

Всероссийская олимпиада школьников по английскому языку

2025/2026

Муниципальный этап

9-11 классы

Part 1. Writing

Time: 30 minutes

You have recently seen this notice on an English-language computer website:

Reviews needed!

Do you play computer games? Write us a review of a computer game that you enjoy. Describe the game's good and bad points and say how easy or difficult it is to play. Also say what age group it is suitable for.

Write your review.

Write 150 -200 words.

Part 2.
Listening
Time: 15 minutes

You will have one minute to read Task 1, Task 2, and Task 3.

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about their universities.

Task 1 Choose from the list (A-H) the reason each speaker gives for choosing their university. Three answers are extra.		Task 2 Choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker found hardest at the start of their first year at university. Three answers are extra.	
While you listen, you must complete both tasks.			
A. a personal recommendation		A. keeping up with the workload	
B. a modern facility		B. getting on with fellow students	
C. family pressure		C. understanding the academic content	
D. its convenient location		D. finding something to do at the weekends	
E. the support network provided		E. locating lecture venues	
F. its international reputation		F. dealing with domestic tasks	
G. its distinctive architecture		G. getting used to a new schedule	
H. the range of courses on offer		H. finding a suitable place to study	
Speaker 1	1	Speaker 1	6
Speaker 2	2	Speaker 2	7
Speaker 3	3	Speaker 3	8
Speaker 4	4	Speaker 4	9
Speaker 5	5	Speaker 5	10

Task 3

Listen and complete the sentences with one word.

11. Speaker 1 presented herself as a dedicated _____.
12. Speaker 2 worried a _____ new campus wouldn't have the right atmosphere.
13. Speaker 3 said it was a gradual progress to _____ in.
14. Speaker 4 was fortunate that his first choice was nestled among magnificent _____.
15. Speaker 5 always had something to keep her busy on _____.

Part 3.
Reading
Time: 35 minutes

Read the text “A spark, a flint: How fire leapt to life” and complete the tasks.

A SPARK, A FLINT: HOW FIRE LEAPT TO LIFE

The control of fire was the first and perhaps greatest of humanity's steps towards a life-enhancing technology.

To early man, fire was a divine gift randomly delivered in the form of lightning, forest fire or burning lava. Unable to make flame for themselves, the earliest peoples probably stored fire by keeping slow burning logs alight or by carrying charcoal in pots.

How and where man learnt how to produce flame at will is unknown. It was probably a secondary invention, accidentally made during tool-making operations with wood or stone. Studies of primitive societies suggest that the earliest method of making fire was through friction. European peasants would insert a wooden drill in a round hole and rotate it briskly between their palms. This process could be speeded up by wrapping a cord around the drill and pulling on each end.

The Ancient Greeks used lenses or concave mirrors to concentrate the sun's rays and burning glasses were also used by Mexican Aztecs and the Chinese. Percussion methods of fire lighting date back to Paleolithic times, when some Stone Age toolmakers discovered that chipping flints produced sparks. The technique became more efficient after the discovery of iron, about 5000 years ago. In Arctic North America, the Eskimos produced a slow-burning spark by striking quartz against iron pyrites, a compound that contains sulphur. The Chinese lit their fires by striking porcelain with bamboo. In Europe, the combination of steel, flint and tinder remained the main method of fire lighting until the mid-19th century.

Fire-lighting was revolutionised by the discovery of phosphorus, isolated in 1669 by a German alchemist trying to transmute silver into gold. Impressed by the element's combustibility, several 17th century chemists used it to manufacture fire-lighting devices, but the results were dangerously inflammable. With phosphorus costing the equivalent of several hundred pounds per ounce, the first matches were expensive.

The quest for a practical match really began after 1781 when a group of French chemists came up with the Phosphoric Candle or Ethereal Match, a sealed glass tube containing a twist of paper tipped with phosphorus. When the tube was broken, air rushed in, causing the phosphorus to self-combust. An even more hazardous device, popular in America, was the Instantaneous Light Box – a bottle filled with sulphuric acid into which splints treated with chemicals were dipped.

The first matches resembling those used today were made in 1827 by John Walker, an English pharmacist who borrowed the formula from a military rocket-maker called Congreve. Costing a shilling a box, Congreves were splints coated with sulphur and tipped with potassium chlorate. To light them, the user drew them quickly through folded glass paper.

Walker never patented his invention, and three years later it was copied by Samuel Jones, who marketed his product as Lucifers. About the same time, a French chemistry student called Charles Sauria produced the first “strike-anywhere” match by substituting white phosphorus for the potassium chlorate in the Walker formula. However, since white phosphorus is a deadly poison, from 1845 matchmakers exposed to its fumes succumbed to necrosis, a disease that eats away jawbones. It wasn't until 1906 that the substance was eventually banned.

That was 62 years after a Swedish chemist called Pasch had discovered non-toxic red or amorphous phosphorus, a development exploited commercially by Pasch's compatriot J E Lundstrom in 1885. Lundstrom's safety matches were safe because the red phosphorus was non-

toxic; it was painted on to the striking surface instead of the match tip, which contained potassium chlorate with a relatively high ignition temperature of 182 degrees centigrade.

America lagged behind Europe in match technology and safety standards. It wasn't until 1900 that the Diamond Match Company bought a French patent for safety matches — but the formula did not work properly in the different climatic conditions prevailing in America and it was another 11 years before scientists finally adapted the French patent for the US.

The Americans, however, can claim several “firsts” in match technology and marketing. In 1892 the Diamond Match Company pioneered book matches. The innovation didn't catch up until after 1896, when a brewery had the novel idea of advertising its product in match books. Today book matches are the most widely used type in the US, with 90 percent handed out free by hotels, restaurants and others.

Other American innovations include an anti-afterglow solution to prevent the match from smouldering after it has been blown out; and the waterproof match, which lights after eight hours in water.

Task 1

For Questions 1-8 complete the summary below. Choose your answers from the box to complete the sentences.

There are more words than spaces, so you will not use them all.

List of Words

Mexicans	chance
despite	without
sunlight	Eskimos
percussion	smoke
unaware	rotating
heating	realising
until	heavenly
random	friction
preserve	make
lacking	surprised

EARLY FIRE-LIGHTING METHODS

Primitive societies saw fire as a __ (Example) __ gift.

Answer: heavenly

They tried to (1) _____ burning logs or charcoal (2) _____ that they could create fire themselves. It is suspected that the first man-made flames were produced by (3) _____.

The very first fire-lighting methods involved the creation of (4) _____ by, for example, rapidly (5) _____ a wooden stick in a round hole. The use of (6) _____ or persistent chipping was also widespread in Europe and among other peoples such as the Chinese and (7) _____. European practice of this method continued until the 1850s (8) _____ the discovery of phosphorus some years earlier.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Task 2

For Questions 9-15 look through the following notes that have been made about the matches described in the text. Decide which type of match (A-H) corresponds with each description.

There are more matches than descriptions so you will not use them all.

You may use any match more than once.

Example:

could be lit after soaking in water

Answer: H

NOTES

- 9 made using a less poisonous type of phosphorus
- 10 identical to a previous type of match
- 11 caused a deadly illness
- 12 first to look like modern matches
- 13 first matches used for advertising
- 14 relied on an airtight glass container
- 15 made with the help of an army design

Types of Matches

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| A | the Ethereal Match | E | the first strike-anywhere match |
| B | the Instantaneous Lightbox | F | Lundstrom's safety match |
| C | Congreves | G | book matches |
| D | Lucifers | H | waterproof matches |

9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Task 3

Read the text "The Matrix" and complete each gap 16-20 using the underlined words from the review. Do not change the words in any way. There are more underlined words than sentences so you will not use them all. There is an example at the beginning.

The Matrix

The Matrix is one of the most entertaining science fiction films I have seen. It combines frenetic action with terrific special effects, and stars Keanu Reeves as Neo, and Laurence Fishburne in the role of Morpheus.

The film is set in the future, in a world controlled by machines in order to hide this reality from humans, the machines have constructed the Matrix, a vast virtual reality system resembling Earth at the end of the twentieth century. The plot, which focuses on a revolt led by Morpheus against the Matrix, is complicated and at times confusing. However, the cast is very strong and the film features a surprisingly competent performance from Keanu Reeves.

As for the visual elements, the special effects are stunning, with the main characters walking on walls and avoiding machine gun bullets. The action scenes, which include a wide variety of kung fu techniques, are convincingly choreographed.

I would recommend the film to anyone who likes science fiction. If you ignore the complexities of the plot and just enjoy the action, you will not feel disappointed.

Example:

The film has an international ____**cast**____, with French, Polish and Italian actors.

16. *War Horse* is _____ in England and Europe during the First World War.

17. One of my least favourite films is *Notting Hill*, which _____ Julia Roberts as a world-famous film actress. I like the music from the soundtrack, though.

18. This is not Brad Pitt's most convincing acting _____.

19. SFX is the abbreviation for _____.

20. Some of the _____ in *Casablanca* are memorable, particularly when Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman say goodbye at the end of the film.

16	17	18	19	20

Part 4. Use of English

Time: 40 minutes

Task 1

For items 1–10, read the text below and for each gap unscramble the word given in CAPITAL LETTERS. In some cases, a definition of the word is also given. There is an example at the beginning.

Example:

pseudonyms

PEN NAMES

Many authors don't put their own names on their work. They use pen names, also called (0) **UPSMONEYS**.

Some people write under pen names to protect their (1) **VIPYCAR** (*freedom from unauthorized intrusion*). But there are other reasons to use a pseudonym. In the 19th century, women often used male pen names. Why? This was an era of (2) **NOTICDINSIMIRA** (*prejudiced treatment*). Women were taken much less seriously than men. When British novelist Mary Ann Evans wrote about (3) **RIOTVERSACLON** (*causing a lot of angry public disagreement*) social problems, she used the (4) **SCAMULINE** (*considered to be characteristic of men*) name George Eliot. (5) **SILKEWIE** (*in a similar way*), George Sand was the pen name chosen by the Frenchwoman Amantine-Aurore-Lucile Duphan.

In more recent times, Susan Eloise Hinton published her books under the name S.E. Hinton. The best-known of her novels, *The Outsiders*, is (6) **DATERARN** (*told in detail*) by a teenaged boy. The male character is so believable that many readers (7) **MUSEAS** (*think or accept that something is true but without having proof of it*) that S.E. must be a man with (8) **STANDRHIF** (*coming from direct personal experience*) experience of the same problems.

American author Samuel Clemens, who was once a Mississippi riverboat pilot, used Mark Twain as his pseudonym. That name comes from a riverboat term meaning “two fathoms” – a (9) **TEDPH** of 12 feet. There are many other pen names you might recognize. Children's writer Dr. Seuss was actually Theodor Seuss Geisel. Lewis Carroll, the creator of *Alice in Wonderland*, was born Charles Dodgson. Two American mystery writers – Fredric Dannay and Manfred B. Lee – used the pen name Ellery Queen.

It can be interesting to think about the story (10) **DINEBH** a pen name. What name might you select for a pseudonym? Why?

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

Task 2

For items 11-15, look at 5 groups of 7 words. Choose the word which includes the others and then choose the word which does not belong to the same family. There is an example at the beginning.

Example:

ant	fly	butterfly	beetle	bee	insect	snail
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the word which includes the others: **insect**

the word which does not belong to the same family: **snail**

11.	alligator	reptile	snake	seal	tortoise	lizard	crocodile
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the word which includes the others: _____

the word which does not belong to the same family: _____

12.	custard	dessert	ice-cream	jelly	porridge	tart	trifle
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the word which includes the others: _____

the word which does not belong to the same family: _____

13.	sympathy	envy	honesty	virtue	bravery	kindness	generosity
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the word which includes the others: _____

the word which does not belong to the same family: _____

14.	china	saucer	vase	napkin	jug	dish	tea-pot
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the word which includes the others: _____

the word which does not belong to the same family: _____

15.	island	Ireland	America	Malta	Cyprus	Iceland	Australia
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the word which includes the others: _____

the word which does not belong to the same family: _____

Task 3

For questions 16-20, 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. You must use FIVE WORDS, including the word given.

16. Sally once worked for a charity organization on a voluntary basis.

AS

Sally used _____ with a charity organization.

17. Kevin has decided to eat less mayonnaise this month.

DOWN

Kevin has decided to _____ of mayonnaise he eats this month.

18. I did not know that the cars were so expensive in this country.

IDEA

I _____ so much in this country.

19. Most of the problems arose because there was no leadership on the committee.

CAUSED

It was the _____ most of the problems on the committee.

20. It is thought that one in every five people cannot control how much they spend.

UNABLE

One in every five people is thought _____ their spending under control.

16	17	18	19	20

Task 4

For items 21–25, add two letters to the following words to make a new word that fits the definition or synonym. There is an example at the beginning.

Example:

port – to carry or send something to another country

Answer:

export

21	cat	a part on something that fastens it and keeps it closed	
22	map	a tree with colourful autumn leaves that produces a substance like sugar	
23	cast	a large, strong building with towers and high walls	
24	list	to give attention to someone or something in order to hear them	
25	cart	a group of companies who join together to control prices and limit competition	