

ПЛЕХАНОВСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ
(заочный тур 2014 – 2015 год)

READING

TASK 1

For questions 1 -6 read the text and choose the best answer a, b, c or d

Taking on a leadership role for the first time is tough. There is always pressure on you to do the right things, and to be seen to be doing them. But, unless there's something that needs sorting out urgently, your first few months in the role will be better spent in understanding the people and the situation. One easy mistake to make is to think that you, as a leader, the top person with the top salary, have the sole responsibility and the know-how to solve every single problem yourself. And you can be sure that others will encourage you to think that way, since it takes the pressure off them, and it satisfies their natural urge to leave the solving of problems to others. Instead try using existing resources to identify the current position and the ways to change it for the better.

Start by consulting widely, beginning with the people who now report to you directly, as these are most likely to be the people with the expertise and experience to tackle some of the problems that are identified. A series of one-to-one meetings, though time-consuming, will be worthwhile, especially if they are structured to provide you with the information you need to make decisions later on. Two useful questions are: 'What do you see as the biggest problem facing the department now?' and 'What one change would make the most difference to our success?' From their answers you can build up a picture of your people, as well as of the issues. Some will consider the needs of the department as a whole, while others may just concentrate on their own particular concerns. You will also have had personal contact with each person and can judge who you will work well with in the future.

Overlap in their responses is a useful pointer to the priorities needing your attention. If there is no duplication in problems or solutions, it means that you have inherited a disunited group which will need some team-building and restructuring. If no clear picture emerges, it means that your people are part of the problem: you will need to make them aware of this.

At the same time, consult with customers. Be open to criticism and to praise. Compare the views of your department with this external viewpoint and see where the biggest gaps are. This will help to identify areas for action.

While you are data-gathering, have a look at the figures. Apply different measures from the standard ones. You probably lack knowledge about which company products are profitable, and you recognize that staff costs are a key factor. So, ask for an analysis of profitability per employee. There will be some grumbling that the new figures involve extra work, but the analysis will reveal how many and what kind of staff your company really needs.

Finally, a key issue for you as a new leader is to establish priorities. If you have done your research well, you will have identified a number of areas for action. Bring your senior team together and tell them about your research findings, both the problems and the suggested solutions. Together, plot the solutions on a big graph, with one axis relating to the amount of difference the action would make; and the other axis to the ease of implementation. This will prompt useful discussion on the issues and the means of resolving them. In selecting priorities, you might well gain volunteers to tackle some of the tasks. Agree actions, assign responsibilities and establish dates for completion and progress reviews.

1. Employees encourage their bosses to believe that he or she should solve all the problems, because they

A really don't want to have to solve the problems themselves.

B believe that the boss is paid to solve problems.

C know that the boss has a lot more information about the issues than they do.

D that they shouldn't have to solve problems created by other people.

2. How should you structure your first meeting according to the writer?
- A Explain to each member of staff the problems facing his or her department.
 - B See people individually and ask each one the same questions.**
 - C Ask each member of staff to help in setting priorities for actions.
 - D Bring everyone into the discussion to get an agreed plan of action.
3. Getting the same answers from different people during your research tells you that
- A the people who are under you clearly do not work well together.
 - B a lot of your department's problems are caused by the people themselves.
 - C you have identified the most urgent issues needing your attention.**
 - D your department is working well despite a number of problems.
4. It is useful to talk to customers about the performance of your department because
- A they are likely to be more honest and open than your own staff.
 - B it makes your customers feel that their opinions are important to you.
 - C it gives you an opportunity to criticize or praise them.
 - D you can evaluate what they say against what your own staff told you.**
5. What might you learn from the kind of financial analysis that the writer recommends?
- A That you need to employ fewer people, or people with different skills.**
 - B That you can increase profitability by using different measures.
 - C That this kind of financial analysis involves a lot of extra work.
 - D That financial data must be combined with other information to give a full picture.
6. According to the writer, using a graph as part of the meeting with senior staff is a good way to
- A set deadlines for completing the work and reporting back.
 - B give feedback to your staff on the results of your research.
 - C get your staff talking about the issues and what to do about them.**
 - D show which members of staff should tackle the various problems.

TASK 2

For questions 7–22 read the magazine article about four women's views on British cuisine. For each question choose from the women **A–D**. The women can be chosen more than once.

What we think about British cuisine

Four women from different countries give their views on British cooking

A Sri from Indonesia

I married an Englishman in Indonesia in 1962 and he had talked about his mother being an excellent cook, so I always thought British food would be very good. I'd also read a lot of English literature and the food described in it always sounded delicious. When I arrived, I wasn't disappointed: for our first three months, we stayed at my mother-in-law's house and her cooking was wonderful. We always had a Sunday roast and I completely fell in love with roast beef, which we don't get in Indonesia. There is one thing I don't like about British food, though - I hate it when vegetables come to the table overcooked so they have hardly any taste. It makes me long for some hot chilli sauce. But the cooking in this country has definitely improved a lot in recent years, although I am a bit disappointed that ordinary restaurants are still quite bad. And I wouldn't say living here has influenced the way I cook - I still do everything the way that I learnt, watching my grandmother.

B Tiko from Georgia

Although I had a great job in Georgia, I got to the point when I needed to see what I was capable of doing. This is why, despite not ever having left my country for more than two weeks, I suddenly decided one day to pack

my bags and leave for England. Luckily, I quickly made a few English friends who invited me over for dinner and I found that everything's so different here. People here seemed pretty quiet. In Georgia it was like Christmas every day - there would always be 20 people at the table and you never knew who was going to knock on your door to join the party. As for the food itself, I love fish and chips, and even Brussels sprouts, which tasted so strange at first, seem delicious to me now! I do miss certain things from my country, though. Whenever I go back home, I live on traditional cornbread and a cheese called *suluguni*. It's like Italian mozzarella cheese but a bit saltier. This is the thing I miss the most.

C *Ludmilla from Latvia*

I came to this country with no definite plans, just to work and get some overseas experience. I had very limited knowledge of British food, most of which I got from an English friend at home, who liked to serve up English breakfasts swimming in fat. During the first couple of months, I didn't eat anything better because I had very little money. I was mainly subsisting on those horrible slices of pizza that you can get on street corners for £1. But I was lucky because I soon got a well-paid job and started visiting good places to eat. I think the quality of the food here has improved a million-fold, and people's attitudes have changed. They're more willing to try new things. And living here's definitely influenced my cooking style. I've embraced that whole fusion thing, mixing and matching different kinds of food from all over the world. Nowhere else in the world has access to the broad range of ingredients that you get here. I didn't really expect so much diversity, but it makes sense when you look at the UK's demographic.

D *Signe from Norway*

I moved to Britain because I got a place to study at Sussex University. I am an active person, I've always loved my food and so I was deeply disappointed when I found that the food in the student halls was abysmal! And I was surprised by how hard it was to get good fish and chips, even though we were close to the sea. It was only when I visited a restaurant called Maximillian's a couple of years back that I was really impressed by British food. I remember thinking, 'This is how it should be - really tasty, without too much embellishment.' There's definitely more pride in good British cuisine these days. There seems to be a real revival, not just in the skills of cooking, but also in the production of things like cheeses, bread and pastries, and the rearing of animals. I do enjoy British food but I miss things from Norway, particularly Arctic cloudberries, and their musky smell. As a child I didn't like them but now they remind me of home.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 7 mentions a wedding in another country ? | A B C D |
| 8 found a discrepancy between the quality of a dish and her location? | A B C D |
| 9 mentions the fact that a dish is unavailable in her country? | A B C D |
| 10 had to live off substandard food for a while? | A B C D |
| 11 grew accustomed to an unfamiliar taste in Britain? | A B C D |
| 12 says that British people today have a greater respect for their cuisine? | A B C D |
| 13 says some people in Britain have become more adventurous choosing food? | A B C D |
| 14 had high expectations of British food before she came to the country? | A B C D |
| 15 attributes the type of produce on offer to the cultural mix of the population? | A B C D |
| 16 says she has a good appetite? | A B C D |
| 17 says British food is best when not many things are added to it? | A B C D |
| 18 compares a product from her own country and a similar product from another? | A B C D |

- 19 had a negative experience of British food before she arrived in this country? A B **C** D
- 20 made an impulsive decision to relocate to Britain? A **B** C D
- 21 sometimes wishes she could add flavor to a meal? **A** B C D
- 22 was struck by the contrast in the way people dined together ? A **B** C D

TASK 3

For questions **23 – 30** read the statements and the comments given by mobile phone retailers. For each statement 23-30 choose one letter **A, B, C or D.**

A

Market awareness of the mobile telephone has exploded and the retailer who specialises in mobile phones is seeing growth like never before. Admittedly, some customers buy their first mobile phone in the supermarket, but for advice, add-ons and particular services they turn to the specialist., There are a large number of mobile phone retailers and I can't help but feel the market only has room for four players. Undoubtedly, customer service is the factor that differentiates operators and I think this year we will probably see rationalisation in the sector.

B

When I first started in the industry, mobile phones were retailing at a thousand pounds and were as large as box files. Now, prices are constantly being driven down and handsets are considerably more compact. There is intense competition between the network providers, and every time they lower their tariffs, more people come into the market, This will continue, and while retail dealers' profits will be affected dramatically, network providers will have to generate more revenue by offering internet provision and data services to the mobile user.

C

Over a few years, prices have dropped sharply and technological advances have meant products have changed - and are changing. Successful retailers must try to keep on top of these developments and invest in the training of employees so they are able to offer impartial advice to customers. E-commerce is taking off but this won't necessarily replace traditional retail outlets. In order to stand out, you need innovative ideas on customer service. We don't believe in criticising other retailers, but there's nothing particularly exciting out there at present.

D

The mobile phone business is behaving like the internet industry in take-up and the pace of innovation, and it's important not to be left behind. We must continue to innovate in delivering the product to the customer. In terms of service provision, you can draw comparisons between us and our closest rival, but clearly all the main mobile phone retailers have succeeded in taking the industry forward. Growth has accelerated rapidly and the mobile telephone has changed from simply being a business tool, to being a means of communication for everyone.

- 23 the extent to which mobile phones have changed in size A **B** C D
- 24 the need for retail staff to stay informed about the mobile phones they are selling A B **C** D
- 25 the belief that the market will not sustain the present number of mobile phone retailers **A** B C D
- 26 the use of mobile phones no longer being restricted to a specific group of people A B C **D**
- 27 the relationship between charges and the number of mobile phone users A **B** C D
- 28 a negative view of competing mobile phone retailers A B **C** D
- 29 a comparison between change in the mobile phone industry and that in a different sector A B C **D**

30 those services available at mobile phone outlets that are not provided by other retailers **A** B C D

USE OF ENGLISH

TASK 4

For questions **31 – 39** find the option (a,b,c,d) that is closest in meaning with the given sentence

31. The Prime Minister set up a committee of financial experts. They were to help him discuss and formulate new policies.

- a. The Prime Minister, who is a financial expert, set up a committee to discuss and formulate new policies.
- b. A committee consisting of financial experts was set up by the Prime minister to help him discuss and formulate new policies.**
- c. The Prime Minister, who was helped by financial experts, set up a committee to discuss and formulate new policies.
- d. A committee consisting of financial experts who were helped by the Prime Minister discussed and formulated new policies.

32. Some economists argue that new technology causes unemployment. Others feel that it allows more jobs to be created.

- a. Arguing that new technology causes unemployment, other economists feel that it allows more jobs to be created.
- b. Besides the argument that new technology causes unemployment, some economists feel that it allows more jobs to be created.
- c. Some economists argue that new technology brings about unemployment, whereas others feel that it allows more jobs to be created.**
- d. Some economists argue that new technology causes unemployment, so others feel that it allows more jobs to be created.

33. If the homework is difficult, I will ask you for help.

- a. Unless the homework is easy, I won't ask you for help.
- b. Unless the homework isn't difficult, I won't ask you for help.
- c. Unless the homework is difficult, I will ask you for help.
- d. Unless the homework is easy, I will ask you for help.**

34. He felt very tired. However, he was determined to continue to climb up the mountain.

- a. He felt so tired that he was determined to continue to climb up the mountain.
- b. Feeling very tired, he was determined to continue to climb up the mountain.
- c. As the result of his tiredness, he was determined to continue to climb up the mountain.
- d. Tired as he might feel, he was determined to continue to climb up the mountain.**

35. As soon as he arrived at the airport, he called home.

- a. He arrived at the airport and called me to take him home.
- b. He arrived at the airport sooner than he had expected.
- c. Calling home he said that he had arrived at the airport.
- d. No sooner had he arrived at the airport than he called home.**

36. She realized the danger she had been in only after she had read the newspaper the following morning.

- a. She realized what kind of dangers one might have had when she was reading a paper.
- b. When she read the newspaper, she found herself in danger she had already realized.
- c. She was lucky that she had survived the danger as the papers expressed
- d. She hadn't been aware of the danger she was in until she read the newspaper.**

37. Due to the fact that the demand for tea was very high in the 19th century, its price was astronomical.

- a. It was not until the 19th century that the demand for tea started to increase.
- b. The demand for tea was so high in the 19th century that its price was exorbitant**
- c. In the 19th century the price for tea increased despite the demand.
- d. It was its astronomical price which decreased the demand for tea in the 19th century.

38. Today there is hardly any time for storytelling in homes, whereas it was a life style in the past.

- a. Unlike in the past, in our modern world, time is the scarcest value, however people can still find time for storytelling.
- b. Today hardly anyone knows how important storytelling was in the past since everybody is busy with their own lives.
- c. Storytelling, which once was a vital part of life, has become significantly less common in the modern era due to lack of time.
- d. Although many people can hardly find time for anything rather than work, storytelling is no less important than it was in the past

39. He is getting the carpenters to mend his windows.

- a. He's having the windows to mend.
- b. He's having to mend the windows.
- c. The windows have been mending by carpenters.
- d. He's having the windows mended.

TASK 5

For questions **40 - 45** read the following text and then choose from the list **A - I** the best phrase to fill each of the spaces. Some of the suggested answers don't fit at all.

An odd place to live

Everyone needs somewhere to live and work, and humans will construct buildings almost anywhere, using even ice or mud as materials if nothing else is available. In the industrialised world, the problem is not finding materials for building but limited space and the high price of land.

The solution in most big cities is to build skyscrapers high into the air **(40) I**. Some architects have proposed turning skyscrapers on their heads and building down into the ground. This may seem an unusual concept **(41) A**. Such places could accommodate 100,000 people without using up valuable surface land. The underground city is technically feasible but there is a massive psychological barrier to be overcome. Will people be able to deal with living away from the sun and sky? The underground 'city' could be restricted to places of entertainment and office buildings **(42) C**. Some such buildings do exist. In Minneapolis, USA, there is a building which is 95 per cent underground **(43) F**. This is achieved by an elaborate system of mirrors. Living underground means you do not know what the weather is like **(44) B**. For example, the Asahi television centre in Tokyo is 20 metres below the surface **(45) H**. It seems that subterranean workers miss real weather even when it is bad!

- A but extensive railway systems exist underground so why not huge cities?
- B but architects make great efforts to mimic conditions above ground.
- C but even being buried just for your working hours may not seem attractive.
- D but human psychology makes this possible.
- E but who would not accept these working conditions?
- F but even the lowest floors get some sunlight.
- G but technical difficulties cannot be overcome.
- H but a special shower system can create the impression of rain.
- I but is there an alternative to building up?

TASK 6

For questions **46 - 53** think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. There are more words than you will need.

46. I can't see the point of all this paperwork, can you?

I was so frustrated that I was on the _____ of giving up, but my piano teacher persuaded me to keep on practicing.

Now, let's move on to the final _____ for the discussion at this meeting.

47. They say the new minister is a lovely person and very **easy** to talk to.
My neighbours have not had a very _____ life, but they always seem cheerful.
It's _____ enough to see why the town is popular with tourists.
48. I think it's _____ to say that not everyone in the boardroom agreed with the decision about the site of a new factory.
Rita complained that it was not _____ that she had a smaller company car than her colleagues.
My husband looks nothing like his brothers and sisters because he is so **fair** .
49. The workers at the car factory are at present **engaged** in negotiations to improve their position.
As the business expended and more staff were required, the company _____ the services of a recruitment agency.
When my brother and his new girlfriend announced that they were _____ it took the whole family by surprise.
50. The instructions were written in such a complicated way that Joe had to spend a long time _____ out how to set up the printer.
First results indicated that the new drug was **working** and had no side effects.
John was annoyed to find that the drink machine was not _____ yet again.
51. Lisa is in **charge** while I am away from the office, OK?
They've introduced a small _____ for parking outside the station.
The protestors moved back quickly in reaction to a sudden _____ by the police.
52. The assistant **led** me to believe that the equipment would operate in any country, but that just wasn't the case.
After the presentation, a panel of experts _____ a half hour discussion, during which time the audience was able to ask a number of questions.
A series of police raids in the early hours of the last Friday morning _____ to several arrests being made.
53. Glaciers provide vital evidence of climate **change** .
What you need is not pills but a simple _____ of scene.
If you need money, there is some spare _____ in my coat pocket.

<i>charge</i>	<i>led</i>	<i>working</i>	<i>engaged</i>	<i>point</i>	<i>easy</i>	<i>fair</i>	<i>effective</i>
<i>involved</i>	<i>possible</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>allowed</i>	<i>change</i>	<i>command</i>	<i>limit</i>	<i>transformation</i>

TASK 7

For questions 54 - 63 choose the appropriate idiom from the list to complete the sentences. There are more idioms than you will need.

54. The flu I had a few weeks ago which prevented me from going on holiday with my friends was **m**.
They had a terrible time. Everything went wrong and it cost them a lot of money.
55. I've been a bit **e** last night. I think it must have been something I ate.
56. Jane is finally getting a chance to go on her trip of a life time, a holiday to Australia! She was **d** when I spoke to her.
57. I've got a promotion at work, but all John did was make a joke about it. He has a real **c**. I think he is just jealous.
58. The interview for that new job was **b**. They asked me really easy questions.

59. The new Martin Scorsese film is out at the cinema. A film that comes out that I really enjoy and want to see happens a , so I'll definitely go and see it.

60. I missed my bus this morning, then when I went for a taxi I realized I'd left my wallet at home. Then when I got back home I couldn't find my key. Now my computer has crashed. Honestly, ____ .

61. I tend to i over most controversial issues. I'm never sure which side of the argument to support.

62. The boss never disciplined John over the fact that he came to work late twice last week. He must have decided to k ____ .

63. I told him what gift you have bought him for his birthday. Sorry, I didn't mean to o ____ .

a. once in a blue moon

f. hit the nail on the head

k. let sleeping dog lie

b. a piece of cake

g. don't put all eggs in one basket

l. keep an eye on

c. chip on his shoulder

h. if it's not one thing, it's another

m. a blessing in disguise

d. over the moon

i. bite the hands that feed you

n. work against the clock

e. under the weather

j. sit on the fence

o. let the cat out of the bag

TASK 8

For questions 64 – 74 read the article and decide which words below best fits each space.

GOOD NEWS FOR DOG OWNERS

If you often travel abroad for your holidays, what 64 with your beloved pet dog?

Do you put him in the kennel or leave him with friends? One thing is certain, you are extremely unlikely to take him with you, because if you 65, he 66 six months in quarantine when you return.

A bit of a stiff penalty for two weeks' romping in the Dordogne! But this is set to change soon. From April your dog will be able to travel with you 67 he 68 a rabies vaccination and is wearing an identification chip. Cara Lewis, spokesperson for the Animal Welfare Society, said, 'This is very good news for all British animal lovers. I know many people who would take their dogs on holiday with them if only they 69. Indeed, I used to travel to northern France regularly and I 70 my dog Wolfie with me every time 71 the quarantine regulations.' But Cara also has words of warning: 'Pet owners should remember that there are other considerations when taking animals abroad. 72 your animals become disoriented, he 73 away so ensure that he is wearing a collar with your holiday address at all times.

It isn't all good news, however. If you 74 to a country outside Western Europe this year, you won't be able to take your pet with you - it will be some time before regulations for other destinations are relaxed, if ever.

64. A will you do

B would you do

C do you do

65. A had done

B did

C do

66. A. will spend

B has to spend

C would have to spend

67. A providing

B unless

C in case

68. A had

B had had

C has had

69. A can

B could

C should be able

70. A have taken

B will have taken

C would have taken

71. A unless

B but for

C so long as

72. A Should

B Did

C Had

73. A runs

B should run

C might run

74. A will travel

B are travelling

C have been travelling

TASK 9

For questions 75 - 81 read the information about Alan, Mary and Teresa, then match each statement below with one of the speakers ; ALAN (A), MARY (M) or TERESA (T).

A - ALAN loves swimming but he doesn't have a pool in his house
M - MARY has a swimming pool in her house.
T - TERESA used to own a house with a swimming pool.

75. Supposing we got rid of the pool.
76. If only the pool hadn't been so expensive to maintain.
77. It's high time we changed the water in the pool.
78. I'd rather we had our own pool.
79. What if we had never had a pool.
80. I wish we could have used our pool more.
81. I'd sooner we used solar power to heat our pool.

A **M** T
A M **T**
A **M** T
A M T
A M **T**
A M **T**
A **M** T

TASK 10

For questions 82 – 92 read the text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

Viewed from the outside (82) the Houses of Parliament look impressive. The architecture gives the place a traditional look, and the buildings are sandwiched between a busy square and the river, making them a (83) between the country house of an eccentric duke and a Victorian railway station. You have only to learn that the members (84) to each other as 'The Honourable Member' to complete the picture of a dignified gentlemen's club, with of course a few ladies to make up the numbers. Sadly, over the past few years first radio, and now television, have shown the (85) public, who are after all the electorate, what in fact (86) when bills are discussed and questions are asked. The first obvious fact is that the chamber is very rarely full, and there may be only a handful of members present, some of whom are quite clearly asleep, telling jokes to their neighbour, or shouting like badly-behaved schoolchildren. There is not enough room for them all in the chamber in any (87), which is a second worrying point. Of course, television does not follow the work of committees, which are the small discussion groups that do most of the real work of the House. But the (88) impression that voters receive of the workings of government is not a good one. To put it bluntly, parliament looks disorganised, is clearly behind (89) and seems to be (90) with bores and comedians. This is presumably why members (91) for so long the efforts of the BBC to (92) parliamentary matters on television.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 82. A likewise | B at least | C nevertheless | D as well |
| 83. A mixture | B combination | C cross | D match |
| 84. A call | B refer | C speak | D submit |
| 85. A average | B ordinary | C normal | D general |
| 86. A comes up | B turns up | C goes on | D lets on |
| 87. A point | B way | C matter | D case |
| 88. A total | B broad | C overall | D comprehensive |
| 89. A ages | B times | C moments | D years |
| 90. A full | B filled | C composed | D comprised |
| 91. A prevented | B checked | C defied | D resisted |
| 92. A circulate | B beam | C spread | D broadcast |

TASK 11 ENGLISH LANGUAGE QUIZ

For questions 93 – 98 match the major events from British history with the proper historical personality (a – k). There are more names than you will need.

- 93 ...led the unsuccessful rebellion against the Roman occupation. **g. Queen Boudicca**
- 94 ...defeated Richard III in the battle of Bosworth and was the last king of England to win his throne on the battlefield. **c. King Henry VII**
- 95 ...during his reign the War of the Roses between the House of York and the House of Lancaster for the English throne was waged. **f. King Henry VI**
- 96 ...defeated the Anglo-Saxons in the battle of Hastings and was crowned as the English king. London became the capital of the country. The tower of London was built. **a. William, the Duke of Norman**
- 97 ... the first child of Henry VIII, who restored Catholicism and ruthlessly executed three hundred religious dissidents. **d. Queen Mary**
- 98 ...initiated the reformation of the country, founded Anglican Church or the Church of England, the head of which was the English monarch but not the Roman Pope; England became a strong absolute monarchy. **e. King Henry VIII**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. William, the Duke of Normandy | f. King Henry VI |
| b. Queen Elizabeth | g. Queen Boudicca |
| c. King Henry VII | h. King Edward II |
| d. Queen Mary I | j. Queen Victoria |
| e. King Henry VIII | k. King Charles I |

For questions **99 – 100** match the pictures with their historical names from the list **a – g**

99 - **c**



100 - **d**



- a. Windsor Castle
- b. Edinburgh Castle
- c. St. Paul's Cathedral

- d.** Westminster Abby
- e.** Canterbury Cathedral
- f.** the Tate Gallery
- g.** the White House