

LISTENING**Time: 15 minutes (15 points)****Task 1**

You will listen to the extract from a videoblog of a piano teacher, musician and overall music enthusiast as she calls herself, Allysia. She tells about the early days and the beginning of the career of the Russian magnificent pianist and composer Sergey Rachmaninoff. Listen to her story and choose True or False according to the information you hear. You will hear the recording twice.

You have 20 seconds to read the task.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Sergei Rachmaninoff was born in 1873 in Russia during the Baroque period of music. | True/False |
| 2. His compositions were heavily influenced by vocal works. | True/False |
| 3. The first public debut as a pianist happened when Sergei was 19 years old. | True/False |
| 4. Rachmaninoff's first symphony, which debuted in 1897, was a great success. | True/False |
| 5. The composer fell into a deep depression after the death of Tchaikovsky. | True/False |
| 6. Rachmaninoff's first symphony was performed again in his lifetime and received positive reviews. | True/False |
| 7. The composer's visit to Leo Tolstoy encouraged his creativity and led to increased productivity. | True/False |
| 8. Rachmaninoff completed his second piano concerto during his time with his therapist. | True/False |
| 9. Rachmaninoff married his first cousin, Natalya Cetina, in 1902. | True/False |
| 10. Sergei Rachmaninoff was known for being a lenient and easygoing conductor. | True/False |

Task 2

You will hear a short part of a conversation between Dr Dominik Rahmer and a world-famous Canadian pianist and composer Marc-André Hamelin. Listen to the conversation and choose A, B, C or D according to the text you hear. You will hear the recording ONLY ONCE.

11. According to the speaker, what is happening to Rachmaninoff's presence in our lives?
- A. It is diminishing.
 - B. It is becoming irrelevant.
 - C. It is staying the same.
 - D. It is growing.
12. What did Eric Blum, the editor, say about Rachmaninoff's music in 1954?
- A. It has a bright future.
 - B. It doesn't have much future.
 - C. It is popular worldwide.
 - D. It is essential for all of us.
13. According to the speaker, is there a special feeling when playing in Russia?
- A. Yes, definitely.
 - B. No, not really.
 - C. It depends on the venue.
 - D. The speaker is unsure.

14. What does the speaker find special about Russian music?
- A. Its richness and inspiration.
 - B. Its simplicity and clarity.
 - C. Its diversity and complexity.
 - D. Its popularity and recognition.
15. How does the speaker explain why Russian music is special?
- A. Russian music is the greatest music.
 - B. Russian music varies in interest.
 - C. Russian music differs from Bach and Beethoven.
 - D. The speaker is still trying to find the exact reason.

READING

Time: 20 minutes (15 points)

Task 3

Read the text about some amazing facts from the history of one mansion in Ufa and its owner. Choose the option (A, B, C or D) which best fits according to the text.

A HOUSE WITH A HISTORY

There is a mansion in Ufa on Karl Marx Street with golden deer, which history is extremely riveting. In 1910, a unique house was specially built for Elena Alexandrovna, a merchant from Ufa, according to the order made by a merchant S. S. Manaev. The construction work was carried out by ordinary workers, and the project was developed by engineer K. A. Guskov. The new construction was the first city building, which was made in Art Nouveau style and had elements of other styles (Renaissance, Baroque). The brick house consists of two floors. The front side of the mansion faces Karl Marx Street. The out porch of the house, similar to a portico with two columns, has square columns and a triangle-shaped pediment. The facade of the building is decorated with rustic elements. The mansion, all its elements together with the garden are a fine example of the manor architecture of the city. It is impossible to appreciate the beauty of this beautiful house at once. Every detail is filled with the energy of love and harmonises with the other elements of the mansion.

Madame Bovary from Ufa

Now who would have commissioned such a fancy house? Many people associate Elena Alexandrovna Ponosova-Mollo, the owner of the mansion, with Gustave Flaubert's femme fatale heroine. She is believed to have had a large number of affairs with men of Ufa, regardless of their social status as the most beautiful and pretty Ufa woman and earned the reputation of *the merry widow*. The thing is that Elena's first spouse was a rich 60 years old merchant Ponosov died of poisoning after six years of marriage. Relatives of her late husband suspected Elena of murder, but the forensic examination did not prove her involvement. As a result, at her 27s widow got most of the property of the deceased.

The second husband of Elena was a banker and philanthropist Solon Ilyich Mollo who he is said to give his wife a mansion on wedding, which simply amazed all bohemia of Ufa. However, it is not confirmed by the facts, according to which it was bought on credit from the merchant Semyon

Manaev by Elena herself. It might have been quite true as she had a business, a mare's milk clinic, raising a herd of horses in Alkino district. In addition to the house there were such gifts as a garden with a fountain, paintings by Aivazovsky and Makovsky and a large amount of silverware which was proudly displayed to guests at all sorts of receptions. The second marriage lasted only a couple of years.

After the advent of the revolution, Elena had to quit her idle life and run away with the Mensheviks. She attempted to emigrate via Siberia with a Polish legionnaire, Michael Zdanowicz. However, in the port on a British cruiser he was already loaded alone, but with her belongings (again, according to rumours). Where did Elena go? Nobody knows. Missing in the vastness of Siberia and the Far East in the terrible time of civil war.

Oscar-winning offspring

The fate of her four children turned out to be different. Boris died in 1918, after siding with the Bolsheviks. Vasily was shot in 1937 after serving in the army. The third son Vladimir moved to Harbin after his military service. There he became an anthropologist and then left his homeland and went to Australia, worked in a museum and died in 1975. As for Eugene Mollo, he was the only descendant who lived a long and joyful life. He went to the capital of England, got married, became a father of two sons (John and Andrew) and created a unique collection of attributes of Russian military glory, which experts called 'a flower, one of a kind'. Grandchildren Eugene's children, aka Elena's grandchildren, have become successful and famous all over the world. The eldest of them John Mollo has published several books (about military uniforms), participated in the creation of such cult films as "Star Wars", "Alien", for which he received two statuettes of the prestigious film award "Oscar" for the best costume design! John's brother Andrew Mollo lives in France and is known as a specialist consultant on military uniforms and costume designer for many films. He even visited Ufa in 2010, stopping by his grandmother's mansion and visiting the legendary Gymnasium No. 3, where Elena Ponosova studied when it was the Mariinsky Gymnasium for Women.

From the headquarters to the museum

According to the memorial plaque, this house was visited by legendary Vasilyi Chapayev in 1919. Also, there was the headquarters of the 25th Rifle Division in the building for some time. In 1920-1936 the mansion housed the Museum of the October Revolution, and then it became a house for scientists. In 1980 according to the plan the house was restored. For this purpose 17 million roubles were provided from the country's budget. In 2007, as part of the celebration of the 450th anniversary of Bashkiria's joining the Russian Federation, the building was restored again.

Today, the Ponosova-Mallo Mansion is considered an architectural landmark of the city, which has managed to preserve and share a lot of Ufa's history. The mansion houses the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography: one of the largest repositories of archaeological, ethnographic and anthropological collections compiled during scientific expeditions in Russia. It concentrates the richest collections on all periods of ancient and medieval history of the Southern Urals, including the famous collection of Philippov barrows "Gold of the Sarmatians". To everyone who has not been to this house-museum yet, we strongly recommend to visit it.

1. Which architectural style was used in the construction of the mansion?
 - A. Art Nouveau
 - B. Renaissance
 - C. Baroque
 - D. Gothic

2. Which element of the mansion's facade is described as having square columns and a triangle-shaped pediment?
 - A. The out porch
 - B. The front side
 - C. The garden
 - D. The brick house

3. According to the text, why was Elena Alexandrovna Ponosova-Mollo associated with Gustave Flaubert's character Madame Bovary?
 - A. She was known for her many affairs.
 - B. She had a reputation as a widow.
 - C. She was a beautiful and attractive woman.
 - D. She was suspected of murder.

4. How did Elena Alexandrovna Ponosova-Mollo acquire most of the property of her first spouse?
 - A. By winning it in a legal battle
 - B. By purchasing it
 - C. By inheriting it
 - D. By receiving it as a gift

5. Why did Elena Alexandrovna Ponosova-Mollo attempt to emigrate via Siberia?
 - A. To start a new business
 - B. To escape the revolution
 - C. To join the Polish legionnaire
 - D. To explore the Far East

6. What happened to Elena Alexandrovna Ponosova-Mollo's second husband?
 - A. He divorced her
 - B. He died
 - C. He disappeared
 - D. He remarried

7. What happened to Elena Alexandrovna Ponosova-Mollo's four children?
 - A. They all died in the civil war
 - B. They all emigrated to Australia
 - C. They all became successful and famous
 - D. They all had different fates

Task 4

Read the passage below and choose which of the sentences A–I fit into the numbered gaps in the text. There is one extra sentence which does not fit in any of the gaps.

LOOKING FOR WORK

I was delighted when I finally left school at the end of October 1927. Now at last I felt I was a man. (8.) _____.

Every day there were long queues at the Labour Exchange of people looking for work. Those of us who had just left school had to go to the Labour Exchange for an interview with a group of officials, employers and teachers. There we were asked questions about our ambitions; how suitable we were for certain types of work and how well we had done at school. (9.) _____.

After this we were required to attend the Youth Employment Department every day to see if any suitable jobs had been found. If it happened that a firm was in need of a youth, then a number of us would be given a green card which we were to take to the interview. (10.) _____.

I lost count of how many of these cards I received without finding a job. (11.) _____.
Twelve months passed and I still had found nothing.

On one occasion, my search had the surprising result of providing a very good job for one of my uncles. This uncle, who had been out of work for almost a year, was in his early thirties. (12.) _____.
My uncle kindly offered to take me to the firm as I did not know where it was.

When we arrived at the firm, the manager told us that he had found someone for the job just ten minutes earlier. However, looking at my uncle, he said: "We are looking for someone to operate a special machine, someone older than this boy. Are you interested?" My uncle accepted immediately. (13.) _____.

Eventually I was lucky, and just because two people had the same name. In town there was a tailor's called Brownson's and almost opposite was a cleaner's called Smith and Sons. Somewhat confusingly, the manageress of Smith and Sons was also called Brownson. (14.) _____.

The boy left and the clerk was filling in a card for me to go to the same place. The manager had heard what the clerk had said and came and told her that it was not Mr Brownson who needed an assistant but Miss Brownson of Smith and Sons. (15.) _____. I am ashamed to say that I did not tell the boy any such thing – but I did get the job.

- A. One day he heard that there was a vacancy for a young boy at a machine builders in Ashton-under-Lyne.
- B. I was sure I would soon find myself a job and have money to spend.
- C. In fact he had worked for only six months immediately after leaving school.
- D. To prove that we had attended, the employer would sign the card.
- E. The clerk asked me to run after the other boy to correct the mistake and make sure he went to the right shop.
- F. We also looked through the newspapers, of course, hoping to find something in the job advertisements.
- G. On the day in question, the clerk at the Youth Employment Department gave the boy in front of me in the queue a green card and told him to go to Mr Brownson's as he needed an assistant.
- H. Our answers to these questions were then compared with a list of vacancies existing in the district.
- I. He worked there until he retired at the age of sixty-five.

USE OF ENGLISH**Time: 40 minutes (30 points)****Task 5**

Read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If a line is correct put a tick. Use letter "V" as a tick. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word in a given space. There are two examples at the beginning (0 and 00).

Example:

0 do
00 V

HOUSE SITTING

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 0. _____ | 0. If you do live in certain parts of inner London, |
| 00. _____ | 00. the chances are one in four that your house |
| 1. _____ | 1. will be burgled in the next twelve months. |
| 2. _____ | 2. If you leave your house empty for any much time longer than two weeks, |
| 3. _____ | 3. then there is also going a good chance |
| 4. _____ | 4. that you will have squatters. Squatters are homeless and penniless, and they take over "empty" houses. |
| 5. _____ | 5. They make life difficult for people who are away on their business |
| 6. _____ | 6. or who are selling their house and moving. It is no surprise that the profession of house-sitter has become popular. |
| 7. _____ | 7. This new job describes someone person who is paid to live in a house while the owners are away, |
| 8. _____ | 8. to make certain sure no one squats in it, and perhaps also feed the pets and to water the flowers. |
| 9. _____ | 9. Of course, you need to be very careful indeed as to the character |
| 10. _____ | 10. of whomever you employ as a house-sitter, otherwise.... |

Task 6

*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 two to five words. The number of words is specified in the brackets. Do not use short forms. Please mind both grammar and spelling. There is an example at the beginning (0).*

Example: 0. You should telephone her.**speak**

You should _____ on the telephone. (3 words)

| | |
|---|-------|
| 0 | _____ |
| | _____ |

speak on the phone

11. I wish people wouldn't talk during the performance – it makes me really uptight.

NERVES

It really _____ people talk during a performance. (5 words)

12. I don't think my future job prospects are very good, which is very worrying.

ABOUT

I _____ my future job prospects. (4 words)

13. Maria doesn't think we should visit the museum because it's not very interesting.

POINT

Maria says _____ the museum because it's not very interesting. (5 words)

14. Last year I decided I wouldn't eat fast food for lunch any more.

GIVE

Last year I decided _____ fast food for lunch. (4 words)

15. My television needs fixing as soon as possible.

GET

I must _____ as soon as possible. (4 words)

Task 7

Read the text below. Use the word given in capitals to form a new word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example answer: 0. stardom

ALICIA RHETT – THE STAR WHO ONLY APPEARED IN ONE FILM

Alicia Rhett was an actress who rose to international (0.) _____ in the 1939 film *Gone With the Wind*. In the film, which enjoyed phenomenal success and is among the most popular ever made, she played the part of India Wilkes, the serious young woman whose love for the dull and timid (16.) _____ character, Charles Hamilton, is spurned in favour of Scarlett O'Hara. Despite the film's (17.) _____ acclaim, however, it was to be her only screen role.

While Alicia later insisted that she 'enjoyed the experience immensely', she was (18.) _____ to the life of a Hollywood star. An intensely private individual, she lacked the drive and ambition of contemporaries like Joan Crawford or Bette Davis, and went on to reject all subsequent roles from agents and (19.) _____. Though fans continued to hound her with requests for signed photographs seven decades later, letters went (20.) _____ and requests for interviews were seldom granted.

STAR

**CENTRE
 LAST**

SUIT

**PRODUCE
 ANSWER**

Task 8

Match the items 21 – 30 to the phenomena A – N. There are some extra phenomena which do not match.

| | | | |
|-----|--|----|--|
| 21. | Albertopolis | A. | an Old English epic poem in the tradition of Germanic heroic legend consisting of 3,182 alliterative lines. |
| 22. | An Old Lion | B. | a musical with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Glenn Slater and a book by Julian Fellowes |
| 23. | Beowulf | C. | an annual set of competitions between Cambridge and Oxford Universities |
| 24. | Doomscrolling | D. | a range of uplands straddling the Anglo-Scottish border between Northumberland and the Scottish Borders |
| 25. | Earworm | E. | the oldest gingko tree at Kew |
| 26. | Morse Code | F. | the famous quote of King Alfred the Great |
| 27. | School of Rock | G. | the activity of spending a lot of time looking at your phone or computer and reading bad or negative news stories. |
| 28. | The Boat Race | H. | the nickname of Theodore Roosevelt Jr., the 26th President of the USA |
| 29. | The Cheviots | I. | the nickname given to the area centered on Exhibition Road in London |
| 30. | <i>"... and let thy feet, millenniums hence, be set in midst of knowledge"</i> | J. | a method used in telecommunication to encode text characters as standardized sequences of two different signal durations |
| | | K. | a song that you keep hearing in your head, to the point of irritation |
| | | L. | the school of Contemporary Music in Liverpool |
| | | M. | words engraved into the floor of the British Museum. |
| | | N. | an old designer brand producing cloths for the Royal Family |

WRITING**Time: 45 minutes (20 points)****Task 9**

Comment on the following quotation.

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."

- Leo Tolstoy

Write 200-250 words.

Use the following plan:

- make an introduction, explaining how you understand the author's point of view;
- express your personal opinion and give reasons to support it;
- give examples from literature or history to illustrate your reasons;
- make a conclusion restating your position.