І ЕТАП ВСЕУКРАЇНСЬКОЇ УЧНІВСЬКОЇ ОЛІМПІАДИ З АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ
ЧИТАННЯ
9 клас
Text 1

Read the text and decide whether the statements are TRUE or FALSE.

The Power of School Gardens

A few years ago, an empty piece of land behind a school in a small town was turned into a garden. At first, only a few students were interested in the project. They planted flowers, vegetables and herbs, but they soon discovered that looking after a garden took more time and effort than they had expected. They had to water the plants regularly, remove weeds and protect young vegetables from insects.

Gradually, more students joined in. Some enjoyed working outdoors, while others liked the idea of growing their own food. Teachers also began using the garden during lessons. In biology, students could observe how plants grow. In maths, they measured the garden and calculated how much space each type of plant needed. The garden had become more than just a place to grow vegetables.

The students had to decide which plants would grow best in different parts of the garden and when they should be planted. They began keeping notes about the weather and the plants' progress, which helped them understand why some vegetables grew faster than others. These small discoveries made the project more interesting and taught the students to be patient and responsible.

The project also brought the school community closer together. Students who did not usually work with one another began sharing tasks and solving problems as a team. When the first vegetables were ready, some were used in the school kitchen, while others were given to a local charity. However, the garden was not always easy to manage. During the summer holidays, there were fewer people available to look after it, and some plants did not survive. Despite these difficulties, the students decided to continue the project and make the garden even better the following year.

The school garden showed that learning does not have to take place only in the classroom.

Statements	TRUE	FALSE
1. Most students were immediately interested in the garden project when it began.		
2. Students used the garden to learn about subjects other than biology.		
3. The garden helped students who did not usually work together learn to cooperate.		
4. All the vegetables grown in the garden were used by the school kitchen.		
5. Although the project faced some difficulties, the students wanted to continue it.		

Text 2

Read the text and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Why Are Hobbies Important?

Many teenagers have busy schedules. Between school, homework and other responsibilities, they may feel that there is little time left for anything else. As a result, hobbies can seem like an unnecessary extra activity. However, having an interest outside school can be very valuable. A hobby gives people a chance to relax, try something new and spend time doing something they genuinely enjoy. It can also help them discover talents they did not know they had.

Not all hobbies require expensive equipment or special skills. Some people enjoy drawing, cooking or learning a musical instrument, while others prefer cycling, gardening or playing chess. The important thing is to choose an activity that matches your interests. For example, Maya, a fourteen-year-old student, started baking because she wanted to make a birthday cake for her younger brother. Her first attempt was far from perfect, but she did not give up. She watched a few online tutorials, tried different recipes and gradually improved. Now she often bakes for her family and says that the experience has taught her to be more patient.

Hobbies can also help people build friendships. Joining a sports team, a music group or an art club allows teenagers to meet others who share similar interests. They can exchange ideas, learn from one another and work towards common goals.

A hobby should not become another source of pressure. It is perfectly normal not to be the best at something or to make mistakes while learning. The main purpose is to enjoy the activity, not to compete with others or achieve perfect results. Teenagers should choose hobbies that suit their interests and allow them to relax and express themselves. Even a small amount of time spent on something they love can make their daily lives more enjoyable and rewarding.

Questions

Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

A. Teenagers should spend less time doing homework.

B. Hobbies can bring several benefits to young people.

C. Most teenagers have too many hobbies.

D. School activities are less important than hobbies.

2. According to the second paragraph, what is important when choosing a hobby?

A. It should be popular among your friends.

B. It should require special equipment.

C. It should be something you are interested in.

D. It should help you become successful quickly.

3. What does Maya's experience show?

A. People can improve if they practise and do not give up.

B. Baking is easier when you follow online instructions.

C. Teenagers should choose hobbies that help their families.

D. Making mistakes means that an activity is too difficult.

4. Why does the writer mention sports teams, music groups and art clubs?

A. To show that teenagers should spend more time at school.

B. To explain why some hobbies are more expensive than others.

C. To suggest that teenagers should become members of several clubs.

D. To give examples of how hobbies can help people make friends.

5. Which statement best expresses the writer's opinion?

A. A hobby is useful only when a person becomes very good at it.

B. Enjoying an activity is more important than being the best at it.

C. Teenagers should spend all their free time developing new skills.

D. Hobbies are mainly important because they help students get better marks.

Vocabulary in Context

Choose the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the bold word or phrase as used in the text.

6. A hobby gives people a chance to spend time doing something they **genuinely** enjoy.

A. reluctantly

B. sincerely

C. temporarily

D. excessively

7. Maya tried different recipes and **gradually** improved.

A. instantly

B. randomly

C. progressively

D. unwillingly

8. Joining a sports team, a music group or an art club allows teenagers to meet others who **share similar interests**.

A. have common pursuits

B. hold opposing views

C. pursue individual ambitions

D. avoid social interaction

9. A hobby should not become another **source of pressure**.

A. form of encouragement

B. cause of stress

C. sign of achievement

D. means of entertainment

10. Even a small amount of time spent on something they love can make their daily lives more enjoyable and **rewarding**.

A. exhausting

B. misleading

C. fulfilling

D. ordinary