ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ
АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК. 2026–2027 уч. г.
МУНИЦИПАЛЬНЫЙ ЭТАП. 9 КЛАСС

Максимальный балл за работу – 100.

LISTENING
Time: 15 minutes (15 points)

Задание 1.

Task 1

*For items **1–10** listen to a talk by Jack Marlow, a volunteer, and decide whether the statements **(1–10)** are **TRUE** (A), or **FALSE** (B) according to the text you hear. You will hear the text **twice**.*

1. Jack Marlow found out about *Project Shark* by reading a magazine article.
A) True B) False

2. Jack's father taught him to dive when he was fifteen, so he didn't need the pool lessons.
A) True B) False

3. The flight to Fiji took 35 hours, and Jack was so tired that he slept through the entire bus ride from the airport and saw nothing.
A) True B) False

4. During dives, experts always join the volunteers to ensure safety.
A) True B) False

5. Bull Sharks are described as fast hunters, just as Jack had imagined.
A) True B) False

6. Bull Sharks prefer deep ocean waters, so volunteers often dive to depths of 30 metres.
A) True B) False

7. Jack's previous personal depth record was 22 metres, which he managed to beat during the programme.
A) True B) False

8. Jack was mainly responsible for studying the behaviour of sharks.
A) True B) False

9. Jack saw Tiger Sharks, Hammerhead Sharks, Zebra Sharks and Great White Sharks during his time in Fiji.

A) True B) False

10. An Australian volunteer gave Jack surfing lessons, and they continued to keep in touch for some time after Jack returned.

A) True B) False

Task 2

*For items **2–6** listen to a conversation. Choose the correct answer (**A, B** or **C**) to answer questions **2–6**. You will hear the text **only once**.*

Задание 2. At the beginning of the conversation, Susan feels that

A) the week has passed quickly.
B) the week has been very long.
C) Friday has come too soon.

Задание 3. What does Susan have to do on Saturday?

A) Go out for dinner with her parents.
B) Cook and clean her place.
C) Go to a party on a boat.

Задание 4. What is NOT TRUE about Michael's plans for Friday night?

A) He was planning to go out with former colleagues.
B) He is looking forward to going out.
C) He feels too tired to go out.

Задание 5. What is Michael going to do on Saturday night?

A) Stay at home and rest.
B) Have dinner at a French restaurant.
C) Attend a party on a boat.

Задание 6. What does Michael plan to do on Sunday?

A) Take care of some work-related tasks
B) Go out for dinner with some friends
C) Call Susan to tell her about the weekend

READING
Time: 45 minutes (20 points)

Task 1

*For items **7–16**, read the passage below and choose option **A, B, C** or **D** which best fits according to the text.*

From sceptic to superfan: how trying unlikely hobbies changed my life

Amy Wild, a freelance writer, describes how forcing herself to try activities she once dismissed as "not her thing" helped her escape routine, build friendships and rediscover curiosity.

For most of my adult life, I treated personal taste as something fixed and permanent. There were things I liked and things I definitely did not like, and I rarely questioned these categories. Salsa dancing? Absolutely not. Book clubs? Worse. Contemporary theatre involving audience participation? My idea of hell. I had quietly built a version of myself around certainty – certainty about what I enjoyed, who I was and what kinds of people I belonged with.

When I moved to London, that certainty hardened into routine. My days became consumed by work, commuting and the endless cycle of emails, meetings and tired evenings scrolling through my phone. Without really noticing it, I had stopped trying anything unfamiliar. My social life narrowed, my curiosity faded and, although nothing was technically wrong, life began to feel repetitive in a way I struggled to explain.

The turning point came through my housemates, who seemed determined to drag me into experiences I instinctively resisted. They attended strange theatre performances, dance classes and late-night jazz events with a level of enthusiasm I found baffling. My automatic response was always refusal. I simply assumed these activities were "not me".

Eventually, however, I began to wonder whether that attitude was trapping me inside a smaller life than I wanted. I had read somewhere that children often need repeated exposure to unfamiliar foods before they learn to enjoy them. Perhaps adults approached experiences in much the same way. Maybe disliking something immediately did not necessarily mean it was incompatible with my personality.

So I started experimenting. The first challenge was a book club, despite the fact that reading had always felt exhausting to me because of dyslexia. I expected awkward silences and intellectual competition. Instead, I found warm conversations, humour and a surprising sense of relief in discussing ideas with people who were equally uncertain and imperfect.

Encouraged by this experience, I continued saying yes to invitations I would previously have rejected automatically. Soon I found myself attending spoken-word nights, jazz performances and line-dancing lessons. Most recently, I tried out my

local library's chess club. I was easily 30 years younger than everyone else, but that didn't matter. Sitting opposite people with wildly different life stories made me realise how rarely I speak with people from other generations outside work or family. We talked about their past careers, local news, and I learned new chess moves. And honestly, there's nothing quite like being wiped off the board by someone who's been playing since before your parents met. It was comforting, if a little humbling, and I felt more of a connection with others there than at any organised twentysomethings social event I've attended.

What surprised me most was not the hobbies themselves but the way they began connecting different parts of my life. Conversations at the book club led to theatre recommendations; theatre nights led to gallery visits; gallery visits introduced me to people I would never otherwise have met. Gradually, my world became larger and more interesting simply because I had stopped rejecting experiences before giving them a chance.

Most importantly, I realised that hobbies do not need to become identities or achievements to matter. I did not suddenly transform into an expert dancer, theatre critic or literary intellectual. The value came from participation itself, from allowing myself to remain a beginner without embarrassment.

These days, whenever I feel the instinctive urge to dismiss something unfamiliar, I try to pause before saying no. Usually, I count to five, introduce myself to the friendliest-looking person in the room and wait for the awkwardness to pass. Most of the time, it does. And occasionally, what begins as discomfort turns into something unexpectedly meaningful.

Задание 7. What does Amy suggest about her attitude before trying new hobbies?

A) She believed interests naturally changed with age.
B) She avoided activities she considered outside her identity.
C) She preferred solitary hobbies to social ones.
D) She regularly experimented with unfamiliar experiences.

Задание 8. How does Amy describe her emotional state after moving to London?

A) She felt frustrated by an inability to achieve ambitious goals.
B) She became anxious about failing to adapt to a new environment.
C) She regretted prioritising social relationships over career progress.
D) She experienced a vague dissatisfaction despite outward stability.

Задание 9. How does Amy portray her housemates in the third paragraph?

A) As individuals whose enthusiasm challenged Amy's assumptions.
B) As people attempting to impose their lifestyle on others aggressively.
C) As highly artistic people disconnected from ordinary social life.
D) As friends who underestimated Amy's discomfort in groups.

Задание 10. What realisation caused Amy to reconsider her previous outlook?

A) Personal preferences may be shaped through familiarity.
B) Taste and preference are determined more by biology than by experience.
C) Emotional maturity means abandoning unrealistic expectations.
D) Most individuals return to interests they enjoyed earlier in life.

Задание 11. What did Amy discover during her first book club meeting?

A) Participants were strongly focused on intellectual debate.
B) Her difficulties with reading made participation impossible.
C) The atmosphere was more welcoming than expected.
D) Most people there already knew one another well.

Задание 12. What did Amy find particularly valuable about attending the board-game meetings?

A) They provided an opportunity to compete with highly skilled opponents.
B) They exposed her to perspectives rarely faced in everyday life.
C) They helped her reconnect with elderly members of her family.
D) They created a more intellectually demanding atmosphere.

Задание 13. How does Amy ultimately view the experience of losing to older participants?

A) As evidence that natural ability matters more than practice.
B) As a discouraging reminder of their lack of experience.
C) As an unexpectedly reassuring and meaningful interaction.
D) As proof that she still needs to learn to accept defeat calmly.

Задание 14. What does the text suggest about the relationship between Amy's hobbies?

A) They gradually introduced her to wider social and cultural experiences.
B) They distracted her from developing deeper friendships.
C) They encouraged her to become more academically ambitious.
D) They replaced her previous interest in professional success.

Задание 15. What conclusion does Amy reach about personal interests?

A) Their significance depends largely on measurable improvement.
B) They become worthwhile only when integrated into one's identity.
C) They are most rewarding when pursued alongside equally ambitious people.
D) Their importance lies in engagement rather than mastery.

Задание 16. What strategy does Amy now use when faced with unfamiliar situations?

A) She relies on careful preparation to reduce uncertainty.
B) She deliberately postpones judgement long enough to adapt socially.
C) She avoids environments that produce emotional discomfort.
D) She focuses on finding people with similar backgrounds and interests.

Задание 17.

Task 2

*For items **1–10,** read the passage below and choose which of the sentences **A–K** fit into the numbered gaps in the text. There is one extra sentence which does not fit in any of the gaps.*

Midnight Runners: More than just a run

Picture the scene: it is 9:30 on a Wednesday evening, the city streets bathed in neon and amber, and most sensible people are winding down. **(1)** _____. Welcome to Midnight Runners – the free, after hours running collective that has quietly conquered the world's metropolitan nightscapes.

(2) _____. Nobody who laced up that time could have imagined just how far – or how fast – the idea would spread. **(3)** _____.

Unlike traditional running clubs obsessed with pace and personal records, this one prioritises connection and collective energy. Music blares from a central speaker carried by the run leader, and the unspoken rule is simple: nobody gets left behind. **(4)** _____.

The practicalities of joining are deliberately kept frictionless. **(5)** _____. There is no subscription fee and no other hidden costs, no prior experience is needed, and there's no obligation to return. **(6)** _____.

This inclusive philosophy makes Midnight Runners particularly appealing to those who find conventional gyms intimidating. For newcomers to a city, the club often becomes an instant social network. **(7)** _____.

Behind every successful event are the volunteer crew captains who design routes and coordinate safety. **(8)** _____.

Photography and music play a big part, both in enhancing the experience in the moment and in creating images and video that people want to share afterwards. **(9)** _____. This and word of mouth rather than advertising has fuelled the expansion of Midnight Runners.

The community's signature event is the Bootcamp Run, a 5-10 km journey broken into short running intervals. **(10)** _____. It is an intense yet accessible workout designed to prioritize shared energy over competition, successfully blending hard training with a festival atmosphere.

A) Today, Midnight Runners operates in fifteen major cities across five continents, from Buenos Aires to Berlin, San Francisco to Sydney.
B) Participation requires minimal effort as a single registration through an app grants a lifetime pass to any event worldwide.
C) The organisation actively discourages conversation during sessions so runners can focus fully on performance.
D) Yet here you are, outside a busy bar with hundreds of strangers, trainers laced, portable speakers pulsing, ready to take over the dark asphalt.
E) Besides, office workers, international students, and long term residents alike consistently testify that Midnight Runners gave them a social circle when nothing else had.
F) Pictures and footage of people having a good time is clearly a great way to spread the word.
G) Designed to be social rather than competitive, these evening gatherings offer urbanites a compelling reason to disconnect from screens and rediscover their cities after dark.
H) At each halt, the group performs bodyweight exercises, catching their breath and, more importantly, catching up with one another.
I) Many participants first join for fitness but continue attending because of the strong sense of belonging.
J) Research suggests that those who undertake the role experience even greater gains in wellbeing and community connection than those who only run.
K) The concept was born in London in 2015, when a couple of friends decided to go for a late-night run with a small speaker.

USE OF ENGLISH
Time: 60 minutes (45 points)

Задание 18.

Task 1. (15 points)

***For items 1–15**, 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	***V***
00	***over***

0	We got out at Sonning, and went for a walk round the village. It is the most fairy-like nook on the whole river. It is more like a stage village than one built of bricks and mortar.	***V***
00	We roamed about sweet Sonning for an hour or so, and then, it being too late to push on past Reading, we decided to go back to one of the Shiplake islands, and put up over there for the night.	***over***
1	It was still early when we having got settled and George said that, as we had plenty of time, it would be a splendid opportunity to try a good, slap-up supper.	
2	He suggested that, with the vegetables and the remains of the cold beef and general odds and ends, we should be make an Irish stew. It seemed a fascinating idea.	
3	Harris and I started to peel the potatoes. The job turned out to be the biggest thing of its kind that I had ever been in. We began cheerfully, one might almost say skittishly but our light-heartedness was gone by the time the first potato was not finished.	
4	By the time we had got all the peel off and all the eyes out, there was no potato left — at least none were worth speaking of. George came and had a look at it — it was about the size of a peanut. He said, "You must scrape them."	
5	So we did and that was a harder work than peeling. We worked steadily for five-and-twenty minutes, and did four potatoes. Then we struck.	
6	George said it was absurd to have only four potatoes in an Irish stew, so we washed half a dozen or so more and put them in without peeling. We also put in a cabbage and about half a peck of peas. George stirred it all up,	

7	and then he said that there seemed to be a lot of room to spare, so we picked out all the odds and ends and the remnants, and added them both to the stew.	
8	George said that was the advantage of Irish stew: you got rid of such a lot of things. I fished out a couple of eggs that had got cracked, and we put those in. George said they would hardly thicken the gravy.	
9	I remember that towards the end, Montmorency, our dog, who had evinced great interest in the proceedings throughout, strolled away with either an earnest and thoughtful air,	
10	reappearing, a few minutes afterwards, with a dead water-rat in his mouth, which he evidently wished to present as his contribution to the dinner; whether in a sarcastic spirit, or because with a general desire to assist, I cannot say.	
11	We had a discussion as to whether the rat should go in or not. Harris said that he thought it would be all right, mixed up with the other things, and that every other little helped; but George stood up for precedent!	
12	He said he had never heard of water-rats in Irish stew, and he would rather be on the safe side, and not try experiments. Harris said, “If you will never try a new thing how can you tell what it's like? It's men such as you that hamper the world's progress”.	
13	It was a great success, that Irish stew. I don't think I ever enjoyed a meal that more. There was something so fresh and piquant about it.	
14	One's palate gets so tired of the old hackneyed things: here was a dish with a new flavour, with a taste like nothing else on earth. And it was nourishing, too. As George said, there was far good stuff in it.	
15	The peas and potatoes might have been a bit softer, but we all had good teeth, so that did not matter much; and as for the gravy, it was a poem — a little too rich, perhaps, for a weak stomach, but enough nutritious.	

Task 2. (10 points)

*For items **19–28**, 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 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.** The pool isn't deep enough to swim in.
too
The pool ____ _____ _____ _____ swim in. (4 words)

0	**is too shallow to**

Задание 19. Rosa found it very difficult to persuade her boss to give her a pay rise.
GREAT
Rosa had____ _____ _____ ____ her boss to give her a pay rise (4 words).

Задание 20. A huge portion of roast chicken was served after spinach salad.
BY
The spinach salad ___ ____ ___ a huge portion of roast chicken (3 words).

Задание 21. The man claimed that he had been nowhere near the factory at the time of the break-in.
TO
The man claimed not ___ ___ ___ ____ near the factory at the time of the break-in (4 words).

Задание 22. It is essential that this door is kept unlocked.
SHOULD
On no ___ ____ ____ ____ ____ locked (5 words).

Задание 23. It seems unbelievable that this jewellery is almost a hundred years old when it is so well preserved.
HARD
This jewellery is in such good ___ ___ ___ ____ ____to believe that it is almost a hundred years old (5 words).

Задание 24. As far as punctuality is concerned, Fiona really takes after her mother.
WHEN
____ ____ _____ _____ punctuality, Fiona really takes after her mother (4 words).

Задание 25. The meeting would have finished earlier if there hadn't been these interruptions.
FOR
The meeting would have finished earlier ___ ___ ___ interruptions (3 words).

Задание 26. You have to be very patient to work as a primary school teacher these days.
PLENTY
Working as a primary school teacher calls ___ ___ ___ ___ these days (4 words).

Задание 27. He quickly became well known in the Parisian art world.
NAME
He quickly ___ ___ ____ in the Parisian art world (3 words).

Задание 28. It was only when he read Julie's letter that he understood exactly what was wrong.
UNTIL
He didn't understand exactly what was wrong ___ ___ ___ Julie's letter (3 words).

Задание 29.

Task 3. (10 points)

*For items **1–10** 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:

0	explanation

My siblings and I always knew when our middle brother was coming to visit my parents: my mother would put out little bowls of prawn cocktail as a special starter. The official **(0)** ____ was that he didn't come over for Sunday lunch as often as the rest of us.	EXPLAIN
In truth, despite the prawn cocktail, I did not think my parents had any favourites. Of course, my brothers, sister and I all had different roles in the family. As the **(1)** ____, for example, I was always the one to go fetch things for my parents.	YOUNG
Research suggests that parental **(2)** ____ is surprisingly common – and rather than being a quirk of family life, can be very harmful. It occurs in around 65% of families, and has been identified and studied across many different cultures.	FAVOURITE
It is considered such an important factor in a range of emotional problems that psychologists have a name for it: "parental **(3)** ____ treatment"(PDT).	DIFFERENT
For the person who feels like they are treated as **(4)** ____, the consequences can be profound. Research suggests that from an early age, children are aware of this specific treatment.	BEST
It has been associated with low **(5)** ____ in children, as well as childhood anxiety, depression, and behavioural problems.	ESTEEM
The mental health impact may persist into **(6)** ____, the bias itself may also continue in later life, with parents still playing favourites with their adult children.	ADULT
And while the parents rather than the siblings bear the responsibility for this, this treatment can harm the sibling bond over the life course and increase **(7)** ____ and conflict between siblings.	TENSE
As part of the study, the researchers asked mothers and fathers a direct question, "To which of your children do you feel the most emotional closeness?" After a slight **(8)** ____, a high proportion of mothers (75%) named one of their children.	DELIBERATE
Birth order played a role in some aspects, but perhaps not as much as is often assumed. **(9)** ____, my guess that the first-born would naturally be picked as the "golden child" is not backed up by scientific research.	SPECIFIC

For emotional closeness, last-born children are more likely to be chosen than the middle or first child. But the strongest predictor of emotional closeness was the parents' **(10)** ____ of their child's similarity to them.	PERCEIVE

Задание 30.

Task 4. (10 points)

***For items 1–10**, match the items **1–10** to the phenomena **A–N**. There are some extra phenomena which do not match.*

1. hanky-panky
2. The chickens come home to roost
3. tour de force
4. Come over here and have a butcher's at this!
(*rhyming slang*)
5. willy-nilly
6. "The Mount Rushmore State"
7. "The Old Dominion"
8. If the cap fits (wear it)
9. She hit him on the loaf with her brolly and stormed off in a huff. (*rhyming slang*)
10. magna cum laude

A) used to tell someone that they should accept a criticism that another person has made
B) used to warn somebody about someone who sells meat in a shop
C) at the second highest level of the special levels of achievement in a person's studies at a US college or university
D) Virginia
E) South Dakota
F) dishonest or immoral behavior
G) at the third highest level of the special levels of achievement in a person's studies at a US college or university
H) your past actions may cause problems at a later date, especially when this is expected or seems deserved
I) dead
J) one's head
K) have a look at something
L) an achievement or performance that shows great skill and attracts admiration
M) suddenly, without planning or order
N) Tennessee

WRITING
Time: 60 minutes (20 points)

You see the following notice in an English youth magazine and decide to send your story.

Stories Wanted
Write a story for our magazine. The story must begin with the sentence:
Lisa had been waiting for this moment for months, so she checked her phone one last time before leaving.
The story must include:

- a title
- a surprise gift
- a conversation with a stranger

Write 200–250 words (the title is included in the word count).