth II, James VI , George III**
- C. Elizabeth II, George III, Victoria, James VI**
- D. George III, James VI , Elizabeth II, Victoria**

50. _____ became famous because of the Royal Observatory founded there in 1675. The first Nautical Almanac, published in 1767 for the use of navigators and astronomers, was based on the meridian that passes through this place. In 1884, this meridian was accepted as the prime meridian of the world: its longitude is marked as 0° .

- A. Canterbury**
- B. Stonehenge**
- C. Greenwich**
- D. Waterloo**

Transfer all your answers to the answer sheet

WRITING

Some teenagers want to work part-time to earn their pocket money. However, their parents are often against it.

Discuss both points of view and give your opinion.

Write 180-200 words in the lines provided below.