

ДЪРЖАВЕН ЗРЕЛОСТЕН ИЗПИТ ПО АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК

23. 05. 2012 г.

ВАРИАНТ 12

Ползва се само от учителя-консултант при необходимост! Учителят-консултант изчита на глас и инструкцията, и съответния текст, според указанията в инструкцията!

TRANSCRIPTS

**Directions:** *You will hear a text about **the Vikings** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **3 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B or C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

A century after the Vikings began colonizing Iceland, life there was desperate. An Icelandic saga recorded that crops failed and many people starved to death. The survivors were forced to eat anything they could catch, no matter how unappetizing.

That was caused by a drastic change in climate. And the shells of long-dead molluscs have revealed just how drastic.

A team of scientists used the shells of 26 molluscs found in sediments off Iceland's coast to study temperature changes from around 360 B.C. to 1660 A.D. The scientists measured two forms of oxygen in the shells. The ratio of the two forms preserved a record of water temperatures during each mollusc's lifetime. Since the molluscs lived close to shore, the water temperature is a good indicator of the air temperature.

The research showed that by the time the Vikings first began colonizing Iceland, around the year 865, the climate had been unusually warm for a couple of centuries. Soon afterwards, though, the climate began to cool - first winters, then summers. Within decades, average temperatures dropped by more than 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

The colder conditions drastically shortened the growing season, making it harder to raise crops. The cold also created more sea ice, making it harder for the settlers to trade with their native Scandinavia. So Iceland became especially icy - and an unpleasant place for its Viking settlers.

**Directions:** *You will hear a text about **Lighthouses** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **3 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B or C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

Light-houses are ancient symbols of the seafaring life and all the heroism, romance, and the physical hardships associated with mariners' life.

The world's first important lighthouse was the Pharos at Alexandria, which is also considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. This lighthouse was commissioned by Ptolemy. It rose more than 450 feet in the air and was topped by a roaring fire to safely guide

mariners into the harbor. The Pharos of Alexandria was destroyed by an earthquake in the fourteenth century. It had stood as a landmark for more than 1,500 years. The name of the ancient Egyptian Island upon which the great lighthouse was built was Pharos. Even today, many languages like French, Spanish, Russian, Italian, use the term *pharos* as their word for lighthouse.

During the Dark Ages lighthouses suffered because lights often attracted marauders such as Vikings. Lightning strikes also gave lighthouses a bad reputation at that time. Priests were frequently asked to lead ceremonies at lighthouses asking for divine protection against the forces of nature. This, however, could not protect mariners against thieves and smugglers who set up wreckers or false lights to tempt mariners into dangerous areas to rob their cargo.

In spite of the negative association between crime and lighthouses, these structures have remained symbols of safety throughout the ages.

**Directions:** *You will hear a text about **money** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **2 minutes** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **4 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B, C or D**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

The origin of the word money comes from the Latin word, “moneta”. The English translation of it is “warning”. So people have always been careful about how they use money. Many superstitions have evolved around its use.

For example, the American two-dollar banknote is considered unlucky. First, another word for two is “deuce”. Deuce is a slang word for the devil, too. Second, the deuce is also the lowest card in the pack. Finally, when two dollars represented a working man’s daily wage, the price of a vote in an election was two dollars. Although few people would have sold their vote in this way, perhaps thus the two dollar banknote got the reputation for being unlucky.

Also, to avoid bad luck, carry a coin in your wallet. If you give a wallet or a handbag as a gift, always place a coin inside. The new owner of the gift should not spend this coin.

Another old English superstition states that the money the first customer pays should be kept in the cash register throughout the day and not given to another customer as change.

Practitioners of *feng shui* believe that you should keep a jar full of coins in your kitchen to have luck with money. This idea is good even if you are not superstitious, because you will tend to add to the jar when you have spare coins.

No matter whether you are superstitious or not, it is interesting to think about money. You never know, your luck may increase and you may gain wealth.