

**МУНИЦИПАЛЬНЫЙ ЭТАП**

**ПИСЬМЕННЫЙ ТУР**

возрастная группа (9-11 классы)

*Уважаемый участник олимпиады!*

Вам предстоит выполнить письменные задания. Время выполнения заданий письменного тура **120** минут. Выполнение заданий целесообразно организовать следующим образом:

- не спеша, внимательно прочитайте формулировку задания;
- напишите правильный вариант ответа в бланке ответов;
- после выполнения всех предложенных заданий еще раз удостоверьтесь в правильности ваших ответов;
- если потребуется корректировка выбранного Вами варианта ответа, то неправильный вариант ответа зачеркните крестиком и рядом напишите новый.

Предупреждаем Вас, что:

- при оценке тестовых заданий, где необходимо определить один правильный ответ, **0** баллов выставляется за неверный ответ и в случае, если участником отмечены несколько ответов (в том числе правильный), или все ответы;
- при оценке тестовых заданий, где необходимо определить все правильные ответы, **0 баллов** выставляется, если участником отмечены неверные ответы, большее количество ответов, чем предусмотрено в задании (в том числе правильные ответы) или все ответы. Задание письменного тура считается выполненным, если Вы вовремя сдаете его членам жюри.

**Максимальная оценка – 70 баллов.**

**LISTENING (10 points)**

**Time: 10 minutes**

**Task 1**

***For items 1–10 listen to a dialogue between a famous actor and his woman colleague and decide whether the statements 1–10 are TRUE according to the text you hear (A), or FALSE (B), or the information on the statement is NOT STATED in the text (C).***

***You will hear the text twice.***

1. The woman says that has met many people who enjoy making movies.
2. The man has little rituals throughout the day when making movies.
3. The man believes finding personal space is important for any actor.
4. The man worked in a theater before starting his film career.
5. The man has always lived in Los Angeles.
6. The woman implies that many people in the film industry become bored with their work.
7. The story of The Daughter primarily revolves around western themes.
- 8 The character he plays has a complicated past involving the Comanche tribe.
9. The man always dreamed of playing a Texan character.
10. His grandmother's friends taught him skills related to hunting and crafting.

**Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.**

## ***READING (15 points)***

***Time: 25 minutes***

### **Task 1**

***For questions 1-15 read the text and do the tasks below it.***

#### **The Sahara Desert**

The Sahara is the largest hot desert in the world and the third-largest desert overall, following the cold deserts of Antarctica and the Arctic. It is one of the harshest environments on Earth, covering 3.6 million square miles (9.4 million square kilometers) – nearly a third of the African continent and roughly the size of the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii). The Sahara is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Red Sea to the east, the Mediterranean Sea to the north, and the Sahel savanna to the south. This vast desert spans 11 countries: Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, and Western Sahara.

The Sahara boasts a variety of land features, with its iconic sand dune fields often depicted in movies. Some dunes can reach heights of nearly 600 feet (183 meters) and encompass about 15 percent of the entire desert. Other topographical features include mountains, plateaus, sand- and gravel-covered plains, salt flats, basins, and depressions. Emi Koussi, an extinct volcano located in Chad, is the highest point in the Sahara, reaching 11,204 feet (3,415 m) above sea level. In contrast, the Qattara Depression in northwestern Egypt represents the Sahara's lowest point at 436 feet (133 m) below sea level.

While water is scarce throughout the region, the Sahara is home to two permanent rivers (the Nile and the Niger), at least 20 seasonal lakes, and extensive aquifers that serve as the primary water sources for over 90 major oases in the desert. Initially, water management authorities believed that these aquifers were "fossil aquifers" – water reserves that were formed under different climatic and geological conditions in the past – and feared that they would soon deplete due to overuse. However, a study published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* in 2013 found that the aquifers are still replenished through rain and runoff.

Despite its extreme aridity, the Sahara supports diverse plant and animal species. According to the World Wildlife Fund, approximately 500 plant species, 70 mammalian species, 90 avian species, 100 reptilian species, and numerous species of spiders, scorpions, and other small arthropods inhabit the desert. The camel, one of the Sahara's most iconic animals, has origins tracing back to North America. Its ancestors traveled to Africa across the Bering Isthmus between 3 million and 5 million years ago. Camels were domesticated about 3,000 years ago on the southeast Arabian Peninsula for transportation in the desert. Known as the "ships of the desert," camels are exceptionally well adapted to the Sahara's harsh conditions. Their humps store

fat, which can be converted into energy and hydration during periods without food. Camels can survive for over a week without water and several months without food.

Plant species in the Sahara have evolved to withstand the arid conditions, with deep roots that reach underground to access hidden water sources and leaves shaped into spines to minimize moisture loss. The driest parts of the desert are devoid of vegetation, yet oasis areas, such as the Nile Valley, support a rich diversity of plants, including olive trees, date palms, and various shrubs and grasses.

While the Sahara currently has a dry, inhospitable desert climate, it alternates between arid and lush, green oases approximately every 20,000 years, as revealed by a study published in 2019 in the journal *Science Advances*. Researchers examined marine sediments containing dust deposits from the Sahara over the past 240,000 years and found that the cycle between a dry and green Sahara coincided with slight changes in Earth's axial tilt, which influences monsoon activity. When Earth's axis tilted the Northern Hemisphere just one degree closer to the sun (from approximately 23.5 to 24.5 degrees), it received more sunlight, leading to increased monsoon rains and supporting a verdant landscape in the Sahara.

Since 1920, the area of the Sahara Desert has expanded by nearly 10%, according to a 2018 study published in the *Journal of Climate*, and is expected to continue expanding at a similar rate until 2050, as suggested by a 2020 study in the journal *Scientific Reports*. While all deserts, including the Sahara, experience seasonal fluctuations – growing during dry periods and shrinking during wet periods – human-induced climate change, combined with natural climate cycles, is contributing to a more persistent expansion of the Sahara. The authors of the study estimated that around a third of the desert's growth can be attributed to human-driven climate change.

***For Questions 1-10, decide whether the following statements agree with the information in the text.***

In boxes **1-10** on your answer sheet, write

- A** if the statement agrees with the information in the text
- B** if the statement contradicts the information in the text
- C** if there is no information on this

1. The Sahara is larger than any other deserts across the globe.
2. The Sahara Desert's dimensions are comparable to the size of North America.
3. The Sahara has no permanent source of freshwater that sustains its oases.
4. All types of aquifers in the Sahara are classified as fossil aquifers.
5. Spiders, scorpions and some arthropods in the Sahara are smaller than those in other places.
6. Research indicates that the Sahara has supported life forms for approximately 500 million years.

7. Camels were first domesticated in North America.
8. The Sahara remains entirely devoid of vegetation, except for oasis areas where water is available.
9. The research published in 2019 showed a direct connection between the Sahara's dry periods and changes in Earth's axial tilt affecting monsoons.
10. Human activities are completely responsible for the Sahara Desert's growth.

*For Questions 11-15, choose NO MORE THAN ONE WORD from the text for each answer. The first letter is given. Mind the grammar form of the word.*

The Sahara is the largest hot desert in the world, covering 3.6 million square miles, nearly a third of Africa. It (11)**s**\_\_\_\_\_ 11 countries and features diverse landscapes, including sand dunes, mountains, and depressions, with the highest point being Emi Koussi and the lowest being the Qattara Depression. Despite its harsh climate, the Sahara has rivers and (12)**a**\_\_\_\_\_ that provide vital water sources for (13)**o**\_\_\_\_\_, and it supports around 500 plant species and various animal species, including camels. These plants and animals have adapted to the extreme (14)**c**\_\_\_\_\_, with deep roots and specialized bodies to conserve water. The Sahara's climate changes every 20,000 years between dry and lush periods, influenced by Earth's tilt, while climate change is currently causing the desert to (15)**e**\_\_\_\_\_.

**Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.**

## USE OF ENGLISH (30 points)

Time: 40 minutes

### Task 1

For items 1–10, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

#### The Kilt

The kilt, a skirt-like garment traditionally worn by men and boys in the Scottish Highlands, dates (1)\_\_\_\_\_ to the 16th century. By the 19th century, it had become emblematic of Scottish and Gaelic cultures and is typically crafted from wool in distinctive tartan patterns.

Although kilts (2)\_\_\_\_\_ primarily associated with formal events, they are also worn (3)\_\_\_\_\_ competitors at the Highland Games. These games feature a variety of athletic events, dancing, and track and field competitions, taking (4)\_\_\_\_\_ in towns, villages, and cities across Scotland every weekend throughout the summer months. As a recognized symbol of Scottish national dress, kilts embody a strong sense of patriotism (5)\_\_\_\_\_ cultural identity, with people of Scottish descent around the world proudly wearing them (6)\_\_\_\_\_ a tribute to their heritage.

The knee-length tartan kilt most commonly seen today closely resembles the small kilt, also known as the walking kilt, (7)\_\_\_\_\_ emerged in the late 17th to early 18th century. This design was adopted by the Highland regiment of the British Army before eventually transitioning into civilian life, where it (8)\_\_\_\_\_ remained popular ever since.

Furthermore, the striking tartan patterns that kilts are known for reflect the historical status of their wearers. In the past, clothing styles indicated wealth; many original wearers were unable to afford the more elaborate tartan designs and instead donned simpler, plain wool garments. (9)\_\_\_\_\_, today the vibrant tartans are celebrated as an integral (10)\_\_\_\_\_ of Scotland's rich cultural heritage.

### Task 2

For questions 11-25, read the text and change the indexed words/mix of letters in some of the sentences to make them and the whole text meaningful. In some cases synonyms are given.

Study the examples.

0 ORMN–UNSCRAMBLE=*standard* → **NORM**

00 HEARD–REMOVE 1 LETTER=*difficult*→ **HARD**

000 HISTORY –WORD BUILDING → **HISTORICAL**

## The Grand Tour

Travel is so much the **(0)ormn** (*unscramble=standard*) these days that it's **(00)heard** (*remove 1 letter=difficult*) to imagine a time when the world's great **(000)history** (*word building*) sites, beaches and beauty **(11)sports** (*remove 1 letter=sights*) weren't crowded with camera-carrying **(12)tour** (*word building*). However, two centuries ago, long before **(13)ahcpe** (*unscramble=inexpensive*) rail tickets greatly reduced the cost of crossing Europe, tourism was **(14)strict** (*word building*) for those with time and money.

In Britain, The Grand Tour was seen as an essential part of any **(15)healthy** (*change 1 letter=well-off*) young man's education. It was a trip of up to five years, taking in a wide range of Europe's **(16)art** (*word building*) and architectural highlights. Italy was the focus of The Grand Tour, since it was highly regarded for both its **(17)uaeiqnt** (*unscramble=ancient*) and modern culture. So it was to Venice, Florence, Rome and Naples that the young aristocrats flocked.

The hardships of the long and sometimes **(18)arahzusdo** (*unscramble=dangerous*) journey across the Alps were all part of the experience and they were amply rewarded by the **(19)celebrate** (*word building*) countryside, the ancient **(20)rains** (*change 1 letter=remains*) and the works of the great Italian painters, not to mention the parties, **(21)leatvsifs** (*unscramble=celebrations*) and carnivals. Travellers were drawn to Italy from many countries, as they still are, but it was from Britain that the **(22)major** (*word building*) of visitors came.

Although mass tourism was still in its **(23)infant** (*word building*), all the signs of the modern tourist were already there, as the young aristocrats went round Italy in search of paintings, drawings and a host of other **(24)veiunrsos** (*unscramble=gifts*) to carry back home. English houses were soon filled with them. The tourists brought the **(25)crave** (*change 1 letter=fashion*) for all these things back to Britain, and buildings, furniture, even clothes were all influenced by this revolution in taste.

### Task 3

*One kind of humour quite popular with English speakers is where phrases which sound the same can have two different meanings. For example: "Solitude" by I. Malone (I'm alone)*

**For questions 26-30, match each book title with its author. Use each author once only.**

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>(26)</b> "Jungle Fever"       | A. by Dinah Mite    |
| <b>(27)</b> "The Explosion"      | B. by Robin Banks   |
| <b>(28)</b> "Make Money Easily"  | C. by Ivor Headache |
| <b>(29)</b> "At The South Pole"  | D. by Amos Quito    |
| <b>(30)</b> "Drums And Trumpets" | E. by Ann Tarctic   |

**Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.**

**WRITING (15 points)**

**Time: 45 minutes**

You've seen this announcement at an English-language website.

**Articles wanted**

**A Lesson from My Parent(s)**

What valuable lesson have you learned from your parents? How has this lesson influenced your future choices and/or helped your personal development? In your opinion, is it useful to follow your parents' advice and why?

Write us an article covering these points. We will publish the best articles on our website.

Write your article in **180-200** words in an appropriate style.

**Transfer your article to the answer sheet.**