

ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ  
АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК. 2026 г.  
ПРИГЛАСИТЕЛЬНЫЙ ЭТАП. 8–10 КЛАССЫ

**Максимальный балл за работу – 65.**

**LISTENING**  
**Time: 10 minutes**  
**(10 points)**

**Задание 1.**

*For items 1–10, listen to a radio talk for young people about astrology, and decide whether the statements 1–10 are TRUE according to the text you hear, or FALSE, or the information on the statement is NOT STATED in the text. You will hear the text twice.*

1. The movement of stars determines people's lives.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
2. Most people have no faith in astrology.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
3. Should they decide on a serious issue, a small percentage of people are likely to turn to the stars.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
4. Simon agrees with psychologists on the influence of a person's time of birth on their personality.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
5. The time of birth remains a defining factor throughout the whole life.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
6. A statistical comparison between the person's choice of career and their star sign is the most effective tool in predicting future events in their life.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
7. More than 15 % of entertainers were born in the second half of summer.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
8. Spring is a favourable period for travelling and finances.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED

- 9.** People in financial professions are connected with one particular star sign.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
- 10.** Technological advances have reduced the influence of nature on us.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED

**READING**  
**Time: 20 minutes**  
**(15 points)**

*Read an extract from a novel and answer questions.*

**Australian Road Trip**

Dad had been driving our family through the beautiful countryside of Australia for some days, mainly along the coast. Then he suddenly decided we should explore what the scenery was like inland too, so we turned away from the sea and drove for miles through the countryside. Dad was very optimistic about what an adventure it would be, but it wasn't long before the rest of us suspected it was going to be pretty dull, not to mention uncomfortable as the roads were now full of hazardous holes.

The scenery was mostly dry plains, spotted with eucalyptus trees and a few flowering plants somehow managing to survive the climate. It seemed just about the loneliest place I'd ever visited. We drove through several towns – tiny groups of houses with a handful of stores – separated by miles and miles of empty road in between, sometimes punctuated by the odd house on the roadside here and there.

I was curious about the signs that pointed away up endless long driveways to single houses, and started to wonder about the lives of people living there. But immediately the thought of living in such a quiet, remote place made my heart sink, and I thought longingly of my own house thousands of miles away.

If we were hoping to see some wildlife, we weren't disappointed. Large adult kangaroos were a common sight as the sun started to go down, feeding off the rather thin grass on the roadside – probably because on the other side of the fences the cattle had eaten absolutely all the nicer stuff, so nothing else remained for the poor kangaroos. Luckily they stayed away from vehicles, so at least we weren't in danger of crashing into them.

Further along the way, we met some cattle drovers who'd been driving their cattle thousands of miles over a period of months, towards areas where they knew there'd been small amounts of rain. There were just five of them to look after more than a thousand animals, and we learnt that they just drove their cattle towards wherever it rained. They never knew what would happen from one day to the next, which seemed a strange, unattractive sort of life to me.

Then we finally approached a big town, where there was a huge zoo. By this time, we really wanted to get out of our car and do something, so we parked up and went in. The zoo had mainly Australian animals, some of which we'd already come across along the way, so we were quite keen to find out more about them. We saw a crocodile show, where they get crocodiles to jump out of the water by hanging some meat in the air. Far from being the quiet animals they look when they are fast asleep on a riverbank, they were transformed into fierce, snapping creatures that reminded me of ancient, terrifying dinosaurs.

While we were there, two new crocodiles arrived. The two adults had been

found injured in the wild, and transported to the zoo in a plane, inside special long wooden boxes designed to keep crocodiles cool and quiet during a journey. Once they were at the zoo, they were released into their pond, and they ran straight into the water to cool off, sinking down until just their eyes were visible.

Then we went off to see some kangaroos. This time, rather than just seeing them from afar, you could touch them if you wanted and feel their soft fur. One actually had a baby in its special pouch, like a little pocket, with just the baby's tail sticking out! The keeper happened to mention that adult kangaroos can kick at their enemies really fiercely, so I decided against getting too near the mother, even though she was with the keeper, and just settled for a photo instead.

## Задание 2.

### Task 1

*For items 1–7 choose option **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information given in the text; **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information given in the text, or if the information on the statement is **NOT STATED** in the text.*

1. Sara had never been to Australia before.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
2. The vegetation of the inland territory they were driving across was very diverse.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
3. In the afternoon, the travelers saw a number of kangaroos along the road.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
4. The cattle drovers were trying to keep the animals safe from the rain.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
5. The zoo didn't appeal to the travelers as it kept only animals endemic to Australia, which they had already seen along the way.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
6. The new crocodiles were transported to the zoo by air in individual cases.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED
7. Sarah decided to steer clear of the mother kangaroo for fear of being attacked.  
A) TRUE                      B) FALSE                      C) NOT STATED

## Task 2

*Choose option which best fits according to the text.*

**Задание 3.** Sarah says that when her dad drove off the coast road to explore the countryside

- A) he quickly decided he had made a mistake.
- B) the family were relieved to be on better roads.
- C) he was thrilled with the views they discovered
- D) the family soon realised the drive wouldn't be very exciting.

**Задание 4.** How does Sarah describe the towns they passed through?

- A) There was no sign of life between each one.
- B) They were located very far apart.
- C) There were a lot of gardens in each one.
- D) They had quite a few shops.

**Задание 5.** How was Sarah affected by the remote homes she saw along the way?

- A) She began to feel quite homesick.
- B) She was keen to know more about the owners' lifestyles.
- C) She found the thought of living there scary.
- D) She wondered why people wanted to live so far from other people.

**Задание 6.** When Sarah first spotted some wild kangaroos, she

- A) hoped they wouldn't be the only wildlife they saw.
- B) was afraid they might be dangerous.
- C) felt concerned about their lack of food.
- D) was surprised at their size.

**Задание 7.** What did Sarah feel about the cattle drovers' way of life?

- A) She envied them their lifestyle.
- B) It was very unpredictable.
- C) It was physically exhausting.
- D) She decided she'd like to work with animals too.

**Задание 8.** When Sarah saw the crocodile show at the zoo, she was

- A) frightened by their behaviour
- B) disappointed that they were asleep.
- C) keen to have a better look at them.
- D) attracted by their unusual appearance.

**Задание 9.** Sarah says that the new crocodiles at the zoo

- A) appeared stressed by the journey they'd had.
- B) had been transported there in an inappropriate way.
- C) seemed pleased to be in their new home.
- D) had been brought in because they were babies.

**Задание 10.** At the zoo, Sarah managed to

- A) photograph some kangaroos.
- B) see how kangaroos defend themselves.
- C) ask the kangaroos' keeper some questions.
- D) stroke the kangaroos.

**USE OF ENGLISH**

**Time: 60 minutes**

**(39 points)**

**Задание 11.**

**Task 1 (10 points)**

*For items 1–10 read the text below. Use the word given in capitals to form a new word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).*

**Games in Space**

For astronauts on long missions into space, (0) <b>boredom</b> can be a real problem.	BORE
In order to help the astronauts, (1) _____ and doctors need to find out what this feels like.	SCIENCE
As part of the (2) _____ programme, six volunteers will be locked away for 520 days to see what effect this has on their mind and	SEARCH
body. During their time in (3) _____, the volunteers will be able to communicate with their controllers, but only in a way that replicates the astronauts' experience. For example, the further	ISOLATE
away from 'Earth' they get, the longer the delay in the signal, so they will be (4) _____ to have a conversation in real time.	ABLE
As part of the experiment, the volunteers will be allowed to play computer games. There will be a (5) _____ of solo games	MIX
and (6) _____ games available. Afterwards, they will be asked to	COMPETE
give (7) _____ on how hard they found the games to play and what	FEED
their (8) _____ state was at the time.	EMOTION
As a result of the (9) _____ gathered, it may be possible to create	INFORM
special (10) _____ for crews on future missions.	SOFT

**Задание 12.**

**Task 2 (15 points)**

*For items 1–15, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If a line is correct put a tick. Use letter "V" as a tick. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word in a given space. There are two examples at the beginning (0 and 00).*

<b>Transport solutions</b>		
<b>0</b>	First of all, walking is obviously the cheapest	<b>V</b>
<b>00</b>	means of travelling, and can be the quicker	<b>the</b>
<b>1</b>	in a city centre. Of course, the further you have	
<b>2</b>	to go, the more so tired you will become.	
<b>3</b>	In some ways walking is more healthier than	
<b>4</b>	travelling by bus or car, but it can be just as the	
<b>5</b>	unhealthy because cities are the much more	
<b>6</b>	polluted than they used to be. Cars are faster	
<b>7</b>	of course and more than convenient, but as cities	
<b>8</b>	become more of crowded, parking is getting	
<b>9</b>	harder. Sometimes public transport is better,	
<b>10</b>	even though buses don' t go as fast as cars do it.	
<b>11</b>	Cars are a lot more and convenient but as they	
<b>12</b>	cause most pollution, it is the better to avoid	
<b>13</b>	using them if possible. In a city the fastest way	
<b>14</b>	of travelling is on a bike, which keeps you fitter	
<b>15</b>	and is not so that noisy as a motorbike or a car.	

**Задание 13.**

**Task 3 (10 points)**

*For items 1–10, read the text below. Fill in the blanks by choosing the word that fits best from the options given below.*

**PET LOVERS**

The dog is no longer top of the pet world. He is now (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in British homes by the cat. After years of steady (2) \_\_\_\_\_, the dog (3) \_\_\_\_\_ reached a peak of 7 million in 1993. Since then the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of dogs has declined and there has been a slow (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in numbers. Meanwhile the number of cats has crept up almost (6) \_\_\_\_\_. The reason is one of economics. A cat is a much more (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and less demanding pet for couples who are out at work all day. If you have to be a dog, it pays to be a faithful one. You could become seriously wealthy. Last week, a dog called Whisp found herself richer by £50,000 on the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of her master, John Jones. It was Mr Jones' (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that the money should be used 'to find a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ home with a person who will love and care for my dog Whisp for the rest of her life'.

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>1</b>	numbered	unnumbered	outnumbered
<b>2</b>	growth	growing	grow
<b>3</b>	popularity	populace	population
<b>4</b>	popularity	populace	population
<b>5</b>	reduce	reduction	reducing
<b>6</b>	noticeably	noticed	unnoticed
<b>7</b>	practicable	practical	practiced
<b>8</b>	dying	death	dead
<b>9</b>	intensity	intense	intention
<b>10</b>	suitable	suiting	suited

**Задание 14.**

**Task 4 (5 points)**

*Choose the correct ending of English proverbs. There are three extra phrases you don't need. There is an example at the beginning.*

<b>0</b>	<b>E</b>
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<b>0</b>	Necessity is	<b>A</b>	cannot change its spots.
<b>1</b>	Actions speak	<b>B</b>	than sorry.
<b>2</b>	A cat in gloves	<b>C</b>	better than no bread.
<b>3</b>	Half a loaf is	<b>D</b>	gets the worm.
<b>4</b>	Better safe	<b>E</b>	the mother of invention.
<b>5</b>	The leopard	<b>F</b>	the best policy.
		<b>G</b>	louder than words.
		<b>H</b>	than never.
		<b>I</b>	catches no mice.