

## **Listening**

Time: 20 minutes

**(10 points)**

For items 1–10 listen to a man talking about the sport of elephant polo and decide whether the statements 1–10 are TRUE according to the text you hear (A), or FALSE (B), or the information on the statement is NOT STATED in the text (C). You will hear the text twice.

1. Elephant polo is the fastest game in the world.
2. The length of the pitch and the width of the goals are the same as in football.
3. There are two people sitting astride an elephant in a game of elephant polo.
4. Using trunks during a game is prohibited to avoid suffocation of the animals.
5. The number of goals which a team might score depends on sheer luck.
6. Left-handed women can use both hands.
7. When a player misses the ball, the elephant lies down across the goal.
8. Elephants with attitude problems do not take part in polo games as it might be risky.
9. At half-time, players exchange their elephants and mahouts with the other team, which is an old tradition.
10. Indian elephants are preferred over African ones due to their large stature.

**Transfer all your answers to your Listening Answer Sheet**

## READING

Time: 20 minutes

(15 points)

*Read the passage below and answer questions 1–15.*

Even the tactful Japanese would probably smirk or at the very least express puzzlement if someone told them about a ‘traditional Russian tea party’. And yet, it is a well-known fact that Russians are unstoppable in their **incessant** consumption of tea and in fact cannot live without it. It has become an extremely significant part of Russian culture. Tea warms you up, wakes you up, and is nice after a big meal. Tea in Russia is not just a beverage – it’s a social activity with a long-reaching tradition behind it. Even coffee that has been slowly but surely making inroads onto Russian tables still has not been able to replace tea. Russians will drink tea on any occasion and with no occasion whatsoever.

For the first time four pounds of tea were brought to Russia in 1638 by the Russian ambassador as a gift from the Mongol Khan for the Russian sovereign of Moscow Michael Fyodorovich. At first the tsar and the boyars were not particularly impressed with the astringent and bitter drink. When all the tea presented by the Mongol Khan had been drunk and the Moscow court began to forget its taste, it was once again the diplomats who reintroduced tea to Russia. Another Russian ambassador Nicholas Spafary brought some tea from China. This time tea was already a known substance in Moscow and in 1679 a contract was entered into with China under which the Chinese were to supply Russia with dried tea. After that, caravans carrying tea began regular journeys from the Great Wall of China to the walls of the Moscow Kremlin.

However, the new beverage took quite some time to grow on Russians, who at first viewed it with suspicion as they did with everything that originated abroad. In addition, Chinese tea was too expensive while Russian herbal teas, such as cranberry, currant, briar, and sweet lime were always easy to get. And it was only by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century that tea had been fully accepted in Russian households and become a national drink.

An indispensable component of a Russian tea party is the samovar. Samovars are tea poetry; they come in all sorts of different shapes and sizes. Many of them are true works of art. A samovar is always placed in the middle of the table. It commonly has curved shapes suggesting warmth and kindness. While water is boiling inside the samovar and smoke is coming off the top of it,

its sides reflect the people around the table, adding a surreal feel to the gathering. Samovars are usually heated up using charcoal and sometimes even fir cones. The slightly bitter aroma of the smoke relaxes and soothes those present. In addition to good looks and efficiency, samovars were always valued for their sound. When the water starts boiling a samovar would announce it with its own unique “song” that would add to the cosiness and intimacy of the occasion.

When you’re invited for tea in Russia, you can almost always expect to eat. Guests are offered several types of jam, honey, cakes, pies, chocolates and other sweets. Often you also get sandwiches, light salads, and fresh fruit and vegetables. Everything is served on ornate plates and dishes.

It is almost an insult not to offer tea to someone who came by your house, as it is an insult to refuse it when offered. In some parts of the former Soviet Union, especially in the North Caucasus region and Central Asia, the amount and quality of the food served when drinking tea indicates a level of respect that a host has for a guest, and it’s not uncommon for relationships to go sour just because only jam and sugar were served during tea.

There is a story about how in 1802 Prince Shakhovskoy met J.W. Goethe in a hotel in Munich. The famous German poet invited the Prince for tea. Having arrived and seeing that there was nothing but tea on the table, the Prince ordered sandwiches and some pastries without further ado. The two spent a most pleasant evening talking about German and Russian literature. To Shakhovskoy’s surprise, the next day he got a bill for the food he had ordered, which J.W. Goethe refused to pay, since he had only invited the Prince for tea.

There is another tradition that foreigners often fail to understand: Russians drink tea from glasses, which they put in special glass holders. This tradition dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century teahouses and it was only in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century that it was picked up by the commoners. Expensive glass holders were usually made from silver, the more commonplace glass holders were made primarily from alloys of nickel and silver. The finely decorated holders were used both for esthetic and practical purposes preventing the palms from direct contact with hot tea. Today almost nobody will drink tea from glasses at home and yet it has still survived on trains. It is a special unique kind of pleasure to drink hot tea from a glass in a glass holder sitting in the car of a long distance train and looking out at the landscapes speeding past outside!

## Task 1. Questions 1–8

*In boxes 1–8 on your answer sheet, circle: **A (TRUE)** if the statement agrees with the information given in the text; **B (FALSE)** if the statement contradicts the information given in the text or if there is no information given in the text.*

1. Tea and coffee are equally favoured by the Russian people.
2. Russians indulge in having tea whenever the opportunity affords itself.
3. The Russians instantly favoured the peculiar flavour of the new beverage.
4. Envoys introduced the new beverage to Russia twice.
5. Tea drinking gradually evolved into a kind of social ceremony.
6. The Russian samovar was a symbol of prosperity, well-being, and comfort.
7. Water in samovars is boiled ahead of time and just warmed up afterwards.
8. Glass holders were made to help the tea cool quicker.

## Task 2. Questions 9 – 15

*Choose option **A, B, C** which best fits according to the text. Circle the correct letter in boxes 9–15 on your answer sheet.*

9. For the Japanese the idea of having tea parties in Russia seems
  - A. perplexing.
  - B. explicable.
  - C. evasive.
10. The word “incessant” in the first paragraph means
  - A. constant.
  - B. temporary.
  - C. irregular.
11. The Russians did not welcome the new drink as
  - A. they were forced to drink it.
  - B. it took long to make it.
  - C. it was totally alien to them.
12. In the North Caucasus region and Central Asia
  - A. sour fruit and vegetables are commonly served during the tea party.
  - B. lavish snacks are served at the tea party if the guest is highly honoured.

- C. traditionally only jam and sugar are served during the tea party.
- 13.** Samovars placed in the middle of the table usually
- A. warmed the water quicker and more economically.
  - B. helped gather the guests by their special “song”.
  - C. added to the calming atmosphere round the table.
- 14.** The story about Prince Shakhovskoy's meeting with J.W. Goethe
- A. demonstrates Russian hospitality and generosity.
  - B. illustrates the different national tea-drinking habits.
  - C. shows a way to build cross-cultural connections over a cup of tea.
- 15.** The tradition of having tea from glasses in glass holders
- A. is completely forgotten now.
  - B. has survived on railroads.
  - C. has become a family tradition.

***Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!***

## Use of English

Time: 40 min.

*For items 1–10, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).*

### Example:

0

teaching

#### BEING A TEACHER

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Without a doubt, (0) ... is one of the oldest professions   | <b>TEACH</b>     |
| and one of the most (1) ....  | <b>CHALLENGE</b> |
| To be a good teacher, you need certain qualities such as (2)...., understanding and patience.   | <b>MATURE</b>    |
| Teachers must also be good communicators if they are to convey (3) ... to their students.   | <b>KNOW</b>      |
| Language teachers in particular have to be aware of all the skills students need to communicate (4) ... with others.                      | <b>SUCCESS</b>   |
| As well as being (5) ... to students' needs,  | <b>SENSE</b>     |
| teachers also need to be (6) ... and approachable while at the same time maintaining high standards of discipline in the classroom.       | <b>HELP</b>      |
| Perhaps most (7) ... of all,  | <b>IMPORTANT</b> |
| teachers need to keep themselves well-informed about current (8) ... in their field and the world in general in order to give their best. | <b>DEVELOP</b>   |
| However, although it can be difficult when teachers find themselves (9) ... to help students outside of class,                            | <b>ABLE</b>      |
| they (10) ... try to help everyone in class.  | <b>CONSTANT</b>  |

## Task 2. Questions 11–20

For items **11–20**, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** Use **from three to five words**. **The number of words you should put in the gap is specified in each case. Do NOT use contracted forms.** There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

**Example: 0.** “Let’s go to the cinema on Sunday,” said Ann.

Ann \_\_\_\_\_ **wanted** to the cinema on Sunday. (*4words*)

**0**

**wanted us to go**

**11.** Karen failed to persuade the landlord to change the locks.

**SUCCEED**

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ the landlord to change the locks. (*5words*)

**12.** His doctor advised him to reduce the amount of caffeine he consumed.

**DOWN**

He was advised \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of caffeine he consumed. (*4words*)

**13.** Perhaps they went the wrong way and got lost.

**MAY**

They \_\_\_\_\_ the wrong way and got lost. (*3words*)

**14.** Her employer will not tolerate her tardiness any longer.

**PUT**

Her employer will not \_\_\_\_\_ her tardiness any longer. (*3words*)

**15.** All the employees received a pay cheque apart from Charles.

**WHO**

Charles was the \_\_\_\_\_ receive a pay cheque. (*5words*)

**16.** The candidate definitely will not win the election.

**CHANCE**

The candidate has got \_\_\_\_\_ the election. (*4words*)

17. I got the job because I knew the manager.

**WOULD**

If I had not known the manager, I \_\_\_\_\_ the job. (4words)

18. He said he was sorry he had yelled at his sister.

**YELLING**

He \_\_\_\_\_ at his sister. (3words)

19. She got the part even though she did not have much acting experience.

**OF**

In \_\_\_\_\_ much acting experience, she got the part. (4words)

20. He studied history because he wanted to be a teacher.

**VIEW**

He studied history \_\_\_\_\_ a teacher. (5 words)

***Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!***



## Writing

|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| I | D |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|

**Time: 40 minutes**

**(15 points)**

Write a short description of your favourite place in your native city (town, village, etc.) and recommend it to foreign tourists.

Write the name of the place at the beginning on a separate line (*words are not counted in this line*). The place should be real, not imaginary.

Remember to mention in your description:

- where in your native city (town, village) the place is located;
- why you like the place;
- why you recommend it to foreign tourists.

Write **200–250** words.

***Transfer your description to the answer sheet!***

## Answer sheet

### Listening

| Item | Answer |   |   |
|------|--------|---|---|
| 1    | A      | B | C |
| 2    | A      | B | C |
| 3    | A      | B | C |
| 4    | A      | B | C |
| 5    | A      | B | C |
| 6    | A      | B | C |
| 7    | A      | B | C |
| 8    | A      | B | C |
| 9    | A      | B | C |
| 10   | A      | B | C |

### Reading

| Item | Answer |   |   |   |
|------|--------|---|---|---|
| 1    | A      |   | B |   |
| 2    | A      |   | B |   |
| 3    | A      |   | B |   |
| 4    | A      |   | B |   |
| 5    | A      |   | B |   |
| 6    | A      |   | B |   |
| 7    | A      |   | B |   |
| 8    | A      | B | C | D |
| 9    | A      | B | C | D |
| 10   | A      | B | C | D |
| 11   | A      | B | C | D |
| 12   | A      | B | C | D |
| 13   | A      | B | C | D |
| 14   | A      | B | C | D |
| 15   | A      | B | C | D |

### Use of English

| Item | Answer |
|------|--------|
| 1    |        |
| 2    |        |
| 3    |        |
| 4    |        |
| 5    |        |
| 6    |        |
| 7    |        |
| 8    |        |
| 9    |        |
| 10   |        |
| 11   |        |
| 12   |        |
| 13   |        |
| 14   |        |
| 15   |        |
| 16   |        |
| 17   |        |
| 18   |        |
| 19   |        |
| 20   |        |





## Audioscript

### Listening comprehension

For items **1–10** listen to a man talking about the sport of elephant polo and decide whether the statements **1–10** are **TRUE** according to the text you hear (**A**), or **FALSE** (**B**), or the information on the statement is **NOT STATED** in the text (**C**). You will hear the text **twice**. You have **20 seconds** to look through the statements.

#### Now we begin

Of course, polo is normally played on horses, and it's a very fast game. Well, we don't claim that elephant polo is the fastest game in the world, but we always maintain it's the biggest. The elephants do actually enjoy polo. Definitely. It's a lot of fun for them because they're social animals, and a polo tournament is a week when dozens of elephants meet up, many from the same family, like a reunion. And of course they get fed extremely well - better than in their normal life. They use up a lot of energy and get through masses of sugar cane, especially at half-time.

The players sit on elephants and hit a white wooden ball, using a long bamboo stick that has a polo mallet head on the end of it. The pitch is about three-quarters the length of a football pitch, and the goals are the same width as football goals. There's a basic saddle and the players are strapped onto the elephants.

We've never had a serious accident. A mahout - an elephant handler - sits behind each player and guides the elephant. Sometimes the mahouts have their own games, guiding the elephant and hitting the ball as well. That takes incredible skill.

During a game, if the ball hits an elephant, that's fine. Their legs are quite thick and they do get in the way. Quite often they will kick the ball so they can run after it. They're not allowed to pick up the ball with their trunks, though they sometimes try. That would be a free hit to the other side.

There are four elephants per team in a tournament, plus the referee's elephant - that's nine on the pitch at any one time. We usually have sixteen animals available on any given day, in four teams. There are two halves, called chukkas, in a game of elephant polo, the same as in normal polo. We play ten minutes of actual play. Whenever the whistle blows, the clock stops. A novice team might score one or two goals, if they're lucky, while an advanced team might score about ten.

The polo rules are that a man can only hold the stick with his right arm, even if he is left-handed. Women can use both hands. Using the stick is hard work, because it's long and the head is heavy. By the end of the game, your arm will be aching. But it's an easy game to pick up with a little practice.

During the game, you chase after the ball on your elephant, going quite quickly, and you can easily miss it, though the elephant will often help you out with his foot. The elephants usually supply the entertainment. They might decide to lie down across the goal for fun but that's an absolute no-no.

Ultimately it's about elephants charging up and down the pitch, scoring great goals themselves

and having a lot of fun. If the elephants didn't enjoy it, or if there was any form of misbehaving, they would be removed from the game - sent off, if you like. It's not worth risking an elephant with an attitude problem.

You get all sorts. You get big elephants that are a bit older and wiser, and we use a lot of small ones that can be exceptionally quick. We try to remove what you might call the elephant factor by swapping elephants and mahouts with the other team at half-time. If you've got elephants that don't normally live together, there can be some tension. The sport always uses Indian elephants. The problem with African ones is that their ears get in the way. And they're much taller.

**You have 20 seconds to check your answers. (*pause 20 seconds*)**  
**Now listen to the text again. (*text repeated*)**

This is the end of the listening comprehension task.