ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ 2016 г МУНИЦИПАЛЬНЫЙ ЭТАП.

7 - 8 классы

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| **READING COMPREHENSION** |

**Time: 20 minutes.**

**Task 1. Read the text below. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C or D in your answer sheet.**

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE COLOUR?**

Colours do not exist. When your eye receives light, it sends messages to your mind. And your mind translates these messages into colours which vary according to the wavelengths of the light. You are all aware of the strange tricks your mind can play on you. It’s not surprising that when it translates your eyes’ messages into colours, it adds other messages. Colours become linked with memories, associations, emotions and natural body reactions. Green begins to mean trees and leaves; red subconsciously reminds you of fire.

Perhaps this is why, over the centuries and throughout the world, colours have been given special significance and magical properties. Every colour has a superstition associated with it. The great abstract artists of this century studied the psychological effect of colours. And recently scientists have begun to discover that colours can deeply influence our lives. Here are some of the meanings that old wives and contemporary science have attributed to basic colours.

RED – the colour of fire. Red is usually associated with passion. If red is your favourite colour, your heart rules your life.

YELLOW – the colour of sun. Yellow is a joyful colour, and it is associated with fertility (плодородие) because of harvest.

GREEN – the colour of trees and leaves. Green is always thought of as a harmonious colour, because it symbolizes growth in nature. It is a peaceful colour which can make you feel calm and rested.

BLUE – the colour of sky. Blue is a spiritual colour, and it is normally associated with the mind. If this is your favourite colour, you are either spiritual or very intellectual – or both.

BLACK AND WHITE – these are not actually colours, but to most people black symbolizes death and evil, white means innocence and good. But in many oriental countries, black is good and white is for widows and the devil.

It’s all in your mind!

**1.** What happens when our mind translates eyes’ messages?

A we can see shades

B we receive an image of the surrounding world in colours

C we see light

D we define colours

**2.** When and where have colours been given special significance and magical properties?

A in the medieval Italy.

B over the centuries and throughout the world.

C in ancient Greece.

D It during the 18th century throughout the world.

**3**. What sort of character do you have when red is your favourite colour?

A aggressive.

B egocentric.

C impulsive.

D outgoing.

**4**. Why has green always been considered to be a harmonious colour?

A because it symbolizes birth and the beginning.

B because it is associated with the family tree.

C because it symbolizes growth in nature.

D because it effects our mind in a sedative way.

**5**. What do black and white colours usually symbolize?

A death (black) / reincornation (white).

B temptation (black) / innocence (white).

C happiness (black) / depression (white).

D evil (black) / good (white)happiness (black) / depression (white).

**Task 2. Look at the ten sentences below about the history of a letter. Read the text to decide if each sentence is true or false, according to the text. If it is true, mark A on your answer sheet. If it is false, mark B on your answer sheet.**

**6**. Nowadays using email is more popular than writing letters.

**7**. In the past letters came to us by means of different transport, passing through the hands of many people.

8. A hundred years ago an envelope in a postbox was quite an unusual thing.

**9**. In ancient times “letters” were brought by post-scooters.

**10**. In ancient times postmen had to memorize the letters.

**11.** In Mexico the people knew by the postman’s hat whether the message he was carrying to the capital was good or bad.

**12**. Post runners sometimes had other duties besides carrying letters.

13. In Mexico post runners have always carried fish with them.

**14**. Post runners in Mexico could travel very fast for long distances.

**15**. Writing and sending a letter has always been a very difficult task.

**From the History of a Letter**

We receive a lot of emails every day. It has become such a usual thing. It’s a fact that people have stopped writing letters. It is going out of date. Just imagine only a hundred years ago we looked forward to an envelope in our postbox. And it came to us in many trains, it flew through air, over the mountains and seas, it passed through the hands of many people. It is so simple to send emails today that people never remember that it was once a very difficult and special task.

In ancient times “letters” were brought by runners – men who could run fast and far – and the “letters” they carried were not written, but were told to a receiver. Postmen in those days had to have a good memory, and they had to be honest. This was especially important: the “letter” often had important secrets in it, it had to reach only ears of the receiver and without any change in it. Post runners were met everywhere with respect and honour. Nobody was allowed to stop them or to do anything against them. History has many stories about runners and descriptions of what they did.

Traditions connected with the postal service were different in different countries. In Mexico, for example, after a battle the people knew by the runner’s clothes whether the message he was carrying to the capital was good or bad. If he had on a white belt and his long hair was tied with a red ribbon it meant that the battle had been won; if he came from the battle field with his hair untied, he carried the news that the battle had been lost.

Post runners sometimes had other duties besides carrying letters. Indian post runners in Mexico, where the postal service was very fast, were sometimes used to send – fish! Sea fish for a king’s table. The capital was four hundred kilometers from the sea.

**Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!**