

Билет №1

I.1. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

CAN CHEATING BE STOPPED?

More and more students at school and university are using the Internet to cheat¹ in their coursework. In Britain, about 25 % of students copy material from the Internet when they write their homework. In the USA there is a similar problem. One report showed that about 54 % of students copy from the Internet when they prepare for the lessons.

Of course, students rightly use the Internet to help them research a topic when they are doing coursework or writing an essay. But some of them also copy and include material from the Internet into their own essays without indicating that they are using someone else's work. For example, a student who has to write an essay on Shakespeare can find lots of different essays on particular plays and themes in Shakespeare and copy one of them. So they no longer have to read books in libraries, take notes and plan their own essay.

The Internet has certainly helped students to avoid the hard work of writing an original essay, but it is not the only reason why cheating is increasing. In recent years, students' attitudes to school and university have changed. In the past, students had a more idealistic attitude towards a university education. University broadened their minds. Nowadays, a lot of students are more practical in their attitude. They are only interested in passing the exams. They want a degree only to help them get a good job.

Teachers and examiners want to stop cheating in school and university, but they do not agree about how to solve the problem. Some teachers think a student's final grade shouldn't depend on his/her coursework. They think that it is better to have traditional (time-limited) written exams that are held in an examination room.

Another way to stop cheating is to have an oral exam at the end of the course. If students cannot answer questions about their coursework, this could indicate that they have cheated. At the same time, the oral exam would give the examiner a better idea of students' real knowledge of the subject.

¹ to cheat [tSiùt] обманывать, списывать

2. Is cheating becoming a problem in the USA and Britain? Read aloud the extract which says about it.
3. How do students cheat using the internet?
4. Why do students cheat?

II Listen to the radio programme and answer the questions below.

1. What books did Laura Reddington write trying to make a living?
2. What kind of story did she find one day?
3. Why does Laura think about all the details before writing a book?

Script:

PR: My guest today is the novelist Laura Reddington, whose novel, *The Lost Dream*¹ was an international best-seller. Laura, did you always want to write?

L: I've always been interested in books. I always thought it would be wonderful to be a writer and this was an ambition.

PR: How did you start writing?

L: Well, my first thought was that I needed to make a living, so I tried romantic fiction — without success, though. I thought it would be easy money.

PR: How did you get the idea for your book?

L: I was looking through my books one day when I found the story of a man who thought he'd found a new planet. I realised this was going on at about the same time as a famous murder case in London. So I thought I could mix the two stories together to make a sort of a detective novel.

PR: How long did it take you to write the book?

L: Well, that book took two years to write. I know some people can sit down and just write, and until they've finished they don't know how it will end. But for me, it's all about planning, when I worked out all the details, I concentrate on the actual writing.

¹ *The Lost Dream* «Утраченная мечта»

III

1. Let's talk about your family. What is family for you?
2. Are there any things that you do with your parents together?
3. What will you ask a British teenager about his/her family?
4. What can you advise a person who wants to have a close and happy family?
5. Nowadays an average family has one child or two children. From your point of view, how many children should there be in a family?

БИЛЕТ № 2

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

BOOKS IN NEVER-ENDING MOTION

Librarians are saddened by the fact that young people tend only to borrow reference books rather than reading fiction for pleasure. Perhaps it's unfashionable to read these days. However, a new trend is developing, with literary lovers leaving their books in public places, to be picked up and 'borrowed' by others.

The Belarusian National Technical University was the first to support the idea in our country. Several years ago, the Director of its scientific library, Alexey Skalaban, passed an internship¹ in Sweden. At the airport, he saw a huge glass case of books, which he learnt were available for anyone to read. It was a great idea. The question was only where such books might be kept in Minsk.

"Initially, we created a shelf in the reading hall of the University's scientific library. Later, we installed a case in the main building. It's available to everyone," explains Mr. Skalaban. "We want to encourage young people to read. Book-crossing is an easy way to do this." Alexey is looking at a website devoted to book-crossing. "Look, we've set free almost 700 books," he admits with pride. On the day I visited, I saw only two books in the case. The inside cover has a plate stating that it is part of the book-crossing programme, alongside a registration number showing who donated the book and when.

Library staff, students and even residents of neighbouring houses bring books. Additionally, publishing houses have donated some editions. Every year, more such 'safe' places are found. Not long ago, a Minsk night club installed a shelf of books. While some people dance, others gather by the shelves of books, magazines and discs. "We've subscribed to several magazines, while books are brought in by our guests, staff and musicians. This is how our collection grows," says Yan Busel, who co-owns the club.

Book-crossing is gaining popularity, with safe shelves found in many libraries, as well as cafes and educational establishments. No doubt, it's a great way to attract visitors.

¹ an internship [ÈIntÎùnSIp] интернатура, стажировка

2. The author says what makes librarians unhappy. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. Who was the first to introduce book-crossing in our country?
4. Why is book-crossing becoming more and more popular in Belarus?

II Listen to the woman talking about her schooldays and answer the questions below.

1. What is the speaker talking about?
2. When did the speaker feel relieved?
3. Why did the speaker start crying?

Script:

Woman: Oh yes, I remember my first day at school. I remember feeling very proud when my mother walked with me through the main gate. There was so much noise and so many children that I got quite scared! Anyway, my mum took me to see the teacher, Mrs Gossage was her name — very nice teacher — and

I remember feeling very nervous watching my mother leaving but Mrs Gossage looked after me and she sat me down with the other pupils in a big circle. Soon we started playing games so I got very excited. I think it was after lunch that I met Emily, who later became my best friend. She was in another class, but all new students were brought together to meet each other and... I was so relieved¹ to have a friend! Oh yes, and in the afternoon we went swimming, but I couldn't swim so I became very upset and started to cry. In fact, I wouldn't stop crying so Mrs Gossage phoned my mother and she came to collect me early. I remember feeling very confused when I saw my mum! So much had happened! We went and had an ice cream and then I felt calm again. But what a day! I'll never forget it.

¹ to be relieved [rɪˈliːvɪd] почувствовать себя спокойнее

III

1. Let's talk about family traditions. Why is family important for you?
2. Are there any family traditions that you follow?
3. What will you ask a British teenager about his/her relatives?
4. What can you advise people who want to adopt an unusual family tradition?
5. Some people consider that old traditions glue families together. Do you agree with them?

БИЛЕТ № 3

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

FRIENDSHIP IN THE MODERN WORLD

People often say that our modern way of life, with its individualism and fast speed, has made the world a lonely place. So many of us live and work surrounded by people, but it is hard to find true friendship. The faces we see each day are like pictures in a gallery; the talk that we hear is just sound. Perhaps this is why the websites like ‘Facebook’, ‘Contacts’ are so popular these days. They allow people to communicate and even become close without meeting up. It seems that many people’s idea of friendship has changed nowadays. But what is friendship?

Aristotle was the first western philosopher to discuss friendship in a detailed way. He said that people who chose to live alone were either like animals or gods. He probably meant that it is natural to want friends. Certainly, people who choose to live without friends are frequently regarded as having problems. We either pity them or else we view them as strange.

Aristotle also said that there are three different categories of friends. In the first category, we are friends with people because of some advantage that the friendship gives us. In other words, the friendship has a practical value. Friends in this category would include bosses at work or some of our colleagues.

Aristotle’s second category of friendship is based on the idea of pleasure. Friends in this category enjoy doing things together and they have a lot of interests in common.

The third category of friendship is the highest form of friendship. In this category, people are friends on a deeper level. The friendship does not depend on anything other than the friends themselves. The relationship is so close that it seems that one soul belongs to two bodies, Aristotle said.

Aristotle also said that close friends must have eaten salt together. In other words, they must have shared some of life’s good and bad experiences. Most people today would probably agree that these are a fundamental part of true friendship.

2. Read aloud the extract which says about the changes in the modern society.
3. What do people think about people who have no friends?
4. What does Aristotle say about the three types of friendship?

II Listen to the radio programme and answer the questions below.

1. What are the three main ingredients of the great British breakfast?
2. What is a new trend or fashion in London's top restaurants?
3. What are the key ingredients of a breakfast in a London cafe?

Script:

Hello, I'm Amber, in London Life today, we find out what the traditional British breakfast is made of, and why it is becoming more and more popular, especially in London. Let's listen to three people.

Speaker 1: It's a meal that everyone outside of England has heard of, and dreams about, and we don't know what it is, but when we come here, we want to eat it.

I got here, and I went to a cafe and there was the bacon, eggs and fried potatoes, and I thought — is this all there is?!

Speaker 2: I think it's very important to start a day. If I've got a long day at work, I try and eat egg and bacon in the morning because it's protein — it keeps you going all day. Now in London, there're lots more people having business meetings in top restaurants and it's getting very fashionable to have breakfast.

Speaker 3: I would say the cafe experience is very important, you know, it's less than 50 % the food, as it is. In a good cafe, they're not going to hurry you out. There are the smells, there are the sounds — you are just listening to the world go by.

III Let's talk about family relationship.

1. What role does family play in each person's life?
2. Do you have your own family traditions?
3. What will you ask your British friend about his/her family?
4. What can you advise people who want to have a close and happy family?
5. Do you think children should help with the housework? Why and how?

БИЛЕТ № 4

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

ACCORDING TO LAWS OF HOSPITALITY

Braslav is among the most popular destinations for Belarusians and foreigners. Now, a state programme is being developed to raise the attractiveness of the region to tourists, turning the district centre (home to 10,000) into a modern European city.

The local tourist industry is to enter a whole new level. At present, there are five tourist bases and two hotels — situated in Braslav and near the town. New facilities are going to be very comfortable. Drivyaty tourist base within the Braslav Lakes National Park, which occupies 70,000 hectares, is among the most modern and popular destinations. It's soon to be expanded, with new hotels, a spa centre, a cafe and an indoor aqua park.

In the early 16th century, Duchess Yelena, who was married to Grand Duke Alexander (who ruled over Lithuania and Russia) and actually owned Braslav, founded a monastery on the site. Fragments of this ancient settlement will be restored as part of the Braslav district's tourism development programme.

The ancient Belarusian town has many interesting sporting traditions, including an international fishing contest, which has been gathering hundreds of fishermen from Belarus, Russia and Latvia for the past few years. Sports lovers and those who enjoy the outdoor life are sure to be delighted by the town's new rowing channel, ski-roller track and ski slope, in addition to a sports complex with an ice rink.

The local cinema is to be fully modernised, with new halls opened, while an entertainment complex will be built, offering billiards and bowling. A new shopping centre, with a cafe for children, is also planned, alongside a lake-river museum, with an aquarium.

This wonderful resort town should please tourists with its modernised infrastructure and Braslav district could soon become an international tourist destination. One potential investor is to start construction of a new sanatorium very soon.

State programmes for regional development are already working in the Polesie and Naroch Lake areas.

2. The author tells us about sporting traditions that exist in Braslav. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. What new things will tourists see in Braslav?
4. Why will it be interesting to visit this Belarusian town?

II Listen to the radio programme and answer the questions below.

1. How long has Brian lived on his boat?
2. Why did he decide to leave London?
3. What can he do with his boat that he couldn't with a house?

Script:

Jackie: Hello, I'm Jackie Dalton. Have you ever wanted to do something completely different? Well, one man now lives on his boat. Brian, welcome.

Brian: Hello!

Jackie: How long have you been living on the boat and why did you move there?

Brian: I've been down here now for about 12 years. I used to live in London. The family had grown up, the wife had died. I had this big house... and I thought who for? I'm going to go and live on the boat.

Jackie: Are you glad you decided to leave London and live on a boat in Brighton?

Brian: Best decision I've ever made.

Jackie: Brian, what can you do on a boat that you can't do in a house?

Brian: All these boats have got all the comforts that are required for living on board: microwaves, televisions, fridges... If you don't like your neighbours, you can go to another place. There's a lot going for living on board. I love everything that's down here. I love these lovely nights, the lovely sunsets. People pay for this, you know, they ask me silly questions like "Where do you go for your holiday?" and I look out here and I look at them and I think: "Every day is a holiday!"

III Let's talk about friendship and relationship with friends.

1. What's your best friend like?
2. Is it easier to make friends when you are an adult or a child? Why?
3. What questions do you usually ask when you want to get acquainted with someone?
4. What can you advise a teenager who wants to make friends in a new school?
5. They say: "Friendship isn't a big thing — it's a million little things". What do you think about this?

БИЛЕТ № 5

11. Read the magazine article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

UNKNOWN ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Like the great detective Sherlock Holmes, Conan Doyle also had many wonderful talents. Many people do not know that he wrote many other kinds of books: science fiction, historical adventures, horror stories and stories of the supernatural. He also wrote factual books on history and politics. In everything he did, he showed his incredible creative energy.

Conan Doyle came from an artistic family and he was a natural writer. His father was a talented artist and his mother was a very good story-teller. In his autobiography, Conan Doyle wrote: “The stories that my mother told me when I was a child stand out more powerfully than the real facts of my life.”

Conan Doyle went to boarding school when he was nine years old. At school, he entertained his school friends with stories that he had invented. After graduation from Edinburgh University he had his own medical practice in London, but he did not have many patients, so he was not earning a lot of money as a doctor. That’s why Conan Doyle made good use of his free time by writing stories. Soon, Conan Doyle began to have his stories published. He now began to understand that writing could provide a better income than medicine.

Conan Doyle was not satisfied with being just a writer of original and entertaining stories. He was also a great man of action. When he was a young man, he sailed as a ship’s doctor on voyages to the Arctic and to West Africa. When the Boer War¹ in Africa started, Conan Doyle volunteered to fight. He was not accepted because he was too old (he was 40). However, he still went to South Africa as a doctor to treat the wounded² and the sick. He later wrote a history of the Boer War.

Conan Doyle was determined to do some good in society. He tried to enter Parliament, but he wasn’t successful. Conan Doyle was more successful in his work to improve the law system. He worked very hard to help people who had been wrongfully sent to prison.

Conan Doyle did many things in his life, but he will naturally be remembered most as a writer, a creator of Sherlock Holmes.

¹ the Boer War [ʃbUÈwù] англо-бурская война

² the wounded [ÈwuùndId] раненые

2. Conan Doyle had many talents. Read aloud the extract which says about it.
3. How did his writing talent develop?
4. Which facts prove that Conan Doyle took an active part in social life?

II Listen to the programme and answer the questions below.

1. How did the dolphins help a 10-year-old boy?
2. How does swimming with dolphins help the children?
3. Why are some people not very enthusiastic about dolphin therapy?

Script:

A 10-year-old boy has been helped by dolphins to talk for the first time in his life. Now, after taking part in a dolphin interaction programme he has begun to use words to communicate. He is just one of the many children who have been helped by dolphins.

Dolphin therapy began some 20 years ago. How does it all work? Close contact with the dolphins works as a motivator. Swimming with the dolphins is an experience that reaches deep down and demands the levels of concentration that are necessary for learning.

Despite its evident success at helping children, not everyone is enthusiastic about dolphin therapy. Animal rights groups warn that it is a myth that dolphins are harmless creatures. They are wild animals with wild instincts.

Other people point out the harm done to the dolphins. Captive¹ dolphins must be used for the therapy of course. This creates problems when the animals are returned to the wild. It is partly for this reason that some therapy centres only use dolphins that have been rescued from the wild.

Although dolphin therapy has shown itself to be of great value to many sick and disabled children, the right measures must be taken to ensure the protection both of the dolphins and the children who swim with them.

¹ captive [ÈkQptIv] находящийся в неволе

III Let's talk about education.

1. What can you tell me about your school?
2. Can you tell me about your favourite teacher at school?
3. Ask me whether I liked school when I was a pupil.
4. You are talking with a British student. What would you advise him/her to do to prepare for an exam well?
5. Today some young people think that having a good education is not very important. Do you agree with them?

БИЛЕТ № 6

11. Read the magazine article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

HAND MADE CHOCOLATES

Jane Turner began her chocolate making business in a village near the seaside resort of Torquay about three years ago, before that she had worked for a large food processing company in south-west England. We talked to her about her experiences.

Why did you decide to make such a big change of lifestyle?

“First of all, I was not happy in my job. Though it was a well-paid job, the work was very stressful and I had to work long hours. I just wanted to improve the quality of my life. I also wanted to live by the sea again. I knew that it would be difficult to find a good job in this area, so I decided to set up my own business.”

How did the chocolate making begin?

“It had always been my dream. I found a suitable building in a village and installed all the equipment. My sister and a couple of her friends came to work with me and about six months later we were ready to start making cakes. After the cake business had begun to do well and we were supplying hotels and restaurants on a regular basis, I began trying to make my own chocolates. It is not easy to make good chocolate as there are so many factors involved: creativity, the quality of ingredients, even the temperature of the room. When I had developed a good enough range of chocolates, I sent some to the hotels and restaurants. They liked them and ordered more. That is how the chocolate making grew.”

Have you made any mistakes?

“Oh, yes, a lot. Perhaps the biggest mistake was trying to sell our cakes and chocolates over the internet. It was a disaster. First of all, it was expensive to get a professionally designed website set up. Then it was difficult and expensive to deliver cakes and chocolates to places that were far away. We had to use special packaging to protect the cakes and chocolates, which was also expensive. Sometimes, the chocolates arrived late, or despite everything they were damaged. Then we had to deal with some very angry customers!”

What are your plans for the future?

“We are thinking of setting up our own shop in Torquay with cake and chocolate making facilities inside.”

2. Why did Jane Turner start her business? Read aloud the extract which says about it.
3. How did her chocolate business develop?
4. What mistakes did she make?

II Listen to the radio programme and answer the questions below.

1. Why did Arthur Conan Doyle stop writing stories about Sherlock Holmes?
2. What worried Mr Horowitz before starting a book?
3. Why was writing the book about Sherlock Holmes easier than Mr Horowitz thought?

Script:

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle killed Sherlock Holmes when writing the stories took up too much of his time. Now, 80 years after the author's death, Britain's most famous detective is being brought back to life with a new novel by Anthony Horowitz.

The character of Sherlock Holmes was originally created by Arthur Conan Doyle, who featured him in four novels and more than 50 short stories.

But it's the first time that the Arthur Conan Doyle estate has officially asked an author to write a new novel. He has been named as Anthony Horowitz and is best known for his Alex Rider children's series. So, was he afraid of the challenge?

Anthony Horowitz:

"Well obviously, it was exciting to deal with probably the most famous detective in the whole history of literature. And I didn't want to disappoint the fans, and people who love these books.

But to be honest with you, I found it fairly easy to write because I have always loved those books, I've read them two or three times during the course of my lifetime — in fact, my whole life as a writer of crime fiction was inspired by Doyle and I find the book not so scary as I thought it might be."

III Let's talk about studying at school.

1. What's your school like?
2. Do you agree that our school gives a person a good start in life? Why (not)?
3. Ask me what kind of pupil I was at school.
4. Which school club would you advise your classmate to join?
5. Today some young people think that having a good education is very important. Do you agree with them?

БИЛЕТ № 7

11. Read the magazine article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

MYSTERIOUS¹ DISAPPEARANCE

Agatha Christie wrote some of the best detective stories in English. Her own life also contains a mystery that has only recently been solved.

The story began like this. At 9.45 pm on December 3rd 1926, Agatha Christie left her home in the south of England, saying that she was going out for a drive in her car. The next morning, her car was found quite far away crashed. The front end of the car was in some bushes, the headlights² were still on. Inside, there were only some women's clothes and Agatha Christie's driving license.

The detective in charge of the case, William Kenward immediately organized a big search of the area. Policemen came from different parts of the country to help in the search, even some famous detective writers were asked to help.

Archie Christie, Agatha's husband, told everyone that his wife was suffering from amnesia³. However, soon the police discovered that the marriage between Archie and Agatha Christie was not a happy one, and that Archie and Agatha were having problems. But he could not admit that his marriage was in trouble because people might have thought that he had had something to do with her disappearance.

At this point, the police received a letter. In the letter, Agatha told Archie's brother that she was going away to rest in Yorkshire, Harrogate. The police now went there and looked for her at all the hotels. But they did not find Agatha Christie as she had not checked in using her real name. Instead, she had introduced herself as Neele, a visitor from South Africa.

The situation was very upsetting for the police as they didn't find her. Instead, the musicians in the dance band at the hotel recognized her.

It was not an easy story to believe and most people did not in fact believe it. But all what we know now is that she did not do it for publicity. She did it as she was going through an unhappy time with her husband. Later, in fact, their marriage broke up and they got divorced. However, her disappearance did make Agatha Christie the most popular crime writer in the country.

¹ mysterious [mɪs'tɪrɪəs]

² headlights [ˈhɛdlaɪts] фары

³ amnesia [æmˈni:zɪə]

2. How did the story begin? Read aloud the extract which says about it.
3. What are the details of the police investigation?
4. Why did Agatha Christie disappear according to the article?

II Listen to the conversation and answer the questions below.

1. What does the boy want to do?
2. What does his mother want to do?
3. Why can't they make a decision?

Script:

James: Morning, mum.

Mother: Good morning, James. Will you, please, help me to get breakfast ready?

J: Sure, mum. Oh, by the way, mum, what will we do this Sunday?

M: Well, there are a lot of things we can do, but I think we have to talk to dad about it first. I'm afraid he'll want to stay home.

J: Oh well, if he wants to stay in I'll go and see a football match then. MU's playing with Chel-sea!

M: We'll see about it. We may drive to the country and can all take a long walk in the wood! Then have a picnic by the lake! We haven't done it for a long time.

J: Oh no! It's so boring! I never enjoy those walks. Besides, they forecast bad weather for the weekend! I'd better stay in town and see a match with the friends. It'll be great fun I am sure!

M: All right. But let's talk about it later. It's only Wednesday today!

J: But it will be too late then. The boys are buying tickets for the match now. I won't be able to get it later!

M: Let's wait for father anyway.

J: OK. When will he be back?

M: I am not sure but I hope he'll be back at 8 pm.

J: All right, then. I do hope he'll let me go to the football match.

III Let's talk about school traditions.

1. What can you tell me about your school traditions?
2. Does your school differ from any other school you know?
3. Ask me about my school life.
4. What can you advise your younger school friends to do to make their school life more interesting and memorable?
5. What are some of the best memories of your school years?

БИЛЕТ № 8

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

PABLO PICASSO

Pablo Picasso¹ was one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. He experimented in many different styles and changed the world of art during his time.

Pablo Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain in 1881. His father was a drawing teacher. At 10 Pablo became his father's pupil and at the age of 13 he held his first exhibition. His family moved to Barcelona in 1895 where Pablo joined an art academy. In his early period the young artist painted life as he saw it around him — in cafes and on the streets. Then they moved to Paris, the centre of art and literature.

In 1901 a close friend of Picasso shot himself. This had a great influence on Pablo. He was very sad and began painting his pictures in grey and blue tones instead of bright, vivid colours. This part of his career is called his Blue Period (1901—1904).

Later on, he changed his painting style and started using more earth colours — rose, pink or brown. He liked to paint pictures of circus life with dancers and acrobats. This Rose Period lasted until 1907.

When Picasso started working with his friend and fellow painter Georges Braque in Paris they started experimenting with a new style that was called cubism. Picasso and Braque didn't want to show nature as it really was. They thought that all objects in nature had geometric² forms. In cubism, objects were cut into many flat shapes, which looked like a puzzle. All the sides of a person's face, for example, were shown at once, maybe even with three eyes instead of two.

In 1936 Civil War broke out in Spain. During this period he painted his masterpiece Guernica³. It shows the terrified people of the ancient Spanish town which was bombed during the Civil War. Picasso was shocked by this inhuman act and in his painting he shows people running in the streets and screaming with their mouths wide open. To display his sadness and anger he used only black and white as well as shades of grey.

He continued his work up to his death in 1973. For his great imagination and skill he is called 'El Maestro' of modern art.

2. The most famous painting of Picasso is Guernica. Read aloud the extract about it.
3. Where did Picasso learn to paint?
4. Picasso worked in different styles. Which styles are mentioned in the article? What are their typical characteristics?

II Listen to the interview and answer the questions below.

1. What is Kerry's typical day?
2. Why doesn't Kerry follow a diet or go to the gym?
3. What piece of advice does Kerry give to beginners?

Script:

Interviewer: For most of us, childhood dreams of becoming a dancer stopped at about the time we became teenagers but not for Kerry Jay. Now at the age of 24 she is a dancer in one of the West End's musicals. Kerry, what's a typical day?

Kerry: I'm usually not in bed before 2 am, so I get up about 10 am. I go to the gym or occasionally a jazz class. I meet friends who don't work by day either — it's my main chance to socialise. We get to the theatre by 6.15 and put on our make-up. Then we'll get our hair done and put our costumes on.

I: Do you have to exercise to keep your figure?

K: Not at all! I don't look after myself as well as I should do! I don't need to do diets or go to the gym daily — just watch what I'm eating. I eat completely normally, including sweets and chocolates but not much.

I: How do you see your future?

K: I can't imagine myself doing anything else! I'd love to get one of the main roles in 'Chicago' eventually. As for getting older in the business, I know a lot of dancers in their mid-30s who are in main parts and doing well.

I: Any advice for beginners?

K: Be confident and keep practising — patience is rewarded!

III Let's talk about choosing a career.

1. What kind of job would you like to have in future?
2. Do you want to have a part-time job, when you are a student? Why (not)?
3. What questions will you ask your future employer about your future job?
4. Give me some advice on what I need to think about when choosing a job.
5. Some people think that it is necessary to have good communication skills in order to get a good job. Do you agree with this?

БИЛЕТ № 9

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

GOOD NEWS FOR CHOCOLATE LOVERS!

It would be difficult to find someone who does not like chocolate. In the United States, chocolate is bought more often than any other kind of sweet. In Britain, each person eats an average of 11 kg of chocolate per year. That is a lot of chocolate! In the US people eat about 200 chocolate bars per second as a matter of fact. People love chocolate so much that they often think it is a bad habit. But there is good news for all chocoholics: eating chocolate does less harm to you than you might think.

People often believe that chocolate causes a number of health problems including bad teeth, obesity¹ and skin problems such as acne². Studies carried out in the United States, however, give no support to this idea.

Specific tests were carried out. One group of people who suffer from acne was given regular amounts of chocolate, while another group of similar sufferers had no chocolate at all. At the end of the test period the two groups were compared. No difference in the condition of the acne sufferers was noticed.

Chocolate contains fat and sugar, so if you ate a lot of chocolate you would probably put on weight. But reasonable amounts of chocolate in your diet will not make you fat. People usually get fat because they eat too much food in general, especially if they are not very active.

What about the effect on your teeth? Chocolate can damage your teeth, but the danger is less than many people believe. It is good to know that eating a certain amount of chocolate may even be good for you. Chocolate contains protein, vitamins and minerals. Scientists believe chocolate may reduce the risk of heart disease.

Perhaps the most amazing thing of all is that it can help you fight off illness. The important thing is not the chocolate in itself, but the pleasure that it gives you. Even the smell of chocolate can have a positive effect on your immune system. It is nice to smell chocolate of course, but it is much better to eat it. And the great thing is that you can eat it without fear.

¹ obesity [«UÈbiùsItI], [«ÈbiùsItI] ожирение

² acne [ÈQknI] угревая сыпь

2. People eat a lot of chocolate. Read aloud the extract which says about it.
3. What health problems do people traditionally connect with eating chocolate?
4. What facts prove that chocolate can be good for our health?

II Listen to the conversation and answer the questions below.

1. What is Alex thinking about?
2. Why does he want to bring soldiers as a gift for his parents?
3. What will Alex buy for his brother?

Script:

Kelly: Hi, Alex. Alex? Are you sleeping?

Alex: No, I'm not sleeping, just thinking.

Kelly: About what?

Alex: Well, I'll be going back home to visit my family for a couple of weeks.

Kelly: That's great. So, you must be thinking about how happy you'll be to see them again.

Alex: Yes, that's true. But I'm also thinking about what kinds of gifts I should bring back from England for everyone.

Kelly: Of course, you want to bring back some traditional things, don't you? You could bring back some toy soldiers from the Royal Ceremonial Collection.

Alex: Kelly, you're a genius! Royal Guard soldiers are not only very colourful, they represent English traditions too! My parents will really like them. Okay, now I have to think of something to buy for my sister. That's a tough one!

Kelly: Don't be so pessimistic, Alex. Does she like drinking tea? You could bring back an English teapot.

Alex: Of course! Another great idea! Now the toughest person to shop for — my brother. What in the world could I bring back for him?

Kelly: Didn't you tell me that your brother is studying English now?

Alex: Yes, that's right.

Kelly: So why not buy him a DVD so that he can watch a film in English?

Alex: Sure, he'd love that. You amaze me, Kelly!

III Let's talk about life in the city and in the country.

1. Tell me about your native city/town/village.
2. Do you find your city/town/village a comfortable place for living? Why (not)?
3. What questions will you ask your friend about his/her new home?
4. Your friend doesn't know what to choose: to live in a period or modern house. Give him/her some advice.
5. They say that the place people live in reflects their character and personality. What do you think about this idea?

БИЛЕТ № 10

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

DO VERY CLEVER CHILDREN NEED HELP?

In our history, there have been some remarkable children. Mozart is a famous example. After he had heard a piece of music a couple of times, he could write it down on paper. He composed symphonies while he was still a child. Today we also hear stories of very gifted¹ children.

Ruth Lawrence, from the UK, became famous at the age of 12, when she began her studies at Oxford University. She was the youngest student ever to attend a university in the UK. Before going to university, Ruth was taught at home by her father. While she was a student, her father was always by her side. He attended all her lectures with her. Ruth did very well at Oxford. She got a first class degree in mathematics. Now Ruth is a mathematics professor.

These young people are, however, extremely special. Because of that they naturally feel different to other children of their own age. They can become lonely. Michael Howe, a professor of psychology says, “It is good to be good at something while you are young, but if you do not have friends or other experiences you will not have a satisfying life.” Gifted children who understand quicker than their classmates can also become lazy. They can behave badly in class because they are bored.

If parents find that their child is especially talented, they have to take some important and difficult decisions. They have to help their child develop but they cannot push their child too hard. If they do, the child may have serious problems later in life. However, if a child is especially gifted, it is clear that they need a special kind of education. These children need to be motivated. This means that they have to study with people who are older than them. But at the same time they must be allowed to be children too.

Despite her great success, Ruth Lawrence does not want her own children to be brought up and educated in the same way she was. They will be sent to a normal school and she has said that she wants them to develop and grow only in a natural way.

¹ gifted [ÈgIfId] ТАЛАНЛИВЫЙ

2. Ruth Lawrence was a gifted child. Read aloud the extract which says about her.
3. What kind of problems can wonderkids have?
4. What should parents and teachers do for their gifted children?

II Listen to three speakers talking about their favourite pastime and answer the questions below.

1. According to the first speaker what is his favourite pastime?
2. Why is the second speaker keen on crafts?
3. What problem does the third speaker have because of his favourite pastime?

Script:

Speaker 1: Well, my favourite leisure pastime is rather unusual. You see, I live in the country and for me there is nothing better than riding on horseback on a hot sunny day with a little breeze. There is no one around and you can enjoy freedom from almost everything and everyone. No matter what mood you are in, you can always find happiness.

Speaker 2: I am fond of crafts. I love making different items from wood and then painting them. I usually give them away just to make people smile! I also enjoy sewing, especially making doll clothes for my daughter. All these things relax me, not to mention that I get a bit of satisfaction from having made something useful. I love making gifts for my family and friends. I wish I had more time to do it.

Speaker 3: I have only one favourite pastime. Every day I come home, lie on the sofa, turn on TV and just relax. What do I watch? It doesn't matter. Anything from soaps to football matches. My TV set is my best friend. The only problem is that I have put on a lot of weight. I can't help eating crisps and other snacks while watching. My friends say I'm a couch potato. So what? I like it that way.

III Let's talk about different types of houses.

1. Tell me about your dream house.
2. Do you find your flat/house a comfortable place for living?
3. What questions will you ask your friend who is going to move into his/her new home?
4. If your parents ask for your opinion where to move: to the city or to the country, what would you recommend them to do?
5. They say that the room/flat/house you live in reflects your character and personality. What do you think about this idea?

БИЛЕТ № 11

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

FAMILY HISTORY

“Researching family history is a true passion rather than just a hobby for many people”, says Julie Mason. “It is wonderfully exciting when you learn more about the ancestors¹.”

Julie began researching her family’s past in order to find out her roots². She says: “When you discover your roots, it gives you understanding who you are.” John Paul Thompson has a different reason for wanting to research his family’s history. “After my father died I found myself with photo albums full of old photographs with no labels. I wanted to find out more about the others.”

Some of the things that people discover about their families can be very surprising. When Jean Sandwell researched her family history she had a very big shock. She found out that she had been adopted as a baby. After she had accepted this situation, Jean tried to find her real parents. “I discovered that my mother emigrated to Australia in 1966,” says Jean. “In 1982 I went to Australia to meet her. It was a very emotional experience for both of us.”

So what is the best way to start researching your family history? “Interview all your family members before it is too late,” says Julie Mason. “Make a basic family tree of your close family and step by step make it bigger. Of course, it is not easy to have accurate information from relatives about things that happened in the distant past. It is quite normal for different family members give different versions of the same events. It is very important to check everything.”

Public records in local libraries and in national archives³ are also important to the family historian. Old newspaper reports are often kept on in local libraries. Sometimes, researching your family history can be lonely work. Remember that you can find a lot of help on the internet.

Of course, it is not easy to trace your family history a long way back and you must be very patient. Believe me, in the future, your children, and their children may be very grateful to you for recording it.

¹ an ancestor [ÈQns«st«] предок

² roots [ruùts] корни

³ an archive [ÈAùkaIv] архив

2. Jean Sandwell made a shocking discovery. Read aloud the extract which says about it.
3. Why do people start tracing their family histories?
4. What recommendations does the author give to discover your roots?

II Listen to the conversation and answer the questions below.

1. How many runners are going to take part in the race?
2. Where would they like to organize the starting line?
3. Why do they need to have first-aid points?

Script:

Mike: Well, Jane, we've only got two weeks left before the run so I really think we have to finalise the route of the race today.

Jane: Yes, Mike. Now, how many runners do you estimate¹ will register for the race?

Mike: Well, it's hard to say what the final number will be — at the moment we have 150 applicants² but I fully expect there will be 200 by the race itself.

Jane: Fine. I'll make a note of that.

Mike: Where will the starting line be?

Jane: I think you have to start somewhere that has a place to warm up. How about the Town hall as the car park there is big enough for the runners to do their exercises?

Mike: Actually, that's a good point. Let's start there and then we could have the first-aid point nearby. But look, we should have another first-aid point somewhere on the route in case the runners have problems.

Jane: You're probably right! Em, do you think the athletes need somewhere to take a break if they are feeling tired? We could use the entrance to the library. It's ideal as it has such a huge portico where the athletes could relax in the shade.

Mike: Good idea.

¹ to estimate [ˈɛstɪmeɪt] полагать

² an applicant [ˈɛpɪlɪk(ə)nt] участник

III Let's talk about Belarusian national cuisine.

1. What can you tell me about eating habits in Belarus?
2. Do you know many recipes?
3. Which national dishes can you recommend a tourist to taste in Belarus?
4. Which questions will you ask a friend who has invited you to a pot luck party?
5. Can you tell me how to cook one of your favourite dishes?

БИЛЕТ № 12

11. Read a part of the interview with Audra Mari, Miss Teen USA, taken by the magazine “Seventeen” and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

BULLYING AGAIN?

Seventeen: What was your experience with bullying¹ in high school?

Audra Mari: One Sunday, I came home and there was a big picture on the door. It was basically making fun of me because I’m tall. Once the girls prepared a slogan to support a football team. The slogan wishing good luck faced the team, but the back of the slogan read “Go Home Mari”. And the whole student section saw it. One time during lunch, I was sitting with all my friends, and a girl came up to me and threw a paper lunch bag at me. She said, “You can eat this for lunch, it is for horses.”

Seventeen: What was going through your head when all of this was happening?

AM: At first, I tried to keep it in and not tell anyone except for my friends because I thought that it’d finish after the first few weeks, but this happened all year. So finally, I told my mum, I told her everything. She talked to the administration, and they brought the girls in and talked to them about it. The girls were punished. So you just have to bring it to the attention of adults.

Seventeen: In spite of all this, you still managed to make it to the Miss Teen USA competition and win it. How did you find the confidence to go for it?

AM: You just have to ignore it and have confidence² in yourself. I was a three-sport athlete — hockey, soccer, and volleyball — and I gave them up to do my modelling career.

Seventeen: What’s your advice for girls dealing with bullies today?

AM: Stay confident and know that this is not the end of the world, that you are not going to be in high school for the rest of your life. There are mean girls wherever you go, but you don’t need to be with them when you get older. You’re not in a classroom with them, you’re not eating lunch with them, so look past it and know that it’s going to end. Looking back, I’d say you just need to focus on what you want to achieve and not let people get in your way or upset you. Also, tell a trusted adult, tell all your friends, tell anyone you can. If you keep it inside, it’s just going to eat you.

¹ to bully [ÈbUII] дразнить, запугивать

² confidence [ÈknfIdns] уверенность

2. Mary was cruelly bullied. Read aloud the extract which says about it.
3. How did she react to bullying?
4. What advice does she give to other children?

II Listen to the talk between two friends and answer the questions below.

1. What are Maggy's favourite places in London?
2. What are they going to do in the evening?
3. Why does Alex want to go to a cafe?

Script:

Maggy: Hey, Alex! I've got an idea. I can show you my favourite place in London.

Alex: Sure, Maggy, I'd like to see that, but where is it exactly?

Maggy: Look beyond the people. What do you see?

Alex: Well, there's a beautiful building over there! It looks like a palace. What is it?

Maggy: It's Buckingham Palace! And all those people are waiting for the Changing of the Guard. It's 11 o'clock so the ceremony will start soon.

Alex: Does this ceremony take place every day?

Maggy: It's held daily only from April to August, when there are lots of tourists. But we aren't going to watch it right now; we're going to the park which is opposite the palace.

Alex: Let me guess. We must be in St. James's Park now!

Maggy: Good guess! You're right, it's St. James's Park, which is a popular place to walk, feed the ducks or watch the pelicans.

Alex: Those people on the lawn seem to be having a picnic. Is it possible to have picnics in London parks?

Maggy: Sure, but you should follow certain rules.

Alex: Okay. What is the magnificent style building opposite the lake?

Maggy: This is St. James's Palace. And behind it, there is an entertainment area of Piccadilly Circus with lots of pubs and cafes. If you like, we can go there later in the evening.

Alex: That's a wonderful idea! But honestly, I'm starving and wouldn't mind having a bite right now.

Maggy: Then let's go to the cafe and have a snack.

III Let's talk about national cuisine of an English-speaking country.

1. What do people eat in Britain?
2. Do you know many recipes?
3. What questions can you ask a waiter when you are ordering a meal in a café?
4. My friend wants to know more about national cuisines. Which national dishes would you recommend him to taste?
5. A lot of pupils refuse to have meals at school. What do you think about it?

БИЛЕТ № 13

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

SHAKESPEARE'S PORTRAIT?

A painting has been discovered that experts say is a picture of one of the world's best-known writers, William Shakespeare. He is thought to have written at least 36 plays, which include the world-famous Hamlet, Twelfth Night and Romeo and Juliet. Yet surprisingly little is known about Shakespeare's life, the way he worked, or what he looked like.

Shakespeare was born in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon in England in 1564. He left the town when he was about 20, leaving behind a wife and three children. After this period he worked as an actor and writer of plays in London. In 1594 he helped form a new theatre company and wrote plays for the next 20 years. After this he retired to Stratford-upon-Avon where he died in 1616. He is buried in a local church.

Several portraits exist that are supposed to be those of Shakespeare's. Yet many experts think these paintings are probably pictures of someone else, or were painted at least 100 years after Shakespeare died.

The Shakespeare expert and the owner of the newly-discovered painting say they are 90 % sure it is of William Shakespeare. Alec Cobbe owns the painting. It has been in his family's possession since the early 1700s. They did not know who the person in the painting was. A few years ago Mr Cobbe went to a Shakespeare exhibition and saw a painting of Shakespeare called the Janssen portrait. He was amazed by how similar it was to the painting owned by his family.

He took his painting to a Shakespeare expert. Since then it has been dated and X-rayed. They now believe it was painted in 1610, when Shakespeare was 46 years old — six years before he died. Mr Cobbe thinks he could prove the portrait was originally owned by the Earl of Southampton, who supported Shakespeare when he was writing his plays.

Other experts are not so sure whether it really is a portrait of Shakespeare. This, they say, is because there is no proof the Janssen portrait is actually a picture of Shakespeare either!

2. The author gives some facts about Shakespeare's life. Find this extract and read it aloud.

3. What facts prove that the painting can be a portrait of William Shakespeare?

4. Why do some people doubt that this is a portrait of Shakespeare?

II Listen to three speakers talking about travelling and answer the questions below.

1. Why do many people travel today according to the first speaker?
2. How does the second speaker describe people who never travel?
3. What can a person gain travelling to other countries according to the third speaker?

Script:

Speaker 1: Lots of people believe that travel broadens the mind. A friend of mine went to Cyprus and when he came back, he complained that he could not find English food and everything was so foreign! If one travels with that kind of attitude, one never learns anything about other places and people. Today many people travel not in order to learn, but to 'have a good time' and usually on their terms.

Speaker 2: I've just got back from a trip to Japan and what I learned by just being there is more than I've ever learned on the internet. Talking to some locals, I learned more than school, or internet could teach me. Travel lets you see other people's lives, cultures, customs and traditions from different parts of the world. Travel educates you and makes you knowledgeable¹. I think that people who never leave their countries are narrow-minded and ignorant.

Speaker 3: I feel sad for those people who have never travelled outside of their own hometown. There's a whole world of different cultures to meet out there, ninety-nine per cent of which you can't have by just sitting in the living room in front of the TV. When you travel to other countries you can see, feel and touch other ways of living. Some places will shock you, others will please you. You will then appreciate your own life and see things in a different way.

¹ knowledgeable [ÈnlIdZbl] хорошо осведомленный, знающий

III Let's talk about shopping.

1. Who does the shopping in your family?
2. Is Minsk a shopper's paradise? Why (not)?
3. What questions will you ask your friend who has bought an expensive telephone?
4. What can you advise a teenager who wants to buy a birthday present for his/her friend?
5. Some teenagers think that parents should pay them for doing their household chores. Do you share their opinion?

БИЛЕТ № 14

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

SHOPPING IN LONDON

John tells us a bit more about shopping in London... “When I visit London one of my favourite things to do is shopping! I really enjoy hunting around for a bargain¹ in the sales, buying something new to wear out on a Saturday night. Or alternatively, a bit of window-shopping — it doesn’t cost a penny. Sometimes I’ll spend hours just wandering around a market having a chat with my friends.

There are loads of different places to go shopping in London. You can go to Oxford Street, but be warned, it gets too busy sometimes; it can be difficult to go anywhere! Alternatively for a less crowded, more relaxing shopping experience, go to Covent Garden, you can have an expensive cappuccino, and watch some (free) street theatres at the same time.

Some people like shopping in department stores, the most famous one in London is ‘Harrods’, but for me, it’s not modern enough, and too expensive, the sort of place your parents shop. But just down the road is ‘Harvey Nics’, much more up-to-date, but not cheap. The best of all the big department stores is ‘Selfridges’ in Oxford Street, it’s a shopper’s paradise, nice clothes, and the prices. Well I can look, can’t I?

You can also try Camden, it’s busy, exciting, trendy, and there are lots of bargains! You can buy cheap jeans and cool second hand clothes in the morning and then get a tattoo and a body piercing later on! If all that shopping is too tiring, you can get some Chinese or Thai food for 2 or 3, sit by the canal and have a drink. What could be better?

If Camden is not cultured enough, you might prefer a day in Greenwich — a world heritage site. This is a much more relaxing day out. You can have a walk round the market and shops, and then take in a bit of London’s history — it was the birthplace of Henry VIII, Queen Mary and Elizabeth I. There’s also the park, the ‘Cutty Sark’ (an old tea clipper ship), the meridian line (where east meets west), and the old observatory... so much to do, but don’t forget the shopping!”

¹ a bargain [ÈbAùgIn] ВЫГОДНАЯ ПОКУПКА

2. The author describes some department stores that are popular with shoppers. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. What does John like about shopping?
4. Why is Greenwich interesting to visit?

II Listen to three speakers talking about losing weight and answer the questions below.

1. What does the first speaker advise to do if you want to lose weight?
2. What is the mistake many people make trying to lose weight?
3. Why is it necessary to exercise according to the third speaker?

Script:

Speaker 1: Throw away gas or electric cooker. Also throw away salt. Get as many fruit and vegetables as you can. Try to drink as much water as possible as it increases the rate at which you burn calories. Cut out soda and limit fruit juices, most of which are high calorie. Carry on normal work. I followed this diet continuously for six months. In the end I lost 23 kg. I did morning walks, cycling, but no other physical exercise.

Speaker 2: You should know that there is no safe way to lose weight quickly, the mistake is if you lose weight very quickly, you will be a lot less likely to keep it off. So, definitely try to lose weight gradually, but don't plan on losing overnight. This is the most important and the first aspect of getting your perfect body shape. If you have a lot of weight to lose, try for 5 pounds, relax a bit, then go for 5 more.

Speaker 3: The first thing I would suggest is to believe in yourself, and love yourself. The key to weight loss is simple — you should burn more than you take in! Walk the dog, join a health club, take up jogging. Whatever you do, you've got to move your body as much as possible if you want to lose weight.

III Let's talk about leisure time.

1. What do you do in your free time?
2. Is cinema still important? Why (not)?
3. What questions can you ask a British friend about his/her hobbies?
4. Can you recommend me to watch one of the films you have seen recently?
5. Many parents complain that children don't read books. Why do you think children are not interested in reading?

БИЛЕТ № 15

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES

One of the world's leading universities has just begun to celebrate its 800th anniversary.

Cambridge University, in the UK, was founded in 1209. On 17th January it held a special outdoor celebration to launch a year of events marking its 800th birthday.

The University was founded by scholars from another English university, Oxford. Nobody is exactly sure why they moved to Cambridge. One record shows it happened when two Oxford scholars were arrested and then convicted¹ of murdering a local woman. Other students protested their arrest by leaving the university and going to other towns. It was a group of these scholars that set up a university in Cambridge.

Originally only men were allowed to study at Cambridge. From 1869 women were permitted to study there, but they were not awarded degrees. Women at Cambridge were first awarded degrees in 1947.

Some of the most important discoveries in history have been made by people studying at Cambridge University. The jet engine was invented there. Scientists at Cambridge discovered the structure of human DNA. More than 80 winners of the Nobel Prize, and 15 of Britain's prime ministers, have been graduates of Cambridge University.

Many students from Cambridge University have become famous for becoming among the best in their fields of work. Authors C. S. Lewis, who wrote the Narnia books, and A. A. Milne, who wrote Winnie-the-Pooh, also studied at the university.

On 17th January about 7,000 people gathered in the centre of Cambridge to watch a light show celebrating the anniversary. Images and illustrations were projected onto one of the famous university buildings, the Senate House. A piece of music containing exactly 800 notes was played from the nearby Great St Mary's Church.

Cambridge is usually ranked among the top five universities in the world for its standard of research and teaching. Today, around 18,000 students study at Cambridge University.

¹ to convict [knɛvɪkt] осудить, признать виновным

2. The author says how the university was founded. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. What important discoveries were made at Cambridge?
4. Why is Cambridge University considered one of the best in the world?

II Listen to the recording and answer the questions below.

1. What does Sara want to become?
2. How did she find out about the audition?
3. Why was this performance special for Sara?

Script:

Sara has always wanted to be famous. When she was only four years old, she said to her parents “I’m going to be a star when I grow up.” Her parents laughed. Sara’s dreams were just dreams for years, but now those dreams are coming true, thanks to the power of television.

Sara is lucky: she is an attractive young woman, and she can sing. She has taken singing and dancing lessons since she could walk. When she was seventeen, Sara’s big chance came. She saw an advertisement in a national newspaper: “Singers wanted for a new musical band. This is going to be bigger than the Spice Girls!” Sara rang the number straight away. The first audition was in London, and she was there at six o’clock in the morning, practising her song. She had been to auditions¹ before but this one was different — it was on TV! People all over the country watched Sara singing. She didn’t mind the cameras — she was too excited about being on TV. Sara was the viewers’ favourite.

Some people think that the band will never be successful. “It’s not a real band,” they say. But Sara isn’t worried about her future. “I’m famous now, and it doesn’t matter how I got here. I’m here to stay!”

¹ an audition [ùÈdIS(ò)] прослушивание

III Let’s talk about Belarusian customs and traditions.

1. What can you tell me about your favourite Belarusian holiday?
2. Are you proud of our national holidays and traditions?
3. What questions can you ask a friend about his/her last New Year celebration?
4. What national souvenirs will you recommend a tourist to buy in Belarus?
5. Do you think it is important to follow our grandparents’ traditions? Why?

БИЛЕТ № 16

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

WORLD DIGITAL LIBRARY OPENS

A new worldwide digital library has opened on the internet. The library website has taken four years to put together. It was officially launched at the headquarters of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in Paris, the capital of France, on 21st April.

The digital library lets people see rare items from around the world, including some of the earliest written works. These include ancient books and maps. For example, you can see a digital image of a 1,000-year-old Japanese novel, believed to be the oldest in the world, and the very first European map to include America. The map was drawn in 1562.

The library contains images of some of the earliest known Chinese writing, which is about 3,000 years old. Another item on display is called the Devil's Bible. It's the largest medieval book in the world. The book, which contains a copy of a collection of Jewish and Christian texts first put together by scholars 1,700 years ago, was handwritten in the 13th century. It gets its name because it also contains a large illustration of the Devil. It is now kept in a museum in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden.

The World Digital Library was the idea of James H Billington. He is the head librarian of the USA's Library of Congress, the largest library in the world. Mr Billington hopes the new digital library will be used by young students and teachers everywhere to discover more about the world's cultural history. The library contains about 1,200 items from 26 libraries in 19 countries. An explanation of each item is available in seven languages — Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian.

Visitors can search the library in different ways. They can enter historical dates to see what items were made in the world at that time. They can also sort their searches by similar topics or by country.

You can visit the new World Digital Library at www.wdl.org

2. The author tells us about the person who created the library and why he decided to do it. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. What ways are used to search the library?
4. Why is it a good idea to create such a library?

II Listen to the interview with Roy Tomlinson, who invented the sign @ and email, and answer the questions below.

1. How do people call the sign @ in different countries?
2. How did Roy Tomlinson invent email?
3. Does it trouble him that he is not very famous?

Script:

Presenter: Today we talk to Roy Tomlinson, the man who invented the sign @¹ and email. In English this sign is called simply ‘at’ but what about other countries?

Roy: Other languages have more interesting names. In South Africa it is ‘monkey’s tail²’; in Greece ‘little duck’; in Poland ‘little trunk³’; in Russia ‘little dog’; in Sweden it is ‘elephant’s trunk’ and Turkish e-mailers call it simply ‘ear’.

Presenter: When and why did you invent email?

Roy: It was in 1971 and I am not sure there was a real reason for inventing it. It was a fun thing to try out and it took three to six hours to do. I can’t remember exactly how long it took.

Presenter: How did you feel about spam and viruses?

Roy: I get annoyed when I get spam or viruses. It is a hard problem but we are going to solve it. So far our actions are not working — they either filter too much or not enough. We must find a better way to stop spam or viruses.

Presenter: Does it bother you that you are not a household name?

Roy: No, it doesn’t bother me. Computer fans know what I have done. I get letters from people who say: “It’s great, what you did.” It is not the centre of my life.

¹ @ [Qt] символ в адресе электронной почты

² a tail [teɪl] хвост

³ a trunk [trʌŋk] хобот

III Let’s talk about customs and traditions of an English-speaking country.

1. What can you tell me about your favourite holiday in Britain?
2. Do you find some British customs and traditions special? Why (not)?
3. What questions can you ask a British teenager about good manners in their country?
4. What national souvenirs will you recommend a tourist to buy in Britain?
5. Nowadays more and more people are getting interested in customs and traditions of different countries. What do you think about it?

БИЛЕТ № 17

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

SPECIAL REQUEST TO EDUCATION MINISTER

When the senior class of Gardane School heard that it might not get a new teacher for their elementary school, the pupils wrote to the Minister of Education. They live in or near a village in a mountainous district of Martonia where it is difficult to recruit doctors and teachers. Their request was published in a national paper and has become a common topic of conversation in a country where there is great concern about people leaving rural areas for the cities. This is the letter:

Dear Minister,

We are writing to ask for your help. We need a new teacher for the senior class in our school, and we are worried because our parents have been told that the Ministry cannot find one. Our school is very important to us and we like coming here to learn.

Gardane is a small village. Every visitor from the city says our valley is very beautiful and that we are lucky to live here. So why isn't there a new teacher who wants to come here? We don't mind how old the new teacher is, or whether it's a man or a woman. They should like the country and outdoor life, and be healthy. We would like someone who is patient, happy and does not shout. The teacher should be clever and know how to help us understand things. We'd like our teacher to be properly dressed and to come on time. They should be kind, make us feel happy in the school, and help us make our classroom nice. We would like someone who thinks of exciting things to do, inside and outside school. For example, our last teacher got us to write down the history of the village which our grandparents knew — we didn't realise how much the village had changed; make a nature calendar so we learned more about farming and about the animals and plants in our valley; read all sorts of books and write a newspaper about our village.

If the Ministry does not send us a teacher, we will have to leave our families and our valley to go to school.

Please help us!

Yours sincerely

The pupils of Gardane school.

The pupils have not had a reply yet, and so far the Ministry has refused to comment on the situation.

2. The children mention some qualities that their future teacher should possess. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. Why did children like their last teacher?
4. What will happen if the school doesn't get a new teacher?

II Listen to a girl speaking to her parents and answer the questions below.

1. Where does the girl want to go and why?
2. Who doesn't like the idea?
3. Who will pay for the trip?

Script:

Mum: Have you done your homework?

Girl: No, not yet, I want to talk to you and Dad.

Mum: What about?

Girl: About the summer holidays, there's a group of us at school who want to go away together.

Mum: Go away together? Whatever next?

Girl: I knew you'd say no.

Dad: Hang on a minute, go away where?

Mum: She is only sixteen.

Girl: That's old enough to get married, so you can't stop me.

Dad: Just a minute, go where?

Girl: France. We can practise our French.

Mum: Oh, if you want to practise French, you can do it here.

Girl: Not to each other. To French people.

Dad: Where would you stay?

Girl: We'd go camping, there's a camp site in the south of France. Louise stayed there last year with her parents.

Dad: How would you get to the south of France?

Girl: By train.

Mum: Have you got any idea how much it'd cost? Who is going to pay for it all?

Girl: I'd get a job, anyway we haven't worked out yet how much it will cost.

Dad: I think it'd be a good idea if you get more details and then we'll talk about it again. Okay?

III Let's talk about modern means of communication: TV, newspapers, radio, the Internet.

1. Which of these does your family like?
2. Is there any means of communication you can't live without? Why (not)?
3. What questions will you ask the participants of "What? Where? When?" a famous TV programme?
4. My cousin spends a lot of time chatting in "Contact" and it makes all the family angry. What can you advise him and the family to do in this situation?
5. Can the Internet replace all the other means of mass media? What is your point of view?

БИЛЕТ № 18

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

THE MOST DIFFICULT LANGUAGE?

People often ask which language is the most difficult to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration.

A native speaker of Spanish, for example, will find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese because Portuguese is very similar to Spanish, while Chinese is very different. The greater the differences between the second language and our first one, the harder it will be for most people to learn.

Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system. The pronunciation of Chinese appears to be very difficult for many foreign learners, too. However, for Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, learning this language will be less difficult than for speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet.

Some people seem to learn languages readily, while others find it very difficult. Teachers and the circumstances in which the language is learned also play an important role, as well as each learner's motivation for learning. If people learn a language because they need to use it professionally, they often learn it faster than people studying a language that has no direct use in their day-to-day life.

British diplomats and other embassy staff have found that the second hardest language is Japanese, which will probably come as no surprise to many. But the language that they have found to be the most problematic is Hungarian, which has 35 grammatical cases.

Different cultures and individuals from those cultures will find different languages more difficult. In the case of Hungarian for British learners, it is not a question of the writing system, which uses a similar alphabet, but the grammatical complexity, though native speakers of related languages may find it easier.

2. The author explains why people find Chinese a very difficult language to learn. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. What factors play an important role in learning a language?
4. Why do British diplomats find it difficult to learn Hungarian?

II Listen to the boy speaking about a football match and answer the questions below.

1. What sort of match did Tom play?
2. How did Tom's team play during the match?
3. What was the result of the game?

Script:

The first time I played for the school football team was September 12th — I can't forget the date! The day was wonderful and the weather sunny. I was 13 and I was wearing a new pair of football boots I got for my birthday. It was a home game and lots of people were watching, including my parents. I was playing in the mid-field position. My best friend John was the goalkeeper. I felt quite nervous at the start but I soon relaxed. The crowd were cheering and shouting. Ten minutes into the game, the other team scored a goal. John looked really unhappy. For the next thirty-five minutes, our team tried really hard to score a goal but we were unlucky. At half-time, our PE teacher, Mr Hunter, talked to us and told us to play even harder! Though our competitors were well-trained, we were very enthusiastic and tried to attack as often as possible. We were really tired in the second half but in spite of this we managed to score a goal! It was a fantastic moment. The game ended in a draw. I didn't score a goal but that didn't matter. I was part of the football team now — that was the most important thing.

III Let's talk about a healthy way of life.

1. What influences a person's health?
2. Is home-made food better than junk food? Why?
3. What questions will you ask a fitness coach?
4. What activities can you advise a person who wants to have a healthy way of life?
5. Why is a balanced diet important for your health?

БИЛЕТ № 19

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

MOBILE PHONES

From children to senior citizens, mobile phones have become a craze¹ as a way of staying ahead with the technology. With our fast lifestyles, we have no time to meet our relatives or friends and are left with the only option of talking over the phone. Here comes the need of mobile phones, which allow us to stay connected wherever we are and whenever we need to.

Everybody today owns at least a basic mobile phone. What makes it easy to use is its user-friendly nature, small size and its numerous attractive features. However, people are always eager to replace their mobile phones with the latest models having more advanced features.

As the technology is scaling new heights, mobile phones are becoming cheaper and cheaper and the customer is getting more for less. A great way of amusing yourself is by playing games on your mobile phone. If you want to store your precious moments, you can use its video recording feature. Mobile phones can become expressions of who we are by getting mobile ringtones, wallpapers, which turn your phone into a unique device.

Whatever may be said against mobile phones their advantages have always scored over their disadvantages. They have proved useful for every purpose. Nothing is as comfortable as a mobile phone for communicating over a distance. You cannot be present at the same time at more than one place, but if required you can just make use of your mobile phone and get your work done.

Mobile phones have definitely become the most vital part of our lives. It is hard to imagine life without mobiles. Indeed, mobile phones keep you connected round the clock. They are now inexpensive, easy to use, comfortable and equipped with almost every latest feature you desire. Today, a technologically advanced mobile phone can perform as many tasks as well as that of a personal computer. Even remote countries have started having mobile phone services.

¹ a craze [kreɪz] идея фикс, пунктик

2. The author explains why people need mobile phones nowadays. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. What features can be found in modern mobile phones?
4. Why are mobile phones a vital part of our life?

II Listen to Tina talking about a nasty experience she had and answer the questions below.

1. Who did Tina go to the skating-rink with?
2. What happened to her there?
3. How was she saved?

Script:

When I was eleven years old, I had an accident. I get scared even now when I think about it. I went ice-skating near my house. It was the first time that I'd gone ice skating, so I was nervous and I wasn't sure how to skate.

I went with a friend who was very good at it, and she spent some time teaching me, but I didn't make much progress. I think she got fed up with me, so she left and I went off skating by myself. As soon as she left, I fell over, then again and again. In the end I got bored, so I took off my skates and just walked around on the ice in my shoes.

Suddenly, I stepped on something that wasn't hard. What was it? It was a weak place in the ice! When I stepped on it, the ice broke and I fell in — I sank under the ice. I struggled and struggled but couldn't get out. I was getting very frightened. Then, fortunately, a man came to help me. He grabbed¹ my arms and pulled² me up out of the water onto the ice. So I'm still alive today, but even now, whenever I think about that time, I feel uncomfortable.

And I don't want to go skating again.

¹ to grab [grQb] схватить

² to pull [pU] тянуть

III Let's talk about sport.

1. What do you do to keep fit?
2. Do you agree that bad habits, like smoking, can be dangerous? Why (not)?
3. What questions will you ask a professional sportsman?
4. What can you advise a person who doesn't know what kind of sport to take up?
5. Sport develops character and team spirit. Can you add any other points in favour of sport?

БИЛЕТ № 20

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

HOW I GOT TO THE TOP

I was either ten or eleven when I wrote my first song. I don't remember. My mum was struggling financially and emotionally, so I didn't talk a lot. Finally, she told me if I couldn't talk about what was bothering me, I should write about it. So she gave me a notebook, and my poems turned into lyrics.

I grew up in a very hardworking family. But we didn't have lots of money. I was the kid whom friends' parents bought Christmas presents for. One year, though, when I was in the sixth grade, my mom got a bonus at work, and instead of paying off bills, she bought me a CD player and four CDs.

I eventually got several college music scholarships but passed on them to move to Los Angeles in 2001. Everyone thought I was crazy to do it, but I moved to California anyway and got work singing backup¹. A friend and I lived in a house with some other people, and we finally saved enough money to get our own place. The day we moved into our apartment, the building burned down. I stayed in my car for a few days so I could get enough money to drive back to Texas. When I got home, a friend told me about the American Idol audition² in Dallas.

Looking back on the show, I find it strange going back and performing on Idol last spring. Everyone was always supportive and nice. But I think they were so nice because no one thought I was going to win. Members of the crew came up to me after the finale and told me they didn't think I could have won.

I recently gave a self-esteem workshop for Girl Scouts in Nashville, and I told the girls that I wasn't a role model for my weight. Sometimes I'm thicker when I'm around my family and I'm eating more. Sometimes I'm thinner because I'm on the road and that takes a lot out of me. But I do feel it's important to talk to girls about weight. They see these images, and there's no way they'll ever live up to them.

Everyone says I'm down-to-earth. It would be very hard for me to keep up any sort of celebrity persona. It's just not me. I'm comfortable in my skin. I'm outspoken. I don't know any other way to be.

¹ a backup [ÈbQkÃp] подпевка

² an audition [ùÈdIS()n] проба, прослушивание

2. The author explains what made her write songs. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. Why were all the people nice to her during the show?
4. What did she talk to Girl Scouts in Nashville about?

II Listen to Ann speaking about a holiday that went wrong and answer the questions below.

1. What holiday did Ann want to have?
2. What problems did she have to face?
3. What decision did she make in the end?

Script:

Ann: Last year I went on a walking tour along the coast of the Baltic Sea. I was fed up with the idea of lying on the beach; what I wanted was an active holiday. The first day was pretty good. I walked for about 7 hours. And in the evening I got to the place where I planned to spend the night, it turned out that there was not a single bed free. I had to sleep out on the beach. The second day started with heavy rain, so my things got very wet. On the third day I began to have problems with my shoes. My feet hurt so much that I had to take a bus to the nearest town to buy some other shoes. When I was there I accidentally met an old friend. She invited me to her holiday home, but I refused,

Next day, though, there wasn't only a problem with my shoes (I mean the new ones), but also another worry: there was no way to go! The road along the shore was blocked for some reason. That time I decided to call my friend. She said happily, "Great! We'll be lying on the beach, sunbathing and doing nothing!" Well, I must say I quite liked the idea.

III Let's talk about fashion.

1. What style in clothes do you prefer and why?
2. Do you follow the latest fashion trends? Why (not)?
3. What questions would you ask a fashion designer?
4. What can you advise a person who wants to change something about his/her style but doesn't know how to do it?
5. They say that young people pay a lot of attention to their style and want to be fashionable. What do you think about it?

БИЛЕТ № 21

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

HALLOWEEN

Halloween is always celebrated on 31 October. On that night, many people will look like frightening creatures such as vampires or ghosts. They do this with the help of special clothing and face paint.

Halloween traditions developed from Celtic beliefs in ancient Britain. The Celts believed that spirits of the dead would return to their homes on October the thirty-first, the day of the autumn feast. They built huge fires to frighten away evil spirits that night.

People from Scotland and Ireland brought these ideas with them when they came to America. Some believed that spirits played tricks on people on the last night of October. Historians say many of the Halloween traditions of today developed from those of ancient times. They say that wearing a mask to hide a person's face is similar to the way ancient villagers covered their faces to make evil spirits go away.

On Halloween night, American children put on masks and other clothing. They go from home to home shouting "Trick or treat"! If the people in the homes do not give them a treat, the children may play a trick on them.

Some adults put on costumes and attend Halloween parties. They also decorate their homes. They might clean out the insides of pumpkins and cut funny faces on the surface. Then, they place a burning candle inside. Some hang fake¹ bats, spider webs and other things around the home.

The National Retail Federation is predicting that Americans will spend more on Halloween treats and products this year. The group says about six point nine billion dollars will be spent in all. That is eighteen percent more than last year when Americans spent five point eight billion dollars to celebrate Halloween.

The National Retail Federation also has information about what Americans will be wearing for Halloween this year. It says zombie costumes are tops among women, men and children.

¹ fake [feɪk] поддельный, искусственный

2. The author describes how the ideas of celebrating Halloween came to the USA. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. What do adults and children do to get ready for Halloween?
4. Why do many people celebrate this holiday nowadays?

II Listen to the conversation between a journalist and a Japanese girl and answer the questions below.

1. What does Shima usually eat?
2. Where does she eat?
3. What is happening to the Japanese diet at the moment?

Script:

Journalist: What do you eat in a typical day, Shima?

Shima: I don't usually have breakfast, because I can't get up early enough to it. I normally just buy a coffee and drink it in the office. I usually have lunch in the restaurant near the office with people from work. When I was younger, I used to go to fast food restaurants and have pizza, fried chicken and chips, but now I prefer eating something healthier, so I go to sushi restaurants or restaurants which serve organic, healthy food which is grown in local gardens. And for dinner I have to eat out a lot too.

Journalist: Do you ever eat unhealthy food?

Shima: Well I don't eat a lot of unhealthy things, but I drink a lot of coffee every day. I know it is not a good habit and I am going to give it up one day. I began drinking more juice. Orange one is my favourite.

Journalist: Are people's diets in your country getting better or worse?

Shima: Oh, probably worse. I think the diet in Japan today is much more westernized¹ than before and that's why some people are getting fatter. But personally I like the fact that there are more different kinds of food and restaurants now. I enjoy the variety, it makes eating out much more fun.

¹ to be westernized [Èwest«(r)nalzd] находится под влиянием западной культуры

III Let's talk about travelling and tourism.

1. What role do they play in your life?
2. How do you like to travel?
3. What questions should you ask a travel agent to learn more about a tour?
4. What can you advise a person who doesn't know where to spend his/her holiday?
5. What difficulties can you have when visiting a foreign country? Is it possible to avoid them?

БИЛЕТ № 22

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

FELT BOOTS¹ ARE FEAST FOR THE EYES

The financial-economic crisis of the 2009 was the third of its kind for Smilovichi Felting Factory's Director, Vasily Saban. However, each time his unique company recovered from its challenging situation. Mr Saban, 55, has not only survived these times of trouble but has discovered a solution for 'his' factory — the company modernized its felt boot production, with the range of wool-made products expanded.

“This branch may be one of the oldest but it has seen progress,” says Mr Saban, looking at black-and-white photos from the 1950—1960s. “In 1928 Smilovichi staff made just 8—10 pairs of felt boots daily; the figure is ten times larger now, the quality has also improved. We are now working on making women's felt boots more attractive and fashionable, without giving them high heels!”

Felt boots have been worn for over two centuries but still enjoy popularity with villagers, buiders, the military, steel workers and ice fishermen. In recent years, felt boots have even gained special status, being bought in Russia, the Baltic States, Ukraine and Finland; Smilovichi-made footwear is worn with pleasure.

The company makes 37 different wollen products — including felt boots for children and adults, technical felt, woollen blankets and pillows, and sets for banyas. Its major supplies of raw materials are based in Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan. The company has managed not only to avoid bankruptcy but to advance significantly in its traditional manufacture. The process of felt boot making is complicated and labour intensive, including 36 operations, with only a few of them mechanised.

...I went to Smilovichi to buy felt boots for my sister and ended up buying some for myself and my family. They are beautiful and warm and environmentally friendly, being produced from sheep's wool, without addictive and synthetic glue². Anyone wearing Smilovichi-made felt boots must surely feel warm; their footwear has been made with love and keeps the warmth of their makers' hands.

¹ felt boots [ÈfeltÈbuùts] валенки

² glue [gluù] клей

2. The director of the felting factory tells us about the factory's achievements over the years. Find this extract and read it aloud.

3. What does the factory produce?

4. Why are felt boots becoming more and more popular all over the world?

II Listen to the conversation between a girl and a boy speaking about their family life and answer the questions below.

1. What do the boy and the girl say about their families?
2. Is the girl happy to have a family party?
3. What do John's parents hope he will do after school?

Script:

Angela: I don't know your family very well, John. I guess I haven't been to your house that often.

John: No — you must come round again soon, and have dinner. My parents are quite fun. They come from up north, and then they moved down here when they decided that they wanted to start a family.

Angela: My family have always lived round here. It's full of my cousins! So, do you get on well with your family? You don't talk about them as much as some people talk about their families.

John: Oh yeah, they're fine. It's OK. They both work hard, so I don't see them so much.

Angela: Sometimes I wish I saw a little less of mine! But in fact, I'm going to see everybody soon. I can't wait for this party we're having next month. Everyone's coming.

John: That sounds like fun. I could do with some fun.

Angela: Oh? Is something the matter?

John: Well, it's just that I'm expected to follow tradition and join my uncle's firm when we finish school, but I think it's boring. OK for a holiday job, maybe, but that's enough...

Angela: Hm — what can you do in this sort of situation?

John: Yeah, I would ask my older brother, but he's always at university...

III Let's talk about environment.

1. People say that our planet is in danger. Do you share this opinion?
2. What do you think people should do to protect the environment?
3. What would you like to ask your British friend about measures that are taken to protect the environment in Britain?
4. A friend of yours wants to develop a programme to protect the city where he lives. Give him a piece of advice.
5. Green School of the Year contest is held in the country and you want your school to enter it. Give ideas for some 'green events'.

БИЛЕТ № 23

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

VILLAGE WITH HISTORY OF A CITY

Rakov is a wonderful place. Once it was a big city — a cultural, religious and economic centre. Today, it's just a village located 40 km from Minsk.

I've heard plenty of stories about the origin of this unusual name — Rakov. Some connect the name with the Belarusian word 'raka', or the first settler, named Rak, or, even, the ancient Egyptian sun god Ra.

Rakov was first mentioned in written chronicles¹ in the 15th century — noted as a place owned by the great Lithuanian dukes. 150 years later, it became a town at the centre of Rakov county, with a castle, governor and constitution. A famous Belarusian nobleman and composer Michal Oginski also owned Rakov county for some time.

Rakov reached its height of power in the 17th century, when it was owned by the Sanguszko family. Anna Sanguszko — the wife of one of the Radziwills — set up in her native city the manufacture of ceramic ware² that enjoyed great popularity all over Belarus. Ceramic pots, angel figurines and baking dishes are still found buried beneath Rakov.

Today, Rakov has neither factories nor workshops. However, its residents are proud of their clean air and wonderful landscapes. A complex of several-storey red-brick buildings, constructed in an unusual style in a Rakov residents' garden, stands out against the village's architectural landscape. A large inscription³ on the facade reads: 'Museum. Art-Gallery'.

Felix Yanushkevich — a restorer and a famous artist (his pictures are hung even in the Tretyakov Gallery) — owns the place. The gallery shows Felix's works, as well as pieces by his no less talented brothers. Moreover, it holds ancient documents, furniture, musical instruments, ceramic ware. Today, the gallery has over 12,000 exhibits.

Silver water of the Rakov holy spring⁴ is running through my fingers again. What will happen if I drop a coin? They say it means that you're sure to return. I certainly wish to come back, since I've truly enjoyed seeing this unusual village with the history of a city.

¹ a chronicle [ÈkrnIkI] хроника; летопись

² ceramic ware [sIÈrQmIk we(«)r] керамика

³ an inscription [InÈskrIpS(«)n] надпись

⁴ a spring [sprIN] источник, ключ, родник

2. The author tells us when Rakov was first mentioned in the chronicles and some facts about the town's history. Find this extract and read it aloud.

3. What museum is situated in Rakov?

4. Why will it be interesting for people to visit Rakov?

II Listen to the telephone conversation between a woman and a receptionist from Go-World Home Delivery service and answer the questions below.

1. What's Jessica's surname and address in Byford?
2. What does the woman want to order?
3. Which gift has she chosen?

Script:

Man: Go-World Home Delivery. How may I help you?

Woman: Oh, hello. I'd like to place an order.

Man: Certainly. I'll just take the details.

Woman: Right.

Man: Can I start by taking your name, please?

Woman: Yes, it's Bowles, Jessica Bowles.

Man: Is that Jessica with a G or a J?

Woman: With a J. And then it's B-O-W-L-E-S.

Man: Fine. And your address...

Woman: It's number 18, Heath Street, Byford. That's H-E-A-T-H.

Man: Good. And I need the post code.

Woman: Oh yes, of course. It's B-Y-1, er, 7-R-X.

Man: R-X, thanks. Fine, right now, what was it you wanted to order?

Woman: Well, I've been looking in the catalogue, and I'd like to get a travel bag.

Man: They're great quality, yes. And good value. They're available in a range of colours.

Woman: Yes, and I think it's the yellow that appeals most.

Man: Very nice. You've seen the price?

Woman: Yes, they're 24.99 each, or 22.99 if you buy two.

Man: That's right.

Woman: Well, I only want one.

Man: Fine. Now have you chosen your free gift? From the ones shown on page 20 in the catalogue?

Woman: Oh yes, a diary or a calculator. I think a calculator would be useful.

Man: Good choice. OK, well, I'll put this straight through and then you should be getting the...

III Let's talk about weather and climate.

1. What is happening to weather and climate nowadays?
2. Do you have a favourite season?
3. What questions would you ask a meteorologist?
4. What can you advise a person who is weather dependent?
5. They say there's no bad weather, there are bad clothes. What do you think about it?

БИЛЕТ № 24

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

The first stone has been laid in the foundation of the new building of the Museum of Great Patriotic War History. A time capsule has been laid into the foundation and, by spring 2013, the building is to open. Architects have done their best to make the five-storey, multi-level building, with each of its four sections symbolising a year of the war.

The decision to set up a museum dedicated to the fight against Nazi fascism¹ was taken in 1942. It opened its doors in Minsk in July 1944. Millions of people have visited it since and, with the passing years, the need for a new, more spacious and well-equipped building has become clear. Each year, over 150,000 people visit the museum. Of course, they hope to find objective information and leave with a lasting impression.

The new museum will be located near the centre of the Belarusian capital, on a hill near the Minsk-Hero-City Memorial and Pobedy Park. It will primarily reflect the heroic deeds of the Belarusian people and the big role of the Red Army in defeating Nazis². However, technical innovations, such as dynamically lit electronic maps, electronic catalogues, interactive facilities will help visitors to receive brighter impressions.

We cannot change the fact that fewer witnesses of those dramatic military battles survive today, but we can preserve the past for new generations. Most schools in Belarus have a small museum of military glory, set up by enthusiasts. Professional historians have done much to develop this patriotic movement, preparing dozens of educational textbooks for pupils and teachers, helping to explain the events of 1941—1945.

Why is interest in these distant events so keen? The territory of contemporary Belarus has seen over 200 wars in the past centuries and our nation showed heroism and patriotism on so many occasions. From 1941—1945, we fought against Europe's strongest army. Belarus paid a high price for its victory — 9,200 towns and villages were burnt and there were millions of victims. This can never be forgotten.

¹ fascism [ÈfQSIz(«)m]

² Nazi [ÈnAùtsI]

2. The author explains when the museum was created and how it has changed over the years. Find this extract and read it aloud.

3. What will the visitors be able to see in the new museum?

4. Why are people interested in the Museum of Great Patriotic War History?

II Listen to the three people speaking about how they spend their weekends and answer the questions below.

1. What does the first speaker do at the weekend?
2. What does the second speaker do at the weekend?
3. What does the third speaker do at the weekend?

Script:

Speaker 1: Well, I try to make the most of my weekends, especially in the summer, when you've got more chance to get outside. I know some people like seeing films or concerts, but it's important to me to keep fit, so I always do plenty of running, and, say, tennis or swimming. There are usually some friends around to join in.

Speaker 2: The truth is, I really look forward to the weekend, and then when it finally arrives, most of the time I'm completely broken. So then when all my friends start calling up, "Where are we going tonight?" and so on, I end up staying in, being very lazy, maybe just watching a bit of TV, a film on DVD, something like that.

Speaker 3: I'm studying so hard at the moment for my exams that I can't go wild at the weekends. But I like going to the park with my friends sometimes, or maybe going for a bike ride by myself. It depends. I tend to be more active in the winter, actually — going to the gym, or helping my dad with stuff in the house. I might see a friend or two, especially if there's some sport to watch, then we can watch a match together.

III Let's talk about the Republic of Belarus.

1. What can you tell me about our Motherland?
2. What famous Belarusian people do you know?
3. What questions about Belarus do you expect to hear from a British teenager?
4. What Belarusian sights would you advise a foreigner to visit?
5. You are to write a short article about Belarusian people for a foreign newspaper. How would you describe our people?

БИЛЕТ № 25

11. Read the article and say in 2—3 sentences what it is about.

SURPRISE PARTY

Liz was just finishing the final details for the surprise party she was planning for her husband. She had been thoroughly preparing for this event, designing every aspect of the party from the invitations to the food, and she was very excited about it. Family members whom Andrew hadn't seen in years were flying in from Poland in a few days. Liz had tracked down several college friends, and they were coming from various places across the country. A band and dancers were invited.

The best part for Liz was that she knew Andrew did not have any idea about the party. She could not wait to see the look on his face when he walked into a big "Surprise!" in his own home.

The party was supposed to be on Saturday. As Liz was daydreaming about picking relatives up at the airport the next day and taking them to their hotel, Andrew walked into the kitchen and said, quite certainly, "Sweetheart, I don't want anything special done for my birthday."

"What do you mean?" Liz responded calmly, though her heart began to beat.

"I mean that I don't want a surprise party."

"Okay," Liz said. "Not a problem."

Liz's mind raced. There was nothing she could do about Andrew's request now. And, frankly, she didn't want to. Liz had been planning this for more than a year. The party would go off as she intended. She did not want all of her effort to fail.

When Andrew came home Saturday evening from playing soccer with friends, he was shocked. Tears filled his eyes. This response was something Liz had not predicted. Among the crowd he saw friends whom he had not seen in nearly 20 years and family members who had come from Poland just for this evening. But along with being deeply moved, he was also angry with his wife. He knew he could be emotional, and he did not like people to see him that way. That was why he did not like being surprised.

Salsa music filled the home of Liz and Andrew. Liz whispered "I love you" in Andrew's ear, they shared a kiss, and the two danced the whole night.

2. The author describes the preparations Liz made for the birthday party. Find this extract and read it aloud.
3. What did Andrew ask Liz for?
4. How did Andrew feel at the party?

II Listen to the three people speaking about things that make them angry about mobiles and answer the questions below.

1. What makes the first speaker angry?
2. What annoys the second speaker?
3. What does the third speaker complain about?

Script:

Speaker 1: I am a shop assistant and I work in a shop and what really makes me angry is when I am serving somebody and then their mobiles ring and they answer the phone and start having a conversation. It is really annoying¹. I think if you are in a shop and talking to a shop assistant, you shouldn't answer the phone.

Speaker 2: I hate when people talk very loudly on their mobile phones in public places. The other day I was in the waiting room at the doctor's and there was a man whose mobile rang about every ten minutes and we all had to listen to him talking loudly to his wife, then to his boss, then to a garage mechanic... I think if you are in a public place, you should speak really quietly or go somewhere else. And you don't have to shout — the other people can hear you perfectly well.

Speaker 3: What really annoys me is people who use their phones a lot when they are with other people — like you are out having a meal with someone and they spend the whole time talking on the phone or texting messages to other people to arrange what they are doing the next day. I think it is very rude.

¹ to annoy [«Ёп • I] раздражать

III Let's talk about Great Britain.

1. What do you know about this country?
2. Would you like to visit Britain? Why (not)?
3. What would you ask a British teenager about national holidays in Britain?
4. Give me a piece of advice on what sights to see in London.
5. Do the British differ greatly from Belarusian people in character? Why?