



Федеральное государственное бюджетное образовательное учреждение  
высшего образования  
«Российский государственный гуманитарный университет»  
(ФГБОУ ВО «РГГУ»)

**ОЛИМПИАДА РГГУ ДЛЯ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ ПО ИНОСТРАННОМУ ЯЗЫКУ**

**2023/2024 учебный год**

**Заключительный этап**

**11 класс**

**Вариант № 24-ОШ-2-11 Английский язык-2**

*На выполнение олимпиадных заданий отводится 150 минут. Вам предлагается выполнить четыре категории заданий.*

*При выполнении заданий внимательно читайте инструкцию к каждому заданию.*

*Максимальное количество баллов за ответы:*

- Часть 1. (Reading) - 30 баллов;
- Часть 2. (Writing) - 30 баллов;
- Часть 3. (Use of English) - 20 баллов;
- Часть 4. (Cultural Studies) - 20 баллов.

**Part 1. Reading**

**You are an editor of a magazine. You have come across an interesting article but some parts of the article have been mixed up. Use the headline and the initial paragraph of the article and put the parts to the title and in the right order so that you should receive the original article.**

**Tasks 001-005.** (5 баллов, по 1 баллу за каждый правильно расположенный абзац текста)

**Article 1.**

**IS FREE WILL AN ILLUSION?**

Physicists and philosophers have long argued over whether we truly make our own decisions. Can neuroscientists finally settle the issue?

**A)** While that question has long been the preserve of the physicists, philosophers and religious scholars, a growing number of biologists and neuroscientists are now weighing in. So, with the debate having moved into new territory, can we finally figure out, once and for all, whether we have free will?

**B)** In fact, the latest argument against free will comes from Robert Sapolsky, a neuroscientist. He argues that the more we discover about how the brain works, and the many different influences on human behaviour, the less room there is to squeeze in the capacity for independent decision-making. To take just a handful of examples: geneticists have found hundreds of DNA variants that influence our tendency to be depressed or impulsive; epidemiologists have shown that how well a fetus is nourished during pregnancy can cause

enduring “epigenetic” changes to DNA with lifelong consequences for mental health; and social scientists have demonstrated how experiences in our early life may mould our tendencies to be **anxious** or to commit crimes. “It’s one big seamless arc,” says Sapolsky. “There’s no aspect of behaviour that’s not being influenced by a zillion of these factors.” We may not yet know everything about how the brain makes decisions, says Sapolsky, but one day we might understand near-enough everything. And even now, he adds, we know enough to suggest we won’t make any startling new discoveries to indicate that the brain can avoid being influenced by such factors. “It would require some findings that defy most of biology to find a place to shoehorn [free will] in. There’s no crack where you could discover that there’s where our neurons, instead of communicating with neurotransmitters, start whispering to each other – and that’s why someone decided to rob the bank.” Sapolsky’s argument goes to the **crux** of his interest in how we think about morality and criminal justice. As someone who, earlier in his research career, helped to uncover the way that stress hormones can change the brain, Sapolsky has previously acted as an expert witness in court cases, arguing that defendants should get shorter prison sentences because they were abused as children. “I say to the jurors: ‘If you had the exact same upbringing, with the exact same biology, you’d be sitting at the table as the defendant’,” he says. Such ideas have been challenged, however.

C) For instance, when the first simple life forms appeared on Earth, one of the most interesting essential qualities was that they did stuff. Before that, things happened: grains of sand tumbled around, chemicals reacted and etc. But those were inert physical processes. The first life forms, however, used energy to work against the second law of thermodynamics – the principle that everything tends to become more disorganized over time – and **hence** stay alive. Agency is a really core property of living things and also where we can find the source of free will. In fact, this is what the nervous system evolved for. It’s primarily a control system, the job of which is to define a repertoire of actions and choose between them. This control system has been elaborated over evolution to give greater and greater autonomy, which suggests that we might just be the captains of our souls, after all. Whether any of this will allow free will sceptics and believers to reach an accord is far from clear. There have been thousands of years of discussion about this issue and, obviously, if there were a simple answer, they would have figured it out by now.

D) Suppose you approach a fruit bowl overflowing with apples, oranges and bananas, all perfectly ripe. On this occasion, you choose an orange. Or do you? Because although it may feel like you were free to pick an apple or a banana instead, many of those who **contemplate** such things insist that you aren’t at liberty to choose at all. The same goes for all sorts of decisions we **fret over**, from the trivial to the consequential. If we could somehow rewind the universe, they say, you would behave in exactly the same way - because that is how your brain is made. Your sense of having free will is just an illusion. The implications of such a claim are alarming because they force us to rethink many cherished assumptions. If our choices are somehow predetermined, there is no point agonising over moral dilemmas and less justification for punishing people for their crimes. This stuff matters. But can it really be true that none of us, as the poet William Ernest Henley put it in his stirring poem *Invictus*, is the captain of our soul?

E) As many other neuroscientists point out, a decision can be influenced by something without being determined by it. A gene variant or stress hormone could make a choice more likely without making it 100 per cent certain, for example. If you think free will exists, that’s not to say that there aren’t influences and constraints on our behaviour. Moreover, other evidences can be found in the evolution of biological agency, or the ability to act with intention or purpose.

**Tasks 006-010.** (5 баллов, по 1 баллу за каждый правильный ответ)

## Article 2.

### THE SMARTER WAY TO UNWIND

We are finally getting a grasp of what rest and relaxation actually do to the brain and body. The insights could help us all recharge our batteries, but in the past the idea of rest used to be **neglected** scientifically.

A) When comes to defining rest, Claudia Hammond - a psychology professor – says that people intuitively understand the word, but the struggles to **pin it down** precisely are a major barrier to scientific investigation. The definition that emerged for Hammond was “an activity that is **restorative**, intentional, relaxing”. She was the lead investigator of The Rest Test, which revealed just how wide-ranging and personal people's favourite restful activities are.

B) Researches preferred to study the body or brain engaging in active tasks or just sleeping rather than in difficult-to-define “unwind in full”. Sleep studies have been a bona fide branch of neuroscience for decades, but only now are a host of new studies from multiple disciplines beginning to explain why waking rest is also important. When we choose the right activities in the right doses, rest can be a vital process for the optimal functioning of our bodies and minds.

C) Occupational health psychologists study how employees recover, day-to-day, from the stress of demanding jobs. There are several key aspects to the most beneficial restful activities, but vital is a microbreak. While actually at work, we should consider incorporating regular "microbreaks"-as brief as 10 minutes long- from demanding activities, with studies showing that short periods of rest that are completely detached from your job can increase vigour, reduce fatigue and improve overall well-being as neuroscientists believe that continuous mentally taxing work can even lead to poorer decision-making, since it reduces "cognitive control", which is our ability to flexibly direct our thoughts and behaviour in order to reach a long-term goal. "Cognitive control" is something we use any time we are not doing something automatic. For example, learning the piano, where every movement is consciously executed, requires this, whereas accomplished pianists can play without it. Making rational decisions, such as choosing to take a larger reward later over a smaller one now, requires cognitive control. Such decisions typically get harder as we become fatigued. The harder tasks constantly required - and so **depleted** - cognitive control.

D) Moreover, in terms of acquiring knowledge, regular microbreaks may also aid effective learning. Neuroscientists have long known that memory consolidation occurs during sleep, but now studies suggest that waking rest can also strengthen the brain's records of what we have just learned. For instance, just 15 minutes of quiet contemplation can help participants recall more content from a story they have just heard. The effect holds across numerous types of memory, including memories of words, navigation memory and procedural memory, such as learning new physical tasks. And the effect is as strong as that of sleep. What's more, when researchers looked carefully at the brain's electrical activity during waking rest, they found most of the patterns sleep researchers had linked to memory consolidation. It goes without saying that everybody may instigate a greater valuing of rest and balance.

E) After reading, the most popular activities were- in order of preference- spending time in nature, listening to music, a good walk, a nice hot bath, daydreaming, watching TV and practicing mindfulness. In terms of health, rest has long been associated with resisting, and recovering from, illness. In the past, patients were often recommended "bed rest" for effective **recuperation**, but today it is viewed as a last resort, since lengthy stints of complete inactivity are now known to diminish cardiovascular function, and etc. Nevertheless, reduced energy expenditure can help the body devote more resources to the immune system, which helps fight infections more effectively. Moreover, rest and a good work-life balance are also increasingly viewed as important means of protecting against stress-related illnesses, such as burnout, as well as maintaining good mental health overall.

**Tasks 011-020.** (10 баллов, по 1 баллу за правильный ответ на каждый вопрос).

**Reread the two assembled texts. Choose the meaning the words and phrases in bold have in one of the texts.**

**011.** The underlined word "**anxious**" means the same as:

- A. inclined
- B. exhausted
- C. cheerful
- D. worried

**012.** The underlined word "**neglected**" means the same as:

- A. justified
- B. diminished
- C. promoted
- D. disregarded

**013.** The underlined word "**crux**" means the same as:

- A. a widely held-belief
- B. the most important part of a problem
- C. a titbit
- D. the gist

**014.** The underlined word "**pin down**" means the same as:

- A. clarify
- B. define
- C. point out
- D. exaggerate

**015.** The underlined word "**recuperation**" means the same as:

- A. shifted
- B. recurrence
- C. recovery
- D. renovation

**016.** The underlined word "**contemplate**" means the same as:

- A. explain
- B. consider
- C. doubt
- D. encourage

**017.** The underlined word "**depleted**" means the same as:

- A. improved
- B. changed
- C. distorted
- D. drained

**018.** The underlined word "**fret over**" means the same as:

- A. worry about
- B. put up with
- C. take care of
- D. look forward to

**019.** The underlined word **“hence”** means the same as:

- A. although
- B. because
- C. therefore
- D. however

**020.** The underlined word **“restorative”** means the same as:

- A. regenerative
- B. dangerous
- C. wonderful
- D. harmful

**Tasks 021-030.** (10 баллов, по 1 баллу за правильный ответ на каждый вопрос)

**Here is a summary of the article “Is Free Will an Illusion?”. However, it contains some vocabulary, grammar and factual errors. Decide which of the sentences contain an error if any. There can be more than 1 error in a sentence. Some sentences do not have errors at all. If there are no errors in the sentence choose “0”.**

**021.** According to the text you are not free to pick up any fruit without analyzing your decision beforehand.

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3
- E. 4
- F. 5

**022.** Many cherished assumptions have been rethought because of the famous poem “Invictus” by William Ernest Henley.

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3
- E. 4
- F. 5

**023.** Robert Sapolsky used to work on “free will” concept.

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3
- E. 4
- F. 5

**024.** Our behaviour is predetermined because of our brain structure.

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3
- E. 4
- F. 5

- 025.** Neuroscientists have finally unraveled the mystery whether free will is an illusion or not.  
A. 0  
B. 1  
C. 2  
D. 3  
E. 4  
F. 5
- 026.** Biological agency is potentially one of the factors where free will can be found.  
A. 0  
B. 1  
C. 2  
D. 3  
E. 4  
F. 5
- 027.** Robert Sapolsky claims that just few factors can influence our behaviour.  
A. 0  
B. 1  
C. 2  
D. 3  
E. 4  
F. 5
- 028.** Originally, control system is something that gives more freedom to choose.  
A. 0  
B. 1  
C. 2  
D. 3  
E. 4  
F. 5
- 029.** All people committed crimes should be acquitted because their choices weren't conscious.  
A. 0  
B. 1  
C. 2  
D. 3  
E. 4  
F. 5
- 030.** The idea "free will is an illusion" is full of ambiguity.  
A. 0  
B. 1  
C. 2  
D. 3  
E. 4  
F. 5

## Part 2. Writing

**Tasks 031-035.** (10 баллов, по 2 балла за каждое правильно составленное предложение)

Use the following separate words in the order given to write a coherent sentence, based on information in the article “The smarter way to unwind”. You may change the form of the given words.

You may use your sentences as parts of your outline for your commentary on the article “The smarter way to unwind”.

031. better means / cope with stress / resting

032. employees / tend to / highly productive / short spurt

033. error / prone to / focused work / interrupt

034. adopt new rules / sedentary lifestyle / adverse effects / encourage

035. the key / frequent / ensure/ rejuvenate / well-being

**Task 036.** (Максимальное количество - 20 баллов)

Write your commentary on the article “The smarter way to unwind”. Your commentary is to be between 180-200 words. You are not allowed to cite from the original text pieces longer than 4 words running. Your text should contain various points of view, including your own.

To fulfill the task successfully you are:

- to briefly convey the content of the article;
- to mention various/possible views of the issue;
- to divide your text into logically connected paragraphs.

## Part 3. Use of English

**Tasks 037-046.** (20 баллов, по 2 балла за правильный ответ)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. DO NOT CHANGE the word given. DO NOT USE SHORT FORMS. The number of words you should write is specified in the sentence.

*The example (0) is done for you.*

(0) The meeting takes place next Thursday.

**scheduled**

The \_\_\_\_\_ next Thursday. (4 words)

= The **meeting is scheduled for** next Thursday.

037. It was proposed that a new swimming pool should be built.

**forward**

They \_\_\_\_\_ to build a new swimming pool. (4 words)

038. She was the only one who came up with a solution to the problem.

**succeeded**

Only she \_\_\_\_\_ to the problem (5 words)

039. It is certain that she will call back this afternoon.

**bound**

She \_\_\_\_\_ this afternoon. (5 words)

**040.** We could not understand the book at all.

**sense**

We could \_\_\_\_\_ the book. (4 words)

**041.** He has a more complex personality than you may think.

**depths**

He \_\_\_\_\_ than you may think. (5 words)

**042.** The charity program needs to be supported by the local authority.

**backing**

The charity program \_\_\_\_\_ the local authority. (4 words)

**043.** It is rather difficult to carry out surveillance on the suspects.

**tabs**

It is rather difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ the suspects. (3 words)

**044.** His car became his most prized possession when he first bought it.

**pride**

His car became \_\_\_\_\_ he first bought it. (5 words)

**045.** The majority of her clientele is made up of really wealthy people.

**comprise**

Wealthy people \_\_\_\_\_ her clientele. (4 words)

**046.** His controversial new theory is in complete opposition to common sense.

**flies**

His controversial new theory \_\_\_\_\_ common sense. (5 words)

#### **Part 4. Cultural Study**

**Tasks 047-056.** (20 баллов, по 2 балла за каждый правильный ответ)

**Now show how well you know English-speaking countries. Read the article and choose the correct option to complete the text.**

#### **STILL A CUPPA CULTURE?**

Are the Brits still a nation of tea drinkers? Or is this just another tired cliché? And why have these tiny curled leaves become so firmly rooted in our culture, infusing our vocabulary with expressions like “tea and sympathy” or “storm in a teacup”? The UK Tea & Infusions Association says Brits consume a whopping 100 million cups of tea each day.

Nobody knows who the first tea drinkers were. Some historians believe that prehistoric humans made a type of tea, but it's the one nation who claims to have first drunk it hot. The leaves of *Camellia sinensis* were likely already being brewed to make tea in **(047. \_\_\_\_\_)** in the second millennium BC. The beverage reached Europe in the early **(048. \_\_\_\_\_)** century. Dutch and Portuguese merchants began to import tea leaves, but the trend was slow to cross the Channel because the British had weak trading ties with China. **(049. \_\_\_\_\_)**, in the City of London, was probably one of the first places in England to serve tea, in the 1650s.

Perhaps it's a Portuguese princess, **(050. \_\_\_\_\_)** of Braganza, we should thank for our ongoing love affair with tea. When she married **(051. \_\_\_\_\_)** of England in 1662, she introduced this trendy beverage to the ladies of the English court. It's



not clear how she liked to take her tea, but we do know that, by the 1730s, the British upper classes had begun drinking tea sweetened with sugar.

The tea-drinking habit took a bit longer to filter down to Britain's working classes. Tea leaves were highly taxed – up to 100 per cent at one point in the mid-18th century. Most people simply couldn't afford to drink it. This created a flourishing trade in smuggled tea, but the quality of the illegal product was unreliable. A major turning point in Britain's trade in tea came in 1784, when Parliament passed the (052. \_\_\_\_\_) – cutting the tax on tea from 119 per cent to 12.5 per cent. Suddenly, smuggling tea was no longer profitable and the real thing became affordable for everyone.

Until the early (053. \_\_\_\_\_) century, most of the tea imported to Britain came from China. Although Chinese production was fast and efficient, the British wanted to control this valuable commodity for themselves. They began to set up tea plantations in their colonies, first in India and (054. \_\_\_\_\_) in the 1840s and, later on, in Kenya. In 1848, the (055. \_\_\_\_\_) even sent a Scottish botanist called Robert Fortune to steal tea plants from China and take them to India. Back in Britain, the (056. \_\_\_\_\_) was in full swing. Tea was a contributing factor in its success. Drinking boiled water provided calories for hungry factory workers. By the outbreak of the First World War, tea had become essential to national morale. Even after the war, its popularity kept increasing.

**047.**

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Mexico

**048.**

- A. 15th
- B. 16th
- C. 17th
- D. 14th

**049.**

- A. Grecian coffee house
- B. Garraway's coffee house
- C. Pasqua Rosee's coffee house
- D. Hogarth's coffee house

**050.**

- A. Catherine
- B. Maria Teresa
- C. Maria Ana
- D. Isabella

**051.**

- A. George V
- B. Henry VIII
- C. George VI
- D. Charles II

**052.**

- A. The Representation of the People Act
- B. Commutation Act
- C. The First Act of Supremacy
- D. The Slave Trade Act

053.

- A. 17th
- B. 20th
- C. 18th
- D. 19th

054.

- A. Ceylon
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Java
- D. Sumatra

055.

- A. Queen's Tea Council
- B. British Merchants Association
- C. British East India Company
- D. British Tea Corporation

056.

- A. Great Exhibition
- B. Industrial Revolution
- C. Civil War
- D. Great Fire of London

Председатель предметной методической комиссии  
по иностранному языку  
доктор филологических наук, профессор



*Handwritten signature in blue ink.*

Н.Ю. Гвоздецкая