

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО И НАУКАТА**

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**ДЪРЖАВЕН ЗРЕЛОСТЕН ИЗПИТ ПО**

**АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК – 23 май 2023 г.**

**ПРОФИЛИРАНА ПОДГОТОВКА**

**НИВО В2**

**ВАРИАНТ 2**

**ЧАСТ 1 (Време за работа: 60 минути)**

Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

***LISTENING COMPREHENSION***

***Task One***

*You will hear a text twice. Before you listen to it for the first time, you have 30 seconds to read the tasks to the text. While listening for the first time you are NOT allowed to mark your chosen answers. After you listen to it for the first time, you have 1 minute to mark your chosen answers on your answer sheet. While listening to the text for a second time, you can mark your chosen answers. After you listen to the text for the second time, you have 1 more minute to check or correct your answers.*

**1. The Kukeri tradition appears to date back to Thracian times.**

A) True                      B) False

**2. The Kukeri tradition is a blend of pagan and Christian culture.**

A) True                      B) False

**3. The Kukeri rituals in Razlog are performed by men only.**

A) True                      B) False

**4. The local Kukeri wear unique sheepskin costumes and masks.**

A) True                      B) False

**5. The Kukery festival in Razlog has been held without any alterations over the years.**

A) True                      B) False

### **Task Two**

*You will hear a text twice. Before you listen to it for the first time, you have 30 seconds to read the tasks to the text. While listening for the first time you are NOT allowed to mark your chosen answers. After you listen to it for the first time, you have 1 minute to mark your chosen answers on your answer sheet. While listening to the text for a second time, you can mark your chosen answers. After you listen to the text for the second time, you have 1 more minute to check or correct your answers.*

**6. What provoked new interest in the archaeological treasures of the UK was the rumour that the site of Stonehenge would be closed for renovation.**

- A) True                                      B) False

**7. Sutton Hoo in Suffolk features the ship by which seventh-century King Raedwald arrived to conquer the place.**

- A) True                                      B) False

**8. The Sutton Hoo helmet is among the most renowned gold treasure finds at this site in Suffolk.**

- A) True                                      B) False

**9. Archaeologists proved that the mysterious bluestones of Stonehenge were dragged down from the top of a nearby hill.**

- A) True                                      B) False

**10. At the Hadrian's Wall site one can try one's acting skills as a part of the guided tour walk.**

- A) True                                      B) False

### **Task Three**

*You will hear a text twice. Before you listen to it for the first time, you have 4 minutes and 30 seconds to read the tasks to the text. While listening for the first time you are NOT allowed to mark your chosen answers. After you listen to it for the first time, you have 4 minutes to mark your chosen answers on your answer sheet. While listening to the text for a second time, you can mark your chosen answers. After you listen to the text for the second time, you have 1 more minute to check or correct your answers.*

**11. Percy Bysshe Shelley was expelled from Oxford because of ...**

- A) his romantic poetry.  
B) his vegetarianism.  
C) his extravagant relationships.  
D) his disbelief in God.

**12. In his essay *A Vindication of Natural Diet*, Shelley claims that ...**

- A) eating meat endangers man's health.
- B) people should not be afraid of old age.
- C) fattening animals will save poor children from starvation.
- D) people should stop eating the produce of farm fields.

**13. While studying at Oxford, Shelley ...**

- A) kept regular meal times.
- B) had peculiar eating habits.
- C) lived only on several pounds of bread per day.
- D) would often forget to eat bread at all.

**14. When Shelley and Harriet entertained guests at their place they would often serve ...**

- A) no vegetarian food.
- B) no fresh bread.
- C) no cooked dish.
- D) only drinks.

**15. George Bernard Shaw suggested renaming vegetarianism "Shelleyism" because Shelley ...**

- A) was very strict in his vegetarian ways.
- B) had a holistic approach to vegetarianism.
- C) had attracted quite a number of followers.
- D) was his dear friend and he wanted him to be remembered.

#### ***Task 4***

*You will hear a text twice. Before you listen to it for the first time, you have 4 minutes and 30 seconds to read the tasks to the text. While listening for the first time you are NOT allowed to mark your chosen answers. After you listen to it for the first time, you have 4 minutes to mark your chosen answers on your answer sheet. While listening to the text for a second time, you can mark your chosen answers. After you listen to the text for the second time, you have 1 more minute to check or correct your answers.*

**16. Lucy Worsley decided to write a book about Agatha Christie because ...**

- A) she was absolutely fascinated by her personal life.
- B) she wanted to provide some insights into the British working class.
- C) there were no other biography books about her.
- D) she wanted to look at her life from a historian's perspective.

**17. Agatha Christie came from ...**

- A) a very humble family.
- B) a typically English family.
- C) a noble Victorian family.
- D) a wealthy middle-class family.

**18. In her childhood, Agatha Christie ...**

- A) often invited her friends to play in her garden.
- B) used to write stories about her imaginary friends.
- C) used her imagination to invent her playmates.
- D) lived in a little house in the south of England.

**19. What is NOT true about Agatha Christie's parents?**

- A) They were ardent supporters of the 'New Woman' concept.
- B) They made their elder daughter, Madge, leave school and marry.
- C) They expected Agatha Christie to find a suitable wealthy husband.
- D) They wanted Agatha Christie to follow in the footsteps of her sister.

**20. According to her biographer Lucy Worsley, Agatha Christie's disappearance in 1926 ...**

- A) was inaccurately interpreted in newspapers and books.
- B) was the greatest mystery in the entire novelist's life.
- C) was planned by the writer herself to attract publicity.
- D) was organised by her husband who wanted a divorce.

**Task Five**

*You will hear a text twice. Before you listen to it for the first time, you have 4 minutes and 30 seconds to read the tasks to the text. While listening for the first time you are NOT allowed to mark your chosen answers. After you listen to it for the first time, you have 4 minutes to mark your chosen answers on your answer sheet. While listening to the text for a second time, you can mark your chosen answers. After you listen to the text for the second time, you have 1 more minute to check or correct your answers.*

**21. The Curse of the Ninth supposedly poses a threat to ...**

- A) some symphonies.
- B) composers' popularity.
- C) composers' lives.
- D) the symphony genre.

**22. The Curse of the Ninth ...**

- A) doomed all Romantic symphony composers.
- B) was a conspiracy devised by Romantic musicians.
- C) was started by Gustav Mahler.
- D) was founded on some real events.

**23. Gustav Mahler skipped nine when numbering his symphonies in order to ...**

- A) prove the *Curse of the Ninth* correct.
- B) trick Fate and avoid the *Curse of the Ninth*.
- C) debunk the *Curse of the Ninth* myth.
- D) show Beethoven and Bruckner were not victims of the 'curse'.

**24. Schubert and Dvořák ...**

- A) never wrote as many as nine symphonies.
- B) skipped *nine* when numbering their symphonies.
- C) didn't know Mahler's *Symphony No. 9*.
- D) had no *Symphony No. 9* in Mahler's time.

**25. According to the text, among all mentioned composers ...**

- A) Haydn was the most prolific one in the symphony genre.
- B) Gustav Mahler was the most religious one.
- C) Shostakovich was the most classical one.
- D) Mozart was the most virtuoso one.

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**ДЪРЖАВЕН ЗРЕЛОСТЕН ИЗПИТ ПО**

**АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК – 23 май 2023 г.**

**ПРОФИЛИРАНА ПОДГОТОВКА**

**НИВО В2**

**ВАРИАНТ 2**

**ЧАСТ 2 (Време за работа: 180 минути)**

Write your answers **on the separate answer sheet.**

***READING COMPREHENSION***

***Task One***

***Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question, marking your answers on your answer sheet.***

One afternoon a telegram came from Sebastian.

My father was out and returned to find me in a state of feverish anxiety.

“Father, I’ve got to leave. A great friend of mine has had a terrible accident. I must go to him at once. There’s a train in half an hour.”

I showed him the telegram, which read simply: GRAVELY INJURED. COME AT ONCE. SEBASTIAN.

“Well,” said my father. “I’m sorry you are upset. Reading this message I should not say that the accident was as serious as you seem to think – otherwise it would hardly be signed by the victim himself. Well, I shall miss you, my dear boy, but do not hurry back on my account.”

On that August Sunday the train was nearly empty. I put my suitcase in a third-class carriage. The cornfields sped past and the throb of the wheels re-echoed in my ears, “You’ve come too late. You’ve come too late. He’s dead. He’s dead.”

In twilight the train reached my destination.

I recognized Sebastian’s sister, Julia, sitting at the wheel of an open car.

“Mr. Ryder, jump in.” Her voice was Sebastian’s and so was her way of speaking.

“How is Sebastian?”

“Oh, he’s fine. Sebastian and I are alone, so I thought I’d wait for you.”

“What’s happened to him?”

“He’s cracked an ankle bone so small that it hasn’t a name. But they X-rayed it yesterday and told him to keep it up for a month. It’s a great bore to him ... He tried to make me stay with him. Well, I

expect you know how maddeningly pathetic he can be. So I said: ‘Surely there must be *someone* you can get hold of,’ and he said everybody was away or busy. At last he agreed to try you. It’s very noble of you to come all this way at a moment’s notice.”

“How did he do it?”

“Playing croquet. He lost his temper and tripped in the playground. *Not* an honourable scar.”

We turned the corner of the drive; the doors of the house were open. Julia led me up the steps and into the hall. At that moment he appeared between the pillars at the further end in a wheel-chair. He was in pyjamas with one foot heavily bandaged.

“I thought you were dying,” I said, with vexation, rather than relief, for having been deceived of my expectations of a grand tragedy.

“I thought I was, too. The pain was agonizing.”

**26. The narrator was horrified because he received a telegram saying that a friend of his was dying.**

A) True                      B) False

**27. Mr. Ryder’s father shared completely his son’s anxiety.**

A) True                      B) False

**28. On the train, the narrator was overwhelmed by a sense of guilt for being late.**

A) True                      B) False

**29. Julia hardly showed much compassion for her brother’s misery.**

A) True                      B) False

**30. According to his sister, after the injury Sebastian felt awfully bored and full of self-pity.**

A) True                      B) False

### ***Task Two***

***Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question, marking your answers on your answer sheet.***

“Couldn’t resist the old call of the river, eh?” said a familiar voice. Just ahead, the guide split off from the tour group and stepped toward me, wearing oversize, knee-high galoshes and blue cleaning gloves.

“I guess not.” Truth be told, I still didn’t even know what we were doing in the riverbed, but that was part of the appeal of it. I couldn’t help but grin at him. “Do I need some of those?”

I nodded at his boots.

He shook his head. “Your sneakers will be fine, but take a pair of these.” From a backpack, he withdrew a pair of used, mud-stained rubber gloves, not unlike his own. “Wouldn’t want to cut yourself. Come on, we’re down here.” He started off, then turned back to me. “Oh, I’m Alfred, by the way. But they all call me ‘Bachelor Alf’. Funny, too, seeing as how I’ve been married going on forty years. Nah, the old nickname’s on account of the fact that I’ve found so many of them bent-up rings.”

Seeing the confused look on my face as I tugged on my gloves, he went on. “Hundreds of years ago, men would bend metal rings to display their strength before asking a lady for her hand. But if the lady didn’t want to marry the man, you see, she threw the ring off the bridge and told him off. I’ve found hundreds of the rings. Seems plenty of gentlemen walked away from this river as bachelors, if you gather what I’m saying. Strange tradition anyhow.”

I looked down at my hands. My own ring was now hidden beneath a filthy rubber glove. Tradition hadn’t done much good for me, either. A few weeks ago, before my life came to a shuddering halt, I bought James a vintage box for his new business cards. The box was made of tin, the traditional gift on a tenth anniversary, meant to signify durability in a marriage. I’d had it engraved with James’s initials, and it arrived in the mail the evening before our planned trip to London – right on time.

But not much else had gone right since then.

**31. From the start of their conversation it can be inferred that the narrator and the guide ...**

- A) had already met.
- B) knew each other very well.
- C) were just being introduced to each other.
- D) were good colleagues.

**32. In the riverbed they intended ...**

- A) to try their luck at fishing.
- B) to collect more bent-up rings.
- C) to clean some of the mud there.
- D) No information in the excerpt.

**33. According to the guide, the narrator’s outfit was ...**

- A) not all safe enough.
- B) just perfect for the occasion.
- C) too mud-stained for their work.
- D) too exquisite for the occasion.



**34. The guide's nickname was *Bachelor Alf* ...**

- A) because he was a confirmed bachelor.
- B) since he was forty years old and was not married yet.
- C) as he had a rich collection of bent-up rings.
- D) for he could not bend the ring on his wedding day.

**35. Hundreds of years ago the decisive factor for the success of a man's proposal in marriage was ...**

- A) the lady's opinion.
- B) the correct choice of bride.
- C) the man's physical strength.
- D) All of the above.

**36. What do traditional tenth wedding anniversary gifts and bent-up rings found in a riverbed hundreds of years later share in common?**

- A) Both are vintage articles.
- B) The type of material they are made of.
- C) The same symbolic meaning they have.
- D) The occasion upon which they are given.

### ***Task Three***

***Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and answer each question with a sentence of your own. Write your answers on your answer sheet. Sentences copied word for word from the text will get 0 points.***

Breakfast in Paris, lunch in Frankfurt and dinner in Vienna – all without the hassle and frustration of flying.

Imagine a network of modern, super-fast and comfortable trains hurtling between every major city in the European Union, providing a reliable, comfortable and sustainable alternative to air travel.

In an attempt to cut carbon emissions, the EU leaders launched a grand plan to double high-speed rail use by 2030 and triple current levels by 2050.

Unlike many parts of the world, Europe already has thousands of kilometres of dedicated high-speed railway. In France, Germany and Spain rail travel has been transformed over the last 40 years, but it still remains largely focused on domestic markets.

Building lines across international borders, even within the European Union, can create tension over who pays for what, how the contracts are allocated, conflicting national standards and regulations and a number of other obstacles.

For decades it's been too easy to kick difficult projects down the road until they become someone else's problem. Even where international high-speed lines have been built – often at enormous cost – stifling bureaucracy and high access charges are preventing some routes from fulfilling their potential. Others, such as Paris-London via the Channel Tunnel and Paris-Brussels-Amsterdam are more successful but could – and should – be luring many more passengers away from short-haul air travel.

Now European policymakers have committed to a new study highlighting the numerous benefits of an expanded high-speed rail network connecting national capitals and major cities. They will investigate how to pay for tens of thousands of kilometres of new lines and how a radical transformation of the continent's rail network can help the EU deliver on its 'Green Deal' objective of carbon neutrality by 2050. Some of that expansion will come on new routes that are planned or under construction but many more will be needed to facilitate the vision of European leaders.

Reaching an agreement on which routes to prioritize, which cities will benefit (and which will miss out) will cause huge arguments between competing interests. With the shape of the final network likely to have a massive influence on the future development of Europe over the next 100 years, cities will be desperate to stake their claim.

**37. What is the EU's plan for high-speed rail use by the mid-21 century?**

**38. What are the two reasons mentioned in the text for the European Union to want to replace airplanes with high-speed rail network?**

**39. What is the main disadvantage of the existing high-speed railway travel in European countries like Germany and Spain?**

**40. Why can building high-speed railways across borders cause disagreement between the EU countries?**

**41. What two things prevent the existing high-speed international lines from operating at full capacity?**

**42. What will be the two major benefits of the study conducted by European policymakers on expanding the high-speed rail network?**

**43. Why will it not be easy to reach an agreement in the EU on which rail routes to prioritize?**

## ***WRITING***

**You are required to do BOTH tasks.**

**Внимание: В случай на непристоен език, плагиатство или текст, идентичен с този на друг ученик, на съответния текст се присъждат 0 точки.**

**44. Read the task and write a formal letter (120 – 130 words) including the suggested prompts.**

**The earth's resources are limited, yet a lot of them are wasted on a daily basis.** Write a letter to your mayor outlining a plan to save water, electricity or food (focus on one natural resource). In your letter you should:

- explain why you chose to focus on this particular resource;
- suggest measures that should be taken to reduce its waste;
- speculate about the effect of the proposed measures.

Sign your letter with **John Smith / Jane Smith**.

**Писмен текст с обем под 65 думи или текст, изцяло несъответстващ на темата, се оценява с 0 (нула) точки.**

**45. Read the task and write an essay (200 – 220 words), expressing your opinion on the set topic.**

**What makes a good team leader?** State your opinion and support it with arguments and examples. You should consider the following:

- his/her personal qualities;
- his/her interpersonal skills;
- whether leaders are born or made.

**Писмен текст с обем под 110 думи или текст, изцяло несъответстващ на темата, се оценява с 0 (нула) точки.**