

Всероссийская олимпиада школьников по английскому языку 2025 г.
Муниципальный этап. 11 класс

LISTENING (20 points)

Time: 20 min

Task 1. *You will hear an interview with a woman called Farza Abad who runs an online business selling house plants. For questions 1-6, choose the best answer (a, b or c). You will hear the recording twice.*

1. Farza gained her retail plant experience when she
 - a) worked in a shop in her hometown.
 - b) was employed on a farm in Australia.
 - c) realised there were not enough green spaces in her city.

2. Farza says her business has grown quickly because
 - a) she spends a lot of money on marketing.
 - b) she posts a lot on social media.
 - c) she has a famous customer.

3. When asked about starting a business, Farza says in her opinion, you should
 - a) be flexible.
 - b) be decisive.
 - c) have leadership skills.

4. What does Farza enjoy most about running her own business?
 - a) Taking time off when she wants to.
 - b) Having a good income.
 - c) Learning new skills.

5. What does Farza say is the most difficult thing for her about running a business?
 - a) Sometimes mistakes can be expensive.
 - b) It can be hard to trust her own decisions.
 - c) She often compares herself to others.

6. What's Farza's next plan for her business?
 - a) To increase the number of staff.
 - b) To open a large shop in the city.
 - c) To sell a wider variety of products.

Task 2. You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about their learning experiences. For questions 7–13, choose from the list (a–h) what each person found difficult about studying as an adult. There is one extra point which you do not need to use. You will hear the recording once.

- a. memorising new vocabulary
- b. working with other people
- c. balancing work, studies and family life
- d. dealing with an unusual method of learning
- e. being as adaptable as when they were young
- f. building a relationship with the teacher
- g. maintaining high energy levels
- h. attracting the teacher's attention

Speaker 1 _____ (7)

Speaker 2 _____ (8)

Speaker 3 _____ (9) _____ (10)

Speaker 4 _____ (11) _____ (12)

Speaker 5 _____ (13)

Task 3. You will hear an interview with a podcast host called Brian Felthmore. Mark statements 14–20 with “T” if they are true and “F” if they are false. You will hear the recording once.

- 14. Brian started a podcast because he knew his colleagues would listen to it.
- 15. Brian gets most of his information from face-to-face interviews.
- 16. Hosting his podcast Brian enjoys most talking to his guests.
- 17. Brian finds it really hard to plan the content of the episodes.
- 18. Brian believes that people who want to start a podcast will have to spend money.
- 19. Brian records his podcast episodes in a home office.
- 20. On his next podcast episode, Brian will ask listeners to call the show with questions.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.
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READING (20 points)

Time: 25 min

Task 1 You are going to read a text about Leo Tolstoy, well known for his interest in technological innovations. Seven sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences (a-h) the one which fits each gap 1-7. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Leo Tolstoy and the technological revolution: an uneasy embrace

The famous Russian writer Leo Tolstoy enjoyed using new inventions like cameras, gramophones, and telephones. However, he was never completely sure if the technological revolution was a positive development.

1) _____ During his lifetime, he saw the arrival of railroads, photography, movies, sound recording, typewriters, and electricity. 2) _____

Tolstoy was very excited about the first photographic experiments. In 1856, Sergey Levitsky, who is considered the father of Russian photography, made the first photos of Tolstoy, which were printed on paper. 3) _____ They are Ivan Turgenev, Ivan Goncharov, Alexander Ostrovsky and others.

Later, Tolstoy visited photography studios and had formal portraits taken, which basically were the first “business cards” that he even attached to letters when exchanging photos with his pen pals, such as Alexander Herzen.

In 1862, Tolstoy took his first self-portrait. 4) _____ His wife, Sofia Andreyevna, signed the card, “I took a picture of myself.”

Photography became an obsession for Tolstoy, and even today, no writer's archive can boast of so many pictures. 5) _____ She was also very fond of taking photos and it was her preferred hobby for more than 20 years. She even developed the films herself.

An entire series of psychological portraits was made by Tolstoy's secretary and friend, Vladimir Chertkov. 6) _____ Those were some of Tolstoy's last photos, taken in 1910, and turned into GIFs by the State Tolstoy Museum.

What was the great Russian writer and thinker's opinion about technological innovations and their usefulness? Did he think they were an important part of mankind's advancement? 7) _____ He concluded that technical development is necessary only if its purpose is to benefit mankind. “When people's lives are immoral and their relations are based not on love but on egoism, all technical improvements - the increase in human's power over nature, such as steam, electricity, telegraph, all kinds of machines, gunpowder, dynamite - give the impression of dangerous toys placed into the hands of children,” Tolstoy wrote in his diary in 1903.

- a) He was able to experience all these inventions for himself.
- b) To do this, he needed two horses to pull his huge and heavy camera equipment.

- c) Having lived to the age of 82, Tolstoy's life crossed the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, which was an era of industrialization and technological progress.
- d) The author of "War and Peace" was concerned about the moral aspect of progress.
- e) His main concern was whether art could truly represent human experience.
- f) Here, the still very young writer is depicted alone and in the company of other authors who wrote for the popular literary magazine, *Sovremennik*.
- g) The writer's intense feelings are evident in them.
- h) In many ways Tolstoy's wife helped to feed his passion for photography.

Task 2 *Read the text, do tasks 2.1 and 2.2 after the text.*

The Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus

A

It is extremely common for people to turn to the internet to learn about what is happening in the world. This is increasingly true of teenagers, who may well go on to use online information (along with more traditional sources such as textbooks) for their studies when they later enter college. Information literacy – the ability to understand whether a text, article or news story is composed of reliable facts – is very important at university level. However, according to some research, there is worrying evidence that many of us often accept the information we read at face value. In other words, we often seem to trust what we are reading without really asking questions about who wrote it and why.

B

In 1998, a writer going by the name of Lyle Zapato set up a detailed and quite sophisticated website which seemed to give information about the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus. According to the website (which still exists), this apparently shy animal can only be found in the vast forests of the north-western USA. Reaching a size of 33 centimetres, it is as happy jumping from branch to branch as it is in the normal octopus home of water. However, because of the Tree Octopus's natural habitats being cut down, and other threats such as eagles and cats, their numbers are low, and they are at risk of dying out completely. The website suggests that people help protect the octopus by writing to celebrities to take action, or even by going on Tree Octopus awareness marches.

C

The Tree Octopus has never existed, of course, and the website contains nothing more than fake information. It has, however, been used in a number of interesting experiments. In 2007 and 2017, two separate ones were done on school pupils aged 11–13 in the US and the Netherlands. They were either asked to summarize the most important information from the website in a few sentences or were asked questions to test whether they understood the information about the Tree Octopus. After further questions, it was found in the American study that only 11% thought the website was in any

way suspicious. In the Dutch study, a similarly low number (7%) thought the same. It is possible that the rather emotional topic of the website (an animal in danger) could have made it appear more reliable than it really was.

D

These results may not be too surprising. It could be argued that as long ago as 2007 – or even 2017 – the idea of ‘fake news’ was much less widely known about than it is now. Even today, we should probably not be astonished if 11-year-olds have little awareness of unreliable information online compared to older teenagers who have started university and have more experience of the internet. For that reason, many of us might not be too worried about children being deceived by what they see on the internet. It could even be argued that no one as young as 11 should even be spending much time online.

E

In 2020, however, a new experiment was carried out on a group of first-year university students in the US studying biology – the type of people who would be expected to have developed the intelligence to know what is objective information and what is not. In one task, the students were asked to visit the website of the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus as part of a project on ‘interesting organisms’. As part of the first task, they were asked to use the website to find out the scientific name of the octopus, where it lived and why this species was at risk. Interestingly, at this point, 90% of students failed to recognize that the octopus – and the whole website – was a carefully crafted joke. In a follow-up task, the students were shown a video which made it clear that the octopus was a comedy invention and were then asked what they thought about the initial task. The vast majority now saw the website for what it was, making such comments as, ‘I answered the questions without giving them much thought,’ or ‘I didn’t think it was necessary to find any extra evidence about this animal.’

F

As studies like these suggest, even science students can be influenced by fake news, and could benefit from developing their critical-thinking skills. Given this, it is probably sensible to start teaching young teenagers about the nature of online information as soon as they are allowed to access it. They should – at the very least – know that there is much that is inaccurate, if not deliberately designed to make us believe something which is untrue. But perhaps more importantly, they should be encouraged to continually ask themselves questions about what they find online. Rather than learning to rely on a single source of information, we should all be taught to read up on important subjects and check for additional evidence, if necessary, rather than simply accepting something as soon as we see it.

Task 2.1 Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below. There are three extra headings which you do not need to use.

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List of Headings

- a) Most children trust online information
- b) Recommendations for schools
- c) The usefulness of online information
- d) Experienced scientists can be fooled, too
- e) Don't expect children to understand the internet
- f) Why 'fake news' works
- g) A strange creature
- h) The earliest example of 'fake news'
- i) Why 'fake news' is aimed at children

- 8. Paragraph A _____
- 9. Paragraph B _____
- 10. Paragraph C _____
- 11. Paragraph D _____
- 12. Paragraph E _____
- 13. Paragraph F _____

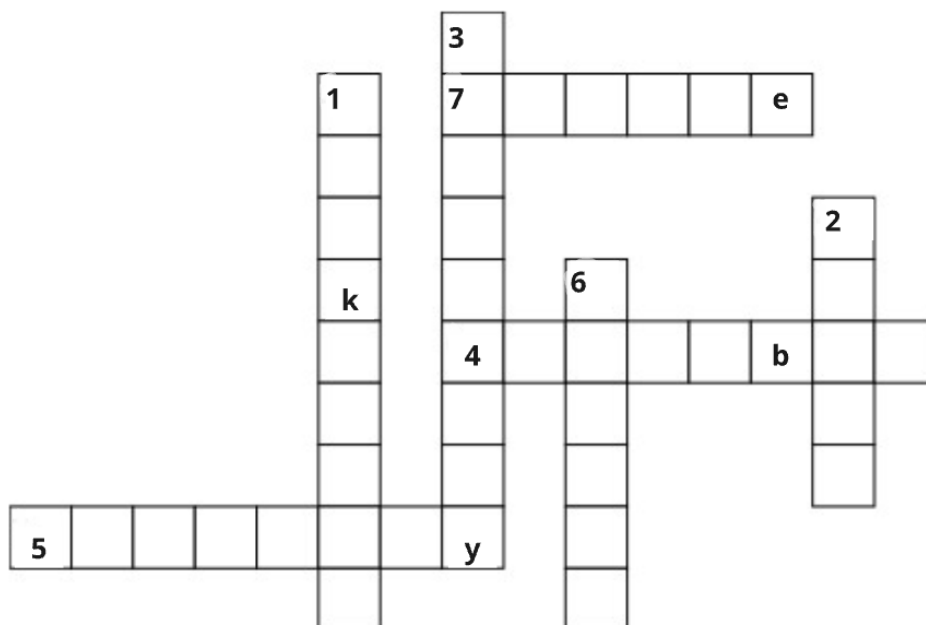
Task 2.2 Read the text again and choose T (True) or F (False) for statements 14 – 20.

- 14. The author believes that nowadays teenagers use mainly online information which is unreliable.
- 15. Lyle Zapato created the website about the Tree Octopus to check how many people will take action to protect the animal.
- 16. The experiments mentioned in the text involved only teenagers in the Netherlands and the USA.
- 17. According to the author teenagers should not be allowed to spend much time online.
- 18. Students participating in the experiment in 2020 were expected to have a certain level of information literacy.
- 19. The experiments of 2007, 2017 and 2020 proved that an emotional topic of a website can make people believe it's reliable.
- 20. The author claims that it's necessary to teach people to seek further confirmation of the information we read online.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.
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Time: 25 min

It is said some of the most _____(5 - something that happens frequently or is widely accepted by many people) used tricks behind the scenes include using cardboard to add _____(6 - the measurement of how tall something is) to burgers or replacing milk with white glue to _____(7 -guarantee) it has the bright colour and creamy appearance consumers expect to see.



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Task 2. Match the parts of the idioms and use them to fill in the gaps (8-14) in the text. There are three idioms you do not need to use.

<i>get to</i>	<i>do with</i>
<i>come</i>	<i>place</i>
<i>make</i>	<i>the bottom of</i>
<i>the answer</i>	<i>under our hat</i>
<i>fall into</i>	<i>a magic wand</i>
<i>touch</i>	<i>to light</i>
<i>spread like</i>	<i>wraps</i>
<i>wave</i>	<i>wildfire</i>
<i>under</i>	<i>to our prayers</i>
<i>keep something</i>	<i>base</i>

The Bottom Line

The project was **8** _____ from the very beginning. As the lead investigator for Global Tech, my mission was to **9** _____ a series of bizarre financial discrepancies. My colleague, Leo, was a wizard with data, but even he couldn't just **10** _____ and make the answers appear.

For weeks, we kept on working, checking endless accounts, emails and reports, digging deeper into the figures. We hardly had any sleep and lived on coffee and junk food, that's why at the end of the month Leo and I felt exhausted. No matter how many facts we discovered, the puzzle refused to **11** _____. We had fragments — odd transactions, ghost companies — but no cohesive picture.

The breakthrough came from the most unlikely place. A junior accountant named Sarah, discovered a few encrypted emails that our sophisticated software had missed: just a single, encrypted email chain. That was **12** _____. As we decrypted the messages, the shocking truth began to **13** _____. The discrepancies weren't a glitch, they were a deliberate embezzlement scheme.

With Sarah's key evidence, we presented our findings, and the news **14** _____. The scandal broke out. No matter how deep a secret is buried, the truth always has a way of coming out.

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Task 3. Match the Greatest Britons (15-20) to their profiles (a-e). There are two extra names.

Profile	Name
15. _____ was born on February 15, 1874, in Kilkea, County Kildare, Ireland. He was the second of 10 children. His father was a doctor. The family moved to London around the time he was 10 years old. He left school when he was 16 and became a sailor. He is known for his leadership in the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He joined Discovery Expedition of 1901–1904 and his polar career began. During the expedition he set a southern latitude record before being sent home for health reasons.	a) Duke of Wellington b) Ernest Henry Shackleton c) Horatio Nelson d) Robert Falcon Scott e) Isambard Kingdom Brunel f) Robert Baden-Powell g) Douglas Bader h) George Stephenson
16. _____ was an English civil and mechanical engineer who is widely regarded as the "Father of Railways." Born in Wylam, Northumberland, he came from a humble background and largely taught himself engineering skills. He gained early experience working in coal mines, where he developed a keen understanding of steam engines and machinery. His innovations in locomotive design, railway construction, and safety innovations (including a miners' safety lamp) made him a one of those people who changed the world forever.	
17. Born in 1806 _____ is celebrated as a visionary who reshaped modern transport and civil engineering. Among his achievements were the Great Western Railway linking London and Bristol, great steamships, the Thames Tunnel, Paddington Station and Clifton Suspension Bridge. His pioneering technologies and design principles made his works blueprints for future engineers.	
18. _____ was born in 1857. Nowadays he is remembered as a British Army officer, national hero of the Second Boer War, and the founder of the modern Scouting movement. Inspired by his military experiences, 'Aids to	

Scouting,' initially came out as a military manual. Noting its popularity with boys and youth groups, he adapted its concepts for young people. In 1907, he ran an experimental camp on Brownsea Island, regarded as the founding event of the Scouting movement.	
19. _____ was one of the first to explore Antarctica by land. On his second expedition he aimed to become the first to reach the South Pole but on January 17, 1912, they only found that Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen had preceded them by about a month. The return journey was disastrous: facing extreme cold, hunger, and exhaustion, his party died before reaching their supply depot.	
20. _____ (1910–1982) was a true aviation legend. He became famous due to his courage and skill during World War II, despite losing both legs in a 1931 flying accident. He fought in the Battle of France and the Battle of Britain and being shot down and captured in 1941, he became prisoner of war. His daring escape attempts made him a symbol of British resilience and unwavering spirit.	

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WRITING (20 points)

Time: 50 min

You have decided to enter a short story competition. The competition rules state that the story must begin with the sentence provided below.

The old man in the park told me the statue would make one wish come true, but he never told me what it would cost.

Write 180-250 words (the title is included in the word count).

Remember to:

- give a title to your story;
- clearly describe the wish and its unexpected cost;
- use at least 2 cases of reported speech and 2 different phrasal verbs of your choice;
- make sure your story has a meaningful moral.

Underline reported speech and phrasal verbs in your story.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWER TO THE ANSWER SHEET.
