

От автора

Конкурс понимания письменного текста (**Reading**) является одним из самых сложных разделов в олимпиаде, так как помимо тривиального понимания текста от ученика требуются умения анализировать информацию, связывать различные события и факты, выстраивать логическую цепочку. Основные виды заданий по чтению, которые можно встретить на олимпиаде:

- **Задания на альтернативный выбор (установление истинности или ложности высказывания).**
- **Задания на множественный выбор (выбор правильного варианта ответа).**
- **Задания на заполнение пробелов в тексте, заполнение таблиц.**
- **Задания на множественное соответствие (соотнесение).**
- **Задание на упорядочение текста (вставка предложений в текст по смыслу).**

Для успешного участия в олимпиаде по английскому языку необходимо не только владеть языком на достаточном уровне, но и необходимо понимать особенности формата заданий и алгоритмы их выполнения. Чрезвычайно важно овладеть стратегиями выполнения конкурсных заданий и избегать типичных ошибок при их выполнении.

Необходимо правильно рассчитывать время выполнения заданий, рационально его использовать, поэтому важно при подготовке и решении тренировочных заданий также работать с таймером, не позволяя себе тратить больше времени на выполнение, чем дается на подобные типичные задания на олимпиаде. Рекомендуем внима-

тельно анализировать задания, и начинать процесс выполнения с чтения вопросов, а не самого текста. Искомая информация, как правило, содержится в отдельных абзацах или предложениях, поэтому читать весь текст не нужно, к тому же время выполнения ограничено.

Важно не оставлять ни одно задание без ответа, даже если нет уверенности в его правильности.

Задания предполагают умение не только прочесть нужную информацию, но и умение логически мыслить и делать выводы. Среди типичных ошибок — расширение или сужение смысла утверждения. Важно правильно трактовать как текст, так и формулировки задания. Как правило, целые абзацы могут быть помещены в качестве дистрактора, то есть в данном куске текста не будет содержаться полезной информации. Нужно понимать, что и в формулировках вопросов также могут находиться дистракторы — то есть правдоподобные варианты ответов, которые на самом деле служат для отвлечения внимания от сути предмета.

Текст задания может изобиловать специфичными терминами, что создает впечатление повышенного уровня сложности задания. Важно не пытаться прочитать весь текст целиком, а искать те абзацы и предложения, в которых и скрыт правильный ответ.

В данном пособии предлагаются разнообразные форматы, многие из которых встречались на различных этапах олимпиады. Большинство заданий дополнены подробными комментариями к правильным ответам.

TASKS

Task 1. Read the text. Choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) for each question.

George Gershwin

- A. George Gershwin was an American composer and pianist. Gershwin's compositions spanned both popular and classical genres, and his most popular melodies are widely known. Among his best-known works are the orchestral compositions *Rhapsody in Blue* and *An American in Paris* as well as the **opera** *Porgy and Bess*.
- B. *Rhapsody in Blue* is a 1924 musical composition for solo piano and jazz band, which combines elements of classical music with jazz-influenced effects. Commissioned by bandleader Paul Whiteman, the composition was orchestrated by Ferde Grofé several times, including the original 1924 scoring, theatre orchestra setting published in 1926, and the symphony orchestra scoring published in 1942, though completed earlier. The piece received **its** premiere in the concert, *An Experiment in Modern Music*, which was held on February 12, 1924, in Aeolian Hall, New York, by Whiteman and his band with Gershwin playing the piano.
- C. The editors of the Cambridge Music Handbooks **opined** that *Rhapsody in Blue* established Gershwin's reputation as a serious composer and had since become one of the most popular of all American concert works. *Rhapsody in Blue* has been interpreted as a musical portrait of New York City; it is used in this context in a segment from the film *Fantasia 2000*, in which the piece is used as the lyrical framing for a stylized animation set drawn in the style of famed illustrator Al Hirschfeld. It was also used in the opening sequence of Woody Allen's 1979 film *Manhattan*.
1. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word **opined** as used in Paragraph C?
- A. expressed an opinion
 - B. published
 - C. criticized
 - D. doubted

2. Where can the following sentence best be added to the passage?
The piece was performed by Herbie Hancock and Lang Lang at the 50th Grammy Awards on February 10, 2008.
- A. at the end of Paragraph A
 - B. at the end of Paragraph C
 - C. at the beginning of Paragraph A
 - D. at the beginning of Paragraph B
3. According to the passage, who was Woody Allen?
- A. an actor
 - B. a comedian
 - C. a musician
 - D. a filmmaker
4. This type of passage can be described as
- A. narrative
 - B. expository
 - C. persuasive
 - D. descriptive
5. In Paragraph B, the word **its** refers to
- A. concert
 - B. composition
 - C. orchestra
 - D. piece
6. A good title for this passage would be
- A. Musical Style and Influence
 - B. Radio Programmes
 - C. Original Scores
 - D. Early Career
7. According to the passage, George Gershwin was all of the following **except**:
- A. a natural talent
 - B. an outstanding performer
 - C. a brilliant lyricist
 - D. a composer of jazz
8. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- A. George Gershwin was one of the most significant American composers of the 20th century.
 - B. He began his career as a song plugger.
 - C. His most ambitious composition was *An American in Paris*.
 - D. George Gershwin lived in New York for some time.

9. Which of the following is the closest in meaning to the word **opera** as used in Paragraph A?
- A. a short essay written as a school exercise
 - B. an extended dramatic composition, in which all parts are sung to instrumental accompaniment
 - C. a diverting opera with spoken dialogue and a happy ending
 - D. a classical dance form demanding grace and precision and employing formalized steps
10. What is the main idea of the passage?
- A. George Gershwin wrote numerous songs for stage and screen that quickly became standards.
 - B. Many celebrated singers and musicians have performed his songs.
 - C. George Gershwin was of Russian ancestry.
 - D. George Gershwin composed his first major classical work, *Rhapsody in Blue*, in 1924.

Task 2. Read the text. Choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) for each question.

David Bowie

- A. David Robert Jones (8 January 1947 — 10 January 2016), known professionally as David Bowie, was an English singer, songwriter and actor. He was a leading figure in popular music for over five decades, acclaimed by critics and other musicians for his innovative work. His career was marked by reinvention and visual presentation, his music and stagecraft significantly influencing popular music.
- B. During his lifetime, his record sales, estimated at 140 million albums worldwide, made him one of the world's best-selling music artists. In the UK, he was awarded nine platinum album certifications, eleven gold and eight silver, releasing eleven number-one albums. In the US, he received five platinum and nine gold certifications.
- C. Born in Brixton, South London, Bowie developed an interest in music as a child, eventually studying art, music and design before embarking on a professional career as a musician in 1963. *Space Oddity* became his first top-five entry on the UK Singles Chart after its release in July 1969.
- D. After a period of experimentation, he re-emerged in 1972 during the glam rock era with his flamboyant and androgynous alter ego Ziggy Stardust. The character was spearheaded by the success of his single *Starman* and album *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*, which won him widespread popularity. In 1975, Bowie's style shifted radically towards a sound he characterised as "plastic soul", initially alienating many of his UK devotees

but garnering him his first major US crossover success with the number-one single *Fame* and the album *Young Americans*.

- E. In 1976, Bowie starred in the **cult** film *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, directed by Nicolas Roeg, and released *Station to Station*. The following year, he further confounded musical expectations with the electronic-inflected album *Low* (1977), the first of three collaborations with Brian Eno that would come to be known as *The Berlin Trilogy*. *Heroes* (1977) and *Lodger* (1979) followed; each album reached the UK top five and received lasting critical praise.
- F. After uneven commercial success in the late 1970s, Bowie had UK number ones with the 1980 single *Ashes to Ashes*, **its** parent album *Scary Monsters (And Super Creeps)*, and *Under Pressure*, a 1981 collaboration with *Queen*. He then reached his commercial peak in 1983 with *Let's Dance*, with its title track topping both UK and US charts. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, Bowie continued to experiment with musical styles, including industrial and jungle.
- G. He also continued acting; his roles included Major Celliers in *Merry Christmas*, *Mr Lawrence* (1983), the Goblin King Jareth in *Labyrinth* (1986), Pontius Pilate in *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988), and Nikola Tesla in *The Prestige* (2006), among other film and television appearances and cameos. He stopped concert touring after 2004 and his last live performance was at a charity event in 2006. In 2013, Bowie returned from a decade-long recording **hiatus** with the release of *The Next Day*. He remained musically active until he died of liver cancer two days after the release of his final album, *Blackstar* (2016).

1. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word **hiatus** as used in Paragraph G?
 - A. a conflict
 - B. a moratorium
 - C. a pause
 - D. a coffee break
2. In Paragraph F, the word **its** refers to
 - A. single
 - B. album
 - C. event
 - D. success
3. What is the main idea of Paragraph F?
 - A. David Bowie showed an interest in music from an early age.
 - B. David Bowie became a fantastical sci-fi character for his breakout Ziggy Stardust album.