

# Материалы для подготовки к олимпиадам по английскому языку

## 1. Friends.

### Friendship. Olympiad (Form 8-9)

I'm absolutely sure that friendship is the most fascinating thing in the world. They are rich who have true friends. They say 'Friends are like stars... You don't always see them but you know they are always there.' Real friends give us so many moments of happiness and satisfaction; they make our life full of joy and pleasure. If you have a friend you always have somebody to share your joys and sorrows. You can also share your secrets and experiences. Besides a real friend is a person who is always ready to give you a helping hand when you are in trouble That's why we should value friendship and treat our friends with respect and love and we should always remember that selfishness and irresponsibility can ruin the relationship between friends.

I'm really lucky to have a real friend. My best friend is .... We've been classmates since the first form. She's really charming and friendly. She looks fit and sporty, She's got beautiful green eyes, long eyelashes and straight blond hair. She's quite tall, a bit taller than I am. We get on really well and always find lots of enjoyable things to do together. We have a lot in common. We both enjoy reading books and watching adventure films. We never fall out. Alexandra is kind and helpful. She will always listen to your problems and try to help you. I can always count on her in a difficult situation. She can always give me good advice. She is my best friend forever.

My best friend.

"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints in our hearts." I think it was said about our best friends. What is a "best friend"? Almost everyone has one, and almost everyone is one. I think an ideal friend possesses all the qualities of head and heart. Sandra is my best friend. She is from the UK, a young girl of 15. She has a personality and manners and never fails to make an impression on others. Her presence in a company always makes it lively. She is always fun! Straightforward and easy-going, she never feels shy in a new company. She respects the elders and is affectionate and kind to the youngsters. Sandra is loyal and trustworthy, thoughtful and sincere. We rarely have arguments and even if we do they are never over anything too serious. We like to have talks about things that bother us and help each other a lot. I am proud of my friend. She is intelligent in studies. All the students of our class admire her for being smart and reliable. She is also good at writing. She has a good style of her own. Besides she is a good thinker and always stays positive. I am so happy to have her as my best friend! She is always there for me. I help her out a lot too. We can always count on each other!

### Friendship

'A friend in need is a friend indeed'

'No man is useless while he has a friend'

'A friend to everybody is a friend to nobody'

'Little friends may prove great friends'

'A friend is easier lost than found.'

'A good friend is as the sun in winter'

'Before you make a friend eat a bushel of salt with him'

#### Personal traits of character.

##### Positive

Considerate

Caring

Well-mannered

Having a good sense of humor

Reliable

Intellectual

patient

modest

polite

honest

generous

sincere

easy-going

witty

wise

noble

merciful

industrious

cheerful

devoted

affectionate

independent

frank

dignified

##### Negative

Deceitful hot-tempered envious cruel inconsiderate lazy intolerant hostile greedy

#### 1. What is friendship?

I'm convinced that friendship is one of the most important things in the world. F. means mutual confidence, affection and respect. A real F. can't be one-sided. It is not just taking but giving in return. A real friend will never fail to give you a helping hand. He will stand by your side when you are in trouble and when you are happy.

#### 2. Why is it nice to have a friend?

The main thing is that you never feel lonely when you have a friend. You always have somebody to share your joys and sorrows. You can also share your secrets and experiences. Besides a real friend is a person who is always ready to give you a helping hand when you are in trouble.

#### 3. What do you think is more important the person's outlook or his personality?

Appearance doesn't matter much for me. What I really appreciate in my friend is his personal qualities such as generosity, patience, honesty, dignity, sense of humor....

#### 4. What are the things you expect your friends to do for you? What are you prepared to do for them?

I expect my friends to help me in difficult situations, to understand me, to be perfectly honest with me... But it's true that friendship is a two-way deal, and the way to have a friend is to be one. So I'm prepared to do a lot of things for my friends that is to defend them against difficulties, to forgive their faults, to be tactful, tolerant and supportive

## **My best friend.**

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## **My Friend**

I'm really lucky to have a wonderful friend. My friend Kate is a pretty girl of 16. She has large blue eyes and fair hair. She is beautifully shaped and has a really attractive slender figure.

Kate is pleasant to deal with. She is gentle, very friendly and tactful, responsible and considerate. She is able to understand other people perfectly well. Kate is a good listener. She is always ready to sacrifice her time for the sake of her friend. And when your troubles and worries are spoken out you feel a great relief.

Kate has a wide range of interests. To my mind we have much in common. She is good at humanitarians as well as me. We are both fond of reading. But she prefers to read novels and fiction, and I'm keen on classical literature. We both like visiting theatres and exhibitions, spending weekends in the country where we can relax and forget urban life with its routine and everyday cares.

My friend has a great sense of humor. Nobody could be compared with her in telling jokes and funny stories. She is the life and soul of any party. Being a well-read person Kate is able to speak over any matter under the sun. She is fond of different discussions. She has her own point of view on any problem and can always find some arguments to support her position. But my friend never becomes aggressive during discussions. She can softly persuade anybody, but if she is wrong she is always ready to admit it.

Kate is a well-organized and disciplined person. She never wastes her time. Being the best student in her class she isn't swatting all the time, she does her homework quickly and always has enough time for other activities. Much of her spare time she devotes to house-keeping. She is an affectionate daughter and always helps her parents about the house.

We trust each other absolutely. One can always rely on Kate. She keeps her word and if you share a secret with her you can be sure that nobody will learn it. It is really a great bit of luck to have such a friend. I hope that we'll keep out friendship forever

## What questions do you usually ask when you get acquainted with someone?

1. What is your name?
2. What do you like doing in your spare time?
3. Is it easy for you to make friends?
4. Do you have a lot of friends?
5. Do you have any misunderstandings with your friends?
6. Are you always ready to give your friend a helping hand?
7. Do you ever worry about losing friends?

## They say “A person has just one true friend.” What do you think about this?

I think there is a difference between an acquaintance and a friend. An acquaintance is someone whose name you know, who you see every now and then and who you feel comfortable with. On the other hand friends are people you love. They are the people who stop you from making mistakes and help you in everything. They tell you the truth and you know if you have a problem they are there to listen... That's why, your life is not the same without them.

## Nowadays teenagers have got up to 300 friends in Contact. What do you think about it?

It's a well-known fact that emails have replaced letters and postcards almost completely. To keep in touch with our friends who live abroad we use video chats and messages. On the one hand it is nice to have many friends in *Contact* because you can share your interests and experiences with them but on the other hand I think that email communication can't replace personal contacts with people.

## False friends are worse than open enemies.

To begin with I should say that I completely agree with this proverb because true friends are rare nowadays. Of course there is nothing good in having enemies but it's a well-known fact that an open enemy is sometimes better than a dozen of false friends. The thing is that you can find out a lot of interesting facts about your personality in order to improve yourself later. An enemy has no interest in lying to you so he can tell the truth about some negative traits of your character or your behavior. But it can be very hurtful if a friend tells you the cruel truth not in private

but in public. You feel awful when a friend betrays you or speaks badly about you behind your back. Nothing can be worse when a friend shares your secrets with others or lets you down.

In my opinion a person needs to have only one or two best friends. We need to have someone to tell us about our faults in private, the one with whom it's interesting to socialize and share our secrets. We need a person who really cares about us, who'll never betray us. I'm really lucky to have a real friend.....

What questions can you ask a British teenager about his/ her birthday celebration?

- When is your birthday? - Did you have a birthday party last year? - Did you enjoy your party?
- What presents did you get? - Whom did you invite to your birthday party?
- You usually celebrate your birthday at home, don't you? - Have you ever had a surprise birthday party?

Do you think it's easy to organize a good party? What mistakes do people sometimes make?

I think that to organize a good birthday party is not easy. First of all you should make or buy invitation card and send them to you guests long before the party. You can't but agree that the party should be well planned. Choosing a perfect location for the party is another challenging task. It should be reasonable in size. If you are planning an outdoor party weather forecasting becomes a vital factor. If you are going to have a party at home you should decorate the room. The dining-room chairs should be set in such a way that your guests can gossip while eating. The food should be healthy and tasty. The program of the party should include dancing, playing games, singing. Actually you have to do everything possible to make your friends feel comfortable and have fun.

## 2. Family.

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### Family. ( Olympiad. Form 8-9)

My family consists of my father, my mother and me, their son/ daughter. So I'm an only child in the family. I'd better start my story with my dad, who is the breadwinner in our family. His name is.... He is in his late forties, But he looks powerful and impressive. At present he is a director of a large plant. He is very busy , concentrated on his work and has very little free time.

My mother's name is... She is an economist by education. She is very interested in her work and she is a good professional. My mother is attractive, kind and loving. She is a person who is always there for me. She is the one who makes me smile when I'm sad. Sometimes she tells me off when I'm lazy or messy. She never forgets about my homework and sometimes is a bit bossy. But actually she is friendly and helpful

We are a really happy and a close-knit family.

You can't but agree that a happy family is the thing that every child needs. Of course there is no magic formula for happiness but some of its aspects are universal. They are freedom, sound health, the sense of belonging, an interesting occupation, a possibility to express yourself. Actually all these things have their beginning in the family. Nothing else but a family can be an emotional center of people's life and a transmitter of culture. Such things as mutual respect, understanding, consideration for others, patience, tenderness are important in every family. And such things as hypocrisy, selfishness, rudeness, insincerity should never exist in family relationships . There are a lot of activities that make a family a strong , healthy unit. They are discussing all the family plans together, going on trips together. The members of a friendly family visit theatres, exhibitions and exchange opinions. They share their joys and troubles and help each other in everything. And of course every family should have some traditions. These traditions may be different, they may be serious or amusing, very unique or quite common. But they all are important because they unite the family and make it stronger.

The traditions of our family are quite common. We like to spend our weekends together. When the weather is nice we go on picnics. Very often we go to the country to visit my granny. We celebrate birthdays of our family members and other holidays together. The holiday I like best is New Year's Day. We usually see the New Year in at home . Our flat looks really great with a brilliantly decorated fir-tree. When the clock strikes 12 we stand round the table holding up glasses of champagne and wish each other happiness, good luck, peace and understanding. I love this holiday for its magic and merry atmosphere, for the happiness it gives to me, my relatives, friends and to all the people. This holiday is surely worth celebrating

### Family.

What will you ask your British friend about his/her family?

1. Why do you like your family?
2. How big is your family?
3. Have you got any brothers or sisters?
4. Do you get along well with your family?
5. What is the best thing about your mum/ dad?
6. What do you and your family like doing together?
7. Is it easy to decide what to do together?
8. Are you always ready to support your family?

What can you advise people who want to have a close and happy family?

If you want to have a close and happy family follow my advice. It will lead to understanding and friendship in your relationships with your relatives. When dealing with family members you need to remember that you should treat them the same way that you want to be treated . Make sure that you don't offend family members. Always be polite, avoid being rude and hard. Secondly, take an active part in family occasions, such as birthdays or visiting elderly relatives Show that you are interested in family matters. You should always listen to them carefully. That will help to work through some misunderstandings and to get on well with everybody. And finally when disagreeing with

someone never blame your nearest and dearest for what they do or say because they always wish you the best. Try to be understanding, loving and caring with all your family members.

### Why are there many one-parent families? How does the state help such families?

It's a well-known fact that half of all marriages in Belarus end in divorce so we see the increase in the number of families that are headed by only one person, usually the mother. They say all happy families resemble one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. The reasons are different. I think that marriage is different from love, it involves responsibilities. Common interests, mutual respect and understanding are no less important than love. Unfortunately, not all the families can cope with their problems.

Many divorced men are required by law to help their wives support their children, but not all of them fulfill the responsibilities. Some of these difficulties are relieved by government programmers providing help to low-income families. Our law allows men and women to escape bad marriages, that's why getting a divorce is not very difficult but it is one of the most stressful events in the life of grown-ups. Children also suffer from divorce. Nevertheless. Most people think that living with one parent is better for children than living with two parents who are unhappy with one another and fight most of the time.

### **Family**

According to Eric Fromm (1900-1980), US psychologist, 'the mother-child relationship is paradoxical and, in a sense, tragic. It requires the most immense love on the mother's side, yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother and become fully independent.'

In "The Merchant of Venice", William Shakespeare wrote, 'It is a wise father that knows his own child'

*Do you agree that a loving mother and a wise father are of great importance to a growing child. What, in your opinion, makes a loving mother and a wise father?*

*Below you have got a list of symptoms. Which of them are success and which are failure ones? Categorize them and add some more*

- valuing the child's viewpoints, always inviting a child's opinion
- commenting negatively on the child's "fashionable" appearance
- failing to complement a child when s/he does a good job
- using practical examples when explaining things and giving advice
- praising a child, trying to provide chances for his/ her success
- using 'because I say so' principle in dealing with a child
- helping a child by practical advice
- giving little attention to the child's opinion
- becoming angry or irritated too easily
- having no sense of humor and taking everything too seriously
- showing patience in dealing with a child
- cooperating with a child
- rarely showing anger especially in arguments
- showing no interest and non-interfering into a child's school affairs
- maintaining a good sense of humor
- showing belief in a child's abilities

*Do young people have anything to learn from the older generation?*

### Main body

a) What may be learnt from the older generation?

- details of past times, historical events
- changing lifestyles, e.g. technology, social roles, social systems, environmental changes, attitudes, fashions and tastes
- ways of thinking
- how to deal with certain problems- old people have got a lot of experience, they are calmer and wiser

b) Drawbacks

- old people are often 'set in the ways', not open to new ideas
- may be out of touch with the experiences of the younger generation
- may only recall positive aspects of the past, not present a balanced view

### Conclusion

Why young people should learn from the older generation

- to gain a broader understanding of life
- to learn how to deal with certain situations
- to form their own system of values

Family traditions.

You can't but agree that a happy family is the thing that every child needs. Of course there is no magic formula for happiness but some of its aspects are universal. They are freedom, sound health, the sense of belonging, an interesting occupation, a possibility to express yourself. Actually all these things have their beginning in the family. Nothing else but a family can be an emotional centre of people's life and a transmitter of culture. Such things as mutual respect, understanding, consideration for others, patience, tenderness are important in every family. And such things as hypocrisy, selfishness, rudeness, insincerity should never exist in family relationships. There are a lot of activities that make a

family a strong , healthy unit. They are discussing all the family plans together, going on trips together. The members of a friendly family visit theatres, exhibitions and exchange opinions. They share their joys and troubles and help each other in everything. And of course every family should have some traditions. These traditions may be different, they may be serious or amusing, very unique or quite common. But they all are important because they unite the family and make it stronger.

The traditions of our family are quite common. We like to spend our weekends together. When the weather is nice we go on picnics. Very often we go to the country to visit my granny. We celebrate birthdays of our family members and other holidays together. The holiday I like best is New Year's Day. We usually see the New Year in at home . Our flat looks really great with a brilliantly decorated fir-tree. When the clock strikes 12 we stand round the table holding up glasses of champagne and wish each other happiness, good luck, peace and understanding. I love this holiday for its magic and merry atmosphere, for the happiness it gives to me, my relatives, friends and to all the people. This holiday is surely worth celebrating

### **The Importance of a happy home for every child's psychological state.**

Whenever I think about my home, my family, a poem by Carol Fitchett comes to my mind

#### A Home

Needs:

To be lit by the electricity of caring for all,  
To be carpeted by friends from wall to wall.  
A few moments of privacy and thoughts of love,  
To be heated by the warmth of God above.  
To be cleaned of bickering every day,  
To be furnished with an understanding way.  
To be filled with the aroma of delicate food,  
And then happiness will become its mood!

You can't but agree that such homes are very important for every child. A happy family is the thing that every child needs. Of course there is no magic formula for happiness but some of its aspects are universal. They are freedom, sound health, the sense of belonging, an interesting occupation, a possibility to express yourself. Actually all these things have their beginning in the family. Nothing else but a family can be an emotional centre of people's life and a transmitter of culture. Such things as mutual respect, understanding, consideration for others, patience, tenderness are important in every family. And such things as hypocrisy, selfishness, rudeness, insincerity should never exist in family relationships . There are a lot of activities that make a family a strong , healthy unit. They are discussing all the family plans together, going on trips together. The members of a friendly family visit theatres, exhibitions and exchange opinions. They share their joys and troubles and help each other in everything.

But if you ask me what the most important thing in molding the child's personality is, I will definitely say LOVE. But it should be wise love. The thing is that this very love mustn't spoil the child but must help the child grow away from the mother and father and become fully independent. That's why children shouldn't be smothered by their parents and should be given as much responsibility as possible from the early age. They should definitely keep their own room tidy and make their own beds. When they are older they can do the shopping , the washing up and some other work about the house. Wise parents will never fail to complement a child if she/ he does a good job. They always value the children's viewpoints, invite their opinions and show belief in a child's abilities.

Of course, bringing up children is not an easy task. Children are not angels. Sometimes they disobey their parents. They break the rules accepted in the family, do forbidden things, do not keep their word or promise and these things cause a lot of trouble. Wise parents will never show anger, especially in arguments. They will never use 'because I say so' principle in dealing with a child, but will use practical examples when explaining things and giving advice. The thing is that only by their own example can parents teach their children to be tactful, supportive and tolerant and help them to become good parents in future

For me personally a home is a place where I am always welcome and safe and my soul rests peacefully. It's a place where I find comfortable atmosphere for work and rest. And if I have problems I can always speak them out and find understanding , support and practical help and advice.

### **Tell me what usually makes you happy**

To my mind happiness is something that lives inside each of us, but not all the people are able to feel it. You can neither buy happiness, nor sell it; you can never win it in the lottery; the only way to be happy is to grow your happiness. Some people are always grumbling about their endless problems, dissatisfaction in life and even about the dull weather that annoys them. Such people see only dark sides in everything and it prevents them from being happy. But let's look at other people! At first sight they have nothing in life; they don't have stable jobs or their own apartments, but they are really happy; they meet every day with a smile, they laugh and receive pleasure from life. And that's great.

I personally appreciate such people and I believe that happiness is to live your life, to enjoy every day of your life, to be glad to every minute and to receive with thanks everything that life offers you. And even when it gives you hardships and difficulties, it gives you strength to overcome them. Happiness means to live your life in such a way that when retired you have something to remember and to be proud of, some pleasant moments that will always evoke a smile.

I'm sure that I'm a happy person: I have many friends, loving parents, goals in my life. As one of my friends says if you are not a handicapped person you are a really lucky and happy one. And I think that is true. I try to enjoy every day of my life and be happy all the time: to smile when I wake up because of the bright sun shining directly into my window, to feel happiness somewhere deep inside playing snowballs or swimming in the sea, to feel pleasure when I see a child happily laughing or when I look at a large rainbow after a downpour.

### Generation gap between parents and children is inevitable.

A generation gap is a gap between the views of the younger generation of teenagers and the views of their parents. It's an everlasting social phenomenon. Every generation lives at a certain time, under certain conditions and people have their own values and views. They also have certain principles they believe in. We can find a lot of examples in literature such as "Fathers and Sons" by Turgenev, "Woe from Wit" by Griboedov and others.

Parents always have their own opinion and plans that concern our future. They want to be patterns for imitation. They refuse to admit that we have grown up and can have our own point of view. They are bossy and we are often moralized. They don't take into account that in this rapidly changing age of scientific progress and new technologies our needs and aims can be totally different from theirs. As a result, we begin to protest, trying to prove that we are individual and unique. So we wear strange clothes, dye our hair, take drugs, smoke and what not.

Some families can manage this difficulty but others can't. It depends on what parents and children love more- each other or their own principles. The Beatles have a very good song "All you need is love" We should remember about it.... (*a happy family, my family*)

#### 1. What are your relations with your parents like?

I enjoy honest and open relationship in our family. I'm happy to say that my home is the place where everybody understands, respects and loves me....

#### 2. Why is adolescence considered to be a difficult age?

Because it's the age when children want to be independent, they have their own point of view. But at the same time they depend on their parents for money, clothes etc. So they feel dissatisfied. Some of them find it difficult to live up to their parents expectations. They want to be individuals and try to prove that they are different.

#### 3. What makes a good parent?

First a good parent values the child's viewpoints and shows belief in a child's abilities. Then a good parent should be patient in dealing with a child he should never show anger or become irritated. ....

#### 4. Were you naughty as a child?

I don't know, maybe I was a little bit naughty. I wanted to be the center of the universe. I didn't understand that my parents may have their own interests and problems.

### **Love. Marriage**

#### 1. Do you believe in love?

Well, I think I believe in love. I don't know exactly how to define it, whether it's fancy or adoration or passion, but I'm sure it exists. Love is a timeless value I absolutely believe that loves means devotion, tenderness... It involves harmony, support, admiration...

#### 2. There are many opinions on what the Significant Other should be like. Describe your (future) Significant Other

*He is someone I'd talk for hours without getting bored*

- to respect one's feelings

- to be sweet, romantic, with a face, like an angel and a body borrowed from a fitness magazine

*He should....*

*I'd like him to...*

#### 3. What do you think about the art of marriage?

A good marriage should be created

- to find time to say 'I love you' at least once each day
- to have a mutual sense of values and common objectives
- to stand together facing the world
- to speak words of appreciation
- to demonstrate gratitude in thoughtful ways
- to have the capacity to forgive and forget
- finding room for the things of the spirit
- a common search for the good and the beautiful

*In a good marriage it's absolutely important...*

*You should...*

*A happy marriage is...*

#### 4. Why do people marry?

- to have a deep need for the emotional security / for love and support
- to cope with the problems of daily life
- to want to have children
- in order to increase their wealth
- to marry for love / for money

*I think that people marry for different reasons. Some people marry because... Others... But there are those who marry...*

### 5. What can you say about the wedding ceremony in Belarus?

In our country marriage ceremonies can be both civil and church. Church ceremonies have become increasingly popular in recent years. Cavalcades of beautifully decorated cars normally take Belarussian brides and grooms, their families and friends to the celebration. The place is usually a restaurant or café rented for the occasion

### 6. How do you see your future wedding ceremony?

How? Church/ civil registry office, city hall

Who? Only family, friends and acquaintances, fellow workers

Where? Home, restaurant, canteen, rented apartment

What colors? Clothes?

### 7. There seems to be nothing wrong with marriage at an early age. What is your opinion?

It's a well-known fact that in some countries girls marry at the age of 13-15. They do it because of poverty, tradition and family pressure. The United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) had demanded an end to child marriages. They cause a tremendous physical and emotional stress on young women. Young brides tend to be pulled out of school, early marriage means premature pregnancy with added health risks

## **3. Choosing a career. Jobs and careers.**

### **Choosing one's career is great responsibility**

Choosing the kind of career to follow is probably one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Before you make this decision you will have to do a lot of thinking about the things you like to do and about the things you do well. In my opinion the final choice should depend on what you are interested in. And then you have to work hard and decide what subjects to study in order to extend your knowledge depending on what entrance exams you are to take while entering a university or an institute

In our childhood all of us dreamed to become pilots or actors, famous investigators or sportsmen. Then in due course, when we could objectively evaluate our abilities, we, as the saying goes, came down to earth and began to dream of more real things

Choosing the right profession it is also necessary to consider many factors, such as future working conditions, situation in the market, economic bases and others.

I haven't made my final choice yet. But I think I would like to work in the field of tourism. Tourism is a developing industry in our country and there is much to be done in this field. Modern tourism as business is important to the economy of our country and it may be profitable if it is well organized and managed. Tour companies offer employment in such positions as a tour manager, a group tour specialist, a hotel coordinator and many others.

The job of a travel agent appeals to me most of all. Being a travel agent you should be enthusiastic, persistent, intelligent sociable and easy-going. In my opinion I possess some of the qualities required for this job and I hope I will be able to develop the qualities I don't have. I like this job because it offers you an opportunity to travel, to meet different people. You can also improve your language skills while speaking with foreigners. I think it's prestigious and well-paid. Of course being a travel agent means working late hours, working from home and a lack of privacy. But there are no jobs without difficulties.

I'm sure I'll have no problems finding employment in my country in future. Everybody knows that Belarus is one of the few remaining places on our planet where one can see the miracle of the untouched nature. This very fact creates favorable conditions for developing tourism and recreation services. There are also a lot of places of historical interest. Besides the Belarusians are known for their weaving, straw-inlaid boxes and other traditional handicrafts. So we can offer foreign tourists a lot of souvenirs. It's a well-known fact that our people are famous for their hospitality, they are always glad to welcome guests.

In conclusion I'd like to say that no matter what profession you chose you should become a good specialist in it. That's why it's important to be hard-working, self-organized and with no doubt you should be an optimist

*Let's talk about your future profession. What are your professional plans? What is your career goal? What would you like to achieve?*

Choosing the kind of career to follow is probably one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Before you make this decision you have to do a lot of thinking about the things you like to do and the things you do well. In my opinion the final choice should depend on what you are interested in. I made my choice many years ago. I decided to work in the field of medical care. You see, I have always been fascinated by learning new things about how human bodies work. And now I feel that being a doctor is my calling. I'm sure I will never regret choosing this job. You can't but agree that this profession is highly respected. It is challenging and very rewarding to be able to help patients through one of the toughest times in their lives. But it's a great responsibility too. Just imagine, very often a person's life may depend on your decision, on your skill. Actually, doctors are real heroes when they bring a patient back from the brink of death. So this job requires skill, talent and commitment. Working in this field you should also be tolerant, generous, hard-working, self-organized. Besides you should develop your communication skills, which are important when working with patients and, with no doubt, you should be an optimist. In my opinion I possess some of the qualities required for this job and I hope I will be able to develop the qualities I don't

have. Being in this job I will never stop learning, because there are many illnesses which people still cannot cure. I would like to become a good highly experienced doctor. I think such doctors are in great demand everywhere in the world. Maybe I will go abroad in order to raise my qualifications but I will surely come back and work for the well-being of our country and our people.

2. Do you agree that the knowledge of a foreign language is necessary to be a success? Why?

I personally think that every educated person nowadays should know at least one foreign language. Take English for example. It has become the language of the planet, the first truly global language. More than half of the world's scientific periodicals and eighty per cent of the information in the world's computers are also in English. English is the main language of business. It's the language of sports, the official language of the Olympics, the international language of pop culture.

3. If you interviewed a person for a job of a teacher what questions would you ask him/ her?

1. What are your qualifications? 2. Are you sociable? 3. Do you possess such quality as a sense of humor? 4. Do you love interacting with students? 5. What would you do if your students didn't like your subject? 6. What are you good at? 7. Have you got any experience working with children? 8. Are you a creative person? 9. Do you have a passion for this job? 10. What are your weaknesses?

4. Your friend is interested in choosing the right career. Give him advice.

Firstly you should assess your abilities, your strengths and your weaknesses. Then you should assess some professions you are interested in. You can gather information such as job descriptions or work responsibilities, salary, education requirements, necessary experience, work related hazards etc. Moreover you can interview others who are already in the professions and visit the library for additional resources. You can also search the Internet for relevant information. Besides you can visit a special career centre and ask your friends and family for advice.

5. What can work mean for different people? What is it for you?

I think that some people take a job in order to live, they go to work every day just because they have to. Such people turn themselves into slaves.

There are people who work for money. They try to choose a highly paid job and do their best whether they like it or not. I don't think they are happy, because money cannot buy love, happiness and health.

For me personally job satisfaction is a top priority. To be successful, the first thing is to fall in love with your work. I can't say that money doesn't matter for me. But I know for sure that a highly-qualified specialist in any field can have a good salary nowadays.

6. What questions will you ask your future employer at a job interview?

1. What qualifications do I need for this job?
2. Are there good opportunities for promotion and specialization?
3. Will I have any opportunities to work overseas?
4. What personal qualities do I have to possess?
5. Shall I have any practical experience?
6. What are the working hours?
7. Is the salary paid regularly?
8. Do I have to wear a uniform?

7. Do you want to have a part-time job, when you are a student? Why?

I don't think it's a good idea to have a part-time job while studying because it may interfere with my study. On the other hand it's good to have some practice so if a part-time job is related to my future profession I would like to try it.

8. Some people think it's necessary to have good communication/ computer skills in order to get a good job. Do you agree with it?

I absolutely agree that it's good to have good communication skills. First of all it will help you to create a good impression on the employer. Besides many jobs require meeting people, in any case, even if you don't work with people you have your colleagues to communicate with.

As for computer skills they are absolutely necessary in any field. Even if you don't work with computers you can use the Internet for getting some interesting and useful information.

9. Is there any kind of job you would never choose? Why?

I wouldn't like to be a teacher. Of course it's a noble profession but it requires too much responsibility. A good teacher should not only know his subject very well but he should also love children and devote all his free time to his work

### **A part-time job**

As far as I know a lot of teenagers in Britain work in their free time. Girls often do baby-sitting. Young mothers and fathers sometimes want to go to the cinema or to the party and someone must take care of the baby. So they pay a girl to come and sit with it. It is very easy work if the baby is asleep. The girls just sit and do her homework or read a book, or watch television. Boys often do a newspaper round. Before school they deliver newspapers to people's houses. To do that they get up early every day of the week. I think it good for teenagers to have a part-time job.

A job teaches young people to realize the value of work, to budget their time, it teaches them self-discipline they will need for making a success in life. Besides Saturday jobs help parents financially. It's not always possible for modern parents to buy expensive trainers and clothes. Teenagers with jobs can save money to buy expensive things and help their parents. Having a job you can get some life experience. In Great Britain teenagers after leaving school



may go on a so-called "gap year" During this year they can try some job and find out whether you are suitable for it or not. I think it's not a bad idea. In our country practically everybody tries to enter a university after leaving school. Sometimes it happens so that you choose to be a doctor for example. You pass your entrance exams, you become a student. And then you suddenly realize that you lose consciousness at the sight of blood or dead bodies. You have to leave the university and understand that your time and efforts have been wasted.

But on the other hand a job distracts young people from their studies, they can't concentrate on their academic work and have fewer chances to go to universities and make a good career

### **Choosing one's career is great responsibility**

Choosing the kind of career to follow is probably one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Before you make this decision you will have to do a lot of thinking about the things you like to do and about the things you do well. In my opinion the final choice should depend on what you are interested in. And then you have to work hard and decide what subjects to study in order to extend your knowledge depending on what entrance exams you are to take while entering a university or an institute

In our childhood all of us dreamed to become pilots or actors, famous investigators or sportsmen. Then in due course, when we could objectively evaluate our abilities, we, as the saying goes, came down to earth and began to dream of more real things

Choosing the right profession it is also necessary to consider many factors, such as future working conditions, situation in the market, economic bases and others.

I haven't made my final choice yet. But I think I would like to work in the field of tourism. Tourism is a developing industry in our country and there is much to be done in this field. Modern tourism as business is important to the economy of our country and it may be profitable if it is well organized and managed. Tour companies offer employment in such positions as a tour manager, a group tour specialist, a hotel coordinator and many others.

The job of a travel agent appeals to me most of all. Being a travel agent you should be enthusiastic, persistent, intelligent sociable and easy-going. In my opinion I possess some of the qualities required for this job and I hope I will be able to develop the qualities I don't have. I like this job because it offers you an opportunity to travel, to meet different people. You can also improve your language skills while speaking with foreigners. I think it's prestigious and well-paid. Of course being a travel agent means working late hours, working from home and a lack of privacy. But there are no jobs without difficulties.

I'm sure I'll have no problems finding employment in my country in future. Everybody knows that Belarus is one of the few remaining places on our planet where one can see the miracle of the untouched nature. This very fact creates favorable conditions for developing tourism and recreation services. There are also a lot of places of historical interest. Besides the Belarusians are known for their weaving, straw-inlaid boxes and other traditional handicrafts. So we can offer foreign tourists a lot of souvenirs. It's a well-known fact that our people are famous for their hospitality, they are always glad to welcome guests.

In conclusion I'd like to say that no matter what profession you chose you should become a good specialist in it. That's why it's important to be hard-working, self-organized and with no doubt you should be an optimist

### **Success is a ladder that cannot be climbed with your hands in your pockets.**

All teenagers think about their future. They want to be successful and happy in their grown-up life. But unfortunately not all of them understand that "you cannot climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets". If you want to achieve something in your life you are to work hard and to learn a lot.

Good education is with no doubt very important nowadays. It gives people the best chance of getting a good job and a better chance of promotion. Besides it helps to develop a personality and find a place in society.

Students are so busy nowadays. We are given many assignments at school. Not all study assignments are pleasant and it is human to want to put off dull or difficult ones. If you really want to be a good pupil the best thing to do is to do the school assignments first and devote the time left over to other enjoyable but less important activities. Of course it is difficult to start with study, but then you will have more fun after your work is done. My life motto is "Never put off till tomorrow what can be done today." I always budget my time. First I list all the activities in which I am engaged. Then I set priorities, that is put a number beside each one: "1"- for the most important, "2"- for the next most important and so on. Of course it's quite easy to make a plan, but it's much more difficult to stick to it. You should be industrious and persistent to do that. I personally always make plans so that I can accomplish them, as a result I always reach my goal. And I never feel disappointed in myself, and never look for someone to blame. I'm a good student now and I'm sure I'll be successful in my future career.

### **1. What is your greatest career ambition?**

I would like to work in the field of... Working in this field one should be responsible, energetic, diligent... In my opinion I possess some of the qualities required for this job. I hope I will be able to develop the qualities I don't have

### **2. Would you like to be famous?**

Of course being a celebrity is not my cup of tea. I wouldn't like my private life to be the center of everybody's attention. But the word "famous" has a different meaning. You can be a famous teacher, a famous surgeon and what not. You can be famous for your character and your deeds... I think every person should be famous in the field of his career. I mean to become a highly educated specialist useful for the progress of the society he lives in.....

### **3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being famous?**

The main advantage is that famous people are usually good specialists in the field they work in. Of course they earn a lot of money and can afford everything. The main disadvantage is that their private life is always in the center of attention.

#### 4. How can a person achieve fame?

In my view, people can achieve much success in any sphere of life only if they work hard. To realize any talent, a person needs a strong will. People must be devoted to the activity they are keen on. They shouldn't be afraid of difficulties, bad luck or envy

### **4. Food. Health.**

#### **What does a healthy way of life mean? How do you look after your health? (Olympiad Form9)**

I believe it's important to think about your health when you are young because this is the age when your body is being formed, so if you don't care about your health, you are likely to have different diseases when you get older. So, the earlier you acquire good health habits, the better. For example, you should get used to cleaning your teeth and doing morning exercises from the very early age.

In my opinion, we are healthier today than people were fifty years ago because we are more health-conscious than they used to be. Everybody understands that good health is above wealth. To begin with, we have a better diet. In recent years eating habits have changed. People started to eat healthy food, which contains less fat and more fiber and is rich in vitamins. Salads, beans and fruit have taken the place of steak and ice cream. And people today eat more fruit and vegetables than people did many years ago. Of course, we also eat more fast food, but generally I think our diet is much better. Secondly, doctors have learned how to cure more illnesses, so we live longer.

To be healthy, it is very important to do sports or at least morning exercises as well as to spend a lot of time in the open air. In addition, we ought to avoid different bad habits that can affect our health. In my opinion, smoking and drinking too much alcohol are the worst ones. Smoking, for example, causes a number of heart and lung diseases such as pneumonia and cancer. As for me, I don't smoke, because I don't want to have unhealthy skin and teeth. If we want to stay healthy, we should also avoid less dangerous habits such as skipping meals, eating unhealthy food and overeating. If we eat too much, we'll become obese, and obesity leads to serious diseases. A lot of people like drinking cola and coffee and enjoy pizzas and hamburgers. But what is tasty is not always healthy.

We should also visit the dentist regularly and brush our teeth twice a day.

Personally I believe that regularity in life promotes our health. Sleeping eight or nine hours, getting up early, regular meals, a healthy diet and going in for sports are a really good way to live.

#### **What does a healthy way of life mean? How do you look after your health?**

Health, physical and mental is a very important aspect of life and as much energy as we give it can never be wasted. People nowadays are more health-conscious than they used to be. They understand that good health is above wealth. There are many things that can be damaging to your health but if you are sensible you can lessen the risks.

To begin with if we want to be healthy we should avoid different bad habits that can affect our health. In my opinion, smoking and drinking too much alcohol are the worst ones. It's common knowledge that smoking and drinking can shorten our lives dramatically. **Smoking** is associated with many health problems such as heart and lung diseases, pneumonia and cancer. It also makes your teeth yellow and skin unhealthy. Besides it is dangerous to both the person who is smoking and other people in the same environment who also inhale the smoke. Fortunately, in recent years smoking has received a lot of bad publicity and fewer people smoke nowadays. Some companies don't employ people who are smokers. Smoking has been banned in most public places; strong warnings are usually printed on packets of cigarettes. I personally don't smoke because I don't want to have unhealthy skin and teeth and die young.

Smoking and drinking are joined by less dangerous habits, such as **skipping meals, eating unhealthy food, or even overeating**. Of course they are not quite as deadly as smoking or drinking alcohol, but they also affect our health. If we eat too much we become obese and obesity leads to serious health problems. A lot of people like drinking coca cola and coffee and enjoy pizzas and hamburgers. But what is tasty is not always healthy. Fast food makes you fat, that is why Americans are the fattest people in the world. In recent years eating habits have undergone a change. People are encouraged to eat less fat and more fiber. Fat is believed to be one of the major causes of obesity and heart disease. High fibre and low fat foods can be found in all shops and supermarkets. Salads, beans and fruit have taken place of steak and ice-cream. The fashion for healthy food is growing all the time. Many people feel they are too fat and try to improve their fitness. There are a lot of ways to lose weight and avoid gaining it. Perhaps the most popular of them is following a diet. If you want to lose weight, you should cut out snacks and desserts, and cut down on fat. Some people count the number of calories they eat every day. This is called a calorie-controlled diet. But excessive dieting can be dangerous too. Some people refuse to eat meat as they consider it harmful. They say a vegetarian diet reduces the risk of cancer and vegetarians live longer than others. I can't agree with them because meat is an excellent source of good nutrition. Consumed in moderate amounts meat is perfectly good for your health.

**Having too much stress** at work and at home can also be damaging to a person's health and can lead to both physical and mental problems. I think the best solution to the problem is having a hobby or spending your holidays in a proper way. I believe that any holiday must be a change. You need to get away from all usual routines, to escape from the stress and the strain of everyday life

To my mind the best way to stay healthy and to keep fit is by **going in for sports**. Among the benefits of regular exercise are a healthier heart, stronger bones, quicker reaction and more resistance to various illnesses. Besides you can eat as much as you want because you are burning it all off

I also believe that regularity in life promotes our health. Sleeping eight or nine hours, getting up early, regular meals, a healthy diet, going in for sports and spending a lot of time in the open air is a really good way to live.

#### **Health.**

Health and fitness have now become one of the major concerns. Earlier life was very hard and humans used to hunt for their living, and their body had a lot of physical exercise. They ate less and exercised more. Now people live well, much

better and easier than it was long time ago. They don't have to be strong to get their food and as a result they hardly do any physical exercise. People don't choose their food carefully and easily get overweight. Good health is all that one dreams of. Becoming healthier and fitter is not very difficult but needs a lot of work. People should choose what they eat more carefully, eat a well-balanced diet and eat less fast food. It is possible to lose weight just doing regular exercises. So by doing just two simple things; eating properly and exercising regularly one can live most happily than ever.

## **BELARUSIAN CUISINE**

Modern Belarusian cookery is based on old national traditions which have undergone a long historical evolution. But the main methods of traditional Belarusian cuisine are carefully kept by the people.

Common in Belarusian cuisine were dishes from potato which is called among people "the second bread". There are special potato cafes in the country where you can try various potato dishes. Potato is included into many salads, it is served together with mushrooms, meat; different pirazhki (patties) and baked puddings are made from it. The most popular among the Belarusians are traditional draniki, thick pancakes, prepared from potatoes. A wide spread of potato dishes in Belarusian cuisine can be explained by natural climatic conditions of Belarus which are propitious for growing highly starched and tasty sorts of potatoes.

A lot of place in the diet of the Belarusians belongs to meat and meat products, especially to the pork and salted pork fat. The salted pork fat is used slightly smoked and seasoned with onions and garlic. Dishes prepared from meat are usually served together with potatoes or vegetables such as carrot, cabbage, peas, etc. It is characteristic that many vegetable and meat dishes are prepared in special stoneware pots.

Among dishes from fish the Belarusians prefer galki and also baked or boiled river-fish without special seasonings. In general, what concerns the most common seasonings such as onions, garlic, parsley, dill, , pepper, they are used very moderately in Belarusian cookery.

The Belarussians enjoy eating fresh, dried, salted and pickled mushrooms, and also berries such as bilberry, wild strawberries, red whortlberry, raspberries, cranberry and some others.

Of flour dishes the most popular is zacirka. Pieces of specially prepared dough are boiled in water and then poured over with milk.

Myadukha, berezavik, kvas, beer are traditional Belarusian drinks.

A goose stuffed with apples is a traditional New Year dish.

Machanka is used as a Belarussian traditional saurce for draniki or blini. It may be different in different regions.

Most often it is made with pork, sausage, sliced onion, sour cream and flour.

### **British meals.**

The first day in the morning is **breakfast**. A traditional English breakfast is a cooked meal which may contain sausages, bacon, black pudding, scrambled or fried eggs, mushrooms, boiled potatoes, beans and toast. A continental breakfast is a small uncooked meal: a bread roll or croissant with cheese or ham. The most common drinks at this part of the day are orange juice and a cup of tea or coffee.

If a meal is eaten in the late morning instead of both breakfast and lunch it is called **brunch**

**Lunch** is the meal eaten in the middle of the day (usually between 12.30 and 2.00. Many people eat meat, cheese or other sandwiches. Drinks at lunch are very different: fruit juices, coca-cola, Fanta, sprite, pepsi-cola and others.

**Supper** is the most common name for the meal eaten in the evening (usually between 7.00 and 8.30) **Dinner** is another name for supper. It is a cooked meal of meat or fish and two veg (vegetables), one of which is often potato. It is common to eat dessert (also known as pudding) after the main dish.

### **A potluck party.**

Potluck parties or potluck dinners are very popular in Great Britain. It is a time for people to get together, enjoy meeting new people or seeing old friends again. Everyone is told to bring a dish. There are some rules who organize potluck parties. All dishes should be prepared in advance. The dishes should be easy to transport. A traditional English dish is shepherd's pie. In England shepherd's pie is traditionally made with mutton. You do it in the following way. You make several layers of cooked minced meat and vegetables, with mashed potatoes on the top, and bake it in the oven.

Can you tell me how to cook one of your favorite dishes?

Frankly speaking I'm not very good at cooking but what I can do perfectly well is to cook **an apple pie**. You need 5 apples, a cup of flour and a cup of sugar, 4 large eggs, a pinch of vanillin powder and a little bit butter. First you peel and slice apples then put eggs and sugar in a bowl and mix them together, add flour . vanillin powder and mix everything again. Then preheat the pan, butter it a little and pour the dough into the pan. Then you should bake your pie in the oven for 30-40 minutes.

**Okroshka** is a traditional Belarusian dish. To cook okroshka you need some meat, four cucumbers, two onions, two eggs, two potatoes, half a teaspoon salt, half a teaspoon sugar and one litre of kvas, you should also have some sour cream. First you meat and eggs should be boiled.. Then you cut meat , onions, eggs and cucumbers and add sour-cream, salt, sugar and kvas and mix everything carefully. Then you should put the okroshka in the fridge and keep it for some time to make it cool.

What questions can you ask your British friend about their eating habits?

How many meals a day do you usually have? Do you like fast food? Is homemade food better than fast food? Do you like fruit and vegetables? What food do you hate / like? How often do you drink juice? Do you enjoy eating outdoors? Are fast food restaurants popular in your country? Are you a sweet tooth?

What questions will you ask your friend who has invited you to a pot-luck party?

What time will the party start? How many people are going to come? What dishes are they going to bring? What dish should I bring? Shall I cook some traditional Belarussian food?

## Food. Meals

### **Meals in Britain**

The usual meals in Britain are breakfast, lunch, dinner and supper.

For breakfast English people mostly have porridge or cornflakes with milk or cream and sugar, bacon and eggs, marmalade with buttered toasts and tea or coffee. For a change they can have a boiled egg, cold ham or fish.

They usually have lunch at about one o'clock. At lunch time in a London restaurant one usually finds a mutton chop or steak and chips, or cold meat, or fish with potatoes and salad, then a pudding or fruit to follow.

Afternoon tea can hardly be called a meal. It is a substantial meal only in well-to-do families. It's between five or six o'clock

In some houses dinner is the biggest meal of the day. Dinner time is about 7 o'clock in the evening

#### 1. Could you describe to your foreign friend some places of eating out in your country?

There are hotel restaurants, cafes, stolovayas or dining-rooms, ice-cream parlours and snack shops in our country.

**Hotel restaurants** are open for residents and non residents too. There are state-run and privately-run restaurants. They serve a wide variety of dishes of Belarussian / French and Italian cuisine. They are often open till late at night but they are very expensive.

**Cafes** are cheaper than restaurants. They concentrate on a limited menu. They serve pizza, hot sausages, sweet dishes

**A dining-room** is the common person's eatery. It has a small choice of meat or fish, soup, boiled vegetables, tea and coffee

If you have a sweet tooth you can go to **an ice-cream parlor**.

There are also little snack shops around oars and markets, on streets, near railway or bus stations

#### 2. Fast food restaurants are becoming very popular. Do you think they are a good idea?

There are a lot of arguments in favor and against fast food restaurants

On the one hand...

##### **For**

- the service is very quick
- the restaurants are usually very clean
- the atmosphere is informal
- they are the same everywhere so you know exactly what you can order

On the other hand...

##### **Against**

- the food contains a lot of fat and is unhealthy
- the food is not cheap
- the restaurants create much litter
- the material which is often used for fast food cartons takes centuries to decay and contains elements dangerous for your health

#### 3. A good diet is linked to good health. Do you agree?

It's a well-known fact that a poor diet is linked to a battery of illnesses. If you don't want to suffer from digestive problems, obesity and heart diseases you should follow a healthy diet and take regular exercise

- the total amount of fat should be reduced
- you should eat more fresh fish, lean meat and poultry
- plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables are useful for your health
- you must cut down on eating sugary foods, and limit the quantity of salt

#### 4. What do you think of a vegetarian diet?

I don't think it's possible for everyone to follow such a diet. To my mind a person should consult the doctor first. The thing is that lentils and beans which are a source of protein for vegetarians are mainly starchy and can be bad for your health

#### 5. Do you enjoy eating outdoors?

Of course I do. I think that food tastes better when it is eaten in the open air. In my opinion food in the open air becomes simply magical

#### 6. What can spoil eating outdoors?

Bad weather, I mean heavy rain, strong wind can spoil a picnic. Mosquitoes and flies can also make your picnic not very pleasant

#### 7. What places do people usually have meals at?

People choose different places according to their needs. If they want to relax, they go to a restaurant. If they are in a hurry, they visit fast food places and when they are traveling they stop off at mobile canteens or motorway stations or they pack a picnic. In restaurants you can expect varied and high quality food and drink, including alcohol, whereas in fast food places the food is often greasy and not as healthy. Also you can usually only choose soft drinks. My favorite place to eat is a fast food restaurant because the atmosphere is relaxed and informal, there is quick service and the prices are low.

## 5. Money. Shopping

### Shopping. Olympiad (Form 9)

Probably the best way to spend your money is to go shopping. Modern shopping centers do their best to prove that shopping can be fun. That's why they tend to combine shopping and leisure. A modern shopping Centre looks like a city under one roof where you can buy everything you need. Some modern shopping centers have recently been opened in our town. I mean "Dionis" and "Streletsky Capital". They are so modern, beautiful and pleasant to visit. There's usually a cafeteria or a small café where you can have a bite or have dinner. There is also a Centre of photo service, where your film will be developed and your photos will be printed. Sometimes it is possible to participate in a lottery. There is a currency exchange bank, a chemist's booth and what not.

On the ground floor there are supermarkets which offer a large variety of goods and competitive prices. They have long opening hours which suits most customers. They also have a good layout so customers do not waste much time trying to find what they need. To do purchases in a supermarket does not take a lot of time, because of self-service. There are long isles of food stacked on shelves and in freezers. Customers carry baskets or push trolleys. They merely select necessary products and pay for them to the cashier. You can pay either by card or in cash. Then you are given your change and a receipt. You should check your change carefully before you leave the shop. The only drawback is that sometimes there are long queues and the service is quite impersonal.

To encourage customers to buy things big shopping centers hold advertising campaigns and you can taste some sweets or juice or can be given a chocolate or a piece of soap free of charge. To make shopping convenient for all and everybody they can also offer their customers such things as a late-night shopping, special facilities for the elderly and disabled, shopping trolleys and baskets.

If you want to return something which you have bought to the shop, you may be given a refund, i.e. your money will be returned provided you have a receipt.

When you buy something in a shop you usually pay for it outright but sometimes you can buy on credit. People usually use this system to buy large or expensive things such as furniture or electrical goods which they want immediately, but sometimes find difficult to pay for them at once. It can be a very useful way of buying something expensive gradually. However it is easy to get into trouble when paying on credit because you can start buying things you actually don't need or can't afford. Besides you have to pay some extra money, because very few shops offer interest-free credit.

A very good thing about shopping which has been introduced recently in our country is that sometimes you may be offered a discount or reduction on something you buy. For example, you might get 10 per cent off because you are a student. You are often offered a discount when you buy in bulk or when footwear or clothes are out of season.

People who don't like going shopping can buy things by mail order. It is much easier to sit at home and choose things from the comfort of your own home than having to go to so many different shops. I personally never get things from mail order catalogues as they never have a good selection of clothes or anything else. Sometimes they can be of bad quality or they don't fit.

Speaking about shopping you can't but mention some new shops with a high level of service and wide range of goods which have recently appeared in big cities. They are also called boutiques. It is possible to acquire exclusive models from well-known designers there. Purchasing there anything you can be sure that it will be unique and of high quality. They provide a more personal service and the staff are trained to attend the customers patiently and politely. The only disadvantage is that they are too expensive and not everybody can afford them.

Normally it's my parents who do the shopping for our family because they know exactly where to do the shopping and how much money they should spend on it. But I find shopping enjoyable because I like buying things both for my family and myself. Also I get a chance to find out what the latest fashions are.

### Money

#### 1. What do you know about the history of money?

At first people bartered which means they exchanged things they had for things they needed. Throughout their history people have used different things as money: knives and rice in China, cattle in Babylonia, tobacco in America, whales' teeth and shells on the Pacific islands. The first coins were made from a mixture of gold and silver. But they were heavy and too difficult to carry. The government of France became the first in Europe to make paper money- banknotes or bills. But paper money was invented in China.

Now people carry plastic credit cards in their wallets instead of cash, which makes traveling even safer and more convenient. With your credit card you can take money from the cash-machine any time you need it. Many countries in Europe now have the same currency: all their coins and paper money are euros. This makes it easier to make financial deals between countries. And tourists can use the same kind of money. People traveling to other countries of the world usually need to convert their money into the local currency. For that an exchange rate is used.

#### 2. How to make a family budget? Who should be responsible for the family budget?

If you budget you don't just spend or save, you plan how to spend, you plan your expenses. Some of the money that comes into the family is usually spent on things like housing, school, clothes, food, cars and others. Grown-ups are not the only ones who have to worry about how to make both ends meet. Children must become more responsible too. For example if you want to buy a new video game you should make a budget to see if you can afford to put a few rubbles a week towards the new game. In case you have a budget deficit you should cut down your careless expenses and buy the things you really need. Some of the rich are rich not because they have always had a lot of money but because they have been budgeting and the poor are poor because they haven't.

### 3. What is pocket money?

Pocket money is money given by a parent to a child every week or month, which the child can spend himself or herself.

### 4. Should children be given pocket money? What for? How much?

I personally think that children should be given pocket money. Of course they should do some things for free, like cleaning their own room. But they should be paid to do other chores like doing housework or baby-sitting. It will help them to understand that money doesn't grow on trees and that you can't buy everything you want.

Everybody has to work and earn money. It will also teach them to budget and to be more responsible. The amount of money should depend on the family budget.

### 5. What do you spend your pocket money on?

I spend my pocket money on school things, sport and fitness, beauty products, birthday and holiday presents, books and magazines, mobile phones....

- How much money do you usually have on you every day?
- What do you think is better: to carry cash or a credit card?
- Have you ever taken money out of a cash-machine?
- Do you have both coins and banknotes in your country?
- Do you know what people used instead of money in ancient Belarus?
- Have you ever won in a lottery?
- Are you saving money? What for?
- Do you pay for your shopping in cash or by credit card?
- Have you ever lent money to someone. Did he/ she pay it back?
- Have you ever sold or bought anything on the Internet?
- How much does your dream car cost?
- What would you like to buy but can't afford yet?
- How much money would you have to earn when you have a job?
- Have you ever borrowed money from someone?
- Do you ever give money to charity?
- How much money do you get from your parents?
- Do you save or spend your pocket money?
- What chores do you have to do? Do you get paid for them?
- Do you think children should do chores for free or get paid for that?
- What is the right amount of money children should get?

### Do you like shopping? Why?

I can't say that I'm a shopaholic. But I like shopping. If I go window-shopping I almost always buy something in the end. I'm always looking for something special and if it catches my eye and it's good enough I just have to buy it. I prefer to buy clothes myself, but very often my mum buys a sweater or a scarf for me. And I don't mind it at all. The main factor which influences me when I go shopping for clothes is the price. I don't see the point in paying large sums of money on a designer item of clothing when you can buy something for half the price that looks just as good. I also pay attention to the color of the garment I want to buy and try to match it with clothes I already own.

You can't but agree that shopping is a pleasant activity nowadays. Shop owners do their best to attract people into their shops. They try to create a nice comfortable shopping atmosphere. They use different tricks, for example play music, have lights like a club, decorate their shops with posters and balloons and so on.

### What questions will you ask a shop assistant to help you to choose a purchase?

Can you help me to choose a nice evening dress? Can I try this dress on, please? Where is the changing room? Does the color suit me? Have you got this dress in a different color? Does it look a bit tight? Have you got this dress in a bigger size? How much does it cost?

### What questions can you ask your friend about the best shopping places in your town?

Are there many shopping places in your town? What is your favorite shop? Is it close to your house? Is the atmosphere nice? Are the shop-assistants polite and friendly? Are the prices reasonable?

## **Pocket Money**

I think that children should be given pocket money as they should learn how to budget their expenses. Otherwise when they get older they'll have no idea how to look after their money. Having pocket money helps young children to develop self control and understanding the value of money. They can also learn about saving.

I definitely believe that children should work for their pocket money by doing such things as washing up, doing the gardening, cleaning the flat etc. That makes them understand the value of money and learn that money “doesn’t grow on trees”. They learn to respect money if they work to earn it.

As far as I know a new subject “Financial Literacy” has recently been introduced in British schools. English children learn how to manage their pocket money, the benefits of saving and spending, bank accounts and family budgets. I think it would be a good idea to include the subject “Money” into the curriculum of our school. Money is one of the most fascinating things ever developed by man. We can’t live without money because every day we buy food, clothes and other necessary things. There are three main things that money does for us. First it makes possible exchange and trade. Second, we use money to measure and compare the values of various things. Third, it is easy to carry about and store up for future use. So why not learn more about it at school. I would like to learn how to open a bank account, what to do to get a check book or a bank card, I’d like to get some information about the rate of exchange or the traveller’s cheques.

My parents give me pocket money regularly, I usually get about 10 thousand a week. Managing my own money gives me a lot of choices. I can spend my money on sweets and crisps, I can buy a computer game or a video cassette. Sometimes I have to save up for something special. Actually I enjoy spending money on myself and my relatives.

Of course if I had 10,000 \$ a week I would go on holiday to an exotic island or would buy a car and a luxurious mansion in the country. But I would also give some money to cancer and AIDS research and donate some money to charity.

### Money

What else can I say about money. I know some proverbs about money. For example “Money doesn’t grow on trees” It means that you have to work hard and a lot to earn it. “Money is the root of all evil” It means that very often money spoils people” There are songs about money. A famous one is “Money cannot buy me love”. It’s really true. Money gives you the chance to buy practically everything you need. But it cannot buy you love, understanding, friendly attitude. And what is not less important it can’t buy health.

## 6. Hobbies. Free time

### Hobbies.

### Leisure activities.

### Olympiad (Form 8-9)

Leisure activities have changed very much over the last years because technology has given us new opportunities. In the past the most popular way of spending your spare time was reading books or watching TV, or going to the swimming pool. Today we have lots of other possibilities to spend our free time with pleasure. Water parks with water slides, wave machines and man-made rivers have taken the place of traditional swimming pools and computers have replaced books and TV. However these changes are not always positive. In the past people used to spend their free time together, they played different games or went together to the cinema or to the theatre. Today, modern teenagers would prefer to spend their free time with computers rather than with their friends.

Playing computer games is the most popular leisure activity among teenagers because it’s an exciting and rather convenient way of spending free time. Teens can play computer games any time they like and they can find lots of amazing games on the Internet. Moreover, they can discuss their success in games with their classmates and they even have different game competitions. However there are a lot of other leisure activities that are popular among teenagers. For example, a lot of teens go in for different sports, especially extreme sports such as BMX, in-line skating or snowboarding. First of all, sport helps them to keep fit. Besides, it allows them to find new friends who share the same passion. And finally, sport gives them real pleasure and helps to escape from everyday problems.

I don’t think that teenagers have enough leisure time nowadays because they have to study hard at school. They are always busy doing homework and revising for exams. In addition teens usually have to help their parents with chores, they clean their room, do the washing up and sometimes go shopping. What is more, some parents want their children to learn music or painting. That’s why adolescents today are under a lot of pressure. We have no time to relax and it’s bad for our health.

As for me, I have almost no spare time, but when I’m alone I prefer reading, because we have a large library at home with lots of fascinating books. Most of all I enjoy reading historical novels because History is my favorite subject at school and I think that every educated person should know it. I am interested to learn how people lived in the past and how they solved their problems. Sometimes it helps me in my life. I’m usually captivated by exciting story lines, so reading helps me to escape from my school problems. It’s a very relaxing and enjoyable leisure activity. For me it’s the best way to spend my free time and not to feel bored.

### Leisure.

*Some teenagers nowadays think that our life is boring. They don’t know how to occupy their free time. Speak to your bored friend. Try to persuade him that everyone can do something to enjoy in their life*

Personally I think that there are a lot of ways of having a good time and it’s up to you to decide whether to enjoy life or to feel bored.

First of all there are people who want to broaden and enrich their knowledge during their free time. If you are among them, **go to the library or reading hall** where you can find a lot of books by your favorite writers and poets, or go to the museums and picture galleries where you can see the works by well-known painters and sculptors of all times. You shouldn’t forget the computer- your greatest helper in searching for knowledge

If you want to be strong and healthy **go in for sports. Doing sports** is a good leisure activity. It is popular with people of all ages. There are a lot of sports grounds for everybody who loves sport. Sport will make you not only

healthier and stronger but more sociable and cheerful and even wiser. Sport will give you its strength and energy and you'll become a greater admirer of life with all its problems and wonders.

**Travelling** is also a good way of spending your spare time. Visiting new places, seeing sights and meeting new people is a very exciting and useful relaxation. Those who prefer a quiet holiday can go hiking. Your family and your friends are the very people to go with to the river bank, to the forest or to the seashore. It's really wonderful to put up a tent, make a fire and spend time in the picturesque place. And don't forget about hobbies. You should have at least one. It will help you to relax, dream and enjoy life better. There are so many hobbies to choose. If you have chosen a hobby according to your character, taste you are lucky, because your life becomes more interesting and exciting.

So it's up to you to decide what is your life going to be like.

### **Hobbies. Leisure.**

#### **1. What is a hobby?**

A hobby is an activity people enjoy doing in their spare time

#### **2. What groups can hobbies be divided into?**

Hobbies can be divided into four large classes: doing things (gardening, traveling, playing games), making things (drawing, painting, designing clothes, handicrafts), collecting things (stamps, coins, matchboxes, books, records, toys, watches), learning things. No matter what kind of hobby a person has, he always has an opportunity of learning from it. Learning things is the most exciting aspect of a hobby.

#### **3. Why are hobbies important?**

Hobbies are important for many reasons. First a hobby can be educational. For example, if a hobby is stamp collecting, the person can learn about the countries of the world and even some of their history. Second engaging in a hobby can lead to meeting other people with the same interests. Third a person's free time is being used in a positive way. The person has no time to be bored or feel depressed while engaged in a hobby. Finally some hobbies can lead to a future job. A person who enjoys a hobby related job is more satisfied with life.

#### **4. Have you got any idea about leisure activities in the USA and in Great Britain?**

Although the Americans believe in the old American ideal of the progress through hard work they lead full and active lives in their leisure time. They go in for all kinds of indoor and outdoor sports such as bicycling, golf, fishing tennis etc.

The most common leisure activities in Great Britain are visiting relatives and watching TV, going in for aerobics and other sports. It's a well-known fact that the English are very fond of gardening and growing flowers, especially roses. Many people give up their free time to work in voluntary organizations. They are also great pet-lovers and enjoy taking care of their dogs and cats.

#### **5. Did people spend their free time in a different way at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?**

Social life was centered round the church. There were concerts and lectures. People used to spend more time in the open air, many played musical instruments, they learned languages, went to parties, danced a lot...

#### **What questions can you ask a British friend about his / her hobbies?**

- What is your hobby? -How much time do you spend on it?

- Do you think it will be your favorite activity for a long time? Why? - Does your hobby make your life exciting?

- Is your hobby important in your life? - What other leisure activities would you like to try?

### **Hobbies**

People spend their leisure time in a variety of ways. They pursue hobbies, take part in sport activities, attend sporting and cultural events, watch movies and television, and listen to music, and read books and magazines. They enjoy trips to museums, parks, playgrounds and zoos. They take weekend and vacation trips, eat at restaurants, go on picnics, and entertain friends at home. Films, plays, concerts, operas and dance performances attract large audiences in our country. Many people enjoy spending their leisure time outdoors. Some people like to spend their free time chatting with friends and relatives. These and other activities contribute to the richness and diversity of people's life. A hobby offers a way to relax after periods of hard work. Hobbies offer broadened areas of interest and ways to pass time pleasantly. Hobbies can be important in helping patients to recover from physical or mental illness because they provide distractions from the patients' problems. For people who are ill or bedridden, hobbies offer fascinating ways to pass the time.

## **7. Mass Media.**

### **Mass Media**

Today's teens are not really interested in any traditional media. Television, radio and newspapers are becoming less and less popular.

Teenagers don't read newspapers. The only newspapers that are read are the cheaper tabloids. They are also not interested in listening to the radio.

What is more surprising teenagers still watch TV, often turning into a popular season of TV show or sporting events, but the group of regular TV watchers who tune into daily programmes is getting smaller. Teens watch less TV than ever thanks to online services. They use Facebook for social networking, they search and research topics with Google, watch videos on YouTube and download



music from file-sharing sites. Teens typically use their phones simply for talking and texting. However they use their phones for sharing music files with their friends.

Today's teenagers have grown up surrounded by technology and the Internet, so naturally they're not going to be as interested in old media as the older generations are

### **The Mass Media.**

Everywhere, every day, exciting things are happening. Each day is filled with news. The Mass Media have done and continue doing much to excite an interest in every aspect of life. Public life is rich in interesting and important events, and there is nothing strange that these events receive full coverage on the pages of many newspapers and magazines. The press is often called a mirror of current events. That's undoubtedly true. It plays an important role in reflecting the life of society and in shaping opinions

First of all, the press has great **political influence**. It helps people to understand the present-day world better. It educates people and makes them more competent in politics. Reports by political observers and commentators keep us well informed on all topical issues of the day, on home and foreign affairs

Besides, newspapers **give serious accounts on business matters, industry and culture**.

There is a great variety of magazines in our country. They **cater for all tastes and interests**. There are special magazines for the driver, the farmer, the gardener and what not

Some special magazines for teenagers are very **popular with young people**. They provide exciting reading material about fashion, clothes, cooking, diet, the life of pop-stars. Teenager can write to a magazine to get some advice on the problems they face or decisions they have to make. And there they can find answers to some eternal problems such as "how to overcome shyness", "how to become sociable", "how to avoid conflicts"

### **Television**

I believe it's quite surprising how much TV we normally watch. We don't even notice it. We watch soap operas, entertainment programs, panel games and what not, all in one day. It's next to impossible to imagine our life without our blue-eyed BIG BROTHER. What would we do without out tally? It tells us what to do, what to buy, how to dress, how to avoid trouble. Today's variety of TV offerings is quite amazing. Actually they cater for all tastes Everyone seems to have a favorite daily or weekly chart show, a documentary, a soap opera, a serial or at least a news program. Television captivates our attention, stirs our imagination and stimulates our intellect. I personally consider it to be a wonderful way to relax and to switch off from every day problems.

Speaking about the role of television in our life one can't but mention its **great educational value**. It serves as a nice medium for instruction. We have an opportunity of hearing well-informed talks on archeology, history, geography, science and technology. We hear critics talking about new books, films, plays, works of art. I am keen on watching educational programs dealing with animals and birds and all kinds of living creatures in their natural surroundings. Television made it possible for people who live far away from cultural centers to watch concerts, international and national sports events.

But like any other modern invention television has **its weak points**. If you ask me, I'll say that the worst thing about television is that it leaves so little time for serious study. School work...well, all kinds of work don't get done properly. I myself used to do my lessons in front of the screen watching, writing, watching, reading, watching again. I don't do that now. But most of my friends do. I'm sure that it's pretty bad. But not only the quality of their work is affected, their health is ruined as well. Doctors keep reminding us that constant viewing inevitably leads to poor health through eyestrain, lack of sleep and lack of exercise. Nowadays psychologists are deeply concerned about the nervous system of teenagers. Well...I think all the killing and...and the violence you get on television now, not only in films but also on the news bulletins, all that has a terrible effect on young people especially children. They say that a child is being exposed to so much violence and crime that he is unable to differentiate between good and evil. Therefore he becomes aggressive and doesn't feel safe and happy. Actually we don't know how it affects their behavior. But I'm sure the effect is negative

A US poet Thomas Eliot wrote "television is a medium of entertainment which permits millions of people to listen to the same joke at the same time, and yet remain lonesome" I think it means that people begin to forget the art of conversation, they sit glued to the television screen instead of visiting their friends and relatives.

In conclusion I want to say that television is surely one of the greatest inventions, but you shouldn't get addicted to it.

### **Advertising**

It's a well-known fact that advertising is penetrating all spheres of our life. It's so powerful that you just can't avoid it. You can see adverts everywhere, they are all around you; on the television and radio, in magazines and newspapers. Adverts are everywhere on the streets, on big posters and bill boards. Watching a film on television is really like watching twenty commercials with a film sandwiched in between. When I sit down to watch the show and I'm really enjoying the story, suddenly the film stops and I have to look at beautiful and slim women wearing luxurious clothes or men driving their super-expensive cars. The things - that our family simply can't afford. So my time is actually wasted. I don't take advertising seriously. I don't like ads for washing powders, which always say they get your clothes whiter than white, and show housewives testing them. In some ways consumers have become the victim of advertising. We are sold an image and we buy it even if it isn't what we actually need. Sometimes we are sold things which are dangerous to us. Companies try to target the young and fashionable when they advertise alcohol and cigarettes. They try to make it look "cool" and trendy to smoke. Many people start drinking and smoking only because they want to identify themselves with the image of the product. You can't but agree that it is

morally wrong to advertise a product that has been proved, through medical research, to be so bad for your health. Of course there are people who think that advertising provides a valuable service as it brings to your attention many products that you really need or want, it makes much easier the problem of choice taking the load of responsibility off our mind. They also say that it is important for the development of trade. Well... I don't know... I can agree that some commercials are really creative and informative. They are full of fun, humor and fantasy. But I think advertising is rather a curse than a blessing for our society.

### 1. What newspapers do you subscribe to?

Our family subscribes to "Komsomolskaya Pravda". It's a daily newspaper. I always try to find a spare minute to read it

I find the weekly supplement to "Komsomolskaya Pravda", the so-called "tolstushka" especially interesting. It's absolutely true, everyone can find here something to his liking. On the first page you can read the headlines of the most interesting articles published in the issue. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> pages give a brief summary of some current events in our country and abroad. The paper also gives full attention to the most acute problems of our society such as unemployment, crime, violence, drugs, family conflicts. It also covers some topics dealing with history, nature, sport. A good thing about it is a large number of ads. The crossword puzzles and anecdotes on the last page make the newspaper amusing and entertaining. Besides it gives practical help to TV viewers by publishing TV programmes for the coming week. Taking all the facts into consideration, you can't but agree that this paper is worth reading. It provides information on any subject under the sun and satisfies any taste.

### 2. What are the Mass Media?

The Mass Media is a collective name for newspapers and magazines, radio, television and the Internet. Newspapers and magazines are the oldest of the mass media.

### 3. What kinds of editions can you name?

There are different kinds of editions: daily, weekly, morning, national, local, serious (quality), popular (tabloids)

### 4. How can the information be presented?

In an issue of a paper you can find various information presented in articles, reports, comments, reviews, photographs, etc

### 5. Where can you get newspapers from?

You can buy them from newspaper stands and street-sellers, you can also subscribe to your favorite editions or go to public libraries to read them

#### **The purpose of most advertising is**

- to sell products or services
- to create a favorable image of one's company
- to want one's company to be known and respected for the products it makes or the services it provides
- to inform people
- to try to win voices
- to discourage people from doing sth
- to promote the use of work-saving appliances
- to shape one's tastes, habits and attitudes
- to be used for social, political and educational purposes
- to persuade people to buy their products
- to influence the way people think or act
- to encourage people to eat certain foods, wear certain clothes
- to suggest ways of spending leisure time
- to help to raise the standard of living

### The advantages and disadvantages of the mobile phone.

Mobile communication has become one of the most striking phenomena of the XXI century. It's very convenient to have a mobile phone as you can keep in touch with your relatives and friends wherever you are. In case of emergency you can also call the fire-brigade or the ambulance. A smart phone is like a mini-computer in your pocket: it not only provides access to the Internet, but performs hundreds of other operations. It plays music and videos, has games and a navigation system and what not. So I think that mobile phones are surely the future of technology.

However, mobile phones have become more important to some young people, than schoolwork, following dress codes and writing thank-you notes. They would rather talk on the phone than meet face to face and have an interesting conversation or a discussion with their peers. Scientists and doctors feel deeply concerned about the influence of mobile phones on children's health. There have been claims that mobile phones can cause memory loss, and even cancer. It hasn't been proved yet, but it has been discovered that mobile addicts can be seriously affected psychologically. These effects can't be explained yet, but when I see little schoolchildren playing games on their phones during the break I don't think it's good for their health.

### **Computers**

Computers have made a big difference to how children spend their leisure time. Before computers they might have read books or played imaginary games with their friends like cowboys and Indians. Now, they'd prefer to play computer games which they find more exciting

I think computers are great. They have made people's lives easier and revolutionized the workplace. Any kind of information is more accessible and at the touch of a button you can find something out that before might have taken hours

### **Computers**

It's becoming useful to be 'computer-literate' nowadays. It has become an absolute necessity. Although I do not get pleased out of sitting in front of a computer screen for hours, I don't stand the chance of getting a good job without computer skills.

The Internet is a computer system that allows millions of people around the world to receive and exchange information about almost anything. It allows people to send messages to each other quickly and cheaply. Information available at home via the Internet is infinite

Using a computer is a quick and easy way to do my homework. Instead of having to draw pictures I can get them on a computer and just add them to whatever I need to illustrate. So it saves a lot of time. My computer has an internet connection which gives me access to all sorts of information. I can also use the encyclopedia and dictionary that are on the computer.

Using e-mail is very convenient for communicating with my friends. I can send out information about myself, and not only information but also some pictures. Lastly my computer has a lot of games which I can play after I have done my homework

### **Mobile phones.**

In our mobile era we tend to use ordinary phones less and less. Mobile communication has become one of the most striking phenomena of the XXI century as it has nearly replaced all live communication. It's very convenient to have a mobile phone as you can keep in touch with your relatives and friends wherever you are. In case of emergency you can also call the fire-brigade or the ambulance. A smart phone is like a mini-computer in your pocket: it not only provides access to the Internet, but performs hundreds of other operations.

But sometimes people shout when they are on their mobiles. They seem to believe that the rest of the world is interested in their business. Many users forget that they are in public places and that others may be offended by the volume and content of their calls.

There have been claims that mobile phones can cause memory loss, and even cancer. But scholars who are trying to prove or disprove these theories have found that there's no evidence that mobiles cause cancer, yet it has been discovered that cell phone emissions have a variety of strange effects on our bodies. These effects can be explained yet, but when I see little schoolchildren playing games on their phones during the break I don't think it's good for their health.

### **Mass Media**

The impression about human beings is pretty depressing. They often report crimes, violations of human rights and the way we are destroying our natural resources. There is a lot of gossip about celebrities.

TV has a harmful influence on children's educational and emotional development, after long periods of watching TV, children tend to become absent-minded and forgetful, besides many TV programs are unsuitable for children

Having attractive appearance is not enough to become a successful TV personality. A certain level of intelligence and education is essential too.

## **8. Customs and traditions of Great Britain and Belarus.**

### **Holidays in Belarus (Olympiad. Form 8-9)**

Like other countries Belarus has its own holidays. They are of two kinds-traditional national holidays and religious holidays

**The New Year Day** is one of them. It is a popular holiday which is widely celebrated in every family. Long before the New Year Eve people begin to buy New Year cards, toys and presents. Most families see the New Year in at home. There is usually a fir tree decorated with toys and lights. A lot of delicious food is cooked for the night meal. A goose stuffed with apples is a traditional New Year dish

**The 8<sup>th</sup> of March** is another national holiday when people show their love and respect for their mothers, grandmothers, sisters and girl-friends. It is a tradition to present them with flowers and gifts.

There are two national holidays in May. **The 1<sup>st</sup> of May** is the holiday of labor and spring. It's a merry holiday. There is a lot of music and dancing everywhere.

Then comes **the Victory Day** on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. The day marks the victory of the Soviet people over the German fascism in the Great Patriotic War. People congratulate war veterans and express their gratitude to them and also remember those who gave their lives for the independence of our Motherland. They put flowers to the monuments of war heroes.

In Belarus people widely celebrate such popular Christian holidays as **Christmas and Easter**. On Christmas Eve traditional food is cooked. It should include fish, mushrooms pancakes and Belarussian pudding made of barley. Traditionally dinner table should be covered with hay and then with a table cloth and the food. Christmas week is great fun. Young people go from home to home dressed like animals or other fairy characters, sing Kolyady songs and dance. In return they are given food and sometimes money.

**Kupalle** is the most loved and celebrated pagan holiday in today's Belarus. There is a whole complex of traditional rituals, beliefs, love and magic. It is celebrated in the night from 6 July to 7 July. The central part in Kupalle celebration is a fire. The oiled wooden wheel is set on the fire to symbolize sun. There are a lot of purification rituals such as jumping over the fire and bathing in the river. There is also a lot of dancing in karagods, competing in strength and fortune-telling. Young people usually wear wreaths made of corn flowers, ferns and camomiles on their heads. They jump over the fire and go to the forest to look for a blossoming fern flower-"paparats-kvetka". According to the legend those who find this mysterious flower will live happily ever after.

### **My favorite holiday.**

I suppose every holiday is wonderful in its own way. Moreover, each one has its own history, special meaning and sense. My favorite holiday is New Year's Day

First of all, it's the most suitable day of the year for thinking over all one's deeds and making a summary of the year. It's just the time to reconsider our whole life and continue it with new strength. New Year's Day is the day which makes you change your life completely, or just something in it.

Secondly, New Year's, to my mind is a magical holiday, when we dream about happiness. We all believe that the coming year will be better, happier and merrier.

Thirdly, on this day people as a rule try to make other people happy by giving presents, sending postcards or just smiling.

In the fourth place I would like to say that the saying "you spend the year the same you meet it" is really very wise. So that's why all people try to be kind and good, they cook a lot of tasty food. We usually see the New Year in at home. My flat looks really great with a brilliantly decorated fir-tree. When the clock strikes 12 we stand round the table holding up glasses of champagne and wish each other happiness, good luck, peace and understanding. I love this holiday for its magic and merry atmosphere, for the happiness it gives to me, my relatives, friends and to all the people. This holiday is surely worth celebrating

### **Holidays and traditions in Great Britain.**

#### **Christmas.**

Christmas Day is when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas is celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. During the weeks before Christmas people send cards, watch nativity plays and go carol singing. They put up Christmas decorations inside and outside homes, churches, shops. The traditional Christmas decorations are evergreens, such as holly, mistletoe and ivy. This holiday is celebrated together with family, relatives and friends who share customs and traditions which have been around for centuries. People talk, eat, exchange presents, watch television and listen to the Queen's Christmas message in the afternoon. A typical Christmas meal is roast turkey, or chicken, or goose, roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts or other vegetables and gravy.

#### **New Year.**

Many people stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve, the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, so that they can celebrate the start of the New Year. People see in the New Year with their friends and family. Many pubs and clubs have special events. A few minutes before midnight, British people traditionally watch Big Ben, and celebrate after it strikes for the 12<sup>th</sup> time. It's a tradition to join hands at midnight and sing *Auld Lang Sine*, written by the Scottish poet Robert Burns. In London people often gather in Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus or Parliament Square. They listen to Big Ben and watch a 10-minute firework display at the London Eye starting at midnight.

In Scotland and in the north of England people follow the custom of the First Foot. The First Foot is traditionally a tall, dark-haired man, who is the first to knock at his friend's house after midnight. He usually brings several gifts, including a coin, bread, salt, coal or a drink for good luck.

On New Year's Day people make New Year's resolutions. They promise to start doing something good in the New Year. They usually promise to give up smoking, to save money, to get a better job, to care about studies, to become more organized and so on.

#### **Pancake Day.**

Traditionally, forty-one days before Easter Sunday is a special day for Christians, called Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday. It is the day before Lent starts. Eggs and milk ought not to be eaten during Lent. That's why egg, milk and butter left in the house were used for pancakes. All over England there are pancake races on or near Shrove Tuesday. Each participant has to wear an apron and a hat or a scarf. They run with a pancake in a frying pan and throw the pancake in the air. They have to catch it in the pan. The winner gets to the finishing line first having thrown the pancake a pre-decided number of times. The most famous pancake race takes place at Olney.

### **Holidays in Britain.**

**Christmas Day** is the most popular bank holiday. It is celebrated on December 25. On this day many people go to churches, open their Christmas presents, and eat a Christmas dinner of roast turkey and Christmas pudding. Many people watch the Queen's Christmas broadcast on TV. This day is a traditional family reunion day and a special day for children. Christmas has three marvelous aspects- giving and receiving presents, making beautiful decorations and preparing the most wonderful food. The central decoration for Christmas must be the tree. Prince Albert introduced the custom to England in the nineteenth century.

**New Year's Day** is on January 1. It is not marked with any custom in Great Britain. Traditional New Year parties and dances are held on the New Year's Eve. People see the old year out and the New Year in

**May Day Holiday** is on the first Sunday after the first of May. It is a celebration of the coming of spring. On May day different outdoor events are held. Usually May Queen, the most beautiful girl of the celebration, is selected

**St Valentine's Day** is celebrated on February 14. On that day people send Valentine card and presents to their husbands, wives, boy-friends and girl-friends. You can also send a card to a person you don't know. But traditionally you must never write your name on it.

November 5 is **Guy Fawkes Day**. All over the country people build wood fires, or bonfires, in their gardens. On the top of each bonfire is a guy, this is a figure of Guy Fawkes. On November 5, 1605, Guy Fawkes tried to kill King James I. He and a group of his friends put a bomb under the Houses of Parliament in London. But the king's men found the bomb and Guy Fawkes. They took him to the Tower of London where his head was cut off. Before November 5, children use "guys" to make money. They stand in the street and shout: "Penny for the guy."

On the night of **Hallowe'en**, October 31, children or adults visit houses and ask the people if they want 'trick' or 'treat'. If the people in the house give the children a 'treat' (usually money or sweets), then the children will not play a trick on them. Another Hallowe'en custom is to scrape out a pumpkin, cutting eyes, nose and mouth in its side and lighting a candle inside, this is made to scare their friends

What questions can you ask a British teenager about his/ her birthday celebration?

- When is your birthday? - Did you have a birthday party last year? - Did you enjoy your party?
- What presents did you get? - Whom did you invite to your birthday party?
- You usually celebrate your birthday at home, don't you? - Have you ever had a surprise birthday party?

Do you think it's easy to organize a good party? What mistakes do people sometimes make?

I think that to organize a good birthday party is not easy. First of all you should make or buy invitation card and send them to you guests long before the party. You can't but agree that the party should be well planned. Choosing a perfect location for the party is another challenging task. It should be reasonable in size. If you are planning an outdoor party weather forecasting becomes a vital factor. If you are going to have a party at home you should decorate the room. The dining-room chairs should be set in such a way that your guests can gossip while eating. The food should be healthy and tasty. The program of the party should include dancing, playing games, and singing. Actually you have to do everything possible to make your friends feel comfortable and have fun.

What good manners will you recommend a British tourist to follow in Belarus?

You should always remember that Belarusian people are famous for their hospitality. When they are welcoming guests they present them with bread and salt. If they invite you to a party you should dress smartly and be ready to taste all the food they have cooked. It will be nice if you bring some flowers or a souvenir because they will certainly give you some gifts. You should show respect to your host and be sensitive to people around you. Our people never put feet on seats or tables like some Americans do. It is considered polite to stand up if an elderly person is standing nearby. Older people usually introduce themselves using their first name and patronymic. Shaking hands is a common form of greeting. Men shake hand with men but women do neither with men nor with women. Whistling inside a building or keeping empty bottles on the table is considered bad luck. You should remember that Belarusian people are friendly and hospitable they always do their best to make their guests feel comfortable.

What questions can you ask a British teenager about good manners in their country.

### **Unwritten Rules of Great Britain**

Good and bad manners make up the social rules of a country. They are not always easy to learn because they are often not written down in books.. Visitors to Britain are often surprised by the strange behavior of the inhabitants. One of the worst mistakes is to get on a bus without waiting your turn in the queue. The other people in the queue will probably complain loudly! Queuing is a national habit and it is considered polite or good manners to wait for your turn.

In some countries it is considered bad manners to eat in the street, whereas in Britain it is common to see people having a snack whilst walking down the road, especially at lunchtime. In recent years smoking has received a lot of bad publicity, and fewer British people now smoke. Many companies have banned smoking from their offices and canteens. Smoking is now banned on the London Underground, in cinemas and theaters and most buses. It's becoming less and less acceptable to smoke in a public place. It is considered rude or bad manners to smoke in someone's house without permission.

Social rules are an important part of our culture as they passed down through history. The British have an expression for following these "unwritten rules": "When in Rome, do as the Romans do".

What questions can you ask a British teenager about good manners in their country

- What kind of people are the English? - What do they usually say when they greet friends?
- Do they usually take a gift when they visit somebody's home? - Do they always stand in queues when boarding a bus?
- When do they say "excuse me"? - Is it considered rude when they don't say "thank you"?
- Do they greet people with a kiss?

What national souvenirs will you recommend a British tourist to buy?

There are a lot of things that can be found only in Belarus and nowhere else in the world. Belarus has long been famous for its linen fabrics, symbolic rushniks (embroidered towels), unique products made of straw, clay and wood. It's famous for its valenki and hats made of sheepskin.

In Belarus flax has been cultivated since ancient times. You can buy clothes, bedclothes, tablecloths, bath towels, bags made of flax. You can also buy souvenirs resembling the famous Slutsk belts. Perhaps nowhere in the world you can find such a variety of things made of straw: dolls in Belarusian costumes, hats and sandals, figures of animals and birds. "Straw spider" is an amulet which protects the house and ensures the well-being of the family. Hundreds of years ago Belarusians used osier to make house walls and fences. Nowadays you can buy souvenirs made of osier. They are bread bins, trays, plates, lapy and even furniture. It's a well-known fact that Belarus is a land of forests. Wood has been widely used for construction and art purposes. Wooden souvenirs include figures of

people and animals, carved furniture and what not. So you see that our country can offer a lot of unusual things. It is surely worth visiting.

### **Holidays and traditions in Great Britain and Belarus.**

#### **1. What are the major holidays in Great Britain and which is the favorite one?**

There are 8 public holidays or bank holidays in a year in Great Britain. They are : Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Easter Monday, May Day, Spring Bank Holiday and Late Summer Bank Holiday. Public Holidays in Great Britain are called bank holidays because banks as well as most of offices and shops are closed. Christmas is the most popular holiday. Children enjoy receiving presents which are traditionally put into the stocking. Most houses are decorated with holly and there is usually a Christmas tree in the corner of the living room. The traditional Christmas dinner includes roast turkey or goose with potatoes, peas and carrots and pudding for dessert. An important part of Christmas is carol singing.

#### **2. What can you tell me about your favorite holiday in Belarus?**

Many great holidays and anniversaries are celebrated in our country. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May there is May Day—the holiday of spring and labor. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March there is Women’s Day. We also celebrate the Day of Independence of Belarus on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July and Victory Day on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. Nowadays people celebrate some religious holidays such as Christmas and Easter. But my favorite holiday is New Year’s Day. It’s a really wonderful time of the year. People get ready for this day long before it. They buy New Year trees and decorate them. Children and even grown-ups wait for New Year’s Eve because they believe that all their wishes come true on that day.

#### **3. Do you know any old Belarusian customs?**

Let me tell you a few words about Kalyady. During this holiday groups of merry young boys and girls go from house to house in Belarusian villages and towns. They dress as animals and carry the goat’s head on a stick. Hosts usually give them tasty things and thank them for well-wishing and carol-singing. Kalyady is the time when special food is cooked. For example “ Kalyaddaya Kuttzya” is a sort of porridge which is believed to protect people. The main idea of this holiday is to get rid of everything bad in one’s life and to begin a new life cycle with optimism.

## **9. Youth and Society.**

### **Belarusian Republican Youth Union**

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The Belarusian Republican Youth Union is a [youth organization](#) in [Belarus](#). Its goals are to promote [patriotism](#) and to instill [moral values](#) into the youth of Belarus, using activities such as camping, sporting events and visiting memorials. The BRSM is the largest youth group in Belarus and is supported by the [Belarusian government](#).

The BRSM was created on 6 September 2002, after the merger of two Belarusian youth organizations, the [Belarusian Youth Union](#) and the [Belarusian Patriotic Youth Union](#).

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The BRSM national headquarters is located in [Minsk](#), the national capital of Belarus. Each [voblast of Belarus](#)—[Minsk](#), [Brest](#), [Vitsebsk](#), [Homiel](#), [Grodno](#) and [Mogilev](#)—has its own branches of the BRSM. The BRSM has estimated that it has 6803 branches located inside Belarus.

The national leadership of the BRSM is controlled by the central committee, which is headed by the first secretary of the central committee. The current first secretary is Leonid Kovalev

The BRSM has two official symbols: an [emblem](#) and a [flag](#). The emblem, which is based on the [Komsomol badge](#) and modeled on the [Belarusian national flag](#), has a red bar bearing the initials of the BRSM, written in gold in [Cyrillic](#), over a green bar bearing a golden [olive branch](#). The flag of the BRSM has the same elements as the emblem, but the reverse of the flag bears the organization's full name in gold (in Russian) in the red section, with the green section unemblazoned.

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In order to join the BRSM, the applicant must be between the ages of 14 and 31 and must send a [photo](#) of him or herself. If the applicant is between the ages of 14 and 16 written permission from a [parent](#) or [legal guardian](#) must be granted. A person must also pay a one-time fee of 1,400 [Belarusian rubles](#) and a mid-year fee to continue membership in the BRSM.

Most of the BRSM's activities are similar to those that were performed by the Soviet [Komsomol](#). The main activities of the BRSM involve the promotion of Belarusian patriotism. This is accomplished by participating in [wreath-laying](#) ceremonies at various memorials around the country. BRSM members also pass out flowers to veterans of the [Great Patriotic War \(World War II\)](#) to honor their service during the national holiday [Den Pobedy](#) (Day of Victory). Both the memorial visits and the flowers for the veterans give BRSM members an idea of what sacrifices their ancestors made. During other national holidays, the BRSM passes out a ribbon that resembles the national flag of Belarus, to be worn on a shirt or jacket. This program, along with other events, is part of its "For Belarus!" (Belarussian: За Беларусь!) campaign.<sup>[12]</sup>

The BRSM participates in outdoor activities and sports, including [football](#), running, swimming and hockey. Some of these athletic events involve different groups from inside Belarus or from neighboring countries, such as [Russia](#), [Ukraine](#) or [Latvia](#). BRSM members also participate in competitions amongst themselves or with other foreign groups that are similar to the BRSM.

The main activities of the BRSM involve the promotion of Belarusian patriotism. This is accomplished by participating in wreath-laying ceremonies at various memorials around the country. BRSM members also pass out flowers to veterans of the Great Patriotic War to honour their service during the national holiday (Day of Victory). The BRSM participates in outdoor activities and sports, including football, running, swimming and hockey. Some of these athletic events involve different groups from inside Belarus or from neighbouring countries, such as Russia, Ukraine or Latvia. BRSM organizes student construction brigades, a practice also originated in the Soviet Union.

### **Youth Organizations in Belarus**

The most numerous youth organization is the Belarussian Patriotic Union of Youth

The main **objectives** of the organization are as follows:

- to express, defend and realize the rights and legal interests of its members
- to form the world outlook, based on moral and spiritual, as well as Christian values
- to foster patriotism as the main spiritual and social value
- to express devotion to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, to the country, its people and its state symbols
- to give assistance to every member of the organization in his spiritual, intellectual and physical development and in realization of his abilities and creative potential

- to take part in preparation of young people for the defense of their Motherland

The Belarussian Patriotic Union of Youth and its members accomplish their goals and objectives in the following **activities**

- they participate in formation of youth policy and put it into practice
- they support the initiatives of the youth, directed at self-perfection and all-round development of their individual abilities
- they help young people to become integrated members of society
- they elaborate and accomplish different educational, social and other youth programmes which do not contradict the present legislation of the republic of Belarus
- they render assistance in finding employment
- they promote international youth cooperation
- they attract the attention of the mass media and the bodies of state power to the problems and initiatives of the youth
- they organize conferences, meetings, lectures, exhibitions, concerts for the young people

### **The UK Youth Parliament.**

The UK Youth Parliament gives young people the chance have their say on any issue which affects them, and be listened to by local and national government. It's not party-political. MYPs are elected in annual youth elections throughout the UK. Any person between the age of 11 and 18 (inclusive) can stand to be elected as an MYP. An MYP's work is mainly based on a local problem which young people in that area think needs improving, e.g. transport.

There are lots of ways for young people everywhere to get involved, with the UKYP. You can vote in the UKYP election, support our campaigns, debate in the UKYP online forums, attend all UKYP events and much more.

It's important that an MYP is prepared to have an opinion on topical issues. But MYPs should also be lively, committed and outgoing importantly have a sense of humor.

### **Youth Problems.**

The young of today do have problems. They are considered adults long before their parents were. Unfortunately, it often makes life harder because teenagers are not adults. Although they look and act like adults, they lack experience and so often make mistakes which people don't understand or tolerate. A teenager needs a mature person to understand him and help him to cope with his problems. He needs a person who can support him and lead him in the right direction. But not everyone finds such a person in his family. Unfortunately not all the parents are wise tolerant and supportive enough to understand their children, they never try 'to put themselves in their children's shoes'. More than that they are often so obsessed with mean ambitions and the desire to get more and more material possessions that they completely forget that their main task is bringing up their own child. It happens so that in the families where children do not receive the love and support they need they begin to search for substitutes for love such as alcohol and drugs which transport young people away from real life into the world of illusion. Some of them run away from home and turn to crime. Statistics shows that the majority of young criminals are those who were abused or neglected while growing up. Often people learn violence from their mothers and fathers. So I think that the roots of such problems lie in family relationships. I personally don't have such problems.

Some other problems young people face today are self-expression, spending of free time, finding a good job, earning money. But I think they can be easily solved if you put a little effort into the matter. The majority of young people are active members of our society, they contribute to the country's economic, scientific and cultural development. They are interested in environment, social problems and politics. They pursue hobbies and have no problems with occupying their spare time. They are persistent, industrious and clever. They have a strong will-power and a strong character. The importance of character is expressed in the following lines written many years ago:

When wealth is lost, nothing is lost,  
When health is lost, something is lost,  
When character is lost, all is lost!

I personally never forget that our life is not a bed of roses. And you should be ready to face the difficulties and to overcome them. If you want to be treated with respect you should definitely deserve it



## Teens' Problems.

If someone denies all of the problems teenagers have, they are not being honest. They do have problems. One of the real problem is having no close friend. If you don't have a close friend you feel lonely especially in case your parents don't understand you. Some young people are just sure that their parents don't want to understand them. In our society youngsters are at odds with their parents on a wide range of issues, from how late they can stay up, to whom they should marry. It's called a generation gap. But I think our parents are people whom we can trust. In most cases teens don't understand their parents and become very nervous. When this happens, it's time to say to yourself "stop", and try to find in your parents more positive than negative traits.

The other very important problem is our school life. Teens are often under pressure in many ways at school – they are supposed to be "macho" – good at school subjects, able to stand up for them without crying. If they can't they are "wimps", and often children will tease and bully them, especially at school. But all children are different- they have different needs and talents, likes and dislikes. Teens are not just "machos" and "wimps", they are rebels and conformists, extroverts and introverts. Our teachers and our parents should assure us that all these types of people are good, and it will reduce a lot of problems.

There are so-called 'problem teenagers', who take drugs. A large number of teens use them very often. They are drug addicts. I don't have such friends and I think that there should be special programs to solve this problem

Another problem is connected with biorhythms. Not all people know what it is and they begin to laugh at you and can offend you, when sometimes you are all fingers and thumbs, when you are accident-prone, or when your temper seems to be on a short fuse. It is because we all have an internal "body clock", which regulates the rise and the fall of our bodies' energies and it's called biorhythms. So our teachers, parents and classmates should understand it and not pay attention to it because it's the law of our life and nature.

Another serious problem is to enter a good university and find a good job afterwards. But unemployment rates are extremely high- even qualified people with great knowledge can't find something good. But in spite of that I hope for the best.

We always want to impress people. But the first impression we make almost fully depends on what we wear and how we wear it. Manners and speech are noticed next and character only later. Many teens have the same taste. They like to keep up-to-date with the changes in our society. They like to wear clothes which they look good and feel comfortable in. Being in fashion makes you feel good, in tune with the world you live in. But when you are at school it is important to wear the right clothes, even formal ones, and not to dress up. I understand it, but some of my classmates don't. They like to shock their teachers and parents, and provoke them, and that's why they have some problems at school. So you should have some "clothes sense" to know and feel the types of things that are your style in formal situations and at parties.

As for me, I try to cope with all my problems alone, or with the help of my parents. My parents are real friends and they understand me and try to help me or give advice. But the first thing we have to think about is the future we are building for ourselves and our children. The better we are now, the better we understand one another, the better our place will be when we grow up

### **It's so good to be young**

To be young is a period of life when you are protected and can be carefree. You are at the age when you can have fun and lead a lively, adventure-filled life. I think that young people nowadays are more intellectual, better educated and better socially informed than their parents used to be in their youth. They want to be more independent, they try to keep to their own values which are not always the same as those held by their parents. They think more for themselves and do not blindly accept the ideas of their elders. However, if the grown-up world has some stability, the world of teenagers is full of doubts in themselves and in their future. It's a period of confusion and pressure. You are dependent on your parents and therefore restricted in what you can do. Very often you are overloaded with school work. And you feel that you have to live up to parents' expectations. Young people are usually quite impressionable and sensitive and tend to jump to conclusions. But they don't often have enough experience and wisdom to estimate the situation and foresee all possible results of their behavior. Naturally it may lead to certain problems and misunderstanding. .... **(Problems)**...

**(School)** The educational policy of our state is aimed at creating necessary facilities for young people to develop their abilities and encouraging them to live "a healthy life". Talented children are encouraged by the government and local authorities to realize their creative and intellectual potential to its full. Contests in various subjects are very popular with Belarusian pupils and they are held every year. So far there hasn't been a single international Olympiad at

which our pupils haven't been among the winners. Becoming a winner at an international Olympiad is prestigious and is good evidence of the brilliant knowledge of the subject of an individual pupil and at the same time it's a broad assessment of the educational system of our country.

It's a well-known fact that young people want to be independent and they would like to earn their own money. They can display their abilities in their contribution to the national economy. In the summertime a lot of young people in eth countryside work together with their parents in the fields helping to get a good harvest.

It's quite natural that young people tend to go out and socialize a lot more than older people. They want to express their views on several political and social issues. They join youth organizations and societies. The most popular with young people is the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM) which was set up in 2002. The main idea of the Union is to involve young people into socially useful activities such as sporting events, volunteering at hospitals, taking care of war veterans assisting the old and the handicapped, carrying out some ecological projects



and doing other things. Young people attend various forums and conferences at which they debate and exchange opinions on youth problems in different countries

In conclusion I'd like to say that it's so exciting to be young. You are full of hopes and expectations. But it's up to you to decide what your future life will be like.

What questions would you like to ask a person who has joined a new international organization?

- Why did you join this organization? - What kind of organization is it? – What is the goal of your organization?
- Why did you join it? - What are the main objectives of the organization?
- What social activities do the members of your organization take part in?

What questions can you ask about the recent event organized by the BRSM?

- What was the event aimed at? - How was it held? – How many members of the BRSM took part in it?
- What questions were discussed during the event? – What were the results of the event?

What would you like to learn about the activities of cheerleaders in Minsk?

As I know cheerleading is a physical activity, and sometimes a competitive sport, which uses organized routines including dance, jumps, cheers and aerobics. Cheerleading originated in the United States and has become popular in many countries. There are also cheerleading groups in Minsk. I would like to know what qualities young people need to be cheerleaders, how they can get into cheerleading and what lessons they can learn from cheerleading

## 10. Art.

### Art. Music.

There are different forms of art. They are theatre, cinema, music, sculpture, literature, and painting. They all are an integral part of our daily life. Art enriches our life emotionally, it makes people kind. Art helps us to appreciate beauty and to solve the eternal problems of good and evil. Through art we can gain a deeper understanding of human history and the meaning of life. Many people find art to be psychologically healing.

My favorite form of art is music. Charles Kingsley, a famous British novelist, wrote many years ago

“There is something wonderful in music. Words are wonderful enough; but music is even more wonderful. It speaks not to our thoughts as words do; it speaks straight to our hearts and spirits, to the very core and root of our souls. Music soothes us, stirs us up, it puts noble feelings in us, it melts us to tears; we know not how; it's a language in itself...” One can't say better about music. I personally think it's really a universal language of the world, the mirror of our lives and life problems. It is a language with some meaning. It's a supreme mystery which helps people to cope with the frustration and grind of the day. Music isn't a combination of pleasant sounds only. It is an art which reflects life. Music reflects people's ideas and emotions. Music is also a weapon. It fights for light against darkness, for freedom against tyranny, for humanism against barbarity.

You can't think of a day without music. There is music everywhere: at home, in a concert hall, in parks, at the seaside. People can't live without music. They listen to music, they dance to music. They learn to play musical instruments. Mothers sing lullabies to their babies to comfort them while they go off to sleep. People listen to music when they are in high or low moods. Some people listen to music on some rare occasions. But there are people who can't live a day without music simply because it's a part of their life

When speaking of different forms of music I'd like to mention classical music first. Classical music gives me a keen sensual delight and pleasure. It creates a special spiritual world which enriches my inner state and makes me happy. Classical music is always a complex of emotions, excitement and at the same time love for others and a desire to do something for them. When listening to classical music I have to combine all my feelings into one and to give it name it will be happiness. To my mind classical music has a strong ethical effect it ennobles the listener, makes him better and more humane.

Most young people nowadays are gravitating towards new rhythms which are full of vigor and force. They prefer going to pop and rock concerts. This sort of music appeals to them because the tunes are happy and easy caught, the words of the songs deal with the teenagers' world, their hopes and dreams, disappointments and joys. I think that most grown-ups are against rock music. My mom says that the tunes are mostly primitive and as easily forgotten as caught. She says that rock music lacks variety, it's the same monotonous beat again and again. Besides medical research has proved that the volume of sound produced by powerful music does great damage both to the senses of hearing and to the nervous system. I don't know. But sometimes I go to the disco and enjoy dancing to pop and rock music. I feel pleased and happy and don't mind my nervous system. But I do agree that the words of some songs are absolutely senseless.

My favorite English song is

### Do you want to be famous?

I think that the word “famous” has a wide meaning. If you ask me if I want to be a star or a celebrity, I will definitely say – no. Of course pop stars enjoy a luxurious style of life. They earn vast sums of money and spend their holidays in exotic countries. They are transported in their chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royces. Wherever they go, people turn out in their thousands to greet them. The crowds go wild trying to catch a brief glimpse of their smiling colorfully dressed idols. So it may be dangerous for them to make unscheduled appearances in public. They must be constantly shielded from the adoring crowds which idolize them. That's why they are always surrounded by a group of body-guards. They are no longer private individuals but public property. Practically every even of their private life is a sensation and is widely discussed in the Mass Media. Sometimes these “real life” stories don't seem to contain a grain of truth.

I think that people who envy the success and rewards of others should remember that the most famous stars represent only the tip of the iceberg. For every famous star, there are hundreds of others who struggle to earn their living. And a

man who attempts to become a star is taking enormous risks. He knows that only a handful of competitors ever get to the very top and that years of concentrated effort may be rewarded with complete failure.

Personally I wouldn't like my private life to be the centre of everybody's attention. But the word "famous" has a different meaning. You can be a famous teacher, a famous surgeon and what not. You can be famous for your character and your deeds.....

Personally I wouldn't like my private life to be the centre of everybody's attention. But the word "famous" has a different meaning. You can be a famous teacher, a famous surgeon and what not. You can be famous for your character and your deeds....I think every person should be famous in the field of his career. I mean to become a highly educated specialist useful for the progress of the society he lives in.....

### **My first visit to the theatre.**

Though there are not many theatres in Minsk, they are very popular. Theatre-lovers do not miss any of the first nights in the Russian Drama Theatre and in the Belarusian Drama Theatre named after Yanka Kupala .I'd like to mention that the latter is the oldest theatre in Minsk. It was formed in 1920 and since then it has been popular with the public. Both children and grown-ups like to go to the Puppet Theatre and to the Circus. Those who are fond of music prefer going to the Opera and Ballet Theatre and to the Philharmonic. There are also several new theatres – Christofor Theatre, Youth Theatre and the Movie-actor Studio. So there are more than 10 theatres in Minsk each of them offering its own repertoire.

One who wants to visit a theatre has to study the entertainment section in newspapers before deciding which of them to go to. When choosing what performance to go to, you should take into consideration the success of the performance.

I will never forget my first visit to the theatre. I had never had any idea before what it was like. It was the State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre. "Creation of the World "was on. As I didn't know the plot of the ballet, I bought a libretto. I had a lot of time to look the theatre over as I arrived there half an hour before the show.

After the first bell the usherette showed me my place in a front row in the stalls. I could see the stage very well from there. The orchestra men had already come into the orchestra pit and were tuning their instruments. At last the house lights dimmed and the performance began. From the very first minute I was deeply impressed by everything I saw on the stage. I was charmed away by the music. The setting and illumination were delightful and the scenery was beautifully set up

The ballet responds to the most important problem of today – a danger of war and protests against it. It praises the might of human beings and everlasting power of maternity. "Creation of the world is purely a deed of the human being's hands and intellect. It's the human being who commits evil and virtue. And it depends only on people what will triumph on Earth : harmony and light or chaos and darkness. These words belong to the composer Andrey Petrov. The dancers address us with the eternal and always worrying thoughts about the sense of human life, about the human rights for happiness, about being useful to people. I can't but mention that the main parts of Adam, Eve and Devil were danced perfectly well. When the curtain fell the house burst into applause. The dancers received call after call and were presented with large bouquets of flowers. The performance was a great success and produced an unforgettable impression on me.

Ask me some questions about a theatre performance I have seen recently.

- What theatre did you go to? - Was it difficult to book tickets? – What did you see? – Was it the first night?
- Was the house full? – Where were your seats? - Did you enjoy the play? – Was the cast good?
- Did you like the scenery?– Did you applaud?

What questions will you ask a British teenager about art?

- What are the forms of art? - Does art have to be understandable? - Is all art good art?
- Does art have to be beautiful?- Does art have to say something? – Do you understand abstract art?
- Does knowing the artist's idea behind the painting help to understand the painting better?

I like painting. Ask me some questions about the exhibition I have visited recently.

- Where was the exhibition opened?- What trend in fine arts did it represent?
- Were the pictures difficult to understand? – What artists were represented at the exhibition
- How many pictures were displayed there? – What picture made the greatest impression on you?

Are you proud of any photos you have taken? What makes a good photograph?

I often take photographs. They help me to remember the most interesting moments of my life. I usually take pictures of my friends or some interesting places I visit. Sometimes I take pictures of a landscape. I often look through the photos I've taken. I like my photos, though I don't think they are professional. To be a good photographer one needs a real talent. A good picture should be carefully composed, it should draw your eye immediately, it should make the viewer feel sad or happy it should inspire the viewer to think.

My niece is very good at drawing. Can you give her a piece of advice on what career to choose?

She can choose the career of an interior designer. They can design the decoration of individual houses choosing everything from the floor coverings to the furniture. She can also choose the profession of a web designer and use her creative skills to design interesting and eye catching websites. Good drawing skills are also necessary for the professions of a sculptor, a fine artist, a make-up artist.

What music do you like?

My favorite music style is ...I think it's awesome. I listen to...because it relaxes me and makes me feel better. I'm fond of.... My favorite groups are.... When I listen to their music it fills me with energy. What I look for in a song is lyrics and rhythm. Some songs are so touching that I listen to them over and over. Actually I like any music that sounds good to my ears- techno, pop, R&B and others.

I can't get into... I think the lyrics of most ...song are ... Besides, I can't stand...because...

### What Belarusian groups and singers do you know?

I think *Troitsa* is fantastic. It's the most mysterious group in Belarus. They play folk which is very original, expressive and relaxing. The performers can play a wide range of musical instruments such as the flute, the trombone, the accordion, the bagpipes and many others. They are just awesome.

*Pesnyary* are the most successful Belarusian group today because the tickets to their concerts are always sold out and the concert halls are always full. They play pop music based on Belarusian folk and this makes all their songs so melodious and touching.

*Belarusian National Orchestra* play classical music of a very high level. The wide range of musical instruments can impress even the most experienced music lovers. They always draw a full house.

I'm really into *Irina Dorofeeva*. I listen to the pop music she performs because it helps to relax and spend free time in a nice way. She is very often on the radio.

Some people like the kind of music *Seryoga* performs because it's expressive and energetic. It's never boring. Besides *Seryoga* is a very strong personality who's made a successful career in show business.

### What foreign groups and singers do you know?

The Beatles were John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Star. They were from Liverpool, the UK. They made their first record in 1962 and in two years they became the most famous group in the world. Teenagers and their parents seemed to get crazy about the Beatles music, clothes, hair style, even the way they talked. The musicians liked to experiment with the sound and they recorded hundreds of great songs full of new kind of energy. After John Lennon was shot dead in a street in New York in 1980, the Beatles couldn't play together again but they are still one of the most popular groups among people of all ages

*Alexander Rybak* is one of the most popular solo performers in Europe. His success came to him after his amazing victory in the Eurovision song contest. He performs pop which is extremely pleasant and sometimes even sentimental. Alexander's phenomenal journey began at the age of five. His little family of three moved from Belarus to Norway. His parents were both professionally trained musicians and taught their son the violin and piano. At a very young age he debuted on the stage and many noticed his talents. He went on to win the 54<sup>th</sup> Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow in May 2009. Alexander sang "Fairytale", a song inspired by Norwegian folk music. "Fairytale" became a major hit in Europe.

### Can you recommend me to watch one of the films you have seen recently?

I strongly recommend you to watch the film "Braveheart". The film is about the fight of Scots against the English in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. It won five Oscars at the 68<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards.

In this spectacular historic movie a young Scotsman William Wallace (Mel Gibson) became the hero of his country, fighting against the aggressive rule of the English King Edward I.

The film is a gripping and exciting story about love, hatred, patriotism and heroism. When you watch it, you understand why it won five Oscars. During the movie you see a lot of great battles and two heart-breaking love stories. You can watch this movie over and over again and it never loses its magic it's a film which both teenagers and grown-ups will adore.

### What questions can you ask a British friend about his / her hobbies?

- What is your hobby? -How much time do you spend on it?
- Do you think it will be your favorite activity for a long time? Why? - Does your hobby make your life exciting?
- Is your hobby important in your life? - What other leisure activities would you like to try?

## **11. Science and technology, modern communications.**

### **Imagine your life without modern inventions**

Modern technology is rapidly spreading all over the earth. One can hardly imagine our present day life without such trivial gargets as can-openers, food processors, air conditioners or vacuum cleaners. Every office is equipped with a PC, an answer-phone, a fax-machine and a photocopier. Every teenager is able to use a remote control unit, a video recorder, a camera or a Walkman.

I'm absolutely sure that all these things make our life easier and more exciting. They save a lot of time and energy. For example, most of my friends have a microwave in the kitchen. Its greatest advantage is a huge reduction of time needed to prepare a dish. Secondly, it's easy to clean and high temperatures minimize the risk of infection. It's also a great time-saver for those who don't wish to waste their time sweating over a hot cooker. Practically all household chores have become less time consuming nowadays.

Speaking about modern inventions I can't but mention such thing as computers. In fact they are being used in almost every field today. They can pay wages, reserve seats on planes, control sputniks in space, work out tomorrow's weather, play chess and compose music. They can even help police fight crimes, saving the detective from checking information, identifying the fingerprints or making a photo robot. There is practically no end to what computers can do. Also, nowadays computers are being introduced into schools as a means of education. Students have access to all kinds of information which can make subjects easier to understand. They can interact with other students around the world which helps them to broaden their knowledge. Computers are suitable for people of any age; obviously it depends on what you want to use it for. If a young child wants to use it to play games on, then you buy software graded at his level. There is such a variety of software available that everyone should be able to find something to suit their needs.

All modern inventions prove the power and the greatest progressive role of science in our life. But every medal has its reverse. And the rapid scientific progress has aroused a number of problems. These are ecological problems, the safety of nuclear power stations and many others. But it is my sincere belief that people will be able to cope with all of them. It's not accidental that we are called HOMO SAPIENS. Nowadays people are getting more and more concerned about the future of our beautiful planet. Chemical plants install filters on the industrial stacks. Research is going into alternative sources of

energy: wind, water and sun. Medicine turns to healing blooms and herbs as many of them have anti-cancer properties. Many countries have adopted the laws for the new cars to run on unleaded petrol. Scientists are intelligent enough to recognize the risks of computer or VR addiction, genetic manipulations and ozone layer damage, waste and the necessity of recycling. I'm absolutely sure that by the power of positive action the humanity will be able to use technology only in peaceful purposes

### **Science and Technology**

#### 1. What is science?

Science can be defined as the development and systematization of people's knowledge about the physical universe. The word science also means a branch of such knowledge. Some branches of science are: mathematics, biology, engineering, physics, astronomy etc

#### 2. What role do science and technology play in our life?

It's difficult to overestimate the role of science and technology in our life. They accelerate the development of civilization and help us in our cooperation with nature. Scientists investigate the laws of the universe, discover the secrets of nature, make careful observations and apply their knowledge in practice improving the life of people.

#### 3. Which of the centuries in your opinion saw the greatest inventions and discoveries?

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century millions of investigations and the endless number of outstanding discoveries were made. The 20<sup>th</sup> century had several names that were connected with the certain era in science and technology. First it was called the atomic age due to the discovery of the splitting of the atom. Then it became the age of the conquest of space when for the first time in the history of mankind the man overcame the gravity and entered the universe. And now we live in the information era when the computer network embraces the globe and connects not only the countries and space stations but a lot of people all over the world.

#### 4. Can you remember any outstanding scientists. What are they famous for?

Isaac Newton- the discovery of the law of universal gravity, Alexander Bell- the invention of telephone, Ivan Pavlov – the invention of radio, Albert Einstein – theory of relativity...

#### 5. What should a scientific work be like?

Any scientific work should be as exact as possible, orderly in arrangement. It should be based on sound and sufficient evidence, it must have no object except to find out the truth.

#### 6. What personal features of character should a scientist possess?

A scientist should be clever, industrious, devoted to his work, persistent, ready to overcome difficulties, inventive, creative, enthusiastic...

#### 7. What is virtual reality?

Virtual reality is a technology that gives users an opportunity to act together with a computer. On the one hand it has a lot of good points. Doctors can practice operations on different parts of human body, students can learn geography and history by 'walking' into places they are interested in, tourists can make far-away trips to other countries. But on the other hand this sort of technology without careful regulations can be nothing more than a high-tech instrument for spreading violence, pornography and advertising. A lot of VR programmers are exercises in killing rather than in thinking. Some psychologists warn that for the young and mentally ill virtual trips could be very dangerous as they mix up the real world with the virtual one.

#### 8. Is cloning a controversial issue?

+

- open exciting medical possibilities  
(to clone organs for transplantation)
- to preserve endangered species of animals
- solve the problem of food shortages
- create animals which produce more meat, milk...

-

- morally unacceptable
- to clone a dictator, a murderer...

#### 9. Technology- pros and cons?

+

- improve our quality of life
- help to organize work in a more rational way
- have more spare time, to dedicate to our hobbies
- computers can contain a lot of documents, it saves space, paper, trees
- leads the way for a high quality of life
- make the information more accessible and immediate
- revolutionize a number of industries...

-

- create new problems (more unemployment)
- produce new types of illness
- if there is a power failure a lot of information can be lost...
- produce dangerous rays that can harm people's health

## **12. Education. School.**

### **School. Olympiad (Form 9)**

School is a special place. It's a temple of knowledge, a place where you grow up and take courage. It's also a place where we make friends, learn to value moral qualities in people and develop our talents and skills.

School teaches us to develop our critical and creative thinking, to form our views and outlook, our attitude to life and other people. It teaches us to love our Motherland, to treat Nature carefully, to be honest and hardworking.

As for me I study at Gymnasium №2 which is as I think the best school in our town. There is a great variety of subjects I study at school, but my favorite subjects are English, History and Math's.

If you ask me why I go to school I'll say that I go there to acquire general knowledge, to learn how to get that knowledge, then to learn discipline and order and of course I enjoy meeting other people and having a good time with them at school.

Our school as well as any other school has its rules and laws. The pupils should work regularly at home and at the lessons. Besides they have to keep things clean and tidy and mustn't make dog's ears in the books. And of course using foul, racist, offensive language are the things you should never do at school.

Our gymnasium offers modern facilities for studying. We have a good opportunity to learn English. In our library there are a lot of books, reference books, encyclopedias. Here we can search for information on the Internet and relax reading a book

In our Physics , Chemistry and Biology laboratories we can conduct experiments and carry our scientific projects. Our school also offers sport clubs, excursions, school subject weeks and Olympiads.

We also have a wide range of out-of-class activities in our school. There is a number of sport clubs and societies to meet the interests of each pupil. They offer opportunities to develop different talents and skills.

As we go to school not only to learn, but also to communicate we have lots of traditions and holidays in our gymnasium. We celebrate the Day of Knowledge, the Last Bell, Graduation Day and others. We also take part in Health Day and school Olympiads.

I personally think our school teaches the whole child. It means that it pays attention to our academic growth of its students, their moral strength and physical development. It teaches us thinking skills through making decisions and choices, and it stirs our curiosity and creativity.

These are the reasons why I love my school.

### **My working day**

In my opinion every pupil has the same working day. Every day begins with breakfast, then it is study at school. All time after school is occupied with preparing for classes for the next day. If children have any free time, they spend it before a TV-set screen or visit their friends

And now some words about my working day, I am an early riser. On week-days the alarm-clock wakes me up at 7 and my working day begins. I do my bed and go to the bathroom where I take a shower and clean my teeth. Then I go to the kitchen and have breakfast. While I'm having breakfast I switch on the radio and listen to the news.

Breakfast , as doctors say, must be the most substantial meal of the day. So for breakfast I usually have eggs and sausage , a cheese sandwich and a cup of coffee or tea. Sometimes I like to have some porridge.

After breakfast I leave for school. It takes me 15 minutes to get to school by bus, and a bit longer if I go on foot

My classes begin at 8.00. Six or seven lessons a day is my ordinary time-table. So I stay at school till 2.30 or 3p.m

When classes are over I go home. I walk home with my friends and we have a nice chat about school and other things

When I come home I like to relax by sitting down and talking to my mother about my day until dinner is ready. After dinner I do some cleaning or shopping just to help my mother and after some short rest I do my homework. We study many subjects at school and it takes me almost three or four hours to be ready with it. Sometimes I go to the library to write a report. You see, I have practically no time for television of friends. But nevertheless I try to find time to go to a swimming pool twice a week in order to be in shape.

Late in the evening, I say 'goodnight' to my parents and go to bed. As a rule, it's about midnight

## **School**

(Form 8)

### What facilities for studying does your school offer?

Our school offers modern facilities for studying. We have a good opportunity to learn English. We have 5 English lessons a week. At our lessons we get help from the experienced teachers and do a lot of things that help us to enrich our vocabulary and to get a good command of a foreign language.

In our library we have a lot of books, reference books , encyclopedias. Here we can search for the necessary information on the Internet and relax reading a book.

In our physics and chemistry laboratories we can conduct experiments and carry out scientific projects.

Our gymnasium also offers sport clubs, excursions, school subject weeks, Olympiads

### Are there enough opportunities for out-of-class activities?

Our gymnasium has a wide range of out-of-class activities. There is a number of school clubs and societies to meet the interests of every pupil. They offer opportunities to develop different talents and skills and test them in various school events.

### Does your school have any traditions? What is your favorite tradition?

Yes, we have a lot of holidays to celebrate. They are the Day of Knowledge, the School Birthday, the Last Bell, Graduation Day. We also take part in the Sports Week and in School Olympiads. We have parties and concerts on New Year's Day, on Women's Day and on Teacher's Day.

The holiday I like best is the First of September- the Day of Knowledge. This day is special for everybody. The day starts with the school gathering when all classes and teachers stand in front of the school and listen to the welcoming speeches of their teachers, schoolmates and parents. Students look really nice in their new school uniforms. Everyone is excited to see their school friends and teachers after long summer holidays. After the school gathering teachers take their classes to their classrooms for the first lesson. When the lesson is over, students may have a class event- a picnic, a walk in the park or a class trip.

### Do you remember your first day at school?

I will never forget the day my parents took me to school. It was **the first day of September**. The weather was so pleasant and warm, with gentle rays of the sun. We could see shining eyes and smiling faces everywhere. New schoolchildren with their parents carrying bunches of flowers were coming into the school yard looking smart and feeling important. Everybody realized it was a great day and felt cheerful and in a good mood. I was the happiest of all. My dream had come true. I had always wanted to enter that mysterious building where you could get into the world of wisdom and knowledge. Later on I didn't feel disappointed...

### Do you think the system of the Unified State Exam is a good way to test students' knowledge?

School is forever changing. Yet, every major change provokes disputes, arguments, and debates. Many of today's changes are worth debating. One of such innovations is the introduction of **the Unified State Exam (USE)**. I think it's the most objective way of assessing knowledge. All the school-leavers have equal opportunities and chances to pass the exam. Besides it's very convenient because you don't have to go to some other town, to find accommodation to think about meals etc. And when you get your results it's easy to decide what university to apply to. But on the other hand some teachers just teach their students for passing a test not paying much attention to developing students' talents and abilities.

### What is your idea of a perfect school?

My idea of a perfect school would be the one that gave you **subjects** you enjoyed and would be of use to you. Pupils should be given more career information to prepare them more fully for going out into the world. I think that most young people who study at school have no idea of what they want to do. I think you should be prepared for a future job as well as for your future family life. Such subjects as "A perfect family", "A good father", or "How to bring up a child" should be included into school curriculum. There should be plenty of opportunity for personal growth and developing your talents

### **The system of education in Belarus**

Pre-school education is not compulsory in Belarus. But about 70% of children attend nursery schools or kindergartens before they start school. Most children in Belarus start school at the age of 6. Secondary education is divided into 3 levels: primary (1-4), basic (5-9) and secondary (10-11). Besides secondary schools there are also Lyceums and Gymnasiums in our country. Gymnasiums provide general secondary education at a higher level and Lyceums provide vocationally-oriented education. All pupils follow the basic education curriculum up to the age of 15, and the vast majority of pupils stay at school until they finish their high school education at 18. At the age of 15 students that have successfully completed basic education receive a Certificate of Basic Education and they can attend colleges or professional technical institutions where they can focus on completing their high school education and work toward a professional certificate. Then they can continue their education at the university level. Education in Belarus is free at all levels except higher university education.

#### **Education in Belarus**

Belarusians have always shown a great concern for education. The right to education is stated in the Constitution of Belarus. It is ensured by compulsory secondary schools, vocational schools, and higher educational establishments. It is also ensured by the development of extramural and evening courses and the system of state scholarships and grants.

Education in Belarus is compulsory up to the 9<sup>th</sup> form inclusive. The stages of compulsory schooling in Belarus are: primary education for ages 6-7 to 9-10 inclusive; intermediate school for ages 10-11 to 12-13 inclusive, and senior school for ages 13-14 to 14-15 inclusive. If pupils of a secondary school wish to go on in higher education, they must stay at school for two more years. Primary and secondary school together comprise 11 years of study. Every school has a 'core curriculum' or academic subjects, such as Russian, Belarussian, Literature, Mathematics, History, a foreign language and others. Lyceums and Gymnasiums offer programs giving a profound knowledge in some field of study.

After finishing the 9<sup>th</sup> form one can go on to a vocational school which offers programmes of academic subjects and a programme of training in a technical field, or a profession

After finishing the 11<sup>th</sup> form of a secondary school, a lyceum or a gymnasium one can go on in higher education. All applicants must take competitive examinations. Higher educational institutions, that is, institutes and universities, offer a 5-year programme of academic subjects for undergraduates in a variety of fields, as well as a postgraduate course.

All secondary schools, institutes and universities until recently have been funded by state. Now there is quite a number of private fee-paying schools and universities

### **The system of education in Great Britain**

Children in Great Britain do not have to go to school until they reach the age of five and only very few go to **nursery schools** where they learn such things as numbers, letters, and colors and may begin to read and write.

Primary education takes place in **infant school** (pupils aged from 5 to 7 years) and junior schools (from 8 to 11 years).

**Secondary schools** take pupils from the age of 11 up to 18. Compulsory secondary education lasts five years. In the fifth form at the age of 16 students may either leave school or continue their education in the sixth form. Nowadays most British children go to **comprehensive schools** which take pupils of all abilities without any exams.

Comprehensive schools offer a wide choice of subjects from art and craft to computer studying and sciences. All pupils move to the next class automatically at the end of the year. At the end of the fifth form pupils take their first public exam for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE). Many people decide to leave school at the age of 16, and they can go to a Further Education College where they choose more practical courses, for example engineering, typing, hairdressing. Pupils who stay on into the sixth form, lasting two years, prepare for their "A" Level Exams. "A" stands for "Advanced". Good "A" Level results in two-five subjects are necessary to get a place at one of the British universities.

Free secondary education is available to all children in Great Britain. Nevertheless some parents choose to pay for private education. Private or independent schools are called **public schools**, they are expensive. In a lot of public schools pupils live as well as study. They are called boarding schools. The most famous public schools are Harrow, Winchester, Eton. They are known for their high academic standards and are considered prestigious.

**Light is better than darkness, knowledge is better than ignorance**

**You cannot climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets**

**Where there is a will there is a way**

**Teachers open the door but you must enter by yourself**

All teenagers think about their future. They want to be successful and happy in their grown-up life. But unfortunately not all of them understand that “you cannot climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets”. If you want to achieve something in your life you are to work hard and to learn a lot.

The famous quote “Knowledge is Power” belongs to an Englishman who lived in the times of William Shakespeare. His name was Francis Bacon. In many ways he is the father of scientific research.

The most important thing in every knowledge is blowing the mind and molding our personality. The way of thinking of every person and his way of life strongly depends on his knowledge. The reason for it is that all in all every knowledge develops our horizons, makes every person think and analyze the world around us. The result is that your mind can be changed under the influence of the new information. If you don’t know anything about usual life your outlook is limited.

When you develop your knowledge you have more alternative of thinking, your life becomes more interesting and bright. That’s why “Knowledge is Power” It’s the power of changing and developing.

Good education is with no doubt very important nowadays. It gives people the best chance of getting a good job and a better chance of promotion. Besides it helps to develop a personality and find a place in society.

Students are so busy nowadays. We are given many assignments at school. Not all study assignments are pleasant and it is human to want to put off dull or difficult ones. If you really want to be a good pupil the best thing to do is to do the school assignments first and devote the time left over to other enjoyable but less important activities. Of course it is difficult to start with study, but then you will have more fun after your work is done. My life motto is “ Never put off till tomorrow what can be done today.” I always budget my time. First I list all the activities in which I am engaged. Then I set priorities, that is put a number beside each one: “1”- for the most important, “2”- for the next most important and so on. Of course it’s quite easy to make a plan, but it’s much more difficult to stick to it. You should be industrious and persistent to do that. I personally always make plans so that I can accomplish them, as a result I always reach my goal. And I never feel disappointed in myself, and never look for someone to blame

Ask me whether I liked school when I was a pupil?

- Did you like school when you were a pupil? - How many lessons a day did you have?
- What were your favorite subjects? - What subjects were you good at?
- Did you take an active part in out-of-class activities? – What school tradition did you like most of all?

What would you advise a British student to do to prepare for an exam well?

First of all you should organize your work properly. It’s not a bad idea to make a schedule. It will help you to organize your time and your thoughts. I believe that that the best way to memorize the information is to use your imagination. The absolutely worst way to study is by cramming. Remember that cramming stores information in your memory for a short period of time. If you want to remember things better you can use mind maps, charts. Making notes is also very helpful. Personally I like to record my reading aloud of my text. Then I walk around listening over and over until I know it.

You should set a short time limit, like half an hour- then take a ten minute break. During the break you can walk around and relax and then get back to studying.

What can you advise a student who is not very good at languages to do to achieve better results?

Many students find it difficult to learn English.. You have to memorize a lot of words and expressions and for this a great degree of patience is required. Of course it’s better to start at an early age. But they say it’s never too late to learn. I think it’s very important to learn grammar because you can’t build a house without foundations. But you need to practice grammar together with vocabulary. You should definitely use every opportunity to practice English in real situations that is to make conversations with any native speaker you meet. You should also try to watch English language films in the original versions, it will help you to get used to listening to speech at a natural speed. Actually there are a lot of ways to master the language

But the main thing for you to remember is that learning a language needs a lot of enthusiasm.

**Practice makes perfect.**

A better saying is “Perfect practice makes perfect”. If one doesn’t practice the right way one doesn’t get better. When people say “practice makes perfect” they mean that through practice a person can reach their full potential. I absolutely agree with the proverb. To become a good specialist in any field you need to practice a lot. You can’t imagine a good surgeon or a good teacher with no practice. Of course, different people have different abilities and potential. But at the same time it often happens that successful primary pupils with good natural abilities have no achievements in secondary school and vice versa. To my mind a hard-working child has more chances to get good knowledge and develop practical skills than a lazy child with lots of talents. The secret of his success is simple. He should follow a wise proverb that practice makes perfect.

A good example to prove the idea that practice makes perfect is learning a foreign language. I started learning English at the age of 7. So I’ve been learning it for...years already. At our English lessons we have a lot of grammar and vocabulary drills. I think grammar is important in any language because you can’t build a house without

foundations, but you need to practice grammar together with vocabulary. Every day I try to memorise some English words and practice them. I have no problem learning words connected with my hobby and related to my interests.

I personally think that English is not an easy language to learn. One of the problems for those who learn English is phrasal verbs and, of course, idioms. And you have to keep yourself up-to-date with them and not to use the old-fashioned ones. Besides English intonation is the most difficult part of pronunciation, because if you get it wrong people may think you are rude. But the most difficult part in any language is, perhaps, learning the elements for which there are no written rules, that is 'social English'. This means learning about some expected ways of behavior, knowing what sort of English to use in different situations (formal or informal). So you have to learn to think in English. It's rather difficult. But I like it. In my opinion learning English needs a lot of enthusiasm. It happens that I forget words, phrases or rules when I don't use them for some time. The only way out is to revise the things I have already studied. It proves that practice makes perfect.

In my view if I practice English every day, I will be able to master it. I read books, newspapers, magazines and other periodicals, it allows me to enlarge my vocabulary, learn up-to-date idioms and phrasal verbs, learn to guess the meaning of the words from the context and brush up my knowledge. Watching videos and TV programmes helps me learn informal English and practice listening.

*Can you think of an example when practice and hard work helped a person to achieve his ambition?*

Take a famous British admiral Horatio Nelson for example. Because of his physical weakness he seemed very unlikely to become a seaman. But he impressed his fellow students by his great will. He did much physical exercise to achieve his aim. At the age of 14 he was allowed to join an expedition to the North Pole and later became famous.

*Can you do without revision?*

I think it's impossible. Because it's quite human to forget things. And the best way to remember them is to revise.

*What kind of people achieve better results in learning; those who have natural abilities or those who work hard?*

To my mind a hard-working child has more chances to get good knowledge and develop practical skills than a lazy child with lots of talents.

*What part of language requires a great deal of practice?*

To my mind learning English vocabulary requires a great deal of practice. If you don't use the words you forget them very quickly.

### **13. Living in the country vs living in the city, types of houses**

Houses and homes.

There are different types of houses in Great Britain. They are detached, semidetached, terraced houses.

Some people live in mansions, bungalows, cottages and flats. In Belarussian towns most people live in flats but nowadays a lot of nice, spacious cottages are being built around small towns and big cities.

People who live in the country usually have their private wooden houses

#### **Living in a city.**

I think it's much more exciting to live in a big city than in a small town or in the country. First of all, there are always lots of people around, even at night, and some of the shops stay open 24 hours a day

Life is never dull. There is a wide choice of entertainments, such as concerts, theatres and exhibitions (In small towns, on the other hand, there's usually nothing to do, except to go to the cinema or meet your friends in a café.)

You can't but agree that a big city offers a variety of good things in life. I mean big stores, restaurants, different services, accommodation with all modern conveniences, more opportunities to get good education, more chances of getting a well-paid job. Besides, in a city you can see all sorts of unusual people wearing different fashions (but in a small town, I think, everyone looks almost exactly the same as everyone else)

Some people dislike living in a city because it is often crowded and noisy. They also suffer from pollution. Too much noise makes them nervous and stressed but to me the crowds and activity are very exciting.

It's true that living in the country means being closer to nature. The country is really nice, I mean fresh air, nice scenery, birds singing their wonderful songs, flowers and things like that. It's really nice to go to the country to spend your holidays or the weekend. The city life is often extremely tiring, and you need to get away from all usual routines, to escape from the stress and the strain of everyday life

One more good thing about living in a city is that it's easy to get around on public transport, and in any case everything I need is within easy walking distance. So I wouldn't like to live anywhere else but in a big city

#### **Prove that there are some disadvantages in living in the country**

Personally I'd prefer to live in the city rather than in the country. I can bring some arguments that prove that there are some disadvantages in living in the country. First, country life isn't full of variety. It's a place where nothing goes on from one week to another. People in the country tend to look older than people in towns and as a rule there are more gossips in the country than in a big city.

It's a well-known fact that services there are worse. I mean schools, hospitals, shops etc. There is a small choice of educational establishments and a small choice of transport. It's difficult to find a well-paid job. Living in the country you have to be sociable with everyone, everyone wants to know as much as possible about your personal life. You can't but



mention the lack of modern conveniences. No cold and hot running water, no central heating. You don't have many useful things that make your life easier. So I don't think it's a good idea to live in the country all your life.

### Imagine your ideal house in the country

Well, if I lived in the country I would make my house as cozy as possible. It would be light and attractive and it would have all modern conveniences. There would be a green grass-plot with beautiful flowers, trees, bushes and hedges near the house. There'd also be some fountains to water these plants. The rooms in my house would be of unusual design. It would be a mixture of classical and vulgar, silly and quite serious. There would be a lot of flowers inside the house. I'd like to have a house somewhere not far from a city, so that if I got bored I could go to the city and enjoy the pleasures of civilization

### **Types of houses.**

In towns in Britain there are three main types of houses: detached, semidetached and terraced. A detached house, standing in its own plot of land, is usually more expensive than the others. A semi-detached house (also called a 'semi') is similar, but shares one wall with its neighbor. It is normally smaller than a detached house. Most of these houses have two stores, with two rooms and a kitchen downstairs and a bedroom and bathroom upstairs. A terraced house is one of a row of houses, often built in blocks of four or more and sometimes extending the entire length of the street. Bungalows (single-storey detached houses) are popular especially with elderly people because there are no stairs to climb. They are often found in seaside towns on the south coast, where many retired people live. the traditional country dwelling is the cottage. This is usually a small, old, detached or semi-detached house, often picturesque with old wooden beams inside, and perhaps a thatched roof and an attractive flower garden. Flats are found mainly in towns, although they can also be self-contained units in converted country houses or hotels. Modern flats are often built in the form of large blocks of flats. Flats may be owned by the people who live in them, or rented from a private landlord or local authority. House are usually bought and sold in Britain through an estate agent. When people move into a new house or flat they usually have a housewarming party.

### **City and country**

Lots of people prefer living in cities rather than in the countryside because it is often easier to get good education and find a well-paid job. Besides there is usually a wide choice of public transport, so you don't need to own a car, which is necessary when you live in the countryside. What is more there are a lot of interesting things to do and places to see. If you live in the village, you have almost nowhere to go, but if you live in the city, you can eat in good restaurants, visit museums and go to the theatre and concerts. All in all, city life is full of bustle and variety, and you will never feel bored.

However, some people choose to live in the countryside because living in the city is often very expensive. It is particularly difficult to find good cheap accommodation. What is more, public transport is sometimes crowded and dirty, particularly in the rush hour, and even parks can become very crowded, especially on Sundays when it seems that very city-dweller is looking for some open space or green grass. On the contrary, the air in the countryside is very clean and there are no noisy crowds, so living in the country can be useful for your health. Last of all, despite all the crowds, it is still possible to feel very lonely in a city because people often don't know their neighbors' whereas in the countryside people know each other and you have lots of friends

In my opinion it's possible to solve most of the problems of big cities, for example, the problem of pollution. Cutting down on emissions from large combustion plants and exhaust fumes from vehicles would help solve the problem. I think we should try and use alternative energy such as solar energy and wind energy and design plants and cars that run on electricity, a much cleaner fuel than petrol. In addition, I think the government should ban cars from city centers. We can also improve the situation if the government encourages people to use the underground more. I would argue that if the underground was made cheaper, many people would elide to leave their cars at home.

As for me, I would prefer city life because I am keen on visiting theatres, cinemas, museums and galleries and don't mind noise and pollution. Besides, my city offers me good opportunities to continue my education and I hope to find a prestigious job in the future. However, I enjoy the peace and fresh air of the countryside and in summer I usually go to my country house where I have a good time with my friends.

### What questions will you ask your parents about the flat your family is going to move into?

1. Is the flat spacious enough?
2. How many rooms are there in the flat?
3. What modern conveniences are there in the flat?
4. What floor is the flat on?
5. How many balconies does the flat have?
6. Where is the balcony look out on?
7. Is it far from the city centre?

### Do you find your town a comfortable place for living?

I personally like my native town and think it's a nice place for living. First of all it is situated in a very picturesque place. There is a wonderful pine forest near the town where you can gather mushrooms and berries in summer and enjoy the beauty of nature or you can have a rest on the bank of the Dvina River....

## 14. Belarus.

### **Belarus. Places of Interest. ( Olympiad. Form 8)**

Today Belarus is becoming more and more popular with tourists. If you want to learn more about the history of our country you can visit the places of exceptional interest that can be found in all regions of Belarus. Many of them are examples of unique architecture and of great historical value. The most famous of them are Nesvizh Castle, Mir Castle, Zaslavl Castle the towns of Polotsk and Novogrudok and many others.

Nesvizh is one of the oldest settlements in Belarus. The exact data of its foundation is unknown. At the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Nesvizh went into the possession of the Radzivills and developed into a powerful and prosperous European town. The town was repeatedly destroyed in numerous wars and conflicts but some of the unique pieces of creative work have survived in Nesvizh till nowadays. They are Nesvizh Palace, the Slutskaya Brama, the Town Hall and others.

Other remarkable sites of Belarusian architectural history are the Sophia Cathedral and Efrosinya Church in Polotsk, the Drutsk Temple near Tolochin.

There are also modern historic memorials like the Buynichi Field , the Khatyn Memorial Complex, the Brest Fortress which remind us of the glorious victories as well as tragedies suffered by Belarusian people during the Second World War.

When you travel in Belarus you should definitely visit Minsk, the capital of our country. It's a clean, green city that stands on the river Svisloch. It is famous for its museums and theatres. Troitskoye Suburb is one of the oldest parts in Minsk.

If you love nature there are a lot of National parks and reserves. They are Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Braslavsky and Narochansky National Parks, Beresinsky Reserve and others. They ensure the best protection for the rarest examples of Belarussian nature. Here one can enjoy the diversity of flora and fauna, some of which have survived only in Belarus.

The natural environment of Belarus is incredibly rich and varied. The beauty of its natural landscapes continues to charm its inhabitants and visitors. Actually Belarus is one of the few remaining places on our planet where one can see the miracle of the untouched nature. This very fact creates favorable conditions for developing tourism and recreation services.

### **Minsk. (Olympiad Form 8-9)**

There are many places in our country that we can be proud of, but Minsk is the most loved of them. Minsk is an ancient city with a rich history.

Today Minsk is a big growing city with its giant industrial enterprises, airports, the underground, universities, museums and art galleries.

I'd advise tourists to go the Philharmony, the Circus, Yanka Kupala Belarussian Drama Theatre, Opera and Ballet House, the Art Museum or concert halls.

Our capital is considered to be a beautiful, clean , green and calm city . It is the city with broad streets and avenues, shady parks. It would be wonderful to spend some time in the Gorky and Cheluskinsy parks or in the central botanical garden.

The guests of Minsk can enjoy restaurants and museums situated in one of the oldest districts "Troitskoe Predmestye".

If you come to Minsk you should definitely visit its famous National Library or at least have a look at it. The design of the building of the National Library is unique. It is a diamond-shaped structure symbolizing the significance of learning. The core of the building is the elevator going through all the floors. Right at the entrance , the sculpture of the Belarussian printer Francysk Skorina is placed. The western wall is decorated by an alley commemorating great cultural figures of the past. A park is made around the library building.

Minsk Metro is also worth visiting. The metro is not only the means of transport. The architects and designers did their best to make the underground stations look pleasant and joyful. The stations are decorated with marble and granite. Beautiful lamps and remarkable mosaic make the stations look like halls of a palace. The Metro impresses everybody by its cleanliness.

I would also recommend walking along the city's busiest streets, Nezavisimost avenue leading to Victory Square with the obelisk and the Eternal Flame in honour of the war victims. There are also other monuments and places to see in Minsk, memorials, museums, monuments, business and shopping centers.

If you come to Minsk you'll certainly fall in love with our capital.

### **Novopolotsk. ( Olympiad. Form 8-9)**

Novopolotsk is my native town. I was born here and the dearest people to me, my family and my friends live here. It's a city in Vitebsk region of Belarus with a population of about 100 thousand. The city was founded in 1985, it is located close to the city of Polotsk and the name literary means "New Polotsk".

The history of Novopolotsk dates back to the year 1958, when a large number of enthusiasts, , workers and builders seeking for new experiences and romantic feelings came to establish a new town. There was a reason for that: a big oil refinery plant was to be set up. When new factories were being built they were placed far enough from Polotsk so that the radiation and dangerous gases wouldn't reach the city. However it was later decided that it would be acceptable to built a few buildings closer to the factory for the workers to live in. With them came a hospital, a fire station and a school. A few more buildings were built and the city of Novopolotsk was born. The population grew over the years, even though it was located dangerously close to several factories

Nowadays Novopolotsk has grown into a clean, green city that stands proudly on the river Dvina. It has 15 secondary schools, many kindergartens and the Polotsk State University, lots of modern buildings and shopping centres. Novopolotsk is one of the youngest towns in Belarus, but it has its symbols. They are an anthem, a flag and an emblem. The emblem is a flower. It's a white water-lily. Novopolotsk is famous for its chemical plants "Naftan" and "Polymir" and for its talented, hard-working and hospitable people, sportsmen, painters and musicians.

In conclusion I'd like to say that there is no place like home. And I'm proud of my native town and I think it's the best place in the world.

### **Belarusian Statehood**

Belarus is a presidential republic, where the President is the head of state, the guarantor of the Constitution and people's rights and freedoms. The Presidential elections take place every five years. The constitution of the Republic of Belarus was adopted in 1994. The Constitution provides personal rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus and establishes the responsibility of the state before its citizens for the creation of conditions for free development of the individual.

The constitution guarantees the citizens of the Republic of Belarus the right to health protection, including free treatment in state health-care institutions. The Fundamental Law also guarantees free general education and professional teaching training. Secondary special and higher education is accessible to all, depending on the abilities of each person. The citizens have the right to social security at old age, in case of illness, disability, loss of breadwinner, and in other cases regulated by law.

State power in the Republic of Belarus is exercised through three main branches- legislative, executive and judicial. These bodies are independent.

The National Assembly (the Parliament) is a representative and legislative body of the Republic of Belarus. It consists of two chambers – the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic. The elections of the deputies to the House of Representatives are direct by secret vote.

The executive power is exercised by the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The Government is accountable to the President and the Parliament.

Courts perform the judicial power in the republic.

The symbols of the Republic of Belarus as a sovereign state are its national flag, national emblem and national anthem. **The National Flag** of the Republic is a cloth consisting of two stripes: a red upper stripe and a green lower stripe. The vertical red-on-white Belarusian decorative pattern occupies one-ninth of the flag's length

**The National Emblem** of Belarus represents a green contour of the Republic of Belarus in golden rays radiated by the sun over the globe. Above the contour there is a red five-pointed star. The emblem is framed in the wreath of golden wheat-ears and with clover flowers on the left and flax flowers on the right. The green ribbon at the bottom carries the golden inscription "The Republic of Belarus"

**The National Anthem** was composed to the music by N Sokolovsky and it symbolizes Belarusian historical musical traditions. The lyrics were written by M. Klimkovich and V Karizna and they emphasize patriotism and industriousness of the country's citizens, friendly relations among people of different nationalities living in our country

### **Sightseeing in Minsk**

Minsk is the largest cultural centre of Belarus. A lot of tourists come to Minsk every year. They are attracted by its architecture, clean and wide streets, its old and modern sights, theatres and of course, museums and art galleries.

**The State picture Gallery**, the largest museum of fine arts in the republic was founded in 1939. During the Great Patriotic War many paintings and statues of the gallery were taken away or destroyed by fascists. Soon after the war a decision was taken to restore the picture gallery in Minsk. New works were bought, some people gave their private collections to the gallery. In 1957 the picture gallery was renamed into **the State Art Museum**. The museum has got a collection of over 20.000 exhibits, over 9 000 of them are works of art by Belarusian artists. Belarusian art occupies the principal place in the collection of the museum. It contains Belarusian icons of the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The museum also collected paintings by Belarusian artists who lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some of them lived and worked in Russia but the roots of their works come from Belarusian culture and traditions.

The collection of the Belarusian art during the Great Patriotic War opened with the sculptural portraits of the Heroes of the Soviet Union N. Gastello by A. Bembel, and F. Smolyachkov by Z. Azgur, and the painting "Young Partisan" by Y. Zaytsev. Later paintings by M. Savitsky and other famous artists were included into the collection.

The museum also displays the best landscape paintings by Belarusian artists. Very often landscapes with portraits of people against them make the pictures more emotional and colourful. "Landscape thinking" is characteristic of such famous Belarusian artists as D. Aleynik, L. Shchemelev, V. Sumarev, V. Versotsky who reveal the beauty of Belarusian nature as the spiritual condition so necessary for everyone.

A collection of West European art is also of great interest to visitors. It's not vast, it includes portraits, landscapes and etchings done by famous artists.

Other museums popular with visitors are the Belarusian Museum of the Great Patriotic War, the State Museum of Belarus and Yanka Kupala Literary Museum. In **the State Museum of Belarus** you can see documents, photos, weapons, collections of instruments of the primitive man, displays of fauna and flora and other unique things from the history of Belarus and its culture. **Yanka Kupala Literary Museum** gives a good idea of the literary activity of the most talented and beloved Belarusian poet and writer.

Here in Minsk you can also find several smaller literary museums and picture galleries, especially if you go sightseeing in the oldest part of Minsk- Trinity Suburb.

## “East or West Home is Best”

## “There is no Place Like Home”

Well, it's difficult to give an exact definition to the word 'home'

I personally think that first of all 'home' means your Motherland, the place where you were born, where you spent your childhood, went to school, made friends, maybe met your first sweetheart.

My homeland is Belarus. You can't but admire the amazing beauty of this country.

I personally love my country for its blue sky, the peculiar flavor of its soil. I love it for its lakes with crystal-clear waters and fast-flowing rivers and for the fresh green rye fields. Perhaps Belarus is one of the few remaining places on our planet where you can see the miracle of the untouched nature.

Besides I love my country for the unusual beauty of the people around us. They are dignified and gifted, patient and hardworking, undemanding and modest. They are hospitable and are always ready to welcome guests and to treat them to something tasty, for example machanka with light porous pancakes or crispy draniki

Actually I love Belarus because it's my home, the place I belong to

When I say 'home' I also mean my family, to be more exact, the atmosphere in it. I am happy to have a really good family. My parents are so loving and caring, supportive and tactful. They value my viewpoints and invite my opinions. They rarely show anger, especially in arguments. And what is more important they show strong belief in my abilities. The point is that my family is the place where I feel safe and protected.

### **The Nature of Belarus**

“Spreading the white sails of their wings, the storks are flying over our Motherland. There are thousands upon thousands of them- who can tell how many? One can see them on roof-tops of farmers' huts and trees, on the columns of old ruined palaces and pillars of chapels standing amidst freshly green fields of rye. Their nests are everywhere...” These words belong to a famous Belarussian author Vladimir Korotkevich. Another poet Rygor Borodulin also called our land the “white stock shore”. One cannot agree more with this poetic description. A white stock is considered to be a symbol of peace and happy household, the things our land is known for.

To describe the beauty of our land one really needs to be a poet. If you go north, you will see a land of Braslav lakes with crystal-clear blue waters surrounded by pine groves. If you go west, you will find yourself in the Brest province- the land of immense fields and meadows. In the south you'll be engulfed by infinite forests and marches. We call this land Polesseye. The hilly lands of the Logoisk province are called Belarussian Switzerland..

In order to see and admire the beauty of our country you should sail down its fast-flowing rivers. The most beautiful rivers of Belarus are the Dniper, the Neman, the Dvina.

It's a well-known fact that Belarus is called a lake country. There are about 10,800 lakes here. Lake Naroch is the pride of Belarus. Its surface stretches for 80 square kilometers. It is noted for its great depth, transparent water and beautiful scenery around it.

The Braslav Lakes are located in the North-West of Belarus. They were given a status of a national park in August 1995, and are known as one of the most picturesque places of Belarus. The flora of Braslav Lakes counts more than 800 species of plants. Various species of fish, birds and animal inhabit the area. Such endangered species as banger, lynx, brown bear and flying squirrel, included into the Red Book, are among them. The national park is the place for active and passive recreation, tourism, fishing and hunting.

The swamps of Belarus deserve a special mention. They are even included in the Guinness Book of Records. These unique natural ecosystems take up nearly a quarter of the country. In scale and diversity of life there are no equal places in Europe.

The real treasure of Belarus lies in its forests. Large and small, old and new, they cover a third of the country. Their canopy shelters a multitude of animals and birds. National parks and reserves- Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Braslavsky and Narochansky National Parks, Beresinsky Reserve and others- have been created to ensure the best protection for the rarest examples of Belarussian nature. Here one can enjoy the diversity of flora and fauna, some of which have survived only in Belarus.

The natural environment of Belarus is incredibly rich and varied. The beauty of its natural landscapes continues to charm its inhabitants and visitors. Actually Belarus is one of the few remaining places on our planet where one can see the miracle of the untouched nature. This very fact creates favorable conditions for developing tourism and recreation services.

### **Belarus. (form6)**

Belarus is in the center of Europe. The population of Belarus is about 10 mln. People. The area of the country is 207,6 thousand sq. km. There are 6 regions in Belarus. Lake Naroch is the largest lake in Belarus. The Dnieper is the longest river. The colors of the national flag are green, red and white. The capital of Belarus is Minsk. Belarus is famous for its white storks. People say they are a symbol of good luck. The white colour is the symbol of peace. The blouses and shirts in the Belarussian national costume are white with beautiful red ornaments. The symbol of Belavezhskaya Pushcha is the bison. The symbol of Belarussian fields is the cornflower.

There are a lot of places of interest in Belarus. One of them is Mir Castle. Mir Castle is in Grodno region. Radzivil Sirotko built a castle there in (1583) in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Belavezhskaya Pushcha.**

Belavezhskaya Pushcha is the largest forest in Belarus. It lies in the south of Belarus. BP is famous for its bison and other wild animals. It's a nice place to study nature and to understand that we should save endangered animals.

### **Lake Naroch.**

Lake Naroch is the largest lake in Belarus. It is 80 km. long and 25 m deep. It lies in Minsk region. There are thick forests around the Naroch. It's a wonderful place for holidays. It is famous for its clear water, sandy beaches and black swans.

### **Minsk.**

Minsk is the capital of Belarus. It's a clean, green city that stands on the river Svisloch. It is famous for its museums and theatres. Troitskoye Suburb is one of the oldest parts in Minsk.

### **Slavyansky Bazaar**

In 1992, the music festival Slavyansky Bazaar was opened for the first time in Vitebsk. Ever since, Vitebsk has annually been the meeting place of singers, composers and other artists from many countries of the world. It's a carnival of arts that includes folklore, music, dancing, singing and crafts events. Stars from many countries of the world take part in the Grand Opening Concert every year. The festival is widely broadcast on TV.

### **The national Library.**

The design of the building of the National Library is unique. It is a diamond-shaped structure symbolizing the significance of learning. The core of the building is the elevator going through all the floors. Right at the entrance, the sculpture of the Belarussian printer Francysk Skorina is placed. The western wall is decorated by an alley commemorating great cultural figures of the past. A park is made around the library building

## **15. Great Britain: state system and sights.**

### **What places of interest attract tourists in London? (Olympiad. Form 8-9)**

London is the capital of Great Britain, its political, economic and cultural Centre. It is also one of the oldest cities in the world and naturally it has a lot of interesting places to visit.

**The Museum of London** is very popular among the tourists. It has a fascinating collection of all kinds of objects that take the visitor through the history of this famous capital city from prehistoric times to the present day. A very popular section of the museum is the section devoted to the Great Fire of London. It includes a collection of models of the different parts of the city and by pressing buttons you can follow the progress of the fire and see the destruction it caused.

When you are in London you should definitely visit **the Tower of London** which used to be a prison, the Royal residence and a treasure house. Now it's a museum where you can see the Crown Jewels, the finest precious stones of the nation and a fine collection of armor. The security of the Tower is ensured by "Beefeaters" or the Yeoman Warders who still wear their picturesque Tudor uniform. A lot of ancient traditions and customs are carefully kept in the Tower. **Trafalgar Square** is the natural center of London. It is usually full of visitors feeding the pigeons. In the middle of the square we can see Nelson's Column with the statue of Nelson at the top. This monument was erected to commemorate Nelson's victory at the battle of Trafalgar. **The Palace of Westminster** (the Houses of Parliament) is also worth visiting. The clock tower of the palace is known throughout the world as Big Ben. **Westminster Abbey** is a large church where the coronations of many kings and queens took place. If I were in London I would also go to Madame Tussaud's museum and see the wax figures of the most famous people in the world. And surely I wouldn't miss the famous London Eye. It is the biggest wheel in the world. It was built for the Millennium celebration.

### **Great Britain.**

#### 1. Let's talk about Great Britain. What do you know about this country?

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consists of four formerly independent countries. They are England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh, the capital of Wales is Cardiff, the capital of Northern Ireland is Belfast and the capital of England is London. The UK is situated on the British Islands, the largest of them are Great Britain and Ireland. The country is surrounded by seas and is separated from the continent by the English Channel and the Strait of Dover. The country occupies the area of over 242,000 sq miles. It is a densely populated country. The population is over 57 million people. About 80 per cent of the population lives in towns.

The scenery and the landscape of the UK are very diverse. There you can find flat valleys and highlands, forest and lake areas. The highest mountain peaks are Ben Nevis in Scotland and Snowdon in Wales. The rivers in Great Britain are not long. The Thames is the most important waterway in the country, though the longest river is the Severn.

As for the climate of Great Britain it is moderate and mild due to the influence of the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. The summers are usually cooler than on the continent. There is a lot of rain in autumn and winter. The weather in Britain is very changeable.

The UK is a highly developed industrial state. It produces and exports iron and steel products, machinery and electronics. The biggest industrial centers are London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham and Manchester.

The chief agricultural crops are wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and fodder grasses.

The UK is a parliamentary monarchy and the Queen is the head of the state. The present Sovereign is Queen Elizabeth II. But in practice the Queen reigns but doesn't rule, the country is ruled by the government

#### 2. What do you know about the history of this country?

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a country of great history rich in important events and entertaining legends connected with them. The first inhabitants of the island came from the Iberian peninsula after 3000 BC. After 2000 BC the people from the east of Europe entered the country. They left us Stone hedge as an impressive monument of their time.

After 800 BC the Celts arrived from Central Europe and opened up a new important page of the British history. The name "Britain" comes from the name of a Celtic tribe known as the Britons.

In 55BC Julius Caesar, the Roman ruler, invaded Britain but his first expedition was not successful, In 54 BC he came with a larger army and the Celts were defeated. But Caesar didn't stay in Britain. He left the country with slaves and riches and made the Celts pay a regular tribute to Rome.

In 43 AD the country was conquered by the Romans again and the occupation continued to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The Romans built many towns and roads. The largest of the towns was called Londinium. Roman culture and civilization had a positive influence on the development of the country. When the Romans left, Britain remained independent for some time. After that it was invaded by the Germanic tribes and the Danes. The last of the invaders who came to Britain were the Normans from France. William the Conqueror became the king of England he built the White Tower- one of the most important and beautiful buildings of the Tower of London.

As a result now the UK is a multinational society, which benefits from the influence of different people and cultures.

### 3. What can the British be proud of?

I think that the British can be proud of their traditions. It's common knowledge that the British are lovers of traditions. A whole year, each season in Britain is connected with various colorful traditions, customs and festivals. Some of them are closely connected with the Crown. **The Trooping of the Color** is the ceremony connected with the Queen's birthday. The Queen is the only person in the country with two birthdays. The official birthday is on the second Saturday in June. It's a big parade with brass bands and soldiers. At the front of the parade is the flag or the Color. The guards are trooping the Color. Another colorful tradition is **the State Opening of Parliament**. On this day the Queen travels from Buckingham Palace to the Houses of Parliament in a cold carriage. Then she sits on a throne in the House of Lords where she reads a speech. At the State Opening of Parliament the Queen wears a crown and crown jewels. Some other well-known traditions are **Swan Upping, Guy Fawkes Day, St David's Day, carol singing**

### 4. Would you like to visit Britain? Why?

Great Britain is a country of strong attraction for tourists. The charm of it lies in its variety of scenery. The country is famous for its parks and gardens. The art of gardening is a very old tradition in England.

Great Britain is the country with a long exciting history and a rich cultural heritage. I would like to see Stonehenge, a relic of an ancient civilization, the Loch Ness and the legendary monster, the Royal Residence and numerous castles. I would like to visit Stratford-upon-Avon and see the places associated with the great writer William Shakespeare: the Grammar School where he studied, the church where he was buried, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. The town is famous for its great Shakespeare festivals which are held annually from April to September. I would like to...

I have learnt much about Britain, its sights and traditions. And of course I would like to visit the country and to see it with my own eyes.

### 5. What are the state symbols of the country?

The state symbols of the country are the British National Anthem (God Save the Queen) and the Union flag. The national flag of the UK is known as the Union Jack. It is made up of three crosses: the red cross of St George of England, the white cross of St Andrew of Scotland and the red cross of St Patrick of Ireland, all on the blue background. The national symbol of England is a red rose, the national symbol of Wales is a daffodil, the symbol of Scotland is a thistle, the symbol of Northern Ireland is a shamrock. Some other symbols are Double Deck Buses, the Royal Family, the London Eye...

### 6. What part of Great Britain would you like to visit? Why?

I would like to visit England because it's the largest part of the UK. London, the capital of the UK and such historical cities as Windsor, Dover and Brighton are situated here. I would like to visit Stratford-upon-Avon the lake District, to see the ruins of Hadrian's Wall (a stone wall built across the North of England by the order of the Roman ruler Hadrian to defend the North border of Roman Britain from Scottish tribes)

### 7. What would you ask a British teenager about national holidays in Britain?

1. What are the most popular national holidays in your country? 2. Have you ever gone carol singing? 3. Are you always given presents on Christmas Day? 4. How does your family celebrate New Year's Day? 5. What do you usually do on Guy Fawkes Day? 6. How do the English people celebrate the Queen's official birthday?

### 8. What would you ask a British teenager about Britain?

1. What part of the UK would you recommend me to visit? 2. What British traditions are the most colorful ones? 3. Do you know any legends about the Tower of London? 4. How can you travel around London? 5. Is the Lake District worth visiting? 6. Why is the Giant's Causeway called the Eighth Natural Wonder of the World? (is known for a fascinating array of basalt columns which are amazingly symmetrical) 7. Do you believe in Loch Ness Monster?

### 9. What would you ask a person who works at Buckingham palace about the Royal family?

1. Is it easy to be a queen? 2. What time does the Queen begin her day? 3. What does she start her day with? 4. Does the queen have much spare time? 5. What does she do during the day? 6. Does the Queen get many presents? 7. What does she do with her presents? 8. What other members of the Queen's family live in the palace?

### 10. Give me a piece of advice on what sights to see in London?

When you are in London you should definitely visit **the Tower of London** which used to be a prison, the Royal residence and a treasure house. Now it's a museum where you can see the Crown Jewels, the finest precious stones of the nation and a fine collection of armor. The security of the Tower is ensured by "Beefeaters" or the Yeoman Warders who still wear their picturesque Tudor uniform. A lot of ancient traditions and customs are carefully kept in the Tower. **Trafalgar Square** is the natural center of London. It is usually full of visitors feeding the pigeons. In the middle of the square we can see Nelson's Column with the statue of Nelson at the top. This monument was erected to commemorate Nelson's victory at the battle of Trafalgar. **The Palace of Westminster** (the Houses of Parliament) is also worth visiting. The clock tower of the palace is known throughout the world as Big Ben. **Westminster Abbey** is a large church where the coronations of many kings and queens took place. If I were in London I would also go to Madame Tussaud's museum and see the wax figures of the most famous people in the world. And surely I wouldn't miss the famous London Eye. It is the biggest wheel in the world. It was built for the Millennium celebration.

11. What British festivals would you advise your friend to visit?

I would advise to visit the festival which is called Up-Helly-Aa. The Shetlands are islands near Scotland. In the ninth century the Vikings from Norway came to the Shetlands. They came to Britain in ships and took away gold, animals and people. Now 1000 years later, people in the Shetlands remember the Vikings with the festival, which they called "Up-Helly-AA". Every winter they make a model of a Viking long ship with the head of a dragon at the front. Then they dress in Viking clothes and carry the ship through the town to the sea and burn it there.

12. Do the British differ greatly from Belarussian people in character? Why?

I don't think that national stereotypes give a true picture of national character. We all know that there are black and white sheep in every herd. But of course I have some idea of the British. I think they are remarkably polite and never tired of saying "Thank you", "I'm sorry". They don't like displaying their emotions even in dangerous and tragic situations. They don't like boasting and showing off in manners, dress or speech. They never rush excitedly for seats in buses or trains. They love flowers, animals, sports.

As for Belarussian people they are extremely hardworking and tolerant, they are more emotional than the British. And the most characteristic feature of our people is their hospitality. They are always ready to meet guests and to give them a warm welcome.

### **Who governs Britain?**

1. Lets talk about the political system of the United Kingdom. Who has the greatest power in the UK? What does the term 'parliamentary monarchy' mean?

The United Kingdom is a parliamentary monarchy and the King or the Queen is the head of the state. But in practice the country is ruled by the government which is formed by the Parliament. The British Parliament is elected every five years by direct vote. The party which wins the elections to the Parliament forms the Government and appoints the Prime Minister. The British Parliament consists of two Chambers or "Houses" – the House of Lords and the House of Commons. British people elect MPs (Members of Parliament) only to the House of Commons, which consists of 646 members while the membership of the House of Lords is inherited from generation to generation by British aristocracy. So members of the House of Lords are not elected. Officially the Queen summons a Parliament, and she also dissolves it. Nothing that the Parliament has decided can become law until the Queen agrees to it. In practice the reality is different. The Queen cannot choose anyone she likes to be Prime Minister. The Prime Minister must have the support of the majority of MPs in the House of Commons. A British Prime Minister has a great deal more power than the Monarch does. He forms the Cabinet of Ministers which consists of the most powerful politicians. There are usually about 20 people in the Cabinet. The Conservative Party is the ruling party nowadays. The Prime Minister of Great Britain is David Cameron.

The Parliament of Great Britain makes new laws, decides how to spend state money, keeps a close eye on government activities. The British Parliament works in a large building called the Palace of Westminster (known as the Houses of Parliament). Number 10, Downing Street is the official residence of the British Prime Minister. In Britain except the central government there is a system of local governments. Members of local councils are elected by the people in a certain area.

## **16 Healthy way of life. Sport.**

### **Why do people do sports? (Olympiad. Form 8-9)**

People all over the world are fond of sports and games. Sport helps them to stay in good shape, keeps them fit and healthy and makes them more organized and better disciplined. We know that there is a sound mind in a sound body. Sport makes a person's character. It's good for moral development as well. Naturally in sport everyone seeks answers to his own problems and can't mean the same to everybody.

Some people do sports because they want to improve their health. Physical fitness helps people to live longer, feel healthier and cope with life problems. For this they can choose rowing, jogging, swimming or cycling.

Some people do sport to become fit and to have a beautiful body. They go to sport clubs, gyms, fitness centers and do aerobics or yoga.

For some people sport is a professional occupation, a road to records, titles, fame.

Personally I don't have enough time to do sports. Of course I do morning exercises and play games. I like skiing and skating. Sometimes I take part in sport competitions. I think that competitions teach people a lot of things. They teach them how to lose a game without losing their temper, they also teach people to avoid selfish actions and mean tricks. Team games develop character and quick thinking

## **A Healthy Way of Life.**

### **1. Let's speak about a healthy way of life. What bad habits should we avoid to be healthy?**

To be healthy we should avoid different bad habits that can affect our health. In my opinion, smoking, drinking and taking drugs are the worst ones. It's common knowledge that they can shorten our lives dramatically. Smoking, for example, causes a number of heart and lung diseases, such as pneumonia and cancer. Besides, it makes our teeth yellow and skin unhealthy. Taking drugs can completely destroy addicts' lives or cause AIDS. But there are less dangerous habits, such as skipping meals, eating junk food and overeating. They are not quite as deadly as the mentioned ones, but they also affect our health.

### **2. What eating habits should you keep to?**

They say that you are what you eat. I'm absolutely sure that if we want to live a long life we should keep a healthy and well-balanced diet. It means we should have regular meals, avoid snacks, cut down on the amount of fat, salt and sugar. Salt is believed to be one of the major causes of obesity and heart disease. Sugar is bad for teeth. We should eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, and food that is high in fibers and vitamins A and C. Some people refuse to eat meat as they consider it harmful. I can't agree with them, because meat is an excellent source of good nutrition. Consumed in moderate amounts, meat is perfectly good for your health. A lot of people like drinking cola and coffee. But what is tasty is not always healthy. You'd better drink a glass of juice or mineral water.

### **3. What questions will you ask a professional sportsman?**

1. Have you ever taken part in the Olympic Games?
2. Where do you train for the most important tournaments?
3. What are you going to do when you stop your sports career?

### **4. Give some advice how to keep fit and healthy.**

If you want to stay healthy and to keep fit you should follow some certain rules. You need 8-10 hours of sleep. Sleep is good for your brain. It's necessary to get some exercise or take up running or jogging. This will not only make you feel better, but help you to get through the day. Keep a healthy diet. Eat more fruit and vegetables and drink pure water. Do something you love. It will keep you in a good mood. Remember, Positive emotions are healthy and make living pleasant.

### **4. Do you go in for sports to keep fit?**

Frankly speaking I don't, though I understand that among the benefits of regular exercise are a healthier heart, stronger bones, quicker reaction times and more resistance to various illnesses. ( Yes, I do. I go in for... because I understand... )

### **.An apple a day keeps the doctor away**

My parents always say that there are three ways to prevent illness. They are eating well, avoiding stress and doing exercises regularly.

A lot of people never exercise. They often eat unhealthy food as well. These are the people who wait until they get sick before they start thinking about their health.

In my family we believe that preventing sickness is better than trying to cure it after you get sick.

Sports- individual sports and team sports are a big part of my life. I especially like to play team games because I enjoy working together with others toward a common goal. I play volleyball after school. I enjoy staying fit with my family. At home we eat fruit and vegetables every day. Regular meals are very important. Some people live on sandwiches. We should remember that an apple a day, a glass of milk or just a raw carrot is a better snack than sandwiches or coffee.

My parents don't smoke or drink alcohol. Alcohol changes a person's ability to think, speak and see things as they really are. Drinking and smoking too much can lead to poisoning, which can destroy people's health or even kill them.

Regular exercise is an essential part of our life. A person who takes regular exercise will stay physically fit, vigorous, retain youthful, keep a youthful shape.

All the members of my family like swimming and playing tennis. In summer we usually go for a jog on Saturday morning. It helps to relieve stress and clear our heads. So you see that exercise, diet, vitamins and healthy habits are basic principles to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

## **17. Appearance and character, national character.**

### **1. Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking.**

I don't fully agree with it. I personally think that people's behavior can tell us a lot about their character. We admire people who are modest, tactful and noble. It's nice when people are polite, when they respect the elderly and their parents. It isn't easy to get along with people who are unfair, rude, selfish and lazy. But on the other hand there are people who just want to produce a good impression on others and they put on a different face when they are alone. In my opinion if we want to know who we really are, we should look at what we do when no one is looking. Because when we are alone we tend to be more open and to do things we would never do in public.

However, character isn't something that should disappear because you are alone. It's something that should be the same no matter who you are with or what you are doing.

Very often I ask myself a question: "What kind of person am I?" I consider myself to be kind-hearted, honest, intelligent and reliable. I have high self-esteem. However I 'm a bit hot-headed.

I want to be a success in life and that's why I study hard at school. I never leave things half-done. I may say I'm persistent and put much effort to achieve my aim. I want other people to respect me. I want to be strong and self-organized in front of them. That's why I have to keep my emotions inside and although some of my classmates are jealous, I never show how offensive the things they say can sometimes be.



I love my family of course I may be a little naughty and rude but I always try to help my mother about the house I never lie to her. And I feel really great when my nearest and dearest are happy.

I always look forward to meeting my friends. I relax and we have a lot of fun together. I highly appreciate friendship and good relations and try to be patient and understanding to my friends and to forgive their faults.

Of course there are no ideal people. We are all humans and nothing human is alien to us. I'm not an ideal person either. Sometimes I can be rude, hot-tempered and disobedient. We should take the world as it is. But I'm absolutely sure that we should try to improve it starting with ourselves. Every day you should work on yourself. And the efforts you make to become better will undoubtedly pay off.

1. When you first meet people what do you look at first. What does it tell you about the person?

Well, I think first I look at people's clothes. You can't but agree that clothes are really important because they tell people a lot. Clothes can tell us about people's well-being, about their nationality and sometimes about their profession.

Clothes have always carried messages about social status, personal taste as well as individual self-expression. We always want to impress people. But the first impression we make almost fully depends on what we wear and how we wear it. Manners and speech are noticed next and character only later. So it's quite natural that clothes are really important. They say "clothes make the man" ...

2. What features of character do you value most in people?

I like it when people are kind-hearted and friendly. Such things as consideration for others, patience, tenderness, sincerity are also very important. What I really appreciate in people is honesty and a sense of humor.

3. What kind of people do you dislike?

I don't like people who are rude, unfriendly, selfish and tactless. The quality I hate in people is insincerity

4. What unpleasant qualities of your future spouse are you ready to put up with.

Well, I think my future wife will possess the qualities I admire. But there are no ideal people. And I'm ready to put up with the drawbacks of her character. The only thing I'm not going to put up with is insincerity.

## **18. Clothes, fashion.**

### ***"Clothes Make the Man"***

Clothes have always carried messages about social status, personal taste as well as individual self-expression.

You can't but agree that clothes are really important because they tell people a lot about us and sometimes we judge people by what they are wearing. So people dressed in expensive clothes are thought to be wealthy and if a man is shabbily dressed he's obviously poor and probably homeless.

Clothes can tell us about people's nationality. So, a man wearing a tartan kilt, a black long-sleeved velvet jacket, knee-length socks and a small black hat is surely a Scots-man

Sometimes clothes tell us about people's occupation. If you work as a nurse, a doctor, a police-officer or a fire-fighter you have to wear a standard uniform.

I personally think that the main thing about clothes is to be appropriately dressed for the occasion. When I go out with my friends at the weekend I prefer to wear casual clothes I feel more comfortable in, such as jeans, a T-shirt or a loose shirt with flat shoes or trainers. When I go for a meal in a restaurant or to a wedding party I like to be smartly dressed in something elegant and stylish and to look very classy and chic. And if I had to attend a formal occasion such as a job interview I would wear a smart fitted costume. There is much discussion nowadays about a school uniform. Some of my classmates want to abolish the uniform at school. . But I think that we have to accept the fact it is necessary to wear it.

School is a place where students acquire knowledge. It's not a playground, a beach or a ballroom. And it's better for the students to spend time listening to the teacher and learning something than examining the latest trends of fashion.

Everyone in my class is really fashionable. They spend a lot of time talking about the clothes and jewelry they are going to spend money on. Some of my classmates have cut their hair into strange shapes, pierced their ears. They wear a lot of cheap jewelry. They say they show off their independence, feelings and values. I don't know if they are right.

Fashion does play a part in my life, but I'm not really obsessed with it. I do want to look smart but I wouldn't describe myself as a fashion victim. Fashion comes and goes and looking clean and tidy is more important than looking stylish. I hate it when people dress alike because they buy clothes in chain stores. I prefer hand-made or design clothes, in these clothes you really feel you are an individual and you can look really extravagant.

The main factor which influences me when I go shopping for clothes is the price; I also pay attention to the color of the garment I want to buy and try to match it with clothes I already own.

By the way, most people are influenced by fashion in a number of ways. For instance, they decorate their houses according to fashion; go on holidays to fashionable places and so on.

**Everyone wants to be attractive. What is your idea of being attractive?**

One of the Chekhov's characters said that everything must be beautiful in a person – face, dress, spirit and mind. We always want to impress people. But the first impression we make almost fully depends on what we wear and how we wear it. Manners and speech are noticed next and character only later. So it's quite natural that clothes are really important. They say "clothes make the man" .... (Clothes )

But we don't mean good looks alone when we speak about someone's beauty. We want also to see as Chekhov wrote, a "beautiful spirit and mind" in a person. His / her character and actions are extremely important. But what is to be done if the face isn't so beautiful? Should we take this fact too seriously? Of course not!. Besides, as an American proverb goes, "Beauty is a very fine thing, but you can't live on it." On the other hand a modest, kind and honest person is respected and liked by everybody. "One good deed deserves another", says an English proverb. I don't think

there is beauty in a person who has good looks but doesn't respect old people. And those who wear fashionable clothes are not beautiful at all if their conduct in the street and other public places isn't good. There is an old English proverb about such people : "Clothes don't make the man". Real beauty means much more than a perfect body and nice clothes. To my mind such traits of character as diligence, humanity, respectfulness, sincerity courage make a person attractive. And besides you should be modest of course. A modest man never talks much of himself. He doesn't try to have special privileges and rights , he is always critical about his own shortcomings and respects people around him

In conclusion I'd like to say that a man is a creator of his own happiness, fortune and personality. All of us are born sinless with a crystal soul like a blank sheet of paper, but with different levels of potential.

Probably most of us are full of drawbacks because we all are humans and nothing human is alien to us. But every day you should work on yourself. You should develop a positive attitude to life and people. The efforts which you make to become better will no doubt pay off. Your life will brighten and there will be new colors.

Vivienne Westwood, one of the world's most innovative designers, 1 \_\_\_ in Glossop, Derbyshire. As the 2 \_\_\_ of 3 \_\_\_, she 4 \_\_\_ her controversial 5 \_\_\_ on 6 \_\_\_ through her famous 7 \_\_\_ in King's Road, Chelsea. Vivienne changes the name of the shop and its décor each time she presents a new collection. Among its first names are the following: 8 \_\_\_, 9 \_\_\_, 10 \_\_\_, 11 \_\_\_. In 1981 she 12 \_\_\_, 'Pirates', whose asymmetrical 13 \_\_\_, 14 \_\_\_ and baggy 15 \_\_\_ boots 16 \_\_\_ on the 1980s street wear. It was the beginning of 17 \_\_\_ which 18 \_\_\_ to be an endlessly 19 \_\_\_ drawing inspiration from an eclectic range of sources. He constantly 20 \_\_\_ and 21 \_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_ to change the face of fashion.

This woman 23 \_\_\_. And she 24 \_\_\_. Her women are brave and shocking, flirty and feminine – and never 25 \_\_\_. What I 26 \_\_\_ so marvelous about Westwood's clothes is that they always lend themselves to the woman 27 \_\_\_, her caprice, and the choice gives 28 \_\_\_ to her intelligence. Vivienne Westwood's women are truly chic.

Concerning my friend Vivienne, I 29 \_\_\_ more giving and generous. She 30 \_\_\_. She 31 \_\_\_ into the artistic process and into the vision of one of 32 \_\_\_. She 33 \_\_\_ on a marvelous voyage and if she ever felt she'd had enough I would ask her to dim the lights on the Eiffel Tower and play ' God Save the Queen.'

### **Fashion.**

#### I. Read the following opinions on clothing and fashion.

##### Phil.

All my classmates say that I'm trendy. I enjoy wearing stylish clothes. I like to look smart and attractive. We can't go through life with the same hairstyle or make-up. It's very important to follow fashion. I hate it when people dress alike, because they buy clothes in 'chain' stores I prefer hand-made or design clothes. My classmates say I'm materialistic, but it's not a sin, is it? Sometimes I turn up in something really extravagant. When you are up with fashion you feel you are an individual.

##### Tracey.

I don't care what other people wear. More than that I don't care what I wear. My mum buys clothes for me in a 'chain' store or a car boot sale. She says that only the rich can afford following fashion and wearing trendy clothes. I prefer casual things- jeans, T-shirts, home-made sweaters. And it's a problem for me to get out of jeans into something more stylish, but I don't care. My elder brother's friends have cut their hair into strange shapes, pierced their ears and wear a lot of jewelry. They say they show off their independence, feelings and values. I don't know if they are right. If I were older I would probably do the same.

##### Kate.

Everyone in my class is really fashionable. They spend a lot of time talking about the clothes and jewelers that they are going to spend their money on. Many friends of mine think I'm boring and untrendy and I feel out sometimes. But frankly speaking fashion is not very important to me. Fashion comes and goes and looking clean and tidy is more important than looking stylish. I prefer clothes which are traditional in design that I feel comfortable in. I think that following fashion does not necessarily mean having good taste. If I had a lot of money I would buy clothes which are classical in design because they never go out of fashion, though I would rather buy video cassettes or some interesting books.

#### II. Which of these viewpoints on fashion is closer to yours?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| a) Fashion is my passion.<br>I enjoy...<br>I hate it when...<br>I prefer...<br>It's not a sin...<br>If I had...<br>When...<br>I'm sure... | b) Clothes do not make the man but...<br>I like it when people...<br>My friends...<br>But frankly speaking...<br>Fashion...<br>To follow fashion...<br>If I had...<br>It's more important...<br>To be honest... | c) I don't care what I wear<br>I don't care...<br>More than that...<br>I think...<br>It's not a problem...<br>Besides...<br>If I had...<br>Who cares if... |
|---|---|--|

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|---|---|--|

## **19. Weather and climate. Nature Protection.**

### **There is no bad weather, there are bad clothes. (Olympiad Form 9)**

There are four seasons in the year. Each of them brings different weather and different dresses. When it is hot people wear T-shirts and shorts, light blouses and skirts, sport shoes, socks and sandals.

In cold weather people usually put on warm clothes: jeans and trousers, sweaters and jackets, overcoats and caps. In winter they wear fur coats and fur caps, high boots and mittens or gloves.

When Englishmen say «There is no bad weather, there are bad clothes», It means that they like all the seasons, all kinds of weather. Every season is good in its own way. Each person likes this or that season. It depends on his character, mood. They say that Pushkin liked autumn very much. This season is full of colors, bright and tasty. Autumn is full of vegetables and fruit, mushrooms and berries. There is nothing like Indian summer in autumn. As for me, I like to walk on the carpet of bright leaves listen to the last songs of birds flying to warm countries, look at the nature. It is like a fairy- tale. It fades away and nothing can be done. Soon drizzling rains will begin and everything will be dull and sad. But still I like autumn.

Winter in Belarus is also beautiful. It often snows in winter. Fluffy soft snowflakes fall to the ground making a beautiful thick carpet. Many people go to the forests and enjoy tobogganing and skiing, playing snowballs and making a snowman.

Spring is the beginning of new life. Nature awakens from its long winter sleep. The trees begin to bud and soon tiny green leaves appear. Young green grass appear, fruit trees begin to blossom. Everything looks magic covered with green carpet.

I like summer best because we have holiday and enjoy resting after a long school year.

In my opinion every season is beautiful and attractive.

### **Seasons.**

There are four seasons in the year: winter, spring, summer and autumn. And every season has its charm: a sunny, frosty day in winter when everything is white and looks like a fairy-tale, a warm spring day, when little green leaves and grass are just appearing, a summer day after a thunder-storm when nature is so quiet and fresh, the air is pure and there is a rainbow in the sky, or an autumn day of Indian summer, when the leaves have already turned yellow and reddish and cover the ground with a multicolored carpet, when the sun shines but it is not hot, when nature slowly falls asleep

My favorite season is **summer**. You can easily guess why. The reason is quite obvious. In summer we have the longest holidays. Holidays are great; they shine out from the grey routines of everyday life. It's nice to swim in the river on a hot summer day. I'm fond of lying in the sun and getting sunburnt. We play sports and go hiking. Nature is so charming in summer. The flowers are showing their colors: yellow, red, orange, violet, white, pink. The birds are singing their wonderful songs. The butterflies and bees are dancing in the air. Every creature on earth is thankful to the Sun. Indeed, there is a lot to be thankful for! I enjoy going to the forest and picking berries and mushrooms in summer. Imagine it's a warm, rainy day and you are in a forest. You can find yourself under a branchy tree in the company of your dog and insects. We are all together; we feel the rain whispering to us something wonderful and comforting. The air is amazingly pure and fresh

When the weather is dry and warm farmers make hay and weed the plants. At the end of summer fruit and vegetables get ripe and very soon the harvest comes.

For many of us **autumn** starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. This day is an official holiday- the Day of Knowledge. The weather is very changeable in autumn. Sometimes it's warm and sunny, but sometimes it drizzles, the sky is grey and covered with clouds. The days become shorter and the nights longer. We see the birds flying away. They are no longer singing, they are "packing". But there is a short spell of good warm weather at the end of October as if summer comes back to say "good-bye" to you. It is called an Indian summer.

**Winter** sets in December. Winter is the coldest season of the year. In winter the days become shorter and the nights are longer. The shortest day of the year is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. But winter days can also be beautiful with their sunshine and hoarfrost on the trees. Winter is a very good time for sports. People go to the woods to ski, to make snowmen and to play snowballs, they can also go to the skating rink and skate there. In winter we celebrate the most wonderful holiday New Year's Day.

At the end of February or at the beginning of March the snow begins to melt and streams flow in the streets, birds come back from warm countries and make their nests, animals clean and build their shelters, insects wake up and look for food in green gardens. Fruit trees show themselves in their blossoming beauty. The first flowers – snowdrops appear in the woods. Nature returns to life. People spend a lot of time working in their gardens. **Spring** is one of the beloved seasons for many people. It's a promising time for the old and the young.

To sum everything up I can say that every season is beautiful in its own way.

### **Seasons.**

#### 1. In what way does weather affect our lives?

The weather affects our lives in different ways. For example, the type of clothing we wear depends largely on the weather. We put on heavy clothes when it is cold and dress lightly when it is hot. We also heat our homes in cold weather and cool them in hot weather. The weather even affects our moods. People often feel more cheerful on a sunny day than on a cloudy and grey one.

The weather has an enormous impact on agriculture. Industry, transportation and communication also suffer during bad weather. Snow makes trains late. Fog often prevents airplanes from taking off. Icy roads slow traffic. Storms may break power lines and telephone wires. Thunderstorms may disturb radio and television broadcasts.

#### 2. Is there any difference between weather and climate?

Weather is not the same as climate. Weather is the condition of the air during a brief period. Climate is the average weather of an area over a long time. Weather may be hot or cold, cloudy or clear, windy or calm. Climate may be hot, cold, dry, wet, mild tropical, subtropical and continental.

#### 3. What is a weather forecast?

Information about the weather that is likely to come is called a weather forecast.

#### 5. What is meteorology?

Meteorology is the study of the earth's atmosphere and the variations in atmospheric conditions that produce weather. Meteorologists measure wind, temperature, precipitation, air pressure and other atmospheric conditions. They also measure chemical substances in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide and ozone that affect the climate. By analyzing data about the atmosphere, meteorologists can predict weather conditions.

#### 6. How can people predict weather?

People have tried to predict weather for thousands of years. Nowadays scientists use complex instruments such as radar, satellites and computers to forecast weather. There are regular local and national weather reports on television and radio during the day and in the evening.

#### 7. Do you know any other ways of predicting weather?

You can forecast the weather thanks to observing nature, that is by watching birds and animals, insects and flowers. Some insects become more troublesome before a change in the weather. Flies and mosquitoes, for example, begin to hum and bite before the rain. If you see insects flying over flowers in large numbers, or birds flying lower than usual you should know that it may rain soon. If you happen to see a bird hiding its head under its wing it means that it will become colder. A red evening sky tells of good weather the next day, to say nothing about a little yellow or green sky.

#### 7. What natural disasters caused by weather and climate conditions can you name?

They are hail, storms, thunderstorms with lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons, floods, droughts and others. These periods of violent weather can cause serious damage.

#### 8. Is the climate in Belarus different from the climate in Great Britain?

I'd like to say that the weather in Belarus depends greatly on the climatic conditions. In Great Britain it depends on the sea and they say that they have no climate only weather as it may change several times during the day. The weather topic is the favorite with the English.

In general the climate in Belarus can be characterized as moderately continental. It means that winters are fairly cold and summers are moderately hot, though, of course, there may be exceptions

#### What questions would you like to ask a meteorologist?

1. What instruments do you use to predict weather? 2. Does weather observation help you to predict weather? 3. Is it safe to trust weather observations? 4. Are your forecasts always correct? 5. What information helps you to design a weather map? 6. How was weather observed in ancient times? 7. Do you use computers in your work? 8. How will weather be predicted in future?

#### What can you advise a person who wants to become a meteorologist?

If you want to become a meteorologist you should always remember that your job is very responsible. Very often people's health and sometimes even their lives depend on the accurate weather forecast.

### **Ecological problems. Nature Protection.**

#### 1. Let's talk about environmental problems. Has Belarus suffered from any catastrophe?

For many centuries man has been trying to solve Nature's mysteries, to discover its laws, to make it serve his necessities. In doing so people change the world. New discoveries and inventions, new technologies make a dramatic impact on the planet which is our habitat. Great achievements of the human race have facilitated the life of people, but many of them have been harmful to our environment. Nowadays the humanity is trying to reconsider the results of its own progress.

Scientists, politicians, ecologists and the majority of common people are beginning to understand that the damage to ecosystems can lead to real disasters when nothing could save the planet and life on it. If we want to survive we should do our best to solve ecological problems as quickly as possible

The main problem is **pollution in all its forms** (water pollution, air pollution) Every year the world's industry pollutes the atmosphere with millions of tons of dust and other harmful substances. In some places the air is so dirty that it's not safe to breathe. Seas, rivers and lakes are poisoned with garbage and chemicals which are dumped right into them. The other urgent problems are the **depletion of the ozone layer, acid rains and global warming**. They all lead to unfavorable changes in the world's climate. If we don't take measures to protect the planet the hole in the ozone layer will widen. This will inevitably lead to high incidents of skin cancer and other diseases. Icebergs will melt causing intensive flooding of huge areas of land.

Another serious ecological problem is **the disappearance of forests**. Some of them die from acid rains, others are cut down. Rain forests disappear at an alarming rate. If man continues to cut down rain forest millions of species of plants and **animals will become extinct**. Animals' natural habitats are also being destroyed as a result of urban expansion. Many animals are endangered because hunters kill them in order to sell their fur or skin.

The most urgent problem in our country is the radioactive pollution after the catastrophe on the Chernobyl nuclear power station, which took place on April 26, 1986. That catastrophe can be considered the largest disaster of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of that accident 18% of territories of our republic were contaminated by radioactive elements. The agriculture of our country suffered great losses. The contamination caused a rapid raise of many incurable illnesses such as thyroid cancer, leukemia and others.

#### 2. Do you agree that air pollution is a cause of people's health problems? Why?

The accident on the Chernobyl nuclear power station led to a raise of such incurable diseases as thyroid cancer, leukemia and others. More and more often people are told not to stay in direct sunlight, because ultraviolet radiation from the sun can cause skin cancer. Normally the ozone layer in the atmosphere protects us from such radiation, but if there are holes in the ozone layer ultraviolet radiation can get to the earth. Many scientists think these holes are the result of air pollution.

#### 3. Imagine you are interviewing an animal protection activist. What questions would you ask him/ her?

1. What practical actions do you take to protect animals? 2. Why do you think these animals need protection? 3. Do many people share your ideas? 4. How can I join your organization?

#### 4. Give advice on how to become more environment friendly?

If you want to become more friendly to the environment you should plant greenery, protect trees in parks and yards, collect rubbish. You should also save energy by turning off lights and electric appliances when you don't need them. You should save water. Besides you can avoid spraying cans and aerosols which destroy the ozone layer, avoid using chemicals in your house or garden. You should use public transportation, cycle or go on foot and avoid using cars. Actually there are four solutions to environmental problems : RDUCE, REUSE, RESYCLE, RESPECT.

#### 5. Are you for or against animal experimentation?

I personally think that it is cruel to experiment on animals. Animals are part of our environment , they are our lesser brothers and we should protect them and take care of them.

#### 6. What would you like to ask your British friend about measures that are taken to protect the environment in Britain?

1. What ecological problems are urgent in your country? 2. Are there any organizations whose aim is to protect the environment? 3. What actions to protect nature does the government of your country take? 4. Do your plants and factories use modern technology? 5. Are green zones around big cities created? 6. Does your country use alternative sources of energy? 7. is much attention paid to ecological education at your schools?

#### 7. A friend of yours wants to develop a program to protect the city where he lives. Give him a piece of advice.

First of all your work should include ecological education, that is you should go to schools, universities and have talks and meetings on ecological problems. Then you should take some practical actions. For example you can plant greenery, help birds and other animals in winter, collect rubbish in parks and squares, you should avoid using chemicals in your house or garden. You should also work in contact with industrial enterprises of your city and demand establishing effective filters and using new technology.

#### 8. Are you weather dependent?

Luckily I'm not weather dependent, but there are people whose health may depend on weather. Sometimes people's mood can depend on weather.

#### 9. What questions would you like to ask a meteorologist?

1. What instruments do you use to predict weather? 2. Does weather observation help you to predict weather? 3. Is it safe to trust weather observations? 4. Are your forecasts always correct? 5. What information helps you to design a weather map? 6. How was weather observed in ancient times? 7. Do you use computers in your work? 8. How will weather be predicted in future?

10. What can you advise a person who wants to become a meteorologist?

If you want to become a meteorologist you should always remember that your job is very responsible. Very often people's health and sometimes even their lives depend on the accurate weather forecast.

11. They say there's no bad weather, there are bad clothes. What do you think about it?

This means that weather is given to us by nature. And we can't change it. It can even be dangerous for our planet if we try to change weather. And people should understand that any kind of weather is necessary for nature. For example rain is important for plants to grow, winter cold is necessary for them to sleep. And people should be thankful to any kind of weather. The only thing people can do is to choose the right clothes not to catch a cold in winter or to get wet under the rain. That is to choose the right clothes.

### **Weather.**

The British are well-known for always chatting about their weather. This is because the weather in Britain is so changeable-you never know what it will be like. There are many general expressions in English which show the importance of weather in people's lives. For example, feeling 'under the weather' means feeling slightly ill. If you 'make heavy weather of a job' it means you make it seem more difficult than it really is, and if you "keep a weather eye on sth" you give it full attention

### **Nature Protection**

"Treat the Earth well: it was not given to you by your parents but was loaned to you by your children." This is what an old African proverb says. There is great wisdom in it. We have to protect our planet as far as possible since this is the place where our descendants are going to live.

Nature is everything that exists in the world around us – plants and animals, earth and rocks, air and water, climate and weather. At the beginning of his development man was very dependent on Nature, being its real and naïve child. But with time getting older and more knowledgeable people ventured "to conquer" Nature. For many centuries man has been trying to solve Nature's mysteries, to discover its laws, to make it serve his necessities. In doing so people change the world. New discoveries and inventions, new technologies make a dramatic impact on the planet which is our habitat. Great achievements of the human race have facilitated the life of people, but many of them have been harmful to our environment. Nowadays the humanity is trying to reconsider the results of its own progress.

Scientists, politicians, ecologists and the majority of common people are beginning to understand that the damage to ecosystems can lead to real disasters when nothing could save the planet and life on it

The most serious environmental problems are: pollution in its many forms (air, water and soil pollution, radioactive pollution), ozone layer destruction and the increase of ultraviolet light, global warming, forest destruction and deforestation, endangered plants and animals, extinction of species, disruption of ecological balances, excessive exploitation of natural resources

Man, being Nature's child, must grow up and fast enough to be able to protect Mother Nature. It's high time people all over the world understood – nature can live without us, we cannot live without nature. Environmental awareness should be increased everywhere, global ecological institutions should be created, new technologies should not be used unless they are proved to be ecologically safe, scientists of different countries should work together to develop new "clean" sources of energy. Governments should make laws to protect the air, water and soil.

But the thing is that not only governments, scientist and politicians are responsible for the future of our planet. We all should be friendly to our environment. We should save water and energy, plant trees and flowers, help animals and birds to survive. We can also walk or cycle instead of going by car. We should leave wild flowers for others to enjoy and keep our countryside clean and tidy.

In conclusion I want to say that ecological problems are so urgent that we should do everything possible to change the situation for the better. Otherwise, our pursuit of growth and luxury may leave us homeless.

### **Ecological problems.**

1. What is 'ecology'?

Ecology is a science which studies the relationship between all forms of life on our planet with its environment. This word came from the Greek 'oikos' which means 'home'. The idea of 'home' includes the whole planet of ours, its population, nature, animals, birds, insects, all other living beings and even the atmosphere around our planet.

2. What are the most acute ecological problems?

The main problem is **pollution in all its forms** (water pollution, air pollution) Every year the world's industry pollutes the atmosphere with millions of tons of dust and other harmful substances. In some places the air is so dirty that it's not safe to breathe. Seas, rivers and lakes are poisoned with garbage and chemicals which are dumped right into them. The other urgent problems are the **depletion of the ozone layer, acid rains** and **global warming**. They all lead to unfavorable changes in the world's climate. If we don't take measures to protect the planet the hole in the ozone layer will widen. This will inevitably lead to high incidents of skin cancer and other diseases. Icebergs will melt causing intensive flooding of huge areas of land.

Another serious ecological problem is **the disappearance of forests**. Some of them die from acid rains, others are cut down. Rain forests disappear at an alarming rate. If man continues to cut down rain forest millions of species of plants and **animals will become extinct**. Animals' natural habitats are also being

destroyed as a result of urban expansion. Many animals are endangered because hunters kill them in order to sell their fur or skin.

### 3. What is the most urgent ecological problem in our country?

The most urgent problem in our country is the radioactive pollution after the catastrophe on the Chernobyl nuclear power station, which took place on April 26, 1986. That catastrophe can be considered the largest disaster of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of that accident 18% of territories of our republic were contaminated by radioactive elements. The agriculture of our country suffered great losses. The contamination caused a rapid raise of many incurable illnesses such as thyroid cancer, leukemia and others.

### 4 What things have to be done to protect nature?

- governments should take actions against pollution
- plants and factories should fit effective filters, use modern technology
- green zones around big cities should be extended
- natural recourses should be used economically
- people should broaden ecological education, so that everyone should understand that our planet is fragile
- people should use alternative sources of energy

### 5 What can you personally do to become more friendly to the environment?

We can show our concern with the cleanliness and the beauty of the place we live in. We can plant greenery, protect trees in parks and yards, collect rubbish. We can save energy by turning off lights and electric appliances when we don't need them. We can avoid spray cans and aerosols which destroy the ozone layer, avoid using chemicals in our house or garden, use public transportation, cycle or go on foot, avoid using cars, recycle (re-using materials instead of throwing them away), recycle (not buying things that can't be re-used)...

## **20. Travelling.**

### **Travelling. (Olympiad. Form 8-9)**

Millions of people all over the world spend their time traveling. They travel to see other countries or cities. They travel to enjoy picturesque places or simply for a change of scene. It's always interesting to discover new things and different ways of life, to meet different people, to try various food, to listen to various musical rhythms.

Those who live in the country are fond of going to big capital cities. They spend their time visiting museums and art galleries, looking at shop windows and dining at exotic restaurants.

City dwellers usually like a quiet holiday by the sea or in the mountains, with nothing to do but walk and bathe and laze in the sun.

Most travelers and holiday-makers take a camera with them and take pictures of everything that interests them- the sights of the city, old churches and castles, views of mountains, lakes and vast forests.

People travel by different means of transport. People travel to have holidays or on business. If they travel on business they choose the fastest transport. They often travel by plane or by train. It is very expensive but it is very fast. And if people want to have a rest they choose traveling by boat or by car. When you travel by car or by bike you plan your trip yourself.

Personally I prefer traveling by car with my parents. I think it's very comfortable because we don't have to book tickets and we needn't carry heavy suitcases. When I travel I can watch a video, listen to music or admire picturesque landscapes through the window. We can stop wherever we want and spend at any place as much time as we like.

If you travel a lot you gain new experience which you may find useful in your further life. So traveling is great.

**Train** They travel too fast, so we won't be able to see much. We'll have to change trains. Some trains aren't very comfortable and if you sleep on the upper berth, you may be afraid of falling down. Sometimes the neighbors' in the compartment are unpleasant and very talkative. It's not expensive. You can buy a return ticket and spend the rest of your money on other things. We'll be able to see much as trains cover very long distances. Trains in the UK are very comfortable. They are always on time. There are no traffic jams.

**Ship** A cruise holiday can be too expensive for us. There is usually nothing much to see in the ports. Young people may feel lonely and get bored. You may be sea-sick. You have to follow a strict time-table and are not able to explore places as much as you'd like. I think it's the most comfortable and relaxing way of traveling. We'll be given a chance to see many different sights at each port within a short time. We don't have to worry about travel arrangements during the trip and we can spend all day sunbathing and swimming. Many ships have swimming pools.

**Bicycle** We'll never be protected from weather (sunny or rainy). It's very tiring. We can't take much luggage with us. It's dangerous as a cyclist can be knocked over. It's not good for long trips. It's a well-balanced combination of rest and exercise. It's very economical. We'll be able to stop where we want. It's environmentally friendly. We are not afraid of traffic jams.

**Car** We can get into traffic jams on motorways and that's very stressful. I always get tired of sitting in a chair for a long time. I get sick travelling long distances. Petrol is expensive. It's difficult to find a parking lot. Travelling by car is safer and more comfortable than walking. We don't have to look for a seat. We can leave when we want and we can stop when we want, we don't depend on time table. We can take more luggage.

## **Travelling**

### ***1. Why is traveling popular?***

Travelling is popular because it helps us to explore the world, it broadens our outlook, enriches our knowledge of life. It is exciting to learn more about other places and countries, about their history and geography. It is interesting to get acquainted with customs and traditions of different countries, to take pictures of the places we'll remember all our life. When people travel they also make friends. Besides they spend a lot of time in the open air and enjoy the beauty of nature. They can also learn the way of life of different animals and birds, explore the life of plants, watch the sunset and the sunrise. So traveling is a great thing

### ***2. What is your idea of a coach journey?***

To my mind a coach journey can be an enjoyable one. It is very comfortable because modern coaches are fitted with certain comforts such as air conditioning, self-reclining seats, a fridge with help-yourself drinks, TV entertainment. It provides recreation stops and meals at pleasant cafes and restaurants

### ***3. What active types of travel can you name? Which of them would you like to try and why?***

They are bike touring, canoeing, rafting, horseback riding, scuba diving and snorkeling, sailing, backpacking, walking... I would like to try...because...

### ***4. What is socially responsible travel? Why is it important? In what way can it help people and nature?***

S.R.T is known as Alternative Travel, Green Travel, Ecotourism. The thing is that indigenous cultures are threatened by the pressures of western cultures and tourism, natural areas are spoilt by tourists, litter has become a major problem. S.R.T. supports traditional lifestyles. Money and jobs from ecotourism programmes provide conditions for developing countries to preserve their environment and heritage and protect natural areas.

### ***5. What does the way of traveling people choose depend on?***

It depends on their age, their interests, their health, the sum of money they can spend on their trip...

### ***6. Why do tourists need travel brochures, guide books and different types of booklets while traveling?***

They give much useful information about places of interest and possibilities for sightseeing. They contain information about the weather in the region you are going to visit. Besides they are well illustrated and when you come back you can enjoy looking through them and remembering the beautiful places you visited

### ***7. What are the things you like doing/ don't like doing while on holiday?***

I like visiting distant lands, going shopping, relaxing in the sun, making new friends, watching concerts....

I don't like standing in long queues, packing things, carrying heavy suitcases...

### ***8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of traveling...?***

#### ***On foot***

+ pleasant and useful for your health / you enjoy absolute freedom / you have none of the headaches of advance hotel booking or crowded stuffy trains / but above all you enjoy tremendous mobility that is if you don't like the place you can simply get up and go, you are the boss / you adopt a completely different way of life and that's the essence of true recreation and real enjoyment

-largely depends on the weather...

#### ***By air***

+ Nothing can match airlines for speed and comfort / there is none of the dust and the dirt of a railway or car journey, none of the trouble of changing trains / besides flying is a trilling thing...

- flying is too expensive / not a very safe means of transport / you can't see anything but clouds / you can get airsick / there are too many formalities at the airport / you've got little time to acclimatize yourself to new surroundings

#### ***By train***

+ on a train you can enjoy the comfort and pleasure of relaxation / most trains have convenient timetables of departures and arrivals / you can enjoy talking to your fellow passengers or just watching the changing landscape through the window / you don't need to take much food with you as you can have a cup of tea or coffee without leaving your compartment

#### ***By ship***

+ to feel the deck of the ship under your feet / to see the rise and fall of the waves / to feel the fresh sea wind blowing in your face / to hear the cry of the sea-gulls

- you can feel sea-sick when the sea is rough

## **Travelling**

The scientific and technological progress has allowed people to overcome time and distance, to cover in the twinkling of an eye the vast expanse of our planet. The whole world is open now. The limits and frontiers of the previous period have



stopped to exist. We can choose any place on the planet and go there on business or for holiday. We can go to the place of our destination by sea, by air. We can travel by train.

Millions of people all over the world spend their holidays traveling. They travel to see other countries, modern cities, the ruins of ancient towns, they travel to enjoy picturesque places or just for a change of scene. It's always interesting to discover new things, different ways of life, to meet different people, to try different food, to listen to different musical rhythms.

Those who live in the country like to go to big cities and spend their time visiting museums, art galleries, looking at shop windows and dining at exotic restaurants. City dwellers usually like a quiet holiday by the sea or in the mountains, with nothing to do but walk and bathe and laze in the sun.

Most travelers and holiday-makers take a camera with them and take pictures of everything that interests them- the sights of cities, old churches and castles, views of mountains, lakes, valleys, plains, waterfalls, forests, different kinds of trees, flowers and plants, animals and birds

You can read about the places you want to see. You can gather information about hotels and transport. You can talk to people who have been to the places or countries you want to see. The best way to study geography is to travel and the best way to get to know and understand people is to meet them in their own homes. Travelling is a remarkable key to understanding other cultures, a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the world we live in.

Nowadays people can travel in different ways. They can enjoy the comfort and speed of superb air-liners as well as the conveniences of modern trains and coaches or the luxury of sea voyage. People choose this or that way of traveling according to their likings and financial possibilities

Of course, traveling by air is most convenient as in short time you reach the place of your destination well-rested and well-fed. Naturally it is the most expensive way of traveling too. Travelling by train is slower than by plane but it has its advantages as well. Many people are convinced that with a train you have speed, comfort and pleasure combined. Most trains nowadays have very comfortable seats as well as sleeping carriages and dining cars, which make even the longest journey enjoyable. Sea voyages these days have become popular again mainly as pleasure trips

I personally prefer traveling by car. There are several reasons for it: first of all you don't need to reserve your tickets. Then you can go as slowly or as fast as you wish, stop whenever you choose and spend at any place as much time as you like. And of course, you see much more of the countryside than you do traveling by plane or by train.

There are a lot of options for a traveler regarding a place to stay. Depending on age, individual preferences and budget people may choose different types of accommodation. For instance, if they are looking for a low-budget holiday they may choose between a youth hotel, bed and breakfast, a campsite or a self-catering hotel. Family hotels offer more comfort, but they may tend to be slightly more expensive. Taking a caravan with you, if you are traveling by car, is a big advantage as you can stop and sleep almost anywhere. Many young people, especially when touring big cities, choose to stay at youth hostels because they are basic and cheap, but at the same time they may turn out to be a disadvantage for someone looking for quiet and peace at night. Youth hostels can be very loud. This is quite understandable, because young people tend to be traveling not alone, but three or four people together. And anyway, they easily make friends with strangers.

In my opinion, people are increasingly choosing holidays which bring them to nature. They grow tired of sightseeing, visiting museums, castles. A certain amount of holidaymakers simply don't like doing it any more. They would rather escape to the countryside or would rather engage themselves into sport like rafting, canoeing, biking. Beautiful pine forests and silvery birches, picturesque rivers and numerous lakes make our country a place of attraction for holiday-makers

So far I haven't traveled much, of course. But I hope that in future I'll have more opportunities for traveling and seeing the world's most famous and beautiful places.

### **9. A change is a good rest.**

It's a well-known fact that when on holiday most people try to avoid doing things they have to do all the year round. I believe that any holiday must be a change. You need to get away from all usual routines, to escape from the stress and the strain of everyday life.

Millions of people all over the world spend their time traveling. They travel to see other countries or cities. They travel to enjoy picturesque places or simply for a change of scene. It's always interesting to discover new things and different ways of life, to meet different people, to try various food, to listen to various musical rhythms.

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Personally I prefer traveling by car with my parents. I think it's very comfortable because we don't have to book tickets and we needn't carry heavy suitcases. When I travel I can watch a video, listen to music or admire picturesque landscapes through the window. We can stop wherever we want and spend at any place as much time as we like.

If you travel a lot you gain new experience which you may find useful in your further life. So traveling is great.

1. What is your idea of a perfect holiday?

For me a perfect holiday is a trip to some foreign country because it helps me to explore the world, it broadens my outlook, enriches my knowledge of life. It is exciting to learn more about other places and countries, about their history and geography. It is interesting to get acquainted with customs and traditions of different countries, to take pictures of the places I'll remember all my life. When I travel to a foreign country I also make friends and have a good chance to practice my English.

What exotic country would you like to visit and why?

I would like to visit one of the African countries. Mainly because their way of life differs greatly from the way of life of European countries. The animal and plant world is also different. There are tribes who haven't been touched by civilization. They live so close to nature. And I'd like to learn more about it.

Have you ever experienced a culture shock when visiting another country?

I don't think I have. The thing is that before going to another country I surf the Net and try to learn about the accepted ways of behavior there. There are some difficulties of course but I wouldn't call them a shock.

What is the most relaxing activity for you?

The most relaxing for me is doing some physical activities. I enjoy swimming in summer or going skating in winter. I really like it because while swimming I can think about something pleasant and my mind has a rest. Besides it's good for my health.

**You must be ready for anything on holiday.**

Travelling is one of the greatest experiences you can do. However, there are many pitfalls you can get yourself into. Sometimes the simplest problem can turn a wonderful trip into a disaster. That's why it's important to understand common travel problems. If you know how to handle them, you'll be ready for just about anything. So if you don't want to spoil the impression of your journey you should remember the following things.

There aren't many items you have to bring with you. All you really need is: money, a set of clothes, medication, a passport (if you're traveling internationally) and a backpack. If you forget your toothbrush or toothpaste, you can buy them when you arrive.

A guidebook is also recommended especially if you're traveling overseas.

If you missed your flight, remain calm. Maybe you overslept or traffic delayed you. Anyway, you need to check in with your airline. Tell them about your situation and work with them to find a different way to your destination. Be open to later flights. Also, be prepared for a rebooking fee. Be polite with the airline agent and they'll get you to where you want to go.

You can also face flight delays or cancellations. They can be a result of the weather or mechanical issues.

It may happen so that your luggage is lost. So if your luggage is lost, report it immediately and fill out a form. You should keep all your documents including airline tickets, forms, baggage claim checks and so on

As far as finding a place to stay is concerned, in reality, it's not difficult to find a place to stay as long as you're in a tourist area. If you have a guidebook, then pick a place that sounds good to you and take a cab there. You can also ask if there is somewhere nearby you can stay at.

You can minimize jet lag several days before your trip. Adjust your sleep schedule a few days before you go and you won't feel the jet lag much after you arrive. Drink plenty of water and get lots of exercise. That will reduce jet lag's effect.

You see practically all the problems with traveling are easy to overcome. The main thing is to plan your journey carefully. I usually start getting ready for the journey long beforehand and practically never get into troubles. One more important thing is you should know English. You know that practically everywhere in the world people speak English and you can turn to any native person for help and advice.

Do you prefer to go on a package holiday or arrange your holiday yourself?

Personally I prefer to go on a package holiday. A package holiday is usually arranged by a tourist company and they know for sure what sights are worth visiting. You can have everything you like at a fixed price so you can plan your expenses. You have also none of the problems with hotels and meals.

Have you ever had any problems on holiday?

I usually start getting ready for the journey long beforehand and practically never get into troubles. But once in Italy we had a problem with our luggage. But I asked an airport agent for help and our luggage was found very quickly. My knowledge of English helped to solve the problem.

What things aren't you ready to put up with on holiday.

I can't stand it when the journey is poorly organized. I don't like standing in long queues, packing things, carrying heavy suitcase

## **21. English- the language of the world.**

### **The importance of studying a foreign language. ( Olympiad. Form 8-9)**

You can't but agree that every educated person nowadays should know at least one foreign language. Knowing a foreign language helps us to learn about other cultures and other ways of thinking. It gives us opportunities to find a good job and helps us to establish contacts with people.

Nowadays English is the most widely spoken and written language in the world. It is the language of business, politics, culture, tourism, science and information. It has become the language of the planet, the first truly global language. That's why people all over the world learn it. So do I.

I started learning English at the age of 7. So I've been learning it for...years already. At our English lessons we have a lot of grammar and vocabulary drills. I think grammar is important in any language because you can't build a house without foundations, but you need to practice grammar together with vocabulary. Every day I try to memorize some English words and practice them. I have no problem learning words connected with my hobby and related to my interests.

I personally think that English is not an easy language to learn. One of the problems for those who learn English is phrasal verbs and, of course, idioms. And you have to keep yourself up-to date with them and not to use the old-fashioned ones. Besides English intonation is the most difficult part of pronunciation, because if you get it wrong people may think you are rude. But the most difficult part in any language is, perhaps, learning the elements for which there are no written rules, that is 'social English'. This means learning about some expected ways of behavior, knowing what sort of English to use in different situations (formal or informal). So you have to learn to think in English. It's rather difficult. But I like it. In my opinion learning English needs a lot of enthusiasm.

### **1. Is it necessary to learn grammar?**

Of course, you must learn grammar in any language. After all you can't build the house without foundations. So grammar is important. But it shouldn't be taught in isolation. You need to practice grammar together with vocabulary.

### **2. Which is better : to practice using new words or learn them by heart?**

It is better to learn a few words at a time and practice them rather than a lot of words by heart. Practice helps you to memorize the words. Personally I remember words better if they are related to my interests.

### **3. Are idioms and phrasal verbs easy to learn?**

No, they aren't. One of the problems for learners of English is phrasal verbs and of course idioms. They are very difficult and you have to keep up-to-date with them not to use the old-fashioned ones.

### **4. Why is it important to use the right intonation when you talk to people?**

English intonation is the most difficult part of pronunciation because if you get it wrong, people think you're rude. Intonation is far more difficult than learning to pronounce the words correctly. It's important to learn both formal and informal English.

### **5. What do you feel about reading in English?**

I find reading very helpful. I read books, newspapers, magazines and other periodicals. I try to guess the meaning of the words I don't know from the context. This helps me to read more quickly. But I also look words up in the dictionary and make a note of the most useful ones.

### **6. How about listening to pop music?**

That can be useful. I often listen to English songs and I think it's important to know what you sing about. Listening to the radio and watching videos and educational TV programs in English help me too.

### **7. What does "social English" mean?**

"Social English" means learning about expected ways of behavior, knowing what sort of English to use in different situations, formal and informal.

## **22. Books. Reading.**

### **The world of books is enormous. Speak about your reading preferences. ( Olympiad. Form 8-9)**

I'm fond of reading. In my opinion, books are a source of emotional inspiration and romantic feelings. Reading is very useful, because books enrich our experience with that of other people. Besides, books help me to continue my education.

I'm sure that a reader lives a richer life than a non-reader. The time spent on a good book is never wasted. Reading is a rewarding pastime. Books tell us about the beauty of nature, space travel and faraway countries, adventures of brave and clever people, other worlds and planets. They teach us to be attentive to people, to respect our parents, to help them about the house, to understand life, to be friendly, hard-working, hospitable, kind, brave clever, optimistic... They teach us not to boast, not to be afraid of difficulties and a lot of other useful things.

In my childhood I enjoyed reading fairy-tales and admired their imaginary characters who fight for the good against the evil, for justice and love. Now I enjoy books of different genres: love and detective stories, thrillers and historical novels, works by classical and modern writers.

### **1. Speak about the role of books in our life**

Books play an important part in people's life. Reading is a huge source of information. Some people read for learning, some for relaxation and fun. The world of books is full of wonders. Together with the characters of the books you go by ship in the stormy sea, climb high mountains, fly into space and have a lot of adventures. A lot of people enjoy the beauty and wisdom of fairy-tales and fables and their imaginary heroes who fight for justice and love. Books teach us to be kind and clever, brave and honest, hardworking and helpful. They teach us to understand the beauty of nature, to take care of it, to love our homeland

### **2. Give advice to your friend what type of book to choose.**

Books can be of different genres: love and detective stories, thrillers and historical novels. While reading historical novels and adventure stories you can learn a lot about some important historical events in the past, about famous political figures and people's life in old times. But books give us an insight not only into the past but also into the future. Dreams about future are widely shown in science-fiction books. Personally I enjoy books of different genres, but fantasy is my favorite one.

### **3. Who is your favorite writer?**

My favorite writer is... He is a famous modern writer. I like the language of his books, his ability to create different images and to find the right words to describe his characters. The plot of his books is always exciting because there are

lots of adventures. The author manages to hold the reader's attention from start to finish. His language is both impressive and colorful. His stories are usually fascinating, entertaining and well-written. The book I like best is...

### **The role of reading.**

Books make up a significant and necessary part of people's life. They are our best friends. The world of books is full of wonders. Reading books you can find yourself in different lands, countries, at seas and oceans. Together with the characters of the books you go by ship in the stormy sea, climb high mountains, fly into space and have a lot of adventures. You can't but enjoy the beauty and wisdom of fairy-tales and fables and their imaginary heroes who fight for the good against the evil, for justice and love. They teach us to be clever, brave and honest, to be hardworking and helpful. Books help us to be true friends, they teach us to understand the beauty of nature, to take care of it, to love our homeland. So it's hard to overestimate the role of books in our life.

I can't but mention their great educational significance. They surely help us to enrich our knowledge in different subjects. Reading historical novels and adventure stories I learn about some important historical events in the past, about famous political figures and people's life in old times. But books give us an insight not only into the past but also into the future. Dreams and fantasies about future are vividly depicted in science-fiction books. Of course I enjoy reading them. When I come across some unknown words I usually consult an encyclopedia, because, as you know, it gives all sorts of useful information on every branch of knowledge.

Besides, there are books that bring up people, make them more humane, elevate their mind and soul. These books are a source of spiritual and emotional power. Reading them I find answers to different problems I face in my life. They are my dearest teachers and advisers.

And finally, there are books which hold up people's spirits in the tragic moments of their lives, make them forget the troublesome realities of life, help them to cheer up and amuse themselves.

Some people nowadays think that with the rise of television and computer we don't need books any more. But I don't agree with them. I'm strongly convinced that a book is one of the greatest wonders in the world. It gives us a unique chance to link up with authors who lived hundreds and thousands of years ago. Thanks to books we can talk to people who lived in different ages and countries. Through reading books we can hear their voices, thoughts and feelings. A book is a faithful and undemanding friend; it can be put aside and taken up again at any moment.

So you can't but agree that life without books would be boring and joyless.

### **Princess Diana**

Of all important people of the twentieth century, without doubt, the one who had the most positive influence was Diana, Princess of Wales.

She was an extraordinary woman, who led a very active life. Being a caring and loving mother she also devoted much of her life to organizing charity events which not only raised money to help the poor but also made the public more aware of the problems the less fortunate face every day. Helping AIDS sufferers, disabled children, patients in hospitals she showed that no matter who or what the person is, we should be kind, considerate and helpful towards everyone. She is definitely a person not to be forgotten

### **Peace on our Planet**

Unfortunately the history of mankind is not only a history of inventions and discoveries but also a history of wars and military conflicts. They say that the nuclear weapons that different countries have are enough to destroy all life on Earth ten times over. The progress in science and technology makes people invent even more destructive types of weapons. My strong belief is that this vicious circle has to be broken and all the nations of the world should do their best to stop and ban all wars. But there are those who say that powerful weapons guarantee peace and stability in the world as they cool off aggressive countries and groups of people and make them think twice before starting a military conflict. I don't think this argument is wise enough because it may happen so that all the weapons go out of control and it will definitely lead to the tragedy for the whole mankind. I think that peoples and governments of goodwill should do their best to keep international peace and security. They should hold international meetings, conferences, negotiations on problems of war and peace. They should take steps to settle local conflicts and restore peace in troubled areas. They should pledge not to use force in international relations, fight against terrorism and save future generations from horrors of war. Because one of the civil rights people have is the right to life.

There are a lot of people who devoted their lives to the struggle for peace. Some of them have been recognized throughout the world and have received the Nobel Prize for Peace. **Mother Teresa** is one of them. She started her own order "The Missionaries of Charity", whose primary aim was to provide effective help to the poor and to take care of victims of natural catastrophes such as floods, epidemics and famine and of refugees. **Kofi Annan** was first elected Secretary General of the UNO. He gave priority to strengthening the Organization's work in the areas of international peace and security. He advocated human rights and the universal values of equality, tolerance and human dignity. **Jimmy Carter** was the thirty-ninth president of the United States. He founded the Carter Centre. The aim of the Centre was to resolve conflicts, promote democracy, protect human rights and prevent disease and other problems. Another urgent problem we face nowadays is **terrorism**. Some countries have lived with terrorism for a long time. There are certain organizations in Spain or America who have used bombings and assassinations of officials and politicians. But today we face a new type of terrorist threat that is determined to kill thousands of ordinary people. London, Madrid, New York, Moscow have become deadly targets of terrorism. The terrorist attacks are becoming more and more destructive and cause a great worry. Of course they can't be ignored either.

But I think that not only well-known politicians but also common people can help to keep peace. They can organize and participate in peace rallies, propagate peace by all possible means, meet and make friends with people of different

countries and cultures to share and develop the ideas of peace. Parents should teach their children tolerance and respect for human life, explain to them how to solve their problems peacefully.

The people of the world should unite their efforts and solve such long-lasting problems as terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime, nationalism and ethnic tensions and provide a happy peaceful life on our planet

### **Holidays.**

In my opinion , going sightseeing is the best way to spend a holiday. Every city or country has something special such as archeological sights or famous landmarks. It's wonderful to see those places for yourself, not just in books or on TV. If I had a chance to go sightseeing somewhere I would definitely take a good camera and plenty of film. Also I would buy guidebooks in order to learn some facts about the places I saw. I would like to go on a safari holiday to see the animals in their natural environment

### **Jobs**

Job satisfaction is more important than money as you spend so much of your life at work. I feel you can get a lot of pleasure when you are doing a job you particularly enjoy. But on the other hand , people can very easily become uninterested in their careers if they feel they are not paid well for what they do, because if they work conscientiously they should feel appreciated. And a good salary is the best way to motivate them to work more productively.

People tend to think that some jobs can be done by women or men only. I personally think that jobs should be open to both sexes. Women may have the same qualifications and experience as men. But unfortunately, employers are often skeptical about having women in more responsible posts. Maybe they think that women can leave to have babies

### **Holidays**

If I were celebrating a special occasion, I would chose to go to a restaurant rather than have a party at home. In restaurants you can expect to enjoy varied and high quality food and drink. You don't need to spend the whole day cooking and washing up.

### **Home.**

If a fire broke out in my home , the first thing I would do would be to call the fire brigade and then I would try to locate the fire by throwing a dry blanket over it. Then I would try to leave the flat . I wouldn't waste time getting dressed or putting on my slippers. If there was no fire escape I would open the window and shout "Help"

There are many steps you could take to prevent a fire from starting in your house. Firstly, if you smoke you should ensure that all cigarettes are extinguished properly. You should never smoke in bed as you could fall asleep with a lit cigarette in your hand and this could be fatal. I think that electrical appliances should be unplugged at night. Gas fires should always be properly turned off.

### **Clothes**

I feel more comfortable in loose fitting clothes such as jeans and a cotton shirt. I'm happier in clothes that I know suit me rather than in latest fashions. And as I am an active person , I prefer to wear trainers

### **Shopping**

The main factor which influences me when I go shopping for clothes is the price. I don't see the point in paying large sums of money on a designer item of clothing when you can buy something for half the price that looks just as good. I also pay attention to the color of the garment I want to buy and try to match it with clothes I already own.

### **Young and Old**

Young people are much more carefree as they have fewer responsibilities than older people. Older people tend to prefer peace and quietness whereas young people usually seek adventure and excitement. They go out and socialize a lot more than older people. The latter tend to be a lot wiser and careful when making decisions. Finally, young people tend to be more mobile than older people who have usually settled in one place

But very often the young and old have a lot in common. It depends on their personality

### **Computers**

Computers have made a big difference to how children spend their leisure time. Before computers they might have read books or played imaginary games with their friends like cowboys and Indians. Now, they'd prefer to play computer games which they find more exciting

I think computers are great. They have made people's lives easier and revolutionized the workplace. Any kind of information is more accessible and at the touch of a button you can find something out that before might have taken hours

### **Money**

Sometimes I do the national lottery but usually just for fun. I never win anything. If I won a lot of money I would definitely go on an exotic holiday, but after that I'd put some money in the bank and let it gain interest, so that I would always have money if I needed it. Also I'd donate some money to charity so that other people could benefit from my good luck.

### **Prediction and Superstition**

My star sign is.... I read my stars once a week , just to find out what sort of week I can expect. I definitely think that some people have the gift which enables them to see the future. Nostradamus was a sixteenth century French physician who foretold the future. Some people say that he foretold such events as the Great Fire of London, nuclear warfare and AIDS.

People still believe today that some things can bring good luck. So it is believed to be lucky to find a four-leaf clover or a white butterfly. Putting a horseshoe outside your door wards off bad luck. If a black cat crosses your path, you walk under a ladder or you open your umbrella indoors, you will have bad luck. If you break a mirror, you are supposed to have seven years' bad luck

### **Hobbies.**

People like to take up a new hobby now and then. Some children are interested in taking photos and traveling. They love swimming and camping in summer. In winter they enjoy outdoor sports- skiing and skating and indoor activities-reading books and making models.

Some hobbies are ideal for just one person- knitting, collecting or tracing a family tree. Others are great fun to do with a friend or a group. But whatever hobbies we have we like having fun

1. What is a hobby?
2. What are children interested in?
3. What are grown –ups interested in?
4. What hobbies are ideal for just one person?
5. What hobbies are fun to do with a group?
6. Do you like sports?
7. What are your favorite sports and games?
8. What sport are you good at?
- 9.

### **Books.**

Books tell us about

- the beauty of nature
- space travel and faraway countries
- adventures of brave and clever people
- other worlds and planets
- different countries in the world, their customs and traditions
- our country, its sights
- the history of our Motherland

Books teach us

- to be attentive to people
  - to respect our parents, to help them about the house
  - to understand life
  - to be friendly, hard-working, hospitable, kind, brave clever, optimistic...
  - not to be naughty, bad, silly, cruel...
  - not to boast, not to be afraid of difficulties
  - to love wildlife, to care about endangered animals
  - to get good marks at school, to behave well
1. Do you like reading,
  2. When did you learn to read,?
  3. Do you go to the library?
  4. Who helps you to choose books?
  5. What types of books do you know?
  6. What do books tell us about?
7. What do books teach us?

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- What are your favorite sports and games?
- What sport are you good at?

### **Books**

I find the way children spend hours just watching TV quite depressing. It can't be good for their imagination. I think it would be much better for them to enjoy the pleasures of reading

### **Travelling**

Hotels should meet the needs of the modern tourist

- be equipped with modern facilities, from swimming pools to satellite TV
- the staff would be highly qualified and experienced
- the prices should be reasonable

### **English**

If you want to speak English fluently you should listen to tapes as frequently as possible. If you can afford to go to an English-speaking country it's nice but you should study the rules of English carefully.

### Crime and Punishment ('The burglars' friend)

1. What are the past forms? wake hear find keep leave hold think catch
2. Correct the mistakes
  1. Russell woke up at two o'clock      5 Russell's mother kept her purse in her handbag
  2. He woke up because he was thirsty      6 they left at 5 o'clock
  - 3 He heard a noise in the kitchen      7 When they left Russell watched TV
  4. He found three men      8 the police caught the burglars the next day
3. Write the questions.
  1. Russell woke up at 2 o'clock      6 In a drawer in the kitchen
  - 2 They were in bed      7. 50 p
  - 3 Because he heard a noise and saw a light on      8 At 4 a.m.
  - 4 Two      9 The next day
  - 5 They told him they were friends of the family      10 Last week

### Crime and Punishment

#### Crimes

crime	definition	criminal	verb
murder	<i>killing someone</i>	murderer	to murder
shoplifting	<i>stealing sth from a shop</i>	shoplifter	to shoplift
burglary	<i>stealing sth from sb's home</i>	burglar	to burgle
smuggling	<i>taking sth illegally into another country</i>	smuggler	to smuggle
kidnapping	<i>taking a person hostage in exchange for money</i>	kidnapper	to kidnap
terrorism	<i>using violence fro political ends</i>	terrorist	to terrorize
blackmail	<i>threatening to make a dark secret public in order to get some money</i>	blackmailer	to blackmail
drug-trafficking	<i>buying and selling drugs</i>	drug-trafficker	to traffic in drugs to peddle drugs to deal in drugs
forgery	<i>to try to pass off a copy as a real thing</i>	forger	to forge
pickpocketing	<i>stealing from someone's pocket or bag</i>	pickpocket	to pickpocket
mugging	<i>attacking someone, often on the street, to get money</i>	mugger	to mug
hi-jacking	<i>taking control of an aircraft, in order to make political demands</i>	hi-jacker	to hijack
bribery	<i>giving or taking of bribes</i>	briber	to bribe
rape	<i>having sex with someone against their will</i>		to rape

**Punishments:** prison, death penalty, probation, community service, fine

**People connected with the law:** witness, detective, traffic warden, lawyer, judge, members of a jury

Bill **committed a crime** when he robbed a bank. Someone **witnessed the crime** and told the police. The police **charged** him **with** bank robbery. They also **accused** his twin brother, Ben, **of being his accomplice**. **The case came to the court** and they **were tried**. **The trial** did not last very long. Bill and Ben both **pleaded not guilty** in court. Their lawyer did his best **to defend** them but the **prosecuting** layer **produced a very strong case against** them.

After brief deliberations, **the jury passed verdict on** them. They decided that Bill **was guilty** but Ben **was innocent**. The judge **acquitted** Ben **of** any involvement in the robbery but **sentenced** Bill **to three years in prison**. He also had to **pay a large fine**. Bill **served** two years in prison, but **was released from** prison a year early. He **got time off** for good behavior

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*Dog detectives (Unit 35 Blueprint Two)*

Before you read

Do the police use dogs in your country?

When and where do they use them?

## **THANK YOU RUSTY**

(By Don Baker)

It was a very special day yesterday for Rusty, a 9-year-old police sniffer dog. Most sniffer dogs retire at the age of 7, but Rusty has just retired after nearly 9 years' duty. Rusty certainly ended his career with a bang. Last week Rusty and his trainer, Jim Turner discovered 2 kilos of cocaine worth over 100,000 pounds in an East London house. "He's one of our best sniffer dogs," says Jim. "We're going to miss him." Rusty had a special party last night at a police dog training school near Bristol. Rusty's retirement present was a juicy bone and a new collar.

## **Dog detectives behind the headlines**

*This week Steve Walters takes a look at the use of sniffer dogs in crime detection*

SNIFFER DOGS are used by police and customs officers all over the world to detect drugs and explosives. Dogs have a far better sense of smell than people because their smell receptors at the top of a dog's nose are 100 times longer than in humans

Training for a sniffer dog lasts 12 weeks. They are trained in two stages. First, the trainer teaches the dog to recognize a particular drug or explosive. He hides a sample of the drug or explosive inside a rolled-up newspaper or a rag, which is called a training aid. He places it where the dog can see it and tells the dog to bring the aid back. When it does so, he gives the dog a reward – usually a friendly fight with a trainer or a bone.

The dog soon learns to recognize the substance by its smell. The type of training aid is changed regularly but the smell always remains the same. In the second stage, the aid is hidden where the dog cannot see it. Smells such as perfumes, which some smugglers use to hide the smell of the drugs, are also used so that the dog becomes familiar with them.

Sniffer dogs are trained to detect 12 different types of explosives and four different types of drugs

### 1. Reading

*Read the newspaper cutting about Rusty and correct these statements*

1. Rusty has just completed his training
2. Most dogs retire at the age of nine.
3. Last week Rusty discovered some explosives
4. Last night the dog trainers gave Rusty a birthday party

*Now read the other article and complete the information*

#### **SNIFFER DOGS**

Used by:	Length of training:	Types of training aids used	Number of substances dogs can detect
Main use:	Number of stages	Rewards given:	

### 2. Vocabulary

*Find words in the text which have a similar meaning to the following*

- 1 to finish work permanently
- 2 to give a course of instruction
- 3 a part of a process
- 4 a piece of torn material or cloth
- 5 a return for doing something well
- 6 to discover something from clues

*3. Rewrite the second paragraph of the main text using the passive*

They are trained in two stages. First the dog is taught to...

*4. In pairs, use the words to talk about how people are punished in your country for different crimes*

- A- What happens if you are caught driving over a speed limit?  
B- You are fined / You are banned from driving for a year

[ to fine / to ban from driving (for...years) to be sent to prison (for...years) ]

What happens in your country if you are caught:

3. driving over the speed limit – drinking and driving - stealing – smuggling drugs

### 5. Listening

*Before you listen* What sort of clues do police look after at the scene of a crime?

*Listen to a police officer talking about how fingerprints are used to solve a crime. Put the stages in the correct order*

- A They cover the surfaces with fine powder to find fingerprints  
B The police search the scene of the crime in great detail



- C They compare them with fingerprints of suspects and known criminals
- D They place sticky tape over the fingerprints to lift them
- E They collect clues
- F They photograph the prints back in the laboratory

### 6 Writing

Rewrite the sentences from Exercise 5 in the correct order, using the present passive. Link the sentences with time markers First...and Next.... Then.... After that... Finally...

### *Unit 41 (Blueprint Intermediate)*

#### SO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE POLICE?

*Fay Rowan interviews Errol Mason, a young police officer from Bristol*

When I contacted Police Constable Errol Mason, he was just finishing a nine-day night shift and was understandably trying to catch up on lost sleep. "It's hard to sleep during the day but you just have to try," said Errol, "otherwise you end up exhausted."

I asked him when we could meet for a chat. "What about coming along to an ice rink on Tuesday evening – say, about eight?" he suggested. Errol told me that he spent most of his free time playing ice hockey. So the following Tuesday evening I sat and watched Errol skating across the ice. Later, over a cup of coffee, I asked him what his job in the police involved. "Many people have only one image of the police. They think we spend our time chasing criminals in fast cars with wailing sirens and flashing lights," said Errol with a grin. "In fact, that's only one small part of the job. A lot of police work can be quite boring. You can be on the desk doing routine office work for a whole month at a time. Then the next month you may be driving around on patrol. Then, perhaps, you're 'on the beat' for a bit"

Errol told me that one of the most interesting parts of the job was in fact "community policing" I asked him what this involved. "You have your own special area which you have to patrol. It really means being on the beat: walking round keeping your eyes open, making sure you know what's going on, chatting to people, basically trying to prevent crime"

Thinking of some of the recent ugly scenes at football matches and demonstrations, I asked Errol if he was conscious of the dangers involved and if he was ever frightened. "Sometimes, yes," he replied. "Anyone would be. It's just one of the things you learn to accept. Violence is always frightening and a lot more people nowadays are carrying weapons- knives, cashes and so on. Except in extreme circumstances, all we carry are truncheons, handcuffs and a radio." When I asked if the irregular hours of police work affected his social life, Errol smiled. "My girlfriend gets a bit annoyed- she says I'm either on night shift or I'm playing ice hockey! But it's not like being a doctor. When you are off duty, that's it. It has to be a real emergency like a major riot or something to be called out on your night off."

If you think police work sounds like the job for you, write for more information

**Glossary:** **cash-** a short solid rubber or metal tube used as a weapon

**Truncheon** – a short stick carried as a weapon by the police

**Handcuffs** – a pair of metal rings joined by a short chain for holding together the wrists of a prisoner

#### **Words to learn**

Exhausted chase criminal (n) grin (n) patrol (n) demonstration off duty emergency riot

#### **1. Read and find out**

- 1 when and where the interviewer met Errol
- 2 what people think the police spend most of their time doing
- 3 what equipment Errol carries

#### **2. Choose the right answer**

1. According to Errol the best part of his job is
  - a) Working on night shift
  - b) driving around in fast cars
  - c) doing 'community policing'
2. He thinks his job is
  - a) more ordinary than people imagine
  - b) more exciting than people imagine
  - c) easier than people imagine
3. He says that police work is more dangerous nowadays because
  - a) there are so many more football matches and demonstrations
  - b) more people are carrying dangerous weapons
  - c) the police only carry a truncheon and handcuffs
4. Errol's girlfriend is annoyed because
  - a) he doesn't spend enough time with her
  - b) he's always being called out when he's on duty
  - c) he never gets any time off

#### **3. Read and think**

1. Why is working a nightshift more tiring than working a dayshift?
2. How do you think people get their image of the police?
3. Why do you think Errol finds going on the beat interesting?
4. Why do you think the police carry radios?
5. What do you think is an example of 'an extreme circumstance'?

#### **4. about you**

1. Did you ever have to report an incident to the police?
2. Do you know any police officers personally? What are they like when they are off duty?

#### TALKING POINT

1. What aspects of police work do you think are dangerous and unpleasant?
2. Do you think the police treat all the sections of society in the same way?
3. What is the public image of the police in your country?

