

**Задания для получения зачета по дисциплине
«Иностранный язык (английский)»**

Самостоятельная работа студента

**Задание: Прочитать и перевести представленный фрагмент текста.
Дать ответы на вопросы после текста.**

Перевод текста и ответы на вопросы представить в письменном виде

*Номер текста определяем по последнему номеру в зачетной книжке
(номер зачетной книжки и номер в студенческом билете совпадает).*

Text № 1. English Today

The modern world is becoming smaller all the time. Every day distances between different countries seem less. For this reason it's becoming more and more important to know different languages, especially English. One billion people speak English today. That's about 20% of the world's population. 400 million people speak English as their first language. For the one 600 million people it's either a second language or a foreign language.

English is the first language in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia and New Zealand. It is one of the official languages in Canada, the Irish Republic and the Republic of South Africa.

As a second language English is spoken in more than 60 countries. It is used by the government, businessmen and universities.

English is the language of politics and diplomacy, science and technology, business and trade, sport and pop music.

80% of all information in the world's computers is in English.

75% of the world's letters and faxes are in English.

60% of all international telephone calls are made in English.

More than 60% of all scientific journals are written in English.

To know English today is absolutely necessary for every educated person, for every good specialist. Learning a language is not an easy thing. It's a long and slow process that takes a lot of time and patience. But it's a must.

English is taught throughout the world and a lot of people speak it quite well. In our country English is very popular: it is situated at schools (sometimes even at nursery schools), colleges and universities.

Everyone will speak English soon - I'm sure of it. We all need to understand each other. To do that we need an international language, and that's English.

Answer the questions:

1. Why is it necessary to know English today?
2. English is a world language, isn't it,
3. How many people speak English?
4. In what countries is English the official language (one of the

official languages)?

5. Is English popular in Russia?
6. Is learning languages an easy thing?
7. When did you begin learning English?
8. How long have you been learning English?
9. Have you read any books in English?
10. Have you seen any films in English?
11. Have you ever visited an English-speaking country?
12. What other language would you like to know?

Text № 2. Great Britain

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated on the British Isles. The British Isles consist of two large islands, Great Britain and Ireland, and about five thousands small islands. Their total area is over 244 000 square kilometres.

The United Kingdom is one of the world's smaller countries. Its population is over 57 million. About 80 percent of the population is urban.

The United Kingdom is made up of four countries: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Their capitals are London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast respectively. Great Britain consists of England, Scotland and Wales and does not include Northern Ireland. But in everyday speech Great Britain is used in the meaning of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The capital of the UK is London.

The British Isles are separated from the Continent by the North Sea and the British Channel. The western coast of Great Britain is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea.

The surface of the British Isles varies very much. The north of Scotland is mountainous and is called the Highlands. The South, which has beautiful valleys and plains, is called the Lowlands. The north and west of England are mountainous, but the eastern, central and south-eastern parts of England are a vast plain. Mountains are not very high. Ben Nevis in Scotland is the highest mountain (1343 m). 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 mountains, the Atlantic Ocean and the warm waters of the Gulf.

The UK is a Parliamentary monarchy with a parliament and the Queen as head of State. Officially the Head of the state is the Queen (or the King). However, the power of the Queen in Great Britain is not absolute. She acts only on the advice of the ministers and Parliament. There is no written constitution in Great Britain. The main principles of British legislation are expressed in other documents, like "Magna Charta", "Habeas Corpus Act", "Bill of Rights", the Parliamentary Act which decided the position of the House of

Lords, the Judicature Act, etc. The British Legislation does not provide written guarantees of individual political rights.

Stream influence the climate of the British Isles. It is mild the whole year round. The UK is a highly developed industrial country. It produces and exports machinery, electronics, textile. One of the chief industries of the country is shipbuilding.

Answer the questions:

1. What are the main parts of Great Britain? What are their capitals?
2. How many islands is Great Britain situated on?
3. What is the official name of Great Britain?
4. What is the surface of the British Isles?
5. What is the highest mountain in Great Britain?
6. Which river is the longest one? Which one is the deepest?
7. Does the Gulf stream influence the climate of the British Isles?
8. What does Great Britain produce?
9. Who is the head of the state?
10. Where are the main principles of British legislation expressed?
11. Do you think that the Queen's power is absolute?

Text № 3. The United States of America

The United States of America are situated in the central part of the North American continent. Its western coast is washed by the Pacific Ocean and its eastern coast - by the Atlantic Ocean. The total area of the USA is over nine million square kilometers.

The population of the USA is more than 236 million people; most of the population lives in towns and cities.

The USA consists of three separate parts. They are the Hawaiian Islands, situated in the central part of the Pacific Ocean, Alaska separated by the Canadian territory and the rest major part of the USA. The states differ very much in size, population and economic development.

The USA is a very large country, so it has several different climatic regions. The coldest regions are in the north and north-east. The south has a subtropical climate.

The United States is a land of rivers and lakes. The northern state of Minnesota is the land of 10000 lakes. The longest rivers in the USA are the Mississippi, the Missouri and the Rio Grande. The highest mountains are the Rocky Mountains, the Cordillera and the Sierra Nevada.

The United States are rich in natural and mineral resources. It produces copper, oil, iron ore and coal. It is a highly-developed industrial and agricultural country.

There are many big cities in the USA, such as New York, Chicago, Los

Angeles, Philadelphia and others. The national capital is Washington, D.C. Its population is about 3,4 million. Washington was built in the late eighteenth century especially as the centre of government. It was named after George Washington.

The USA became the world leading country at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Answer the questions:

1. Where is the USA situated?
2. What's the total area of the country?
3. What countries does the USA border on?
4. How many states does the USA consist of?
5. What is the capital of the USA? What can you say about this city?
6. Can you name any other cities of the USA?
7. What do you know about climate and geographical position of the USA?
8. What does the USA produce?
9. Who is the president of the state?
10. What is the population of the USA?

Text № 4. Australia

Australia is lying south-east of Asia, between the Pacific and Indian oceans. It is the world's smallest continent which is almost completely surrounded by ocean expanses. Its total area is 7,682,300 sq. km.

The continent of Australia is divided into four general topographic regions: a low, sandy eastern coastal plain, the eastern highlands, the central plain, and the western plateau. Although Australia has a wide diversity of climatic conditions, the climate of Australia is generally warm and dry, with no extreme cold and little frost. It changes from comfortably mild in the south to hot in the central interior and north.

The total population in 1986 was about 16 mln people with the average population density of about 2 persons per sq. km. Most, Australians are of British or Irish ancestry. More than 99% of the population speaks English.

The capital of Australia is Canberra. Australia has a federal parliamentary government. The Australian federation was formed on January 1, 1901, from six former British colonies, which thereupon became states. The Australian constitution combines the traditions of British parliamentary monarchy with important elements of the US federal system. Powers of the federal government are enumerated and limited. The government consists of the British sovereign and the Australian Parliament.

Australia is the world's largest wool producer and one of the world's largest wheat exporters. The main sources of foreign earnings are wool, food and

minerals which also provide raw materials for home processing industry.

Answer the questions:

1. Where is Australia situated?
2. What's the total area of the country?
3. What is the capital of Australia?
4. What are four general topographic regions?
5. Is Australia a federal parliamentary?
6. What do you know about the history of the state forming of Australia?
7. What does Australia produce?
8. What is the population of Australia?
9. Who is the president of the state?

Text № 5. New Zealand

New Zealand is situated in the southwest Pacific Ocean on two large islands: the North Island and the South Island. Its total area is 268,112 sq.km. Less than 1/4 of the territory of the country lies below the 200 m contour line. The South Island is significantly more mountainous than the North Island. New Zealand has a temperate, moist ocean climate without marked seasonal variations in temperature or rainfall.

The total population in 1986 was about 3.3 mln people with the average population density of about 12 persons per sq.km. About 85 % of the population is classified as Europeans. Most of them are of British descent. English is the universal language.

The capital of New Zealand is Wellington. Like the United Kingdom New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy. Officially the head of the state is the British Queen (or the King) whose representative, the governor-general, is appointed for a five-year term. The government of New Zealand is democratic and modeled on that of the United Kingdom.

The economy of New Zealand has traditionally been based on pastoral farming. The last decades have seen a large expansion in the light industries. New Zealand draws many thousands of tourists to its shores because of the beauty, diversity, and compactness of its natural attractions.

Answer the questions:

1. Where New Zealand situated?
2. What's the total area of the country?
3. What is the capital of New Zealand?

4. What are four general topographic regions?
5. Is New Zealand a federal parliamentary?
6. What do you know about the history of the state forming of New Zealand?
7. What does New Zealand produce?
8. What is the population of New Zealand?
9. Who is the president of the state?

Text № 6. Canada

Canada consists of almost all of the North American continent north of the US except Alaska, Its total land area of more than 9 mln sq. km makes it the second largest country in the world.

Canada's topography is dominated by the Canadian Shield, an ice-scoured area covering country. Most of northern Canada has subarctic or arctic climates, with long-cold winters lasting 8 to 11 month, short sunny summers, and little precipitation. In contrast, the populated south has a variety of climatological landscapes.

The total population according to the census 1981 was about 24 mln people with the average population density of 2.8 per sq. km. English and French are the official languages of Canada and have equal status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all governmental institutions.

Canada is a constitutional monarchy. It is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and Queen Elizabeth II is the official head of the state. Although the Queen holds this high position, she doesn't rule. She serves as a symbol of British tradition, her representative in Canada is the Governor General, whom she appoints on the advice of the Canada Prime Minister. The Governor's duties are limited to symbolic, mostly ceremonial acts.

Canada is a federation of 10 provinces and 2 northern territories. The federal Parliament is made up of the House of Commons and the Senate. The leader of the party that wins the largest number of seats in a newly elected House of Commons is asked to form the government. The civil law follows English common law everywhere except in Quebec, where it follows the Napoleonic Code.

Canada is a world leader in the production of asbestos, nickel and different other elements forestry products, and ranks first in the world in export of minerals. Although no longer the foremost sector of the economy, agriculture is of major importance to the economy as a whole and still is basic in many areas. Canada is among the world's leading wheat producers and is second in the export of wheat.

Basically, Canada has a free-enterprise economy. A recurrent problem for Canada has been the dominant position of US corporations and investors.

Answer the questions:

1. What can you say about the climate of Canada?
2. What can you say about Canada's topography of the state?
3. What is the total population of Canada?
4. What is the official language of Canada?
5. What can you say about Canada as a federation?
6. Is Canada a member of the Commonwealth of Nations?
7. What is the total area of Canada?
8. What does Canada produce?
9. Who is the head of the state?
10. Do you think that the Queen's power is absolute?

Text № 7. Russia

Russia is one of the largest countries in the world. It occupies about one seventh part of dry land. The vast territory of Russia lies in the Eastern part of Europe and in the northern part of Asia. Its total area is over 17 million square kilometres.

Russia is washed by twelve seas and three oceans: the Atlantic, the Arctic, the Pacific. The northern and eastern coasts of Russia are washed by the White Sea, the Barents Sea and the Okhotsk Sea.

The land of Russia varies a lot from heavy forests to barren deserts, from high peaked mountains to deep valleys. Russia is located on two plains: the Great Russian Plain and the West Siberian Plain. The Urals is the longest mountain chain. It separates Europe from Asia.

There are various types of climate on the territory of Russia. In the south the temperature is usually above zero all year round. The climate of Siberia is continental: summers are hot and dry, winters are very cold.

Russia is a land of long rivers and deep lakes. The Volga River is the longest river in Europe (3690 km). It runs into the Caspian Sea, which is in reality, the largest lake in the world. The Baikal is the deepest lake in the world.

Russia is rich in natural resources. It has deposits of coal, oil, natural gas, iron ore, gold, nickel, etc.

Russia borders on fourteen countries, including the former Republics of the USSR, which are now independent states.

The population of Russia is about 150 million people.

Now Russia (the Russian Federative Republic) is a Presidential Republic. Today the state symbol of Russia is a three coloured banner. It has three horizontal stripes: white, blue and red. The white stripe symbolizes the earth, the blue one stands for the sky, and the red one symbolizes liberty. A new national emblem is a two-headed eagle. It is the most ancient symbol of Russia.

Russia has always played an important role in the world. It is one of the leading Powers.

Answer the questions:

1. Where were you born?
2. Where is Russia situated?
3. What kind of climate is there in the country?
4. Is Russia a very rich country? Give your reason.
5. What countries does the Russian Federation border on?
6. What kind of state is Russia now?

Text № 8. France

France is one of the most beautiful and romantic countries in the world. It's the place where many couples try to spend their honeymoon.

The capital of the country is Paris. The city itself is regarded as the place of interest. Its major sights are considered to be the national symbols of France, for example, the Eiffel Tower or the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Elysian Fields or the Louvre. Other Parisian sights include the Triumphal arch, Montmartre – the highest hill in the city, Moulin Rouge cabaret, the Temple of Glory – the place where all great men of France are buried, and finally the Sorbonne – one of the largest and most famous universities in the world.

Although Paris is the main city of France, it's not the only place where attractions can be found. There are lots of historic cities, interesting landmarks, museum, cathedrals, castles, theme parks in the country. One of the most beautiful architectural sights is the Palace of Versailles. This outstanding building is situated outside of Paris and it used to be the home for French kings and queens. The Palace is surrounded by magnificent gardens and fountains.

Another tourist destination is Arles. It is an ancient town on the Rhone River which features a full spectrum of possible sights. Tourists can attend La Chamber de Vincent there, which used to be the house of Vincent Van Gogh, a Roman amphitheatre which was built in the first century BC, the Theatre Antique where summer concerts are held and other interesting places.

The visitors of France are also fond of the region Provence. They say you can see the fields of lavender, vineyard valleys, lots of flamingos and sycamores in this region. Main sights of Provence include Pont du Gard – ancient Roman bridge, the Cathedral St-Sauveur, the studio of Paul Cezanne, and other places of interest.

The Lyon is the capital of gastronomy in France. People say that it offers the best French cuisine. Besides, the city of Lyon is full of beautiful constructions. The list of French sights is endless. Almost all cities in this country are worth visiting.

Answer the questions:

1. What is the capital of France?
2. What is the most famous place of interest in France?
3. Do you want to visit France?
4. What is the capital of gastronomy in France?

Text № 9. Germany

Germany is one of the most interesting and widely visited countries of Europe. It consists of 16 states, and its capital and largest city is Berlin. Tourists love visiting Germany as there is a great number of attractions in every part of the country. Berlin is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating capitals in Europe.

Perhaps, the most visited sight of the city is the Brandenburg Gate. It is the only surviving gate of Berlin and symbolizes the reunification of West and East parts of the city. The gate was built in the 18th century as the entry to the boulevard of Unter den Linden. Other sights of Berlin are the Reichstag building with its large glass dome, Potsdamer Platz, the Berlin Wall East Side Gallery, Treptower Park and many others.

Another attractive city for tourists is Dresden. It is a cultural center of Germany. One can find lots of museums, galleries, opera houses, churches, monuments and educational institutions there. The Frauenkirche or Church of Our Lady is among the most beautiful buildings of the city. It is a Lutheran church which was completely destroyed during the World War II and then restored. The church has a wonderful dome with a golden cross. Tourists simply love this architectural wonder and even the ex- President of the USA Barack Obama has once visited it. Other sights of Dresden are the Zwinger Palace, the Bruhl's Terrace, the royal church Hofkirche, the Academy of Fine Arts, The Pillnitz Castle, German Hygiene Museum, and many others.

The historic city in Germany is Lindau. It is the meeting point of Austrian, German and Swiss borders. The main part of the city is situated on the beautiful island in Lake Constance. Lindau is full of medieval half-timbered buildings, which made the city a popular tourist attraction. One of the most popular regions in Germany is Bavaria. People, who want to see a real fairytale castle, visit Neuschwanstein. It is a castle on a rugged hill in south-west of Bavaria. In fact, it is the most photographed building in Germany.

Answer the questions:

1. What is the capital of Germany?
2. How many states does it consist of?
3. What is the cultural center of Germany?
4. Do you want to visit Germany?

Text № 10. China

China is the one of the largest countries in the world. The total area of the country is over a million square kilometers. As for population, China is the first country in the world. Over one billion people live there. It means that one out of every five people in the whole world is Chinese. China is a great country, only it has aman-made object which is visible from outer space - The Great Wall.

China has a recorded history of nearly four thousand years. It was a monarchy till 1949 when Mao Tse Tung became a head of the state. Since that year China has been a Socialist Republic. In 1976 China started the Cultural Revolution. It finished in 1976, when Mao died.

And now China is in the hands of Deng Xiaping, who has given the country some freedom. Doors are now open to the rest of the world. And you can even come to China to study there. Some words about China's education system. First of all, all foreign students will have to share a room with one Chinese student, which is very common. Days start very early, so they'll have to get up at about six o'clock. There are morning exercises in the open air, and they will be invited to join. The breakfast is at about six thirty. The classes will probably be in English and Chinese, they begin at seven thirty. Lunch is at twelve, and then more classes until six. After school day students usually go to the cinema. In fact it's very difficult to get tickets. People also like to go for a walk, to play cards or just to sit outside talking. The air in the streets is not polluted, because there are few cars but literally millions of bicycles.

Chinese food is legendary that's why you can find it in most cities in the world, and people like it very much. If you want to visit China you'll have to get a visa. There are in fact many cities that you can visit with just the ordinary visa, and others that you need to get a visa from the local police station to go to. Now there is a very good train service and also an internal air service, but I think that it'll be better if you travel by trains because you'll see so much more of the country. And I also think that China is worth seeing. You'll never forget it if you visit it.

Answer the questions:

1. What is the capital of China?
2. How many people do live there?
3. Why is Chinese food legendary?
4. Do you like Chinese food?