

ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ
ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ 2025–2026 уч. г.
ШКОЛЬНЫЙ ЭТАП. 9–11 КЛАССЫ

Part 1

Listening (10 minutes)

Maximum points – 10

For items 1–10, listen to a radio talk for young people about astrology, and decide whether the statements 1–10 are TRUE according to the text you hear, or FALSE, or the information on the statement is NOT STATED in the text. You will hear the text twice.

- + 1. The movement of stars determines people's lives. *False*
- + 2. Most people have no faith in astrology. *f*
- + 3. Should they decide on a serious issue, a small percentage of people are likely to turn to the stars. *f*
- + 4. Simon agrees with psychologists on the influence of a person's time of birth on their personality. *f*
- + 5. The time of birth remains a defining factor throughout the whole life. *f*
- + 6. A statistical comparison between the person's choice of career and their star sign is the most effective tool in predicting future events in their life. *Not stated*
- + 7. More than 15 % of entertainers were born in the second half of summer. *T*
- + 8. Spring is a favourable period for travelling and finances. *Not stated*
- + 9. People in financial professions are connected with one particular star sign. *f*
- + 10. Technological advances have reduced the influence of nature on us. *T*
- +
- +

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Part 2
Reading (30 minutes)
Maximum points – 15

Read an extract from a novel and answer questions 1–15.

'How is the Dictionary getting on?' said Winston, raising his voice to overcome the noise.

'Slowly,' said Syme. 'I'm on the adjectives. It's fascinating.'

He had brightened up immediately at the mention of Newspeak. He pushed his bowl aside, took up his hunk of bread in one delicate hand and his cheese in the other, and leaned across the table so as to be able to speak without shouting.

'The Eleventh Edition is the definitive edition,' he said. 'We're getting the language into its final shape - the shape it's going to have when nobody speaks anything else. When we've finished with it, people like you will have to learn it all over again. You think, I dare say, that our chief job is inventing new words. But not a bit of it! We're destroying words - scores of them, hundreds of them, every day. We're cutting the language down to the bone. The Eleventh Edition won't contain a single word that will become obsolete before the year 2050.'

He bit hungrily into his bread and swallowed a couple of mouthfuls, then continued speaking, with a sort of pedant's passion. His thin dark face had become animated, his eyes had lost their mocking expression and grown almost dreamy.

'It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words. Of course the great wastage is in the verbs and adjectives, but there are hundreds of nouns that can be got rid of as well. It isn't only the synonyms; there are also the antonyms. After all, what justification is there for a word which is simply the opposite of some other word? A word contains its opposite in itself. Take "good", for instance. If you have a word like "good", what need is there for a word like "bad"? "Ungood" will do just as well - better, because it's an exact opposite, which the other is not. Or again, if you want a stronger version of "good", what sense is there in having a whole string of vague useless words like "excellent" and "splendid" and all the rest of them? "Plusgood" covers the meaning, or "doubleplusgood" if you want something stronger still. Of course we use those forms already. But in the final version of Newspeak there'll be nothing else. In the end the whole notion of goodness and badness will be covered by only six words - in reality, only one word. Don't you see the beauty of that, Winston? It was B.B.'s idea originally, of course,' he added as an afterthought.

A sort of vapid eagerness flitted across Winston's face at the mention of Big Brother. Nevertheless Syme immediately detected a certain lack of enthusiasm.

'You haven't a real appreciation of Newspeak, Winston,' he said almost sadly. 'Even when you write it you're still thinking in Oldspeak. I've read some of those pieces that you write in "The Times" occasionally. They're good enough, but they're translations. In your heart you'd prefer to stick to Oldspeak, with all its vagueness and its useless shades of meaning. You don't grasp the beauty of the destruction of words. Do you know that Newspeak is the only language in the world whose vocabulary gets smaller every year?'

Winston did know that, of course. He smiled, sympathetically he hoped, not trusting himself to speak. Syme bit off another fragment of the dark-coloured bread, chewed it briefly, and went on:

'Don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thought crime literally impossible because there will be no words in which to express it. Every concept that can ever be needed, will be expressed by exactly one word, with its meaning rigidly defined and all its subsidiary meanings rubbed out and forgotten. Already, in the Eleventh Edition, we're not far from that point. But the process will still be continuing long after you and I are dead. Every year fewer and fewer words, and the range of consciousness always a little smaller. Even now, of course, there's no reason or excuse for committing thought-crime. It's merely a question of self-discipline, reality-control. But in the end there won't be any need even for that. The Revolution will be complete when the language is perfect. Newspeak is Ingsoc and Ingsoc is Newspeak,' he added with a sort of mystical satisfaction. 'Has it ever occurred to you, Winston, that by the year 2050, at the very latest, not a single human being will be alive who could understand such a conversation as we are having now?'

Task 1.

*For statements 1–7, choose **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information given in the text; **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information given in the text, or **NOT STATED** if the information on the statement is not given in the text.*

1. The Eleventh Edition will be published before 2050. *True*
2. According to Syme, people will have to do with only six words in putting across their ideas. *False*
3. It was Syme's elder brother who came up with the idea of Newspeak. *False*
4. Winston's articles are written in Newspeak. *True*
5. Winston expressed his false sympathy for Syme's ideas with a smile, as he was afraid that words might reveal his true feelings. *Not Stated*
6. Human consciousness will contract as there will be fewer words to think with. *True*
7. Ingsoc is a new word in Newspeak denoting revolution. *Not stated*

¹ An outdated form

Task 2.

For questions 8 – 15, choose option A, B, C or D which best fits according to the text.

8. Winston and Syme are

- A. in a cafeteria.
- B. at a party.
- C. at school.
- D. in an office.

9. Syme likes

- A. the food.
- B. hearing Winston's opinions.
- C. talking about his work.
- D. to shout.

10. Syme's work with the dictionary involves

- A. inventing new words.
- B. eliminating words.
- C. explaining a theory.
- D. teaching people to think.

11. What kind of words are being the most greatly reduced?

- A. adjectives
- B. verbs and adjectives
- C. nouns
- D. everything except antonyms

12. What does the author show in the lines in bold?

- A. Winston tries to seem appreciative but is not really.
- B. Winston has great enthusiasm for Newspeak.
- C. Syme doubts Winston but this is unjustified.
- D. Winston does not believe a word that Syme has said.

13. What can be gathered about Winston's attitude towards Newspeak?

- A. He finds it exciting.
- B. He studies it eagerly.
- C. He is outspokenly against it.
- D. He accepts it unhappily.

14. Which of the following best describes Newspeak?

- A. It is a historical language being reconstructed.
- B. It is a highly simplified language designed to prevent thought.
- C. It was invented to help citizens escape an oppressive government.
- D. It is a new language that is incredibly difficult to learn.

15. What kind of future does Syme imagine?

- A. Everyone will be better educated.
- B. People will be safe because there will be no violent crime.
- C. People will not have enough language to think at all.
- D. People will communicate better and more effectively.

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Part 3
Use of English (50 minutes)
Maximum points – 40

Task 1.

For items 1–10, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals in brackets to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

0	USUALLY
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The name of a tribe (0) usually (USUAL) means 'people' in that tribe's native language, although people outside the tribe sometimes do not refer to them by that name.

A famous case of this is the Inuits, a Native American tribe living in the (1) Northern (NORTH) parts of the American continent.

The word Inuit in the Inuit language (2) simply (SIMPLE) means 'people.'

For years, though, many people, (3) especially (SPECIAL) in the USA, referred to them as Eskimos, a term that refers to tribes living in Alaska, which the Inuits find

(4) offensive (OFFEND). The name Eskimo is from a language spoken by the Cree, a Native American tribe with a large (5) population (POPULATE) who live in areas of southern Canada. The term in their language (6) possibly (POSSIBLE) means something like 'eaters of raw meat', although language experts are still working on the exact (7) translation (TRANSLATE) of the word. It may also refer to how members of other tribes tie their shoes or the fact that (8) neighboring (NEIGHBOUR) tribes speak other languages.

If anything, it gives a (9) fascinating (FASCINATE) view into how one tribe views another.

As for the Inuit, the name Eskimo was never (10) really (REAL) meant to refer to them and, in 1982, Canada's constitution was changed so that, from then on, the tribe would be referred to as Inuit.

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Task 2.

For items 1–10, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

	A	B	C	D
0	decided	considered	referred	noticed

Example:

0	B
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Machu Picchu

The city of Machu Picchu, in Peru, South America, is (0)^B to be one of the most breathtaking sights in the world. It was built by the Incas in about 1450, when the Inca Empire was at its most powerful. What makes this city so unusual is that it is (1)^C 2,430 metres above sea level, on the top of a mountain ridge in the Andes Mountains.

Machu Picchu is so remote that the Incas had to take a long, treacherous path through the Andes to get to it. To this day, historians still (2)^B how the Inca people were able to build this stone city so high up (3)^A the use of modern technology. The Incas were expert builders, carving the rocks perfectly and (4)^A them together so well that you cannot slide a knife (5)^C the stones.

Astonishingly, the (6)^A of the world only learned of the city's existence after an American historian, Hiram Bingham, discovered it on 24 July 1911. Previously, only a few local people were (7)^A of the city. It has now become a popular tourist (8)^B. People walk for up to four days on the Inca Trail through the Andes Mountains to (9)^B this amazing city and admire the spectacular (10)^C from the top.

	A	B	C	D
1	set	placed	situated	settled
2	think	imagine	doubt	wonder
3	without	except	apart	unless
4	fitting	suiting	fixing	mixing
5	among	through	between	against
6	rest	other	remainder	part
7	aware	sensitive	alert	familiar
8	direction	destination	position	location
9	arrive	reach	finish	achieve
10	scene	image	view	look

Task 3.

For items 1-15, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓). If a line has a word which should not be there, write down the word. There are two examples at the beginning (0 and 00).

0	✓
00	a

The house painters		
Last week some painters came round to	0	✓
paint my house. I usually do this kind of a job	00	a
myself, but I've been here very busy for the last	1	a
month. So I called a more local decorating firm,	2	here
and they agreed to do it for a reasonable price.	3	✓
Three men arrived on Monday the morning to	4	the
paint the outside walls. Of course, they were used	5	were
the wrong colour and spilt paint all over the	6	✓
front door. Some one of the windows	7	one
upstairs were open, and some of paint went	8	of
inside the house and ruined both the carpet in	9	both
the living-room. They also broke a window.	10	✓
I phoned their company, and the manager	11	✓
assured me that they would repaint than the	12	than
walls. Then I went away on a business.	13	a
I've just come back, and the walls are a different colour,	14	✓
but it is still such the wrong colour. If I had done the job	15	such
myself, I would have finished it by now.		

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Task 4.

For items 1-5, match the two columns to make English proverbs. In the right column, there are three extra phrases you don't need. There is an example at the beginning.

0	E
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0	Necessity is	A	cannot change its spots.
1	Actions speak	B	than sorry.
2	A cat in gloves	C	better than no bread.
3	Half a loaf is	D	gets the worm.
4	Better safe	E	the mother of invention.
5	The leopard	F	the best policy.
		G	louder than words.
		H	than never.
		I	catches no mice.

- ✓ 1 - G
- ✓ 2 - I
- ✓ 3 - C
- ✓ 4 - B
- ✓ 5 - A

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