

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО, МЛАДЕЖТА И НАУКАТА**  
**ДЪРЖАВЕН ЗРЕЛОСТЕН ИЗПИТ ПО**  
**АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК**  
**23 май 2013 г., Вариант 1**

**PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**Directions:** *You will hear a text about **the hurricane Sandy** 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.*

Sandy began as a tropical wind in the Caribbean on October 19<sup>th</sup>. It quickly developed and was upgraded to a hurricane on October 24<sup>th</sup> when its winds reached 74 mph.

Sandy swept the Caribbean, making landfall at Jamaica, Cuba, the Bahamas, and then turned north toward the U.S. coast.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, Hurricane Sandy struck near Atlantic City, New Jersey, with winds of 80 mph. A full moon made high tides 20 percent higher than normal and increased Sandy's storm surge. Streets were flooded, trees and power lines were knocked down and the city's famous boardwalk was ripped apart. People were stuck in their homes, waiting for rescue teams in boats.

More than 80 homes were destroyed in one fire in Queens. Several other fires were started throughout the New York metro area. Seawater surged over Lower Manhattan's seawalls and highways and into low-lying streets. The water flooded tunnels, subway stations and the electrical system that powers Wall Street. Skyscrapers swayed and creaked. A large tanker ship ran aground on the city's Staten Island.

Sandy, the 10<sup>th</sup> hurricane of the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season, earned the nickname 'Frankenstorm'. At one point, Sandy's hurricane-force winds extended up to 175 miles from its centre, and its tropical storm-force winds reached out to 485 miles. And so, Sandy was still only the second-largest Atlantic tropical cyclone on record. Hurricane Olga, another late-in-the-year storm, set the record in 2001, with tropical-force winds extending 600 miles.

By November 1<sup>st</sup>, Sandy had dispersed in various directions. The National Weather Service reported that multiple weaker storms were circulating across the lower Great Lakes region and moving into Canada. Some areas were getting residual rain and snow showers. Tides were back down to less than a foot above normal.

Sandy ended up causing about \$20 billion in property damage and 10 to \$30 billion more in lost business, making it one of the costliest natural disasters on record in the United States. The New York City mayor's office in late November estimated total losses to the city to be \$19 billion.

**Directions:** *You will hear a text about **the Titanic** 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 cruise ship retracing the Titanic's voyage was forced to turn back yesterday after a passenger suffered a suspected heart attack.

The Balmoral was heading out into the Atlantic when she had to change course back towards Ireland after BBC cameraman Timothy Rex fell seriously ill. Mr Rex, 56, was airlifted by coastguard to hospital when the ship reached the helicopter's range – 130 miles from land. He had already received medical treatment on board the ship. The Balmoral continued her delayed journey late last night.

That was not the first incident for the cruise ship. She was delayed by wind storms and 30-foot waves just hours into her voyage as she crossed the Irish Sea after leaving Southampton on Sunday. Dozens were queuing up for sea sickness tablets outside the medical centre as many struggled to cope with the rough sea conditions.

The captain had planned to reach the Titanic's wreck site in the North Atlantic for a memorial ceremony to mark the moment when the liner struck an iceberg on April 14, 100 years ago. However, there are now fears that the ship will fail to make it to the site in time.

The Titanic hit an iceberg on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1912 and sank the following morning, claiming the lives of 1,517 passengers and crew.

On the anniversary, passengers on the 12-night cruise will gather for a memorial ceremony at 11:40 p.m. – the time when the ship hit the iceberg – and again at 2:20 a.m. the following morning to mark the moment it sank.

From the wreck site, they will go to Nova Scotia, where some of the Titanic's victims are buried, and then on to New York, the destination which the ship never reached.

The Balmoral is carrying 1,309 passengers – the same number as were on the Titanic. Among them are relatives of those who lost their lives, relatives of survivors, historians and journalists.

**Directions:** *You will hear a text about **The Fox and the Cat** 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 FOX AND THE CAT

It happened once that the cat met Mr. Fox in the wood, and because she thought he was clever and experienced in all the ways of the world, she addressed him in a friendly manner.

“Good-morning, dear Mr. Fox! How are you, and how do you get along in these hard times?”

The fox, full of pride, looked at the cat from head to foot for some time, hesitating whether he should answer or not. At last he said:

“Oh, you poor whisker-wiper, you silly black-and-white creature, you mouse-hunter! What has come into your head? How dare you ask me how I am getting on ? What sort of education have you had? How many arts are you master of?”

“Only one,” said the cat meekly.

“And what might that one be?” asked the fox.

“When the dogs run after me, I can jump into a tree and save myself.”

“Is that all?” said the Fox. “I am master of a hundred arts, and I have a sackful of cunning tricks in addition. But I pity you. Come with me, and I will teach you how to escape from the dogs.”

Just then a huntsman came along with four dogs. Trembling, the cat jumped up a tree. She crept up to the topmost branch, where she was entirely hidden by twigs and leaves.

“Open your sack, Mr. Fox! Open your sack!” cried the cat, but the dogs had gripped him, and held him fast.

“Oh, Mr. Fox!” cried the cat, “you with your hundred arts, and your sackful of tricks, are held fast, while I, with only one, am safe. If you had been able to creep up here, you would not have lost your life.”