

ПЛЕХАНОВСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ

(очный тур) 2015 – 2016 уч.год

READING

TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET

Task 1. You are going to read a newspaper article about exam technology. For questions 1–7 choose the answer (a.b.c.d) which you think fits best according to the text.

Like it or not, technology is already an established part of the exam process and the only argument still to be fought at this year's e-assessment conference and exhibition, taking place in London this week, is just how much further in that direction we should go.

At one end, little has changed. Students still, by and large, take exams in much the same way as they always have. They walk into a room full of desks with an invigilator on hand to tell them when to start and stop and to make sure no one is texting anyone else, and everyone is ticking the right boxes, or writing out the answer in longhand if required. It's once the ink has dried that the real change in the system kicks in. Instead of divvying up the scripts between the thousands of markers, they are now scanned into a central computer and the markers then access them online.

The benefits are obvious. It's quicker, cheaper and more efficient. The really dull components, such as multiple choice or simple questions such as "name four things that contribute to global warming", can be marked automatically or by less experienced markers, whereas questions requiring a more nuanced, longer answer can be left to *the old hands*. Your best markers don't have to be wasted on the straightforward stuff.

Students can also benefit. "Markers can now give much more precise feedback", says Kathleen Tattersall, who chairs the Institute of Educational Assessors. "We can tell someone almost exactly what he or she needs to do to improve a grade because we can show them what they got right and wrong. This is particularly useful for anyone looking to resit a January exam in the summer, because teachers can tailor individual revision plans for all their students."

For all its advantages, no one reckons that this assessment model is the finished article. "There are difficulties that need to be ironed out", says Martin Walker, a former English teacher and a principal examiner for one of the main boards. "Because markers are now often only given a few questions from each paper, it's hard to get an accurate feel of exactly what a student does and doesn't know. When you had an entire exam script in front of you, you could build up a picture of the candidate's range of knowledge, so when there was room for doubt in an answer you could make a judgement call based on previous responses. It's much harder to do it now.

"There are also limits to what you can easily read on screen", he adds. "In my experience, most examiners end up printing out the long essays and working from a hard copy, which is both time-consuming and slightly self-defeating." The danger, as Tattersall concedes, is that schools end up teaching only what technology is capable of assessing. "Rather, we have to look at how IT is used in the classroom to improve teaching and learning and base our exams on that model", she says.

It is certain that we are only halfway through the electronic revolution. In the coming years, more and more exams will be completed - as well as marked - online, and the government and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will have to think hard about the ways of maintaining standards.

By far the easiest form of online testing to implement is multiple choice. A student can take the test online and it can be automatically marked instantaneously; this system is almost foolproof. The downside is that most people associate multiple choice with dumbing down, on the grounds that anything that can be reduced to a yes or no, right or wrong answer, is bound to be over-simplified.

"Not true", says Stevie Pattison-Dick, head of communications for Edexcel. "Some multiple-choice exams may be quite straightforward, but if they are, they only reflect the level of knowledge a student is expected to attain. There's nothing inherently simple about multiple choice. We have become very sophisticated in our question setting and are able to cross-reference the answers, so an examiner can now

tell, whether someone just got lucky by ticking the right box or actually understood the process on which he or she was being assessed.” One of the final exams a medical student has to pass before qualifying as a doctor is multiple choice, so this method of assessment has to be extremely rigorous.

1. **The writer believes that**
 - A nothing of significance has changed in the exam system.
 - B a revolution in exam taking may soon be initiated.
 - C technology doesn't greatly affect students when they sit exams.
 - D many students cheat by using mobile phones.
2. **What does the writer mean by “old hands” in paragraph 3?**
 - A retired examiners.
 - B experienced examiners.
 - C examiners who have reached a certain age.
 - D mature students.
3. **Which of the following is *not* mentioned as a benefit of computer marking?**
 - A better utilization of examiners.
 - B more interesting questions can be set.
 - C many set questions do not need human markers at all.
 - D financial advantages.
4. **One advantage of the new system is that**
 - A teachers can focus on students' weaknesses before retakes.
 - B students only need to retake the parts of the exam that they failed.
 - C students can delay taking the exam for an extra six months.
 - D examiners can construct comprehensive revision plans.
5. **A What is stated to be a disadvantage of the current system?**
 - A Many examiners complain that the work is boring now.
 - B Examiners no longer have enough work.
 - C Examiners have a limited impression of the candidate.
 - D Examiners aren't as skillful as they used to be.
6. **What is implied about the general perception of multiple-choice testing?**
 - A It is easy for a student to cheat.
 - B It reduces the student's writing skills.
 - C It lowers the standard of the exam.
 - D It's impossible for a computer error to be made.
7. **According to Stevie Patterson-Dick, multiple-choice exams**
 - A do have a large element of chance in them.
 - B are not always the best way to test medical students.
 - C are by far the best way to test students on particular subjects.
 - D can be composed in a way that makes students reaffirm their knowledge.

Task 2 Read the article about starting your own business. For questions 8 – 13 choose the best sentence from a – g and fill the gaps. One sentence you don't need to use.
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STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

The first two things to do if you are starting your own business are to find an accountant and talk to your bank manager. Your accountant will help you to draw up a business plan to show what borrowings you need from your bank. (8)_____.

While you are engaged in these consultations, it is a good idea to find out whether you are entitled to any government subsidies or similar financial help. (9)_____. Check too whether training grants are available for yourself or people you employ.

Once you have completed these preliminary tasks, there are a number of specific things you then need to do. Doing them in the right way and at the right time can save you a lot of money, so make sure you know what to do.

Perhaps the most important is to tell the Inland Revenue that you have left your job and have started your own business. (10) _____. The Inland Revenue will also need to amend their records to show that you are now self-employed. Next, you should think about registering for Value Added Tax (VAT). Generally, if your sales exceed a certain amount you have to charge VAT on them. (11) _____ .

Consider the consequences of employing people in your business. As soon as you start to take on employees, you will need to establish proper procedures. These include drawing up proper contracts of employment. You will also need to get in touch with your local tax office to register your employees.

Lastly, as part of becoming an employer of others, you must become familiar with a number of legal issues. Once you have more than a minimum number of people on your payroll, you will need to comply with Health and Safety requirements.

(12)_____. One issue that you should think about once your business expands and your staff grow in numbers is equal opportunity. In particular, you should consider drawing up a company policy on equal opportunity. (13) _____.

If you need more information on legal or other matters relating to employment, contact your local Chamber of Commerce, which will either be able to help you, or will put you in touch with organizations who can.

- a. It is a good idea, when considering this issue, to ask your local Fire Authority to check your work premises in order to ensure that they comply with current fire regulations.
- b. Even if your sales are under that figure, it may be worthwhile registering voluntarily because you could recover what you have been charged on your business purchases.
- c. If you are new to this, talk to your local Chamber of Commerce about placing suitable advertisements in the local press.
- d. For example, you might be in a less prosperous region where grants are made to encourage the start-up of small business.
- e. You may be due a repayment of income tax deducted while you were in employment, so do this as soon as possible.
- f. If this includes a commitment to employ disabled people, you will need to ensure that your premises are equipped to accommodate them, for example with ramps for wheelchairs, special provision of toilets, and so on.
- g. Once this is done, your bank manager will need to review the plan and discuss any overdraft facility you might need.

Task 3. For questions 14 - 19 read the definitions and match them to corresponding words in the article “Starting Your Own Business” and sentences a-g.

14	working for yourself
15	the total amount of money that a company or organization owes
16	the act of paying back the money
17	someone who can't use part of their body properly
18	the buildings and land that a shop, restaurant, company uses
19	done willingly and without being helped

Task 4 For questions **20-29** read the text below, in which somebody is trying to decide whether to go straight to university from school, or spend a year travelling around the world. Put the arguments (a – j) in the correct order.

I'm really in two minds about what to do when I leave school. Should I go straight to university or should I spend a year travelling around the world? First of all, there are so many benefits of going straight to the university.

- a. Unfortunately, another point is that if I spend a year travelling I would need a lot of money.
- b. On the one hand, I would experience lots of different cultures. On the other hand, I could end up suffering from culture shock, homesickness and some strange tropical disease.
- c. Furthermore, if I spend a year travelling, I would learn more about the world.
- d. Moreover, I'll be able to take part in social activities that the university offers, and meet lots of new friends who share the same interests.
- e. And I am not alone in this opinion. Many consider a sound career and a good salary to be an important goal.
- f. But I believe that it would be easy to make a bit while I was travelling, giving English lessons or working in hotels and shops.
- g. Nevertheless, these inconveniences would be an inevitable part of travelling and would be greatly outweighed by the other advantages.
- h. However, it could be argued that I would also meet lots of interesting people while I was travelling.
- i. The most important point is that the sooner I get my qualification, the quicker I'll get the job and start earning. In my opinion, starting work and making money is one of the most important things in life.
- j. Secondly, if I go straight to the university, I'll learn so many things that will help me in my future life. It is often said that knowledge is the key to power, and I cannot disagree with this.

All right, I've made up my mind. Now, where is my nearest travel agency?

20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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USE OF ENGLISH

Task 1 For questions **1-6** fill the gaps with cause and effect connectors. There are more words than you will need.

A drop in consumers' spending power _____ **1** _____ in a corresponding drop in demand throughout the economy. As a result, industrial production had to be reduced, and one _____ **2** _____ of this was that many workers were made redundant. And _____ **3** _____ to this rising unemployment, consumers' incomes and _____ **4** _____ their spending power fell further. For this _____ **5** _____, demand continued to fall throughout the economy, _____ **6** _____ a fall in industrial production, and in turn, more redundancies.

<i>nevertheless</i>	<i>because</i>	<i>resulting</i>	<i>so that</i>	<i>though</i>	<i>resulted</i>
<i>consequence</i>	<i>reason</i>	<i>consequently</i>	<i>causing</i>	<i>because of</i>	<i>owing</i>

Task 2 For questions **7 – 14** fill the gaps in the following sentences with derivatives of the words given below. There are two derivatives for each word. One word you don't need to use.

reserve	question	respect	rest	noise
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7. Something that is _____ seems doubtful and is likely to be wrong or untrue.
8. The protests were the biggest show of social and political _____ since the Government came to power.
9. She packed her bags, then called the airport and made a _____ on the last flight.
10. His attitude towards the boss was so _____ that he ended up losing his job.
11. I start to feel _____ if I stay in the same job too long.
12. It is not considered _____ to enter the room without knocking.
13. I wouldn't say she is shy. I think _____ is a better word.
14. Our research is based on the conclusions drawn from 100.000 _____ sent out to different women's organizations.

Task 3 For questions **15 - 24** fill in the gaps with a word from the box to make the sentences idiomatic. There are more words than you will need.

15. He is the best man to run the company. He cut his _____ in the production department and ran it successfully for years.
16. After their argument Jenny gave him the cold _____ and refused to talk to him.
17. I know you told me about the meeting, but it completely slipped my _____.
18. Debbie made a slip of the _____ when she said that Paris was in Spain.
19. She is a good manager, but her Achilles' _____ is her poor English.
20. You have to deal with this problem before it gets out of _____.
21. The car costs an arm and a _____ . It'll take them ages to pay back the loan.
22. You hit the nail on the _____ when you called him the slowest worker on earth. I have never seen anyone do so little.
23. They lived from hand to _____, never enjoying luxury or travelling.
24. Brian made Gary lose _____ in front of his friends when he said Gary wasn't smart.

heel	neck	thumb	foot	face	mouth	chin	toe	leg
hand	tongue	mind	teeth	shoulder	head	feet	fingers	palm

Task 4 Questions **25-28**. The words in the following sentences have been jumbled up. Unjumble them and write the sentences on the answer sheet.

25. looking We long we for which we sign driving were saw been when the hadn't
26. such should I extraordinary it that a happened have find thing absolutely
27. largest said built It to ship be the ever is
28. company He of was cause bankruptcy attempting to the accused the of

Task 5 For questions **29-37**, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Don't change the word given. Write only the missing words on the answer sheet.

29. George didn't take his camera with him and he realized that it was a mistake.
wished
 George _____ his camera with him.
30. They concluded that there was nothing more they could do to save the business.
came
 They _____ the business was beyond help.
31. It is unlikely that Jim will get the promotion.
chance
 There is _____ being promoted.
32. Men outnumber women by two to one in this profession.
twice
 There are _____ in this profession.
33. Ben needs to clean his car.
high
 It's _____ his car.
34. The voting process is the same as it was last year.
changed
 The voting process _____ since last year.
35. 'You won't get a good seat if you come late,' said Leslie to me.
unless
 Leslie said that _____, I wouldn't get a good seat.
36. I'd help you, but I have very little time on my hands.
hardly
 I'd help you, but I _____ free time on my hands.
37. It would be a good idea to make reservations ahead of time.
better
 You _____ reservations ahead of time.

Task 6 For questions 38 – 41 choose the correct answer. The questions concern the life in English speaking countries.

38. On St. David's Day Welshmen wear
 A a rose or a daffodil B a leek or a daffodil C a shamrock or a leek D a thistle or a rose
39. The nickname of the Conservative Party of Great Britain is
 A The Whigs B The Tories C The Elephants D The Liberals
40. One of the well-known nicknames for the USA is
 A "Crazy Tribe" B "Wild World" C "Melting pot" D "Great Empire"
41. Which name is not appropriate for the list?
 A Henry Wordsworth Longfellow B Walt Whitman
 C Robert Frost D Fenimore Cooper

TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

ANSWER SHEET

Listening

1		11	
2		12	
3		13	
4		14	
5		15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		18	
9		19	
10		20	
Reading		21	
1		22	
2		23	
3		24	
4		25	
5		26	
6		27	
7		28	
8		29	
9			
10			

Listening _

Reading _____

Use of English _____

Use of English

1		24	
2		25	
3		26	
4		27	
5		28	
6		29	
7		30	
8		31	
9		32	
10		33	
11		34	
12		35	
13		36	
14		37	
15		38	
16		39	
17		40	
18		41	
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			

Listening

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet

You will hear part of the lecture about learning and bilingualism

For questions 1-5 complete the sentences below

Write no more than two words for each answer.

1. Bilingualism can be defined as having an equal level of communicative _____ in two or more languages.
2. Early research suggested that bilingualism caused problems with _____ and mental development.
3. Early research into bilingualism is now rejected because it did not consider the _____ and _____ backgrounds of the children.
4. It is now thought that there is a _____ relationship between bilingualism and cognitive skills in children.
5. Research done by Ellen Bialystok in Canada now suggests that the effects of bilingualism also apply to _____ .

For questions 6 – 10 choose the correct letter A, B or C

6. **In Dr Bialystock's experiment, the subjects had to react according to**
A the colour of the square on the screen.
B the location of the square on the screen.
C the location of the shift key on the keyboard.
7. **The experiment demonstrated the 'Simon effect' because it involved a conflict between**
A seeing something and reacting to it.
B producing fast and slow reactions.
C demonstrating awareness of shape and colour.
8. **The experiment shows that, compared with the monolingual subjects, the bilingual subjects**
A were more intelligent.
B had faster reaction time overall.
C had more problems with the 'Simon effect'.
9. **The results of the experiment indicate that bilingual people may be better at**
A doing different types of tasks at the same time.
B thinking about several things at once.
C focusing only on what is needed to do a task.
10. **Dr Bialystock's first and second experiments both suggest that bilingualism may**
A slow down the effects of old age on the brain.
B lead to mental confusion among old people.
C help old people to stay in better physical condition.