



International English Olympiad
“Formula of Unity” / “The Third Millennium”
Year 2025/2026. Qualifying round
Tasks for grades R5–R6



The last day to send your answers is **November 13**.

All the information about the Olympiad and the instruction for participants: <https://www.formulo.org/ru/olymp/2025-lang-ru/>
and <https://www.formulo.org/en/olymp/2025-lang-en/>

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

1. (10 points) Fill in the gaps with one of the given words.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| [1] Please _____ the light off when you leave the room. | A) give |
| [2] She needs to _____ her coat on because it's cold outside. | B) get |
| [3] Can you _____ after my cat while I'm on vacation? | C) call |
| [4] I decided to _____ up eating sweets last year. | D) turn |
| [5] The plane will _____ off at 8 AM tomorrow. | E) go |
| [6] I'll _____ you back later, I can't talk now. | F) look |
| [7] Let's _____ out what time the movie starts. | G) put |
| [8] What time do you usually _____ up in the morning? | H) find |
| [9] They are going to _____ away for the weekend. | I) take |
| [10] When will you _____ back from your trip? | J) come |

2. (10 points) Answer the questions about the article “The First Thanksgiving” by National Geographic.

The First Thanksgiving

Native Americans and early settlers gave thanks together with this historic feast. On the fourth Thursday of November, people in the United States celebrate Thanksgiving, a national holiday honoring the early settlers and Native Americans who came together to have a historic harvest feast.

NATIVE AMERICANS

Long before settlers came to the East Coast of the United States, the area was inhabited by many Native American tribes. The area surrounding the site of the first Thanksgiving, now known as southeastern Massachusetts and eastern Rhode Island, had been the home of the Wampanoag people for over 12,000 years, and had been visited by other European settlers before the arrival of the Mayflower in 1620. The native people knew the land well and had fished, hunted, and harvested for thousands of generations.

THE SETTLERS

The people who comprised the Plymouth Colony were a group of English Protestants called Puritans who wanted to break away from the Church of England. These “separatists” initially moved to Holland. But after 12 years of financial problems, they received funding from English merchants to sail across the Atlantic Ocean in 1620 to settle in a “New World.” Carrying 101 men, women, and children, the Mayflower traveled the ocean for 66 days and was supposed to land where New York City is now located. But windy conditions forced the group to cut their trip short and settle at what is now Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

SETTLING AND EXPLORING

As the Puritans prepared for winter, they gathered anything they could find, including Wampanoag supplies. One day, Samoset, a leader of the Abenaki people, and Tisquantum (better known as Squanto) visited the settlers. Squanto was a Wampanoag who had experience with other settlers and knew English. Squanto helped the settlers grow corn and use fish to fertilize their fields. After several meetings, a formal agreement was made between the settlers and the native people, and in March 1621, they joined together to protect each other from other tribes.

THE CELEBRATION

One day that fall, four settlers were sent to hunt for food for a harvest celebration. The Wampanoag heard gunshots and alerted their leader, Massasoit, who thought the English might be preparing for war. Massasoit visited the English settlement with 90 of his men to see if the war rumor was true.

Soon after their visit, the Native Americans realized that the English were only hunting for the harvest celebration. Massasoit sent some of his own men to hunt deer for the feast and for three days, the English and native men, women, and children ate together. The meal consisted of deer, corn, shellfish, and roasted meat, different from

today's traditional Thanksgiving feast. They played ball games, sang, and danced.

Although prayers and thanks were probably offered at the 1621 harvest gathering, the first recorded religious Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth happened two years later in 1623. On this occasion, the colonists gave thanks to God for rain after a two-month drought.

THE MYTHS

Puritans are often thought of having silver buckles on their shoes and wearing somber, black clothing. Their attire was actually bright and cheerful (with no shoe buckles!). The Native Americans actually didn't wear woven blankets on their shoulders and large, feathered headdresses, even though some artworks portray this. And though today we might refer to the Puritans as "Pilgrims," the Englishmen didn't call themselves that.

NATIVE AMERICANS AND THANKSGIVING

The peace between the Native Americans and settlers lasted for only a generation. The Wampanoag people do not share in the popular reverence for the traditional New England Thanksgiving. For them, the holiday is a reminder of betrayal and bloodshed. Since 1970, many native people have gathered at the statue of Massasoit in Plymouth, Massachusetts, each Thanksgiving Day to remember their ancestors and the strength of the Wampanoag.

MODERN THANKSGIVING

In the 19th century, the modern Thanksgiving holiday started to take shape. In 1846, Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of a magazine called Godey's Lady's Book, campaigned for an annual national thanksgiving holiday. But it wasn't until 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln declared two national Thanksgivings; one in August to commemorate the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War, and the other in November to give thanks for "general blessings." It's the second one that we celebrate today.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [11] Why could Squanto help the settlers better than other Native Americans?
 - A) He spoke their language and had skills in communication with other settlers
 - B) He was the chief of the Wampanoag tribe
 - C) He was a skilled hunter and fisherman
 - D) He knew the local geography better than others
- [12] What was the main reason for the misunderstanding between the Wampanoag and the settlers during the harvest celebration?
 - A) Language problems
 - B) Cultural differences in hunting
 - C) Fear of war
 - D) Religious differences
- [13] Why did the peace between the Native Americans and settlers finish in one generation?
 - A) Because of land arguments
 - B) Because it lasted little time
 - C) Because of different ideas of the holiday
 - D) Because of religious conflicts
- [14] How did the first Thanksgiving celebration differ from modern Thanksgiving traditions?
 - A) It lasted only one day
 - B) The menu was completely different
 - C) There were no religious ceremonies
 - D) Children couldn't come
- [15] Why was the agreement between the settlers and Native Americans important?
 - A) It developed trade relations
 - B) It helped with money
 - C) It protected both groups from other peoples
 - D) It solved land problems
- [16] What was the most important motivation for the Puritans to leave Holland?
 - A) Religious problems
 - B) Problems with money
 - C) Political problems
 - D) They dreamed about traveling
- [17] Why is the modern idea of Thanksgiving difficult for the Wampanoag people?
 - A) They see it as a day of friendship
 - B) They have bad memories about that day
 - C) They don't understand the holiday at all

- D) They celebrate it in a different way
- [18] What was the most important help of Squanto for the settlers?
- A) Teaching them farming
B) Giving them food
C) Being translators
D) Giving money
- [19] What nationalities celebrate Thanksgiving today?
- A) Native Americans only
B) All Europeans
C) Local tribes
D) It is not given in the text
- [20] What is NOT true about how Puritans dressed?
- A) They wore bright clothes
B) They had silver buckles on their shoes
C) They did not wear black all the time
D) Their clothes were colorful

3. (10 points) There are 10 beginnings of small dialogues. Complete them. Choose the best answer for each situation from the list.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [21] — Have you heard that Anna wants to change her school?
— Shhhhhh! This information is not for everyone. Don't _____ .
- [22] — Should we invite Amy to join our project?
— Sure, she has a lot to _____ .
- [23] — Do you know why they left the city?
— _____ , they wanted to change their life.
- [24] — Why are you so relaxed? You behave _____ !
— Keep calm, we cannot do anything in this situation
- [25] — Get up and tidy your room.
— I don't want to, today I am _____ .
- [26] — It was a big mistake to lie to Mr. James. Now we have so many problems.
— It's a pity. But we shouldn't _____ .
- [27] — I want to get an A and go to the party instead of preparing...
— You can't _____ .
- [28] — Any plans for today?
— No, let's _____ .
- [29] — How many cups of coffee have you had? You're _____ .
— Just a few, about 5 or 6.
- [30] — The test was so easy!
— Do you think so? I think it wasn't a _____ .
- A) Piece of cake
B) Spill the beans
C) A couch potato
D) Bring to the table
E) Have your cake and eat it too
F) As cool as a cucumber
G) Chew the fat
H) In a nutshell
I) Cry over spilt milk
J) Full of beans

4. (5 points) Find lexical mistakes in these sentences. There is only ONE wrong word in every line. Write it down without correcting this mistake.

For example: I really like this soup, it's awful! - The wrong word is «awful». So you write in the answer sheet: awful.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [31] I make my homework every evening after school, but sometimes I forget to do it.
 [32] She decided this problem very quickly. It took her 15 minutes.
 [33] She is very interesting in learning English and Maths, so she spends much time in the library.
 [34] My friend is accurate and always keeps things clean. I am proud of him.
 [35] He is not a liar. He always says the truth when people ask his opinion

5. (5 points) Find ONE extra word in every sentence which is not necessary and makes this sentence wrong. Write it down into the answer sheet.

For example: I don't not like it. - The extra word is «not». So you write in the answer sheet: not.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [36] I have been living in this city for 5 years ago.
 [37] After we will finish his project, we plan to take a vacation.
 [38] The book, which I bought it yesterday, is very interesting.
 [39] I would like to go to the Paris, I have never been there before.
 [40] She is really enjoys reading books in her free time, especially on Sundays.

6. (10 points) Unscramble the words. All of them are connected with famous people or famous places. Then match each place/name with one fact from the list that describes this phenomenon.

For example:

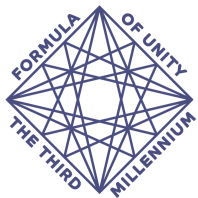
1) *II Qneel Etbahsilta - Queen Elizabeth II*

The fact: A) She ruled the country for 70 years.

So you write in your answer sheet: 1A.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| [41] lrioawlcsehr | A) This author could have become a famous biologist. Besides painting, the future writer was deeply interested in biology, particularly fungi and lichens. |
| [42] rdaolhllda | B) Thanks to this person, a new concept appeared in literature — nonsense. It is his/her books that are called nonsense literature. |
| [43] klpiingrdyarud | C) In the Middle Ages, people believed that the wizard Merlin created this monument. |
| [44] aalnxermdaneilaeln | D) Initially, this writer's famous book was called «Charlie's Chocolate Boy». |
| [45] pterortbexait | E) The nickname of this place is «Tinseltown». |
| [46] ngehenstoe | F) This monument is named after New York's attorney, who had visited the area in 1885. |
| [47] rshmotreuounm | G) This person is the youngest one who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. |
| [48] flasniagralla | H) This monument «opens» once a day. |
| [49] bdrigetowre | I) This landmark is located on the border between Canada and the United States. |
| [50] hlodwoyol | J) This writer said that the main character of his most famous book appeared thanks to a real bear living in London Zoo. |



International English Olympiad
“Formula of Unity” / “The Third Millennium”
Year 2025/2026. Qualifying round
Tasks for grades R7–R9



The last day to send your answers is **November 13**.

All the information about the Olympiad and the instruction for participants: <https://www.formulo.org/ru/olymp/2025-lang-ru/>
and <https://www.formulo.org/en/olymp/2025-lang-en/>

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

1. (10 points) Fill in the gaps with one of the given words.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| [1] The company had to call _____ the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. | A) against |
| [2] She plans to bring _____ her children with strong moral values. | B) up |
| [3] We need to carry _____ all our plans despite the difficulties. | C) forward |
| [4] They decided to hang _____ all their old family photos. | D) through |
| [5] They are planning on moving _____ a new spacious flat. | E) after |
| [6] Many people turn _____ their former friends during the conflict. | F) off |
| [7] Scientists put _____ a logical argument, but nobody believed. | G) down |
| [8] Could you look _____ my plants while I'm on vacation? | H) without |
| [9] It's impressive how she can go _____ sleep for days. | I) onto |
| [10] The car started to break _____ on the highway. | J) into |

2. (10 points) Answer the questions about the article “Is AI Making Us Smarter Or Just More Reliant on Technology?” by Krish Desai.

Is AI Making Us Smarter Or Just More Reliant on Technology?

Picture this. You're staring at a blank screen, unsure how to start an essay or solve a tough math problem. In seconds, AI can generate the answer, explain the process, and even make it sound better than you could on your own. So, you are left with a question: do you attempt the work yourself or use AI to “help” expedite the process?

Let me backtrack a bit. Imagine this same scenario just a mere 3-4 years ago, where AI models were not well-known at all. You would have forced yourself to finish that essay, although it would have made the process take many hours longer.

Many people think that AI has caused students and people in general to become “dumber”, as everywhere, it feels like skipping the struggle is just a click away. Now, we have to ask ourselves the million-dollar question: Is AI technology actually harmful to us, and making us “dumber” compared to the AI-less generations? Or are we simply using our resources to our benefit?

What is AI?

This term has been a big buzzword in society for the past year or so, but many people do not know the extent impact of AI on society and how it even works.

So what even is AI? You are probably well aware of ChatGPT as a form of AI, but in reality, AI has many more uses, and you probably use it every single day without even realizing it.

AI, short for Artificial Intelligence, is basically technology that can “think” in ways that usually require human intelligence. At its core, AI relies on algorithms and massive datasets to “learn” patterns and improve its accuracy. Machine Learning trains systems to improve over time without being programmed for every single outcome. It explains why ChatGPT has such a range of vocabulary!

Think about when Spotify suggests your next favorite song. That's AI. When Netflix somehow knows exactly what show you want to binge next.

That's AI too. Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant all rely on AI to understand your voice and respond like a person would. Even Snapchat filters that turn you into a dog or make your face swap with a friend? Yep, that's AI. Even your for you page on social media uses AI as it adapts to what you like to watch, as you may have already recognized.

And it doesn't stop there. Cars like Tesla use AI to detect pedestrians and drive themselves on highways. Banks use it to catch fraud in real time.

Even doctors are using AI to scan medical images and detect diseases earlier than humans can. And of course, tools like ChatGPT can write essays, solve math problems, or explain things in seconds.

The Benefits of AI: Smarter, Faster, More Efficient

There is no denying that AI has boosted productivity in ways we could not even imagine a few years ago. Tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and AI-assistants allow businesses to thrive, and people earn new skills quickly, generate ideas, and solve problems at lightning speed. AI can even code full apps now.

In fact, if used properly, AI actually improves the potential to make us smarter. It can open up pathways for things not possible before.

We know AI is more efficient than any other technology readily available, but did you know to what effect?

AI has the power to significantly boost our economy exponentially. A 2023 McKinsey report found that generative AI could add up to \$4.4 trillion annually to the global economy. Contrary to what you have thought, using AI actually helps students with writing assignments if used in the correct manner. A Stanford study showed that students using AI writing tools improved their draft quality by nearly 30% compared to those without it.

Even in everyday life, AI is making processes much faster. According to GitHub, programmers using AI assistants like Copilot completed coding tasks 55% faster than those working alone. In other words, instead of replacing work, AI is amplifying it. With the right balance, people can use AI to learn quickly, reduce busywork, and, as a result, achieve more as a person.

The Risks: Over-Reliance and Lost Skills

It's hard to imagine what the drawbacks are of technology that adds \$4.4 trillion to the global economy, but in reality, there are many drawbacks. With AI so available, people may skip the struggle that comes with real learning. Struggle is often where the deepest understanding is built. The hour spent solving a math worksheet, or the struggle to finish an essay without help.

Over time, this reliance could erode critical thinking and creativity, leaving people dependent on technology rather than building skills themselves. Nowadays, students are breaking crucial study habits since they have been using AI as a fallback plan, and this attitude carries on to how they act/react in adulthood.

We've seen this kind of shift before. Calculators made complex math quicker, but also caused some people to lose basic arithmetic skills. GPS helps us get anywhere instantly, but many can't read a map anymore. AI could have a similar effect on memory, problem-solving, and even originality if we lean on it too heavily.

A study shows that AI technology has a very significant impact on people, eventually leading to dementia in their old age. As a result, dementia is progressing and appearing at a younger age than ever.

Final Verdict: Is AI Making us Smarter?

AI is not making us inherently dumber. It is simply a tool, and like any tool, its value comes from the way we use it.

AI is redefining what intelligence looks like in a world where information and technology are abundant and rapidly changing. Yes, in some instances, we are losing skills that have defined us for years. However, this comes with a valuable trade-off: being able to have exponentially higher amounts of capabilities and achieve more as people.

If we rely on AI to do all the heavy lifting, we risk losing the struggle that builds critical thinking and creativity. It all depends on whether we let AI think for us or let it push us to think better.

Maybe the better question isn't "Is AI making us smarter or dumber?" but "What kind of thinkers will we become in an AI-driven world?" Humans have never been "dumb" when using new and improved tools. We have always adapted to the tools available, from fire to the printing press to the internet. AI is just another tool in the rapidly developing society.

The real challenge is not resisting it or surrendering to it, but learning how to integrate it into our lives without losing the parts of thinking that make us human. If we can strike that balance, then AI WILL be the reason we find success.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [11] What is the main concern about AI's impact on human intelligence according to the article?
 - A) AI will replace human completely
 - B) People may lose critical thinking skills due to over-reliance
 - C) AI will make humans physically weaker
 - D) AI will cause widespread unemployment
- [12] Why does the author argue that AI can actually make us smarter?
 - A) Because it can solve problems faster than humans
 - B) It provides access to more information
 - C) It helps us learn new skills more efficiently
 - D) AI can replace human thinking completely
- [13] What analogy does the author use to illustrate the potential negative impact of AI?
 - A) Comparing AI to the invention of the wheel
 - B) Drawing parallels with the introduction of calculators and GPS

- C) Comparing AI to the printing press
- D) Linking AI to the industrial revolution
- [14] According to the article, what is the key to using AI effectively?
 - A) Using AI for all tasks to maximize efficiency
 - B) Avoiding AI completely to preserve human skills
 - C) Finding a balance between AI use and independent thinking
 - D) Delegating all creative tasks to AI
- [15] Why does the author mention dementia in the context of AI?
 - A) To show that AI causes mental illnesses
 - B) To highlight potential long-term cognitive effect
 - C) To scare readers about AI's dangers
 - D) To prove that AI makes people forgetful
- [16] What is the author's perspective on the role of struggle in learning?
 - A) Struggle is unnecessary in the age of AI
 - B) Struggle helps build deep understanding
 - C) Struggle should be avoided for efficient learning
 - D) Struggle makes learning more enjoyable
- [17] How does the author view AI in terms of human evolution?
 - A) As a threat to human survival
 - B) As just another tool in human development
 - C) As a replacement for human intelligence
 - D) As the end of traditional learning methods
- [18] What is the primary benefit of AI according to the article?
 - A) It makes people smarter automatically
 - B) It increases productivity and efficiency
 - C) It eliminates the need for education
 - D) It replaces human creativity
- [19] Why does the author discuss historical technological advancements?
 - A) To show that AI is the most important invention
 - B) To prove that AI is dangerous like previous technologies
 - C) To demonstrate how humans have adapted to new tools
 - D) To argue that AI is different from previous technologies
- [20] What is the central question the author poses about AI's future impact?
 - A) Will AI replace human jobs?
 - B) How will AI change the nature of human thinking?
 - C) Will AI make humans lazy?
 - D) Can AI solve all human problems?

3. (10 points) There are 10 beginnings of small dialogues. Complete them. Choose the best answer for each situation from the list.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [21] — Are we _____ about the deal?
— Not really. Mike doesn't support us.
- [22] — Any updates?
— A few. Let me bring you _____ .
- [23] — Would you rather start with this game or that one?
— I'd prefer the first one. We barely know anything about each other, so we should _____ somehow.
- [24] — The figures show that we are losing our profit. Any ideas?
— Let's _____ . We need extreme changes.
- [25] — Do you trust the investor? It's a brand-new company.
— That's why we can rely on them, they are _____ of mobile industry.
- [26] — Our plan has failed! What a bad luck...
— Don't worry. In this business, new products always _____ .
- [27] — Do you believe in our success?
— No doubts! Our start-up is a complete _____ on the market.
- [28] — Do you want to be aware of all the details?

- Sure, please keep me _____ .
- [29] — I don't see any other options to boost our skills, everything has been used more than twice.
— Let's breathe in and out and _____ .
- [30] — When do we launch the project?
— We have to _____ on it in 5 days.
- A) In the loop
B) Push the envelope
C) Up to speed
D) Crash and burn
E) On the same page
F) Think outside the box
G) Break the ice
H) At the cutting edge
I) Get the ball rolling
J) Game changer

4. (5 points) Find lexical mistakes in these sentences. There is only ONE wrong word in every line. Write it down without correcting this mistake.

For example: He is so intelligent: he knows the rules of behavior and norms of etiquette. - The wrong word is "intelligent". So you write in the answer sheet: intelligent.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [31] On the one hand, I totally disagree with his opinion. On another hand, I could understand his choice, if I were the victim.
- [32] If someone calls, tell hello. You'd better be polite when clients call.
- [33] Such a nice cabinet! Your previous office was a complete disaster: a lot of unnecessary furniture and dust everywhere.
- [34] Our ex-principle must have been a nice guy, but he didn't get on well with some employees.
- [35] What a disgusting situation! They don't know how to behave themselves. However, I'm not going to teach them.

5. (5 points) Find one extra word in every line which is not necessary and makes this sentence wrong. Write it down into the answer sheet.

For example: I don't not like it. - The extra word is "not". So you write in the answer sheet: not.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [36] When I was a child, I was used to go swimming on Sundays. But then, when I grew up and changed my hobbies, I stopped doing it. Now am not fond of swimming at all.
- [37] I know that the Smiths have sold their house. It's an old news. Tell me something more interesting!
- [38] If I had influenced on them, we wouldn't have any problems now. I should have done it another way.
- [39] Don't make me to say it again! I can't stand such situations!
- [40] I'd like to listen to your opinion one more time. I deeply respect it, but I am totally disagree.

6. (10 points) Unscramble the words. All of them are connected with famous people, places or cultural concepts. Then match each place/name/concept with one fact from the list that describes this phenomenon.

For example:

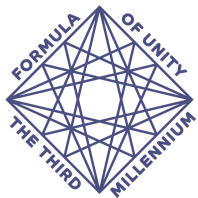
1) II Qneel Etbahsilta - Queen Elizabeth II

The fact: A) She ruled the country for 70 years.

So you write in your answer sheet: 1A.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- | | | |
|------|------------------|--|
| | | A) It is a metaphor, comparing a group of people with an object and describing a blended society. Its origin refers to a famous play. |
| [41] | eshaarkepes | B) This person's most famous role is based on a series of books about wizards |
| [42] | ptomgnitel | C) The first visitor of this place was a botanist. |
| [43] | meradricaname | D) This person's date of birth provokes a lot of questions and debates. |
| [44] | bobithno | E) This concept has its roots in the American Revolution when perseverance and dedication to work was one of the main values. |
| [45] | ebecqu | F) This place revived an old recipe |
| [46] | olicroelmwlvver | G) This person is strongly associated with creating a written constitution and great changes in the government and the state's regime. |
| [47] | feralddclifanie | H) This place was created to be a decoration but then turned out to be popular among tourists. Now it's a famous landmark. |
| [48] | sinnbeve | I) This landmark is located on the border between Canada and the United States. |
| [49] | hiutirmusmbes | J) This American author managed to be published only once while being alive. |
| [50] | tehrcimetlaralgm | |



International English Olympiad
“Formula of Unity” / “The Third Millennium”
Year 2025/2026. Qualifying round
Tasks for grades R10–R11



The last day to send your answers is **November 13**.

All the information about the Olympiad and the instruction for participants: <https://www.formulo.org/ru/olymp/2025-lang-ru/>
and <https://www.formulo.org/en/olymp/2025-lang-en/>

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

1. (10 points) Fill in the gaps with one of the given words.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| [1] After mulling _____ the proposal for several days, the crew decided to accept the offer despite some concerns. | |
| [2] Although she had not practiced in years, she managed to brush _____ her Spanish skills quickly before the business trip. | |
| [3] It's important not to give _____ to peer pressure when making important decisions. | A) up |
| [4] It's becoming increasingly difficult to keep up _____ the rapid advancements in technology. | B) back |
| [5] The company had to make up _____ the inconvenience caused by the delayed delivery with a significant discount. | C) over |
| [6] Students often need to swot up _____ their grammar rules before taking important exams. | D) for |
| [7] Scientists hit _____ a groundbreaking discovery while conducting routine experiments. | E) across |
| [8] Many people mistakenly look _____ on those who choose unconventional career paths. | F) upon |
| [9] Despite his best efforts to come _____ as confident during the interview, his nervousness was obvious to everyone in the room. | G) on |
| [10] Unfortunately, the politician went _____ on his promise to reduce taxes after being elected. | H) with |
| | I) in |
| | J) down |

2. (10 points) Answer the questions about the article “Could the magic of memory manipulation ever become real?” by Andrea Tamayo.

Could the magic of memory manipulation ever become real?

In the world of Harry Potter, memories can be manipulated with the flick of a wand. Albus Dumbledore reels wispy memories out of his head and puts them in a Pensieve. If he later dunks his head in that magical basin, he can see his past experiences with lifelike clarity. Hermione Granger, meanwhile, uses the spell Obliviate to remove herself from her parents' memories to protect them from the wizarding world.

In real life, memories are not storable liquids or files that can simply be deleted from people's brains. “I find memory very difficult to define,” says André Fenton. This neuroscientist studies memory at New York University in New York City.

To make a memory, a person needs to experience something. This could be riding a bike, losing a tooth or playing with a pet. Then electricity courses through connections between the nerve cells, or neurons, in their brain, Fenton says. This electrical activity can strengthen those connections. The more exposure to an experience someone has, the stronger those connections become. These connections can also weaken over time, leading to forgetting.

The power to make someone perfectly remember or completely forget something is still mere fantasy. But some researchers have taken early steps to strengthen or weaken people's memories. That work could help people suffering from disorders like Alzheimer's. This is a disease in which people can lose their memories. Or it could help people with post-traumatic stress disorder. This PTSD is a condition in which people might suffer from memories they don't want to have.

Storing memories

Neuroscientist Robert Hampson is fascinated by the idea of the Pensieve. “I love to see the idea of being able to pull a memory, store it, look at it, examine it,” he says. Hampson studies memory at Wake Forest University School

of Medicine. That's in Winston-Salem, N.C.

He and his colleagues haven't found a way to store past experiences like leftovers in magical dishes. But they have found that giving tiny electrical zaps to people's brains could help them form stronger memories.

In one experiment, Hampson's team placed wires about as thick as a strand of hair in the brains of 17 patients with epilepsy. (The researchers chose patients with epilepsy because they often have wires placed in their brains to map and understand their seizures.) The wires recorded the electrical activity of brain cells in the hippocampus. That's a part of the brain that processes memories.

Patients then looked at a picture on a computer screen. A few seconds later, the screen showed that same picture, plus three different pictures. Patients were asked to choose the picture they had first seen. They repeated this process 100 times, then took a short break.

Afterward, patients were shown 100 more pictures. These included pictures they had seen in the first part of the experiment. There were also pictures they had never seen. The patients were asked to touch the picture they were most familiar with.

When we see a picture, electrical activity courses through our brains, says Hampson. But this electrical activity was different for every picture. Hampson's team studied the electrical patterns produced when nine patients saw pictures in their sample. Then, the researchers could use math equations to mimic the patterns.

The researchers applied tiny zaps that mimicked those electrical patterns to the other eight patients. In picture memory tests, the patients' memories for images paired with the small jolts improved by 35 to 40 percent. Their memory did not improve for pictures not paired with the zaps.

In the future, brain implants that deliver such tiny zaps might be used to boost memory. The researchers aren't sure when this tech will be ready for widespread use. "The first users would likely be people suffering from a disease such as Alzheimer's disease," Hampson says. "Or from a head injury that results in damage to the parts of the brain associated with memory."

Erasing memories

Other scientists, meanwhile, are looking into whether it's possible to help people forget certain memories. This research is still in its earliest stages. But experiments in animal cells suggest it might someday be possible.

When people sense things, such as the colors of a beautiful painting or the touch of a soft flower, that activates some neurons. This changes where in the cells many molecules are found. That affects how the nerve cells work and, in turn, how they connect to each other. Such altered connections encode, or store, the memory of the experience. The things we give more attention are more likely to be encoded.

But "you can interfere with that encoding," says Samuel Schacher. He is a retired neuroscientist based in New York City. He and his colleagues found they could manipulate memory encoding in an experiment with sea hare neurons.

The researchers worked with a circuit of three nerve cells. One was a motor neuron. That's a nerve cell that causes muscles to move. Connected to that motor neuron were two sensory neurons. Those nerve cells process information from the environment. By making molecular tweaks to those nerve cells, the scientists were able to erase the memory-storing connection between the motor neuron and one of the sensory neurons.

This hinted it could be possible to erase some memories while leaving others intact. And perhaps someday, new therapies could coax neurons into letting go of specific unwanted memories.

People with some mental health conditions might benefit from such memory wiping. Take people with PTSD. When someone has this condition, traumatic memories can cause their mind to link a neutral experience to a dangerous one, says Schacher.

"But you don't want to erase the fact that other behaviors associated with the bad event may be useful to remember," says Schacher.

While this science worked in sea hare cells, it's far from being used in people. In the meantime, there are a few medications and therapies that exist for helping people cope with traumatic memories, says Schacher.

Ethical questions

In some sense, "we've been trying to manipulate memories forever," says Fenton. For example, when we practice a sport, we are purposely strengthening our memories of how to move our bodies in certain ways. Likewise, if we choose not to study something, we allow ourselves to forget certain information.

But in each of these cases, we're manipulating our memories through lived experience.

Is it okay to make or erase memories instantly, no experience needed? "The ethics of that are very thorny," says Fenton. Our lived experiences — and memories of them — make us who we are. Changing a person's memories could, in some ways, cause them to be a different person, Fenton says. "We must proceed very carefully."

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

the article?

- A) Memories are stored as physical files in specific brain regions
 - B) Memory formation is based on electrical activity between neurons
 - C) Memories are encoded through chemical reactions in the bloodstream
 - D) Memory creation involves magical processes similar to those in Harry Potter
- [12] Why is the hippocampus particularly important in memory research?
- A) It is responsible for motor functions
 - B) It regulates emotional responses
 - C) It controls sensory perception
 - D) It processes and encodes memories
- [13] How did Hampson's team enhance memory in their experiment?
- A) By using pharmacological interventions
 - B) Through targeted electrical stimulation
 - C) With psychological training exercises
 - D) By rewiring brain connections surgically
- [14] What ethical concern is most significant regarding memory manipulation?
- A) Potential loss of personal identity
 - B) Risk of memory overload
 - C) Possible brain damage
 - D) Unintended memory enhancement
- [15] Why is selective memory erasure considered challenging?
- A) Due to the complexity of neural connections
 - B) Because memories are stored in a single location
 - C) Because memories are protected by biological barriers
 - D) Due to ethical restrictions on research
- [16] What was the key finding of Schacher's research with sea hare neurons?
- A) All memories can be completely erased
 - B) Specific memory connections can be manipulated
 - C) Memories can be transferred between individuals
 - D) Memory storage is independent of neural connections
- [17] Why are current memory manipulation techniques limited in their application?
- A) Treating memory disorders
 - B) Lack of technological advancements
 - C) Official ethical restrictions on research
 - D) Incomplete understanding of memory processes
- [18] What is the primary goal of memory manipulation research in medicine?
- A) Creating superhuman intelligence
 - B) Treating memory disorders
 - C) Enhancing academic performance
 - D) Improving athletic abilities
- [19] How does PTSD affect memory processing according to the article?
- A) It causes complete memory loss
 - B) It links neutral experiences to traumatic ones
 - C) It enhances all memory functions
 - D) It selectively erases traumatic memories
- [20] What is the fundamental difference between natural memory manipulation and scientific manipulation?
- A) Natural manipulation is more permanent
 - B) Scientific manipulation requires conscious effort
 - C) Natural manipulation occurs through lived experiences
 - D) Scientific manipulation can only strengthen memories

3. (10 points) There are 10 beginnings of small dialogues. Complete them. Choose the best answer for each situation from the list.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [21] — Are you sure about this new employee?
— Sure. He's _____. We'll hardly find anything similar to his prominent skills and experience.

- [22] — I've come up with a new plan.
— I hope this one is more effective than the previous event. Let me remind you that the last team-building activity didn't help us to _____ our huge team.
- [23] — I'm mad! The technology is useless!
— Keep calm and let's _____. We'll reconsider the wrongs.
- [24] — Are we meeting the deadline?
— Not really. It'll take some time to finish. It seems _____ ...
- [25] — The finance department signed a new contract.
— I hope it will _____ their and our interests.
- [26] — I'm looking forward to witnessing the results of our investment!
— Don't hurry. We've done so much, therefore the company will finally _____ and get the profit.
- [27] — You look suspicious. Good or bad news?
— To put it mildly, we are _____ disaster.
- [28] — There is a big lack of clues. Any ideas, colleagues?
— I have a hint! The photocopy of this document must be _____ that will lead to success.
- [29] — Our goal is to make our technology environmentally-friendly.
— Switching to an alternative energy source is going to be _____. Nobody has done it before. It's a big breakthrough.
- [30] — I've just talked with our new boss, such a big cheese! And so arrogant!
— Can relate. I've tried to have a small talk with him about his ex-subordinates, but he's _____. It's quite weird, to be honest.
- A) The missing link
B) Piece together
C) Hit pay dirt
D) In a class of his own
E) A hard nut to crack
F) Light years away
G) On the verge of
H) Back to the drawing point
I) A quantum leap
J) Bridge the gap

4. (5 points) Find lexical mistakes in these sentences. There is only ONE wrong word in every line. Write it down without correcting this mistake.

He is so intelligent: he knows the rules of behavior and norms of etiquette. - The wrong word is «intelligent».
So you write in the answer sheet: intelligent.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [31] I'm not sure of the efficiency of that nutrition system. Should I have cut down on sugar? Anyway, it's not relevant now.
- [32] If I were you, I wouldn't be so confident. You'd rather go to Pete's party. Otherwise, you'll face with some consequences of your choice...
- [33] If we compare these two actors, I'd choose the first one. Of course, Mike Jayson is not so popular... I mean, he is absolutely infamous unlike the second boy who has a huge audience.
- [34] I'm convinced that this is the solution everyone is looking for. How do you think, Milo? I'm waiting for your opinion.
- [35] Could you borrow me a book, please? I'll return it as soon as I finish the project. I'll be as careful with the book as you are.

5. (5 points) Find one extra word in every line which is not necessary and makes this sentence wrong. Write it down into the answer sheet.

For example: I don't not like it. - The extra word is «not». So you write in the answer sheet: not.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- [36] I want to have this paper be signed right now! I can't stand any delays and breaking the rules of our company!
- [37] Not until I read the book myself can I not truly understand its message. So let's postpone our talk.

- [38] Having been happened without any warning, the earthquake caused widespread panic among the residents. Consequently, we couldn't avoid having so many victims.
- [39] But for the Smiths' awareness, we wouldn't have had a chance to change our lives now.
- [40] Everything happened so fast, nobody was ready to cope with the aftermath. Even though it took place in 1956 year, it remains one of the most essential parts of our existence.

6. (10 points) Unscramble the words. All of them are connected with famous people, places or cultural concepts. Then match each place/name/concept with one fact from the list that describes this phenomenon.

For example:

1) II Qneel Etbahsilta - Queen Elizabeth II

The fact: A) She ruled the country for 70 years.

So you write in your answer sheet: 1A.

Each item must be entered in a separate field. 10 items = 10 fields in total.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| [41] jollsonckpocka | A) This modern linguist is associated with the birth and development of artificial languages and hierarchy |
| [42] rahanowldy | B) This English-speaking world's place is the champion of tides. |
| [43] lojnkeoch | C) This piece of art was created by a lawyer and later became the symbol of the whole country. |
| [44] chmonkymasao | D) Belonging to the Age of Enlightenment, this prominent person saw the human mind as a blank space, field that should be shaped by external factors. |
| [45] calurnbercetartahyd | E) Being located in the county of Kent, this human-made landmark is a must-see for every tourist. Its foundation is connected with the person named Augustine. |
| [46] kmersirnoty | F) This person is known for his/her innovation in painting: the technique of splashing paints onto the canvases. |
| [47] santsparbnnngeraledeht | G) Before this Australian sight was named after a pig and its children. But then it was renamed using a number and the «name» of Christ's students. |
| [48] gdsoathvkieeng | H) York's attraction can be easily distinguished: the statue of Emperor Constantine decorates the entrance. |
| [49] tveleptwoselas | I) This artist started the career with a can of soup. |
| [50] bunfdayofy | J) This «song» has many potential writers. It didn't manage to become common for the whole country. Some parts has their own «song». |