

Всероссийская олимпиада школьников

Школьный этап

2025 – 2026 учебный год

Английский язык

Ленинградская область

Listening (15 min – 20 points)

Task 1. Listen to a part of an audio guide in a museum of modern arts.

Decide whether the statements **1-10** are True (**T**), or False (**F**) according to the text you hear.
You will hear the text **twice**.

The narrator says that:

1. in the picture Picasso has more eyes than his model.
2. Picasso's mouth is the only realistic thing in the picture.
3. artists had to observe certain rules.
4. Picasso never learned how to paint by the rules.
5. the visitors will see the works of artists who didn't follow the rules.
6. Matisse's work is a model of a window.
7. the star at the top symbolizes Baby Jesus.
8. the work is dark and gloomy.
9. Matisse didn't use paint and brushes making his work.
10. Matisse's health was not good when he made his work.

Task 2. For items **11–20**, listen to a young man called Simon talking about the 'gap year' he took after finishing secondary school and choose the best answer (**A**, **B** or **C**).

You will hear the text **twice**.

11. Simon's parents

- A supported the idea of a gap year.
- B preferred him to continue his education.
- C wanted him to work until he retired.

12. What was the main reason Simon wanted a gap year?

- A to become independent.
- B to get away from his family.
- C to forget about his schooldays.

13. Life at university is

- A pretty much the same as at school.
- B unbearable for some students.
- C full of entertainments.

14. What did Simon do in his last year of school?

- A prepare for a change of lifestyle.
- B daydream instead of studying.
- C plan his gap year trip.

15. Simon planned to visit some particular countries because

- A they were not very far from his home country.
- B the language would be no problem there.
- C he would be able to earn his living there.

- 16. What did Simon enjoy about working in France?**
A He learnt to pick fruit.
B He improved his language skills.
C He became interested in Vietnam
- 17. What proved to be useful when Simon got to Vietnam?**
A having met a lot of other gap year students.
B brushing up his French.
C fruit picking skills.
- 18. When Simon got to Australia he**
A got a job in a zoo.
B had no money left.
C bought a pet.
- 19. Simon ended his gap year**
A working as a waiter.
B travelling as a tourist.
C in the USA and Brazil.
- 20. How did his gap year affect Simon?**
A He was encouraged to diet.
B He decided to follow a different career.
C He wanted to go to university when he was older.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

Reading (20 min – 20 points)

Task 1. You are going to read a magazine article about marathon running. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A-G** the one which fits each gap (21-25). There is **one extra** sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning.

Marathon running – a recipe for health?

If ever there was living proof that marathon running keeps you fit, Jenny Wood Allen from Dundee is it. **(0 – G)** She was 71 and she did not even have proper training shoes then. At first she could only run to the end of her avenue, which is about three quarters of a mile. She had problems getting back and had to either take a bus or ask somebody for a lift. **(21)**

Scientifically speaking, human beings are perfectly tuned for jumping and running and walking long distances. **(22)** One of them, Professor Craig Sharp says that if you are reasonably fit, you can probably run for two hours at a medium pace and feel OK. At this point your muscles run out of glycogen – the best source of energy we have.

This means you start using fat for energy, and your body has to work harder to transform fat into energy. This happens at a time when you are starting to feel exhausted. **(23)** All this is proof – he believes – that the body isn't designed for long-distance running.

Other specialists have a very different opinion. Dr Percy Brown believes that if you train sensibly and prepare several months in advance, it could even help you live longer. **(24)**

He believes the only problem you may have when running a marathon is exhaustion or a small injury caused by falling or tripping over things. **(25)** Only 1 in 1,000 actually makes it to hospital.

Another problem may be post-race exhaustion. Surveys show most runners are much more likely to catch colds or develop chest infections in the week after running a race. But this weakening effect on the system is short-lived. There is no evidence of lasting disease or an increased risk of illness.

At 87, Jenny Wood Allen would be doing the London marathon for the 13th time this Sunday. And she plans to go on taking part for many years to come.

A	He argues that after 16-20 miles, you have to slow down and running gets really hard.
B	After a quick top up of water and a rest, most go home and make a full recovery.
C	When it comes to marathon running, however, the experts are divided.
D	In spite of this, marathon running is bad for your health.
E	Within a couple of months, however, she was managing two or three miles.
F	This is because running halves your risk of getting heart disease.
G	She started by running to the shops, wearing an anorak and carrying her shopping bag.

Task 2. Read the passage below and answer questions 26–40.

ASSISTANTS TO THE STARS

It stands to reason that a city like Los Angeles, which is home to so many of the famous and the semi-famous, would have an Association of Celebrity Personal Assistants (ACPA). The organisation describes personal assistants as ‘multitasking’, as ‘possessing the most resourceful, creative, insightful, and results-driven abilities.’

When I first got in touch with Josef Csongei, the organisation’s president, he was initially reluctant to talk to me because I was a journalist. As he sees it, celebrity personal assistants have not always been treated fairly by the press. But despite this, and all the hard work and lack of appreciation that can come with this line of work, he explained, the jobs were still widely sought after. He noted that people regularly travelled great distances to attend a seminar titled ‘Becoming a Celebrity Personal Assistant’, run by the ACPA. To prove his point, he told me about Dean Johnson. In the coming weeks, I heard this story from a number of assistants, including Johnson himself, and every time it left me baffled.

The story begins one night in September 1994, with Dean Johnson sitting at home in Columbia, South Carolina. Johnson is a single, 32-year-old business executive in charge of marketing and advertising at a sizeable company in the healthcare industry. It is 11 pm and he’s looking to unwind in front of the television after a long day’s work. A repeat of a talk show appears on the screen, and the host introduces her four guests: the celebrity personal assistants for Whoopi Goldberg, Roseanne Barr, Burt Reynolds and Carol Burnett. As these assistants talk about flying on private jets and attending Hollywood parties, Johnson reaches for a pen and starts taking notes. Without wasting another minute, he picks up the phone, calls directory enquiries in Los Angeles, and asks for the home phone numbers of the four assistants on the show.

Only one of them is listed: Ron Holder, who works for Whoopi Goldberg. Johnson dials his number, and a minute later Holder picks up the phone. ‘He said I was very lucky to get through,’ Johnson told me. ‘Apparently, in the three months since he had appeared on that talk show, he had received about 200 phone calls from people like me. He was in the process of disconnecting his phone, but he was nice enough to chat with me for a while.’ During their conversation, Holder told Johnson that he should consider attending the ‘Becoming a Celebrity Personal Assistant’ seminar in Los Angeles.

For someone like Johnson, with almost no connections in the industry, the notion of moving out to Los Angeles to become a celebrity personal assistant, something he did two months later, was extremely courageous - there’s no denying that. The typical American story of the guy in the remote provinces who falls in love with the glamour of the silver screen, packs up all his possessions and moves out to Hollywood to become a star is almost a century old. But Johnson’s story offered a new twist: he moved out to Hollywood to become an assistant to a star.

Of the thousands of people who work in Hollywood: agents, lawyers, stylists, publicists, business managers and others, many hope to rub shoulders with the biggest stars. What’s unique about celebrity personal assistants is that such proximity appears to be the only perk their profession offers. Most describe the bulk of their work as drudgery: doing laundry, fetching groceries, paying bills. Assistants typically make about \$56,000 a year - hardly a fortune by

Hollywood standards, especially given the round-the-clock obligations they often have. What's more, the job is rarely a stepping stone to fame: celebrity personal assistants are, on average, aged about 38, right in the middle of their professional lives, and most of the ones I met described their line of work as a lifelong profession. For them, being an assistant was not the means to an end but an end in itself.

Questions 26–32

*In boxes 26–32 on your answer sheet, write: **T (TRUE)** if the statement agrees with the information given in the text; **F (FALSE)** if the statement contradicts the information given in the text or if there is no information given in the text.*

- 26. Los Angeles is home to ACPA.
- 27. Celebrity personal assistants have always received wide publicity.
- 28. Initially the author was puzzled by Dean Johnson's case.
- 29. Dean Johnson used to be a Hospital Chief Executive Officer.
- 30. Ron Holder said Johnson was lucky to get his home phone number at directory enquiries.
- 31. Thousands of people who live in Hollywood dream of rubbing hands with celebrities.
- 32. The main part of the duties of celebrity personal assistants is rather tedious work.

Questions 33–40

*Choose option **A, B, C** or **D** which best fits according to the text. Circle the correct letter **in boxes 33–40** on your answer sheet.*

- 33. When the writer first contacted him, Josef Csongei was
 - A. angry about something she had written.
 - B. suspicious of her because of her profession.
 - C. surprised that she was interested in his organisation.
 - D. pleased that she recognised the importance of assistants.
- 34. The phrase 'to prove his point' in the second paragraph refers to Csongei's belief that celebrity assistants
 - A. enjoy travelling as part of the job.
 - B. are not given the appreciation they deserve.
 - C. do a job that many other people would like to do.
 - D. need to do a course before they start looking for work.
- 35. At the beginning of the story about Dean Johnson, we learn that
 - A. he had turned on the television in order to relax.
 - B. he was dissatisfied with the work he was doing.
 - C. he had always wanted to work in the film industry.
 - D. he often watched television programmes about celebrities.

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36. What was Dean's immediate reaction to what he saw on the programme?
- A. He wrote down the contact details of the four interviewees.
 - B. He decided which of the four interviewees he wanted to talk to.
 - C. He started making enquiries about how to find the people on the show.
 - D. He read through his notes carefully before getting in touch with anyone.
37. How did Ron Holder respond to Dean's phone call?
- A. He refused to enter into a long conversation with Dean.
 - B. He was angry that anyone had been able to get his number.
 - C. He complained about being disturbed on his home number.
 - D. He was willing to give Dean some advice and information.
38. In the fifth paragraph, the writer suggests that Dean Johnson
- A. never achieved his aim of becoming a personal assistant.
 - B. was brave to go and look for a new career in Los Angeles.
 - C. really wanted to become a star rather than a personal assistant.
 - D. lived to regret his decision to give up everything in his old life.
39. What does the word 'perk' in the final paragraph mean?
- A. extra work required by a job
 - B. something unexpected in a job
 - C. a benefit of doing a particular job
 - D. an unpleasant job that has to be done
40. In the final paragraph, we learn that celebrity assistants
- A. tend to see the job as their career goal.
 - B. are relatively well paid for what they do.
 - C. find the job gets too demanding as they get older.
 - D. often move into other aspects of the film industry.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

Use of English (20 min – 25 points)

Task 1. For items 41–50, 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 development

RUSSIAN IMPRESSIONISM

Impressionism is a very natural stage of art's (0)... .	DEVELOP
Russian painters had started their (41) ... of experiments with light and modified colour schemes before they visited France and got acquainted with French impressionism.	HEARD
And yet, there is a difference between Russian and French impressionistic (42) ... in terms of their subject matter, light and colour scheme.	DEPICT
As far as French artists were concerned, they portrayed life differently in (43) ... to Russian painters.	COMPARE
However, Russian impressionists never attempted to break away from (44) ...	REAL
Strictly speaking, Vasily Polenov can be regarded as a path (45) ... in this field.	BREAK
He was one of the first Russian painters who visited Paris in the 1870s and became (46) ... fascinated by impressionism.	ENORMOUS
He didn't abandon his own distinct painting style, but he made every effort to (47) ... his students in Russia with his French findings and encouraged their own artistic explorations.	FAMILIAR
Thanks to his (48) ... support, his like-minded contemporary artist Konstantin Korovin felt confidence to work differently.	ENTHUSIASM
The Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and (49) ... had never had landscape painting classes as this genre was seen as the one for amateurs.	ARCHITECT
V. Polenov was the first to introduce such classes and he was (50) ... besieged by students who wanted to paint nature.	VIRTUAL

Task 2. Complete the sentences (51-60) with the correct preposition from the box. There is one preposition you **do not need** to use. Some of the prepositions can be used **more than once**.

at	down	off	in	over	to	through	on
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51. Can you get the lid _____ this jar for me, please?
52. The river Thames flows _____ London.
53. As soon as we got _____ the plane, we were happy to be on solid ground again.
54. We are flying _____ Hamburg on 11th August.
55. _____ the end, we decided to move out of the flat.
56. Donna was standing _____ the top of the stairs! She must have overheard what we were saying.
57. Patty is arriving _____ Athens at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning.
58. Don't run _____ the stairs! You'll fall and hurt yourself.
59. You can fly _____ New York in a Helitour helicopter.
60. Rod is a genius. He got his degree in mathematics _____ the age of 15!

Task 3. For items 61–65, 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.

WANTED

Ann _____ to the cinema on Sunday. (4 words)

0 wanted us to go

61. The professor said that his assistant had given away the secret formula.

ACCUSED

The professor _____ away the secret formula. (5 words)

62. They say a multinational company owns this factory.

SAID

The factory _____ by a multinational company. (5 words)

63. I think they did not plan this.

MIGHT

They _____ this. (4 words)

64. He will probably win the race.

LIKELY

He _____ the race. (4 words)

65. She woke up early so that she could catch the 5:30 train.

ORDER

She woke up early _____ the 5:30 train. (4 words)

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

Writing (30 min – 20 points)

Write a short review of your favourite play which you've seen at the theatre for your school magazine.

Write **the title of the play** at the beginning on a separate line (*words are not counted in this line*).

Remember to mention in your review:

- why you like the play;
- which character in the play you would most like to meet and why;
- why you should stage the play at your school theatre.

Write your answer in **120-150** words in an appropriate style.

Write your message. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

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Ленинградская область

Код/Шифр участника				
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Ф.И.О. участника: _____

Класс: _____

Образовательная организация: _____

ANSWER SHEET

Participant's ID number _____

Listening (20 points)

Task 1.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Task 2.

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Reading (20 points)

Task 1.

21	22	23	24	25

Task 2.

26	27	28	29	30	31	32

33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

Use of English (25 points)

Task 1.

41	46
42	47
43	48
44	49
45	50

Task 2.

51	52	53	54	55

56	57	58	59	60

Task 3.

61	
62	
63	
64	
65	

