ЕДИНЫЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ЭКЗАМЕН

ЕГЭ

Е. С. Музланова, Е. И. Кисунько

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

ЭКСПРЕСС-РЕПЕТИТОР

ДЛЯ ПОДГОТОВКИ К ЕГЭ

«ГОВОРЕНИЕ»

Единый государственный экзамен

Е.С. МУЗЛАНОВА, Е.И. КИСУНЬКО

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Экспресс-репетитор для подготовки к ЕГЭ

«ГОВОРЕНИЕ»

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Пособие содержит 16 глав, которые охватывают всю тематику устного общения, определенную требованиями Единого государственного экзамена. В нем представлены разнообразные варианты тематических монологических высказываний и диалогов с целью обмена оценочной информацией, а также задания для отработки прочитанного материала.

Цель сборника – помочь учащимся 10–11 классов школ, гимназий и лицеев в кратчайшие сроки подготовиться к успешной сдаче экзамена по английскому языку. Он также может быть полезен и учителям, которые найдут в нем необходимый материал для своей работы на уроках.

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Цель предлагаемого пособия – помочь учащимся 10–11 классов и абитуриентам в кратчайшие сроки подготовиться к итоговой аттестации по английскому языку в форме Единого государственного экзамена. Одним из главных аспектов проверки на экзамене является практическое владение устной речью в рамках изученных тем, а также коммуникативная компетенция учащихся.

Раздел единого экзамена «Говорение» включает два этапа: тематическое монологическое высказывание и диалог с целью обмена оценочной информацией. Время устного ответа – 10 минут на одного испытуемого.

При ответе на первое задание учащийся должен осветить все предложенные вопросы, логично и аргументированно построить свое высказывание, а также ответить на вопросы экзаменатора. При ответе на второе задание учащийся должен суметь начать, поддержать и закончить беседу, предложить варианты к обсуждению, выразить свою аргументированную точку зрения и отношение к обсуждаемому вопросу, принять совместное решение, а также продемонстрировать владение грамматическими структурами и хорошим словарным запасом в соответствии с поставленной задачей.

Пособие содержит 16 глав, охватывающих всю тематику общения, определяемую требованиями ЕГЭ. В нем представлено более 40 образцов тематических монологических высказываний, которые представляют собой логично аргументированные сообщения и содержат исчерпывающую информацию, необходимую для успешной сдачи экзамена. Информативная насыщенность текстов расширяет кругозор учащихся и способствует развитию навыков устной речи. Сопровождающие текст вопросы помогут подготовиться к беседе с экзаменатором.

Для успешной подготовки ко второму заданию в каждую главу пособия включен раздел «Диалоги», который

содержит образцы диалогов для решения коммуникативных задач. В сборник вошло более 30 диалогов, которые наглядно демонстрируют, как учащиеся могут использовать представленную в темах информацию для решения поставленной коммуникативной задачи, а также являются дополнительным источником информации по данному разделу.

Монологические высказывания и диалоги были составлены на основе заданий открытых вариантов ЕГЭ по английскому языку и современных учебных пособий.

Для развития навыка устной речи учащиеся могут также использовать раздел «Useful Language», в котором представлены разнообразные коммуникативные фразы, широко используемые в диалогической и монологической речи.

Раздел «Cultural Reader» включает познавательные тексты о Великобритании, США и других странах изучаемого языка. Это позволит учащимся расширить свою лингвострановедческую компетенцию и показать степень информированности в социокультурной области. Современная лексика и идиоматические выражения помогут обогатить словарный запас учащихся.

Пособие предназначено главным образом для подготовки учащихся 10—11 классов школ, гимназий и лицеев к выпускному экзамену по английскому языку. Оно может быть также использовано и на более раннем этапе для самостоятельной подготовки к контрольным работам по говорению, а также для углубленного изучения английского языка. Сборник может быть также полезен и учителям, которые найдут в нем необходимый материал для своей работы на уроках.

Надеемся, что настоящее пособие поможет быстро и качественно подготовиться к итоговой аттестации по английскому языку и успешно сдать Единый государственный экзамен.

Желаем успеха!

UNIT 1
CITY AND COUNTRY

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **the life in the city.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why people prefer to live in the city**
- **why some people choose to live in the countryside**
- **whether it is possible to solve all the problems of big cities, why**
- **where would you prefer to live, why**

Lots of people prefer living in cities rather than in the countryside because it is often easier to get good education and find a well-paid job. Besides, there is usually a wide choice of public transport, so you don't need to own a car, which is necessary when you live in the countryside. What is more, there are a lot of interesting things to do and places to see. If you live in the village, you have almost nowhere to go, but if you live in the city, you can eat in good restaurants, visit museums, and go to the theatre and to concerts. All in all, city life is full of bustle and variety, and you will never feel bored.

However, some people choose to live in the countryside because living in a city is often very expensive. It is particularly difficult to find good cheap accommodation. What is more, public transport is sometimes crowded and dirty, particularly in the rush hour, and even the parks can become very crowded, especially on Sundays when it seems that every city-dweller is looking for some open space or green grass. On the contrary, the air in the countryside is very clean and there are no noisy crowds, so living in the country can be useful for your health. Last of all, despite all the crowds, it is still possible to feel very lonely in a city because people often don't know their

neighbours whereas in the countryside people know each other and you have lots of friends.

In my opinion it's possible to solve most of the problems of big cities, for example, the problem of pollution. Cutting down on emissions from large combustion plants and exhaust fumes from vehicles would help solve the problem. I think we should try and use alternative energy such as solar energy and wind energy and design plants and cars that run on electricity, a much cleaner fuel than petrol. In addition, I think the government should ban cars from city centres. We can also improve the situation with traffic if the government encourages people to use the underground more. I would argue that if the underground was made cheaper, many people would decide to leave their cars at home.

As for me, I would prefer city life because I am keen on visiting theatres, cinemas, museums and galleries and don't mind noise and pollution. Besides, my city offers me good opportunities to continue my education and I hope to find a prestigious job in the future. However, I enjoy the peace and fresh air of the countryside and in summer I usually go to my country house where I have a good time with my friends.

Questions

1. Is the city life stressful? Why?
2. How would you improve the living conditions in the place where you live?
3. Why do young people tend to live in cities?
4. Where do you think people will live in the future, in cities or in the countryside? Why?
5. Would you like to change the place where you live? Why?

Task 2

Give a talk **about the city/town/village you live in.**
Remember to speak about:

- **its geographical position**
- **what makes your city/town/village distinctive, why**
- **the things that you like most about the place you live in, why**
- **the things that you dislike about this place, why**

I live in a small historic town called Suzdal. It is situated on the Kamenka River in Vladimir region not far from Moscow and the journey by bus to the capital usually takes about 3 hours. It is one of the major towns of the "Golden Ring of Russia" and is famous all over the world for its ancient Russian architecture.

Upon your arrival in Suzdal you will find yourself in a fairy-tale world. The town has a kremlin, a convent, two monasteries, dozens of churches decorated with fanciful carvings and a nearly 200-year-old shopping arcade with traditional iron signs outside the shops. Suzdal's contribution to the development of Russian culture is outstanding. No other city excels it in the number of ancient monuments of architecture. I'm sure you will never forget a charming peal of Suzdal bells.

I especially enjoy this town for its quiet dignity. There are no high buildings here. The town is like an extended village of wooden houses, with lace curtains and geraniums in the windows. It looks gorgeous whatever the season, but especially in winter, blanketed with snow. The air here is fresh and clean and there are no noisy crowds or traffic jams like in big cities. What is more, the people here are very friendly and you never feel lonely.

Yet young people tend to leave Suzdal because there are few possibilities for education and it's difficult to find a well-paid job here. If only Suzdal could become a popular tourist destination, then it would really prosper and flourish. But today there are very few foreign visitors here because they are scared off by the lack of comfortable hotels, coaches, good roads with road signs and well-trained guides. Besides, some of the architectural monuments have become ruined by time and really have to be renovated. But local authorities usually lack funds and it restricts the possibilities for developing tourism in Suzdal. Nevertheless, I believe that in a few years things will change and my home town will become a real jewel of ancient Russian architecture.

Questions

1. Are you proud of your home town?
2. What ancient Russian cities and towns do you know?

3. What are the main problems of ancient cities and towns in Russia?
4. What are the advantages of living in the city?
5. Where would you rather live: in the city/town or in the village?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your friend are discussing where both of you would like to **live in the future**. There are several options but you may choose **only one of them**:

- **in a city**
- **in the countryside**
- **in the mountains**
- **at the seaside**

'If you had an opportunity to choose, where would you live?'

'If I could choose, I would prefer to live in a big city like London. It's a wonderful city with lots of museums to visit and sights to enjoy. I'll be able to walk in beautiful parks and spend my free time in a pub.'

'I don't think it's a good idea to live in a big city. Well, it's great to come to London as a tourist but if you live there all the time, I'm sure you will be fed up with all these sights and museums. Just think about noise, pollution and traffic jams during rush hours. Besides, accommodation in big cities is rather expensive because there aren't enough houses for everybody.'

'As for me, I don't mind noise and pollution. But if I live in a city, I'll be able to find an interesting job and earn a lot of money.'

'I can't agree with you. It's difficult to find a job in a big city. You might not be able to find a job in the area that you enjoy and you'll have problems with getting to work. As for me, I would prefer to work for myself and live somewhere in the countryside.'

'Why?'

'First of all, the air in the countryside is fresh and there is no pollution. I'll be able to grow fruit and vegetables for my family and we will enjoy a healthy lifestyle. Besides, I'll live in my own house with lots of rooms. I think it's better than living in a small stuffy flat in the city.'

'I would agree with you but, in my opinion, there is nothing to do in the countryside. You'll soon get bored with such a lifestyle. In addition, I think it's very hard to grow fruit and vegetables. You'll have to work hard all day long. And in case of bad weather, you can lose all your crops. Farming is definitely not my cup of tea.'

'OK. What about living in the mountains? The air and water in the mountains are exceptionally clean and we would be able to enjoy magnificent mountain views.'

'But what shall we do for a living? I think it's impossible to find any work in the mountains.'

'Not exactly. We could work as tourist guides in summer and in winter we could teach tourists downhill skiing. Our life will be easy and exciting!'

'On the contrary, it will be rather boring: only work and absolutely no entertainment. There are no cinemas and theatres in the mountains. Besides, it's always cold there and life can be really dangerous because of severe weather conditions. Let's live in a small town at the seaside. The climate is warm and nice there. We could open a small hotel near the sea and have lots of tourists. It's not hard to run a private hotel. Besides, we'll have an opportunity to communicate with people from all over the world. It's exciting!'

'Great idea! There is no pollution at the seaside and we can enjoy a healthy lifestyle. We could go to the beach early in the morning or late in the evening and swim in the sea. And we could eat lots of fruit and vegetables.'

'And if we get bored with the sea and the sun we could go to the cinema or to a disco with our friends. So, what place do you think we should choose?'

'If you agree, we'll choose to live at the seaside.'

'I completely agree with you.'

Task 2

Your class is going to visit Moscow and stay there for a day. You and your friend are discussing what both of you would like to see in the capital. There are several options but you may choose only one of them:

- the Kremlin
- the Tretyakov Gallery
- the Bolshoy Theatre
- the All-Russia Exhibition Centre

'We are going to Moscow for a day and our teacher asks us to decide what we want to see in the capital. Any ideas?'

'Well, a day is not much for this wonderful city so it's very difficult to choose something. And what would you like to see there?'

'First of all, I suppose we should visit the Kremlin, which is very impressive. Here you can admire ancient cathedrals and churches, the Bell Tower of Ivan the Great, the Faceted and the Armoury Palaces. You can also see the Tsar Bell and the Tsar Cannon, which are good examples of the early masters' work. Besides, we can also visit Red Square and take pictures of St. Bazil's Cathedral. With its nine beautifully painted cupolas, it is a real masterpiece of ancient Russian architecture. And if we are hungry, there are lots of cafés nearby.'

'Your idea is great! But unfortunately it won't find any support in our class because many students have already been to the Kremlin. As for me, I've already been there three times and I have lots of beautiful photos. Besides, I'm sure that it's difficult to get tickets to the Armoury Palace. Moreover, the Faceted Palace can only be entered on special tours. I'd rather visit some museum, for example, the Tretyakov Gallery. It contains the priceless collection of Russian Art. A friend of mine was there last month and he was delighted. I think everybody will like this idea, won't they?'

'I can't agree with you. Not everyone in our class is fond of arts and they may find boring to go from one picture to another.'

'But we may arrange a guided tour of the gallery! It will be very interesting! Don't you want to learn something new about Russian painting?'

'No, I don't. I'm not keen on painting. Besides, the guides usually go into details, so our excursion may be long and tiring. Why don't we go to the theatre? The performance usually lasts for about 2 or 3 hours so we'll have enough time for it. I have always wanted to visit the Bolshoy Theatre, which is world-famous for its operas and ballets. If we are lucky, we'll be able to see *The Swan Lake*, which has fantastic music and wonderful scenery. And the theatre itself is really beautiful.'

'You are kidding! The tickets to the Bolshoy Theatre are extremely expensive. I don't think that our parents will be able to afford them. And to tell the truth, I don't understand ballets and operas. Anyway, all performances are usually in the evening and we'll have to leave Moscow before that time.'

'What do you suggest then?'

'What about visiting the All-Russia Exhibition Centre? It is situated in a beautiful park and has a lot of gorgeous fountains. The gilded *Friendship of the Nations* and the mosaic-encrusted *Stone Flower* fountains are most beautiful so you'll be able to take lots of beautiful pictures there. Besides, the Exhibition Centre is a large cultural and commercial complex where different international exhibitions and fairs are held so we'll be able to learn something new.'

'I know that the All-Russia Exhibition Centre is very large, so it will be very difficult for us to see everything. And I think we may be tired.'

'You are right. Its territory is really rather large but there is no need to walk much, since the area is served by mini "trains". Besides, if we are tired we can have a rest in the funfair and enjoy different roller coasters or get a fantastic view of the city from a 75-metre-high ferric wheel, which is the largest in Europe.'

'Great idea! I agree that the All-Russia Exhibition Centre is a wonderful place to spend free time and to have fun. I'm sure everyone will enjoy this plan. Do you agree with me?'

'Yes, this is the best solution for us.'

UNIT 2
COMMUNICATION

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **mobile phones.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why people choose to use mobile phones**
- **why some people are against mobile phones**
- **whether it's a good idea to bring mobile phones to school, why/ why not**
- **what other means of communication are popular nowadays, why**

There are lots of different ways of communication nowadays such as letters and telegrams, telephones and the Internet, but perhaps the most popular one is a mobile phone. People choose to use mobile phones for communication because they are very convenient. First of all, they are small enough to fit into our pockets so we can easily take it everywhere and always stay in touch. Besides, they allow us not only to phone, but to send small messages, which is very cheap. What is more, if you have one of the new multimedia mobiles, you can log on to the Net, pay for things, play games, interact with TV programmes and take photos to send to your friends. Very tempting, isn't it?

However, some people are against mobile phones because they think that radiation from mobiles leads to cancer, which hasn't been actually proved. Besides, psychologists say we are becoming addicted to mobiles. Surveys show that teenagers are reading less and mobile use is affecting the marks of secondary school students. In addition, a big problem with mobiles is crime because lots of teenagers have become victims of mobile phone theft.

I believe it's a good idea to have a mobile with you everywhere, even at school, because in case of emergency we can contact our parents to let them know that we are OK or to ask for help. Besides, if we need some information or advice, we can always get in touch with our friends or parents. Moreover, we can use mobile phones as calculators at the lessons. On the other hand, mobile phones can be a distraction in classes, especially if students forget to silence their ringer. In addition, some students can use mobile phones with text messaging capabilities to cheat on tests, which of course is not honest.

There are some other means of communication which are becoming extremely popular nowadays, for example, e-mail or instant messaging, which allow you to keep in touch through the Internet. Instant messaging, or IM, is more immediate than e-mail because you don't have to check your inbox for new messages as they appear instantly. You type a short note and send it from your computer to another, where it pops up straight away on the screen. Another advantage is that more than two people at a time can join in a conversation. What is more, communication by IM isn't restricted to text. You can send pictures, and if you have microphones and speakers, you can talk, which is an advantage because internet connection charges are usually cheaper than phone calls. As for me, I use different ways of communication but I prefer a mobile because it's more convenient.

Questions

1. When is it necessary to send a letter?
2. Do you think the regular telephone will disappear in future? Why?/Why not?
3. What are the different ways we can use computers to communicate?
4. How do you stay in touch with your friends or relatives who live far from you?
5. Which way of communication do you prefer? Why?

Task 2

Give a talk on **communication**.
Remember to discuss:

- **whether modern communication is easier than a hundred years ago, why**
- **whether ordinary letters will disappear in the future, why**
- **which is better: written or oral communication, why**
- **which ways of communication you prefer, why**

Of course today communication is much easier than a hundred years ago. When it took two weeks for a letter to reach Australia, you couldn't keep in touch with people easily. Although the telephone had already appeared, it wasn't for everyone's use and phone calls were rather expensive. Nowadays there are lots of means of communication such as mobile phones or the Internet, which allow people to get in touch almost instantly. And if you want to send a letter to a friend from a faraway country, clicking the mouse is much more convenient than buying a stamp and an envelope and finding time to make a trip to the post office.

However, I don't think that ordinary letters will disappear in the future. Although e-mails will be sent more often, people will still use ordinary letters for sending documents in which original signatures are of great importance. Another reason why people will continue using ordinary mail is sending invitation cards.

I can't say exactly which form of communication is better: oral or written. I think it depends on the purpose of communication. If you want to discuss something with friends or relatives, then personal communication is usually the best way to do it because you can easily express your thoughts and share opinions. On the contrary, written communication is preferred in business because you have to think carefully about what you want to say. What is more, written communication is more formal so it is usually used in formal situations. However, e-mails and text messages are now becoming increasingly popular with teenagers and is the best way to stay in touch. Despite the predictions of many people that we won't write letters any more and that we'll only make phone calls, writing is back on top again.

As for me, I definitely prefer text messaging. I think it's the best way of communication for teenagers, since everyone's got

a mobile. The great thing about texting is that you can do it everywhere, even at school if you're careful enough not to get caught. Another important advantage is that text messages are much cheaper than a phone call. Of course you don't have a conversation, exactly, but you can do that face-to-face, can't you? I usually text my friends to arrange to meet, to tell my parents where I am so they don't worry about me, or to tell people that I'm going to be late. That sort of thing.

Questions

1. Do you have a mobile? How often do you use it?
2. Which do you prefer: sending a message or making a call? Why?
3. How often do you send and receive text messages or e-mails?
4. How do you think communication will change in the future?
5. Can you imagine your life without modern means of communication?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You are going **to invite friends to a New Year party** and you are thinking of the best way to do it. Discuss the following options with your friend and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **personally**
- **mail**
- **e-mail**
- **mobile phone**

'You know, I'm having a New Year party and I want to invite some friends but I don't know how. What is the best way to do it?'

'Why not invite them personally? I think they will be very glad to see you and you will know the answer immediately. Besides, you'll be able to learn the latest news, won't you?'

'Yes, I will. But these small talks are not so easy to stop! I'm afraid it'll take me a lot of time. In addition, some of my friends

live very far from my place, so it will be very difficult to meet them. Anyway, we have to invite personally only relatives and close friends, don't we?'

'Yes, we do. And if you want an easier way, you can send them an invitation. It's a traditional way of inviting guests. I think your friends will be happy to receive a colourful invitation card. Besides, you won't have to waste a lot of time meeting them.'

'But I'll have to buy a lot of cards! And it'll take me long to write so many invitations. What is more, I'll have to go to the post office to send them. And how can I be sure whether they'll get the invitation on time?'

'Why go to the post office? You have e-mail on your computer! Clicking the mouse will be much more convenient than buying a postcard and finding time to make a trip to the post office. In addition, you won't have to write lots of postcards. You'll need to write only one postcard and your computer will send it automatically to all your friends. What is more, you can ask your friends to confirm receipt of your postcard, so you'll know whether they have received it or not.'

'That's great! But there is one problem: not all of my friends have got computers. Moreover, not all people are used to getting invitation cards by e-mail. They may think it's a joke and won't believe it. I think it would be better if I use my mobile phone. All my friends have mobile phones and I'll be sure that they know about my party.'

'I can agree with you. But on the other hand, it'll also take you a lot of time, because you'll have to speak to them. Besides, their numbers can be busy, so you'll have to call several times and it's very tiring. What about sending a message from your mobile phone? Messages are very cheap now, so it won't cost you a lot.'

'Sending a message? How could I forget about it? It's much easier than calling because I can send one invitation message to all my friends. It'll take me much less time.'

'And you can ask your friends to send you an answer, so you'll know whether they'll be able to come.'

'Great idea! I think it's the best way to invite my friends.'

'So do I.'

Task 2

You and your friend are discussing **which way of communication is the best**. Discuss the following options with your friend and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **face-to-face communication**
- **mobile phone**
- **e-mail**
- **instant messaging**

'Well, today there are lots of different ways of communication. What do you think is the best one?'

'You see, it's very difficult to make a choice because each way has its pros and cons. I know it's not cool to admit but I'm not a big fan of new technology. Person to person, over a cup of coffee, with no interruptions that's the best way of communication for me.'

'Isn't it rather old-fashioned?'

'Perhaps, it is but it allows me a deeper level of communication. If I see my friends, I not only catch with the news, but I also find out how they feel about it. And the fact that it's face to face means that I can understand in a split second if someone has a problem. You can't always do that on the phone or with any other method, can you?'

'In a way, you are right. But you must admit that today people are very busy and it's getting more and more difficult to find time for meeting up with your friends. On the contrary, mobile phones allow people to stay in touch all day long. You can't but agree that it's the best way to arrange a meeting or to tell our parents that we are going to be late.'

'I partly agree with you but it's rather difficult to understand what people are trying to tell you if you don't see them. And if you are angry and you pick up the phone, you can say things that you'll regret. I think it's better to use e-mail on your computer.'

'Why do you think so?'

'Well, the great thing about e-mails is that you can choose when or whether to answer them. Also, when you write them, you can think about what you want to say and get your thoughts

in order. Besides, you can carry on surfing the Net or doing your homework while you are waiting for a reply.'

'Well, you have a point, although I'm afraid you'll have to wait for a long time until you receive the reply because your friend doesn't know that you've sent your e-mail. In this case instant messaging has certain advantages over e-mail.'

'What are they?'

'First of all, instant messaging is more immediate than e-mail as you don't have to check your inbox for new messages because they appear instantly. Another advantage is that more than two people at a time can join in a conversation, so it's ideal for, say, making social arrangements among a group of friends.'

'Great! We can't do that with mobile phones. But the trouble with chat rooms or text messages is that you can't express your thoughts at all. What can you say in a few lines of a text message? Hi, how are you?'

'Not exactly! If you have a microphone and speakers, you can talk; and if you and your friend have webcams, you can also make a video call, in which you can see as well as hear each other.'

'Oh, it's just like personal communication. I think it can be especially useful when you want to communicate with friends or relatives who live far from you.'

'I absolutely agree with you! What's more, these calls won't be as expensive as phone calls because Internet connection charges are usually cheaper. So what shall we decide?'

'On second thoughts, I think we should choose instant messaging as the best way of communication. I must admit that modern technology offers people great opportunities for communication.'

'I'm with you there.'

UNIT 3
EDUCATION

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **your school.**
Remember to speak about:

- **the school building**
- **the activities pupils can take part in after classes**
- **what you like most about your school, why**
- **what you would like to change in your school, why**

At the moment I am a student of the Lyceum of Information Technologies. It is situated far from the city centre near a large park where students can walk after classes to relax. It's a new school but it occupies an old four-storey building. The lyceum is well-equipped, though. It has lots of classrooms with modern facilities, several computer classes where we study Information Technology, an assembly hall, a library, a gym and a canteen.

After classes pupils don't usually go home right away. They have some extra-curricular activities, for example, we have lots of elective courses, which students choose according to their preferences. Besides, our social and cultural life is well-organized, too. We have different clubs such as chess, drama and photography, and pupils take part in their work after classes. There are also regular trips to places like museums and art galleries.

I especially like my school because it gives its pupils profound knowledge in Maths, Physics and other academic subjects which are necessary for entering the university. Besides, pupils are offered a wide choice of elective subjects connected with computers. They study different programming languages and learn how to write programmes. What is more,

the teachers there are friendly and well-qualified although they are sometimes very strict. The lyceum is known for its academic excellence and I hope my school education will form a basis for my future occupation.

I enjoy studying in the lyceum, yet there are some things I would like to change. First, our canteen is rather small and there are always large queues during the breaks. I would like to introduce a large coffee bar for students with lots of coffee machines where we could easily have a cup of coffee or tea with a sandwich during all the breaks. Another thing would be a music studio where we could play and record music. We don't have a uniform in our school because many students are against it. But I think it's important to have a special uniform in the lyceum because it will make us feel different from the students of other schools.

Questions

1. What types of school are there in Russia?
2. Do you like going to school?
3. What are your favourite school subjects? Why?
4. What school subject is the most difficult for you? Why?
5. Do you like the idea of studying at school for 12 years? Why?
6. Will you continue your education after finishing school?

Task 2

Give a talk on **education**.
Remember to discuss:

- **why it is important to study**
- **pros and cons of traditional systems of education**
- **pros and cons of alternative ways of education**
- **whether you want to continue your education, why**

Education is very important in the modern world, which is full of technological advances. On the one hand, we are sent to school to get useful knowledge about the world. On the other hand, I think it's not the main aim of our education. At school and later at universities we learn how to learn so that we can

make use of this ability in other more practical areas later on in life.

All countries have traditional systems of education, according to which pupils start school at the age of 5 or 6 and study at school for 11 or 12 years. On the one hand, this system of education seems good because pupils are taught by well-qualified teachers and they get the necessary amount of knowledge specified by a national curriculum. In addition, school is a place where children enjoy different cultural activities and show their individual talents. Everyone has an opportunity to join a school club or to take part in sport contests. On the other hand, some pupils may be bullied at school or not fit in with the school environment. School can be a difficult place for these children. They are unhappy and often play truant. Moreover, some people believe that the current system is a failure because it doesn't teach children how to become good thinkers. School is about passing exams, but education should be about life.

In many countries education is compulsory, but school isn't. So many parents choose alternative ways of education for their children, for example, home education. On the one hand, children are educated in an atmosphere of love and understanding and the attention they get from their parents and the time they can spend together is very important. Besides, if you are taught at home by your parents, it's much harder to make an excuse for not doing homework. However, in this case parents should have enough time to teach their children. Moreover, they should be educated and well-rounded people. And I think that children who are educated at home miss their friends as they can see them only in the evening or on Sundays.

Education is very important for me and I would like to continue studying after finishing school. There is no doubt that without good education you won't be able to find an interesting and highly-paid job because every company needs well-qualified employees. I would like to become a computer programmer, but to make a good specialist in computing you should know a lot of programming languages and application programmes. While studying in a university, I can get necessary knowledge for my future profession. Besides, I can make lots of

new friends. University life is usually interesting and exciting. Anyway, I have to get down to some hard work now if I want to achieve my aims.

Questions

1. Do you enjoy studying? Why?
2. Would you like to study in a boarding school? Why?
3. What is an ideal school for you?
4. Would you like to be educated at home? Why?
5. What other alternative ways of education do you know?
6. Would you like to get education abroad? Why?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

Your school authorities are planning to introduce the following changes:

- a new school uniform
- one hour lunch break
- one day off school to study on your own
- one more PE (Physical Education) class

Discuss their strong and weak points with your friend and choose the one both of you think should be introduced first.

'Have you heard that our school authorities are planning to introduce the following changes? What do you think of it?'

'Well, I like changes but I don't think that a new school uniform is the best decision.'

'Why? A new uniform may look more stylish.'

'To begin with, I don't like the idea of a school uniform because I can't stand wearing the same clothes all the time. When we wear a uniform, we lose our individuality. I'm sure that many students hate the uniform style as well, so a new design won't make any difference.'

'I can't agree with you, I am afraid. When we wear a uniform, you don't have to think about what to put on. Besides, lots of pupils are often teased because they don't wear expensive

designer clothes to school. So those students whose parents can't afford stylish clothes will feel more comfortable.'

'Perhaps, you are right, but don't forget about those students whose old uniform is still in good condition. It will be a waste of money for them.'

'Yes, I agree with you. What about an hour lunch break? It seems like a good idea because we could have time to go for a walk or just to relax talking with friends. And those students who live close to school will be able to have lunch at home. What's your opinion?'

'I'm not sure about it because classes will be over too late and we will get back home too tired. Besides, it's unlikely that we will be allowed to leave the school at lunch break.'

'In this case, we can do part of our homework and have more free time after classes.'

'I don't think that it's a good idea because it may be too noisy during the break and you can easily get distracted. In my opinion, such a long break is a waste of time. I'd rather have one day off school to study on my own. We'll have enough time to study the subjects we are really interested in.'

'I doubt that many students will be for it because in this case we'll have seven or eight classes a day.'

'Well, we could have shorter breaks so we wouldn't have to stay so long.'

'I'm afraid we will have much more homework to do and will be completely exhausted by the weekend. Anyway, not all students are eager to study as much as you do.'

'That's right. Why don't we have one more PE class then? PE classes are sort of relaxation during a difficult day. In addition, it will help us to keep fit.'

'Great idea! Health is very important for us. Good health is above wealth. Besides, if we have one more PE class, we'll be able to do a greater variety of sports activities.'

'You are right! Our PE teacher is very good and his classes are always exciting. Perhaps, we'll even be able to go to the swimming pool.'

'I totally agree with you. One more PE class is the best choice for us.'

Task 2

Your school will soon celebrate its 10th anniversary and is planning **to organize an event**. Discuss with your classmate what your class could do for your parents and other guests. You have to choose **one event only**:

- **arranging an exhibition of handicrafts**
- **making a wall newspaper**
- **putting on a play or a show**
- **holding an auction**

'You know that our school will soon celebrate its 10th anniversary, don't you?'

'Of course I know. And we could take part in this great event and organize something for our parents and other guests. For example, we can arrange an exhibition of handicrafts. This won't need a lot of money, and our parents will be very pleased. What is more, we can invite people from the local TV and become TV stars. Do you like my idea?'

'The idea is great, but not many students from our class are fond of handicrafts, so it may take a lot of time to make and then arrange all these things for the exhibition. I also think that our guests might soon feel bored walking from one exhibit to another.'

'Let's make a wall newspaper then. It won't take a lot of time and we have lots of students in our class who can draw very well. So our newspaper will be very colourful.'

'Parents are not likely to be interested in reading our newspaper. They are fed up with reading newspapers at home and they want some entertainment.'

'I think we can make our newspaper quite interesting, for example, we could place our photos as kids and arrange a competition: "Who will recognize their kid first?" '

'Don't forget that our newspaper should be devoted to the 10th anniversary of our school. Anyway, it's too conventional. I'm sure that other classes will make newspapers, too. So there will be lots of newspapers and that will be very boring. Why not put on a play or a show? We could stage a musical because everybody enjoys this kind of show. We could even ask our

parents to participate with us and this will make our show even more exciting!'

'On the one hand, you are right. But on the other hand, this will mean a lot of preparation work, including rehearsals. We are too busy now for that. In addition, there are not many people in our class who could become actors and actresses.'

'Well, I can agree with you. And what about holding an auction?'

'An auction? We've never had any auctions at school. I'm not sure that our headmistress will approve of our suggestion. Besides, our guests might not like the idea of spending money.'

'First of all, the price can be symbolic, so it won't be very expensive for our parents. We can sell our old school things, for example, old copybooks with test works or record books, which have become history. And we can use the money to buy some equipment for our school. So I think our headmistress will be very glad.'

'Wow! That's another pair of shoes. Auctions are usually fun, so I think everybody will like it.'

'So what shall we choose?'

'Let's hold an auction. I'm sure it would be great!'

UNIT 4
ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **Great Britain.**
Remember to discuss:

- **what you imagine when you think of Great Britain, why**
- **whether Great Britain has a unique climate, why**
- **why people travel to Great Britain**
- **what places in Great Britain you would like to visit and why**

When I think of Great Britain I usually imagine a very green country with lots of beautiful gardens and parks because the British love flowers very much and you can see them everywhere. No wonder that some of the flowers have become the symbols of the UK. I also imagine the Houses of Parliament with Big Ben which is the symbol of this country. And when I think of the British, I always imagine a man in a bowler hat with a pipe in one hand like Sherlock Holmes because this English detective is famous all over the world.

I don't think that Great Britain has a unique climate. In fact, its climate is more or less the same as that of the north-western part of the European mainland. The popular belief that it rains all the time in Britain is simply not true: London gets no more rain in a year than most other European cities. The bad reputation of Britain's climate is due to its changeability. There is a saying that Britain doesn't have a climate, it only has weather. But English weather is never the same two days running. One day it rains, the next day it may be sunny and then it may be cold again. It may not rain very much altogether, but you can never be sure of a dry day. Of course, the climate in Britain differs much from that of central part of Russia because

it lacks extremes. It is mild and temperate due to the influence of the Gulf Stream.

People travel to Great Britain for different reasons. First of all, they want to see Britain's most treasured sights such as St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London or Buckingham Palace. Some people are interested in visiting mysterious sites like Stonehenge or Loch Ness. Besides, everybody wants to try traditional British dishes such as fish and chips or haggis as well as to get to know the English lifestyle. Another important reason why lots of people travel to this country is learning English. It goes without saying that the best way to learn a language is to speak with native speakers.

There is a lot to see in Great Britain but, first of all, I would like to visit London, its capital, because it is the most important city in Great Britain. There are a lot of famous sights, such as Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. I also want to visit the British Museum and to see its famous library. Besides, I'd like to visit Stratford-upon-Avon because I'm fond of British literature. This town is closely connected with the name of William Shakespeare. It will be interesting to visit Shakespeare's birthplace, Holy Trinity Church, where he was buried, and the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, which is a living memorial to the poet's work.

Questions

1. What British symbols do you know?
2. What are the main geographical differences between the UK and Russia?
3. What is your personal attitude towards the British? Give your reasons.
4. What are the most popular tourist destinations in Britain?
5. Do people believe that a huge monster lives in Loch Ness? Why? What about you?
6. Why is the Lake District considered to be the loveliest place in Great Britain?
7. Have you ever been to Great Britain? Why did you go there?

Task 2

Give a talk on the USA.
Remember to discuss:

- what you imagine when you think of the USA
- whether Americans differ much from Russian people, why
- why people travel to the USA
- what cities in America you would like to visit and why

When I think of the USA, I imagine a great country with a vast territory and different types of climate. While people in Florida bathe in the sea and laze in the sun, the inhabitants of Alaska have a cold arctic day with white nights. Another image that comes to my mind is a Statue of Liberty, which is situated in New York and is well-known all over the world. It has become a symbol of the city (if not of the whole country) and an expression of freedom to people all over the world. I also remember the sad day of September 11, 2001 and the collapse of two twin towers of the World Trade Centre during the terrorist attack and feel sorry for Americans.

I don't think that Americans differ much from Russians but they do have some peculiar features. First of all, Americans value their sense of individual freedom but they realize, however, that individuals must rely on themselves. Otherwise they risk losing their freedom so self-reliance is their national trait. Secondly, Americans are optimistic and persistent. They are sure that every problem has a solution: a difficult problem can be solved at once; an impossible one may take a little longer. If at first you don't succeed, 'try, try again' is their favourite saying. Finally, unlike Russians, Americans are always on the move. Moving about from place to place is such a common practice that most Americans take it for granted that they may live in four or five cities during their lifetime.

People travel to the USA for different reasons. Most of them want to see its famous cities such as Washington D.C., New York or Los Angeles and to get to know the American lifestyle. Others want to learn American English, which in some ways differs from British English. Finally, some people go to the

USA to continue their education in such world-famous universities as Harvard and Yale Universities. This gives them an opportunity to find a more prestigious job afterwards.

As for me, I have always dreamed of visiting the USA. If I had an opportunity, I would, first of all, visit Washington D.C. because it's the capital and the most important city of the country. I would like to see the White House and the Capitol as well as to visit the numerous museums of the city. But my dream is to visit San Francisco, which is the most interesting city in the United States. The greatest attraction of San Francisco is the Golden Gate Bridge, which has become the symbol of the city. San Francisco is called the city of hills because it has 40 hills. It is famous for its picturesque cable cars, which climb these hills, and for its bright houses that cling to the hills along steep and narrow streets. I would also be happy if I had a chance to visit Golden Gate Park, one of the largest man-made parks in the world, or go to Shakespeare Garden where one can find every flower and plant ever mentioned by the bard.

Questions

1. Can you compare the geographical positions of Russia and the USA?
2. What are the national symbols of the USA?
3. Why is the USA sometimes called a 'melting pot'? Do you agree with it? Why?
4. Would you like to get higher education in the USA? Why?
5. Would you like to live in the USA? Why?
6. Would you like to have a pen-friend from the USA? Why?

Task 3

Give a talk on **Australia**.

Remember to discuss:

- **what the most famous tourist destinations in Australia are, why**
- **whether Australia has unique flora and fauna, why**
- **why Australian Christmas differs from British Christmas and how**
- **whether you would you like to visit this country, why**

In my opinion, the most famous tourist destinations in Australia are its cities such as Canberra, the capital and the most important cultural centre of the country, and Sydney, the biggest city of Australia. Sydney's main landmarks, the Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, personify not only the city, but also the whole Australia. Besides, most visitors are attracted by the beautiful Australian nature and the Great Barrier Reef is among the most popular tourist attractions. It is the largest reef structure and marine park in the world and it has more different species of animals and plants than any other place in the world. The Great Barrier Reef is included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO and is top-visited among scuba divers, explorers and people who just want to admire the underwater life, including the gorgeous colourful corals. Another popular destination is Uluru, which is the world's largest monolith, and one of Australia's most famous natural wonders. Not only is the breathtaking rock incredibly impressive due to its size, but also due to the strange colours it reflects back from the sun at different times during the day. The most remarkable sight is at sunset.

Australia was isolated from the other world for a long time and its isolation has had a great effect on the evolution of its flora and fauna. That's why Australia has unique animals, birds and plants. Another reason for this uniqueness is Australian climate which has greatly affected the animal and plant worlds of this continent. Many unique animals live here such as echidnas and platypuses, kangaroos and koalas, wombats and wallabies. Australia has more than 20,000 species of plants, 90% of which is endemic. Economists often talk about Australia's mineral wealth, but one of the greatest treasures, its richest heritage is Australian flora and fauna.

Christmas in Australia is quite different from that of the Western World because Australia is 'the land down under', and when the British celebrate Christmas, Australians have hot summer. That's why sleigh rides and snowmen are impossible whereas beach time and outdoor activities are quite common. Santa Claus arrives at Australian beaches on a surfboard – quite a change from sliding down a chimney! And he often wears a

swimming suit or funny baggy shorts. The hot weather also affects the design of the Christmas tree. In Australia the tree is often some stringy shrub. And instead of holly and mistletoe the Australians often use local plants — Christmas bush and Christmas bell.

On the one hand, I would like to visit this extraordinary country because I would like to visit Taronga Zoo, which features the animals you can't see anywhere in the world except Australia. Besides, I would like to see its most famous sights such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Uluru. And of course I want to swim in the ocean and to see famous Australian beaches. On the other hand, I'm a bit scared of this journey because Australia has lots of venomous snakes and spiders, not to mention sharks in the ocean. What is more, the flight to Australia is very long and it can be rather tiring. But if I had an opportunity to visit Australia, I'll definitely choose to go.

Questions

1. Why are there five stars on the National Flag of Australia?
2. Why were the Red Kangaroo and the Emu chosen for the Australian Coat of Arms?
3. Will you go to Australia to learn English? Why?
4. What are the most popular sports in Australia? Why?
5. What famous Australians do you know? What are they famous for?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You have been on a tour to Great Britain. You **have 4 hours** before leaving for the airport. Discuss with your friend how to spend this time and choose **one place** you would both like to go to. You can choose from:

- **a shopping centre**
- **a café**
- **a museum**
- **a park**

'So we have 4 hours before leaving for the airport. What shall we do?'

'Well, 4 hours is quite a long period of time. Why don't we go shopping? We could buy some more gifts for our friends and relatives. I usually bring home lots of small souvenirs that remind me of the journey. Besides, it's a good way to relax.'

'Oh, no! I hate shopping. The shops are usually crowded and I am tired of too many people around me. In addition, it's very difficult for me to choose presents.'

'Well, what about going to a café? I'm afraid we can get hungry before the flight. Cafés are usually beautifully decorated so we could take some more pictures.'

'Do you suggest spending 4 hours in a café? I think we'll get bored if we spend this time in one place.'

'Why? We could have delicious English tea there and try new foods. And we can speak with English people and practice our language.'

'I'm afraid I don't have enough money for a café. To be honest, I didn't plan spending any more money. I'd rather see more of the city than sit in a stuffy café.'

'So what do you suggest?'

'Let's go to the British Museum. It's one of the biggest museums in Great Britain and it's free of charge. I think we shouldn't miss the opportunity of seeing the exhibits which are famous all over the world. Besides, there is a café inside and if you are hungry, you can have a snack.'

'I don't think it's a good idea because we won't have enough time to see the whole museum. And it's a bit boring just to look around. I am not fond of visiting museums though I must admit that the British Museum is worth visiting.'

'Oh, I agree with you and I want to see its famous library. But you are right that we won't have enough time for everything. Why not go for a walk to the park then?'

'*To the park? It sounds tempting! It's so nice to be in the* open air for a change. We have already visited so many museums! And where can we go?'

'We can go to Hyde Park, which is not far from our hotel. Have you been there before?'

'No, I haven't been to any park in Great Britain yet. I think it would be interesting to know what they are like here.'

'Of course it would. Moreover, Hyde Park is famous for its Speakers' Corner and if we are lucky, we can see someone making a speech there.'

'That's fantastic! Anyway, we may enjoy the sunny weather and have a nice time there.'

'I'm with you there! And we can take beautiful photos and show them to our families and friends. But what if the weather changes for the worse? You know, English weather is so unpredictable!'

'Never mind, we'll take our umbrellas. So what shall we decide on?'

'I think that Hyde Park is the best way of spending our time. Anyway, let's hope for the best.'

'OK. Let's hurry, then.'

Task 2

You and your friend are going to make **a project for your English class**. You want your project to be interesting and exciting. Discuss the following options and choose **the one you would both like to write about:**

- **the Grand Canyon**
- **Loch Ness**
- ***Stonehenge***
- **Uluru**

'We have to make a project for our English class. Have you got any ideas what to write about?'

'We may write about the Grand Canyon in Arizona, which is one of the true natural wonders of the world. It makes up most of the Grand Canyon National Park and millions of tourists visit it every year.'

'But what is it famous for? We must make our project interesting and exciting.'

'First of all, the Grand Canyon is very long and deep. It is so deep that the top and the bottom of the canyon have very different weather and vegetation. In fact, going from the top to

the bottom is somewhat like going from Canada to Mexico. We could find photos of different plants and make a project on its vegetation.'

'I don't think it's exciting. Our classmates may get bored listening to the story about different plants. We need something extraordinary!'

'Well, there are signs that people lived in the Grand Canyon 4,000 years ago. We could write about these ancient people.'

'I'm afraid we won't be able to find any interesting material about these people. Why don't we write about Loch Ness? It is one of the lakes in Scotland, where some people think a large monster lives. Besides, the lake itself is very beautiful. I visited it last year and I have wonderful pictures of it.'

'Do you believe in monsters? I don't think this monster is real. In my opinion, the British people talk about it so much just to make tourists buy their souvenirs.'

'Who knows? The first recorded sighting of Nessie was in the sixth century. But despite scientific expeditions, underwater exploration and millions of tourist photographs, the monster has resisted all attempts to prove or disprove her existence. We have a real opportunity to make our own investigation.'

'It's not a bad idea but I don't think we'll find something new and interesting because we may rely only on the information from the Internet and they usually publish old photos and old stories. And what about Stonehenge? It is also one of the most famous and mysterious archaeological sites of Great Britain but unlike the Loch Ness monster, it's real.'

'Stonehenge? But it's only a group of huge stones. What can be interesting there?'

'You see, these huge stones were transported from Wales and set up in a circle on Salisbury Plain. One of the mysteries is how it was ever built with the technology of that time. Another is its purpose. It appears to function as a kind of astronomical clock and we know it was used by the Druids for ceremonies marking the passing of the seasons. I'm sure we can find lots of interesting information about it on the Internet.'

'Of course we can find lots of information about Stonehenge because the British speak too much about it. I even have a picture of Stonehenge on my computer desktop. I think

all our classmates know about Stonehenge so they might get bored with our project. Besides, there was a project on Stonehenge last year, wasn't there?'

'Yes, you are right! We must write about something that nobody has heard of. By the way, have you heard of Uluru?'

'Uluru? What is it?'

'It is one of the most recognizable Australian icons. Uluru is notable for changing colour as the different light strikes it at different times of the day and year. The most remarkable sight is at sunset when it briefly glows red. What is more, during wet periods the rock acquires a silvery-grey colour, with streaks of black algae forming on the areas that serve as channels for water flow. I have lots of beautiful pictures of Uluru and there are lots of articles about the structure of this monolith.'

'Is there any mystery associated with this place?'

'Of course there is. The results of the latest studies show that Uluru has long been a sacred site for Aboriginal people because they believe that it is hollow and there is an energy source there. I think everybody will be interested to learn about this place.'

'So, which do you think we should choose?'

'If you don't mind, let's write about Uluru because I'm sure that our classmates know nothing about it.'

'I agree with you. It will be interesting to learn about this mysterious place.'

UNIT 5
ENVIRONMENT

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **the problem of animals.**
Remember to speak about:

- **why animals are important for people**
- **why people keep animals as pets**
- **your attitude to exotic animals as pets**
- **how people can help animals survive**

People have always needed animals for tasks that require strength and speed. And even now we still depend on animals for food and clothing. Besides, a lot of animals are used for medical research. In addition, wild animals provide recreation in the form of hunting, bird watching, and visits to zoos and wildlife reserves. Moreover, people also find a source of pleasure and spiritual strength in the animal life.

Nowadays a lot of people keep pets at home because pets are the best companions. People keep pets for pleasure rather than utility. Domesticated animals such as dogs, cats, hamsters and guinea pigs make good pets because they have been bred for thousands of years to coexist with humans. For example, if people live without children, they usually have a cat or a dog to take care of. Also, children like to play with their pets when they are alone. Besides, some people keep cats at home, because cats are believed to have healing power. Disabled people often keep specially trained dogs as pets, which serve as the hands, ears and eyes of their owners.

Some people keep exotic pets like snakes, lizards or wild cats. Of course, exotic pets are fascinating and beautiful to watch. However, very often people keep exotic pets only in order to look extraordinary. They regard them as a status symbol. But captivity is not natural for wild animals. It is a

constant stress to them, so they may become very aggressive as they get older. Besides, wild animals need to be examined by a vet with special knowledge and training in wildlife medicine. That's why I believe it's not desirable to keep exotic animals as pets.

Unfortunately, unmanaged commercial exploitation has driven some species of wild animals to the edge of extinction. For example, 143 elephants are slaughtered in Africa every day to get ivory. At this rate, they'll be wiped out in 25 years. What can we do to help animals survive? First of all, environmental organisations must analyse the consequences of humans' actions. Besides, people should create nature reserves for wild animals and birds. And of course, we must take care of those animals that are around us. There are a lot of abandoned animals in cities and towns, because their owners got rid of them. We must build and run animal shelters where neglected animals can find safety, food and veterinary care.

To sum up, I can say that for centuries animals have been our friends and companions, and we must do our best to ensure that this coexistence will continue in the future.

Questions

1. Do you like animals?
2. Have you got a pet? Where did you get it from?
3. Do you take your pet with you when you go somewhere on holidays?
4. Would you like to keep a pet/an exotic pet? Why?
5. Do you think people should keep animals in zoos? Why?
6. Do you know any animal which is on the edge of extinction?
7. How can people help animals?

Task 2

Give a talk on **environment.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why our environment is in danger**
- **what is the most urgent ecological problem, why**
- **whether it is important to save our environment, why**
- **how young teenagers can help our environment**

I think that our environment is in a sorry state today because people have destroyed it by building huge cities and

power stations, developing industries, cutting down trees and excavating mountains. In pursuit of new inventions and discoveries, as well as higher and higher profits, man has forgotten about nature and it has led him to the edge of ecological catastrophe. I can't help mentioning such burning environmental issues as pollution in its many forms, acid rains and greenhouse effect, the destruction of tropical forests and wildlife, overpopulation and shortage of natural resources. The list of serious ecological problems could be continued.

In my opinion, the most urgent ecological problem today is the environmental safety of nuclear power stations. Nuclear pollution can't be seen but its effects can be terrible. We all know how tragic the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster are. In addition, nuclear waste also endangers people's lives. People all over the world protest against nuclear tests and nuclear weapons because in case of nuclear war our planet will be completely destroyed. If we do not take any action now, the possibility of a global nuclear disaster will be very real.

If people want to survive, they must do their best to solve these problems. We understand that our environment is not just our home town but the whole earth. And we must protect it for the sake of our children and grandchildren. But the protection of the environment requires the cooperation of all nations. If we take action now, there might be some hope for the future. If we do nothing, we are heading for disaster!

There are a lot of environmental organisations such as Greenpeace or The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), whose main goal is to help our environment. Teens may join these organisations as well as Friends of the Earth Trust, which is an educational charity set up to help people of all ages become aware of the threats to our environment. However, there are a lot of simple things we should all do to help our environment. First of all, we must keep our cities and towns clean. That means, we mustn't drop litter in public places. If we see litter on the ground, we must put it into a litter bin. And of course we mustn't draw or paint on pavements, walls or trees. Besides, we can help to plant trees, clean rivers and canals and create footpaths. But first of all, we must change our attitude towards the environment.

Questions

1. What is the influence of pollution on people's health?
2. What is happening to our forests?
3. What is happening to the ozone layer?
4. How can we help animals survive?
5. Was life better a hundred years ago? Why do you think so?
6. What ecological problems exist in your home place?
7. What can you personally do to help our ecology?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

Your classmate Ann is having a birthday party next Saturday and she has always wanted to have a pet. You and your friend are discussing **what pet you could give her as a birthday present.** Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all:**

- **a puppy**
- **a kitten**
- **a goldfish**
- **a parrot**

'Do you remember that Ann is having a birthday party? She has always wanted to have a pet. I think it's a good idea to give her a pet as a birthday present, isn't it?'

'Of course it is. But what pet shall we buy? Any ideas?'

'I think we could buy a puppy. Dogs are good friends and they are very clever. She'll never feel lonely with her new friend. And if we buy a sheepdog, it will always guard her.'

'I don't think it's a good idea. First of all, Ann's flat is too small for a big dog. Besides, she'll have to take her for a walk in the morning and in the evening. Ann lives far from school so she'll have to get up very early not to be late for classes. What's more, we don't know what kind of dogs she likes. What if she doesn't like our present?'

'Well, I can agree with you. Then we'd better give her a kitten. Small kittens are really lovely and funny and they are very amusing to play with. She'll never feel bored! In addition, she won't have to take it for a walk. What do you think of it?'

'But she'll have to clean the litter tray after her kitten several times a day! And there is usually an awful smell in the flat!'

'Not at all! Nowadays there are lots of different cat-box filler products, which are easy to change and there's usually absolutely no smell. Besides, there is also lots of special food for kittens, for example, Whiskas so it will be really easy for her to take care of her pet.'

'You are right but cats can be very wicked. They are believed to be witches in disguise. Besides, her mother is allergic to animals' hair so we can buy neither a puppy nor a kitten."What can we buy then?" '

'Why don't we give her a goldfish in a special aquarium? It's easy to take care of it, there is lots of special fish food and the aquarium in the room looks very beautiful. She could buy some more different fishes and she'll have a piece of underwater world in her room.'

'As for me, I don't like fish. I'd rather not call them pets. In my opinion, it's very boring to have a goldfish as a pet: you can't play or talk with your pet. Besides, she'll have to change water in the aquarium and it's very difficult. If she does it in a wrong way, her fish may die and she'll be very upset. What about a parrot? They are very beautiful and fascinating to watch. Besides, she could teach her pet to speak and it will be very funny.'

'Really? Great idea! We could also buy a beautiful cage for her pet so that she could put it on her table. And I know that there is a lot of special food for birds so it won't be difficult for her to take care of it.'

'What is more, she won't have to take it for a walk and there is usually no smell from parrots.'

'I completely agree with you. Let's give her a parrot as a birthday present. I'm sure she'll like it.'

Task 2

You and your friend are discussing **the ecological situation in your city**. Discuss the following ecological problems and choose **the one you both find most serious**:

- **air pollution**
- **water pollution**
- **rubbish**
- **noise**

'What's your opinion about the ecological situation in our city?'

'I don't think that it is awful but of course there are some problems.'

'I can't agree with you. In my opinion, our city is in a sorry state. And the most important problem is air pollution. Every day a huge number of plants and factories emit lots of harmful substances into the atmosphere of our city so the concentration of harmful substances in the air is over ten times the admissible level. Besides, a great increase in the use of private cars has caused an increase in a new kind of air pollution. The most dangerous pollutant from cars is lead. Even small amounts of it can affect the brain and nervous system of people. What is more, breathing poisonous air may lead to serious lung diseases. Do you agree with me?'

'Absolutely! However, we can do something to decrease the level of harmful substances in the air. For example, car owners should install special filters on their cars, besides the government should move all plants and factories outside the city. And of course we should plant more parks because trees produce oxygen and clean the air. In my opinion, water pollution is a far more serious problem.'

'Why do you think so?'

'First of all, industrial pollution has made the water in our river completely undrinkable and thousands of fish die every year as a result of the illegal dumping of waste into our river by factories and plants. If this trend continues, one day we won't have any fish at all. Another problem is that people consume too much water so in the future we won't have enough fresh water for everybody.'

'I don't think that the situation is so critical because we have lots of water underground. We can also improve the quality of water in our river by installing different purifying systems. What is more, we can recycle rain water and use it to water plants or for washing.'

'Yes, I agree with you. The building of new water facilities is now less important than using what we already have efficiently and wisely. And what about rubbish? Don't you think that our city is slowly turning into a big landfill site? There is loads of litter everywhere. People throw it on the ground instead of putting it into a litter bin.'

'I can see what you mean but the reason is that there aren't enough litter bins in public places. If there were more litter bins, our city would be much cleaner.'

'But the main problem is that we're producing a huge amount of rubbish each year – millions and millions of tonnes of it. And the existing landfill sites are nearly full. Where are we going to put all our rubbish in the future? Finding new sites isn't easy. I'm afraid that soon we won't have enough landfill sites to dispose of our rubbish.'

'I'm with you there. Of course we've all got to try and reduce the amount of rubbish we throw away. We can do that by buying unpackaged goods, like fruit and vegetables, rather than goods which are wrapped and packaged in plastic. Besides, we shouldn't dump our rubbish without thinking which things, such as bottles and paper, can be recycled. But what about noise?'

'You can't be serious! Is it an ecological problem?'

'Of course it is. Although noise is not a chemical and cannot be seen like a broken car, it is a kind of pollution. Noise is all around us, wherever we live, and we do not notice it most of the time because we've got used to it. Yet excessive noise can lead to serious psychic disorders. And don't forget about people living near the airport. They suffer from the noise of large and powerful jet airliners taking off and landing.'

'I've never thought that noise can be a real problem.'

'Yes, it's a serious problem because loud noise can make people ill. People who are exposed to loud noises all the time become very nervous and upset. Moreover, they run a risk of going deaf.'

'That's terrible. But I think that other people in our city are also exposed to loud noise, for example, noise from cars, buses or trains. Besides, when people listen to loud music they may disturb their neighbours. And the power of our music centres is growing all the time. Of course, we don't pay attention to it but the effects can be dangerous.'

'I completely agree with you. We can install different air filters and water treatment facilities or recycle rubbish but we don't know how to fight against the growing noise around us. That's why I think that noise pollution is the most serious environmental problem in our city.'

'You are absolutely right! To sum up, we've chosen noise as the most serious ecological problem for our city.'

UNIT 6
FAMILY AND FAMILY RELATIONS

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **family and family values.**
Remember to discuss:

- **what family values are most important for a happy family, why**
- **whether it is important to have a good family, why**
- **your family members and your relationship**
- **what household duties children should have, why**

A family is an essential part of our society and I think everyone wants to have a happy family. Firstly, I believe that a happy family should have things sharing together like dreams and hopes, not only possessions. I think it's great. Secondly a happy family is a place where respect dwells, a place where all members can enjoy the dignity of their own personalities. But in my opinion, love and trust are more important for a happy family than any other values, because without love happiness is impossible. If you love each other, then all obstacles will be overcome, and all gentle words will be found, and this cruel world will turn to you with a kind smile.

I think that having a good family is very important in our life because it is like a friendly port for us when the waves of life become too wild. We need a family for comfort and protection. For example, when I have some problems, my family always take my word against anybody else's. And I'm sure I can always rely on their help. Besides, I think that it's lovely to have the family round you and to know they are interested in you. You will never feel lonely.

There are four of us in my family: my parents, my brother and me. My father is a managing director. He is very clever and I respect him very much. Unfortunately, he is always very busy and has little time to spend with his family. My mother is a very

friendly and likeable person but sometimes she can be quite critical of people. My brother is a student. We don't have any secrets from each other and we get on very well. We are both fond of sports and often spend our free time playing sports games. My grandparents are retired and live in their country house. They are fond of gardening and I often visit them and help my Granny about the garden so I've got nice relationship with my grandparents.

I believe that children should be given as much responsibility about the house as possible. I don't think that parents should do everything for them especially if they can do certain things by themselves. It's very good for a child to learn to be able to take care of himself and his possessions from the very early age. Besides, I'm sure that everybody in the family should do their fair share, including children. They can do such household chores as cleaning, taking out rubbish, watering the flowers and everyday shopping.

My brother and I try to help my mother to do the chores. I do most of the washing up, tidy my room and make my bed. I often go shopping. My brother is responsible for cleaning and repairing things and he sometimes cooks. In a loving family every person ought to do the chores. That is the way I see it.

Questions

1. Do you live in a nuclear or in a extended family?
2. Would you like to live with your grandparents? Why?
3. Who is the top dog in your family? Why?
4. Who runs the house in your family?
5. Do your parents teach you anything?
6. Do your relatives help you to solve your problems?

Task 2

Give a talk on **family relations.**
Remember to discuss:

- **what family relations can be between the members of the family, why**
- **whether it is good to be an only child, why**
- **a generation gap and its reasons**
- **your relations with your family members**

Families come in all shapes and sizes nowadays. At present more and more families are divorced and then their parents remarry. That's why more children have step-brothers, step-sisters, half-brothers and half-sisters. No wonder that there can be some problems in the family relations. Members of many families suffer from misunderstanding because there is a great difference in their tastes and opinions. Besides, children don't like it when there is too much control from their parents because they want to solve their problems independently. On the other hand, if the members of the family love each other there can be no or little argument and the family lives happily.

Some families have only one child nowadays and others have two, three or even more children. In my opinion, both kinds of families have some advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand, if you are an only child in a family, you don't have to share your room with anybody else. Besides, your parents give all their love and care only to you. On the other hand, if you have a brother or a sister, you have someone to play with or to talk to, and you'll never feel bored. What is more, if you get into trouble, you have someone to help you or give some advice. As for me, I'm an only child in my family, but I think that having a brother or a sister is an amazing feeling, because you know that you won't be lonely in any case and you have someone to share your thoughts and feelings.

There are a lot of problems and conflicts that appear between teenagers and their parents because they don't understand each other. Generation gap will always exist not only because teenagers and their parents enjoy listening to different kinds of music. A lot of things are different: tastes, manners, behaviour and the stuff like that. Some parents don't want to understand modern views, ideals and system of values so teens are afraid to tell them about their private life. Another reason for the generation gap, in my opinion, is that parents want their children to be clever and learn harder. They are always nagging when their children do badly at school. They make teens do their homework, though sometimes it is unnecessary. Parents don't want to understand that there can be more important things than good marks in the school-leaving certificate. I believe it is necessary to bridge the generation gap and the only way to do it is for parents and

children to speak frankly to each other and try to come to an agreement.

As for me, although I'm an only child, I don't feel lonely because my parents always love and take care of me. What is more, we often discuss my problems together. Of course, sometimes I have arguments with my family but despite all our disagreements we always help each other. Everyone in my family is my best friend and I love my family very much.

Questions

1. Why are family relations so important for us?
2. How many children would you like to have in the future? Why?
3. Do you have any problems in your family? Why?
4. Do your relatives help you to solve your problems?
5. Do you always follow your parents' advice? Why?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your sister are thinking of what to buy as **a present for your mother's birthday**. Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **a vase**
- **flowers**
- **a box of chocolates**
- **a self-made pie**

'Do you remember that next Sunday is our Mum's birthday? What present can we buy for her? Have you decided yet?'

'Well, I'm not quite sure. What about a vase? I saw a very beautiful one in the shop the other day. I think she will be very glad, because she has broken her favourite vase. Besides, she likes practical presents and it can always be useful.'

'I'm afraid you forgot that Dad gave her a very beautiful vase on Women's Day. We have lots of vases at home. In addition, Mum doesn't like cut flowers, she prefers them in pots.'

'OK. Let's buy her a flower then. Mum likes to take care of them so we can buy a flower in a beautiful pot. They are lovely and we can choose the one she will really enjoy.'

'You know, it's very difficult to find nice flowers at reasonable prices. I'm afraid we don't have enough money to

buy a really beautiful flower. Besides, she has lots of flowers at home and one more won't make any difference. Why don't we buy her a box of chocolates? They are not very expensive and they are delicious. And in the evening we'll have tea with chocolates. I'm sure she'll like them.'

'I don't think so. She doesn't have a sweet tooth. And you are too selfish! To buy a present so as to eat it in the evening? No, it's quite an ordinary present. We should give her something special, something that she'll remember for ever.'

'What do you suggest?'

'I've got an idea! Why don't we bake an apple pie for her! She is fond of home-made pies and this one is her favourite!'

'Bake a pie? Not a bad idea! But I'm not sure of the results. As for me, I'm not good at cooking. Besides, we have no apples at home.'

'Well, I know how to make it. I'll cook it and you'll buy apples and then wash the dishes.'

'All right. It will be nice to have a cup of tea with a piece of home-made pie.'

'I'm with you there, but it's not the pie that counts. Mum will be proud of our abilities. It's easy to buy chocolates or flowers. It's much more difficult to make a pie. I'm sure she'll be very glad.'

'I completely agree with you! It'll be the best present for our Mum.'

Task 2

You and your mother are thinking of **redecorating your kitchen**. Which style is the best for your family? Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **classical**
- **hi-tech**
- **avant-garde**
- **country**

'Mum, have you decided what style to choose for our new kitchen?'

'Oh no! It's too difficult for me to choose? Perhaps, you could help me. What style would you prefer for our kitchen?'

'As for me, I would prefer something new and progressive, for example, the avant-garde style. It's in fashion now. Just

imagine our kitchen in bright colours and with extraordinary furniture. You'll definitely feel quite a different person in there. What do you think of it?'

'No way! It's too unusual and it looks unnatural. And think of your grandparents! I'm afraid they will never get used to it. Besides, we usually gather round the kitchen table in the evening and have a nice talk but this style doesn't suit for family gatherings, does it?'

'In a way, you are right. But what about a hi-tech style? We would have a modern kitchen with all possible electrical appliances. What do you think of buying a microwave oven, a dishwasher and an electric cooker? You'll have more free time. Besides, it'll be easy to keep it clean. And such kitchen will look up-to-date. Do you agree with me?'

'It's not a bad idea. Of course we'll buy a microwave oven and a dishwasher but I think that redecorating in a hi-tech style will be rather expensive. Besides, it may look like an office. I'd rather have a cosy kitchen that will suit all the family. Why don't we redecorate it in a classical style? Our father likes this style because it's very practical. And it won't be very expensive. Besides, all our friends have kitchens made in a classical style. What's your opinion?'

'I think it's boring to have a classical kitchen. We have already had it for five years and I'm sure that all our family members want to change it. In addition, I'd rather have a kitchen that differs from those of our friends.'

'Perhaps, I can agree with you. And what do you think of the country style?'

'The country style? It's possible. This style is very rare nowadays and our kitchen will look rather unusual. Anyway, it will remind us of our holidays in the village.'

'Oh yes! You'll feel as if you were in our country house. Besides, it won't be difficult to match all things.'

'But won't it be too expensive for us?'

'Not at all! I know a good shop that sells country furniture at very reasonable prices. Our new kitchen will be very cosy. So what shall we choose?'

'I think the country style will be the best for us. I'm sure that all the family will like it.'

'I totally agree with you!'

UNIT 7
HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONS

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **holidays and celebrations.**
Remember to discuss:

- **what occasions people usually celebrate, why**
- **whether you enjoy holidays and why**
- **what is your favourite holiday, why**
- **what Russian holiday makes you especially proud of, why**

People all over the world celebrate different holidays such as New Year's Day, Christmas or Easter because these celebrations are a part of their culture and people try to preserve these traditions. Besides, they usually celebrated holidays connected with the history of their country, for example Thanksgiving Day in the USA or Guy Fawkes' Night in Great Britain. Apart from this, some people celebrate such special occasions as graduation, getting a job or retirement because these are memorable events in their life. And of course most people celebrate such family events as birthdays or weddings because they want to please their relatives and to keep up family traditions.

Personally, I enjoy celebrating holidays. For me, a holiday is not just a day off but a special occasion and I usually prepare for it beforehand. First of all, I think that holidays are an important way to keep up our traditions. Besides, it's a good chance to bring the family together and to meet all your friends and relatives. What is more, I like this perfect atmosphere behind celebrations when my Mum cooks a festive dinner and people give and receive presents.

My favourite holiday is of course New Year because I always get a lot of presents. Besides, I like the atmosphere of this holiday as there is a great air of expectation. Traditionally, on

the thirty-first of December we decorate a fir-tree and put presents under it. I also enjoy the family meal, which is a central part of our celebration. When the Kremlin clock strikes twelve, we wish each other 'Happy New Year' and then we go for a walk and let off fireworks. It's a great time of the year.

The holiday that makes me especially proud is Victory Day. It commemorates the victory of our country in World War II. On this day we usually put flowers at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and honour the memory of my grandfather who died in this war. I am especially impressed by the ceremony when people all over the country keep silence for a minute in honour of those who died to defend our Motherland. I think it's one of the most important traditions in our country and we must keep it up to remind our children of the terrible consequences of wars.

Questions

1. What holidays are celebrated in Russia?
2. Do you celebrate traditional Russian holidays? Why?
3. What is the most popular holiday in Russia?
4. What professional holidays in Russia do you know?
5. Would you prefer to celebrate holidays with your friends or with your relatives? Why?
6. Which foreign holidays would you like to celebrate? Why?

Task 2

Give a talk on **traditions**.
Remember to discuss:

- **why it is important to keep up different traditions**
- **whether old traditions have survived in Russia**
- **what traditions are kept in your family, why**
- **what traditions make you especially proud of your country, why**

What is a tradition? I think traditions are a way of defining who people are, that's why it is very important that traditions do survive in the country. Take Great Britain, for instance. It is a unique country because it has a link with quite ancient traditions. Traditional uniforms are still preserved in Great Britain. There are also a lot of traditional ceremonies such as the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, Trooping

the Colour, which is performed on the Queen's official birthday, or the Ceremony of the Keys, that takes place every night at the Tower of London. Besides, traditions are an essential part of our culture because they join different generations together and pass down different beliefs, practices and customs from the past to the present.

Russia is a country of great culture and lots of old traditions have survived up to the present day. For example, Russian people traditionally mark the end of winter and the beginning of spring by burning straw scarecrows of winter on bonfires and eating pancakes with honey, caviar or sour-cream. This long-standing tradition is still alive in many places in Russia. However, there are a lot of traditional holidays that are almost forgotten nowadays. One of them is Ivan Cupala's Night. This spring festival dates back to pagan times in Russia and is associated with the sun, water and fire. People jumped over tall bonfires, which were the common symbols of the festival. They also bathed in rivers and collected herbs, which held magic powers and protected against different diseases. It's a pity that this knowledge is lost now.

There are a lot of traditions in my family, for example celebrating birthdays, holidays, and traditional wedding ceremonies. They help to keep the family together and they make our life more interesting. The family meal is another tradition that we try to keep up in our family. In my opinion, family meals reflect the country's culture and traditions. Besides, it's a good chance for parents and children to talk. We usually gather together in the evening and tell each other what has happened during the day. And I always feel the love and support of my family. I think it's very important.

There are some Russian traditions that make me especially proud because they are unique and make us feel a little bit different from other nationalities. For example, a guest in Russia is always welcomed with the symbol of life-giving food bread and salt. Another tradition that makes me feel proud is Russian wedding ceremony, which is quite different from what people are used to in different countries. For example, only in Russia the groom has to pay a ransom so as to get the bride. Everything is played out as a joke and both sides are mostly competing in the sense of humour.

Questions

1. What traditions are common for all countries?
2. Do your friends follow old Russian traditions? Why?
3. What everyday Russian traditions do you know?
4. Have you got any traditions in your school?
5. Would you like to have more traditions in your life? Why?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your friend are going **to stay in Moscow for a week on holidays**. You are discussing several accommodation possibilities. You have to **decide on one** of them:

- **staying with your relatives**
- **renting a room**
- **staying at a hotel**
- **staying at a camp**

'So next week we are going to Moscow, aren't we? Have you decided where to stay yet?'

'Not yet but we have lots of possibilities. For example, we can stay with my relatives. They are very friendly people and they know Moscow very well. So they could recommend us the most interesting places to visit. Besides, we won't have to pay for our accommodation. What do you think of it?'

'Not a bad idea! But I won't feel very comfortable if we stay with your relatives. They are strangers to me and I won't feel at home. In addition, we won't be on our own in the evening and at the weekend. Just imagine that we'll have to talk to them all the time and to do what they want us to. It's awful! I'd rather stay at a hotel. The hotels in Moscow are very comfortable.'

'But they are very expensive! And we could spend this money on entertainment. Besides, it's very difficult to book a hotel accommodation in Moscow in summer. The hotels are usually full.'

'Well, you are right. Perhaps, it will be possible to find a cheap hotel which is not very popular. You see, in the hotel you are absolutely free to do whatever you feel like doing, for example, to go to a fitness club or to a disco.'

'I don't think it will be possible. Besides, if it's a cheap hotel, it may have leaking taps and a TV set usually doesn't

work. We'd better rent a room. It will be cheaper than staying at a hotel and it feels more like home. We could rent a room close to the centre or at least to a metro station.'

'I can't agree with you. First of all, if a room is in the centre or near a metro station, it will be also very expensive. In addition, if you rent a room, you will have to share a kitchen and other amenities with several families. I hate that! More than that, renting a room can be dangerous. You never know who your hosts are!'

'I agree with you, because it's difficult to find a good room in Moscow. What about staying at a youth camp near the city? I have found some good camps on the Internet. We can book accommodation there in advance. I think it will be the cheapest way to relax.'

'I'm not quite sure, because it will take us a long time to get to the centre of Moscow and trains could be overcrowded.'

'Nothing of the kind! Such camps usually provide their guests with special buses, so we'll easily get to the nearest metro station. Besides, there are lots of interesting activities in the camp: we can play volleyball and other sports games, go to the swimming pool or to a disco and have fun in the evening.'

'Great! We'll be able to make a lot of new friends and we'll do whatever we like to. As to your relatives, we can phone them and even pay them a visit.'

'Yes, this is the best solution for us! I am going to book our accommodation right now.'

Task 2

You and your friend are thinking of how you could spend **New Year**. Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **with your parents at home**
- **at your friend's house**
- **go for a walk**
- **go to the disco party**

'Hi! Have you decided how to celebrate our favourite holiday?'

'You mean New Year's Day, don't you? Well, I think I'll stay with my parents as usual. First of all, New Year is a family holiday. Traditionally, on the thirty-first of December we

decorate a fir-tree and put presents under it. The family meal is a central part of our celebration. When the Kremlin clock strikes twelve, we wish each other 'Happy New Year' and give each other presents. I usually get lots of presents from my relatives so I'm looking forward to this day. It's a great time of the year! You can come and celebrate with us if you like.'

'Well, thank you, but I think it's rather boring to celebrate this holiday with parents. There's not much to do except watching TV and talking. Besides, your parents usually go to bed rather early and won't allow us to stay up all night. Why don't we have something different this year?'

'Perhaps you are right. But what do you suggest?'

'Some of my friends are having a New Year party at home. Why not join them? We are of the same age and have common views on many things so you can make a lot of new friends. I'm sure we'll have a lot of fun playing games and dancing.'

'And I'm not quite sure of it. Your friends may not like me and I won't feel at home. And some of the guests can be unpleasant to me either, especially if they drink a lot. Finally, we'll have to do lots of washing up and clean the room in the morning and I don't feel like doing it on holiday.'

'Well, I can agree with you. What about going for a walk with our classmates? I know they are going to celebrate New Year in Red Square. It's rather exotic! We'll watch fireworks and listen to the concert. And then we can play snowballs and have a lot of fun!'

'You are crazy! It's freezing and it's going to be rather cold at night. And I'm afraid we'll get hungry.'

'If we are hungry, we can go to a café and have a snack.'

'I'm sure all cafés will be full that night. But if you want to go out, we can buy tickets to a disco party.'

'A disco party? Great idea! There will be lots of young people and we can make new friends. Besides, I'm fond of dancing.'

'So am I! And I think there will be a special concert programme, too. So we will have a lot of fun. Besides, we won't have to care about food. Everything is included into the price.'

'And we won't have to wash dishes and to clean the room after the party! Wonderful! Let's choose a disco party. I'll go and buy tickets right now.'

UNIT 8
LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **learning English.**
Remember to discuss:

- **whether it's easy or difficult to learn English, why**
- **which is most important: grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, why**
- **what you prefer doing: reading, listening, speaking, writing, why**
- **what you could do to improve your English.**

In my opinion, English is easier to learn than many other foreign languages because its grammar is not very complicated. Still, its a tricky language to learn because English pronunciation is very difficult. There are more exceptions than rules and you have to look up words in the dictionary to check up their pronunciation because you can't rely on rules.

I can't say exactly which is most important in learning a language: grammar, vocabulary or pronunciation. Of course the main thing in a language is its vocabulary. If you don't know the words, you won't be able to express your idea even if you know lots of grammar rules. Some students think that being able to communicate is the most important thing in learning a language and they do not care that they make many mistakes in speaking. However, grammar and pronunciation are of great importance, too. If you mispronounce some word, the meaning can be different and people won't be able to understand you. The same thing is with grammar. Of course if you omit 's' at the end of the verb, this won't make much difference, but if you mix up verb tenses, people will misunderstand you. In my opinion, we should be concerned with both communicating and

accuracy. To sum up, I think that all these aspects are very important for successful communication.

As for me, I enjoy learning English because it is a very beautiful language. I like all activities but most of all I prefer reading. It's a very enjoyable activity because while reading you can learn a lot of new things, for example, you can learn some information about English-speaking countries. Besides, reading is easier for me than speaking or listening because I don't have to concentrate and recollect the necessary words. If I don't know any word in the book, I can always look it up in the dictionary. What is more, when I read English books, I learn lots of new words and enlarge my vocabulary. We don't have lots of opportunities to communicate with native speakers or to listen to an English speech so reading is the best way to stay in touch with the language. Today we have an opportunity to find plenty of interesting English websites and to enjoy this language.

There are a lot of useful learning strategies that can help us improve our English such as reading English books, using a cassette recorder or watching English films. But in my opinion, the best way of learning a language is to practise a lot. Today we have an opportunity to go to an English-speaking country and talk to native speakers. In my opinion, it's the best way to enlarge my vocabulary, to improve my grammar and pronunciation and to train my speaking and listening skills. That's why I'd like to go to Great Britain and take a course at an English school.

Questions

1. Why do people in Russia learn English?
2. Does everyone need to learn English? Why?
3. What do you think is the best way of learning a foreign language? Why?
4. Why do you learn English?
5. Is it difficult for you to learn English? Why?
6. Are you a good language learner? Why?
7. Would you like to learn any other foreign language in addition to English? Why?/Why not?

Task 2

Give a talk on **learning foreign languages.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why it is important to learn foreign languages**
- **whether it will be better to have only one language on the planet, why**
- **why you learn English**
- **whether you are a good language learner, why**

In my opinion, learning foreign languages is extremely beneficial. It's not surprising because Russia is now part of Europe and the whole world. Very little clear and detailed communication can occur among people who don't have a common language. Besides learning foreign languages helps us to gain a better appreciation of our own language. I believe that knowledge of foreign languages helps to make a person educated and well-rounded. And it is not only the language that counts, but also the fact that it is a way of getting to know different cultures. You can't broaden your mind if you see the world only from the perspective of your own culture.

Some people think that it will be better to have only one language on our planet because in this case communication will become easier and there will be no need to learn foreign languages. But in my opinion, having only one language is a disaster because it will reduce the diversity of our planet, which is the key to our survival. I think we should try our best to preserve all languages on our planet because a language is the main part of people's culture and without languages we will lose our great cultural heritage.

As for me, I learn English because it expands my horizons and prepares me for a successful career. If you know English, you can get a better job, more money and people will respect you more. Besides, English attracts me because it's the language of business and computers. English is also very useful when you travel abroad. When you speak English to people, they're often a lot more friendly and helpful. More than that, learning English is a good exercise for the intellect, though, of course, it's a tricky language to learn because there seems to be more exceptions than rules.

I think I'm a good language learner because I'm independent, organized and active. I don't expect to learn English just by sitting in the classroom so I always look for opportunities to develop my language outside the classroom, for example, I read English books and I use different educational programmes which I can find on the Internet. I try to find out what works for me and what doesn't. Some students think that being able to communicate is the most important in learning a language and they do not care that they make many mistakes in speaking. As for me, I'm concerned with both communicating and accuracy.

Questions

1. Why do so many people learn English today?
2. Do you agree that language diversity is 'the key to our survival'? Why?
3. How many languages do you think are enough for the world? Why?
4. Will English become a global language? Why?
5. Do you like learning English or not? Why?
6. Would you like to learn any other foreign language? Why?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your friend are going to take a language course in London. You would like to stay at the same place with your friend. Discuss all of the suggested possibilities and agree on the one that suits both of you:

- staying with your relatives in London
- staying at a hotel
- staying at a youth hostel
- staying with a host family

'It's a great idea to take a language course in London! But where are we going to stay? I'd rather stay at the same place with you? And you?'

'So would I. I've got some relatives in London so we could stay with them. They are very friendly people and they know London very well. So they could recommend us the most

interesting places to visit. Besides, we won't have to pay for our accommodation. What do you think of it?'

'Not a bad idea! But I won't feel very comfortable if we stay with your relatives. They are strangers to me and I won't feel at home. In addition, we won't be on our own in the evening and at the weekend. Just imagine that we'll have to talk to them all the time and to do what they want us to. It's awful! By the way, do they live near the school?'

'Not really. In fact, we'll have to go by bus or by underground.'

'You see, it's quite inconvenient to waste so much time getting to and from school. As for me, I'd rather stay at a hotel not far from our school. The hotels in London are very comfortable.'

'But they are very expensive! I'm afraid my parents won't be able to afford it. Besides, it's very difficult to book a hotel accommodation in London in summer. The hotels are usually full.'

'Well, it's a pity because in the hotel you are absolutely free to do whatever you feel like doing, for example, go to the cinema or to a disco. What about staying in a youth hostel? They are much cheaper, and we'll have the same freedom as in a hotel. What is more, we'll be able to make lots of new friends with foreign teenagers and practise our English. What's your opinion?'

'To tell the truth, I don't like this idea. First of all, youth hostels are also expensive. Besides, they are usually far from the school so you'll have to get to school by public transport. In addition, we'll have to cook our meals ourselves and I hate cooking. Moreover, it's no use speaking English with people who don't know it. Don't forget that students usually come to England to learn English. We should practise our language speaking with native speakers.'

'Well, perhaps, you are right. What do you suggest then?'

'Why don't we stay with a host family? We could practise our English talking with them in the evening and discussing different things. Besides, it's a good chance to get to know the English lifestyle as well as English customs and traditions.'

'Not a bad idea! Is it expensive?'

'Not at all. It's the cheapest kind of accommodation, especially if we share a room.'

'But I'm afraid that we wouldn't have much chance to be on our own and we would have to follow the family rules. Besides, it could be a long way from school.'

'I don't think so. Students usually have enough freedom in the family, they even have their own keys, so we'll be able to return home whenever we like. And the school usually chooses host families that live within a walking distance from school. What is more, the family provides students with morning and evening meals. So it will be very convenient.'

'You've convinced me that this is the best way to stay in London! It's great that we won't have to worry about our meals. Besides, the family could recommend us what to see in London. As for you relatives, we could phone them or even pay them a visit.'

'I completely agree with you! Staying with a host family will be the best choice for us.'

Task 2

Your English school is considering what **to buy to help students with their English**. Here are some of the things that have been suggested. Discuss all of the suggested possibilities with your friend and choose **the one that both of you find most useful**:

- **a cassette recorder**
- **video cassettes**
- **dictionaries**
- **books for reading**

'Our school is going to buy some things to help us learn English. What do you think will be the best thing to buy?'

'I'm glad we'll have more opportunities to improve our English. I think we should buy a cassette recorder. There is no cassette recorder in our classroom and our teacher always has to ask somebody to lend it to her when we have listening tasks in our textbook. You know that listening skills are very important in learning languages. If you can't understand a person you are speaking to, you won't be able to communicate, will you?'

'I completely agree with you that listening is very important. But we should buy things not only for our group. I think it'll be better to buy something that will be useful for all

students of our school, for example, video cassettes with films in English. We've got TV sets in almost all classrooms so they can be used in all groups. Besides, watching English films is a good way to train our listening skills. Do you agree with me?'

'Well, I can agree that watching English films is really useful. But the problem is that we don't have video players to watch them. Besides, all films now are on DVDs. If we had DVD players, it would be the best option for us but unfortunately DVD players are rather expensive so we can't afford to have them in all classrooms. Why don't we buy dictionaries? We need them for our lessons and ours are very old. The language is constantly changing, so we need modern dictionaries for our English classes.'

'It's not a bad idea. Dictionaries are very useful. But good dictionaries are rather expensive so we won't be able to supply all students with them. What is more, many of our students use electronic dictionaries in their computers and mobile phones so they don't need printed dictionaries. That's why I think we shouldn't buy them.'

'I can see what you mean. What about buying different books for reading? Reading English books is the best way to enlarge our vocabulary and today there is a great choice of books in the shops. Moreover, many of them go together with audio cassettes so we'll also be able to improve our listening skills.'

'Great idea! We could keep them in the library so all students will be able to read them at home if they want. I hope they aren't very expensive.'

'No, they aren't. They are rather cheap so we'll be able to buy quite a big number of different books.'

'I completely agree with you. As for me, I enjoy reading English books very much and I don't have many of them at home. So I'll be very glad if we have books for reading in our library.'

'I hope everyone will enjoy them. So what's our decision?'

'Let's choose books for reading. I'm sure everybody will approve of our choice.'

UNIT 9
LEISURE ACTIVITIES

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **hobbies**.
Remember to discuss:

- **why people have hobbies**
- **what kinds of hobbies exist in the world**
- **what hobbies are popular with teenagers, why**
- **whether you've got any hobby, why/why not**

A hobby is something you enjoy doing in your free time, such as reading, listening to music, making something, growing, collecting different things, etc. People have hobbies because it's a perfect way to spend their free time and not to feel bored. Besides, hobbies are often educational as people enjoy learning new things. For example, stamp collecting can tell you lots of different things about the theme of your collection. What is more, having a hobby is a good chance to find like-minded friends.

Different people like doing different things, so we can say that people have different hobbies. They can range from raising fish in your fish tank to watching stars through a telescope. The most popular of all hobbies is collecting different things: dolls, postcards, coins and stamps. Of course collecting can cost you a lot of money, especially if you buy old things. Some people like doing something as a hobby, for example, playing musical instruments, drawing or building models. One of the most popular hobbies among Englishmen is gardening. In addition, there are educational hobbies like travelling or reading. There are plenty of other fascinating hobbies, some of which are rather unusual such as solving puzzles, trainspotting, hitchhiking or even shopping. We can say, 'So many men, so many hobbies.'

Teens always invent new hobbies and the most popular hobby among teenagers nowadays is playing computer games,

especially playing with the Internet. It's a very exciting hobby because you can find lots of games on the Internet so everyone can choose a game according to their tastes. What is more, some of the games are really clever and train your logical reasoning. Teens often compete in playing them. However, this hobby can be really addictive and lots of teens spend a lot of time playing and neglect their duties. Teenagers are among the biggest users of mobiles, that's why another popular hobby among teens is text messaging or 'texting'. On the one hand, text messaging helps teenagers to stay in touch. What is more, it can bring introverted teens out of their shell, boost their confidence and help them make friends. But for some teens, 'texting' can become a habit that affects their school work, their ability to sleep at night and how they interact with their friends face-to-face.

As for me, my hobby is collecting pens and pencils from different countries. My grandma has given me some of my first pens and pencils so I've got some very old items in my collection. I travel quite a lot so my collection is rather big. I suppose I've got about 200 pens and 150 pencils. Some people think it's a weird hobby, but it's just like collecting anything else. I get really great satisfaction when I add new items to my collection. Besides, when I look at them, I always imagine pupils from different countries studying in their schools. However, I don't think that many of my pens and pencils are valuable, none of them are priceless or anything like that, but they look great!

Questions

1. Do all people have hobbies? Why?
2. What sort of things do people usually collect? Why?
3. What are your parents' hobbies?
4. Can a hobby affect your future occupation? How?
5. Some people think that a hobby is a waste of time. Do you agree with them? Why?

Task 2

Give a talk on **leisure activities**.
Remember to discuss:

- **how leisure activities have changed over the last years**

- **what teenagers like doing in their spare time, why**
- **whether teenagers have enough leisure time, why**
- **what you prefer doing when you're alone, why**

Leisure activities have changed very much over the last years because technology has given us new opportunities. In the past, the most popular way of spending your spare time was reading books, or watching TV, or going to the swimming pool. Today we have lots of other possibilities to spend our free time with pleasure. Water parks with their water slides, wave machines and man-made rivers have taken the place of traditional swimming pools and computers have replaced books and TV. However, these changes are not always positive. In the past people used to spend their free time together: they played different games or went together to the cinema or to the theatre. Today, modern teenagers would prefer to spend their free time with computers rather than with their friends.

Playing computer games is the most popular leisure activity among teenagers because it's an exciting and rather convenient way of spending free time. Teens can play computer games any time they like and they can find lots of amazing games on the Internet. Moreover, they like to discuss their success in games with their classmates and they even have different game competitions. However, there are lots of other leisure activities that are popular among teenagers. For example, a lot of teens go in for different sports, especially extreme sports such as BMX, in-line skating or snowboarding. First of all, sport helps them to keep fit. Besides, it allows them to find new friends who share the same passion. And finally, sport gives them real pleasure and helps to escape from everyday problems.

I don't think that teenagers have enough leisure time nowadays because they have to study hard at school. They are always busy doing homework and revising for exams. In addition, teens usually have to help their parents with chores: they clean their room, do the washing up and sometimes go shopping. What is more, some parents want their children to learn music or to go to the swimming pool. That's why adolescents today are under a lot of pressure. We have no time to relax and it's bad for our health.

As for me, I have almost no spare time, but when I'm alone I prefer reading because we have a large library at home with lots of fascinating books. Most of all I enjoy reading historical novels because History is my favourite subject at school and I think that every educated person should know it. I'm interested to learn how people lived in the past and how they solved their problems. Sometimes it helps me in my life. I'm usually captivated by exciting story lines so reading helps me to escape from my school problems. It's a very relaxing and enjoyable leisure activity. For me it's the best way to spend my free time and not to feel bored.

Questions

1. Would you prefer to spend your spare time alone or with friends? Why?
2. Are you a couch potato? Why?
3. Do you think that parents worry too much about what their children are doing when they are out? Why?
4. Will some leisure activities disappear in the future? Why?
5. Will people have more free time in the future? Why?

Task 3

Give a talk on **shopping.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why people can't do without shopping**
- **whether shopping is more popular with boys or girls, why**
- **who does most of the shopping in your family and where**
- **whether shopping over the Internet will become the main way of buying things in the future, why/why not**

Some people like shopping, others don't but they all have to go shopping at least once a week because they need food and other things for their life. However, there are people who are addicted to shopping. They are crazy about looking around and choosing things. For them shopping is a hobby.

In my opinion, shopping is more popular with girls than with boys because they are concerned with clothes so they like to choose fashionable things. Besides, they enjoy trying clothes

on. Boys see it differently and some of them even hate shopping. They find it boring to spend time in shops choosing the right thing.

Our family usually does the shopping on Saturdays or Sundays and we do it all together. We have a lot of supermarkets near our house, but we prefer to go to the nearest hypermarket which sells a rich variety of items. Besides, it has a lot of free parking space so we can park our car without any problems. If we are tired of shopping, we can go upstairs and have a rest at McDonalds or go to the cinema which is situated in the same building. So in my opinion it's very comfortable and amusing to do the shopping in the hypermarket. My Mum always gives me a free hand in choosing my clothes. If I need some expensive clothes or shoes we go shopping together, but I can buy such things as CDs, books, T-shirts and jewellery by myself. I also buy some food like bread or dairy products for everyday use.

We have already seen an explosion of shopping on the Internet and I think this trend is clearly going to continue. First of all, this kind of shopping is very convenient when you buy expensive things such as computers or bikes because you may compare the prices in different Internet-shops and choose what you want sitting at home. Besides, you don't have to waste time getting to the shop and waiting in a queue: all the goods will be delivered to your place at any convenient time. However, I don't think that people will buy everyday things on the Internet because it's easier and quicker to go to the nearest shop to buy what you need rather than to wait until your order will be delivered.

Questions

1. How often do you go shopping?
2. Do you enjoy shopping? Why or why not?
3. What do you like to shop for?
4. Which things do you hate to shop for?
5. What kind of shops do you like most of all? Why?
6. Is it better to go shopping on your own or with friends/family? Why?
7. If you had a lot of money, how would you spend it?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your friend are discussing what both of you could do on Sunday. There are several options but you may choose only one of them:

- **go to the Zoo**
- **go to a café**
- **see a thriller at the cinema**
- **go to a music concert**

'So what shall we do on Sunday? Have you decided yet?'

'Not yet but we have lots of possibilities. For example, we can go to the Zoo. I haven't been there for ages and I know there are lots of new species. You will never see them in the wild!'

'Oh, no! It's boring to watch animals in cages! They look miserable there.'

'Not exactly! It's fun to see animals walk, play or do tricks to attract people's attention. Besides, there are special areas in zoos where animals can walk freely and live together.'

'Yet there's a horrible smell in the Zoo. And I'm sure that on Sunday there will be crowds of people, so we won't be able to see properly some of the most popular animals. What about going to a café? We could try some exotic food. Besides, it's a good way to relax.'

'Cafés are usually crowded at weekends. And they are stuffy, too. I think it's boring to sit all day in the café.'

'Well, there is usually nice music in the café and we can dance a lot. In addition, it's a good opportunity to make new friends.'

'I don't think so. There can be lots of drunken people and they can be nasty. Besides, I'm afraid of making friends in a café. As for me, I'd rather go to the cinema and see a thriller. These films are often very dynamic.'

'And horrible, too! I hate thrillers because there's always a lot of violence and the plot is usually rather simple.'

'I wouldn't say that! I've seen a trailer and this film has lots of breathtaking scenes and you get so involved. Moreover, there

are lots of special effects that make you feel as if you were in the centre of events.'

'I think you'd better buy a DVD-disk and enjoy watching it at home. At the cinemas there are always some people who talk and laugh at the very interesting moment. But if you want to go and see something, why not go to a music concert of your favourite rock group. They are playing at our concert hall on Sunday!'

'Wow, I didn't know that! They are wonderful! And the concert will be very spectacular with all their special effects! But will we be able to get tickets?'

'I'm sure we will. My aunt works in the box-office of the concert hall and I'll ask her to buy tickets for us. Live music is fantastic: you get carried away listening to it. And backup dancing adds to the beauty of the performance.'

'I completely agree with you. Let's go to the concert. That's a wonderful idea!'

Task 2

You and your friend are planning to start **a new hobby**. You are discussing what hobby to choose. You are considering:

- **playing chess**
- **collecting coins**
- **sailing**
- **photography**

Discuss with your friend the above-mentioned hobbies. Agree upon **one of the options**.

'Do you remember we were planning to start a new hobby?'

'Of course, I do. Do you have any ideas what to do?'

'Lots of ideas! Why don't we start playing chess? It's a very interesting and clever game. I think it's a perfect way to spend our free time and not to feel bored. And perhaps in the future we'll be able to win some competitions.'

'I can't agree with you, I'm afraid. It's not easy to learn how to play chess well. We need a teacher or at least we should join a chess club. Unfortunately, we have no chess club nearby.'

'It's a pity that we have no chess club. But I can ask my Dad to teach us. He plays chess rather well.'

'I don't think your Dad will have enough free time to teach us. He is a very busy person. What about collecting coins from different countries? It's a very educational hobby because coins can tell you a lot about the history of the country they are from. Besides, I've already got several coins from France and it's a good start for our collection. I know that you travel a lot so in the future we can have a good collection. What's your opinion?'

'Oh, no! I hate collecting. Collections usually take up a lot of space and they collect dust. Besides, collecting foreign coins doesn't seem to be an interesting idea because soon all European countries will have the same coins. It's unlikely that we'll have a good collection of coins.'

'Well, I agree with you. What do you suggest then?'

'As for me, I prefer active hobbies. How about sailing? There is a good sailing club in our town. It's a very exciting and challenging hobby. Not everyone can cope with it. Besides, it's a good way to keep fit and to stay healthy, isn't it?'

'I'm not so sure. In my opinion, it's a very dangerous hobby and it requires a lot of training. In addition, we'll need special equipment and it can be rather expensive. I'm afraid I won't be able to afford it. If you want an active hobby, let's start photography. My parents gave me a very good camera for my birthday, so we needn't buy anything else.'

'But we will need a special place where we can develop a film and print our photos.'

'There's no need to develop a film because my camera is digital. We can watch our photos on my computer, choose the best ones and print them on my printer.'

'It's a good idea! Perhaps, we could publish our photos in different magazines and became famous.'

'You are right! Besides, some of our classmates do it as a hobby, so we can organise a special exhibition at school for our parents.'

'Great! They will be proud of our abilities!'

'So what shall we choose?'

'Let's agree on photography. It's the best hobby for us. I think I'll buy a camera, too.'

UNIT 10
MASS MEDIA AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **television.**
Remember to discuss:

- **what kind of programmes teenagers enjoy watching, why**
- **what your favourite programme is, why**
- **whether there should be commercials on TV, why/why not**
- **what bad effects television may have**

Television viewing is by far the most popular leisure pastime. On the whole, teens like watching different programmes such as serials, sports programmes and even news, just because tastes differ. It may seem strange but almost all teenagers enjoy watching cartoons. I must admit that some of them are really wonderful and amusing, for example *South Park* or *Madagascar*. Cartoons help us to relax after a hard working day at school and escape from our everyday problems. More than that, I think cartoons make people kinder and more sympathetic.

As for me, I enjoy watching TV very much, especially different quizzes. That's why my favourite TV programme is *Who wants to be a millionaire?* It is a game show where the player is asked different questions. I particularly enjoy watching this programme because the questions are always very interesting and they help me to expand my outlook. Besides, it's the perfect way to be in the know of everything. I find this programme clever and informative and try not to miss it.

Unfortunately, all channels in Russia show adverts. Advertising messages are usually included into films and serials, and people don't like them very much because they find ads silly and boring. As for me, I don't take advertising seriously because ads show life unrealistically and give untrue information. Besides, in adverts all people seem to be happy consumers, all kids seem to be healthy and well off. But this is not true at all. What

is more, I find it very annoying when a film stops at the most interesting moment. Nevertheless, I believe there should be commercials on TV, because television companies get most of their money from advertising. In addition, advertisements help people choose the best products and get the best value for their money.

However, not everything shown on TV is made in good taste. There are programmes which contain a lot of violence. According to researchers, there is a direct link between violence on TV and the horrifying new crimes among the young. Many young people imprisoned for committing violent crimes report having imitated crime techniques watched on TV. Another thing I would like to complain about is the amount of smoking in the films that are shown on TV. Smoking is often shown as a very 'cool' thing to do, making young people much more likely to copy what they see and take up smoking themselves.

Some people say that television is a terrible waste of time. Of course, there are TV addicts who watch TV for hours without choosing programmes. They spend time in front of television which they could spend talking to their friends and family. If you watch TV too much your brain slips into the passive state and you forget about your duties. On the contrary, if you watch TV for an hour a day, to find out what is happening in the world or to relax, then television is really useful. In short, television has both good and bad points. And people should learn how to make the best use of it.

Questions

1. What is your favourite channel? Why?
2. What are good features of television?
3. Do you agree that television has the power to educate? Why?
4. How could TV be improved in your country?
5. What is your attitude towards soap operas?
6. Would you like to take part in a TV talk show? Why/Why not?
7. Can people do without television?

Task 2

Give a talk on **the mass media.**

Remember to discuss:

- **whether nowadays it's easier to get information about the world, why**

- **why it is important to keep up-to-date with the news**
- **what the most popular way of learning about the world is, why**
- **which way of getting information you prefer, why**

Nowadays it's much easier to get information about the world. In the past the only way of learning about the world was travelling. The first travellers were explorers who wanted to discover new lands. But travelling was very slow and required a lot of money so in the past people have fewer opportunities to learn about the world. Nowadays we have more ways to help us discover the world around us and the main source of information for millions of people is the mass media. The mass media include newspapers and magazines, advertising and radio and, of course, television. All of them are available to all people at any time. Besides, they all react to the latest events as quickly as possible so people are able to keep up-to-date with the latest news.

On the one hand, it's very important to be in the know of the latest events because this expands your outlook and makes you a well-rounded person. On the other hand, we shouldn't believe everything that is said in the media because very often they give biased opinions. The media tell you what they want you to know and how they want you to hear about what is really going on. That's why for some people who are rather nervous and easily get upset it's better not to keep up-to-date with the news.

In my opinion, the most popular way of learning about the world is TV because it is a reflection of the modern world. Besides, television gives you an opportunity to travel all over the world, to see different people and to learn about their customs and traditions. In short, television keeps you informed about the rest of the world. I think it is so popular nowadays because there is a TV set in every family and when you need immediate information about the latest world events, you switch the TV on. In addition, lots of people prefer TV to the radio or newspapers because they can see everything with their own eyes. What is more, there is always a great variety of programmes on TV so everyone can choose what he or she wants to learn about. That's why most people consider television their most important source of information, and a majority ranks television as the most believable news source.

As for me, I prefer the Internet, which has recently become another important source of information. I use this source of information because it allows me to find information about almost everything. I can get information for my schoolwork or find out about my hobbies, sports or current events. A special computer programme, which is called a search engine, allows me to do it very quickly. Besides, all the latest information is available to me in my home, at any hour of the day and night. It's much faster and easier to surf the net in search of information from all over the world than to go to the library.

Questions

1. Why is visiting museums interesting and useful?
2. What can museums and places of interest tell you about the world?
3. Do you think TV programmes can help you to learn at school? In what way?
4. What sort of information do you get from newspapers and magazines?
5. What newspapers and magazines do you read? Why?
6. Do you like listening to the radio? Why?
7. Do you think young people are influenced by what they see in the media? Why?
8. Would you ever consider a career in the media?

Task 3

Give a talk on **computers.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why computers have become an important part of our everyday lives**
- **how computers can help you to study**
- **why some people are against computers**
- **whether computers will replace printed books in the future, why**

There is no doubt that computers have become an important part of our everyday lives. To begin with, we can do almost everything with the help of a computer. It's much easier to edit and print documents using a PC. Besides, the World Wide Web allows us to access the latest information very quickly. What is more, if you want to travel abroad you can find

on the Internet the information about the country and its hotels. You can even buy things sitting at home and using your computer. Interaction with the world is another advantage of a computer. You can chat on-line and make new friends with people from all over the world. Besides, it's a chance to practise your English. And if you want to send a letter, clicking the mouse will be much more convenient than buying a stamp and an envelope and finding time to make a trip to the post office.

If we want to have a prestigious job, we must know how to work on computers. That's why computers have become the main part of school education. As for me, I have computer classes at my school, where I study computer science. More than that, computers help me to do my homework. When I have to make a report for my Biology class or to write a composition, the first place I look for is the Internet. Besides, there are a lot of educational programmes that can be really useful in my work, for example, in learning English.

However, many people think that students who rely on computers to do all their work are being cheated out of mind-expanding experience. I can't agree with them because our home tasks are more complex today, that's why the way we work out problems and find solutions must become easier. Another reason why people are against computers is computer addiction. A lot of young people find virtual reality more attractive than their everyday lives and this makes them neglect school work and their everyday responsibilities. More than that, if we spend a lot of time working with computer, our eyesight gets worse. Fortunately, new technology makes it possible to eliminate the bad effect of computer on people's health and if we learn how to control our computer use, then computers will become an integral part of our lives.

I don't believe that computers will replace printed books in the future, because printed books have certain advantages over electronic media. First of all, they are cheaper and easier to use. Secondly, printed books don't need electricity and you can take a book with you wherever you like, even to bed. What's more, a printed book is better for human eyes than a computer screen. Finally, not all books can be found on-line. So I think that printed books will coexist with computers and will always be a part of human culture. New technology has introduced great

changes in our daily lives, but books on-line can never compete with human's personal relationship with printed books.

Questions

1. What do you think about the future of computers?
2. What do you think about computerized education?
3. Do computers save our time? How?
4. Are computers really dangerous? Why?
5. How often do you play computer games?
6. What is your attitude towards computer addiction?
7. How can we help computer addicts?

Task 4

Give a talk on **the Internet.**
Remember to discuss:

- **what opportunities the Internet offers to the people**
- **why the possibilities of the Internet may seem frightening**
- **whether people will study on-line in the future, why**
- **which way of using the Internet you prefer, why**

Just ten years ago, very few people heard about the Internet. Now it is nearly as common and useful as the telephone. On the one hand, the development of the Internet has brought new opportunities to many people. Its users can already buy books, find out about holiday offers, book tickets and get all sorts of information from the Internet. Moreover, with the Internet, the place where you live may become less important than who you are and what you can do so in the future, we'll be able to find a job in any part of the world. The Internet will also allow a lot of talented people to show the world their achievements. I also believe that, in the future, we'll get entertainment from the Net and that television will probably disappear. The postal service may also disappear with the increasing use of e-mail. As more and more people use the Internet, as it becomes cheaper and faster and easier to use, there will be new things on the Internet that we cannot imagine today.

But on the other hand, the possibilities of the Internet may seem frightening. Some people also argue that the Internet is dangerous because it is addictive. I agree with them because lots of people, and especially teenagers, spend hours chatting or

playing games on-line and neglect their duties. Another worry is the activities of cybercriminals. Most of the world's money is stored in computers and clever hackers are likely to use computers and the Internet, not guns, to steal it. Besides, as the Internet becomes increasingly important to governments, it also becomes a stage for people who oppose them. The information wars of the future may be fought on Web sites. What's more, in the future, cyberterrorists may attack the world's computers, cause chaos, and make planes and trains crash.

On-line education opportunities have exploded over the past few years, with many accredited and reputable programs and I think that its popularity is clearly going to grow because on-line learning have a lot of advantages. To begin with, you may study wherever you like as long as you have a computer with the Internet connection. In addition, with no set class times, you can decide yourself when to complete your assignments. More than that, with on-line education you can study in any college of the world with no relocation costs. However, we'll still need a teacher to guide us through the ocean of knowledge.

As for me, I use the Internet mainly for getting information and communication with friends. For me the Internet has created a new world of more information and more communication. I prefer using an instant messenger to sending e-mails or text messages as it's more like a real conversation. Almost all my friends have microphones and webcams so we can see as well as hear each other. What I like most is that I can carry on surfing the Net or playing games while chatting. And I don't have to pay extra for the conversation. We must admit that despite the criticisms by some people and the fears of the others, the Internet seems to have changed our world for the better and we must try to make the best use of it.

Questions

1. When did the Internet appear in Russia?
2. Do many people use the Internet nowadays? What for?
3. What does the Internet allow us to do?
4. Do you think the Internet can help students? How?
5. Does the Internet save our time?
6. What are the disadvantages of the Internet?

7. How do you think the Internet will change our future?
8. Do you use the Internet? How?
9. What is your personal attitude towards the Internet?

Task 5

Give a talk on technology.
Remember to discuss:

- whether life was more difficult without modern technology, why
- what technology will give us in the future
- why some people are against new technology
- whether you are a fan of modern technology, why

It goes without saying that life was much more difficult before technology had developed as much as it has now. When it took two weeks for a letter to reach Australia, you couldn't keep in touch with people easily. Or just travelling from your home to another town a few kilometers away could take hours. And if you didn't live in a big city, you didn't have much information because there was no television or the Internet.

We have seen major technological advances over the last twenty years and the next twenty years or so are going to be equally exciting. I believe that in the not-too-distant future, we won't have to carry our mobile phones around but will implant them somewhere in the body — maybe in our teeth or in our shoulders. I think that we won't have cash or credit cards any longer. It will mainly be digital money. And supermarkets will probably have iris recognition systems, so the money for our groceries will automatically be transferred from your bank account into the supermarket's bank account as you're standing at the checkout. Many people say it's science fiction but I think it's our future. Soon we'll all have more time for our hobbies and interests because robots will do all the work for us! I'm sure that new technology will change our lives for the better.

However, we must admit, that technological progress has its drawbacks. For example, cars pollute our atmosphere. There is a lot of radiation from TVs, computers, mobiles and other electronic devices. Moreover, technology makes us lazy! Many teenagers would rather spend their free time in front of their computer than meet their friends. As a result, they don't have enough exercise and are getting fat. That's not healthy at all.

As for me, I'm a fan of modern technology. Now, with computers and e-mail we never have to lose contact with anyone. We can travel from one place to another quickly and safely. What's more, because of television, everyone has information about the world around them. I can't imagine my life without technology. Of course, we've got things like a TV, a video player, a computer and different kitchen appliances such as a microwave oven and a dishwasher. But most of all I enjoy my new mobile because now I can always stay in touch. I never go anywhere without it! I use it all the time and send about twenty text messages every day! To sum up, I want to say that technology has definitely made our lives easier and we couldn't live without it!

Questions

1. Can you imagine your life without modern technology?
2. Does technology make our life easier?
3. Do you think we rely too much on technology?
4. Would you like to be an inventor? Why? What kind of things would you invent?
5. What technological advances can you see happening in your lifetime?
6. How do you think the world will change over the next fifty years?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your friend are discussing **the best source of getting information about the world**. There are several options but you may choose **only one of them**:

- **newspapers**
- **TV**
- **radio**
- **the Internet**

'What do you think is the best way of getting information about the world?'

'It is a very difficult question. Perhaps, the best way to learn about the world is reading newspapers. They are packed with the latest news, information and facts and help us to be in the know of everything. Besides, they usually provide us with extra

details, commentaries and background information. What is more, newspapers cater for a variety of political views, interests and levels of education so you can choose a newspaper according to your interests.'

'Actually, I don't like reading very much. It takes so much time. And newspapers... They make my hands dirty and the print is so small! My eyes usually get so tired.'

'But you can't but agree that newspapers provide us with reliable information. And if you are tired, you can put it down and turn to it later.'

'You are right. Still, I prefer the radio. It's good to listen to the radio in a car, or in the open air, or when you do something about the house. You can tune into all kinds of stations: pop or classical music, news, sport or foreign radio stations so you can keep up-to-date with the news. Besides, radio has fresher news than newspapers. They are informed every half-hour.'

'I don't agree with you. Radio news items are very short and you have to believe the presenter's opinion because you don't have enough information. Besides, the news items on the radio are also recorded beforehand so they are not always fresh. What is more, sometimes it's difficult to find a necessary radio station.'

'What about TV then? It is a wonderful source of information. When you need immediate information about the latest world events, you switch the TV on. Besides, I like TV news because I can see everything with my own eyes. Television is a reflection of the modern world and it allows me to follow the events in faraway countries without visiting them.'

'I can't but agree with you. There are hundreds of various programmes on TV that keep you informed about the rest of the world. But for the television, I would not be able to watch extraordinary animals and to learn about their life and habits. However, television has certain disadvantages.'

'What disadvantages?'

'For example, they usually show the same news on all channels. And if I want to get some news, I have to wait until the news programme is on. In addition, you can't get information about everything on TV.'

'Well, the same can be said about newspapers and the radio. I think there is no source of information without any drawbacks.'

'We live in a multimedia society. Let's take advantage of it and learn everything from our computers.'

'But how can we get information from computers?'

'Haven't you heard about the Internet? It has become another important source of information which allows you to learn about almost everything. It's much easier to surf the Internet than to go to the library and find the necessary book or a magazine. All the latest information is available to you in your home at any hour of the day and night. You don't have to wait for news programmes to be in the know of everything.'

'But you have to pay for the Internet! Isn't it very expensive?'

'We also have to pay for newspapers, radio and television. With the development of new technology the Internet is as expensive as all other sources of information.'

'But we can't see everything with our own eyes. Besides, computers affect our eyesight.'

'Not exactly. The Internet allows you to watch all TV programmes. Moreover, it has additional video films on different topics. As for our eyesight, I can say that modern computer screens have no radiation.'

'Perhaps, you are right. Computers have changed our life for the better. So why shouldn't we make them work to our advantage?'

'I completely agree with you. It goes without saying that the Internet has become the best source of information nowadays.'

Task 2

Your local youth club **has been awarded some money** by the local council. Here are some of the things that you are considering buying. Discuss the following options with your friend and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **a TV set**
- **a computer**
- **a microwave oven**
- **a music centre**

'Guess what? Our club has been awarded some money by the local council so we can buy some new equipment.'

'That's great! But what can we buy? Any ideas?'

'I suggest buying a TV set. We could watch different films together and have fun. Moreover, if we have a TV set in our

club, we'll be able to keep up-to-date with the news. What do you think of it?'

'I don't like this idea. In my opinion, watching TV is a waste of time because most of the programmes are rather boring. Besides, I'm not sure that we'll be able to agree on what programme to watch just because tastes differ. So we'll be arguing all the time. I'd rather buy a computer and play computer games. It's very exciting. What's more, if we have an Internet connection, we'll be able to find out more about our hobbies. And of course we'll be in the know of the latest news. What's your opinion?'

'I don't think it's a good idea. If we buy a computer, we'll be arguing about whose turn it is to play. Besides, computers are rather expensive and I'm afraid we won't have enough money for it. Why don't we buy a microwave oven?'

'A microwave oven? Do we need it?'

'Of course we do. We often have parties and with a microwave oven it'll be easier for us to prepare food. In addition, we often spend our evenings in the club and we are often hungry. We could bring sandwiches and heat them in the oven. I think a microwave will make our life more comfortable.'

'Well, it's not a bad idea! But I doubt that our friends will like it because we come to the club to have some fun rather than to eat. As for sandwiches, we can eat them without heating if we are hungry. Anyway, I believe we should buy something for our entertainment, shouldn't we?'

'Oh yes, you're absolutely right! What about a music centre?'

'Great idea! Our cassette recorder is very old and we'd better change it before it breaks down. Besides, all modern music is on CDs and modern music centres can play CDs as well.'

'I am with you there! We all enjoy dancing so everybody will approve of our choice. In addition, we'll be able to tune into all kinds of radio stations and keep up-to-date with the latest news. So what shall we choose?'

'I think a music centre is the best decision. Do you agree with me?'

'Absolutely! Music centres are not very expensive so we'll have enough money to buy it for our club.'

UNIT 11
PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **further education**
Remember to discuss:

- **why it is important to continue education**
- **which institutes and universities are most popular in your city, why**
- **whether you would like to study abroad, why**
- **which institute or university you would like to enter, why**

In my opinion, it's important to continue our education after finishing school for many reasons. To begin with, higher education makes a person educated and well-rounded. But I think that knowledge is not the main aim of our education. At universities we learn how to learn so that we can make use of this ability in other more practical areas later on in life. Besides, higher education gives us an opportunity to find an interesting and well-paid job because most companies want to have employees with good qualifications.

Moscow State University is one of the oldest universities in the world and one of the most prestigious higher educational establishments in my city. It is an international centre of teaching and research in a vast range of subjects. There are a lot of various faculties so you can easily choose the one that suits your interests. But of course, you have to work hard to enter it. One of the best technical universities in Moscow is the University named after Bauman, which is well-known abroad. Very many outstanding scientists studied and worked there; among its alumni are Zhukovsky, Tupolev, Korolev and many others. The university has 8 faculties, where you can get fantastic knowledge in almost all kinds of science. Among other

prestigious institutes and universities in Moscow are the Higher School of Economics, the Finance Academy and Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages.

Some pupils want to study abroad in such world-famous universities as Oxford or Cambridge. I think that studying in an English-speaking country is an incredible experience, but it requires the ability to speak fluent English. Besides, you need to be flexible, outgoing and to be able to make friends easily. What is more, you'll have to adapt to a very different way of life. Everything is so different: the way people eat, sleep, work and all the various leisure activities are so different. Another disadvantage of studying in Great Britain is that tuition is not free there. For UK students there is the system of grants, whereas for overseas students the tuition fee is rather high and varies according to the subject. That's why I think that it's better to study in your native city.

On the one hand, I'd like to study at Bauman University, because its graduates are considered to be highly-qualified specialists, but on the other hand, it's very difficult to study there. In my opinion, Technical University named after Bauman offers too academic education whereas Moscow State University of Electronics and Mathematics provides more practical knowledge. It provides good education in the fields of electronics, mathematics and information technology. I think that the best place to study for me is Moscow State University of Electronics and Mathematics or Technical University named after Bauman. But the final choice, of course, will depend on my knowledge of Maths and Physics.

Questions

1. Would you like to continue your education after finishing school?
2. Which university or college would you prefer to enter and why?
3. What is necessary to enter this university or college?
4. How many faculties does it have?
5. Which faculty would you like to study at? Why?
6. What is important for you in education?

Task 2

Give a talk on **success in life.**
Remember to discuss:

- **whether materialism is a bad point of our society, why**
- **whether you would like to be extremely rich, why**
- **what is necessary to get success in life, why**
- **whether teenagers should work part-time, why**

In my opinion, materialism is not a bad point of our society because money makes the world go round. I try not to be too materialistic, but I think everyone is a little bit. We live in a competitive world where success is important, so people are going to be more materialistic. I think the way you look is really important especially for teenagers who want to be a part of a group. So it's natural that people think of money and possessions. On the other hand, materialistic people think that money is everything in the world and being rich is the only way of being successful. It's important for them to have designer labels and fashionable things. Some people can even kill others to have more money or possessions. In this case we can say that money is the root of all evil.

It cannot be denied that money is an essential part of our lives. If you are very wealthy, you can afford an expensive house, prestigious cars, fashionable clothes and lots of entertainment. In addition, if you have lots of money, you can enjoy an ideal lifestyle being able to have control over your time and schedule, having no one ordering you around, not having to look at the price tags every time you go out shopping, and just enjoying the freedom that you truly deserve. What is more, lack of money can cause real problems, such as bad health, stress or even crime. However, money can't buy happiness and very wealthy people are often as unhappy as poor people. That's why I want to be neither rich nor poor. I would like to be in between. There are very important things in our life that can't be bought, such as love and friendship. I don't think that being rich is the only way of being successful in life and you needn't have lots of money to be happy.

To get success in life you should be intelligent, creative and hard-working. Of course if you're younger, it's harder to

impress people. So you should be ready to work a lot and to expand your range of abilities. You'll never get success if you wait for someone to bring it to you. You have to get up and get it yourself. If you want to achieve something, you've got to go for it. It's also very important to believe in yourself and not to give up. If it doesn't work the first time, give it another try and another try, until you find a way to make it work. Anyway, if you want to succeed, the opportunities are there.

Should teenagers work part-time to earn money? In my opinion, they should not because their main task is to get education and even part-time work takes a lot of time and effort. That's why teenagers usually return home tired and exhausted and can do nothing. In addition to that, modern teenagers are under a lot of pressure. They are busy doing their homework and revising for exams. And it doesn't seem fair to add to their difficulties by making them earn their pocket money. But on the other hand, a part-time job is a useful introduction to the world of work. By working, teens can learn a lot about the value of things as well as the world of business. That's why I think that teenagers shouldn't work during their school year but they may work during their summer holidays if they want to get some working experience.

Questions

1. Why is materialism not a bad point of our society?
2. Are young people today materialistic?
3. Why is it natural that people think of money and possessions?
4. Can we say that money is the root of all evil?
5. Is being rich the only way of being successful? Why?
6. What are the possible problems of being very wealthy?
7. What does the word 'success' mean for you?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your friend are discussing your **plans for the future**. Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **marriage**
- **work**
- **university**
- **education abroad**

'Why are you so sad? What's the matter?'

'You see, in a few days we'll leave our school and I think I'll miss my teachers and my classmates.'

'As for me, I'm happy because I'm dreaming of becoming independent. Have you decided what to do after finishing school?'

'Well, I'm not quite sure. And you?'

'Oh, I'm thinking of getting married. I have a nice girlfriend and we love each other. But the main reason is that I'll be independent of my parents and I'll be able to make all decisions myself.'

'Not exactly. You won't live independently until you are able to support your family. Besides, if you have a baby, it will be difficult to continue your education. Moreover, you won't have time to meet your friends. So your life will be hard and boring.'

'Well, I agree with you that family life is very difficult. Besides, I don't think that love can be serious at our age. I'd better just go on dates and enjoy myself. But what about getting a job? I can get working experience and it will be a useful introduction to the world of work. I will be able to learn a lot about the value of things as well as the world of business. Besides, I could earn some money. I'm sick and tired of asking my parents for pocket money.'

'So am I. But I don't think you'll be able to find a well-paid job because you have neither qualifications nor experience. Typical and obvious jobs for teenagers include working at a fast-food restaurant or stacking shelves at a supermarket.'

'That's no problem. I can start with a low-paid position. Many people follow the traditional start at the bottom and work your way up approach. Besides, I can combine work and studying at the evening department of the university.'

'Really? I wouldn't say that it's easy to combine work and studies. Besides, if you start working, you'll have to serve in the army for a year and this can be rather dangerous.'

'I absolutely forgot about it. You are right, it's very dangerous. So what shall we do?'

'The only way out is to continue our education. While studying in a university, you'll get necessary knowledge for your

future profession. Besides, you can make lots of new friends. University life is usually interesting and exciting.'

'Well, I can agree with you. Have you decided what university to enter?'

'Not yet, but I want to study abroad in such world-famous universities as Cambridge and Oxford. It's very prestigious to study there. Besides, I'll be independent of my parents.'

'I can agree with you but it requires the ability to speak fluent English. Besides, you need to be flexible, outgoing and to be able to make friends easily. What is more, you'll have to adapt to a very different way of life. Everything is so different: the way people eat, sleep, work and all the various leisure activities are so different.'

'May be, you are right. Still I think that studying in an English-speaking country is an incredible experience. And in the future I can get a more prestigious and well-paid job.'

'Don't forget that tuition is not free there. For UK students there is the system of grants, whereas for overseas students the tuition fee is rather high. I don't think that our parents will be able to afford it.'

'Well, it's a real disadvantage. Perhaps, it's better to study in our native city. Our university is one of the oldest and the largest educational establishments in our country, which is well-known abroad. Very many outstanding scientists studied and worked there.'

'And it's much closer to our home than Oxford or Cambridge universities. Besides, there are a lot of various faculties so you can choose the one that suits your interests. But of course, it's very difficult to enter it.'

'If we work hard, I'm sure we'll pass successfully entrance examinations and our parents won't have to pay for our education. What is more, if we study well, we'll get a scholarship and won't have to ask our parents for pocket money.'

'I like this idea. I think it's the best option for us. Anyway, we have to get down to some hard work now if we want to achieve our aims.'

Task 2

You and your friend are discussing **different ways to make a fortune**. Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **inheritance**
- **marriage for money**
- **lottery**
- **hard work**

'What do you think is the best way of making a fortune?'

'If you want to become rich, the quickest way is to find a rich relative who is going to die soon and ask him or her to make a will in your favour. It won't be very difficult if you take good care of your relative. You'll be rich after his or her death and will solve all your problems.'

'You can't be serious! First of all, I don't have any rich relatives. Secondly, it's very difficult to inherit something nowadays: you'll have to pay great taxes and do lots of formalities. As for me, I'm thinking of getting married to a rich person. Just imagine: you'll never have to work, you'll never have any problems with money and you'll be able to travel all over the world with your family. I think it's great!'

'The only problem is to find a rich person who will be willing to marry you! And what if you don't love your partner? Don't you think that you may be suspected of being dishonest? And then you'll have to divorce and become poor again. I think it's better not to depend on your wife or husband.'

'Well, I can agree with you that marriage for money is a rather unreliable way of making a fortune. What about winning money in a lottery? My friend, for example, won a lot of money last year. It's very easy. If I'm lucky, I'll also win a large sum of money and will start my own business. I think it'll be a good start in life.'

'And if you aren't lucky, what will you do?'

'I'll play again and again.'

'And you'll waste all your money and win nothing! As for me, I don't believe in lotteries. I'm sure that their aim is just taking money from people. Of course, there are people who win

sometimes, but in my opinion, it's a chance in a million. I wouldn't trust them.'

'So what do you suggest? How can we become rich?'

'As for me, I don't want to be extremely rich because very rich people are as unhappy as poor people. I want to be in between. But of course, I want to have enough money to be independent and to do whatever I want. And the only possible way for me to have lots of money is to work hard.'

'I think you'll never earn a fortune even if you work very hard. Besides, hard work can affect our health. And you know that good health is above wealth. What is more, if you work hard, you won't have time to spend with your family and friends. No, hard work is definitely not for me!'

'Well, I didn't mean to work hard physically. I think, first of all, we must get good education and make an exciting career. Believe in yourself and don't give up! If you have an aim in your life, you can achieve everything and get a good salary.'

'Do you really believe that it's possible to earn lots of money nowadays?'

'Of course I do. If you want to make a million, the opportunities are there. Everyone comes across a good idea in their life, but they seldom do anything about it. I always remember Bette Nesmith Graham who invented the correction fluid. At first, no company wanted to buy it. Nevertheless, she continued to sell it from home for the next seventeen years. Finally, it was bought by Gillette for $47.5 million plus royalties. Isn't it a fortune?'

'Great! The same situation is with Bill Gates, who was an ordinary programmer but now he is one of the richest people on the planet. I think it's possible to make a fortune if you work hard but it requires a lot of dedication!'

'I completely agree with you. If your idea doesn't work for the first time, give it another try and another try, until you find a way to make it work. In my opinion, hard work is the best and the most reliable way of making a fortune, though of course not the quickest. Do you agree with me?'

'I can't but agree with you.'

UNIT 12
SCIENCE AND CULTURE

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **books.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why people read books**
- **what kind of books are most popular with teenagers, why**
- **what your favourite book is, why**
- **whether books will disappear in the future, why**

I am sure that reading is an essential part of our lives. Only in books can you find the answers to all your questions. Books can tell us a lot about the modern world and ancient times. Besides, they can help us to explore new ideas and expand our outlook. I completely agree that reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. What is more, books teach us to be kind and honest. While reading we learn how to solve our problems and to make people happy. Finally, I think that reading is the perfect way to spend free time and not to feel bored.

There are a lot of different kinds of books in the world, for example, thrillers, historical novels, science fiction, adventure books and others. Most of them are with us during all our life. Teens all over the world like reading about adventures because they enjoy characters who go through dangers to complete their mission. Boys are also fond of thrillers and detective stories because they have interesting story lines and unusual endings. They are particularly captivated by characters who conduct investigations. As for girls, they prefer romances, historical novels and poetry because they like reading about love. Encyclopaedias, reference books and dictionaries help pupils to do well at school.

As for me, I never believed there really were books that you couldn't put down. I changed my opinion when I started to read

The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins, an English writer. It's a very good detective story with a bit of romance thrown in it. The book is basically about mistaken identity. The main character in the story is a young artist who goes up to the north of England to instruct two young ladies. And he falls in love with Miss Fairlie, who looks very like the woman in white. Finally, they turn out to be identical twins. The author brilliantly describes the adventures, love and fears of his heroes. He really brings the characters to life. A good writer knows how to keep you reading the book. In *The Woman in White* the reader's interest is caught from the very first page and there is suspense till the very end! This is a great book and I would recommend it to anyone.

Some people argue that we won't read printed books in the future. We would watch films or read books on-line. Of course, the Internet allows people to find information about almost everything and on-line entertainment is going to become more popular in the future. Yet I don't believe that computers will replace printed books, because printed books have certain advantages over electronic media. First of all, they are cheaper and easier to use. Secondly, printed books don't need electricity and you can take a book with you wherever you like, even to bed. What's more, a printed book is better for human eyes than a computer screen. So I think that printed books will coexist with computers and will always be a part of human culture. Books must be our friends during all our life.

Questions

1. Is reading important to you? Why?
2. What kinds of books do you like reading? Why?
3. What were your favourite childhood books?
4. What famous Russian/British/American writers and poets do you know? Have you read any of their books/poems?
5. Who is your favourite writer? Why?
6. Do you like the books you study at school? Why?
7. Do books help you in your life? How?

Task 2

Give a talk on **music.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why people enjoy music**
- **which styles of music are popular with teenagers nowadays, why**
- **what your music preferences are, why**
- **what composer(s)/singer(s) you admire, why**

People all over the world are fond of music. They listen to music, they dance to music, they learn to play musical instruments. People enjoy music because it reflects their mood and emotions. Music appeals to our hearts and transforms our feelings. It conquers our souls and enriches our minds. Music is beauty in sounds; it's our magic source of inspiration. Besides, listening to music is the perfect way to relax after a hard day and not to feel bored. That's why you can hardly find a person who doesn't like or need music, who never sings or dances.

Music is very important for teenagers, even more important than films and TV. Our generation is very diverse, and that's reflected by our musical tastes. No single musical style defines what we like. So teens' musical interests range from pop and rock music, which are extremely popular nowadays, to rap and hip-hop. That diversity unifies teens more than it divides them. Although many young people today are gravitating towards new rhythms so as to express their individuality, teenagers can also look back and appreciate a wide variety of influences from the past. That's backed up by the survey results, which show that 45% of teens frequently or occasionally borrow their parents' CDs to listen to.

My favourite style of music is pop music because it is breathtaking and full of energy. When I listen to pop music, it makes me remember happy times and forget the problems of everyday life. It helps me to relax when I'm tired and entertains me when I'd like to have fun. I wouldn't mind listening to dance music, especially when I go to disco clubs. This style of music is catchy and torch and I like catching tunes. It makes me more energetic.

The music I hate is heavy metal. I find it noisy and dreadful. When I listen to this style of music it pictures in my mind dark days. Though some young people are fond of this style of music, it is not to everyone's taste. To my mind too loud music can destroy our ears. I am indifferent to other styles of music. For example, I don't mind listening to jazz. Improvisation is an

important part of this style, that's why a jazz song may sound a little different each time it is played. I think that jazz is a mixture of many different kinds of music, but I consider it a bit complicated.

My favourite group is Abba. It was formed in 1973 in Sweden. Abba's cheerful tunes made them international pop stars and one of the most successful groups of the 1970s. Their most famous songs (*Waterloo*; *Money, Money, Money*; *Knowing Me, Knowing You* etc) often topped European charts. Though the group doesn't exist any more, it is still popular with people of all ages. I can't but admire their style of singing. I find it fascinating and overwhelming. When I have free time I can't help listening to their records. I also like having background music while I am working.

Questions

1. What is your attitude to music?
2. How can music influence people?
3. What do you think about classical/rock/pop music?
4. What sort of music do you like? What music irritates you?
5. Where and when do you listen to music?
6. Do you like to go to concerts? Why?

Task 3

Give a talk on **art.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why people enjoy art**
- **which art galleries you enjoy, why**
- **whether you understand modern art, why**
- **what artists you admire, why**

Art is, and has always been, in the service of man. Subconsciously or not, it affects us in many different ways. To begin with, art can be a great source of pleasure in our lives and even a passing acquaintance with art can enrich and deepen our understanding of the world around us. A piece of artwork may invoke a gamut of feelings and emotions starting from a smile all the way to downright indignation! Besides, art gives people an opportunity to show their individuality. For example, we collect works of art because they allow us to express ourselves

and represent who we are. And for artists, art is the expression of their heart. With art they can relive their inner emotions and allow the world to enjoy and share their feelings and thoughts.

As for me, I enjoy Russian art, that's why the State Tretyakov Gallery is one of my most favourite art museums. It is a treasure house of Russian paintings, which contains over 100 thousand works of art. There we can see paintings of outstanding Russian artists such as Repin, Vasnetsov, Shishkin, Surikov, Korovin, etc. It's one of the top attractions in the city. I particularly love this gallery because it impresses me by the unique combination of the past and the present. My favourite picture is *Trinity* by Andrew Rublev, which synthesizes all art achievements of ancient Russia. Its composition and colour design instil beauty and harmony. I think it's a real masterpiece.

I appreciate classic art, but I have trouble understanding paintings when it comes to modern art. When I come to a gallery and see a canvas with a black dot on it, I don't understand how this can be appreciated. For example, when I look at some Jackson Pollock pieces, I just see paint splattered on a canvas and I don't get it why it's considered to be art. A friend of mine, who is keen on modern art, says we should not look for meaning but for pleasure, as the most important thing is to enjoy the shapes and colours. Perhaps, she is right but I still find modern pictures difficult to appreciate.

Without doubt, my favourite artist is Ivan Shishkin, who was one of the most important 19th century Russian landscape painters. His works are notable for poetic depiction of seasons in the woods, wild nature, animals and birds. I enjoy his paintings because of his masterful use of colour and life, for his loving depiction of Russian nature and the positive and life-affirming style. I'm particularly captivated by an arresting naturalism of his landscapes. One of my favourite pictures by Shishkin is *Morning in a pine forest*, which is a marvellous pictorial fantasy that goes beyond the pure realism developed by many other Russian painters of this period. In my opinion, honesty and realism are the picture's most carrying force.

Questions

1. What famous Russian painters do you know?
2. What do you know about icon painting?

3. Do you enjoy your art class at school? Why?
4. Do you like modern art?
5. Do you enjoy visiting art galleries?
6. Have you ever been to any famous art museums?
7. What art form do you like best?
8. What would life be like without art?
9. Why is art important?
10. Why do people become professional artists?
11. Do you think graffiti is art?

Task 4

Give a talk on **science.**
Remember to discuss:

- **what scientific achievements Russia is famous for**
- **what famous scientist(s) you admire, why**
- **what is necessary to become successful in science, why**
- **whether you would like to become a scientist in the future, why**

Russian science and technology are famous due to many achievements. On the top of the list there are: the invention of radio by A. Popov, the creation of the Periodical table of elements by D. Mendeleev, formulation of the principles of the interplanetary space flights on multistage rockets by K. Tsiolkovskiy, achievements of Russian space program lead by S. Korolev that include first unmanned space flight of 'Sputnik' and first manned space flight of Yu. Gagarin, invention of laser by N. Basov and Yu. Prokhorov as well and many other discoveries. Russian scholars have always based their projects on original research of high intellectual standard. Although modern achievements of Russian science are less known to the general public, they are no less important.

The scientist I admire most of all is Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov. He was a Russian polymath, scientist and writer, who made important contributions to literature, education, and science. Among his discoveries was the atmosphere of Venus. His spheres of science were natural science, chemistry, physics, mineralogy, history, art, philology, optical devices and others. Lomonosov was also a poet, who created the basis of the modern Russian literary language. M. Lomonosov's work mirrored all the strength, beauty and vitality of Russian science that was pushing back the frontiers of contemporary knowledge.

What does it take to be a good scientist? It takes, first of all, a desire to be a scientist. You have to have a strong desire to learn new things, to understand something and you have to be really fascinated by the fantastic wonders of the world. Becoming a scientist also requires intelligence, creativity and logical reasoning. And of course you should be persistent, hard-working and organized. I think that's what makes a scientist.

I think it's very difficult to become a great scientist because scientific career requires not only a great talent but also a lot of dedication. A career in science is something that doesn't just happen. You have to go about and really fashion it. As for me, I'm not much of a scientist and I don't like science very much. On the contrary, I'm good at languages and I prefer working with people rather than doing experiments. That's why I wouldn't like to become a scientist in the future.

Questions

1. Why do people become scientists?
2. Is science important nowadays?
3. Do you consider a career in science? Why?
4. Is the life of a scientist easy? Why?
5. Do you know any Russian scientists who were awarded Nobel Prizes? For what?

Task 5

Give a talk on **famous people.**
Remember to discuss:

- **what makes people famous (writers, singers, politicians etc.)**
- **what famous people/person you like, and why**
- **where you prefer to get information about famous people from, why**
- **whether the life of a famous person is easy, why/why not**

There are a lot of famous people all over the world. They are writers, composers, singers, film-stars or politicians. They are famous because people appreciate the things they do. We enjoy famous singers because of their songs, and of course we are fond of books by famous writers like W. Shakespeare or A. Pushkin. We admire films with such talented actors as Tom Cruise, Harrison Ford and Bruce Willis. Everybody knows the names of

Tsar Peter the Great or Michail Kutuzov because of their great contribution to Russian history.

There are quite a lot of different celebrities but the person I really admire is Christina Maria Aguilera because she is very pretty and she has a very beautiful voice. I've been her fan for about three years. Personally, I think she is gorgeous and extremely talented. After Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera was the most popular female singer of the late 90s teen pop revival. Unlike many of her contemporaries, Aguilera is a technically skilled singer with a genuinely powerful voice. She can do much more than other famous singers can. That's why, she's my favourite celebrity.

It's not difficult to find information about famous people now that we have got the Internet which allows us to find information about almost everything. You can visit special websites devoted to your famous celebrity and get the latest news about her or his life. Moreover, I usually download lots of photos from the Internet. It's very convenient. But of course I also read different magazines where I can find useful information. It's always interesting to learn about the life of your favourite celebrity.

On the one hand, many of us want to be famous, because people will know and admire you. Moreover, you will be very rich and will be able to buy everything you want or travel wherever you like. Although it sounds attractive, the life of a famous person may be quite difficult. First of all, people become famous because they work very hard. Sometimes, they have no free time to spend with their family or friends. Moreover, a lot of stars are unhappier than you would think. Some feel uncomfortable being in the public eye all the time. Many of them complain it's impossible to have a private life. Others are terrified of becoming unpopular. It may be hard work getting to the top, but it's even harder to stay there. That's why I don't want to become a celebrity.

Questions

1. What famous writers, singers, film-stars and politicians do you know?
2. Have you ever met a famous person?
3. Would you like to interview a celebrity? Why/why not?

4. Would you like to become famous? Why/why not?
5. What qualities and abilities are necessary to become famous? Why?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your friend are considering what **film you would like to see in the evening**. Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **a cartoon**
- **a thriller**
- **a love story**
- **a detective film**

'We are absolutely free this evening. Why not go to the cinema and watch some film?'

'It's a good idea! I haven't been there for ages. Do you know what's on?'

'Let me see. We've got a wide choice of options: a cartoon, a thriller, a love story or a detective film. What would you prefer?'

'I'd rather watch a cartoon. Cartoons are usually funny and amusing. I enjoy watching them because they just bring out a child in me. I think it's a good way for us to relax after a hard working day at school. Do you agree with me?'

'Oh no! Cartoons are for little kids. I'm fed up with silly cartoons like "Tom and Jerry".'

'I can't agree with you! Modern cartoons are like films with exciting plots and unusual characters. And computer graphics makes them really colourful.'

'I wouldn't say that. Of course, there are some really fascinating cartoons but on the whole their plots are rather simple and predictable. As for me, I would prefer to watch a thriller. Thrillers are never boring and the action in them never stops. Their story lines are full of surprises and suspense. I'm especially captivated by characters who go through dangers to complete their mission. What do you think of it?'

'It's not a bad idea! Thrillers are usually very exciting and full of special effects. However, they are also full of violence and blood. I'm afraid I won't sleep well after watching it. I think

we'd better watch a love story. I enjoy films about love because they usually have happy endings. And the actors and actresses are always so beautiful!'

'Oh no! I hate love stories. They are very boring. Besides, I've seen the trailer of this film on the Internet. It's a tragedy about unhappy love. I think we have enough problems in our everyday lives so we should relax and watch something exciting. What about a detective film?'

'Well, it's possible. I enjoy detectives because of their sophisticated story lines. There is always suspense up to the very end. But some films are really frightening, aren't they?'

'Yes, they are but not in this case. This one is a psychological film. The plot centres on the deductive ability of the detective as he tries to unravel the crime by piecing together clues and circumstances. And the actor who stars in this film is really talented so his acting should be brilliant. I think it's rather fascinating, isn't it?'

'Oh yes, it is. If it's not too violent, let's go and see it. I think it's the best choice for us.'

'I'm with you there.'

Task 2

Your school is planning to hold **the Arts and Crafts Week** and your class is going to take part in it. You and your friend are discussing what you could do. Consider the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **a play or some sketches**
- **a picture gallery**
- **a handicraft exhibition**
- **a concert**

'Our school is planning to hold the Arts and Crafts Week and our class is going to take part in it. Have you got any ideas?'

'We could put on a play or some sketches. I know that some of our classmates are thinking of an acting career so they will be glad to take part in it. Besides, we could make our sketches funny so that everybody will enjoy them.'

'On the one hand, you are right because it's very interesting to put on a play. But on the other hand, this will mean a lot of preparation work, including rehearsals. We are too busy now for that. Besides, I don't think we'll be able to design good

costumes. So we'd better arrange a handicraft exhibition. We can ask our classmates to make something, for example, girls could sew or knit something whereas boys could make different models. I think everybody will be happy and proud of their work. What do you think of it?'

'Of course, knitting or model building are very popular leisure activities. But I'm afraid we won't be able to arrange everything in such a short period of time.'

'Well, I agree that handicrafts will take a lot of preparation and we're short of time. How about organising a picture gallery? I think everybody likes drawing or painting so this idea may appeal to our classmates. Besides, it won't take long to collect pictures because many students have already had their own collections of pictures.'

'I don't think it's a good idea because not all our classmates like to draw so not all of them have got pictures. In addition, I suppose some of our classmates won't agree to display their pictures so we won't be able to organise a gallery. Moreover, I think that it's very boring to go from one picture to another and just watch them. Other pupils may be bored with our gallery.'

'Why don't we give a concert then? Most of our friends can sing, dance or play musical instruments so we'll have a breathtaking programme.'

'Great idea! This won't need a lot of preparation. As for me, I can play the piano and I'm ready to perform some pieces of music. Our girls go to a dancing club and they can dance wonderfully. Besides, we've got a rock group in our class, which is very popular. That's why I think our concert will have overwhelming success.'

'Exactly! Of course we'll need some rehearsals but I'm sure that everyone will enjoy them as we are all fond of music. That's why I think that giving a concert is the best what we could do.'

'I totally agree with you.'

UNIT 13
SPORTS AND HEALTH

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **sports.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why people go in for sports**
- **whether all sports are good for us, why**
- **which sports you enjoy and why**
- **what you prefer doing: watching sports or playing sports, why**

In my opinion, people can't do without sport. They go in for sports for different reasons. First of all, sport helps us to stay in good shape, to keep fit and to be healthy. It makes people strong, fast and agile. What is more, sport builds our character; it teaches us to win and to lose as well as to overcome difficulties. It goes without saying that sport makes us more organised and better disciplined in our daily activities. Besides, it's a good way to spend your free time and to make new friends.

Some people argue that sport is not very useful. It takes a lot of energy and time. As a result of going in for sports, people have broken legs and arms and other injuries. I agree with them that some sports can be rather dangerous, for example, extreme sports such as rock climbing, white water rafting, diving or snowboarding because there is always a possibility of injury. Besides, I think that some professional sports can be rather exhausting, for example, gymnastics, because professional sportsmen train all day long and have to follow a special diet, which is not quite healthy. However, if you go in for sports just for pleasure, to keep fit and to stay healthy, then sport is definitely useful. Some people jog every morning, some follow fitness classes shown on TV. Young people usually put on their roller-blades and skate in the streets and parks. Such sports are really good for our health. You needn't be a professional sportsman to be healthy.

As for me, I enjoy different sports such as tennis, volleyball or skiing, but best of all I love swimming because it is a very good exercise for the whole body. Swimming helps me to stay in good shape, to keep fit and to be healthy. Besides, it helps me to work off my extra energy. I would recommend it because it is so convenient to do: you can do it when you like and for as long as you like. Besides, this sport doesn't require any complicated equipment: you just need a swimming costume or trunks and perhaps a cap. You can swim in the sea or a river, or you can go to a special swimming pool.

When I go in for sports, I not only increase my fitness but also get real pleasure. Playing different sports gives me the increased sense of individuality and helps to acquire self-confidence. That's why I prefer going in for sports. On the other hand, it's impossible to try all existing kinds of sports. That's why I also like to watch sports programmes on TV. When I follow sports events, I expand my outlook and get acquainted with new kinds of sports because commentators usually provide us with additional information about sports and new sportsmen. Besides, I enjoy watching sports championships because I am proud of Russian sportsmen and I always support our teams. But of course watching sports events and doing sports are two different things.

Questions

1. Is sport popular in Russia? Why?
2. Should professional sport be prohibited? Why?
3. What attracts people to extreme sports?
4. Is sport important to you? Why?
5. Do you go in for non-competitive kind of sports like fishing? Why?
6. Which do you prefer: team sports or individual sports? Why?

Task 2

Give a talk on the problem of **good health**.
Remember to discuss:

- **why it is important to think about your health when you are young**
- **whether we are healthier today than people were fifty years ago, why**
- **what people should/should not do to be healthy**
- **why it is necessary to visit the dentist twice a year**

I believe it's important to think about your health when you are young because this is the age when your body is being formed so if you don't care about your health, you are likely to have different diseases when you get older. Besides, the earlier you acquire good health habits, the better. For example, you should get used to cleaning your teeth and doing morning exercises from the very early age.

In my opinion, we are healthier today than people were fifty years ago because we are more health-conscious than they used to be. Everybody understands that good health is above wealth. To begin with, we have a better diet. In recent years eating habits have changed. People started to eat healthy food, which contains less fat and more fibre and is rich in vitamins. Salads, beans, and fruit have taken the place of steak and ice cream. And people today eat more fruit and vegetables than people did fifty years ago. Of course, we also eat more fast food, but generally I think our diet is better. Secondly, doctors have learned how to cure more illnesses, so we live longer.

To be healthy, it is very important to do sports or at least morning exercises as well as to spend a lot of time in the open air. Doing a little exercise every day so as not to develop health problems is something that all of us should consider. In addition, we ought to avoid different bad habits that can affect our health. In my opinion, smoking and drinking too much alcohol are the worst ones. Smoking, for example, causes a number of heart and lung diseases such as pneumonia and cancer. As for me, I don't smoke, because I don't want to have unhealthy skin and teeth. If we want to stay healthy, we should also avoid less dangerous habits such as skipping meals, eating unhealthy food or even overeating. If we eat too much, we'll become obese, and obesity leads to serious diseases. A lot of people like drinking coca cola and coffee and enjoy pizzas and hamburgers. But what is tasty is not always healthy so we should try to eat only healthy food.

Teeth are very important for our health so it's necessary to visit the dentist at least twice a year to have a thorough check-up. Even if you take excellent care of your teeth, you need to see your dentist regularly so that he or she can check for problems

that you may not see or feel. Tooth decay generally doesn't become visible or cause pain until it is in more advanced stages. Regular visits allow your dentist to find the signs of decay and disease and treat problems at a manageable stage. This is called 'preventive dentistry'. If you don't consult the dentist regularly, you'll have lots of cavities, and the infection may get into your body. Finally, you'll end up losing all your teeth. To avoid this, we should brush our teeth twice a day, eat healthy food and pay regular visits to the dentist.

Personally I believe that regularity in life promotes our health. Sleeping eight or nine hours, getting up early, regular meals, a healthy diet and going in for sports are really a good way to live.

Questions

1. What good and bad health habits can people have?
2. In what way do bad habits affect people?
3. Why don't some people get rid of bad habits?
4. What measures can be taken against taking drugs?
5. What are your health habits?
6. What is your personal attitude towards health?
7. What are the main health problems young people face today?
8. Do you have any health problems? Why do you think you have them/you don't have them?

Task 3

Give a talk on **healthy nutrition.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why it is important to eat healthy food**
- **whether eating habits have changed in recent years, why**
- **whether it is good to follow a special diet, why**
- **what your eating preferences are, why**

In my opinion, it's very important to eat healthy food because food is the main source of energy for our body. Not all kinds of food are equally useful and junk food can even do harm

to your health. For example, fast food makes you fat and fat is believed to be one of the major causes of obesity and heart disease. On the contrary, healthy food contains the right balance of protein, fat and carbohydrates and is rich in vitamins, so if we want to stay healthy, we should eat only healthy food.

In recent years eating habits have changed because people are now more health-conscious than they used to be. The fashion for healthy food is growing all the time. People are encouraged to eat less fat and more fibre. High fibre foods and low fat foods can now be found in all shops and supermarkets. Moreover, now we have an opportunity to eat healthy dishes from international cuisine. Dishes from China, for instance, use very little oil and are much healthier than the usual way of frying. Another example is spicy foods from India, which clean out the body's system and help fight illnesses.

Many people feel they are too fat, even if their doctors disagree. Perhaps, the most popular way to lose weight and avoid gaining it is following a diet. Some people count the number of calories they eat every day, so that they can try to take in fewer calories and lose weight. This is called a calorie-controlled diet. On the one hand, it is good if you cut out snacks and desserts and cut down on fat. On the other hand, excessive dieting may be dangerous, because people cut out foods which are necessary for their health. For example, some people refuse to eat meat as they consider it harmful. They say a vegetarian diet reduces the risk of cancer and vegetarians live longer than others. I can't agree with them because meat is an excellent source of good nutrition. In my opinion, it's wrong to put down a food simply because excessive amounts can cause health problems.

As for me, I'm not enthusiastic about strict dieting but I try to eat only low-fat food, fruit and vegetables, which are rich in vitamins. I don't have a sweet tooth so I'm indifferent to chocolates and cakes. Besides, I want to have healthy teeth. My favourite dish is fish and potatoes. Fish is very tasty and it is an excellent source of phosphorus. I also enjoy eating meat because I think that consumed in moderate amounts, it is perfectly good for our health. Of course I sometimes go to

McDonalds. I enjoy eating Big Mac but I don't do it very often because I understand that it is junk food.

Questions

1. Why do you think many people in our country don't take care of what they eat?
2. Do you know any diets? What are they?
3. What is a healthy diet?
4. Do you follow any healthy diet? Why?
5. Do you think that following a diet is the only way to stay healthy? Why?
6. What are the most popular ways to avoid gaining weight?
7. What is a healthy way of life?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your friend are thinking of going in for sports and you are discussing **what sport to take up**. Consider the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **jogging**
- **skateboarding**
- **swimming**
- **basketball**

'I think we should go in for sports. Sport will help us to keep fit and to be healthy.'

'I totally agree with you. It will make us strong, fast and agile and will teach us to overcome difficulties. But what kind of sport shall we take up?'

'I think we can start jogging. We have a wonderful park nearby where we can go running. It's easy: we'll need only a pair of trainers and a tracksuit. And jogging is a really good way to stay in good shape. Besides, we can do it whenever we like, for example, in the morning. What do you think of it?'

'What? Jog in the morning? You must be mad! I can't stand getting up early in the morning: I feel too sleepy. And if the

weather is bad, jogging is really awful. In addition, I wouldn't call it 'a sport'. Sport involves exciting competitions whereas jogging is too boring. Why don't we take up skateboarding? We can skate in the street or in the park and make a lot of new friends. What is more, we could learn special tricks and take part in street competitions. I think it's really exciting, isn't it?'

'Of course it is but it's also dangerous because there is always a possibility of injury. It's a risky sport and I would never dare to take risks for the thrill and excitement. As for me, I'm addicted to safety. Besides, you need a skateboard which is rather expensive and some safety gear as well. I'd rather go in for some sport which doesn't need any expensive equipment. What about swimming? All you need is a swimming costume and perhaps a cap. We can swim in the river in summer and go to the swimming pool in other seasons. What's you opinion?'

'It's not a bad idea but, to tell the truth, I can't swim. Besides, I'm afraid we'll soon get bored with it.'

'Well, it's never too late to start learning and I'm sure you'll easily learn to swim. And if you want, you can take part in different competitions so you'll be interested in your progress.'

'Still I prefer team sports because they are more exciting. Let's play basketball. I'm fond of this game, and when you play it, you can make a lot of new friends. In addition, this sport doesn't require any expensive equipment. Do you agree with me?'

'I agree to a certain extent. However, I don't like sports games. You can't always win and it's very upsetting when you lose.'

'But we should learn how to win and to lose. Sport builds our character.'

'You are right but if you want to play basketball well, you need a coach as well as a basketball court and we don't have any basketball clubs nearby. That's why I think it would be better for us to go swimming. It's a good exercise for the whole body and you can go swimming when you like and as long as you like. What is more, lots of our friends go to the swimming pool and you'll never feel bored.'

'Really? I didn't know that. Perhaps, you are right and swimming will be the best choice for us.'

Task 2

You and your friend are thinking of **the best way to lose weight.** Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all:**

- **cut out snacks and desserts**
- **follow a special diet**
- **use acupuncture**
- **join a fitness club**

'I think I'm too fat and it's not good because fat can cause different health problems. I feel I need to lose some weight.'

'So do I. Yesterday I couldn't put on my jeans because they were too tight for me. But what do you think is the best way to lose weight and avoid gaining it?'

'I think first we should cut out snacks and desserts. Snacking and eating between meals can be harmful, especially if you eat fast food, which makes you fat. As for me, I usually like to eat something sweet before going to bed and I think it's the main reason for my obesity. So we should try to eat only at meal times.'

'In a way, you are right. I also have snacks when I work on my computer to relieve boredom or stress. And eventually I end up eating twice as much as I should. But I think that this won't solve our problem. If you continue eating high-fat food for breakfast, dinner and supper, you'll stay obese, even if you don't snack. I think we should completely change our diet and eat only healthy food. Have you heard of a calorie-controlled diet?'

'A calorie-controlled diet? What is it?'

'A calorie is the energy value of food. We should count the number of calories we eat every day, so that we can try to take in fewer calories and lose weight. That means that we should try to eat only low-fat and high-fibre food. Besides, it won't be very difficult for us to do this because special foods for slimmers with fewer calories can now be found in all shops and supermarkets. I'm sure, that if we follow a diet, we'll easily lose weight!'

'Not exactly. A friend of mine was on a low-fat diet and most of what she ate consisted of non-fat food like cereal bars

and fat-free crisps. As a result, she was constantly eating because she never felt full and consumed far more calories that she needed. You may guess that she couldn't lose weight. So I don't think that this way is very useful.'

'Well, I can't agree with you. Your friend's diet was quite old-fashioned. Our diet should contain the right balance of protein, fat and carbohydrates and must be rich in vitamins. A good breakfast of scrambled eggs and mushrooms will mean that we will eat less during the rest of the day.'

'Anyway, it's too boring to count calories and I'm afraid it will take up a lot of time. Why don't we use acupuncture? Nowadays people use sticking needles for everything from giving up smoking to dealing with pain so this method of losing weight is very popular today. We have a Centre of Alternative Medicine not far from our house so it will be easy for us to go there. What's your opinion?'

'I don't think it's a good idea. To begin with, alternative medicine is a rather new field in our country so we have very few good specialists in it. That's why it may be dangerous for our health. Secondly, it's rather expensive and I'm afraid I won't be able to afford it. If you don't want to follow a diet, let's go in for sport. We have a very good fitness club nearby, so we could easily join some aerobic classes. It's not very expensive, besides we can get there some advice about a healthy diet or beauty treatment.'

'Really? Great idea! Sport is a good way to keep fit. Besides, we can eat and drink as much as we want because we are burning it all off.'

'So, which way do you think we should choose?'

'I think going in for sports will be the best way for us. Among the other benefits of regular exercise are a healthier heart, stronger bones, quicker reaction times and less susceptibility to various illnesses.'

'I completely agree with you. Let's join a fitness club.'

UNIT 14
TRAVEL AND TOURISM

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **travelling.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why people travel nowadays**
- **what the most popular tourist destinations are and why**
- **why people prefer different ways of travelling**
- **where you have travelled to**

A lot of people travel nowadays. It's not surprising because distances between countries are becoming shorter due to the development of transport. Today people have lots of good reasons to travel. First of all, travelling is a part of people's education. It goes without saying that it's always interesting to discover new places and new ways of life, to try foreign food and to listen to unusual musical rhythms. Besides, travelling is a good way to practise foreign languages. Another reason why people travel is to relax. City-dwellers usually like a quiet holiday by the sea or in the mountains, with nothing to do but walk and bathe and laze in the sun. Finally, more and more people nowadays travel around the world on business.

The most popular tourist destinations in summer are of course seaside resorts in warm countries such as Spain, Italy or Turkey because people want to enjoy swimming and sunbathing as well as different water sports and nice entertainment. These countries are closely followed by Australia and Canada whose popularity is growing due to the personality and culture of the people as well as the location and facilities on site. As for winter, people flock in thousands to the slopes of popular skiing resorts in the Alps such as Chamonix in France or Zermatt in Switzerland because they have lots of comfortable hotels and offer wonderful opportunities for downhill skiing. People who enjoy

visiting museums and art galleries usually go on sightseeing tours to countries like England, Germany or Greece.

There are a lot of different means of travelling and each of them has its pros and cons. When people have to visit another country, they prefer air travel because it's faster than other means of transport although it is the most expensive way of travelling. In other cases, it is more practical and economical to go by train or bus. Modern trains are very comfortable. Besides, you can enjoy a splendid view of the countryside. And if you are hungry, you can have a meal in the dining-car. Some people prefer travelling by sea which is very exciting. If the weather is fine, you can relax on a large sun deck and enjoy the panoramic view of the sea. But of course if you are sea-sick, travelling by ship is not a good idea. A lot of people travel by car because it's rather convenient. They don't have to buy tickets and to carry heavy luggage. They can stop wherever they wish and spend as much time as they like at any place. However, this way of travelling is not as comfortable and quick as travelling by plane or by train.

As for me, I like travelling and I travel quite a lot. I have already visited some European countries, for example, France, Germany and Austria and was impressed by the beauty of their towns. I also enjoyed their national dishes which are really delicious. In summer my parents and I usually go to Bulgaria because it has a wonderful climate, a warm sea, clean beaches and comfortable hotels. I have also been to England where I had an opportunity to improve my knowledge of English. I stayed with a host family and enjoyed their hospitality. It was fantastic because I was able to get to know the English lifestyle as well as to practise the language.

Questions

1. Do you enjoy travelling? Why?
2. What is your favourite way of travelling? Why?
3. Is it better to travel on your own or with your friends/family? Why?
4. What do you think is the best season for travelling?
5. Do you take a camera with you when you travel? Why?
6. Do you agree that travelling broadens the mind? Why?
7. What would you recommend to people who want to go travelling?

Task 2

Give a talk on **tourism.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why tourism has taken off in recent years**
- **what bad effects tourism has got, why**
- **how people can solve the problems of tourism**
- **whether you are for or against tourism, why**

In recent years tourism has really taken off and today it is the world's second largest industry. It's not surprising because millions of people all over the world are fond of travelling. And with advances in transportation and information technology, even most remote areas of earth are now coming within reach of the traveller. Besides, package holidays have made travelling much easier. What is more, tourism can bring substantial economic gain to developing regions so countries are now building new hotels, creating new resorts and renovating their places of interest trying to attract more tourists.

But what are the bad effects of tourism? Most popular resorts are polluted and litter has become a major problem. A lot of ancient monuments are being destroyed by unstoppable march of tourism. For example, the prehistoric paintings at Lascaux in France were being slowly ruined by the breath and bacteria from 200,000 visitors a year. The caves have now been closed to the public and a replica has been built. Many of great cities of Europe, such as London or Rome, are now finding that their historic centres are fast becoming occupied by tourists with clicking cameras and left by all local residents except for the souvenir sellers.

So what's the way out? In my opinion, tourism should be given a humanistic direction. Cultural and environmental groups should work together to assure that tourism can maintain long-term benefits. Besides, governments should create special programmes to support local residents and to protect cultural monuments. But first of all people should change their attitude to tourism. We should try not to pollute our environment, try to accept different cultures and support traditional lifestyles.

As for me, I enjoy travelling very much because travel broadens the mind. It's always interesting to see other countries and continents, to discover different ways of life, to meet different people and to try foreign food. While travelling we can see and learn a lot of things that we can never learn staying at home and watching TV or reading books. In my opinion, we shouldn't reject tourism because of the bad effects it has. No doubt that it is extremely beneficial as it provides people with jobs and brings substantial profit for the country's economy. But I am for tourism that minimises its own environmental impact, respects local cultures and human rights as well as promotes knowledge and understanding.

Questions

1. Why do people travel?
2. What are the effects of tourism?
3. What are the favourite tourist destinations in Russia? Do they have any problems because of tourists?
4. Will the development of tourism bring economic gain to Russia? Why do you think so?
5. Should we reject tourism in order to preserve cultural monuments? Why?
6. What should we do to attract tourists to Russian cities and towns?
7. What is responsible ecotourism?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

Your class has won a regional contest and **has been awarded a trip**. You and your friend are discussing what trip everyone in the class would enjoy. There are four options to choose from but you have to decide on **one trip only**:

- **a day in the European Disney Land near Paris**
- **a week in Moscow**
- **10 day camping by a lake in Finland**
- **5 days at the seaside in Turkey**

'Hi! Have you heard the news? We are the winners of the regional contest and we can choose a trip from the following options. Where would you like to go?'

'I really don't know. To tell the truth I haven't been to any of these places. A day in the European Disney Land near Paris sounds very tempting. All these rides are great fun. Besides, it's a chance to visit France. We might have time to see Paris if we don't stay in the park the whole day.'

'Don't you think we are too old to enjoy this kind of entertainment and meeting cartoon characters?'

'Not at all. There are different attractions for all ages in Disneyland Park. Besides, the park itself is very beautiful and you can even make a boat trip round a wonderful island.'

'I don't think we'll have enough time to see everything in the park because it's quite big. Anyway, one day is not enough to get to know the city you travel to. What about spending a week in Moscow?'

'That would be great! There is so much to see there: lots of museums and art galleries. Besides, I have always dreamed of visiting Red Square and the Kremlin.'

'Sightseeing the whole week? It's boring. We'll be tired of museums and galleries.'

'Not at all. And in the evening we could visit one of the theatres and see a world-famous performance. Besides, we could go on an unusual trip *Moscow by Night*. The city looks particularly gorgeous with brightly illuminated streets and buildings. This tour creates really unforgettable impressions.'

'Well, that sounds interesting! But I'm afraid that many of our classmates have already been there and they won't like this idea. How about 10 day camping by a lake in Finland?'

'Camping? No way! We'll have to make our meals and there are lots of mosquitoes near the lake. As for me, I am allergic to their bites.'

'Well, you can use a special aerosol spray, can't you? I know that all campsites in Finland are well equipped and they are usually in picturesque places. We could go boating or fishing. I'm sure we'll have a great time there!'

'Perhaps, you are right but we'll depend on the weather. What if it rains for the whole 10 days? I think it will be rather dull there. I suggest going to Turkey and have a rest at the

seaside. It's warm and sunny there. Beside, we could eat lots of fruit and try national dishes. What's your opinion?'

'Well, I can agree with you. We can have a great time there too: we can play volleyball, football, swim in the sea and play computer games. Besides, the hotels in Turkey are comfortable and the service is friendly.'

'Right! It's very relaxing. I'm sure everybody will enjoy this trip. So what's our decision?'

'Let's go to Turkey and make the best of our holiday.'

Task 2

You and your friend are discussing how to spend **your summer holidays**. Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **go to the country house**
- **go to the mountains**
- **go to the seaside**
- **go on a sightseeing tour**

'Wow, we have our summer holidays at last! What shall we do? Shall we go to our country house? We can swim in the lake and go fishing as usual. We can also play football with our friends. I hope we'll win this year.'

'Oh, no! Let's try something different! It's so boring in the country when the weather is bad. And the forecast says this summer will be very rainy. Besides, there is absolutely nothing to do in the evening. As for me, I have always dreamed of going to the mountains. It's so exciting! We could enjoy wonderful views, watch rare plants and drink pure water from mountain rivers.'

'Mountaineering is definitely not my cup of tea! I'm not strong enough and a mountain trip might be rather exhausting for me. Besides, it might be dangerous, too. There is always a possibility of injury and I am not a risk taker. Why not go to the seaside? It's nice and warm there.'

'Seaside? There is not much to do except staying on the beach all the time. As for me, I like active holidays. Besides, air tickets and hotel accommodation could be expensive.'

'But we could go by car and rent a room in a private house. It won't be very expensive. And in the evening we could go for a walk or to the cinema.'

'Then we'll have to cook ourselves. In this case, we'd better go camping. It's very cheap. Besides, we will be able to combine swimming in the sea with wonderful walks in the woods for berries and mushrooms. And if we're tired of one place, we can go to another and enjoy new picturesque scenery.'

'Oh no! I can't stand living in a tent. I'd prefer something more comfortable. If you want to change places I suggest going on a sightseeing tour.'

'Sightseeing tour? What is it?'

'If we go on a sightseeing tour, we'll be able to visit many world famous sights, enjoy museums and galleries, and learn a lot of interesting things.'

'That sounds exciting! We could take lots of photos and show them to our friends. Besides, it's a great opportunity to make new friends. But won't it be too expensive?'

'Not at all, because we'll travel by coach and stay at inexpensive but comfortable hotels.'

'Great! Let's choose a sightseeing tour. When shall we leave?'

Task 3

You and your friend are going **to travel** during your summer holidays. Discuss the following destinations and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **China**
- **Australia**
- **UK**
- **USA**

'So, where shall we go this summer? As for me, I'd rather go to China. I have always dreamed of visiting this exotic country. Just imagine tasting Chinese food! Besides, we can buy exotic souvenirs and even see the Great Chinese Wall!'

'Oh, no. It's too crowded there! And it's dangerous to travel to China because we can catch a serious disease. As for Chinese

food, it's too spicy for me. Besides, I can't eat with chopsticks. And you?'

'Neither can I. Well, then, let's go to Australia. It's also a unique country with different exotic animals. I have always wanted to see a platypus or a wombat. And if we stay at the seaside, we can learn windsurfing. It's very popular there.'

'I don't think that going to Australia is a good idea. It's too far. I don't feel like spending so much time on board the plane. We'll be jet-lagged, I'm afraid. Besides, the tickets are rather expensive. What is more, the ocean is full of dangerous creatures and I don't want to be eaten by a shark.'

'But we can practise our English! Moreover, we'll be able to compare Australian English and British English. I think it's worth our efforts.'

'Well, if you want to practise your English, why not go to the UK. It's much closer to Russia and it won't take us long to get there. More than that, we can buy a package tour and visit famous towns and cities, can't we?'

'Yes, we can, but I hate package tours, because there are too many excursions. Besides, I have already been there twice. Great Britain is too traditional. What I need is new impressions!'

'Well, what about the USA? Have you been there?'

'No, I haven't been there yet. But it takes you a long time to get a visa to the USA. And the tickets are rather expensive, I'm afraid.'

'Not as expensive as to Australia or China. It's a great chance to learn more about America and to make a lot of new friends because Americans are very sociable. Besides, we'll be able to compare American English and British English. What do you think of it?'

'Perhaps, I'll agree with you. America is an unusual country. I have always wanted to see skyscrapers. And I think we'll never have a chance of going there again. I'm already looking forward to climbing the Statue of Liberty.'

'So am I. And we'll see lots of other places of interest, too, for example, the White House and the Capitol.'

'That's great! Let's go to the USA this summer.'

UNIT 15
WORK

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **the kind of career you are interested in.**
Remember to discuss:

- **what jobs are popular with teenagers nowadays and why**
- **who influenced your career choice and how**
- **what you like about your future career, why**
- **why you think you would be a good specialist**

Today there are thousands of different kinds of jobs and new ones are constantly appearing. Among the jobs that are most popular with teenagers are those in economic, tourist or computer fields. Take the profession of a manager, for example. In my opinion, it's a very interesting job because it involves working with people. Besides, if you cope with all the challenges of this job, you can be promoted to the position of a director and get a very high salary. Of course, you can become something like a computer programmer or a web designer because computers are an essential part of our everyday lives today. So we can say that our society needs people who can work with computers and write computer programmes. That's why this profession is so popular today. As for me, I would like to become a tourist agent or a holiday representative, because a lot of people travel nowadays.

Parents and friends play a very important role in our choice. My mother works for an international tourist company as a managing director. It is a highly paid job and it offers a lot of opportunities. You can travel abroad and meet different people. My mother is a friendly person and she is easy to talk to. She advised me to choose this career. Besides, some of my friends want to work in this area, too, and it's very important for me to continue studying with friends.

Today tourism is one of the world's largest industries. In my opinion, it's very interesting to work in tourism because you will have to deal with the problems and needs of holidaymakers and plan trips and tours that will please everyone. Besides, this profession is highly paid and I want to be able to buy everything I need with my salary. What's more, the perks of this job include free travel and living abroad.

I can say that I'm very communicative and I like working with people. Besides, I'm very organised and hard-working. What's more, I like travelling and I'm ready to go wherever the company will send me. So I think I can become a good holiday representative or a tourist manager. But I understand that to make a good specialist in this field I should have good education, extensive knowledge of the world and experience of travel. And of course I must know several foreign languages. So after finishing school I will try to enter a university or a college and to continue my education.

Questions

1. Which are the most prestigious professions today? Why?
2. What are the pros and cons of your future profession?
3. Why do you think your future profession is important today?
4. Do you think it will be easy to find a good job when you graduate from the university? Why do you think so?
5. Can our hobbies help us in choosing our future career? How?

Task 2

Give a talk on **choosing your future career.**
Remember to discuss:

- **whether it is easy to choose your future career, why**
- **what factors people should consider when they make a choice**
- **whether you would like to follow in your parents' footsteps, why**
- **what is important for you in your future profession, why**

Finishing school is the beginning of an independent life for millions of school-leavers. Many roads are open before us:

technical schools, colleges and universities. Centuries ago there were only a few jobs: people were farmers, bakers, butchers or carpenters. Today there are thousands of different kinds of jobs, and new ones are constantly appearing. No wonder that it is not an easy thing to make the right choice. Besides, at this age we don't know for sure our preferences and abilities, which makes our choice even more difficult.

When choosing a future career, we should consider different factors. In my opinion, money is one of the most important factors when you make a choice. I think everybody wants to earn as much as possible. Further training, promotion prospects and job conditions should be also taken into account. Besides, you ought to decide whether you want to work indoors or outdoors. On the other hand, it's good when you get satisfaction from your job. So it's very important to choose a profession that suits your interests. Finally, to make the right choice you should take into account your abilities and traits of character.

I don't think it's a right decision to follow in the footsteps of a parent or a relative if you are not interested in this profession. Although my parents are doctors, I don't seem to be very interested in caring for others and helping them with their problems. For such professions like medicine you have to be very good at chemistry and I am not much of a chemist. Besides, I'm not very patient and I'm afraid of blood. That's why I don't want to choose my parents' profession. My father is a friendly person and he is easy to talk to. He also believes that I must choose my future occupation according to my taste and preferences. I have always been interested in economics and I enjoy working with people so I'd like to become a manager. I can't imagine myself doing anything else.

Of course I would like to have a well-paid job in the future because I enjoy travelling and I would like to see the world. Besides, I'm very keen to be successful so promotion prospects are also important for me. My ambition is to work as a managing director of a large company. However, for me choosing a career is not only a matter of future prestige and wealth. First of all, my future profession should be interesting and bring real satisfaction. That's the way I see it.

Questions

1. Which are the most prestigious professions today?
2. What professional field can you work in? What are you good at?
3. Which of your personal qualities will help you in your future profession?
4. What are the pros and cons of your future profession?
5. Why do you think your future profession is important today?
6. Do you think you will need English for your future career?

DIALOGUES

Task 1

You and your friend are discussing your **future occupation**. There are several options to choose from but you should agree on **the one you both like most of all**:

- **a waiter/a waitress**
- **a programmer**
- **a sales representative**
- **an English teacher**

'Have you decided what occupation to choose?'

'Not yet because it's rather difficult to make the right choice. When I was younger, I dreamed of becoming a waitress.'

'Really? Why?'

'First of all, I'm very sociable and I enjoy working with people. If you work as a waitress, you meet different people every day and you can even meet some celebrities if you work in a popular restaurant. Besides, this work isn't very difficult and doesn't require special qualifications.'

'Well. I wouldn't say that. If you work every day, it may be rather tiring. Just imagine that you won't be able to sit the whole evening! Moreover, this job is not very well paid and I want to be able to buy everything I need with my salary. Of course waiters get tips from their clients but I would feel humiliated if people left me tips. I'd like to have a more respectable job.'

'And what would you like to do in the future?'

'For example, I don't mind working as a programmer. I'm crazy about computers and I enjoy playing computer games. Computers are an essential part of our everyday lives today. So we can say that our society needs people who can work with computers and write computer programmes. That's why this profession is so popular today.'

'I'm afraid you don't really understand that computer programming is a very challenging job. Playing computer games and writing computer programmes are two different things. You must be good at maths and possess logical reasoning. Besides, you will have to work to tight deadlines and it's very difficult.'

'Yes, I agree with you. But programmers can work from home and I wouldn't like to work in an office all day.'

'Of course that is a great advantage but, in my opinion, it's rather boring to stay at home all day long and write computer programmes. And don't forget that working on computer for a long time can cause different health problems. As for me, I would prefer a more active job. What about working as a sales representative? It's a highly paid job and you communicate with people so you'll never get bored.'

'It's not a bad idea although it does have some disadvantages.'

'Really? What are they?'

'First of all, the salary of sales reps is usually not very high because they are on commission. If you are on commission, how much you earn depends on how much you sell. If you want to earn enough money, you'll have to work quite a lot — about 60 or 70 hours per week. In this case you won't be able to see your family very much. Besides, you'll have to be prepared to do a lot of travelling because most sales reps spend their working day on the road or in the air.'

'Oh no, this job is definitely not for me because I don't like travelling. There is always a possibility of accident as our roads are too busy nowadays. And why don't we become teachers? Our favourite subject is English and we're really good at it. So we may work as English teachers.'

'Well, I like English but I'm not sure that I'll be able to work at school. I think it's very difficult to teach modern teenagers because they are so naughty.'

'That's right but we could teach younger children and they usually behave well in the classroom. As for me, I like kids very much. They are so funny!'

'So do I! And what about a salary? Is it a well-paid job?'

'Well, nowadays teachers have high salaries. Besides, they have quite a big holiday in summer so we could have a good rest.'

'That's a great advantage. Besides, we'll be able to go on different tours with our pupils so this job is very interesting.'

'And very challenging too. I'm sure we'll never get bored with it.'

'I completely agree with you. I think the best choice for us is to work as English teachers.'

Task 2

You and your friend have decided **to work part-time** so as to earn some pocket money. Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **working as a librarian**
- **babysitting**
- **delivering newspapers**
- **errand-running**

'What do you think of working part-time so as to earn some pocket money?'

'It's a good idea. I've always dreamed of getting some working experience. But what can we do?'

'There are lots of part-time jobs for teenagers. For example, we could work in a library. This work includes putting books in their proper places on the shelves and helping people to find what they are looking for.'

'In a library? In my opinion, it's the most boring job in the world. I wouldn't like to stay all day in a stuffy library with no one to speak to.'

'But you'll have loads of fascinating books around you and you can spend your free time reading them. To my mind, it's a

great opportunity to expand our outlook. What's more, if we work in our school library, we'll be able to make lots of new friends at school. I think it's great.'

'No, that work doesn't suit me. Books collect dust on the shelves and I'm allergic to it. What about babysitting? This business is booming now because most young mums need help with their newborn babies. As for me, I like being with kids.'

'So do I, but I don't think we'll earn a lot of money that way because we don't have much free time.'

'If we team up, we'll be able to say 'yes' more often and increase the amount of work we're offered.'

'That's a good idea. However, we don't have any qualifications so we're unlikely to get this job. Let's try delivering newspapers. This work doesn't take up a lot of time. We could deliver newspapers early in the morning or late in the evening. And as we'll spend much time walking, we'll be fit and healthy.'

'Oh no, I think this work is rather difficult. You'll have to carry a heavy bag with newspapers and it's not quite good for our health. Besides, I can't get up early in the morning and I feel very sleepy. This job is definitely not for me.'

'What do you suggest then?'

'How about errand-running? We could work for busy people or small businesses. There are thousands of small firms, which do all sorts of things: printing, computer programming, advertising and so on. Many of these could really benefit from a part-time helper who is reliable and mature. So it'll be easy for us to find a job. Besides, we could learn a lot about the world of business.'

'Great! I have always wanted to learn how a business works from the inside out. This work may help us choose our future occupation. In addition, it's not difficult and we won't have to stay in the office all the time. So let's choose errand-running.'

'I totally agree with you. This job really appeals to me.'

UNIT 16

YOUNG PEOPLE IN MODERN SOCIETY

TALKS

Task 1

Give a talk on **teenage groups and movements.**
Remember to discuss:

- **why teenagers join different groups and movements**
- **what subcultures are popular with teenagers nowadays**
- **why adults are against teenage subcultures**
- **whether you would like to join any subculture, why/why not**

A lot of teenagers join different groups and movements nowadays. Why? Perhaps it is the lack of any other way to express themselves that attracts young people to different subcultures. Maybe they protest against their parents or rebel against the older generation. In my opinion, the main reason of joining the group is the ability to show your solidarity with like-minded friends. There are a lot of different subcultures nowadays, so young people can find a group or a movement that will suit their interests.

A subculture is any group with a distinct style and identity. There are a lot of subcultures with their own beliefs, values, fashion and favourite music which are popular with teenagers nowadays. Among them are Emo, Straight Edge, Punk, Goth, Hip-Hop subcultures and others. One of the most recent subcultures is Cyber. Science-fiction inspired fashion and an interest in electronic dance music are two areas that define the Cyber subculture. Cybers also tend to have a general interest in new and future technology and an optimistic view of its influence on society.

Some people think that all subcultures are awful. Of course we must admit that not all groups are peaceful. Some of them are rather rebellious. Sadly, they are prepared to physically hurt people in an attempt to get their message across. For example,

punks are opposed to the values, norms and materialism in the society. They express this in loud and violent music, strange clothing and hair of unusual colours. What's more, many of teenage subcultures are associated with drugs and violence. However, a lot of teens think about changing the world to the best, for example, hippies. Today hippies are more socially active. They set up environmental groups and join charity projects.

I would like to join some group of Goths because I approve of their lifestyle. Goths see the world as a dark place and like it that way. I completely agree with them because our life is very difficult. Goths make a statement with their fashion as well as with their philosophy. With startling white make-up, black or purple hair, black lipstick and fingernails, these people certainly stand out in the crowd. I also like black colours, so I think it is an ideal subculture for me. Of course, when I join the group, I will have to obey certain rules, but on the other hand belonging to a group will help me to express my individuality.

Questions

1. Why did different subcultures appear?
2. Does belonging to a group help to express one's individuality or not?
3. What is easier: to join a group or to leave it? Why?
4. Do you become different or stay the same when you join a group?
5. Would you like to belong to a teenage group? Why?
6. What is your ideal subculture? Why?

Task 2

Give a talk on **teenage relationship**.
Remember to discuss:

- **what problems teenagers can face**
- **how teenagers can cope with their problems**
- **whether you are a sociable person, why**
- **whether you've got any problems in your family, why/why not**

Being a teenager has never been easy. Teens can face a lot of problems with their parents, friends, teachers, and so on. For example, some teenagers may be teased by their older brothers

and sisters, others feel embarrassed every time they go shopping with their mums. Many of teenagers are jealous of their best friends because they've got a better CD player or a mobile phone. Besides, young people often split up with their boyfriends or girlfriends and it's very difficult for them to get over this painful experience. They feel rejected and miserable. Moreover, quite a lot of teens have arguments with their parents when they are overprotective or keep nagging about their kid's schoolwork.

Who and how can help teenagers to cope with their problems? I believe that all problems need to be talked about and sorted out. If you have any problem, the best way is to talk to someone and to share your feelings. First of all, try talking to your parents and friends. They may offer you some advice and can really give you a helping hand. Of course sometimes teenagers don't feel like discussing their problems with friends or parents because they are afraid of misunderstanding. These feelings are normal, but it does help to talk. In this case it might be a good idea to consult a psychologist. Very often it's better to talk to a complete stranger about your problems rather than someone you know really well. Psychologists are professionals: they will listen to you sympathetically and offer advice where appropriate.

As for me, I'm rather a sociable person as I make friends easily. I get on well with all my classmates and we enjoy chatting and sharing our thoughts and feelings. Besides, I always help them if they have difficulties in doing their homework. Of course, we don't always agree about everything but we easily sort out all our disagreements. We have a very close but easy-going relationship.

I also get on very well with my sister and she is my best friend, even though she's three years older than me. We go out together almost every weekend, and we always have fun. My sister doesn't tease or bully me. In fact, we've never had a serious argument! Unfortunately, I can't say that I have no problems with my parents. I'm just a basic teenager and I want to go out and have fun with my friends. But I have no freedom at all. My parents are always trying to know what I am doing and with whom. All they ever want to do is to talk about how I should focus on my school. They don't understand that there can be more important things for teens than good marks in their

school-leaving certificates. Nevertheless, I try to get on well with them as I understand that they do love me and just worry about my future. So I try not to upset them.

Questions

1. Are you an introvert or an extrovert? What does it mean?
2. How do you get on with your classmates and teachers?
3. How important is friendship to you? Why?
4. Are you closer to your friends or to your family? Why?
5. Do your parents allow you to do everything you want? Why?
6. What would you do if you had a serious personal problem?

DIALOGUE

Task 1

You and your friend are thinking of joining some teenage group. Discuss the following options and choose **the one you both like most of all**:

- **punks**
- **goths**
- **hackers**
- **hippies**

'Why don't we join some teenage subculture? It will help us to find new friends and to express our individuality.'

'Well, it's a good idea. But what subculture can we join?'

'I suggest joining a group of punks because they are very unusual. With their brightly coloured spiked hair and shocking clothes punks really stand out of the crowd. Besides, I'm fond of their music. What do you think of it?'

'As for me, I consider their music too aggressive and their lyrics often contain oppositional themes.'

'But they are opposed to the values, norms and materialism in our society and I agree with them.'

'In my opinion, they rebel not only against the negative aspects of our society. They are full of hate and so they reject everything. I believe that teens shouldn't be so violent.'

'Perhaps, you are right. And what do you suggest?'

'Let's join a group of hackers. We are both fond of computers and hackers are the wizards of the computer community. They can do things with them that seem magical. What is more, they are rather peaceful and they don't protest against their parents and the society.'

'I wouldn't say that. Lots of hackers break into computers of banks and offices and steal money. In my opinion, they are all criminals. And don't forget that if you use computer for a long time, you become addicted to it. Computer addiction is very dangerous and can even lead to mental health problems. That's why I wouldn't like to join this group. What about joining a group of Goths?'

'Goths? You mean these strange teens with startling white make-up, black lipstick and black hair. They are terrible!'

'You see, Goths see the world as a dark place but they like it that way so they are rather peaceful. The members gather together to read Bram Stoker and talk about being vampires, and about the end of the world. I completely agree with their philosophy because our life is very difficult.'

'As for me, I'm afraid of vampires and I don't think that our world is a dark place. On the contrary, I'm sure that our life is changing for the better. That's why I picture our world as colourful and sunny rather than dark. Besides, I don't feel like wearing dark clothes because they make me look older. I'd rather wear something bright and colourful.'

'Then we'd better join a group of hippies. I'm sure you'll like this subculture because they are not violent. Hippies believe in peace and one of their favourite sayings is 'Make love, not war'.'

'Yes, I know this subculture and I'm fond of their music. But I've heard that hippies are associated with drugs and I don't want to become a drug addict.'

'In a way, you are right. In the past hippies were also opposed to the normal standards of the society and used drugs to show their disagreement. But today hippies are more socially active. They set up environmental groups and join charity projects. They express their philosophy by dressing in unusual clothes and having long hair.'

'I agree that we should join this subculture because it is very unusual with its own style distinct from others. Another reason is that hippies want to change the world to the best. In my opinion, teens must not only criticise the society they live in but they should also think how to improve it.'

'I completely agree with you. This is the best subculture for us.'

USEFUL LANGUAGE

1. Expressing agreement

In general I quite agree ...
I absolutely/completely/totally agree that ...
I can't but agree with you!
I am of the same opinion.
You've got a point.
I feel the same.
That's how I feel too.
I'm with you there.
You're quite right./That's right.
Exactly!
In a way, you are right.
I partly agree with you.
I agree to a certain extent, but ...

2. Expressing disagreement

I'm afraid I have to disagree (with) ...
I don't really agree. Don't you think ...?
I wouldn't say that.
I can see your point, but ...
I see what you mean, but ...
You could be right, but I think ...
That's not true at all!
I'm sorry, but I can't agree ...
I don't think that ....
Not exactly!
On the contrary, ...

3. Expressing doubt

I may be wrong, but I believe that ...
I'm not really sure, but I think that ...
Probably it's true, but I think ...
I can't believe that ...
I don't think that ...
I doubt that ....
However, ...

4. Making additions

Let me add that ...
I would like to add that ...
I should add ...
In addition, ...
It's necessary to remember that ...
By the way, ...

5. Making suggestions

I suggest/I'd suggest going to the cinema.
Let's choose photography.
Why don't we go for a walk?
Why not go for a walk?
What about watching TV?
How about playing chess?

6. Giving examples

..., for example, ...
..., for instance, ...
... such as ...
.... Like ...

7. Expressing likes/dislikes

I like it because ...
I really enjoy travelling.
I'm fond of collecting.
I'm keen on books by Tolkien.
I'm fascinated by London.
I'm captivated by the story line of this book.
I'm extremely interested in the history of the UK.
I don't like porridge.
I hate rap music.
I can't stand watching silly commercials.
I'm bored by soap operas.

8. Expressing preference/wish

I'd like to see London some day.
I'd rather travel by bus.
You'd better go home.
I'd prefer to stay at home.
If I were you ...
I prefer watching adventure films to (rather than) (watching) romantic comedies.

9. Expressing opinion/giving reasons

I think ... because ...
I suppose that ...
Well, it seems to me that ...
I'm sure that ...
I do feel that ...
I find it interesting ...
It's very important ...
The point is that ...
To begin with ...
First of all, .../Firstly, ...
Second, .../Secondly, ...
Third, ...
Besides, ...
What is more, ...
Moreover, ...
More than that, ...
Finally, ...
On the one hand, ...
On the other hand, ...
Nevertheless, ...
In conclusion, ...
That's why I think that ...
As for me, ...
In my view, ...
To my mind, ...
In my opinion, ...
Personally, ...
As far as my personal qualities are concerned, I can say that ...
As to British climate, ...
I have another opinion.
I don't care ...
To tell the truth, ...
Frankly speaking, ...
To be honest, ...
On second thoughts ...
To cut a long story short ...
It can't be denied that ...
We must admit that ...
It goes without saying that ...
There is no doubt that ...
On the whole, I believe that ...

CULTURAL READER

Great Britain

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK) is the official name of the British Kingdom. It occupies most of the territory of the British Isles and consists of four countries. They are England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their capitals are London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

The UK is situated off the west coast of Europe between the Atlantic Ocean on the north-west and the North Sea on the east. It is separated from the European continent by the English Channel. The narrowest part of the English Channel is called the Strait of Dover. The total area of Great Britain is over 244,000 square kilometres.

The UK is an island state: it is made up of two large islands and several much smaller ones. The two main islands are Great Britain to the east and Ireland to the west. They are separated by the Irish Sea. Geographically, the island of Great Britain is subdivided into two main regions — Lowland Britain and Highland Britain. Lowland Britain comprises southern and eastern England. Highland Britain consists of Scotland, most of Wales, the Pennines, and the Lake District. The Mountains are not very high. The highest mountain is Ben Nevis in Scotland (1343m). England is separated from Scotland by the Cheviot Hills, running from east to west.

There are a lot of rivers in Great Britain, but they are not very long. The Severn is the longest river, while the Thames is the deepest and the most important one. The chief river in Scotland is the Clyde. Great Britain has many beautiful lakes. The best known of them is long narrow Loch Ness, legendary home of the famous monster. On the north-west side of the Pennine system lies the Lake District, containing beautiful lakes.

The largest cities of Great Britain are London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cardiff and Belfast.

The population of the United Kingdom is over 57 million people. English is the official language. But some people speak

Gaelic in western Scotland, and Welsh – in parts of northern and central Wales.

The different parts of Britain have their own emblems. The red rose is the national emblem of England. The thistle is the national emblem of Scotland. The daffodils and the leek are the emblems of Wales. And the shamrock is the national emblem of Ireland.

The flag of the United Kingdom is known as the Union Jack. It is made up of three crosses: the cross of St. George (the patron saint of England), the cross of St. Andrew (the patron saint of Scotland) and the cross of St. Patrick (the patron saint of Ireland).

British Climate

The climate of Great Britain is more or less the same as that of the north-western part of the European mainland. The popular belief that it rains all the time in Britain is simply not true. In fact, London gets no more rain in a year than most other European cities. The amount of rain that falls on a town in Britain depends on where it is. Generally speaking, the further west you go, the more rain you get.

The climate of Great Britain is mild and temperate due to the influence of the Gulf Stream. That means that it is never too hot or too cold. Snow is a regular feature of the higher areas only. Occasionally, in lower-lying parts winter can be without snow at all.

Usually the temperature is between 5 below zero and 23 above zero. The driest period is from March to June and the wettest months are from October to January. It seldom snows heavily in winter, frost is rare. January and February are usually the coldest months; July and August are the warmest ones. Sometimes the wind brings whirlwinds or hurricanes. Droughts are rare.

The lack of extremes is the reason why, on the few occasions when it gets very hot or very frosty, the country seems to be totally unprepared for it. A bit of snow and a few days of frost and the trains stop working and the roads are blocked. If the temperature goes above 27 °C, people behave as if they were in Sahara and the temperature makes front-page-headlines. But these things happen so rarely that it is not worth organising life to be ready for them.

The bad reputation of Britain's climate is due to its changeability. There is a saying that Britain doesn't have a climate, it only has weather. But English weather is never the same two days running. One day it rains, the next day it may be sunny and then it may be cold again. It may not rain very much altogether, but you

can never be sure of a dry day. There can be cool days in July and some quite warm days in January.

So, we may say that the British climate has three main features: it is mild, humid, and changeable. This humid and mild climate is good for plants and flowers. That's why Great Britain is such a green country, with long rich grass for the cattle and sheep, and beautiful lawns in the gardens.

National Stereotypes

There are certain stereotypes of national character which are well known in Britain. For instance, the Irish are supposed to be great talkers, the Scots have a reputation for being careful with money, the Welsh are renowned for their singing abilities, and the English are considered to be reserved. These characteristics are, of course, only caricatures and are not reliable description of individual people from these countries.

British people give a relatively high value to the everyday personal contacts. Some writers on Britain have talked about the British desire 'to belong', and it is certainly true that the pub, or the working man's club, or the numerous other clubs devoted to various sports and pastimes play a very important part in many people's lives. Many people make their social contacts through work and, partly as a result of this, the profession is also important aspect of their sense of identity. British people try to appear as if they belong to as high class as possible, though nobody wants to be thought of as 'snobbish'.

The British have few living traditions and are too individualistic to have the same everyday habits as each other. They are rather proud of being different. However, this does not mean that they like change. They don't. They may not behave in traditional ways, but they like symbols of tradition and stability. The British are rather conservative and their conservatism can combine with their individualism. Why should they change just to be like everyone else? Indeed, as far as they are concerned, not being like everyone else is a good reason not to change. Their driving on the left-hand side of the road is a good example to this. Systems of measurement are another example. The British government has been trying for many years to get British people to use the same scales that are used nearly everywhere else in the world. But everybody in Britain still shops in pounds and ounces.

The modern British are not really chauvinistic. Open hostility to people from other countries is very rare. If there is any

chauvinism at all, it expresses itself through ignorance. Most British people know remarkably little about Europe and who lives there. The popular image of Europe seems to be that it is something to do with the French.

It is probably true that the British, especially the English, are more reserved than the people of many other countries. They find it comparatively difficult to indicate friendship by open displays of affection. For example, it is not the convention to kiss when meeting a friend. Instead, friendship is symbolised by behaving as casually as possible.

The British are comparatively uninterested in clothes. They spend a lower proportion of their income on clothing than people in most European countries do. Many people buy second-hands clothes and are not at all embarrassed to admit this. Of course, when people are 'on duty', they have to obey some quite rigid rules. A male bank employee, for example, is expected to wear a suit with a tie at work. But on Sundays the British like to «dress down». They can't wait to take off their respectable working clothes and slip into something really scruffy. In fact, the British are probably more tolerant of 'strange' clothing than people in most other countries.

The English people are great pet lovers. Practically every family has a dog or a cat, or both. They have special dog shops selling food, clothes and other things for dogs. There are dog hairdressing saloons and dog cemeteries. Millions of families have 'bird-tables' in their gardens. Perhaps, this overall concern for animals is part of the British love for nature.

The British are always talking about the weather. Unlike many others, this stereotype is actually true to life. But constant remarks about the weather at chance meetings are not the result of polite conventions. They are not obligatory. Rather, they are the result of the fact that, on the one hand, to ask personal questions would be rude while, at the same time, silence would also be rude. The weather is a very convenient topic with which to 'fill the gap'.

London

London is the capital and the largest city of the UK. Its population is about 8 and a half million. London is the country's main industrial and financial centre. London is also one of the largest ports in the UK. It is linked with all parts of the country by roads and railways. Besides, London is a great educational and cultural centre.

Traditionally London is divided into several parts: the City, Westminster, the West End and the East End. The heart of London is the City, its financial and business centre. There are a lot of banks, offices and firms there, including the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange and the Old Bailey. Few people live here, but over a million come to the City to work.

The City is famous for its oldest part, the Tower of London, which was founded by Julius Caesar and rebuilt in the 11th century by William the Conqueror. For many centuries the Tower has been a fortress. But at various periods of history it was also used as a Royal Palace, a prison, a royal treasury, a mint, an arsenal, a Royal observatory and even a Royal Zoo. It is now a museum of arms and armour and as one of the strongest fortresses in Britain, it contains Crown Jewels. The Tower is guarded by the famous 'Beefeaters' in the picturesque uniforms. The Ravens are also a part of its history. There is a legend that if the ravens disappear, the British monarchy will fall. That's why their wings are cut back and they are carefully guarded.

St. Paul's Cathedral designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the 17th century is one of the most famous churches in the world. It took Sir Christopher Wren 35 years to build this masterpiece. It is a beautiful building with many columns and towers. The magnificent classical structure is crowned by the dome. Inside the dome there are scenes from the life of St. Paul. Here too is the famous Whispering Gallery, where the words whispered into the stone wall can be heard right round the other side. There are many memorials in the Cathedral including those to heroes such as Wellington and Nelson.

Westminster is now the political centre of London. The Palace of Westminster is among the world's most famous buildings. It houses the British Parliament and is often called the Houses of Parliament. The Clock Tower of the Houses of Parliament is famous for its big hour bell, known as 'Big Ben'. Many government buildings, including 10 Downing Street, the official residence of Prime Ministers for more than 250 years, are nearby.

Opposite the Houses of Parliament there is Westminster Abbey where from the Norman times British monarchs have been crowned and later buried. Many other famous people are also buried in Westminster Abbey including statesmen, musicians and writers. In the Poets' Corner one can find the tombs of William Shakespeare, Byron, T.S. Eliot and others.

Buckingham Palace is the official residence of the Queen. London's most popular spectacle is the Changing of the Guard. It takes place in the forecourt and lasts about 30 minutes.

The West End is the name given to the area of central London which includes the main shopping areas of Oxford Street, Regent Street and Bond Street, and the entertainment centres of Soho, Piccadilly Circus and Leicester Square. It's the richest and most beautiful part of London. The best hotels, shops and restaurants, clubs and theatres are situated there.

Trafalgar Square, which is also in the West End, is considered to be the geographical centre of London. It was laid out in memory of Lord Nelson's great victory of 1805 in the Battle of Trafalgar. Nelson's Column in the middle of the square commemorates this national hero, who died during the battle.

There are a lot of museums and galleries in London. On the north side of Trafalgar Square there is the National Gallery, one of the finest art galleries in the world. The biggest museum in London is the British Museum. It contains a priceless collection of ancient manuscripts, coins, sculptures and is famous for its library.

The East End covers a wide area to the east of the City and is quite different from the other parts of London. There are many warehouses and factories producing clothes there. It is also one of those areas of London where working class people live.

The Royal Parks of London — St. James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens and Regent's Park — are London's lungs.

When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.

Famous British Cities and Towns

Great Britain is mainly an industrial country, and most of the people there live in towns and cities. London, its capital, is the most important city of Great Britain.

The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh. It is one of the most written-about and photographed cities on earth. Edinburgh is a delight to explore on foot; most of its attractions are contained within a compact central area. Edinburgh Castle is the natural starting-point for any visit. It is a famous fortress, which is situated in the centre of the city on a high hill called Castle Rock. The oldest parts of the building date back to about 1100. Visitors can also look round the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official residence in Scotland.

The main cities of Wales are Cardiff, its capital, Swansea and Newport. Wales is famous for its medieval castles that stretch like an iron chain across Wales. Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, is one of the youngest capitals of the world. It is a city of the 19th century and of the industrial revolution.

In the South part of England there are quite a lot of other famous cities. Brighton is the largest holiday bathing resort of the south coast. It is famous for its Indian-style palace, called the Royal Pavilion. It is a popular place for people to go for a holiday.

Windsor is famous for its castle, which is an official residence of the royal family. When the Queen is at the castle a special flag is put up to tell everybody. Some of the interior apartments are open to the public when the Queen is not in residence. In 1993 the castle was seriously destroyed by fire.

Bath is known for its natural hot spring, the only one in Britain, as well as for its old Roman baths, which remain the heart of the city. Another spectacular sight of Bath is the Abbey, which is called the 'lantern of the west' as it features more window than wall. The city is also famous for its annual agricultural shows and music festivals.

Oxford and Cambridge, known as Oxbridge, are famous for the oldest and most prestigious universities, founded in the 13th century. Most of their students are former public school leavers. The universities have over a hundred societies and clubs, enough for every interest one could imagine.

Stratford-upon-Avon lies at the very heart of England. It attracts people not only by its history and connection with William Shakespeare, but also by its wonderful nature and typical English character. Here you can visit Shakespeare's birthplace (it is a museum now), Grammar school which he attended, Holy Trinity Church where he was buried and, of course, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, which is a living memorial to the poet's work.

One of the famous cities in the centre of England is Nottingham which is known throughout the world for its associations with the legend of Robin Hood. At the heart of the Robin Hood legend there is his former home, the magnificent Forest of Sherwood, situated not far from Nottingham. The name of Robin Hood is closely connected with Nottingham Castle, which is in the city itself. At the foot of the Castle there is a statue of Robin Hood. Now it houses a Museum of Fine and Applied Arts and contains paintings by many famous artists.

Another famous city in the central England is York, which was once the capital of a Viking kingdom. It is known for its chocolate factories, the National Railway Museum and the Viking Centre, an archaeological museum where visitors are carried in «time-cars» through a vivid recreation of York under the Danish kings with the sights, sounds and even smells of the period.

Chester is the most historic city in north-west England. Attractively set on the River Dee, the city has an ancient history dating back to its days as a Roman port and a fortress. It is famous for its black-and-white buildings and a splendid red sandstone cathedral. Visitors to Chester can stroll along a reconstructed Victorian street and visit its unique galleried shops called Rows.

The main industrial cities in England are Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Newcastle. Liverpool is not only an industrial centre. First of all it is known all over the world as the birthplace of 'The Beatles'. In the Beatles Story Museum you can find everything about this famous group. Among other museums one can mention the Boat Museum and the branch of the Tate Gallery. There is also the largest Garden Zoo there. The city is famous for its sport, too. One of the biggest football stadiums in Britain is in Liverpool.

British Educational System

The basic features of the British educational system are the following: 1) education is compulsory from 5 to 16; 2) the academic year usually begins in September and runs to early July; it has 3 terms, divided by the Christmas and Easter holidays. In addition, all schools have a 'half-term holiday', lasting a few days or a week, in the middle of each term; 3) compulsory education is free of charge, but parents may spend money on educating their children if they want to; 4) there are three stages of education. Children move from the first stage (primary) to the second stage (secondary) at around the age of eleven or twelve. The third stage is 'further' education at university or college.

In 1988, for the first time in British history, a National Curriculum was introduced. The National Curriculum tells pupils which subjects they have to study, what they must learn and when they have to take assessment tests.

At the age of 5 children go to infant school which is the first stage of primary education. From 7 to 11 they attend junior schools, the second stage of primary education. In primary school

children are taught the so-called 3R's: reading, writing and arithmetic.

At the age of 11 children enter the secondary school. There are three types of state secondary schools in Britain. They are: grammar schools (for the most intelligent children), modern schools (for the less intelligent children) and comprehensive schools (for children of all abilities). Grammar schools lead towards higher education, and the others give general or vocational education to prepare students for employment or for further technical education. The regular secondary schools offer 7 years of schooling, with students from 11 to 18 years of age. The last two years (16–18) may be spent in a separate sixth form college, which concentrates on career training.

Between the ages of 14 and 16, pupils study for their GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams. Pupils must take English Language, Maths, and Science for GCSE, as well as half GCSE in a foreign language and Technology. In addition, they must also be taught Physical Education, Religious Education and Sex Education, although they do not take exams in these subjects.

Those who get good GCSE grades can stay at their school for another two years, if it has a sixth form and teaches the desired subjects, and then take 'A' level (Advanced Level) exams. Otherwise they have to leave their school and go to a sixth-form college or college of further education. Further education colleges have strong ties with commerce and industry and offer courses in engineering, cooking or hairdressing.

The GCE Advanced (A) level is normally taken after a further two years of study. Good 'A' level results in at least 2 subjects are necessary to get a place at a university. Universities choose their students after interviews. There are about 100 universities in Britain. The most famous of them are Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

About seven per cent of students go to private schools, where parents have to pay for their children. The most expensive private schools are called public schools. Most of these are single-sex boarding schools and students can live there during term-time.

British Holidays

There are fewer public holidays in Great Britain than in other European countries. They are: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May Day, Spring Bank

Holiday and Summer Bank Holiday. Public holidays in GB are called bank holidays, because banks, offices and shops are closed.

The most popular holiday is Christmas. It is celebrated on the 25th of December. Every year the people of Norway give the city of London a present. It's a big Christmas tree and it stands in Trafalgar Square. Central streets are beautifully decorated. The British send Christmas cards to greet each other. Most houses are decorated with holly and there is usually a Christmas tree in the corner of one of the rooms. Children hang their stockings on their beds hoping that Father Christmas will come with toys and sweets. Christmas is a family holiday. The family usually meets for a traditional dinner of turkey and Christmas pudding. Everyone gives and receives presents.

December the 26th is Boxing Day, which takes its name from the old custom of giving workers an annual present in Christmas boxes. Today this is the time to visit friends and relatives, or to sit in front of the TV.

New Year's Day is less popular in Britain than Christmas. But in Scotland, Hogmanay is the biggest festival of the year. After midnight people go 'first-footing'. They call at friends' houses, trying to be the first person through the door after midnight. The appearance of the first-footer is associated with luck that will be in the next year. The luckiest type of the first-footer is a tall, dark man.

Easter is also a religious holiday and is celebrated in spring. Most people go to church services on that day and give each other chocolate Easter eggs. On Easter Monday people make a one-day trip to the seaside or go to a football match or horse racing.

Besides public holidays there are festivals, such as Pancake Day, April Fool's Day, Halloween, Guy Fawkes Night, St. Valentine's Day and others.

Guy Fawkes Night, or more commonly, Bonfire Night, is a very popular festival. It goes back to the days of King James I when Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament. But he was discovered and arrested. Since that time, on the 5th of November, people burn the dummy of Guy Fawkes, made of straw, on a bonfire. On the 14th of February people celebrate St. Valentine's Day by sending a card to the one they love. Usually you don't sign your name. The person who receives the card has to guess who sent it.

These holidays are not days off. But they help to keep many traditions, which the British have always been famous for.

The United States of America

The United States is situated in the central part of the North American continent (except for Alaska and Hawaii). It is washed by the Atlantic Ocean in the east and by the Pacific Ocean in the west. In the north it borders Canada and in the south it borders Mexico. The United States is the fourth largest country in the world after Russia, Canada, and China. It has an area of about 10 million square kilometers and its population is over 270 million people. The great majority of the population is English-speaking Americans. There are many ethnic groups in the United States. The largest group is Black Americans (about 12% of the population).

The US consists of 50 states and the District of Columbia. It is a special federal area where the capital of the country, Washington, is situated. The largest state is Alaska. Hawaii is one of the smallest states; it is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. California, New-York, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio are the most heavily populated states, and Wyoming, Vermont and Alaska are the least populated states. The largest cities are New-York, Los-Angeles, Chicago, San-Francisco and Philadelphia.

The continental part of the USA consists of 4 geographical parts: 2 highland and 2 lowland regions. The highland regions are the Appalachian Mountains in the east and the Cordillera in the west. The Appalachian Mountains are ancient, strongly destroyed mountains of no great height. The valleys between them are rich in coal. It is the oldest mountain system in the US.

Unlike the Appalachian Mountains of the east, the Cordillera is not a continuous chain. It consists of several high ranges, which are the Rocky Mountains on the east and the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Range on the west. The Rocky Mountains are considered to be young, high, rough, and irregular in shape. Between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains there is the vast Central Plain and the Plateau of Prairies or the Great Plains.

The main rivers of the USA are the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Rio Grande, the Colorado, the Columbia and the Hudson River. The five Great Lakes, between the USA and Canada, include Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario. They are all joined together by short rivers or canals, and the St. Lawrence River joins them to the Atlantic Ocean. The region around the Great Lakes is known for its changeable weather. In the west of the USA there is another lake called the Great Salt Lake.

The USA has many natural resources, such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas. The economy of the US is based upon free enterprise.

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has no 'official' national language. The basic language spoken throughout the country is American English. The second language is Spanish.

American Climate

The climate of the US is temperate, with four distinct seasons. The USA is a very large country, so it has several different climate zones.

The coldest regions are in the north and north-east, where much snow falls in winter. The climate of Alaska is arctic.

All along the western coast, the temperature changes little between winter and summer months, while in the north central part of the country the temperature difference between winter and summer is very great – 36 degrees centigrade and even more. In all of the heavily populated parts of the United States the summer can be extremely hot, and particularly near the eastern seaboard it is very unpleasant. In the winter, on the other hand, it can be very cold.

The climate along the Pacific coast is much warmer than that of the Atlantic coast. Parts of the Pacific Coast are very wet. It is determined by the range of mountains. The west coastal territory is favourable for agriculture.

To the east, beyond the mountains, there is a vast dry region. This dry land extends from Canada to Mexico. But still farther east, in the Southeastern United States, you can find another wet region. On the whole the East is much wetter than the West. The climate of eastern and central America is 'continental' and more resembles Russia.

One of the most important geographical boundaries in the United States is the 50-centimeter rainfall line, which runs north and south almost through the middle of the country. East of the line, farming is relatively easy, and the population is relatively large. West of the line, there are irrigation systems, dry-farming, grazing and fewer people.

The south has a subtropical climate. The hottest places are Florida, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

Americans can gather several crops a year. They grow wheat and corn (in the north and the north-east), tobacco and cotton (in

the south-east), grapes (in the west). In the west cattle breeding is popular (sheep, cows). On the whole agricultural conditions are very favourable.

American People

America is a friendly country. People easily start talking with each other. When Americans meet people for the first time they usually shake hands. When they meet friends or relatives they haven't seen for a long time they usually kiss them. You can easily spot Americans abroad by their confident manners which come from their sense of individual freedom – their first value and belief.

America is a nation of risk-takers. The first Americans left the known of the Old World for the unknown of the New. They lived a hard life, and they had to be tough and self-reliant. So, self-reliance is usually the second national trait and moral value.

The first immigrants often faced difficult problems which needed new solutions. So they soon learned to experiment that led to another American trait, a sense of optimism. Most Americans are sure that every problem has a solution: a difficult problem can be solved at once; an impossible one may take a little longer.

The third national value is material wealth. Most Americans believe that wealth is a reward for hard work. And of course, they believe in the American Dream 'from rags to riches'. Americans are optimistic and persistent. 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try again' is their favourite saying.

Americans are always on the move. Moving about from place to place is such a common practice that most Americans take it for granted that they may live in four or five cities during their lifetime. American people love speed. They like to cook in microwave ovens, they prefer making phone calls to writing letters, and they like to travel by air rather than bus or train.

Americans are patriots. They are proud of their flag and display it in many places. National holidays such as Thanksgiving and Independence Day greatly contribute to this feeling. There is of course no typical American, but a certain stereotype does exist. In my opinion, Americans are open-hearted, straightforward, cheerful, relaxed and tough.

Main Cities of the USA

There are a lot of interesting and impressive cities in the USA but the heart of a nation is Washington, D.C., its capital.

Washington is smaller in size than the largest cities of the USA, such as New York, Chicago, Detroit or Los Angeles. The buildings in Washington are not very tall because no building must be taller than the Capitol. But in political sense Washington is the center of the country and the most important city of the United States.

The two main sights of Washington are the Capitol, which houses the two chambers of the legislature, and the White House, the official residence of the US President. Not far from the Capitol there is the Library of Congress, the largest library of the United States.

One can hardly find a park, a square or an open area in Washington without a monument or a memorial. The most impressive and the best-known of them are the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. There are also a lot of museums in Washington where you can see all kinds of things: famous paintings and sculptures, the dresses of Presidents' wives, the original of the Declaration of Independence, etc.

New York is the largest city in the USA and one of the largest cities in the world. Situated at the mouth of the deep Hudson River, it has always been the gateway to the USA. People who come to New York by sea are greeted by the Statue of Liberty. It has become a symbol of the city (if not of the whole country) and an expression of freedom to people all over the world.

The five boroughs comprising the city are Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Richmond. The center of New York is Manhattan Island. Numerous skyscrapers house banks and offices of American business. The Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, the United Nations building, Central Park, Times Square, Broadway all these world famous sights are situated here.

The map of Manhattan seems unusual to a European eye. It is crossed from north to south by avenues and from east to west by streets. Each avenue has either a name or a number. The streets are numbered. Only a few of them have names.

Wall Street in Manhattan is the financial heart of the USA and the most important banking center in the world. Broadway is the symbol of American theatre. The intersection of Broadway and Seventh Avenue forms world famous Times Square, where New Year's Eve celebrations always take place. Park Avenue represents luxury and fashion because of its large expensive apartment houses. Fifth Avenue is the most famous shopping center.

New York is often called the cultural capital of the USA. There are more than 800 museums in New York. One of the best known is the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Los Angeles is America's second largest city. Its name comes from the Spanish for 'the City of Angels', because the land was originally claimed for Spain by missionaries in 1781. It became an American city in 1850 when California became part of the United States. Los Angeles is a popular place because of its pleasant semi-tropical climate and beautiful Pacific coast. Almost everyone drives to work. There are about four million private cars in Los Angeles and the level of air pollution is one of the highest in the country. Suburbs like Hollywood, the center of the movie industry, and Beverly Hills, where famous actors and other celebrities live, have also made Los Angeles a tourist attraction.

The third largest city in the USA, Chicago, is on the shore of Lake Michigan. Chicago is called the Windy City because of the strong winds that blow through it. Chicago is an industrial center. The city has always attracted a diverse population of Americans and new immigrants in search of jobs. Chicago is also a railroad and trucking hub. Its airport, O'Hare international, is the busiest in the world.

San Francisco is the most interesting city in the United States. It occupies the northern end of a peninsula, so it is surrounded on three sides by water. San Francisco is famous for its bridges, fog and foghorns. The greatest attraction of San Francisco is the Golden Gate Bridge, which has become the symbol of the city. San Francisco is called the city of hills because it has 40 hills. It is famous for its picturesque cable cars, which climb these hills, and for its bright houses that cling to the hills along steep and narrow streets.

Of course, San Francisco has a lot of museums. But if you are tired of museums, you can visit Golden Gate Park, one of the largest man-made parks in the world, or go to Shakespeare Garden where you can find every flower and plant ever mentioned by the bard. San Francisco has a reputation as an intellectual, liberal, and slightly crazy city and his sights attract millions of tourists every year.

American System of Education

Americans have always believed in education, but in a special American way. The schools' first job was to turn millions of foreign children into Americans. Since they came from dozens of different countries, this was not easy. Schools had to teach the children to speak English, to love their new country, and to learn how to live in it. American schools were the 'melting pot' in which the

differences were forgotten. They were the ladder up which the poor could climb to a better life. Getting started on a successful career was the main aim. Most American parents still care less for book-learning than for a practical education that will help their child to find a job.

The 'right to education' has also meant that school system must provide for the needs of exceptional students, for example the blind, the deaf, and the persons with other physical or emotional handicaps. It is not at all unusual for school districts to provide instruction for children who are confined to the wards of hospitals or criminal justice facilities.

But perhaps most important of all is that American education never stops. If an elderly person wants to learn Italian art, or chess, he or she can go to the nearest college and take a course in it. And millions of people are doing just that.

However, many Americans are worried about their public schools. They see serious problems of violence and failure. They see too many children who never learn to write properly and too few college graduates who can speak a foreign language. The absence of national curriculum makes it difficult for children to transfer to new classrooms when their family moves from one city to another.

In recent years a Department of Education has been organized in Washington, D.C., but its function is still sharply limited. Perhaps in the future there will be a greater demand for the construction of a national curricular framework. And if this demand develops, the American system will experience a major transformation.

Nevertheless, we shouldn't forget the great successes of American education. Its best universities are among the best anywhere. American philosophers and economists are world-famous, and American scientists win more than their share of Nobel prizes.

American Holidays

The population in the USA is made up of people of different nationalities. Centuries ago they brought with them their native celebrations. Some holidays, which are marked in the United States were originated in America.

One of the greatest holidays is Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed. It proclaimed independence of the thirteen British colonies from Great Britain.

July 4th has become the greatest holiday since. In the past this day was marked with big parades and fireworks, but now it is celebrated more quietly. Cities and towns are decorated with flags on that day, there are parades in some places, but most people just go on picnics to the countryside.

Thanksgiving Day is marked on the fourth Thursday of November. On this day Americans honour the memory of the first settlers. It also marks the end of the harvest season. It is a long-standing tradition to make a festive meal with a fried turkey on this day.

Christmas is a religious holiday, which symbolizes the birth of Jesus Christ. By this day people decorate fir-trees with toys. Children wait for Santa Claus who comes to every house and brings them presents. Before going to bed, children leave their shoes to find in them what they want most of all the next morning. Some people, especially young people, like to celebrate it in restaurants and pubs, but most people prefer to stay at home with their family on this day.

Washington's Birthday is marked on February 22nd. George Washington led the American Army to victory in the War for Independence. Later he was elected President of the United States and was in office for 8 years (1789–1797). The national capital of the USA, a state and several towns are named after George Washington.

Lincoln's Birthday is celebrated every year on February 12th. Abraham Lincoln was President during the Civil War (1861–1865). He led the fight to keep the nation together and to free the slaves. His life ended tragically. He was killed in the theatre during the performance soon after the victory of the North. In honour of this great man a beautiful memorial has been built in Washington, D.C.

On New Year's Day people see the old year off and the New Year in. Most people stay up all night, even children. At midnight many people go outside and shout 'Happy New Year!' Some people set off fireworks and blow automobile horns which are heard everywhere. Everybody exchanges presents and good wishes. Offices, factories, banks and stores do not work on this day. In New York, a lot of people gather in Times Square, and watch the 'Big Apple' fall. It is a moving picture of an apple on the side of the big building in Times Square. Every New Year's Eve during the last few seconds before the midnight it starts to 'fall down' the building, and when it gets to the bottom it's the start of the New Year.

Labour Day is celebrated on the first Monday in September. On this day workers make a public show with marches, meetings, etc. It also marks the beginning of the school year and the end of summer.

Canada

Canada is a constitutional monarchy, an independent federal state and parliamentary democracy with two official languages and two systems of law: civil law and common law, a member of the Commonwealth. It is the second largest country in the world. Its area is 9,976,000 sq. km. Its population is about 30.1 million. The capital of Canada is Ottawa.

The country is situated in North America. It is bordered in the north by the Arctic Ocean, in the east by the Atlantic Ocean, in the south by the United States, and in the west by the Pacific Ocean and Alaska.

In the center there is a great plain the Canadian Shield. It has many lakes and is rich in minerals. More than half of the population lives in the St. Lawrence Lowlands, between Quebec and Lake Huron. West of the Canadian Shield as far as the Rocky Mountains are the Great Plains or prairies, fertile farming lands. North of the prairies are the Northwest Territories, wild areas where few people live. In the west are the Rocky Mountains, the Coast Mountains and the Selkirks; the highest peak is in the Yukon territory (Mount Logan, 19,850 feet). There are many rivers in Canada, and among them are the St. Lawrence, the Mackenzie, the Saskatchewan, the Columbia and the Yukon.

Climate, while generally temperate, varies from freezing winter cold to blistering summer heat.

Canada's natural vegetation can be best described as falling into five areas: the boreal forest, the forests of the southeast and the southwest, the grasslands, and the tundra.

Government. Canada is a federative state consisting of ten provinces and three territories. Canadian provinces are: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. There are three large northern territories – Yukon, the Northern Territories, and Nunavut, which mainly lie north of the 60th parallel.

Head of State is Queen of Britain, represented by Governor General. Head of Government is Prime Minister. The roots of Canada's parliamentary system lie in Britain. The Canadian

Parliament consists of the Senate (the Upper House) and the House of Commons.

The Senate is patterned after the British House of Lords. Its 104 members are appointed, not elected, and are divided essentially among Canada's four main regions of Ontario, Quebec, the West and the Atlantic Provinces. The Senate has the same powers as the House of Commons, with a few exceptions.

The House of Commons is the major law-making body. It has 301 members, one from each of the 301 electoral districts. The representatives are elected every five years.

But the real executive power is in the hands of the Cabinet under the Prime Minister. Strictly speaking, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet are the advisers of the monarch. However, the real power belongs to the Cabinet, and the Governor General acts on its advice. The Cabinet develops government policy and is responsible to the House of Commons.

Canada is a young country, but it has a legal system rich in tradition. Common law, which is used in all provinces except Quebec, is based on principles that were developed in medieval England. The principles of Quebec's civil law date back to the Roman Empire, and reflect many principles of French law. The supreme law of the country is Canada's Constitution. In 1982, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms became a fundamental part of the Canadian Constitution. The Charter sets out the basic rights and liberties of each person in Canada, which must be respected by all governments.

Languages. English and French are both official languages, but 20% of the population speaks only French. Tension between French-speaking Quebec and the other nine provinces where English is the majority language remains high.

Economy. Since the Second World War more people have worked in manufacturing than in agriculture. But farming is still important: cereals, dairy products, fruit, wool, fur. One of the most important industries is the manufacture of wood pulp and paper. In the XX century Canada became an industrial country with highly developed agriculture.

Largest cities. The largest cities are Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary.

Main Cities of Canada

Ottawa. It is the capital of Canada. Ottawa is a great example of a metropolitan city It has lots of banks, big skyscrapers and

embassies. The symbol of Ottawa is its Parliament buildings. It's really worth seeing. The buildings are home to the House of Commons, the Library of Parliament, the Hall of Honour, the Senate, and the impressive Peace Tower. In summer you can watch the Changing of the Guard Ceremony on the hill. You won't see much difference between this ceremony and equivalent one in England. In Ottawa you can take the Amphibus – the bus that not only rides on the streets, but also can float on water like a boat. In the city one can see the residence of the Canada's Governor General. It's a big beautiful building. There are a lot of other interesting places in Ottawa. They include the National Museum of Canada, which has collections representing Indian and Eskimo culture; the Public Archives of Canada; Royal Canadian War Museum; the Design center; Royal Canadian Mint and others. You can see Ottawa University with classes for English- and French-speaking students.

Montreal. It is situated in Quebec – the French part of Canada. It really looks like France: lots of narrow, small streets, cafes, and other things typical for France. It combines modern skyscrapers and XIX century mansions in a unique mixture. It's usually called 'Paris of the Western Hemisphere'. The most interesting part of the city is the Notre-Dame de Montreal that is known as the most beautiful church in North America. The Basilica of Mary Queen is nearly half-size replica of St. Peter's in Rome. The Royal Place – is the oldest place in Montreal. In the eastern part of Montreal you can see Olympic Park with its famous tower that close resembles the one that is in Pisa, Italy (the leaning one). One can take an elevator and go up this tower. Near the leaning tower there is a special place, where different animals and plants survive in their natural conditions.

The city's first subway, called the Metro was opened in 1966. Montreal is Canada's most important port. It is the chief manufacturing centre of Canada. It has a number of large libraries and several theatres. It is the seat of McGill University (English-speaking), the University of Montreal (French-speaking) and several colleges. There are many museums in the city and among them are the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Archaeology and History, Wax Museum and others.

Toronto. It is the capital and the largest city of Ontario, and is located on the north shore of Lake Ontario. It is one of the chief Great Lakes ports. The city is famous for its CN Tower – the biggest tower in the world – 553 m in height. From the tower you

can observe the whole city. The most interesting thing about the tower is its glass floor. As you walk, you can see what is under you. The Canadian National Exposition, held here annually features industrial and agricultural exhibitions and also contains an amusement park area.

The city is an artistic and musical center, with the Art Gallery of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music. The Royal Ontario Museum is famous for its collection of dinosaur bones and for its Oriental exhibits. The University of Toronto, Ryerson Institute of Technology, and York University offer advanced educational facilities.

Quebec. It's difficult to call Quebec a city. It very much looks like a town – but is still the capital of the province of Quebec. There is Saint-Anne Church there. It has a cyclorama (a big picture screen that is round) – the biggest cyclorama in the world, on which the last days of Jesus Christ are painted.

Quebec is a city for tourist – there are lots of squares, monuments, souvenir shops, small houses, and museums. It is the only city in North America that still retains a wall around it that was used to defend it from enemies. There is a very interesting big castle there – the Chateau de Frontenac.

Australia

Australia is an island continent located in the Southern Hemisphere. It is washed by three oceans and four seas. It is bounded on the north by the Torres Strait and the Timor Sea, on the east by the Coral and Tasman seas, and on the south and west by the Indian Ocean. The continent and the island of Tasmania and a number of smaller islands make up the Commonwealth of Australia.

It is independent federative state and the member of the Commonwealth headed by the British Queen. The population of the country is 18,000,000. The capital of the country is Canberra. Australia occupies 7,687,000 sq. km and is almost as large as the continental US. It is twice the size of Western Europe. It is about 25 times larger than Britain and Ireland. It is the sixth largest country in the world. Australia is the world's smallest, flattest, and driest continent. It is the biggest island and the smallest continent in the world.

Australia's main regions are the ancient western plateau, which covers more than half of the continent; the central plains; the Great Dividing Range in the east, which rises to 2,230 m high

(Mount Kosciusko); the Eastern coastal plain, where most of the large towns are; and the tropical northeast coast. The centre of the continent is taken by the deserts: Great Sandy Desert; Great Victoria Desert: Simpson Desert. There are few rivers and lakes in Australia. The best-known river is the Murray (2600 km). The longest is the Darling (2740 km).

Australia is in the southern Hemisphere, so the seasons are the other way round. Summer is from December to February, autumn is from March to May, winter is from June to August, and spring is from September to November. Most of the country weather is characterized by clear skies and low rainfall. The climate of Australia ranges from the tropical regions of the Northern Territory to the cool temperature conditions in the southeast (Victoria, Tasmania), where it frequently snows in winter. The tropical northern region has only two seasons: a hot, wet season with rains in February and March, and a warm, dry season.

There are six states and two territories in Australia. Two territories and their capitals are Northern Territory (Darwin), and Australian Capital Territory (Canberra). The states and their capitals are New South Wales (Sydney), Western Australia (Perth), Tasmania (Hobart), the state of Victoria (Melbourne), South Australia (Adelaide), and Queensland (Brisbaine). New South Wales is the first state in Australia. It has the biggest population, it is most industrialized and is a leader in agriculture. Its population is about 6 million people. 60 per cent of it lives in its capital, Sydney.

The largest state is Western Australia, but it is very sparsely populated: its population is about 1.7 million people. Queensland is the second largest state. Its population is 3.2 million people. The state of Victoria is the smallest.

Government. Head of state is Queen of Britain. The Queen is represented by Governor General and six State Governors. Head of government is Prime Minister. Federal Parliament is a legislative body. It consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 76 Senators, elected for 6-year terms. The House of Representatives consists of 148 members elected every three years. Each state and territory have their own local government. Each state is headed by a governor, has its executive, legislative and judicial systems, modeled on those of the federal government. Each territory has its own legislative assembly.

Languages. English and Aboriginal languages are state languages. There is no Aboriginal language, which is spoken by all

Aborigines. There are many different tribal languages. But many Aboriginal languages are dying nowadays, that's why an Aboriginal language is taught as a second language to Aboriginal children living in the cities.

Economy. Australia is one of the ten foremost countries in terms of its level of economic development. Agriculture and mining industry are highly developed. Australia exports beef, lamb, wool and wheat. The country is self-sufficient in food. The country is rich in minerals such as lead, copper, iron ore, gold silver, tin, uranium and others.

Big cities are Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbaine, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Darwin.

Canberra

Canberra is Australia's federal capital. Established as part of Australia's federation, Canberra houses the national parliament, federal government departments, the High Court of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, and several other important institutions.

Canberra is comprised of five large "town centres" that lie in the valleys of the Canberra region. These are Central Canberra, Belconnen, Woden, Tuggeranong and Queanbeyan (actually in New South Wales). For tourists, Central Canberra is the only major area of interest, but the presence of the other centres will explain why the size of Canberra's population seems so out of proportion with its low-built appearance.

Canberra is very different from most Australian capital cities. Firstly, it is relatively young (it was established in 1927), and secondly, its planned development has excluded the presence of buildings on any surrounding hilltops, or that are over fifteen stories high. Thus visitors may be slightly under-awed by Canberra, but don't just turn around. Explore the sites and you will realize that Canberra is a far more pleasant place than it is usually given credit for.

There are more than 30 Australian artistic and cultural institutions in Canberra, ranging from the Australian War Memorial to Parliament House, surmounted by a colossal stainless steel flagpole and set in 23 hectares of gardens.

The city has wide open spaces and many parks and gardens, with the impressive architecture housing the national institutions set in astonishingly well-groomed surroundings, so that you can

pad barefoot through the grass from the National Gallery to the National Library, peacefully admiring the gum-trees.

It's also fun to note that the 'mall' running between the War Memorial and Parliament looks familiar. This is because much of Canberra was designed by a US Architect and the mall in Canberra is reminiscent of the mall in Washington, D.C., specifically the reflecting pool between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial.

Canberra is also known for its spring festival, Floriade, when the parks and gardens surrounding Lake Burley Griffin explode with colourful displays of massed tulips and other blooms. The city, with its many parklands, is especially beautiful in spring and autumn.

Sydney

Sydney is the gateway to Australia. It's one of the most attractive cities in the world and it was voted the Number One Convention City in the Asia Pacific Region for 2000. But no introduction to Sydney would be complete without paying tribute to one of the world's great harbours.

Sydney Harbour is the heart and soul of the city. It provides spectacular views, ferry transportation and a variety of recreation options to the city's four million residents. Its banks are home to the iconic structures of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Each of the areas along its 20-kilometre stretch offers a different perspective on this major port. Darling Harbour is flash and tourist-friendly, the North Shore suburbs are refined and trendy, and the various Sydney Harbour National Park areas provide a welcome break from the hustle and bustle of the city. The best way to experience Sydney Harbour is from one of the many cruises departing from Circular Quay.

Sydney is a major centre of culture and the arts, and a mecca for world class sport and entertainment. There is fabulous shopping, fine dining, natural beauty and the friendliest people in the world.

Sydneysiders always knew they lived in one of the world's great cities, but it wasn't until the 2000 Olympics that the rest of the world started to agree with this fact. Since the Games, Sydney has consolidated its position as one of the world's most enchanting cities. Hosting the 2000 Olympic Games has been a catalyst to a range of new and exciting venues as well as innovative and unique products for Sydney.

It might seem surprising that Sydney is not Australia's capital. The creation of Canberra in 1927 has not affected the view of many Sydneysiders that their city remains the *true* capital of Australia, and certainly in many ways it feels like it. The city has a tangible sense of history: the old stone walls and well-worn steps in the backstreets around The Rocks are an evocative reminder that Sydney has more than two hundred years of white history behind it.

Just imagine a place of distinctive sights and sounds and a city with spirit. It is a place in a legendary land that combines the best the world has to offer and that place is Sydney.

New Zealand

New Zealand is an Island Nation, situated between the Equator and the South Pole in the southern Pacific Ocean. It is situated the same distance east from Australia as London is from Moscow. The distance between the two countries is about 1600 kilometres. The countries are separated by the Tasman Sea. Its nearest neighbours to the North are New Caledonia, Fiji and Tonga.

New Zealand includes two main and a number of smaller islands. Each of the two main islands (North and South Islands) is hilly and mountainous. The main mountain ranges are on the South Island and include the Southern Alps, in which 20 peaks exceed 3000 metres. The highest peak is Mount Cook on South Island.

A volcanic plateau is in the center of North Island. There are thee active volcanoes in North Island, and the Rotorua district is known for its geysers and hot spring. Volcanic action also played a part in the formation of the islands, especially on the North Island, where the process still continues. Earthquakes are frequent there. As a result of the movement of these tectonic plates many mountains have been lifted above the lowlands or reduced. In 1991 an avalanche reduced the highest peak, Mount Cook, from 3764 metres to 3754 metres.

New Zealand has an oceanic climate, without extremes of heat or cold. Snow is common only in the mountains. The eastern lowlands include the driest and sunniest climates.

The population of the country is small, 3.6 million people. Three fourths of New Zealanders live on North Island. The largest center of population is Auckland. The capital of the country is Wellington.

New Zealand is an independent state and a member of the Commonwealth. The British monarch is the head of state, represented by the Governor General. As in Great Britain, the legislature is called the Parliament. In New Zealand the Parliament consists of a single chamber, the House of Representatives. Its members are elected every three years. There are 120 members in the House of Representatives. The leader of the party in power becomes the prime minister, who heads the formal Executive Council. There are 38 government departments in the country. Most ministers have charge of more than one department.

The Parliament seats in Wellington in the building, which is called the Beehive because of its form. The prime minister's residence in Wellington is known as Vogel House.

New Zealand's dairy industry is considered to be the most efficient. The export of dairy products is the largest in the world despite the country's small size and population. Other industries are textiles, machinery, fish, forest products. Agriculture is highly industrialized. New Zealand is often called the sheep farm of Great Britain.

The largest cities of the country are Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch.

English and Maori are the official languages, also English is the main language.

New Zealand's Main Cities

People (85 per cent) of New Zealand live in the cities and towns. Early in the twentieth century the four cities Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin shared leadership.

The largest city of New Zealand is Auckland. It is a modern city and the industrial and commercial port of the country. More than one million people live there. Twenty per cent of the population is Maori and Polynesian. The city was established in 1840 as the capital of the British colonial government. It was officially made a city in 1871. The city has an art gallery, zoological gardens, the Auckland War Memorial Museum with its outstanding Maori collection, and the University of Auckland, which was founded in 1882. There are forest, farms, beaches, thermal pools and geysers near Auckland. Auckland remained the capital until it was replaced by Wellington.

Wellington is the second largest city and a main port. It is situated on the southern coast of North Island. The population of the city is about 200,000 people. It is the seat of the government

and a large administrative centre. It is a transport link between the islands. It was settled by the group of British immigrants in 1840. They called it Nicholson after the captain of their ship. Wellington is the third capital of New Zealand: the first capital was Russel, then – Auckland, and in 1865 Wellington became the capital of the country. The most striking features of the city are its winds and constant danger of earthquakes. Its nickname is 'the windy city', because it is situated on the crossroads of the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea. Several high office buildings were specially constructed to withstand earthquake shocks. In general Wellington is a city of two- and three-storeyed houses.

It is a commercial and cultural centre of the country. The Victoria University of Wellington and Wellington Teachers Training College are located in the city. The Alexander Turnbull Library is famous for its collection of New Zealand materials. Wellington is the home of the New Zealand Orchestra. There is the National Art Gallery in the city.

Christchurch is the largest city of South Island. It is the main commercial and industrial city of the island. It is a marketing centre for the agricultural products. There are industrial plants and factories for the production of machinery, rubber tyres, electric goods and shoes. The population of the city is 300,000 people.

The heart of the city is Cathedral Square, where one can see the Anglican Cathedral. There is the University of Canterbury, Canterbury Museum, McDougall Art Gallery, botanical gardens and the fields of Hagley Park in the city.

Dunedin is located on South Island. It is the second largest city of South Island. The city was founded in 1848 by Scottish Presbyterians as a Scottish free church settlement. It was called Dunedin for the Gaelic word for Edinburgh and still conveys Scottish values. It is often called 'Edinburgh of the South'. Its population is 116,524 people. This region is rich in gold, timber and farming potential.

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ЕГЭ

ЕДИНЫЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ЭКЗАМЕН

Основная цель данного пособия — помочь учащимся быстро и качественно подготовиться к успешной сдаче части «Говорение» ЕГЭ по английскому языку.

Пособие содержит 16 глав, охватывающих всю тематику общения, определяемую требованиями ЕГЭ. В нем представлено более 40 образцов тематических монологических высказываний, а также свыше 30 диалогов.

Завершающие книгу тексты о странах изучаемого языка помогут учащимся расширить свою лингвострановедческую компетенцию и показать на экзамене уровень информированности в социокультурной области.

Авторы пособия — победители национального проекта «Лучший учитель России» Елена Сергеевна Музланова и Елена Ильинична Кисунько — являются официальными экспертами ЕГЭ по английскому языку.

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