

*Всероссийская олимпиада школьников по английскому языку 2025-2026 уч.г.
Муниципальный этап. 7-8 классы*

LISTENING 7-8

Time: 25 minutes

Maximum points – 20

“The English are not happy unless they are miserable.” – *George Orwell* (1903–1950), English author

“The readiness of the English to apologise for something they haven’t done is remarkable.” – *Henry Hitchings* (1974–), British author, reviewer and critic

“You often hear that the English climate has had a profound effect upon the English temperament. I don’t believe it. I believe they were always like that.”
– *Will Cuppy* (1884–1949), American humourist and literary critic

Listen to a text about ‘Englishness’ and do the following tasks (1-20). You will hear the text twice. Now you have some time to read the tasks.

For questions **1 - 8** decide if the statements are **true (T)** or **false (F)**.

- 1 Talking about the weather is a common topic among English people.
- 2 The English have a habit of expressing dissatisfaction with everyday problems, and like to complain, especially about bad food.
- 3 Politeness is a strong habit in English culture supported by the frequent use of ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ in basic conversations.
- 4 There are some sayings to prove that the English value private life more than people in other countries.
- 5 A number of events prove that the English are historically isolated, and show their dislike of closer integration with Europe and a preference for independence.
- 6 English people abroad are willing to adapt to foreign customs and try to avoid English-speaking environments.
- 7 The way the English behave abroad hasn’t changed much since Shakespeare’s time.
- 8 The positive traits of the English are having a strong sense of humour, being helpful, and generally punctual.

For items **9-20** do the tasks about the **words, expressions or grammar structures** from the audiotext. For items **9-11** provide **the realia** from the recording for the **clues** below.

E.g. 0 an English writer and critic, remembered for his many clever remarks (mostly recorded by his friend James Boswell, who wrote his life story) and his *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755); with the honorary title of Doctor from Oxford University (1775), whose house in Gough Square, London, is now a museum. ; the English poet and playwright who is often described as the greatest writer in the English language, who wrote 36 plays for the London stage including comedies *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *As You Like It*, tragedies *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet*, history plays *Richard II* and *Henry IV* and romances, *The Winter’s Tale* and *The Tempest*.
..... Samuel Johnson; William Shakespeare

9 The unit of money in the UK, worth 100 pence (symbol £); also (in Britain and North America) a unit for measuring weight, equal to 0.454 of a kilogram (abbreviation lb) is *a*; while the money that you get back when you have paid for something giving more money than the amount it costs; coins rather than paper money is

10 A large breakfast of hot cooked food including bacon and eggs is *(a)*; while fish covered with batter and then fried and served with pieces of fried potato, often eaten in the UK as a takeaway food is

11 An economic and political organization, based in Brussels, that many European countries belong to (abbreviation *EU*) is *the*; while the noun used to refer to the departure of the UK from it, a blend of *the name of the country (also the adjective)* and *a way out of a public building or vehicle* is

Check sentences **12-14** for **mistakes**, and write the correct word which is needed in the sentence instead of the wrong one.

E.g. 0 The English prefer to keep silent about a poor ~~mill~~ in a restaurant. **meal**

12 The English complain about the weather, traffic and the state of the economics.

13 Language is the quay to understanding those around you.

14 If you ask her about her new boyfriend, you'll be told to do your own business.

For items **15-16** solve the '**sound**' puzzle and write the missing word for each sentence.

E.g. 0 To complete the sentence '*It's all right to borrow money occasionally, but don't let it become a _ _ _ _ _*', think of the 8th letter of the alphabet and a small animal with soft fur, long ears and a short tail that lives in holes in the ground or is kept as a pet. **habit** (H+rabbit)

15 To complete the sentence '*The letter had clearly been written in _ _ _ _ _*', think of the proverb '*_ _ _ _ _ makes waste*'.

16 To unscramble the letters and get an adjective that means *only interested in your own country, ideas, etc. and not in those from outside*, think of *an area of land that is almost surrounded by water but is joined to a larger piece of land* LAURINS _ _ _ _ _

For item **17** decide on the correct **synonym** to be used in the sentence. Write the words **in the order** they must be used in the explanations.

E.g. 0 **Opinion** or **view**? Both mean 'feelings or thoughts about smb/smth; an attitude towards smth'. '.....' also means 'advice from a professional person': *I'd like a second before I make a decision*; while '.....' also means 'a way of understanding/thinking about smth': *He has an optimistic of life, opinion view*

17 **Complain** or **grumble**? '.....' means 'to say that you are annoyed, unhappy or not satisfied about smb/smth': *I'm going to to the manager about this*; while '.....' means '(rather informal, disapproving) to complain about smb/smth, esp. smth that is not very serious': *I can't bear people who about the weather*.

Future teachers prepared sentences **18-20** to illustrate some **grammar or vocabulary points** based on the script, but made a few **mistakes**. Act as their teacher and **check** their sentences. If the sentence is **correct**, put a tick (✓); if it contains a **mistake**, put a cross (✗).

E.g. 0 The word *privacy* is pronounced /'prɪvəsi/ in British English (BrE) and /'praɪvəsi/ in American English (AmE). ✓

E.g. 00 You use 'a' to mean 'one' or 'one' in such phrases as 'a/one thousand years', but a number in such phrases as 'two/three, etc. thousands years'. ✗ (two/three, etc. thousand)

18 The form *a* of the indefinite article is used before consonant sounds: *a visitor*; and the form *an* before vowel sounds: *an island*, *an Englishmen*; and the form *the* of the definite article is pronounced /ðə/ before consonant sounds: *the /ðə/ British*; and /ði/ before vowels: *the /ði/ English*.

19 We can put a *yes/no* question asking what people think inside a *wh*-question; such questions use similar intonation and word order: *When does he think will the fighting end?*

20 A person who is visiting a place on holiday is a *holidaymaker* in BrE and a *vacationer* in AmE: *The resort attracts thousands of British holidaymakers.*

Transfer the answers to the answer sheet.

READING 7-8

Time: 35 minutes

Maximum points – 20

“In the age of social media, the line between authenticity and illusion is blurred – what influencers sell is often more fantasy than fact.” – **Abhysheq Shukla**, an international speaker, author, political analyst, business advisor and mentor

Read an article about **a social media influencer** and do the following tasks (1-20).

SCREEN QUEEN

Lil Miquela is a successful model and is – in internet slang – living her best life. Her face has been in glossy magazines and displayed on billboards around the world. She’s been interviewed by *Vogue* and appeared in advertising campaigns for smartphones. She’s even launched a music career and released her own songs. She’s friends with famous actors and musicians, hanging out in *LA*, wearing designer clothes, posting cute pics with her cute friends. Miquela is a modern *millennial*, living life for the benefit of social media platforms. Miquela is an influencer, too. She has 2 million followers and uses her popularity to promote luxury goods and designer brands like *Calvin Klein* and *Prada*. Companies send her free sample products and pay her to advertise. They know that people are more easily persuaded by a person they think they trust and admire, and Miquela is everything young people want to be: a social media influencer with a very cool lifestyle. “I love your style,” says one fan. “You’re so pretty. I wish I looked like you,” adds another. Miquela has insider knowledge about what’s fashionable and what isn’t, she knows the best places to hang out and when the brands she wears are on special offer. She’s perfect for a company’s brand image and she can sell almost anything: her clothes, her mobile phone, her jewellery and even her hair products. It’s not surprising she’s worth more than £100 million. Miquela knows her audience and ‘humanises’ the stuff she sells, but exactly how ‘human’ is she?

If you follow Miquela, you might notice that she always looks perfect: cute hair, two little pushed-up buns, and just the right amount of adorable freckles ... almost *too* perfect. Maybe that’s because Miquela isn’t *technically* real! She’s actually a computer-generated image, a life-like robot, acting as a human, a digital *avatar* placed into real life situations, the creation of a *Silicon Valley* technology company. In 2016, when she first started posting, it wasn’t clear to people what she was. When she finally told her fans ‘I’m not human,’ some of her younger followers were shocked – they thought she was a real 19-year-old. A few were angry – they felt they had been tricked. But the majority of people still followed her: “I don’t care if she’s an AI a robot,” said one. “She’s still cool.” According to a study by social content agency, Fullscreen, nearly a fourth of *Gen Z* and *millennials* would describe a virtual influencer as “authentic.” Some ask her, “Do you feel pain? Can you actually eat food?” Others ask what her favourite song is or where she currently lives.

Miquela isn’t real, but being an avatar has some advantages. Unlike real influencers, she never has a bad day, she never gets tired and she never makes mistakes. She’s less expensive than a celebrity. Companies can control what she says and does, so she poses no risk. She’s also digitally designed to attract and condition consumers, influencing their

purchasing behaviour. Companies who create this type of avatar research how young people can be persuaded, and what type of voice and manner they trust most. They create avatars that can mimic these characteristics so they can target potential customers effectively. Like podcasts, like short-form videos, or like selfies, virtual influencers can be used for whatever purpose the creator desires. We knew the robots were coming for our low-end **menial** jobs, but we didn't stop to think that they were coming for influencers. With the rise of social media and artificial intelligence, virtual influencers are becoming more of a **mainstay** trend for big-name brands. They are the future of ads, of fashion, of commerce. In a few years, marketing agencies will be using avatars like Miquela more and more, and they will generate **serious** incomes. Even now someone who doesn't exist is more successful than most real people.

What is more, in an era of Photoshop and Facetune, where everything is edited and modified, the lines of reality are getting increasingly blurred. Should we be worried? Maybe. Human simulations are not *that* original of a concept and have existed for years, from the virtual music band *Gorillaz* (Damon Albarn and Jamie Hewlett have been successfully animating them for over two decades, snagging *Grammy* **noms** and even appearing on *MTV*'s documentary television show *Cribs*) to robot receptionists in smart hotels. Lil Miquela is more technically complicated than these characters, but not by much. However, social media avatars like Miquela are more realistic and engaging than ever before because today's animated characters have a life worth following. Christopher Travers, founder of VirtualHumans.org, a leading online resource dedicated to the virtual influencer industry, says they "represent the ongoing merger of humanity and the internet." He believes, "virtual influencers enhance and humanize the world's relationship with digital experiences."

Thus, the future of influencers is digital beings who actually are powered by AI. But what we're humanizing may be unfit for personification. Some psychologists are concerned about the effect such social media influencers could have on children, especially if they are looked up to as role models. "Avatars are confusing because they are 'mixed reality,'" explains one psychologist. "They're *CGI* characters, but they behave like real people and have 'friends' in the real world. The companies that create them don't want to educate or empower kids, they just want to sell stuff by making us feel insecure. We need to be aware of this." Another popular demerit of virtual influencers is their unrealistic beauty. As Kaitlyn Tiffany for Vox puts it, "They are physically perfect women made of pixels, standing in for women who have long been pressured to *become* physically perfect, without the advantage of that being possible." Even supermodels are incapable of reaching beauty standards set by things that are not even alive. "There needs to be internet literacies for young people if virtual influencers are going to become more common," advises Dr. Jamie Cohen, an expert on digital culture. "The internet did not come with an instruction **manual**, but knowledge of how virtual influencers operate, who operates them, why they operate them, and who they are for, is crucially important to a consumer culture."

The illusion of "**attainable** beauty" is just **the tip of the iceberg**. *It's all fake*. However, virtual influencers do not *make* social media fake. Although they are specially designed to persuade us, they are not that different from real influencers, who can also have fake personalities, false friendships and unbelievable lifestyles. If Miquela is fictional, if we **question** her reality, should we start examining the truths all those other influencers are living? Miquela is a performance of reality framed within the unreality of the internet. She highlights the fakeness of the performance of fashion by pretending to be real. Perhaps it's better to have screen queens like Lil Miquela or fake people who pretend to be real ... instead of real people who are fake. Technology is a tool to better understand ourselves, after all. A black mirror. Miquela isn't *real*. Which begs the question, are *we* any better?

For items **1-6** choose the correct options.

1 Why do people listen to and follow Lil Miquela?

- A Because she offers discounts on products.
- B Because they like her style and way of life.
- C Because she only promotes eco-friendly brands.
- D All of the above.

2 How did Miquela's followers react when they found out she was an avatar?

- A Most stopped following her immediately.
- B All her followers were shocked and disappointed.
- C Only older followers cared about her true identity.
- D Many were indifferent and continued following her.

3 Why do companies prefer working with avatars like Lil Miquela instead of real celebrities?

- A They never make mistakes or experience bad days.
- B They cost less and never get tired.
- C They are fully controllable by companies.
- D All of the above.

4 How do companies design avatars to maximize their persuasive power?

- A By copying the style of popular celebrities exactly.
- B By constantly changing their appearance and behaviour.
- C By researching and simulating human traits that audiences find trustworthy.
- D By making avatars completely fictional with no real-world connections.

5 What concern do psychologists express about avatars like Miquela?

- A They confuse children between what's real and fake and can affect them negatively.
- B They don't provide any educational value.
- C They lead to addiction to video games and reduce physical activity levels.
- D Both B and C.

6 Which statement summarizes the author's final point regarding virtual and real-life influencers?

- A Virtual influencers are superior to real ones.
- B Both can present artificial personalities and lifestyles to their audiences.
- C It's impossible to distinguish between real and virtual influencers.
- D Real influencers are more honest and engage with followers emotionally.

For items **7-10** find in the text and provide the **names** for the given **clues**.

E.g. 0 An American science fiction film series and media franchise created by director James Cameron. The films follow a U.S. Marine named Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) who becomes part of a program in which human colonizers explore and exploit an alien world called Pandora, inhabited by a humanoid species called the Na'vi. **Avatar**

7 A magazine aimed at women published every month in many countries including Britain (since 1916) and the US (since 1892), which contains articles about fashion, beauty, the arts and other subjects, and has a lot of influence in the fashion world, is ; while an Italian luxury fashion house founded in 1913 in Milan, mentioned in the name of a 2006 American comedy-drama film directed by David Frankel, which stars Meryl Streep (as Miranda Priestly, a demanding editor of a fashion magazine) and Anne Hathaway (as Andy Sachs, a journalist and Miranda's PA), is

8 The area in California where there are many companies connected with the computer and electronics industries, sometimes used to refer to any area where there are a lot of computer companies, is ; while the abbreviation for the second largest city in the US and the largest in California, a busy port and an important industrial centre, famous for Hollywood and Beverly Hills and such tourist attractions as Sunset Boulevard, the Hollywood Bowl, Universal Pictures and Rodeo Drive, is

9 One of the awards for achievement in the music industry given every year by the US National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences is called

10 People born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s; members of Generation Y, are; while the group of people born between the late 1990s and the early 2010s, who are regarded as being very familiar with the internet are

What do **the words in bold** mean in the text? Use **context clues** to identify their meanings. For items 11-16 match 5 words and 1 phrase with their meanings (a-l). There are some extra meanings you do not need to use.

E.g. 0 m 00 g

11 noms	a a sentence, phrase or word that asks for information
12 the tip of the iceberg	b the upper part of an extremely large mass of ice floating in the sea
13 manual	c (of work, etc.) involving using the hands or physical strength
14 menial	d (informal) abbreviation of 'norms'
15 mainstay	e have or express doubts about smth
16 question	f a book that tells you how to do or operate smth, especially one that comes with a machine, etc. when you buy it
0 serious	g that you can achieve
00 attainable	h (informal) short for the acts of suggesting or choosing smb as a candidate in an election, or for a job or an award
	i only a small part of a much larger problem
	j bad or dangerous; that must be treated as important; needing to be thought about carefully; not only for pleasure
	k (of work) not considered important; not needing special skills and often boring or badly paid
	l the most important part of smth, providing support for everything else
	m (informal) used to emphasize that there is a large amount of smth

Media and advertising vocabulary. Read the following paragraph and check whether the **words/word combinations in bold** (in groups of twos or threes, marked **17-20**) match the given **definitions**. If everything is **correct**, put a tick (✓), if there is a **problem** with the definitions within the group, put a cross (✕). Study the examples first (**0, 00**).

E.g. 0 ✕ (the definitions are mixed-up) 00 ✓ (the definitions are correct)

In today's consumer culture, big-name designer brands often **17A) advertise** (*help sell a product, service, etc. or make it more popular by offering it at a special price*) their designer clothes and **0A) luxury goods** (*(informal) used to refer to products or goods, when the name is not important or when it is obvious what you are talking about*) through **00A) glossy magazines** (*printed on shiny paper, high-quality publications with professional photos, often used for advertising luxury items*) and **00B) billboards** (*large signs used outside of a building or at the side of the road, for putting advertisements on*), while marketing agencies design advertising campaigns that **18A) target potential customers** (*try to have an effect on a particular group of people who might be interested in buying a product or service, based on their needs or interests*) of all ages. **19A) A social media influencer** (*a person who someone admires and whose behaviour they try to copy*), with millions of **20A) followers** (*people who choose to regularly receive somebody's messages using a social media service*) on social media platforms, might start posting daily content to **17B) promote** (*tell the public about a product or a service in order to encourage people to buy or to use it*) free sample products on special offers, which helps to **18B) condition consumers** (*influence habits or preferences of people who buy goods or use services through repeated advertising*) and influence their purchasing behaviour. This influencer, acting as **19B) a role model** (*a famous actress or woman seen as beautiful on screens, often used in beauty product ads*), knows her **20B) audience** (*a particular group of people who watch or listen to a particular television or radio programme, read a particular book, or visit a particular website*) well, highlighting beauty standards set by **19C) screen queens** (*somebody who is paid by a company to show and describe its products and services, encouraging other people to buy them by recommending them on websites used for social networking*), thus selling **0B) stuff** (*expensive things, such as jewellery and make-up, that are pleasant to have but are not necessary*) and generate serious incomes.

Transfer the answers to the answer sheet.

USE OF ENGLISH 7-8

Time: 60 minutes

Maximum points – 40

Task 1

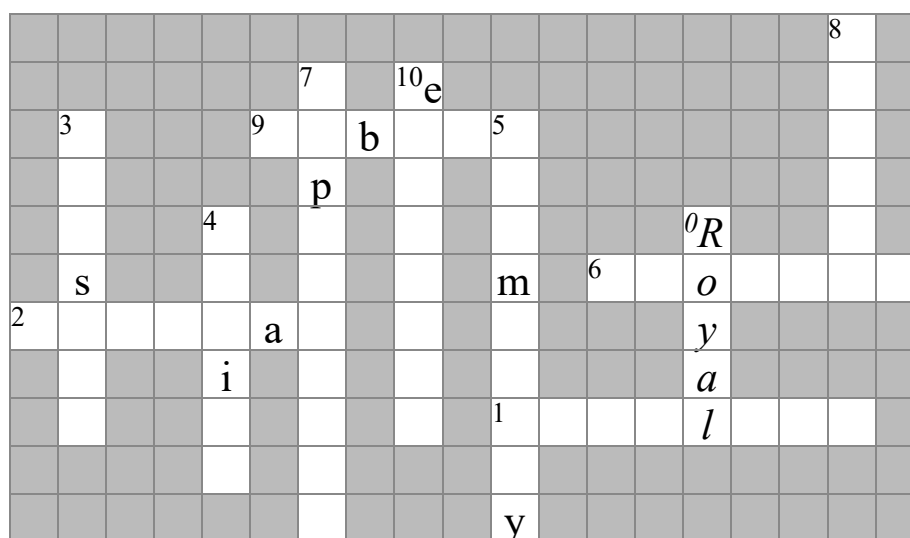
The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2026 **the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development** to recognize volunteers and their vital contributions on a global stage. Only through collective action and solidarity can we summon the strength to address the challenges that affect us all. Read the text about voluntary work and for items 1-10 complete it by doing the crossword.

Voluntary work

Voluntary work is work that you do not get paid for and usually 1) *(is an important/necessary part of an activity, etc.)* doing things to help other people, especially the elderly or the sick, or working for a charity or similar organization. Most charitable organizations rely on volunteers who don't get paid, and thousands of Americans and British people give many hours of their time to doing some form of social work or organizing fundraising events to support the work. Volunteering is especially 2) *(liked/enjoyed by a large number of people)* in the US and the 3) *(causes or explanations)* for this may be found in basic American values such as the Protestant ethic, the idea that work improves the person who does it, and the 4) *(a strong feeling that smth/smb exists/is true; confidence that smth/smb is good or right)* that people can change their condition if they try hard enough.

People usually enjoy volunteering, as they choose jobs close to their personal interests. For instance, people who like animals may volunteer in an animal shelter, where they take care of animals that have been treated badly. Some voluntary work is short-term, for example, when people from a 5) *(all the people who live in a particular area, country, etc.)* get together to create a park. Other work is longer term, such as that of the US organization *Habitat for Humanity*, which builds houses for poor people. Parents often volunteer at their children's schools, and do things like building a play area or raising money for new equipment. Young people are also encouraged to do voluntary work. Schoolchildren visit old people in hospitals or homes, and students at college often raise money for charities. In the US young people over 18 can take part in *AmeriCorps*, a government programme that encourages them to work as volunteers for a period of time, with the 6) *(a statement that tells smb that you will definitely do or not do smth)* of help in paying for their education later. Older Americans who do not work may spend much of their free time volunteering.

In Britain a lot of voluntary work is directed towards 7) *(helping or encouraging smb/smith by saying or showing that you agree with them/it)* the country's social services. The **e.g. 0)** *(connected with or belonging to the king or queen of a country)* **Royal Voluntary Service** and other organizations run a meals on 8) *(the round objects under a car, bicycle, bus, etc. that turn when it moves)* service in many parts of Britain, providing prepared meals for people who are unable to cook for themselves. *The Citizens Advice Bureau*, which offers free advice to the 9) *(ordinary people in society in general)* on a wide range of issues, is run mainly by volunteers, and *the Blood Transfusion Service* relies on voluntary blood donors to give blood for use in hospitals. Political parties use volunteers at 10) *(the process of choosing a person/group of people for a (political) position, by voting)* time, and Churches depend on volunteers to keep buildings clean.



Task 2

In **2025** we celebrate the **Year of the Defender of the Fatherland** in Russia to honour both modern heroes and our ancestors, who crushed Nazism and fought for the Fatherland in different historical periods. For items 11-16 match the names of the great Russian heroes with their short descriptions (a-k). There are more descriptions than necessary. *E.g. 0 l _*

0 Alexander Peresvet	a Soviet marshal, chief of the General Staff and representative of STAVKA during the Great Patriotic War, four times the Hero of the Soviet Union, oversaw all the main Soviet battle operations of the Eastern Front, inspected the Moscow Victory Parade of 1945
11 Alexander Nevsky	b founder of the Women's Battalion of Death during World War I
12 Alexander Suvorov	c fighter ace, Hero of the Soviet Union, the prototype for 'The Story of a Real Man'
13 Nadezhda Durova	d legendary Civil War commander, hero of many Russian jokes
14 Alexander Matrosov	e greatest Russian general of the 18th century, who never lost a battle and is known for his military genius and tactical innovations, author of 'The Science of Victory'
15 Vasily Chapayev	f admiral, Naval commander during Crimean War, circumnavigated the world with Mikhail Lazarev, commander and hero at the Siege of Sevastopol
16 Pavel Nakhimov	g 'the Cavalry Maiden', female hero of the Napoleonic wars
	h Soviet sniper of the Great Patriotic War, the most successful female sniper in history, credited with 309 kills
	i soldier, self-sacrificed himself to win the battle during the Great Patriotic War, Hero of the Soviet Union
	j Prince of Novgorod and Grand Prince of Vladimir, patron saint and military hero, known for victories against Swedish invaders at the Battle of the Neva (1240) and German Teutonic Knights at the Battle of the Ice (1242)
	k one of the first Soviet female pilots and Heroes of the Soviet Union, set a record for woman's ultralong flights
	l monk from Trinity Sergius Lavra, hero of the Battle of Kulikovo, fought with the Tatar champion Chelubey in single combat, where they killed each other

Task 3

The **United Nations** declared **2025** as **the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation**, to raise global awareness about the critical role of glaciers, snow and ice in the climate system and the hydrological cycle, as well as the far-reaching impacts of rapid glacial melt. 2025 is also **the 500th anniversary of the Northern Sea Route (NSR)**. 500 years ago, the Russian diplomat Dmitry Gerasimov put forward the idea of a way to get from Europe to China through the “cold seas”.

The Arctic, northernmost region of Earth, is the land of ice and snow. ‘Ice’ and ‘snow’ are parts of many words/word combinations. For items 17-22 identify which words or word combinations containing *ice* or *snow* match the definitions.

E.g. 0 (the) Ice Age 00 (the) Snowbelt

- | | | |
|--------|-------|---|
| 0 the | _____ | - one of the long periods of time, thousands of years ago, when <i>much of the earth's surface was covered in ice</i> |
| 00 the | _____ | - the northern and north-eastern states of the US where the winters are very cold |
| 17 the | _____ | - (Australian, informal) another name for a mountain range in SE Australia, part of the Australian Alps |
| 18 the | _____ | - an ancient Celtic tribe that rebelled against the Romans around AD 60-62 under Queen Boudicca (Boadicea) |
| 19 | _____ | - an island country in the North Atlantic Ocean, regarded as part of Europe, which contains large areas of glaciers, snowfields, and lava beds with many volcanoes and hot springs |
| 20 | _____ | - a sphere made from glass or plastic containing a clear liquid and flakes which fall onto a miniature scene or figure when it is shaken |
| 21 | _____ | - a national park in north-west Wales, with the highest mountain in England and Wales (1085 metres/3560 feet). It is an important tourist centre, famous for its attractive mountain scenery. The park's Welsh name, <i>Eryri</i> , is preferred by many people and is the name used by the national park authorities since 2022. |
| 22 | _____ | - the name and number stored on a person's mobile phone of a person to contact if you are ill, you have an accident, etc. |

Task 4

There're many books with *snow* or *ice* in the title. Complete the book titles (23-28) and match them with their authors (A-M) and short descriptions (a-m). For each item write the missing word (part of word) and the appropriate letters next to it. There are more authors and descriptions than necessary.

E.g. 0 Snow Ff 00 Snow Al

0 <i>White and the Seven Dwarfs</i>	A Robert Frost	a a tragedy in four acts (1946) by a US Pulitzer Prize-winning writer of plays who received the 1936 Nobel Prize for literature. It is considered by many to be his finest work. The drama exposes the human need for illusion and hope as antidotes to the natural condition of despair.
23 Theman	B Ernest Hemingway	b a short story by a US Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, short-story writer, novelist, and critic, often included in anthologies of classic American horror and fantasy short fiction. It was first published in the Autumn 1932 issue of the <i>Virginia Quarterly Review</i> . The story is about a twelve-year-old boy, Paul, who retreats into an inner world of snow to escape his parents and the pressures of reality.
24 The-Maiden	C Eugene O'Neill	c a book by an American novelist, non-fiction writer and journalist (1927–2010), best known for his works of science fiction, true crime books, and his novels, <i>The Swarm</i> and this one, which were made into popular films. The book tells the story of one of the most intelligent creatures in the universe – a killer whale, who has one mate, and if she is harmed by man, he will hunt down that person driven by a desire for a terrible revenge – across seas, across time, across all obstacles.
25 The of Kilimanjaro	D Raymond Briggs	d an award-winning novel by a Danish author, a thriller that concerns the investigation into the death of a young boy, which takes the main character to her native Greenland. The book was made into a 1997 feature film starring British actress Julia Ormond as Smilla.
26 Death Among thebergs (in Russian; the original title “Orca”)	E Charles Perrault	e a series (1996–) by an American writer of fantasy, a bloody saga about a fictional kingdom. It was adapted into the hugely popular TV show <i>Game of Thrones</i> (2011–19) and inspired the spin-off series <i>House of the Dragon</i> (2022–).
00 <i>Dust of</i>	F the Brothers Grimm	f a fairy tale in which a young beautiful princess runs away from her jealous stepmother and is sheltered by seven dwarfs; first published in 1812 in a collection based on German folk tales and oral stories. The story was made into a successful Walt Disney film in 1937, and is a popular subject for pantomimes in Britain.
27 Silent, Secret	G Peter Høeg	g an 1861 fairy tale by a Danish writer about a man who is lured to his death by the queen of the glaciers. The story, set in Switzerland, was inspired by a local legend about a small island in Lake Geneva, which is also the setting of its end.
28 A Song of and Fire	H Rosamunde Pilcher	h a poem by a US poet and journalist, published in 1866 and subtitled “A Winter Idyll.” This nostalgic pastoral poem recalls the New England rural home and family of the poet’s youth, where he and his family remained secure and comfortable inside the house.
	I Arthur Herzog	i a wordless children’s picture book (first published in 1978) illustrated by the author, about a small boy’s adventures with a figure of a man made out of snow. A film version made for television is usually shown on British television each year around Christmas.

	J Hans Christian Andersen	j a fairy tale by a Danish writer, published in 1845, about a girl named Gerda who journeys to rescue her friend Kai, who falls under a troll's spell and whose heart is turned to ice.
	K Conrad Aiken	k a short story (1936) by a US writer of novels and short stories, who created a style of writing using short, simple sentences, and received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954. The stream-of-consciousness narrative relates the feelings of Harry, a novelist dying of gangrene poisoning while on an African safari. The author considered it his finest story.
	L George R. R. Martin	l a poem by the most highly honoured American poet of the 20th century, receiving four Pulitzer Prizes, much admired for his depictions of the rural life of New England. At the age of 87, he read his poem 'A Gift Outright' at the 1962 inauguration of John F Kennedy.
	M John Greenleaf Whittier	m a book by a British novelist, best known for her sweeping novels set in Cornwall, about an engaged young woman who gets stranded in a blizzard and finds shelter in an isolated house, where she meets a young man.

Task 5

For items 29-34, to complete the sentences think of words which match the given definitions and rhyme with *snow* or *ice*. The number of letters is specified.

0 Our firm is well placed to grab a large _ _ _ _ _ of the market. slice
(a thin flat piece of bread, meat, cheese, etc. that has been cut off a larger piece; a piece of cake that has been cut from a larger cake; (informal) a part or share of smth)

000 She walked across the room on _ _ _ _ _ so as not to wake the baby. tip toe
(standing or walking on the front part of your foot, with your heels off the ground, in order to make yourself taller or to move very quietly)

29 We need an exciting trip to add some _ _ _ _ _ to our lives. (one of the various types of powder or seed that come from plants, have a strong taste and smell and are used in cooking; extra interest or excitement)

30 Metaphor is a literary/rhetorical _ _ _ _ _ . (a method of doing smth that produces a particular result or effect; a form of words that is intended to produce a particular effect in speech or writing)

31 He'll eventually _ _ _ _ _ his adolescent interest in war and guns. (to become too big to wear or fit into smth; to stop doing smth/lose interest in smth as you become older)

32 She knew beyond a _ _ _ _ _ of a doubt that he was lying. (the dark shape that smb/smith's form makes on a surface, for example on the ground, when they are between the light and the surface; a very small amount of smth)

33 The witness's descriptions were too _ _ _ _ _ to be of any real value. (not giving exact details or making smth clear)

34 "Where are we exactly?" " _ _ _ _ _ ." (exclamation (non-standard) a way of writing the informal spoken form of 'I don't know')

Task 6

The year **2026** (April 21, 2026 to be exact) will mark what would have been the **100th anniversary** of Her Majesty **Queen Elizabeth II**. But **Elizabeth** is not only the name of Elizabeth II, it is the name of a few other people, and also the name of a city and a port, and some other things. For items **35-40** match the **realia** with their **descriptions (A-J)**. You have **more** descriptions than necessary. *E.g. 0 L 00 K*

0 <i>Elizabeth I</i>	A a large British passenger ship built by Cunard, named after Queen Elizabeth, and launched by her in 1938, first used in World War II to carry soldiers, and after the war – passengers between England and the US; destroyed by a fire in 1972.
00 <i>Elizabeth Barrett Browning</i>	B a portion of mainland Antarctica named by the government of the UK and claimed as part of the British Antarctic Territory. Situated south of Weddell Sea, stretching from Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf to the South Pole.
35 the Queen Mother	C (1709–62) empress of Russia (1741–62), whose reign saw a return to the political spirit of her father, Peter the Great, and was marked by cultural development and Russian involvement in the War of the Austrian Succession (1740–1748) and the Seven Years' War (1756–1763).
36 the QE2	D (1768–1830) First lady, whose husband was the fifth US President (1817–1825), who fought in the American Revolution and helped to establish the Democratic Republican Party. His presidency was called the 'Era of Good Feeling'. He bought Florida from Spain, settled a dispute with Britain over the US–Canadian border, and signed the Missouri Compromise. He is best remembered for the Doctrine under his name, which aimed to keep new European interests out of the Americas.
37 Queen Elizabeth Land	E (1885–1982) known as "Bess", First lady as the wife of the 33rd US President (1945–53). He took the decision to drop nuclear bombs on Japan in 1945, and helped to establish NATO, he was strongly opposed to Communism, and also involved the US in the Korean War. He is also remembered for having a sign on his desk that said 'The Buck Stops Here', meaning that, as president, he would be responsible for making decisions when no one else was willing to accept the responsibility. She was a valued adviser to her husband.
38 Elizabeth Taylor	F a National Historic Landmark just southeast of present-day Waimea on the island of Kaua'i in Hawai'i, at the site of the former Fort Elizavety, the last remaining Russian fort on the islands, built in the 19th c. by the Russian-American Company.
39 Elizabeth Monroe	G title, original name <i>Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon</i> (1900–2002), queen consort of George VI (1936–52); mother of Elizabeth II.
40 Elizabeth Truman	H the second British passenger ship of that name built by Cunard. The name is short for Queen Elizabeth II, who launched the ship in 1967. The ship sailed between Southampton in southern England and New York, and also took passengers on comfortable and expensive cruises all over the world. In 2008 the ship stopped carrying passengers, and now functions as a floating hotel in Dubai.
	I (1932–2011) an Oscar-winning actress, a dame (2000), born in England, famous for her beauty, and for her many marriages, two of which were to Richard Burton, and their films together included <i>Cleopatra</i> and <i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i>
	J a private college preparatory secondary school for young women located in Convent Station, New Jersey, United States.
	<i>K (1806–61) an English poet and the wife of another poet, now remembered more for the story of their secret love affair and marriage, and their life in Italy, as friends of many other important British writers, including Carlyle and Tennyson.</i>
	<i>L (1533–1603) queen of England and Ireland (1558–1603), daughter of Henry VIII, one of England's greatest rulers, known as the 'Virgin Queen' because she never married. Her reign was notable for commercial growth, maritime expansion, and the flourishing of literature, music, and architecture.</i>

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

*Всероссийская олимпиада школьников по английскому языку 2025-2026 уч.г.
Муниципальный этап. 7-8 классы*

WRITING 7-8

Time: 60 minutes

Maximum points – 20

In November 2025 President Vladimir Putin supported the idea of declaring 2026 the Year of Unity of Russia's peoples.

Following the discussion of the text about 'Englishness' (a concept that refers to the characteristics, culture, and identity associated with English people) your teacher asked you to give a description of what it means to be Russian.

Write a blog post for your English Club on the topic of 'Russianness', a complex concept shaping our national identity. Give it a title.

Use neutral or generally informal tone, **addressing** your reader directly.

Express your own views, covering the following points in your blog post:

Do national characteristics really exist? (introduce the topic and give examples of other cultures)

What adjectives can describe Russia's people? (include at least three adjectives in your blog post and underline them)

Are there any proverbs or sayings which you think are true of Russian people? (include at least two proverbs/sayings in your blog post and underline them)

What are some common stereotypes of people from Russia? (give at least 2 examples of stereotypes and underline them) Is there any truth behind them? (express your opinion)

Remember to

- engage the reader with your introduction showing you understand the topic;
- use original ideas about the topic and give reasons for your opinion; provide examples from your own experience or using your background knowledge; you may include some humour;
- sum up your views in the conclusion.

Write your blog post covering the points above on the answer sheet in around 150 – 250 words, including your own title.

Write in your own words.

Don't forget to check and transfer your answers to the answer sheet.