

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО И НАУКАТА
ДЪРЖАВЕН ЗРЕЛОСТЕН ИЗПИТ ПО
АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК
29 август 2014 г., Вариант 1

PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Directions: *You will hear a text about Nelson Mandela 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.*

1. Nelson Mandela

- A) came from a royal family background.
- B) got the nickname "Rolihlahla" from a school teacher.
- C) acted as a city chief before going to university.
- D) studied political science at university.

2. As a member and a leader of the African National Congress, Mandela

- A) actively campaigned against racism, poverty and inequality.
- B) always supported non-violent forms of protest.
- C) achieved his political demands by using violence only.
- D) was responsible for the death of many innocent people.

3. While in prison, Nelson Mandela

- A) publicly renounced his beliefs and ideals.
- B) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- C) attracted international support for his cause.
- D) voted in the first multiracial general elections.

4. As a president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela

- A) was elected and supported only by non-white citizens.
- B) continued his fight against the legacy of apartheid.
- C) could not prevent a civil war from breaking out.
- D) made his last public appearance at a football World Cup.

5. Nelson Mandela day

- A) is celebrated on 5 December to commemorate Mandela's sacrifice.
- B) was proclaimed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu last year.
- C) is about showing you are proud to be African for 67 minutes.
- D) is to inspire individuals to change the world for the better.

Directions: *You will hear a text about beavers 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.*

6. The expression “an eager beaver”

- A) refers to a type of rodent living in water.
- B) is associated with hard-working people.
- C) was coined during the settlement of America.
- D) is in danger of becoming extinct soon.

7. Unlike mice and rats, beavers

- A) are very small.
- B) don't have a tail.
- C) have sharp front teeth.
- D) spend a lot of time in water.

8. Beavers

- A) were brought to America from Europe.
- B) cannot survive in the cold.
- C) build dams out of tree branches and mud.
- D) create small lakes by cutting holes in dams.

9. The fur of the beaver

- A) is usually quite thick and black in colour.
- B) wasn't considered valuable by American settlers.
- C) was used in the construction of water dams.
- D) used to be a means of payment in trade transactions.

10. Beavers

- A) couldn't be found anywhere in the West.
- B) acted as guides to the settlers in the West.
- C) can be spotted not far from the US capital city.
- D) are still on the point of extinction in America.

Directions: *You will hear a text about a bad travelling experience 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.*

11. The speaker was going to Rome on holiday.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

12. She could not catch the connecting train for the airport because she arrived late at the railway station.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

13. She decided to travel by taxi because there was no other way to get to the airport on time.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

14. The taxi fare was equal to the price of the ticket for a regular flight.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

15. The speaker couldn't pay the taxi driver because someone had stolen her purse.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

PART TWO: READING COMPREHENSION

Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B, C or D, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

Every language has its own ways of expressing strong emotions – surprise, shock, anger. The expressions range from mild to strong, from exclamations to curses and swear words. The ones that are accepted in public speech change through the years as social rules change.

At times, only very mild expressions are socially accepted. Some of the most popular expressions are those that are guaranteed not to offend anyone. Most of these exclamations have survived from earlier days, and their original meanings are long since forgotten.

"Great Scott!" is a good example. It expresses surprise or shock. You might say to someone, "Great Scott! I did not know she was married."

Language expert Webb Garrison tells an interesting story about the expression. Just before the Civil War, the Whig political party was making a last effort to remain a part of American political life. For the election of 1852, the Whigs wanted to offer a colourful candidate for president.

They thought that Winfield Scott would be the right candidate. In his 30 years as a general, Winfield Scott had become one of the best known military leaders in the country. During the war with Mexico he had captured Vera Cruz and occupied Mexico City. So, party leaders thought that if any Whig could be elected president, it was Winfield Scott.

General Scott quickly accepted the nomination and began campaigning. It did not take long for the public to realize that General Scott really liked General Scott. His speeches were full of praise for himself. It was evident that he thought he was the greatest candidate who had ever lived. Soon his political opponents began to make fun of him. They called him "Great Scott". General Scott did not come close to winning the presidency. But his name still lives as part of the English language.

Other popular exclamations combine "holy" with other words. "Holy mackerel!" is one that expresses surprise or wonder. It comes from earlier days when the Roman Catholic Church ruled that Catholics must not eat meat on Fridays. Since mackerel was a common and cheap fish in the United States, it was often eaten for dinner on Friday.

"Holy cow" is a similar expression. It comes from the Hindu belief that cows are sacred. It, too, expresses surprise. For example, "Holy cow! I did not know it was so late."

16. Ways of expressing strong emotions

- A) are identical in all languages.
- B) have rarely changed over the years.
- C) vary in intensity and social acceptability.
- D) are easily traced back to their original roots.

17. The most popular exclamations

- A) express surprise, wonder or shock.
- B) are the ones containing swear words.
- C) are those generally considered acceptable.
- D) have been around for many years.

18. The expression "Great Scott!"

- A) originates from Scotland.
- B) is used to express approval.
- C) was first used by General Scott.
- D) has been studied by Webb Garrison.

19. General Winfield Scott

- A) distinguished himself on several occasions during the Civil War.
- B) was a renowned military leader for about three decades.
- C) was not a member of the Whig party until the presidential elections.
- D) was generally liked and praised by the people for his modesty.

20. The expressions "Holy mackerel!" and "Holy cow!"

- A) are used to express the same strong emotion.
- B) are based on the same religious belief.
- C) are related to the eating habits of Americans.
- D) should not be used on Fridays if you are a believer.

Directions: *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B or C, marking your answers on your answer sheet.*

The Early Days of Mountain-Climbing

Modern alpinists try to climb mountains by a route which will give them good sport, and the more difficult it is, the more highly it is regarded. In the pioneering days, however, this was not the case at all. The early climbers were looking for the easiest way to the top because the summit was the prize they sought, especially if it had never been attained before. It is true that during their explorations they often faced difficulties and dangers of the most terrifying nature, equipped in a manner which would make a modern climber shudder at the thought, but they did not go out of their way to look for such excitement. They had a single aim – the top!

It is hard for us to realize nowadays how difficult it was for the pioneers. Except for one or two places like Zermatt and Chamonix, which rapidly became popular, Alpine villages tended to be poor settlements cut off from civilization by the high mountains. Such inns as there were, were generally dirty and flea-ridden; the food was simply local cheese accompanied by bread often twelve months old, all washed down with coarse wine. Often a valley boasted no inn at all, and climbers found shelter wherever they could – sometimes with the local priest (who was usually as poor as his parishioners), sometimes with shepherds or cheese-makers. Invariably the background was the same: dirt and poverty, and very uncomfortable. For men in the habit of eating seven-course dinners and sleeping between fine linen sheets at home, the change to the Alps must have been very hard indeed.

21. For modern alpinists often the challenges of the route matter as much as actually reaching their final destination.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

22. The early climbers had to overcome fewer difficulties on their way to the mountain peaks.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

23. Alpine villages with good conditions for skiing developed more quickly than the rest of the mountain settlements.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

24. The early alpinists never carried tents with them but took shelter with local people.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

25. We can infer that the early alpinists were usually well-off people from an upper-class background.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among A, B or C, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

Future Champions

Experiments have proved that children can be instructed in swimming at a very early age. At a special swimming pool in Los Angeles, children became expert at holding their breath under water even before they can walk. Babies of two months old do not appear to be reluctant to enter the water. It is not long before they are so accustomed to swimming under water that they can pick up weights from the floor of the pool. A game that is very popular with these young swimmers is the underwater tricycle race. Tricycles are lined up on the floor of the pool seven feet under water. The children compete against each other to reach the other end of the pool. Many pedal their tricycles, but most of them prefer to push or drag them. Some children can cover the whole length of the pool without coming up for breath even once. Whether they will become future Olympic champions, only time will tell.

26. The children at the swimming pool in Los Angeles are training for competing in Olympic games.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

27. Children cannot swim under water until they learn how to walk.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

28. Children who can pick weights from the floor of the pool already know how to swim under water.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

29. Only children who know how to cycle when out of water take part in the underwater tricycle race.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

30. During the race, only the children who pedal their tricycles have to come to the surface of the water to breathe.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

PART THREE: USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze

Directions: Read the text below and for each numbered gap choose the letter (A, B, C or D) of the word or phrase that best suits the gap, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

The story of the Pilgrims and their Indian neighbours is familiar to most Americans, and many foreign visitors as well. It evokes powerful images of strength in the (31) of danger and hardship, of ships on storm-tossed oceans and winters on bleak New England shores, yet also of harvest, of Thanksgiving gatherings and golden autumnal afternoons. However, the historic reality which underlies this greeting card imagery is far more complex. The colonists who arrived in 1620 (32) to the new continent not only European (33) and technology, but also hopes, dreams and a Christian faith reflecting a decidedly seventeenth-century English view of the world.

The people we know as the Pilgrims have become so surrounded with legends that we tend to forget that they were real people. Against great (34), they courageously (35) the famous 1620 voyage and (36) the first New England colony, but they were still ordinary English men and women, not super heroes. If we really want to understand them, we must try to (37) the myths surrounding them and see them as they saw themselves.

They were English people who sought to (38) the religious controversies and economic problems of their time by (39) to America. As English people, the Pilgrims also (40) a vital secular culture, both learned and traditional. They lived in a time which accepted fairies and witches, (41) remedies and astrological virtues, seasonal festivals and folklore as real parts of their lives.

31.	A) eyes	B) head	C) face	D) meeting
32.	A) brought	B) fetched	C) conveyed	D) transmitted
33.	A) amenities	B) tools	C) gears	D) appliances
34.	A) drawbacks	B) hindrances	C) oddities	D) odds
35.	A) made	B) did	C) travelled	D) covered
36.	A) found	B) founded	C) set off	D) set out
37.	A) disclose	B) decline	C) dispel	D) disbelieve
38.	A) escape	B) run	C) break off	D) break away
39.	A) displacing	B) removing	C) replacing	D) moving
40.	A) divided	B) shared	C) distributed	D) joined
41.	A) bloom	B) grass	C) herbal	D) weed

42. Around the year 1800, Thomas Wedgwood made the first known attempt to capture the image in a camera obscura by of a light-sensitive substance.

- A) means B) instrument C) method D) a way

43. The participation of women in photography goes to the very origins of the process.

- A) forth B) into C) on D) back

44. Photography by indigenous peoples of the Americas is an art form that in contrast to photography by non-natives.

- A) gets B) stands C) sets D) stays

45. The oldest known dictionaries were Akkadian Empire cuneiform tablets with bilingual Sumerian-Akkadian wordlists, discovered in Ebla (modern Syria) and roughly 2300 BC.

- A) dated B) calendared C) determined D) recorded

Section Two: Sentence Completion

Directions: For each of the sentences below, choose the letter A, B, C or D of the word or phrase that best completes its meaning, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

46. The luggage looks rather heavy. _____ carry it for you?
A) Shall I B) Will I C) Would I D) Do I
47. _____ go to the concert than listen to that political speech.
A) We would rather B) We prefer C) We'd prefer D) We rather
48. _____ a celebrity has its advantages and disadvantages.
A) As being B) Been C) Being D) Be
49. _____ in loitering in the streets after midnight.
A) It's no point B) There is no point C) It isn't point D) There isn't point
50. I find my boss difficult to work with – he is always _____ my ideas.
A) criticize B) criticizes C) criticized D) criticizing

Section Three: Sentence Transformations

Directions: On your sheet for open-ended answers complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one.

51. Susan was so bored with the lecture that she almost fell asleep.
It was _____ that Susan almost fell asleep.
52. If the joke is better, the laugh is louder.
The _____, the _____.
53. Hardly had he called when I realized I missed him.
As soon _____.
54. The police officer reported that the stolen money had been found under the old bridge.
The stolen money _____ to _____ under the old bridge.
55. Kate continued to work for the library even after graduating from Harvard.
Kate went..... even after graduating from Harvard.
56. As I went past his house, I heard that he was shouting at someone in the garden.
Going past his house, _____ him _____ at someone in the garden.
57. We have received confirmation of Mr Jackson's resignation.
It has _____ that _____.
58. My parents started quarrelling 60 minutes ago and they are still doing it.
My parents _____ 60 minutes now.
59. 'Jack, where did you leave the documents last week?' Mrs Hill asked her employee.
Mrs Hill asked her employee _____ week.
60. They sold all the best stuff before I got there.
By the time I got there all _____.

PART FOUR: WRITING

Directions: *On your sheet for open-ended answers write a composition in standard English of about 160-170 words on **ONE** of the following topics, marking the topic you have chosen on the sheet:*

1. What comes to your mind on seeing a falling star?
2. Which is the greatest moral value of our times? Support your opinion with arguments.

Mind that if you submit two texts as well as in case of indecent language, plagiarism, identical texts or if your composition is under 80 words or totally irrelevant to the chosen topic it will get 0 points.