Stage Ii National Students Olympiad in the English Language

**Writing Test**

**For 8th Form Students**

**Directions:**

In this test you will select from three writing tasks. Choose the one that you feel you are most capable to write about. You will then begin writing your essay on the pages provided. When you are finished close your papers, lay down your pen and wait for us to collect your test materials.

**Writing Test for 8th Form Students**

1. Your friends are going to organize a sporting event. Write about your ideas to a school newspaper. Include the following information:

* kinds of sport that will be presented at the event
* whom you are going to invite
* where you are going to organize the event and what awards the sportsmen will get.

1. You spent a week in Great Britain or the USA. You stayed at your friends’ house and took part in their national holiday. Write a composition about the following:

* what holiday traditions the celebration included
* what the weather was like then
* what made the celebration special

1. Share your opinion on the topic: “How can the Internet influence a person’s life?” Use the ideas given below to write an essay:

* What are positive aspects of the Internet?
* What are negative aspects of the Internet?
* Can people be successful if they do not have access to the Internet?

Stage Ii National Students Olympiad in the English Language

**Writing Test**

**For 9th Form Students**

**Directions:**

In this test you will select from three writing tasks. Choose the one that you feel you are most capable to write about. You will then begin writing your essay on the pages provided. When you are finished close your papers, lay down your pen and wait for us to collect your test materials.

**Writing Test for 9th Form Students**

1. One of your favourite leisure activities is reading books. Write a composition about books answering the questions:

* What kinds of books do you like reading? Why?
* What is your favourite book? Include the information about the type of the book, its plot and characters.
* Do you usually borrow books from a library or do you like buying audio- or paperbooks?

1. Your friend is learning English. Give recommendations on the best ways to develop his/her language skills. Use the ideas given below:

* Share your experience of learning English.
* What difficulties did you have? How did you cope with them?
* What activities do you like most of all in your English lessons?

1. Schools and pupils face many problems nowadays. Do you agree? Write an essay about teaching and learning in Ukraine answering the questions below.

* Would you prefer to study at home and go to school only to take exams? Why?
* Do you think students should be able to choose the subjects that they study at school?
* Do you think it is possible to get good education over the Internet?

Stage Ii National Students Olympiad in the English Language

**Writing Test**

**For 10th Form Students**

**Directions:**

In this test you will select from three writing tasks. Choose the one that you feel you are most capable to write about. You will then begin writing your essay on the pages provided. When you are finished close your papers, lay down your pen and wait for us to collect your test materials.

**Writing Test for 10th Form Students**

1. Imagine you have been invited to speak to foreign students about Ukrainian culture. To join the conference you have to write a composition on the topic suggested. Use the following ideas:

* What aspects of your culture would you be most proud of to share?
* Do you think there have been more accomplished men than women in your culture?
* What event in your opinion was the most significant in Ukrainian culture taking into consideration centuries of interactions - both peaceful and aggressive – in our area?
* What do you think the students would be most surprised by?

1. Do you think you lead a healthy lifestyle? Why?/ Why not?

Write an article to a school magazine about a healthy lifestyle. Include the following:

* Do young people need to be better informed about health issues? Why/Why not?
* Should PE be optional or obligatory in school?
* Are vaccines among the most effective preventative treatments available?
* What activities can help young people keep fit?

1. Your school is planning to run a week to promote safety awareness. Write an article suggesting which aspects of safety (crossing the street, correct use of electricity at home, riding a bike, etc.) are and prioritize the ones based on its importance and urgency. Include the following:

* How important are these aspects of safety?
* How concerned are people in your country about safety?
* What are the greatest dangers that young people face today?
* Can communication in your opinion prevent incidents and injuries and even help us save lives.

Stage Ii National Students Olympiad in the English Language

**Writing Test**

**For 11th Form Students**

**Directions:**

In this test you will select from three writing tasks. Choose the one that you feel you are most capable to write about. You will then begin writing your essay on the pages provided. When you are finished close your papers, lay down your pen and wait for us to collect your test materials.

**Writing Test for 11th Form Students**

1. Write an article to a school newspaper about parent-child relationships. Use the ideas given below:

* How far do you think parents should push their children to succeed in school, in sport or in show business?
* Have you ever felt under too much pressure? Who was more at fault in the case?
* Who do you confide in more – friends or family? Why?
* What ideas can help parents and children strengthen their relationships?

1. Imagine you are a school librarian. Write an article to a school newspaper encouraging students to participate in a school project aiming at promoting reading. Include the following:

* Inform the students about the reason(s) the project has been initiated
* Inform the students what fairy tale they are going to stage according to the project plan, explain the choice and clarify how its characters reflect reality
* Inform the future project participants what film adaptation of a book they are going to watch and underline points to be discussed about the success of the adaptation in a follow-up meeting?
* Let the students know how they can become the participants of the school project and where to register.

1. Imagine you are travelling in time. Your trip is to Stonehenge. It’s a midsummer day. Write a composition about the following:

* Describe the place you are at.
* What place in Ukraine does it remind you of? Why?
* What place will be the next destination you will travel in time to? Why?
* Do you think there are many people fascinated by the idea of changing the past or seeing the future?

Stage Ii National Students Olympiad in the English Language

**Speaking Test**

**For 8th Form Students**

**Directions:**

In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.

**Speaking Test for 8th Form Students**

1. Talk about your school English lessons. What activities do you like most of all? How do you work on your pronunciation skills? Do you do any language projects?
2. Describe your favourite type of cuisine. Does your favourite cuisine include your favourite dish. What are the differences, if any, between the two?
3. Who is your favourite painter and why? Does he/she inspire you? What is your favourite painting?
4. Would you rather have a new car or new computer and why? Describe why each would be important to you and what you would use it for.
5. Do you think fashion has a beneficial or harmful effect on society? List some ways that fashion is beneficial and some ways that fashion is harmful and why.
6. What is the difference between your best friend and all of your other friends? Can you have more than one best friend? Do you? Why is this person your best friend?
7. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of tourism? What is the most unforgettable place you have ever visited?
8. What languages do you think are important for a person to know? Are ancient languages more important than modern ones? How can each help you?
9. An international travel magazine has asked its readers to describe a famous city. What city will you choose to describe? Why? What are its most famous landmarks?
10. Discuss the pluses and minuses of studying abroad. Do you think that this should be a compulsory part of everyone’s education. Why or why not?
11. Do you ever listen to classical music? Talk about some of your favourite composers and why you like their music.
12. Describe a film you have seen recently. Tell us about its plot, characters and main ideas. Who will you strongly advise to watch it?
13. What would you do if you were given a million euros? Do you think it is better to win or be given money or is it better to earn money?
14. What are the advantages and disadvantages of growing up in a large family? Discuss the following ideas: family relationships, everyday chores, discipline and family budget.
15. What is junk food? Talk about why it is so popular and why it is so dangerous. In your opinion what is healthy food and why is it good for us?
16. If you were a teacher what subject would you teach? Would you be relaxed or strict? Would you give a lot of homework? Explain your answers.
17. Is it a good idea to save animals from extinction? Why? Do you know any animals that are threatened with extinction? Why are they? What can be done to help?
18. Would you ever consider a career in extreme sports? Why or why not? What factors lead you to your decision?
19. What does the independence of Ukraine mean to you? What are the national symbols of Ukraine? What do they mean to you?
20. Would you prefer a future job working alone or with people? Why? Are there any advantages and disadvantages of each?

Stage Ii National Students Olympiad in the English Language

**Speaking Test**

**For 9th Form Students**

**Directions:**

In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.

**Speaking Test for 9th Form Students**

1.Which is superior: books, or Internet sources?

• Which do you use more frequently? Is one easier to use than the other?

• Which source is more reliable? Why?

• Does the superiority of one resource over the other depend on the context? Explain.

2. A time-traveler has arrived from the future! What would you ask him/her, and why?

• How could knowing the future benefit your life?

• What advantage could you gain for yourself or for the world as a whole?

• What could be some of the consequences of knowing your future?

3. Which quality is more important in a friend: trustworthiness or friendliness?

• Would you rather have a friend that does kind things for you or a friend that will tell you the truth?

• What are the advantages of your choice? Are there any disadvantages?

• What type of friend are you?

4. Do you feel that music is a good indicator of a person’s personality?

• Are people that listen to happy music more joyful than people that listen to sad or aggressive music?

• How are people represented by different genres of music (rock, pop, rap, classical, etc.)?

• Do your music tastes accurately represent your personality?

5. What is a more useful quality in a heroic person: intelligence or bravery?

• Which quality allows you to help more people?

• Which quality affects what you can do for people?

• What other advantages of these qualities can you think of? Which quality would you like to be described as having?

6. “Some books should be tasted, some devoured (eaten), but only a few should be chewed and digested thoroughly.” ― Francis Bacon. What is your interpretation of this quote, and does it apply to you? If so, how?

• Do you read often? Why or why not?

• Is it important for people to read?

• If you had to classify the books you’ve read, which ones were tasted, devoured, and/or chewed and digested thoroughly?

7. Imagine that you are a famous celebrity.

• What would you want to be famous for?

• How would you live your life differently?

• What are some of the drawbacks of being a celebrity? Is there anything you would miss from your earlier life?

8. English author Neil Gaiman states that “sometimes the best way to learn something is by doing it wrong and looking at what you did.” Do you agree or disagree and why?

• Describe time in your life when you have failed but continued towards your goal.

• Looking back on your experience as a learner, how do you learn best?

• What advice could you give to someone about trying and failing when it comes to learning?

9. Imagine that you could build your dream home anywhere in the world.

• Where would you build your dream home? Describe the country, city, and surrounding area.

• Describe the layout of your dream home. What rooms would you have in your house? What would they look like?

• What things would your house have for comfort or enjoyment?

10. Scientists theorize that some animals have emotional lives similar to those of humans.

For example, elephants and whales mourn their dead, and crows hold both funerals and grudges.

• Do you believe other animals have emotions like humans? How can we know from observation?

• If they do have similar emotions, what does this mean for animal rights?

• Can animals sense right and wrong? Can they thus be blamed for their actions?

11. “I don’t care what the newspapers say about me, as long as they spell my name right,”

is an old, famous quotation about the idea that no publicity is bad publicity.

• Do you agree or disagree that for someone or something famous, all publicity, even negative, is ultimately beneficial?

• This quotation was first said during the time of newspapers. Does this belief still hold up today, in the time of the Internet?

• How have publicity and public relations changed since the appearance of the Internet and social media?

12. Each generation differs in unique ways from those that have come before.

• How is your generation different from your parents’ and grandparents’ generations?

• How have the events of the past shaped the attitudes of your parents’ and grandparents’ generations? How are the current world and societal events shaping your generation?

• What do you foresee for the next generations? How will they be similar or different?

13. “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.” – Socrates said.

• How do you understand this quote? Can you apply it to yourself?

• Is wisdom the same as intelligence or knowledge? Explain.

• How can a person acquire wisdom?

14. You have the opportunity to meet your favorite fictional character! You have 48 hours to spend with this individual.

• Describe who the character is and why you have chosen him/her/it.

• What will do you do in your 48 hours together? What will you discuss?

• How would your life be different after meeting this individual?

15. “Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent.” ― Victor Hugo

• How do you understand this quote? Does is apply to you or someone you know?

• What role does music have in everyday life?

• Could you imagine life without music? How would it affect people and society?

16. Studies have shown that prolonged smart phone use has a negative effect on our brains, especially youth. Some people suggest we limit our smart phone use. Do you agree or disagree, why?

• Should smart phones be available to different age groups?

• What role do smartphones play in your daily life? Would you alter your phone usage based on this statement? Why or why not?

• Should people take more control and attempt to limit their time on these devices?

17. You are the principal of your school for a week! Talk about what you would do during your seven days as the head of your school.

• Describe how your school is now and how it will change with you leading it. What are the first changes you will make, and why?

• What kind of principal will you be? (i.e. strict, funny, etc.)

• How would you like your teachers and students to remember you after you retired?

18. Would you rather be the first person to explore a new planet or be the inventor of a drug that cures a deadly disease?

• Explain why you selected your choice and what you would do having chosen that

option.

• What are the advantages and disadvantages of your choice?

• Why are inventions and exploration important, and how do they affect your community, country, and world?

19. Throughout the history of humankind, there have been many crucial inventions which have furthered the development of our society. In your opinion, what is the greatest technological advancement in our history?

• Describe the technological development. Why has it been so important to humankind?

• What would life be like without this technological advancement?

• How has this piece of technology affected your life, your family, or even your future

family? Explain.

20. How interested are you in shopping and what are your shopping habits?

•Do you prefer using small local shops or supermarkets?

•Do you think most shopping will be done online in the future?

•What’s more important to you, quality or price?

Stage Ii National Students Olympiad in the English Language

**Speaking Test**

**For 10th Form Students**

**Directions:**

In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.

**Speaking Test for 10th Form Students**

1. You are a famous inventor. You win a contest with a new product and become extremely famous. Though you are successful, you are not sure why everyone likes your new, quite useless invention.

• What is your invention?

• What does it do?

• How does the success of your “useless” invention change your feelings about humans and society?

2. People are often interested in foreign people and cultures. Which foreign culture do you find most intriguing?

* Which tradition from that culture would you like to experience?
* How has the classical understanding of that culture changed over time?
* What are the advantages and disadvantages of accepting foreign traditions into your own culture?

3.“Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation.” ― Oscar Wilde said.

• How do you understand this quote? Can it be applied to your life?

• Do you agree with Wilde’s statement? Why or why not?

• Can anyone be truly unique, and if so, what makes them so?

4. Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

• How do you understand this quote? What does it mean to your life?

• Should a person allow some of their basic freedoms to be taken from them in order to be better protected? Which ones?

• Should a government be allowed to take away certain rights in the name of security?

In what situations?

5. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are plants or animals that have been modified for a specific purpose. Some people think using GMOs is the only way to keep up with the Earth’s growing populations. Do you agree or disagree, why?

• What do you think about GMOs?

• Should we continue to support their development?

• Is it better to return to more natural processes at the cost of productivity and possibly

not being able to support the world’s population growth?

6. Is education at university necessary to achieve success in life?

• How does university education help people achieve success?

• What type of personal success can be achieved without a university degree?

• Besides wealth, what are other measures of success that can be pursued?

7. It is said that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder." How important is it to maintain one's appearance?

• Does it matter what a person looks like? In what situations?

• How is one's life affected by whether they choose to maintain a certain appearance?

• Should people let their opinions of others be affected by how that person looks or how they dress? What examples do you have from your life?

8. Some of the natural wonders of the world include the Grand Canyon, Victoria Falls, and Mount Everest.

• What other famous natural landmarks around the world do you know?

• Are there any famous natural landmarks in Ukraine?

• How should these natural landmarks be protected?

9. Smart phones have become an important feature of most people's everyday life. Some people argue that they are largely unnecessary, while others cannot imagine life without them now.

• What role does a smart phone play in your life?

• Do you think smart phones are essential?

• What is the most important feature of a smart phone?

10. Congratulations! You’ve just won a lottery!

• What would you do if you won a thousand dollars? A million? A billion?

• How might your daily life, and your personal relationships, change?

• Would you become a philanthropist? How important is it for rich people to “do good” with their wealth?

11. If you were a famous cartoon character, who would you be?

• Why did you choose this character to represent you?

• Does this character resemble you physically or mentally, or is it someone totally different from how you see yourself?

• What do you admire about this character? What flaws does the character have?

12. If you could have one world-class artistic or athletic skill, what would it be?

• Why did you choose that particular skill?

• Would you seek to make money off your talent, or would it be something you did only for love?

• Are you currently working on developing your artistic or athletic talents? Which ones?

13. Which quality is more important in a friend: trustworthiness or friendliness?

• Would you rather have a friend that does kind things for you or a friend that will tell you the truth?

• What are the advantages of your choice? Are there any disadvantages?

• What type of friend are you?

14. Some school systems require their students to go to school year round with short breaks built in. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

• Discuss the pros and cons of this kind of system.

• How would a year-round school system change education in Ukraine?

• Think about it from the perspective of parents and teachers. How would they react to the system?

15. You can be the youngest president of any country in the world:

•Which country do you want to rule? Why?

•Would you improve the country in any way? How?

•How can you improve the lives of young people in the country?

16. What role do social media play in your life?

• Describe your average day using social media.

• Could you survive without social media? How would your life change?

• How have social media affected the greater society, both in Ukraine and globally? In what ways have these changes been positive or negative?

17. When listening to a song, what is more important to you, for example: lyrical content or emotional content?

• According to your musical taste, what do you look for in music?

• Is what the singer says as important as the emotions they are trying to project?

• From your observations, what does a song need in order to be considered popular?

18. You have become an expert in your field of study. You have to deliver a speech that is

broadcast to the entire world.

• What is your speech about and what would you say?

• What would you wear?

• Who would the speech be directed to?

19. You are trapped on a deserted island.

• What skills would you need to survive on the island?

• What is the one thing that you would take with you if you could? Why?

• What do you think your mental state would be?

20. You will soon finish school and become an adult. What do you think about your career prospects?

•What would be your ideal job?

•When you get a job, would you like to work part-time or full-time? Why?

•How would you feel if you had to work at weekends?

Stage Ii National Students Olympiad in the English Language

**Speaking Test**

**For 11th Form Students**

**Directions:**

In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.

**Speaking Test for 11th Form Student**

1. In some people's opinions, technological progress comes at the cost of the environment. Do you agree or disagree? Why/Why not?

* How is this opinion represented (or not) in Ukraine?
* Is it okay to destroy the environment in the name of technological progress?
* Is there any way to ensure that the environment can be protected while still progressing

technologically?

2. What is more essential: having a healthy spirit or a healthy body?

* Compare the two, what would life be like if you had to choose one or the other.
* If you were forced to choose, what would you select as being more crucial to one's happiness?
* How would this choice alter you as a person both physically and emotionally?

3 You are now in the eleventh form. Soon you will finish school.

* What advice about school life would you like to give to younger pupils?
* What would you like to see changed about your school or the system of education in Ukraine?
* Can you give a student a piece of advice on how to pass NMT exams well?

4. Some students of history argue that it is important to study the past because history repeats itself.

* Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.
* Can you think of an example where history has repeated itself?
* Are there any other reasons to study the events of the past?

5. Around the world, the hobby reading for pleasure has declined in recent years.

* What do you think are the causes of this phenomenon?
* Is this good or bad? What do you think will be the results of this change?
* Are you a reader?

6. National parks in foreign countries are a major tourist destination.

* Why are national parks important to a nation? To the world?
* What national parks exist in Ukraine? Have you visited them?
* Are national parks more for people’s enjoyment, or more for the preservation of the nature, culture, or history each park aims to protect?

7. Some people like going on holiday to relax, while others enjoy more of an adventure. Which do you prefer?

* Which activities have you done on holiday?
* Do you think that people get enough holiday time per year? Should there be more or less?
* While on holiday, is it also important to learn some things about the local culture? Why/Why not?

8. More and more children around the world are using mobile phones.

* What do children use their mobile phones for and how is it different from adults?
* Should parents monitor and control their children’s activity on their phones? Why /Why not?
* How old do children need to be to be allowed to have phones? Discuss your reasoning.

9. Some schools have dress codes limiting the choices of clothing, hairstyles and hair colors, and makeup. Does your school have a dress code?

* What do you think about dress codes? Do they help the students focus on schoolwork, or do they unfairly limit students’ individuality?
* How do you feel about schools dictating what hairstyles—as in, length of hair or style of cut—are acceptable? If limits are placed on one gender, should they also be placed on the other gender in the spirit of fairness?
* Do these dress/style codes impact students beyond their school years?

10. “The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born-that there is a genetic factor to leadership. That's nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born.” —Warren Bennis. Do you agree or disagree with Bennis?

* Explain what a leader is to you. What are their characteristics, how do they act, etc.?
* Why does Bennis say it is a ‘dangerous myth’?
* Have you ever held a leadership role? If so how did you get there?

11. “The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbour,” Huber H. Humphrey once wrote.

* Do you get on with your neighbours?
* What do you like about your neighbourhood? If you had a chance, what would you change about your neighbourhood?
* Would you ever consider moving to a new neighbourhood?

12. In the digital age, many people turn to the Internet to get the news. Where and how do you choose to get your news?

* What are the benefits and drawbacks of finding news on the Internet, as opposed to more traditional means of newspaper, radio, or even television?
* Billions of people are now able to publish anything they want on the Internet. How, then, can you determine what online news sources are trustworthy?
* How will this evolution of news in media affect future generations?

13. “You are what you eat,” is a popular saying in English, regarding health and nutrition.

* What is your interpretation of this saying? Do you agree or disagree?
* What is your daily diet like? Where did/do you learn your dietary practices?
* How do health and nutrition affect your daily life? Your family, friends, neighbors, etc.?

14. If given the opportunity to travel through time and space to any location or time you would like, but your presence there will alter events, where do you go and why?

* What effect will you have on your destination?
* Do morals and values play a role in your choice of destination?
* Should humans have the ability to travel in such a manner?

15. Who in your opinion is the greatest sportsman/sportswoman Ukraine has?

* What sport does he/she do at the highest level? What is his/her greatest achievement?
* How did his/her background, education or coach mould him/her into an admirable sports personality?
* Is there anything interesting or unusual about the person? Justify your opinion.

16. Archaeologists help us understand our present and future by examining artifacts and learning about past civilizations. Many artifacts can be viewed on display in museums.

* How can the study of past civilizations help us in the present?
* Should archaeologists always excavate a new site they find or preserve it where it is?
* If artifacts are excavated and displayed in a museum, should they remain in museums in the country where they were found?

17. Parents often say that kids are growing faster today. Do you agree? At what age do teenagers reach adulthood?

* At what age do you think people become adults? Explain.
* What distinguishes teenagers from adults? What are the characteristics of maturity?
* Do you agree with the opinion that children rush to be adults?

18. You have a choice between living in one city for the rest of your life and moving to a new city every five years.

* Which style of life would you choose?
* What are some of the reasons for this choice?
* If you could choose a city or cities, where would you live?

19. What are sports facilities in your area like?

* What kind of exercise do you enjoy and when do you do it?
* Which sport do you think is best for keeping fit?
* How much exercise do you think people should take?

.20. “Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws” – Plato. How do you understand this quote?

* Do you agree or disagree? Explain your thoughts.
* Can you apply this quote to your life? If so, how?
* What would the world be like if laws were not put in place?