# Олимпиада по английскому языку «Школа Максимовича» 2026

Заочный тур

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**Task 1. Grammar Test**
*10 points*

Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.
You get 1 point for every correct answer.

1. Checkers _____ favourite game.

A. is the Duke of Kent's
B. are the Duke of Kent's
C. is the Duke's of Kent
D. are the Duke's of Kent

2. It's essential that the council _____ informed.

A. were
B. had been
C. be
D. would be
E. to be
F. would have been

3. _____ winter, the birds flew south.

A. Being
B. To be
C. Having been
D. It being
E. It been
F. There be

4. There _____ number of typos in the document.

A. are going to be a
B. is going to be a
C. are going to be the
D. is going to be the

5. We searched in _____ library, but failed to find _____ evidence.

A. the London's largest; –
B. the largest London's; –
C. London's largest; –
D. largest London's; –
E. the London's largest; an
F. the largest London's; an
G. London's largest; an
H. largest London's; an

6. He was _____ student.

A. too good
B. the too good
C. a too good
D. too the good
E. too a good
F. too good a
G. too good the
H. good

7. That _____, everyone went home.

A. doing
B. having done
C. been done
D. done
E. to have done
F. to be doing
G. to be done

H. having been doing

8. That was the fifth time John _____ Liverpool.

A. was visiting
B. visited
C. would visit
D. had visited
E. has visited
F. to visit
G. to have visited
H. has been visiting

9. Brazil are the only team _____ the World Cup five times.

A. to win
B. having won
C. to be winning
D. won
E. to have won
F. to have been won

10. _____ always attracted to _____ unknown.

A. Adventurous is; –
B. An adventurous is; –
C. The adventurous is; –
D. Adventurous are; the
E. The adventurous are; –
F. Adventurous are; –
G. The adventurous are; the
H. Adventurous are; an

**Task 2. Reading and Vocabulary**
*10 points*

Read the story and complete both tasks. There are 10 questions in each task. Each correct answer is worth half a point.

**A Canary for One**

Ernest Hemingway

*(Abridged version)*

The train passed very quickly a long, red stone house with a garden and four thick palm-trees with tables under them in the shade. On the other side was the sea. Then there was a cutting through red stone and clay, and the sea was only occasionally and far below against rocks.

“I bought him in Palermo,” the American lady said. “We only had an hour ashore and it was Sunday morning. The man wanted to be paid in dollars and I gave him a dollar and a half. He really sings very beautifully.”

It was very hot in the train and it was very hot in the lit salon compartment. There was no breeze came through the open window. The American lady pulled the window-blind down and there was no more sea, even occasionally. On the other side there was glass, then the corridor, then an open window, and outside the window were dusty trees and an oiled road and flat fields of grapes, with gray-stone hills behind them.

Inside the lit salon compartment the porter had pulled down the three beds from inside the wall and prepared them for sleeping. In the night the American lady lay without sleeping because the train was a rapide and went very fast and she was afraid of the speed in the night. The canary from Palermo, a cloth spread over his cage, was out of the draft in the corridor.

In the morning the train was near Paris, and after the American lady had come out from the washroom, looking very wholesome and middle-aged and American in spite of not having slept, and had taken the cloth off the birdcage and hung the cage in the sun, she went to the restaurant-car for breakfast. When she came back again, the beds had been pushed back into the wall and made into seats, the canary was shaking his feathers in the sunlight that came through the open window, and the train was much nearer Paris.

“He loves the sun,” the American lady said. “He’ll sing now in a little while.”

The canary shook his feathers and pecked into them. “I’ve always loved birds,” the American lady said. “I’m taking him home to my little girl. There – he’s singing now.”

The canary chirped and the feathers on his throat stood out, then he dropped his bill and pecked into his feathers again. For several minutes I had not listened to the American lady, who was talking to my wife.

“Is your husband American too?” asked the lady.

“Yes,” said my wife. “We’re both Americans.”

“I thought you were English.”

“Oh, no.”

“I’m so glad you’re Americans. American men make the best husbands,” the American lady was saying. “That was why we left the Continent, you know. My daughter fell in love with a man in Vevey.” She stopped. “They were simply madly in love.” She stopped again. “I took her away, of course.”

“Did she get over it?” asked my wife.

“I don’t think so,” said the American lady. “She wouldn’t eat anything and she wouldn’t sleep at all. I’ve tried so very hard, but she doesn’t seem to take an interest in anything. She doesn’t care about things. I couldn’t have her marrying a foreigner.” She paused. “Someone, a very good friend, told me once, ‘No foreigner can make an American girl a good husband.’”

“No,” said my wife, “I suppose not.”

The train was now coming into Paris. There were many cars standing on tracks – brown wooden restaurant-cars and brown wooden sleeping-cars that would go to Italy at five o’clock that night, if that train still left at five; the cars were marked Paris-Rome, and cars, with seats on the roofs, that went back and forth to the suburbs with, at certain hours, people in all the seats and on the roofs, if that were the way it were still done, and passing were the white walls and many windows of houses.

“Americans make the best husbands,” the American lady said to my wife. I was getting down the bags. “American men are the only men in the world to marry.”

“How long ago did you leave Vevey?” asked my wife.

“Two years ago this fall. It’s her, you know, that I’m taking the canary to.”

“Was the man your daughter was in love with a Swiss?”

“Yes,” said the American lady. “He was from a very good family in Vevey. He was going to be an engineer. They met there in Vevey. They used to go on long walks together.”

“I know Vevey,” said my wife. “We were there on our honeymoon.”

“Were you really? That must have been lovely. I had no idea, of course, that she’d fall in love with him.”

“It was a very lovely place,” said my wife.

“Yes,” said the American lady. “Isn’t it lovely? Where did you stop there?”

“We stayed at the Trois Couronnes,” said my wife.

“It’s such a fine old hotel,” said the American lady.

“Yes,” said my wife. “We had a very fine room and in the fall the country was lovely.”

“Were you there in the fall?”

“Yes,” said my wife.

We were passing three cars that had been in a wreck. They were splintered open and the roofs sagged in.

"Look," I said. "There's been a wreck."

Then the train stopped and porters came up to the windows. I handed bags through the windows, and we were out on the dim longness of the platform, and the American lady put herself in charge of one of three men from Cook's who said: "Just a moment, madame, and I'll look for your name."

The porter brought a truck and piled on the baggage, and my wife said goodbye and I said goodbye to the American lady, whose name had been found by the man from Cook's on a typewritten page in a sheaf of typewritten pages which he replaced in his pocket.

We followed the porter with the truck down the long cement platform beside the train. At the end was a gate and a man took the tickets.

We were returning to Paris to set up separate residences.

**Task 2.1. Reading Comprehension**

Read the statements. Write T (True), F (False) or NS (Not Stated) in each gap.

T – the text supports the statement.

F – the text says something different.

NS – the text does not give enough information to decide.

1. The canary is meant for the American lady's daughter, whom her mother separated from the man she loved. _____
2. The American lady bought the canary in a marketplace in Palermo. _____
3. The porter pulled down both the window-blind and the beds. _____
4. The canary's cage was in a place in the corridor where it was protected from the draft. _____
5. The American lady slept well during the night. _____
6. The beds were seats again when the American lady came back from breakfast. ___
7. The ending shows a contrast between the American lady's views on marriage and the narrator's own situation. _____
8. The American lady's daughter asked her mother to buy a canary. _____
9. The daughter had regained her interest in everyday life after leaving Vevey. _____
10. The narrator and his wife planned to stop living together after their journey. ____

**Task 2.2. Vocabulary in Context**

Complete each sentence with ONE to FIVE words from the story. Copy the words exactly and keep them in the same order as in the text. Do not change their form. You may change capital letters. Each answer must fit the meaning and grammar of the sentence.

For sentences 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9, use the exact number of words shown in brackets.

*Example: We waited for the train on the _____.*
*Answer: platform*

1. The old sofa had _____ in the middle, so it was uncomfortable to sleep on.
2. For their _____, the newly married couple chose a romantic trip to Italy.
3. The boy was still upset about losing the match. His friends hoped he would soon _____. (Use THREE words.)
4. When no one offered to lead the group, Anna _____ organising the class concert. (Use FIVE words.)
5. The crash left the wooden doors _____, with sharp pieces of wood sticking out. (Use TWO words.)
6. A cool _____ blew from the sea.
7. After several days at sea, we finally went _____ to explore the harbour town. (Use ONE word meaning “onto land”.)
8. _____ her love of birds, she never kept one in a cage.
9. After visiting an art gallery, Tom began to _____ painting and wanted to learn more about it. (Use FOUR words.)
10. At sunrise, a bird _____ outside my window and woke me up.

**Task 3. History and Culture of English-Speaking Countries**

*10 points*

Answer all 10 questions in English. You can get 1 point for each question. Short answers are enough. For Question 6 give a short explanation.

**Question 1**

Look at Photo 1. In the story, the Brown family gives this bear the name of the railway station where they find him. What is the name of this London station?



*Photo 1*

**Question 2**

Look at Photo 2. This London monument honours a British admiral who died in a sea battle during the Napoleonic Wars. What was the battle called?



*Photo 2*

**Question 3**

Look at Photo 3. This statue in Kensington Gardens shows a boy from a story who never grows up. Which writer created this character?



*Photo 3*

**Question 4**
The Statue of Liberty in New York was a gift to the American people. The people of which European country gave them this gift?

**Question 5**
A British legend says that if the ravens ever leave this fortress, both the fortress and the kingdom will fall. What is this famous place called?

**Question 6**
While travelling in Canada, a tourist sees a picture of the British king on a Canadian coin. “Have I been given foreign money by mistake?” she asks. How does Canada’s history explain the king’s picture on its money?

**Question 7**
An Australian detective gets a strange report: “A small, furry stranger keeps appearing in tourists’ selfies on Rottnest Island. It has round ears and seems to smile in every photo!” There is one more clue: mothers carry their babies in a pouch, like kangaroos. What animal is the mystery visitor?

**Question 8**
A British tourist in New York asks for a room on the “first floor”. She means the floor just above street level. What is this floor usually called in American English?

**Question 9**
One of the four countries of the UK has no separate symbol on the Union Jack. When the first version of the flag was made in 1606, this country was already part of the Kingdom of England. Which country is it?

**Question 10**
A traditional hot breakfast with eggs, bacon and sausages has an informal name in British English. The name is written with a hyphen. What is it?