

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО И НАУКАТА
ДЪРЖАВЕН ЗРЕЛОСТЕН ИЗПИТ ПО

АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК

23 август 2024 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. It was Jackson Pollock's father who shaped the future artist's imagination from early childhood.

A) True B) False

2. As an artist, Jackson Pollock belonged to the school of "primitive" art.

A) True B) False

3. The years of the Great Depression were a time of great luck for Jackson Pollock.

A) True B) False

4. The famous modern art collector Peggy Guggenheim bestowed quite some favours on Jackson Pollock in recognition of his mastery.

A) True B) False

12. In the 15th century, the Archduke of Austria ...

- A) made diamond engagement rings very popular across Europe.
- B) considered diamond rings extremely extravagant.
- C) was among the first to give his bride a diamond ring.
- D) found some diamond mines in South Africa.

13. When Queen Victoria married Albert in 1840 ...

- A) black was already the colour of mourning.
- B) white was the symbol of purity and chastity.
- C) all wedding dresses were adorned with orange blossoms.
- D) brides would often not have any special wedding dress.

14. According to Roman law, 10 wedding guests were to be dressed like the bride and the groom because ...

- A) the Romans considered ten a lucky number.
- B) the Romans were quite superstitious.
- C) the newlywed couple needed moral support.
- D) it was a religious requirement to be strictly observed.

15. Originally, the tradition that the groom should not see the bride before the wedding ceremony aimed ...

- A) to avoid humiliating scenes before the wedding.
- B) to keep the wedding dress a secret.
- C) to keep the bride safe from evil.
- D) to help the business of the groom's family.

Task Four

You will hear a text twice. Before you listen to it for the first time, you have 4 minutes 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. Alexandra Park was cast in the role of princess Eleanor...

- A) since her tape was most innovative.
- B) as she moved to Sydney.
- C) by sheer coincidence.
- D) for the cast director was her friend.

17. Why did Alexandra Park find the role of princess Eleanor irresistibly appealing?

- A) She felt she could do a really good impersonation.
- B) The character of the princess was exemplary in every way.
- C) She herself was about to become a princess and needed a role model.
- D) The character of Elizabeth Hurley was so vulnerable.

18. Alexandra Park built up the character of Eleanor ...

- A) on her close observations of royalty and their ways.
- B) by focusing on disobedient royal heirs, like Prince Harry.
- C) on what she found out about the naughtiest of British princesses.
- D) on what she had gathered about various exceptional women.

19. To Alexandra Park, Eleanor is ...

- A) merely a frivolous, fun-loving young lady.
- B) a good-natured and respectful person at heart.
- C) a funny, good-for-nothing youngster.
- D) a moody and temperamental spoilt child.

20. According to Alexandra Park, monarchies still fascinate people ...

- A) for they give food to people's imagination.
- B) because of their beneficial role to social development.
- C) as monarchs always try to be in the centre of the public eye.
- D) since most royals are very imaginative.

Task Five

You will hear a text twice. Before you listen to it for the first time, you have 4 minutes 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. According to Yordan Radichkov, a big part of “native land” is often associated with ...

- A) the smells a certain season brings.
- B) the house in which you grew up.
- C) the voices of your closest people.
- D) homemade jam and pickles.

22. Pickled vegetables ...

- A) are a typically Bulgarian culinary achievement.
- B) are a registered trademark of the Balkan countries.
- C) have been relegated to a remnant from the past.
- D) have always been prepared in places with four clear-cut seasons.

23. Pickling ...

- A) is a relatively new invention.
- B) is one of the oldest methods of food preservation.
- C) makes all vegetables taste like fermented cabbage.
- D) dates back to the Middle Ages.

24. The technology for making sauerkraut was first used by ...

- A) the Germans.
- B) the English.
- C) the East Asians.
- D) the North Americans.

25. For most Bulgarians, homemade pickled vegetables are ...

- A) the only winter meal.
- B) the best source of energy.
- C) the finest example of Bulgarian cuisine.
- D) more than mere food.

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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.

Any self-respecting geographer will tell you that the longest river in the world is the Nile. Africa's main waterway stretches for about 6,650 kilometres and flows through 11 different countries. Very soon, however, the Nile's championship may go down in history – a team of Brazilian scientists set out on a 7,000-kilometre journey to unravel the last mysteries surrounding the Amazon's headwaters and prove that it is, in fact, the longest river on the planet.

The Amazon already holds another record: it is the most water-filled river in the world, carrying as much as four times the volume of water of its main competitor. But for two centuries, scientists have been debating where exactly its sources are. The generally accepted opinion points to the beginning of the Apurimac River in the southern part of Peru. But other geographers claim that the most distant springs are actually those of Mantaro, in northern Peru. The current expedition, led by Yuri Sanada, will explore Mantaro's upper reaches with rafts and specially designed pedal- and solar-powered boats.

A second expedition will set off in early 2025 from the generally accepted headwaters of the Amazon – the Apurimac River. Yuri Sanada is confident that when the two expeditions complete their explorations, the first place of the Nile will go down in history.

26. The Nile is currently regarded as the longest river in the world.

A) True

B) False

“No idea. A few years back, a biergarten tried to set up shop. Would’ve been perfect, but heard they couldn’t get permits. There’s actually a service door over there ...” He pointed at the left end of the clearing, where a few bushes stood taller than me. “Probably leads to a subcellar or something.” A buzzing noise suddenly came from his pocket, and he withdrew a small walkie-talkie. “That’s me,” he said. “Always a pipe to install or fix.”

“Well, thanks for the info,” I said.

“No worries.” He waved walking away, and I listened closely to the steady sound of his footsteps as they faded out of earshot.

31. Most probably the narrator was ...

- A) just a curious tourist.
- B) a construction worker.
- C) a veterinary doctor.
- D) a scholar doing research.

32. The place the narrator wanted to investigate to her knowledge was once ...

- A) a biergarten.
- B) a pharmacy.
- C) a shrub hotbed.
- D) an architectural memorial.

33. The stranger who came after her turned out to be ...

- A) a construction manager.
- B) an experienced womanizer.
- C) a professional plumber.
- D) a street photographer.

34. On hearing about the narrator’s husband, the stranger ...

- A) didn’t seem to believe her.
- B) lost all interest in her.
- C) got the creeps.
- D) went to check the husband’s whereabouts.

35. The main interest of the narrator lay with ...

- A) the shrubs in the clearing.
- B) the interior of the wine cellar.
- C) a certain apothecary.
- D) abandoned sites downtown.

36. The stranger, for his part, would have liked ...

- A) to see a beerhouse in the vicinity.
- B) to set up a shop on the site.
- C) to be allowed to explore the place.
- D) to get rid of that creepy area.

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.

Interviewer: Dear friends, today our guests are the 2023 Booker Prize winner Georgi Gospodinov for his novel ‘Time Shelter’, and its translator Angela Rodel. Critics have been more than favourable. As a start, I’ll quote just some of them. *The Guardian* writes: ‘[Gospodinov] draws out plausible and multi-dimensional characters from the broken details of their fractured memories. His transitions – between humour and sadness, resonating tragedy, pathos and ironic observation – are never intrusive.’ According to *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, ‘We have grown so afraid of the future that we can’t even retreat into the past. Instead, we have chosen inertia on any number of issues. On aggression. On climate change. So we wait, unsheltered, hoping that all will be well.’ *The Times* points out: ‘This is not a realist piece. It is very much a genre-busting novel of ideas.’ Now let’s hear what our guests would like to share with us about the book.

Georgi Gospodinov: My urge to write this book came from the sense that something had gone wrong in the clockworks of time. You could catch the scent of anxiety hanging in the air, you could touch it. The world’s disintegration with the encroachment of populism and playing the card of the ‘great past’ in the US and in Europe provoked me. Brexit was the other trigger. So I wanted to tell this story about the “referendums on the past”, undertaken by every European country. How does one live with a deficit of meaning and future – this is the central question I try to find an answer to in my novel.

Interviewer: What are the cultural influences behind ‘Time Shelter’?

Georgi Gospodinov: When I wrote *Time Shelter*, one of the books that was near to me was *The Magic Mountain* by Thomas Mann, because when you write a book about time you need a Thomas Mann book. And also, because it’s a book about memory, Marcel Proust’s novel *In Search of Lost Time*. I would add some poems and some poets, like W. H. Auden and the famous poem *1 September, 1939*. This poem plays a key role in the novel. Some songs were very important because it’s a novel about memory and we know that songs unlock our memory. Songs like ‘Hotel California’ by The Eagles, many songs by The Beatles. ‘Alabama’ by The Doors was particularly important; it is written by Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht and the whole story of the song is in the novel.’

Interviewer: Angela, what makes Bulgarian literature unique?

Angela Rodel: It’s a relatively young literature. So I think Bulgarian writers are excited, enthusiastic and willing to take chances on structure, on types of stories. I find Bulgarian novels so interesting because they really don’t follow any fixed mould. People are willing to take chances more than with a long-established literature and its heavy canon which imposes certain genre expectations. Poetry is one of the central pillars of Bulgarian literature and so the sound of the language is always very important – even in prose. In general, what I love about Bulgarians is that they just love to tell stories and have always been very interested in how many different ways you can tell classic human stories. In Bulgaria there’s a really strong tradition of folk storytelling, amazing epic songs.

37. What two outstanding stylistic features of Georgi Gospodinov’s novel ‘Time Shelter’ are mentioned in the quote from *The Gardian*?

38. What three processes in modern society provoked Georgi Gospodinov to write his book?

39. What key issue does Georgi Gospodinov explore in his novel?

40. What arts and genres were a stimulus to Georgi Gospodinov when he wrote his novel ‘Time Shelter’?

41. According to Angela Rodel, how do Bulgarian literature and prose writings compare to those of other nations?

42. What does Angela Rodel think of Bulgarian writers in general?

43. Which is the genre that has always been of key significance to Bulgarian literature and what do different genres of Bulgarian literature have in common, in the opinion of Angela Rodel?

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.

You recently stayed in a popular seaside hotel and you were not satisfied with the service provided. Write a letter to the hotel manager in which you:

- explain what the problem was;
- give details about what happened;
- make suggestions for improvement.

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.

Every day we make various choices from what to have for breakfast to what career path to choose. In choosing what career path to follow, how important would the following factors be to you:

- family expectations;
- job satisfaction;
- job salary and perks.

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