

**ГЕРЦЕНОВСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ ПО
АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ**

2025/26 г. (заключительный очный тур)

Вариант № 1

Вниманию участников олимпиады! Этот лист с заданием Вы можете использовать в качестве черновика. Все ответы должны быть перенесены в бланк (лист) ответов синей или чёрной ручкой! ЖЕЛАЕМ УДАЧИ!

**Интегрированный конкурс понимания устной и письменной речи
(Аудирование + Чтение)**

Прслушайте дважды аудиозапись и выполните задания №№ 1-5. Занесите выбранные вами ответы в ЛИСТ ОТВЕТОВ.

1. *What is the main topic of the lecture?*

- A. The dominance of French in medieval English law and governance.
- B. The role of immigration and multilingualism in shaping the English language.
- C. The rise of English as a global language.

2. *Identify 6 key ideas in the order they appear in the lecture and express each as a noun phrase.*

A.

D.

B.

E.

C.

F.

3. *True or false? Choose the best answer.*

Tolkien believed that the Norman Conquest completely destroyed English literary tradition.

- A. True
- B. False

4. *True or false? Choose the best answer.*

The first manuals for speaking French were written for diplomats and kings of England.

- A. True
- B. False

Прслушайте ещё раз аудиозапись, прочитайте текст и определите, имеет ли данное утверждение отношение к их содержанию.

5. *Choose the best answer (A, B, C or D).*

William Shakespeare is revered for his enduring contribution to the English language and world literature.

- A. means that the idea is expressed both in the listening and the reading passage.
- B. means that the idea is expressed in the listening passage only.
- C. means that the idea is expressed in the reading passage only.
- D. means that the idea is expressed neither in the listening nor in the reading passage.

Every year on April 23, the United Nations celebrates English Language Day to honour the rich history, global impact, and cultural significance of the English

language. Chosen to coincide with both the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare, one of the most influential playwrights in the English language and a writer who had a significant impact on modern-day English, this day highlights the importance of multilingualism and cultural diversity within the UN. As one of the UN's six official and two working languages, English plays a vital role in diplomacy, international communication, and fostering global understanding.

Конкурс понимания письменного текста (Чтение)

Прочитайте текст и выполните задания №№ 6-15. Занесите ответы в ЛИСТ ОТВЕТОВ.

The aftermath of the Brexit referendum in 2016 has created significant challenges for the United Kingdom, especially in terms of language skills (№1). As the UK departs from the European Union, recent studies show that the country is facing a critical shortage of language proficiency, which could potentially cost the economy about 3.5% of its GDP (Foreman-Peck & Wang, 2014) (№2). This loss is largely due to an overdependence on English-speaking markets and a hesitance to engage with countries where English is not the primary language, particularly in Asia and the Middle East (№3).

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have raised concerns about language and cultural barriers that make it difficult for them to compete in emerging markets (№4). In contrast, countries like Switzerland, where multilingualism contributes 10% to the GDP, highlight the economic benefits of having strong language skills (Hogan-Brun, 2018) (№5). As globalization changes consumer demographics, employers are increasingly looking for candidates who can communicate in more than one language (№6). A study indicates that potential employees who speak languages other than English at home should see their bilingualism as a valuable asset, while those who only speak English may find themselves at a disadvantage in the job market (№7).

Despite the clear need for improved language education, the UK has experienced a worrying decline in language learning in schools (№8). Reports show that the percentage of GCSE students taking language exams fell from 73% in 2003 to only 48% in 2015 (Dean, A. 2016) (№9). This trend continues, with current rates of foreign language learning being the lowest, they have been since the early 2000s, posing a serious threat to the UK's economic future (№10). As the nation navigates its identity after Brexit, addressing the language skills gap is crucial for maintaining competitiveness on the international stage (№11).

6. *What is the text about?*

- A. The Language Skills Crisis in Post-Brexit Britain
- B. The Shortage of Language Skills in Great Britain
- C. Media Perspectives on Language Learning in the UK

7. *True or false? Choose the correct variant and enter the sentence(s) which confirm(s) your choice.*

The challenges faced by the United Kingdom as a result of the Brexit referendum are primarily related to economic factors rather than social or cultural factors.

A. True B. False Justification: sentence(s) №№

.....
8. True or false? Choose the correct variant and enter the sentence(s) which confirm(s) your choice.

The decrease in foreign language studies among GCSE students indicates a wider pattern of growing dependence on Anglophone markets and a waning enthusiasm for multilingualism.

A. True B. False Justification: sentence(s) №№

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9. What does the author mean saying, “This loss is largely due to an overdependence on English-speaking markets and a hesitance to engage with countries where English is not the primary language, particularly in Asia and the Middle East.”

A. The author believes that the UK’s economic loss in language proficiency is primarily caused by relying too much on English-speaking countries and not enough on non-English-speaking nations, especially in Asia and the Middle East.

B. The author claims that the UK’s language proficiency is thriving due to strong engagement with non-English-speaking countries in Asia and the Middle East.

C. The author suggests that the decline in language skills in the UK is only due to a lack of interest in learning foreign languages, without mentioning the role of English-speaking markets.

10. What is a genre of the text? Choose the correct variant.

- A. Report
- B. News Item
- C. Analytical Exposition

11. Find an equivalent from the text you have read to the words below:

the period that follows an unpleasant event or accident, and the effects that it causes.

12. Find an equivalent from the text you have read to the words below:

the failure to do something immediately or quickly because you are nervous or not certain, or an occasion when this happens.

13. Choose if the following statement is true or false.

The discussion of multilingualism and its economic benefits can foster cultural awareness and understanding among students, encouraging them to appreciate the importance of engaging with diverse languages and cultures.

A. True B. False

14. Choose if the following statement is true or false.

The text provides opportunities to learn and practise words and collocations related to social issues, helping students to broaden their vocabulary range.

A. True B. False

15. Choose if the following statement is true or false.

This text is interesting in terms of grammar as it illustrates the use of reported speech.

- A. True B. False

Конкурс на знание грамматики

Преобразуйте выделенную часть предложения в соответствии с указанием, содержащимся в скобках (№№ 16-25). Занесите ответы в ЛИСТ ОТВЕТОВ.

16. The proctor, Mr Bates, was sure that the students would keep whispering **until silenced** / (time clause after the conjunction “until”)
17. Just after **she had been enrolled** / (gerund) in the cyber-defense course at the University of Edinburgh, Edith realized she would have to update her firewall settings.
18. Oliver wrote a status update and **asked a marketing expert to edit it** / (objective participial/infinitive construction after the verb “to have”)
19. The GP’s receptionist asked Mr Talbot, **“Were you going** / (reported speech) to book an appointment for next week?”
20. **“I would like you to finally change** / (subjunctive mood after the verb “to wish”) the passwords. You were supposed to do it on Tuesday!” “Okay, okay, I’ll update them after this video call.”
21. **It appears she was warned** / (subjective infinitive construction) that the platform had removed her video.
22. Her surgeon wants her to quit smoking **so that her lung function might improve** / (for-to infinitive construction) promptly.
23. **But for the code stored** / (conditional clause) on that old drive for years, we would never have prevented the spread of the virus.
24. The patient’s relatives stated they would refuse to sign consent forms **unless promised** / (conditional clause) full access to the medical records.
25. **“Why don’t you try** / (subjunctive mood after the expression “Isn’t it time”) limiting your screen time at night?” “I’ve tried that, and it didn’t work!”

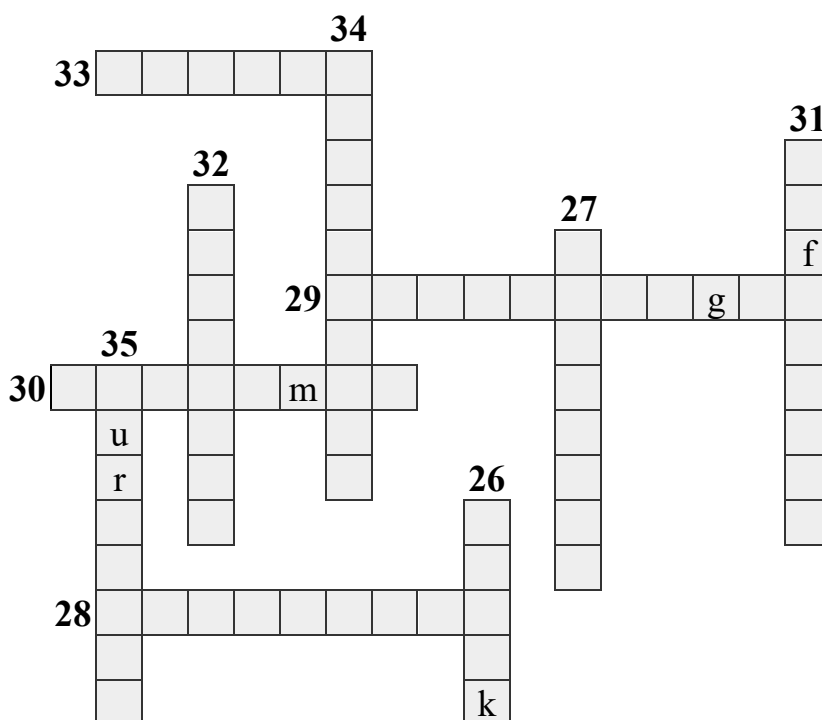
Конкурс на знание лексики и страноведения

Прочитайте текст. Заполните пропуски словом (словами), подходящим(и) по смыслу и грамматически, вставьте их в поля кроссворда (№№ 26-35). Занесите ответы в ЛИСТ ОТВЕТОВ.

There may be some who are hazy about the precise meanings of “prep school” and “public school.”

A prep school is an establishment designed, as the name implies, to prepare a child. In this instance the preparation is for public school. Public school, as the name decidedly does not imply, is wholly private. Public schools undertake to guide, mould and instruct pupils aged between thirteen and eighteen. Prep schools accept their (26) _____ from somewhere in the region of eight, nine or ten years old, and prepare them for the Common (27) _____ Examination, a test recognised by all the public schools. Different public schools are satisfied by different results. Thus Winchester, which has an interest in only the (28) _____ boys, would expect marks way above seventy per cent, while Malvern might be content with (29) _____ in the nether fifties or upper forties. Public schools can decide whom they take according to their need to have a profitable school roll, according to their own sense of (30) _____ reputation, according to a candidate’s athletic, musical or artistic qualities, or according to his status as (31) _____ of a Great, Rich and Desirable Parent.

At the time of my infancy, nearly all prep and public schools were single-sex (32) _____ schools. Today, girls are involved to a much greater degree, sometimes only in the sixth form, sometimes all the way through. Parents are more reluctant to pack their children off early and may choose to have them (33) _____ classes as day pupils. They expect more say in the running of a school and complain more vocally about living conditions, Spartan (34) _____ and the core (35) _____. But these changes aside, the system, so far as I have been able to ascertain, is much as it was.





Конкурс письменной речи (Письмо)

Выберите одну из двух тем и напишите эссе объёмом в 200-250 слов. Перепишите эссе в ЛИСТ ОТВЕТОВ.

1. English is full of words that have drifted so far from their original meaning that they now mean something entirely different – sometimes even the opposite. Imagine that you have been invited to write an *explanatory blog post* about three English words that used to mean something different. Your blog post should address the following: (1) why this phenomenon is surprising and what it reveals about the language, (2) three words and their original meaning, (3) how the meaning has changed and in what context they are used now, (4) a lesson these semantic shifts teach us. Think of a catchy title for your blog post.

2. There are teachers who simply teach and there are those who leave their mark on the world. Write a *personal narrative* about a teacher who has shaped your personality and had seen something in you before you saw it yourself. Your narrative should address the following: (1) who this person was and in which context you were introduced to him or her, (2) a specific moment, conversation or action that marked the beginning of this person's influence, (3) how your actions or behaviour has changed as a result, (4) how this experience has deepened your understanding of the teaching profession and whether you may consider choosing it yourself. Think of a catchy title for your narrative.