

**RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACADEMIC CONTEST

ROUND I (ON-LINE)

MOSCOW 2014

PART I. READING (25 points).

Task 1. Read the text and answer the question by selecting all correct responses.

More than one response is correct.

Which of the following statements about Australian Aborigines can be supported from this text?

- It is estimated that the population of Australian Aborigines peaked at about 400.000 some 30,000 years before white settlement.
- Despite being recognized internationally, the Aboriginal musical instrument the didgeridoo rarely plays a significant role in Aboriginal cultural ceremonies.
- Today Aborigines comprise approximately 2% of the Australian population.
- Aboriginal culture is based on a belief that people, animals, and the land are integrally linked.
- Unlike many other indigenous cultures. Australian Aborigines developed equitable relationships with colonial powers.

Who Are Aborigines? Aborigines are Australia's indigenous people. Recent government statistics counted approximately 400.000 aboriginal people, or about 2% of Australia's total population.

Australian Aborigines migrated from somewhere in Asia at least 30.000 years ago. Though they comprise 500-600 distinct groups, aboriginal people possess some unifying links. Among these are strong spiritual beliefs that tie them to the land; a tribal culture of storytelling and art and like other indigenous populations, a difficult colonial history.

The Dreamtime: Aboriginal spirituality emails a close relationship between humans and the land. Aborigines call the beginning of the world the ‘Dreaming’ or ‘Dreamtime’. In the ‘Dreamtime’, aboriginal ‘Ancestors’ rose from below the earth to form various parts of nature inducing animal species, bodies of water, and the sky. Unlike other religions, however, aboriginal belief does not place the human species apart from or on a higher level than nature. Aborigines believe some of the Ancestors metamorphosed into nature (as in rock formations or rivers), where they remain spirituality alive.

Storytelling, Art and the Didgeridoo: The oral tradition of storytelling informs aboriginals' vibrant cultural life. Songs illustrate the Dreamtime and other tales of the land, while dances and diagrams drawn in the sand accompany oral tales In the Northern Territory, aboriginal art includes sculpture, bark and rock paintings, and baskets and beadwork. Rock carvings and paintings can be found in such places as Amhem Land, Ubirr, and Nourlangie. Many aborigines earn a living through selling native artworks.

Aboriginal music is often recognizable for its most famous instrument, the didgeridoo. A wind instrument typically made from bamboo, it extends about five feet and produces a low, vibrating hum. Aborigines use didgeridoos in formal ceremonies at such events as sunsets, circumcisions, and funerals.

Task 2. The following statements (A-D) are given in a random order. Rearrange them to make a logical text.

- A. But in Scotland three banks are still allowed to issue banknotes.
- B. When this bank was founded in 1695, Scots coinage was in short supply and of uncertain value, compared with English, Dutch, Flemish or French coin.
- C. To face growth of trade it was deemed necessary to remedy this lack of an adequate currency.
- D. The first Scottish bank to do this was the Bank of Scotland.
- E. In most countries it is only the government, through their central banks, who are

permitted to issue currency.

1. ...; 2. ...; 3. ...; 4. ...; 5.

Task 3. Read the text and answer the multiple-choice question by selecting the correct response. *Only one response is correct.*

Which of the following most accurately summarizes the opinion of the author in the text?

- He finds the weaving together of the Latin Mass and antiwar poems to be quite effective.
- He is critical of Britten's inconsistencies as observed in the War Requiem.
- He admires the War Requiem of Britten but finds it far from perfect.
- He questions whether Britten's work will endure.

In many ways Britten's most ambitious effort is the War Requiem of 1966, a flawed but still impressive work for chorus, soloists, and orchestra. It weaves together the traditional Latin Mass for the Dead with antiwar poems by Wilfrid Owen, a young officer killed in World War I. The point of War Requiem is how the words of the liturgical text are reinterpreted and often rendered hollow by the realities of death in war. In this work we see Britten's prodigal inconsistencies on display. For all its problems, the War Requiem will probably survive as one of our time's most impassioned indictments of war and its heroic myth.

Task 4. Match each statement (a-e) to the short passages (1-5) that follow to express their key ideas.

- a. English words are used in many Spanish-speaking countries.
- b. Most Latinos have a mixed heritage.
- c. Spanglish is often rejected as an invalid form of communication.
- d. Some Spanglish speakers can't speak English or Spanish fluently.
- e. There are Spanglish publications.

1. ...Problems arise when those who employ Spanglish can't functionally speak one language or the other, and this is where the critics come in. Critics of Spanglish, Latinos and Anglos alike, feel that the "language" limits its users.

2. ...The cover of this month's *Latina* magazine shows a tanned model in a blue dress. The headline reads "Belleza from head to toe." The magazine's Web site includes topics such as "Mujeres on the Move," "Welcome to la jungla", and "For your ojos only."

3. ...Purists in Spain and Latin America, however, also use the term *Spanglish* to refer to the Anglicisms that have crept into Spanish in those countries, especially in areas of technology, business, and teenage slang.

4. ...Supporters of Spanglish recognize that it represents the *mélange* of cultures that makes up the Latino identity in the United States.

5. ...Spanglish speakers complain that they are attacked on all sides: by English-speaking Americans who look down on them for not speaking pure English, and by native Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Colombians, etc. for selling out, for being disloyal to their cultural roots.

Task 5.

Read the following advertisements (A-D) and choose which advert the following statements refer to.

A

This dynamic and pioneering company, a member of a well-established group, continues to expand significantly its market share, both through emphasis on technical excellence and a professional business approach. This new appointment is the

*corner-stone in the company's
future diversification programme.*

B

If you've got an eye for detail, coupled with secretarial skills, then Bejam the freezer people have just the job for you at their busy, lively offices in Stanmore. You'll be responsible for checking that the prices and spelling are correct on our display material, liaising with the display company and store managers. This involves a lot of telephone work and keeping to deadlines, so you must be capable of working efficiently under pressure.

C

The company is a successful independent operator with turnover now exceeding £30m. It provides a range of services from a number of locations in the UK and on the Continent.

Reporting to the General Manager, responsibility is to manage the finance and accounting functions. Developing controls and advising on financial policy and planning will be major tasks. Success in the role should lead to a Board appointment.

D



1. This advertisement emphasizes the importance of the position in the company's planned development.
A B C D
2. This advertisement seems to issue a challenge.
A B C D
3. This advertisement mentions the possibility of promotion.
A B C D
4. This advertisement promises a special benefit to the successful applicant.
A B C D
5. This advertisement adopts an informal, almost chatty style.
A B C D

PART II. USE OF ENGLISH (45 points).

Task 1. For questions 1-10, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of the line to form a word that fits in the gap.

There is an example at the beginning **(O)**.

Are you a responsible tourist?

Responsible tourism is travel that brings **(O) economic** benefits for the host country and minimizes negative cultural and **(1)**impacts. There are many ways in which you can make a difference. Eat in locally owned restaurants and buy local products, but not souvenirs made from **(2)**animals or plants. Finding out about your destination beforehand will **(3)** you to make informed decisions about where to go and what to see, while learning even a few words of the language shows **(4)**to communicate with local people. Always ask **(5)**before taking photographs and don't cause **(6)**by wearing clothes that might be considered **(7)** Rather than hiring a car for shorter journeys, it's **(8)**to walk or use public transport. If you are trekking, keep to the paths to avoid causing **(9)** to fields and hillsides and if you're camping, only use designated sites. Finally, bear in mind that you don't have to fly to an exotic location; there is probably somewhere equally interesting in your own country. Don't forget that air travel is the most polluting form of transport and the fastest growing contributor to the **(10).....** of the earth's environment.

- ECONOMY**
- ENVIRONMENT**
- DANGER**
- ABLE**
- WILL**
- PERMIT**
- OFFEND**
- APPROPRIATE**
- PREFER**
- ERODE**
- DESTROY**

Task 2. Rewrite these sentences using the given words. *The meaning should NOT be changed.*

1 I find it hard making small talk when I meet someone new.

What I

2 Parents usually enjoy talking about their children.

What parents.....

3 You can be thought of as a good conversationalist if you just ask someone about themselves and then sit back and listen to the answer.

All you need to do.....

4 When you're making small talk, it is probably better not to talk about very serious topics.

The sensible thing to do.....

5 She is very good at making small talk.

What immediately struck me.....

Task 3. Choose the correct variant A, B, C or D to fill in the gaps. *Only one is correct.*

1. We had the first snow of the winter days
A few ... since B a few ... since C few ... ago D a few ... ago

2. I'm sorry. I you about the change in the dates but I forgot.
A should have told B must have told C ought to tell D would tell

3. Your wife rang you that you're meeting her after work.
A for reminding B to remind C for remembering D to remember

4. He wasn't elected, the efforts of his team.
A despite B although C nevertheless D however

5. The method sounds old-fashioned but it works well as
.....
A as ... never B as ... ever C so ... never D so ... ever

6. She seems very keen on discipline but I wonder in class.
A what she is like B what is she like C how she is D how is she

7. She's still very beautiful. I wish I her when she was young.
A would have known B have known C knew D had known

- 8 I don't want to stop in the forest but be a village quite near.
A there may B it may C there can D it can
9. She the cloth and put it away in the drawer.
A folded B bent C twisted D curved
10. We've appealed for witnesses but has come forward.
A none B no-one C anyone D any one
- 11.If he'd worked as hard as we have, he tired.
A has felt B had felt C feels D would feel
- 12.You've had a lot to drink so you better let me drive.
A should B would C had D ought
- 13.Come on! I don't want the start of the match.
A that we miss B to miss C that we lose D to lose
- 14.If you don't do what the boss tells you, you'll be from the firm.
A rejected B resigned C retired D sacked
- 15.They made a serious mistake and their opponents took of it.
A profit B benefit C advantage D gain

PART III. CULTURE AND LINGUISTICS ISSUES (20 points).

Task1. Match the creatures 1-5 to what they represent in British culture, a)-e).

- | | |
|----------|------------------|
| 1. Owl | a) fear, shyness |
| 2. Mouse | b) cunning |
| 3. Dog | c) strength |
| 4. Fox | d) wisdom |
| 5. Bear | e) faithfulness |

Task 2. Even though the Romans left Britain in AD 410, Latin-origin words have continued to enter the English language ever since. Below are some common Latin terms in English. Match these words to their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| a) Abacus | 1 brief account of a person's life/career |
| b) Thesaurus | 2 dictionary grouping words with a similar meaning |
| c) Post-mortem | 3 study programme/course |
| d) Curriculum | 4 counting machine |
| e) CV (curriculum vitae) | 5 investigation into cause of death |

Task 3. English is partly a Germanic language. It has also imported many words from modern German (including *Blitz*).

Match the words to their meanings.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>kindergarten</i> | a) broken, not working |
| <i>delicatessen</i> | b) a long kind of sausage |
| <i>schadenfreude</i> | c) a ghost that moves objects |
| <i>angst</i> | d) not the real thing, a low-quality substitute |
| <i>frankfurter</i> | e) a children's nursery |
| <i>poltergeist</i> | f) a recurrent theme in a work of art |
| <i>kitsch</i> | g) pleasure in the suffering of others |
| <i>leitmotiv</i> | h) low-quality art |
| <i>ersatz</i> | i) a shop selling cooked meats, cheeses, etc. |
| <i>kaput</i> | j) a strong feeling of anxiety |

PART IV. WRITING (10 POINTS)

TASK 1. Read the text bellow and then summarize it using ONE sentence. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points of the text.

For millions of years, Mediterranean sea turtles have been coming to the shore of southern Lebanon to lay their eggs. Every summer, their babies hatch and literally run for their lives on the strip of sand that separates their nests from the sea. An endangered species, they had been largely ignored in this part of Lebanon until two women set out to protect them.

Mona Khalil was inspired by a walk on the beach during a visit to her homeland, when she first saw the turtles. Upon learning that they were close to disappearing from her country, Khalil decided to "come back and do something about them."

The next year, 2000, she returned and teamed up with Habiba Fayed, who shares her passion for the environment. They opened a bed-and-breakfast in the Khalil family home to finance their efforts. Guests could simply vacation or, in the spirit of ecotourism, they could help the owners protect the turtles' nests and keep the beach clean.

Female turtles travel to the exact spot where they were born to dig their nests in the sand, laying an average of 70 to 100 eggs. This is the moment when the women intervene. They protect the nests from predators by burying an iron grid in the sand above the eggs. The spaces on the grid are large enough to allow the baby turtles to emerge after a month and find their way to the sea... and to a chance at life.

TASK 2. Following is a summary of Part Two of the lecture. Take your notes when you listen to the lecture and then complete the summary. You may need to put more than one word in some blanks.

The Benefits of Single-Sex Education for Girls

Part Two: Two Main Benefits of All Girls' Schools by Dr. Mary Frosch.

Single-sex education 1..... girls' unique qualities and also helps girls develop 2.....

The unique qualities of girls include their ability to concentrate on 3

.....

thinking at an 4..... age than

boys and their ability to 5..... for longer periods of time.

They also enjoy working in groups and teams. Girls are not as competitive as boys, but they tend to be 6.....

Boys can be noisy and girls often react by becoming timid and losing

their 7..... When they learn without the

8..... of boys, girls feel confident in themselves, they

enjoy being 9..... They help each other, and they freely

ask for 10 if they don't understand something. In single-sex schools, girls can develop deep confidence in themselves. This self-confidence prepares them to become adults.