

RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
under the President of the Russian Federation
ETECS 2014-2015 (English Test for the 8th-9th Class Students – 2014-2015)
(total score 100 points)

Variant 1

PART I. Listening comprehension (10 points)

Task 1. Listening (3 points). Listen to the dialogue between two people and answer the questions. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.



1. Who are these people? _____
2. What are they doing? _____
3. Who do they meet? _____

Task 2. Listening (7 points). Read through the statements before listening again. Listen to the dialogue again. Mark the statements in the order you hear them.

a) They spend the money they get from begging on drugs and alcohol.	
b) If they are homeless, it's because they want to be.	
c) We should help people who can't help themselves.	
d) They could easily get a job if they wanted one.	
e) Many beggars have mental problems, like depression.	
f) Hey get plenty of money off the government.	
g) People who beg on the streets have a hard life.	

PART II. Grammar Issues (40 points)

Task 1. Grammar forms (40 points).

Fill in the gaps with the proper word forms where and if necessary. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

The Dinner Party

Variant 1

Let me (tell) 11 _____ you a story which happened 12 _____ my uncle Octavian thirty years ago. At that time I was fifteen. My uncle Octavian was then 13 _____ rich, charming and hospitable man — until January 3, 1925. It was his fifty-fifth birthday and as usual 14 _____ that day he (give) 15 _____ a party for twelve people. All of them were old friends and the most distinguished people.

I (stay) 16 _____ with my uncle at his villa and I (allow) 17 _____ (come) 18 _____ down to dinner. It was exciting for me to be admitted to such a company, which included a newspaper editor and his American wife, a recent Prime Minister of France and distinguished German prince and princess. They were all old and intimate friends of my uncle.

Towards 19 _____ end of a wonderful dinner my uncle (come) 20 _____ 21 _____ 22 _____ the princess to admire a very beautiful diamond ring she (wear) 23 _____. It looked (wonderful) 24 _____. She turned her hand (graceful) 25 _____. "It was my grandmother's," she said. "I (wear, not) 26 _____ it for many years. Once it (belong) 27 _____ 28 _____ Genghis Khan."

Everybody (delight) 29 _____. Her neighbour said, "May I have a look?" The princess (take off) 30 _____ the ring and (give) 31 _____ it 32 _____ him. The ring (pass) 33 _____ from hand to hand. As I turned I saw my neighbour (pass) 34 _____ it on. Twenty minutes later the princess stood up and said, "Before we (leave) 35 _____ may I have it back?" There was 36 _____ pause. Then there was 37 _____ silence. The princess (smile, still) 38 _____ though less easily. I thought it was a joke and that one of us (produce) 39 _____ the ring with a laugh. But when nothing happened at all I knew that the rest of the night (be) 40 _____ awful. Uncle Octavian made everybody even the servants (stay) 41 _____ in the room. Everybody had to stay in. Then there was a search of 42 _____ whole room, but it (bring, not) 43 _____ the ring back. It (disappear) 44 _____. It (cost) 45 _____ two hundred thousand dollars. The thief was one of my uncle's friends.

"There (be) 46 _____ no search in my house. I don't want any of you (turn) 47 _____ out your pockets. The ring can only be lost. If it (find, not) 48 _____ I (pay) 49 _____ for it," he said. The ring was never found.

To our family's surprise uncle Octavian had very (little/few) 50 _____ money on his bank account when he died five years ago. After that party he never gave a single lunch or dinner party for the last thirty years of his life.

PART III. Vocabulary Issues (10 points)

Task 1. Proverbs (5 points).

Match the proverbs with the explanations on the right. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

51. Fine feathers make fine birds.	A. Ум хорошо, а два лучше.
52. Four eyes see more (better) than two.	B. Ничто не вечно под луной.
53. If things were to be done twice all would be wise.	C. Дешево отделаться.
54. The morning sun never lasts a day.	D. Задним умом всяк крепок.
55. To come off cheap.	E. Одежда красит человека.

Task 2. Formal/informal (5 points).

Give shorter, more informal versions of the words. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

56. mother	
57. newspaper	
58. goodbye	
59. advertisement	
60. children	

PART IV. Cultural Issues (10 points)

Task 1. . Matching (4 points).

Match the names of the shops on the left with their definition on the right. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

61. Health food shop	A. a small shop usually but not always on a corner, usually open longer hours than other shops.
62. Corner shop	B. a group of usually large stores of the same kind owned by one organization.
63. Chain store	C. a shop where one can buy food that is believed to be good for health, food that is in the natural state, without added chemicals.
64. Supermarket	D. a large shop where customers serve themselves with food and other goods; goods usually cost less than in smaller shops.

Task 2. Task 2. Abbreviations. (6 points).

Write the full name of the abbreviation. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

- 65. BC –
- 66. a.m.-
- 67. mph –
- 68. VIP –
- 69. J. F. K.-
- 70. UFO -.

PART V. Reading Issues (20 points)

Task 1. Reading comprehension (10 points).

According to the text, are the following sentences true or false? Put a 'T' for true and an 'F' for false next to each sentence. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

- 71. Amish people aren't allowed to keep animals.
- 72. The Amish break the law when they let their children leave school at 13.
- 73. The Amish are happy for tourists to visit them.
- 74. The biggest Amish community is in Pennsylvania.
- 75. Amish women aren't allowed to wear buttons.
- 76. Amish men can't cut their hair?
- 77. The Amish are a new religious group.
- 78. Most Amish communities have a telephone box and some communities have a tractor.
- 79. Amish children are often curious about the outside world.
- 80. Most Amish children leave the religion when they are older.

'We Have Simple Lives'

Many people's ideas of the typical American is a loud person who boasts about their possessions and owns all the latest technology. 'The Amish are the complete opposite of this.

Most Americans would die without a car (or at least they think they would). The Amish don't have cars; they use horses 'They don't have televisions either In fact they don't have electricity.

Variant 1

They don't need it because they don't have radios, computers or anything electrical all. Some people might feel sorry for them or think they are mad but this is the way that the Amish have chosen to live. They think that we're the weird ones.

Separate lives

Amish people try to be as simple as possible. Modesty, family and community are the most important things to them. They don't want to be a part of the modern world as it is too complicated and corrupt. They live independently in their own community. They even have their own schools which only have one or two classrooms. They learn reading, writing, math and morals. The big difference from regular American school is that they learn nothing about the world outside of their community and they do not continue their education beyond eighth grade. The Amish do not think their children need more school education after the age of thirteen because they will either do farm work, carpentry or help with the family business. In 1972, the US supreme court allowed them to stop school at thirteen.

'Like animals in the zoo'

Amish people are not easy to interview. They are very private people and they don't like people taking their photographs.

They say photographs steal their souls and are a sign of vanity. The biggest Amish community in the USA is in Lancaster, Pennsylvania where there are 18,000 Amish people. In the summer it is visited by millions of people. One Amish teenager said he felt like an animal in a zoo. Some visitors shout things such as 'Why are you so backward?', laugh at their clothes or knock their hats off as a joke. They must feel angry when they are teased but demonstrating anger and violence are against the Amish beliefs

Fashion is vanity

Unfortunately for the Amish, their appearance is perfect for photo-hungry tourists. They look like they are from a film about the eighteenth century. The women are not allowed to cut their hair, wear jewelry or make-up. They aren't even allowed to wear clothes with buttons because buttons are too fussy. Men have to wear suits and socks with a plain shirt.

Changing with the times

The Amish are a religious group that was started in the 1720s. They are united in their beliefs. Many people can respect that but can't understand how the Amish can live the way that they do. They are frequently asked why they make life harder for themselves and when they will modernize themselves. In truth, most Amish communities have one telephone box for emergencies and perhaps one tractor for very heavy work. Communities often have meetings to discuss whether to accept a particular aspect of the modern world and what effect it will have on them. The young Amish are inevitably curious about things outside their community. Some occasionally listen to music or even try in-line skating (using a bicycle is forbidden because it is too fast), but when they confirm their beliefs at age thirteen, they promise to accept Amish rules and reject such things. Only one in five leave the Amish community. The Amish say this shows that people enjoy living the way that they do.

Task 2. Add the headings (10 points).

Put the following headings with the correct pieces of advice. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

- A) Stop worrying about things you can't change.
- B) Look after yourself feelings.
- C) Communicate.
- D) Remember to have fun.
- E) Organise and prioritise.
- F) Try new things,
- G) Take charge and be pro-active.
- H) Don't procrastinate the people who are close to you.
- I) Breathe!

J) Stay positive.

Coping With Stress

Although stress can sometimes be a good thing because it gives you the motivation to do your best, it can have a harmful effect on you mentally and physically. If it continues for too long, it can cause sleeplessness, anxiety, mood swings, depression and illness. Here are 10 ways to combat excess stress.

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By doing this you will feel in control and decide which things are more urgent and important. Feeling prepared can get rid of a lot of stress. Much stress is caused by doing things when there isn't enough time to do them, e.g. revising everything you have learned the night before a test.

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Instead of worrying about doing something or avoiding it because you are scared of doing it (in case you fail) – just do it! The sooner you take action, the more time you will have if anything goes wrong.

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Keeping your body healthy reduces stress. Cut down on too much caffeine and sweet things. Make sure you get enough sleep and vitamin C.

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Deep breathing works because getting more oxygen into your body relaxes you. You can either take up yoga or simply try

breathing in deeply through your nose then exhaling through your mouth, and then repeat it ten times.

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Doing something you really enjoy means you get a chance to take a break and 'recharge your batteries'. People who don't do this feel depressed and then their problems seem bigger and they can no longer put them into perspective.

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If you think negatively, stress can take over but if you keep reminding yourself that you can cope and that you know what you are doing, stress often goes away.

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You can't change them so why worry? Work on the things you can do something about.

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Find out about new things: two cliches that people often quote are 'variety is the spice of life' and 'a change is as good as a rest'. The good news is that they are both true. Realising that

the world holds a lot more possibilities than the things you generally focus on can make you forget your problems.

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Telling people about your problems can often help. 'This way you will feel less isolated. You should also tell people such as teachers or boyfriends girlfriends or parents how stressed you feel about certain things. Once they realise how you feel they might be able to help, e.g. proving to parents that you are adult and mature rather than shouting it at them during an argument often helps.

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Find somewhere where you have space to think, rest and generally chill out. You should also use this space to write down some possible solutions to the things that are stressing you. Then write down possible ways you can do those things. Attacking the problem is better than waiting for it to just go away.

PART VI. Writing Issues (10 points)

Task 1. Writing an essay (10 points).

Choose one of the options and write your answer on the answer sheet. Write an essay on one of the topics (200-250 words).

Use a plan:

- introduction (state the problem)
 - express your opinion and give 2-3 reasons for your opinion
 - express an opposing opinion and give 1-2 reasons for this opinion
 - explain why you don't agree with the opposing opinion
 - make a conclusion restating your position
- A. Some people believe that the Earth is being damaged by human activity. Others feel that human activity makes the Earth a better place to live. What is your opinion?
- B. Some people prefer to live in places that have the same weather or climate all the year round. Others like to live in areas where the weather changes several times a year. Which do you prefer?
- C. Some people believe that it's better to have separate schools for boys and girls. What is your opinion?

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b) If they are homeless, it's because they want to be.	
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d) They could easily get a job if they wanted one.	
e) Many beggars have mental problems, like depression.	
f) They get plenty of money off the government.	
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Part II
Grammar Issues (40 points)

Task 1. Grammar forms (40 points).

Fill in the gaps with the proper word forms where and if necessary. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

Variant 2

George, Harris and I were great friends. We often (meet) 11_____ at weekends and discussed our life. The thing was that the three of us (feel) 12_____ bad. Every evening we were so tired that nothing could (make) 13_____ us (relax) 14_____. That night we (sit) 15_____ discussing our health as usual. I said that I (know) 16_____ what (be) 17_____ wrong with me. It (be) 18_____ my heart. I (know) 19_____ it for sure because the previous day I (read) 20_____ in a magazine about the symptoms of a bad heart. I (think) 21_____ that my friends (understand) 22_____ how ill I was but they said I took everything too seriously. And they were probably right. After I (tell) 23_____ you what once happened 24_____ me and you (understand) 25_____ everything.

One day I went to the British Museum Library to read about a little health problem I then had. I (find) 26_____ the book and (read) 27_____ what I wanted. Then I automatically (begin) 28_____ reading about some other illness. I read more and more pages and each disease was (bad) 29_____ than the previous one. And I had the symptoms of them all. I didn't notice night (come) 30_____ down. You can imagine how terrible I (feel) 31_____! I (know) 32_____ I (be going) 33_____ to die very soon, I was sure 34_____ it! I (feel) 35_____ very sorry 36_____ myself because I (come) 37_____ to the library a healthy man and now I (leave) 38_____ it as an invalid.

But when the next day I described the situation to my doctor he only laughed 39_____ me. "What you need is a good holiday", he said.

So it (decide) 40_____ that we (go) 41_____ on holiday. But what 42_____ hard work it was to decide where to go. One of us wanted to go to the seaside, 43_____ other preferred to stay in 44_____ quiet place away from town, 45_____ third suggested going to the mountains. A lot of ideas (discuss) 46_____ and (reject) 47_____.

But suddenly an idea (come) 48_____ to my mind. I (think) 49_____ that if we (go) 50_____ boating along the Thames it would help us relax. My friends did not object.

PART III. Vocabulary Issues (10 points)

Task 1. Proverbs (5 points).

Match the proverbs with the explanations on the right. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

51. To fit like a glove.	A. Втирать очки.
52. To have rats in the attic.	B. Не выноси сора из избы.
53. To make both ends meet.	C. Как по Сеньке шапка.
54. To throw dust in somebody's eyes.	D. Не все дома.
55. Wash your dirty linen at home.	E. Сводить концы с концами.

Task 2. Formal/informal (5 points).

Give shorter, more informal versions of the words. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

56. laboratory	
57. veterinary surgeon	
58. television	
59. advertisement	
60. London Underground	

PART IV. Cultural Issues (10 points)

Task 1. Miscellaneous. (5 points).

Write the correct answer. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

61. What medicine was discovered in the research laboratory at St. Mary's Hospital in London?

62. What is the Scottish national costume for men? _____
63. Who is the most popular hero of English ballads? _____
64. What does the word "Albion", the poetic name of Great Britain mean? _____
65. In what part of Britain is Ben Nevis located? _____

Task 4. True or False? (5 points)

Read the statements and mark each of them as True or False. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

66. Welsh is an official language in Wales.
67. Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon.
68. The BBC stands for 'Best British Culture.'
69. A mile is longer than a kilometre.
70. Elizabeth II has two birthdays.

PART V. Reading Issues (20 points).

Task 1. Reading comprehension (10 points).

Read the text and answer the questions.

71. Why do many people think it is unlikely that William Shakespeare wrote the plays himself?
72. What was Shakespeare's education like?
73. If Shakespeare didn't write the plays, why didn't the person who wrote them take credit for them?
74. Why do people think that the Earl of Oxford could have written Shakespeare's plays?
75. In the play Macbeth, what was Macbeth's job?
76. What was Macbeth's wife like?
77. Who killed Hamlet's father?
78. In Twelfth Night, why might you feel sorry for the Duke?
79. Why might King Lear be described as stubborn and fickle?
80. Why might you feel sorry for Cordelia in King Lear?

The Mystery of William Shakespeare

Shakespeare himself has been described as a genius, the greatest dramatist and poet of all time, and yet very little is known about him.

The only real facts are these:

- William Shakspere (his real name) was born on April

23rd 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town in the centre of England.

- His father and mother were illiterate farming people.
- In 1582, he married a woman called Anne Hathaway. They had three

children who also grew up illiterate.

- By 1592, he was working in London as an actor.

- In the following 14 years, many plays were performed under his name (Shakespeare).

- In 1610/11 he returned to Stratford and spent the rest of his life borrowing and lending small sums of money.

Shakespeare's writings are admired everywhere for their intelligence, with, beauty and humanity. So, how was it that this simple countryman was able to

write such amazing poetry? How did someone with no apparent education, in an age when the average educated person knew 3,000 - 4,000 words, manage to produce 36 tragedies and comedies and over 127 poems, using a combined vocabulary of more than 15,000 different words?

In his will, Shakespeare left no books or letters and made no reference to any plays. So, is it possible that the plays were written by someone else?

Will the real 'Will Shakey' please stand up?

1. An Elizabethan courtier called Francis Bacon.

Bacon was famous throughout Europe for his great intellect and learning. He also came from an important aristocratic family. So many of Shakespeare's plays are concerned with nobility and the court, with no explanation of how he knew about it. Bacon had this inside information and was known to have written for the theatre.

But why would Bacon disguise himself? The Elizabethan age was a time of great political uncertainty and people were killed for their views. It is possible that Bacon used Shakespeare as a kind of mask, behind which he could explore and promote his ideas without fear of persecution.

2. Edward de Vere, the Earl of Oxford.

De Vere spent many years in Italy as a young man, which would explain the use of Italy as a setting for 14 of the plays. His family symbol was a bear 'shaking a spear'. Also, in his copy of the Bible, numerous phrases are underlined which also appear in Shakespeare's plays.

3. Roger Manners, the Earl of Rutland.

He was registered at the University of Padua on 28 March 1596 so he also had an Italian connection. On the same page that records his entry, are the names of two Danish fellow-students - Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are the names of two of the courtiers in *Hamlet*.

Read the beginning of these plays. How should they end?

1. MACBETH

A high-ranking soldier called Macbeth and his best friend Banquo are returning home after fighting some

rebels. When they walk through the woods, they meet three witches who predict that Macbeth will be king one day and that Banquo's children will be kings too. When Macbeth tells his wife of the witches' prediction, she says he must kill the king.

2. HAMLET

Hamlet's father is the King of Denmark. Claudius poisons the King and marries Hamlet's mother, the Queen. Hamlet's dead father's ghost appears to him and tells

Hamlet to seek revenge

3. TWELFTH NIGHT

Viola is shipwrecked and believes her twin brother has drowned.

She disguises herself as a boy and becomes servant to the love-sick Duke Orsino, carrying messages of his profound love to Lady Olivia. Lady Olivia, however does not love the duke.

4. KING LEAR

King Lear divides his kingdom between his three daughters. He tells them that the one who loves him the most will get the largest share. His two elder daughters say that they love him extravagantly. Cordelia, the youngest and his favourite, simply tells him she loves him with a daughter's love. He is furious and banishes her.

Read the text “Britain vs. America”. The following words are taken from the text, match the words with their meaning. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

81. quaint	A. a machine that automatically gives out something
82. decorator	B. an object that is interesting for its novelty or cleverness rather than its practical use.
83. lifestyle	C. lacking in sophistication and good taste
84. gadget	D. someone employed to change the way a room looks by choosing colours and furniture, etc.
85. dispenser	E. the way that you live your life
86. vulgar	F. attractively old fashioned

Britain vs. America

We take an insulting (and hopefully humorous) look at the differences between Americans and British people and probably manages to offend both of them!

Themselves

Americans aim to do three in life: 1. 'Look after Number One', 2. Live forever and look beautiful and young for as long as possible, 3. Make lots of money and/or become famous. They will do anything to achieve these three goals.

The British are very different. They would like to be quite rich, but they are, are happy to accept their lot if they're not. They would never dream of putting themselves before others (which is why they like to queue so much and allow people to go in front of them in races), even if their lives depended on it. They are proud of the class system that divides them.

Food and drink

The Americans love food, in large quantities and endless varieties. Many American meals often don't even fit on the plate. Americans like their food to be wrapped in clingfilm (or shrink-wrap as Americans call it - see what we mean about this language difference thing!) and ready for the microwave. This is true unless of course they are

Californians in which case they eat 'raw energy food' known to the rest of the world as salad. The British only eat food to survive and would never dream of enjoying it. They prefer to cook their food for twice as long as necessary just to make sure it's done, and don't like to have too many choices on menus as they find it impossible to make up their minds.

Children Television

Both British and American parents are proud of their children, but here the similarity ends.

American parents publicly admire their children and like to share their successes with everyone, assuming that everyone else is interested. They change their children if they don't like them the way they are, by, for example, straightening their teeth or boosting their self-confidence by planning extra activities for them.

British parents think that too much praise would make their children overconfident. British parents are happy to accept their children as nature intended even

if it means their teeth look terrible.

Weather

In America, 'hot and sunny' means that you should wear factor 20 suncream and you could cook eggs on the sidewalk (or 'pavement' as the Brits would say). In Britain 'hot and sunny' means it isn't raining so you should expose any white skin in a public place until it goes pink, or it starts to rain.

Television

America has thousands of TV channels because most Americans have a very short attention span TV and film companies won't film anyone who isn't blonde and beautiful, who is slightly overweight or who does not have perfect teeth, unless they are appearing on a talk show Britain is well known for its comedy, drama and award-winning commercials (or 'advertisements' as those 'quaint' little Brits would say) and the fact that it has only 5 TV channels. However, as most British people would never want to appear on TV, they don't need more than 5 channels.

Variant 2

Houses remote controlled (garage doors carpets and furniture (as many Americans spend thousands and temperature controls), different patterns as possible in of dollars employing decorators extremely large (fridges) or just the same room) and are not to create a perfect home and for lazy people (ice cube concerned that they live in lifestyle for themselves. They dispensers. Britons are much freezing conditions indoors as are particularly fond of gadgets less vulgar than the Americans. well as outdoors. as well as things which are They really like patterned

Task 3. Read the sentences about British and American people (4 points).

For each sentence, choose and write 'if' or 'unless'. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

87. British people would like to be rich, but they think they can still be happy if / unless they're not.
88. The British think that their children will become overconfident if / unless they receive too much praise.
89. If / unless Americans say it's hot and sunny it means you can cook eggs on the pavement.
90. American houses aren't complete if / unless they have a lot of gadgets.

PART VI. Writing Issues (10 points)

Task 1. Writing an essay (10 points).

Choose one of the options and write your answer on the answer sheet. Write an essay on one of the topics (200-250 words).

Use a plan:

- introduction (state the problem)
- express your opinion and give 2-3 reasons for your opinion
- express an opposing opinion and give 2-3 reasons for this opinion
- explain why you don't agree with the opposing opinion
- make a conclusion restating your position

- A. Every generation is different in important ways. How is your generation different from your parents' generation?
- B. Some people prefer to eat at food stands and restaurants. Others prefer to prepare food at home.
- C. Humans are the most intelligent beings, so nature should be fully exploited for our benefit. What is your opinion?