Межрегиональная предметная олимпиада КФУ
Профиль «Иностранный язык (английский язык)»
Заключительный этап
2025-2026 учебныйгод

Максимальное количество баллов 100.

READING

Task 1.Read an interview about a well-respected gardener sharing his experience. For questions 1-8, choose the most appropriate answer A-D which fits best according to the text. Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet. You will earn 2 points for each correct answer.

When did you first become interested in gardening?

I started gardening at the age of 5; my mother gave each of us, my older sister and brother and me, a section of the garden which was ours to look after. I used to save my pocket money to buy seeds and bulbs and things to plant in my little patch and was really excited to watch the things I planted begin to grow. My brother and sister were never very interested and my mother used to do what needed to be done in the garden to keep it looking nice but it was really only me who had a real passion for gardening. I was quite unique in my family in that respect. I used to go out to the woods and countryside near where I lived and collect wild flowers when i was a child. Then when I got home, I would look up in books the names of the flowers I had found and press them and keep. On a good day I would find about twenty new flowers. At school I chose to study science and botany right up to the age of 18 and learnt a lot about plants.

And what do you like about gardening now?

I love being outside in the fresh air and seeing things develop and grow. I like planning in the autumn for the next year and imagining how it will look in the spring and summer. You never really know how it will turn out in the end and when it works out well it is very satisfying. In that way gardening can be very

rewarding. It can also be very challenging. You need to learn about different soil types and which plants grow best in which places. It is also important to know how big plants will grow and how quickly. And you have to consider which plants will go together with others. You have to be very patient to be a good gardener as you always have to wait a long time to see the results of your ideas and hard work. You usually have to wait months to see if something works or not. But in the summer there is nothing I like more than being outside in my garden with the beautiful flowers and their lovely smells and scents.

Are there any negative points?

It can be very physically demanding and there are times when the weather means you can't get outside and do things, which can be very frustrating. The winter months are obviously more difficult than other times of the year as there is still work to be done but not so much to enjoy, and working outside in winter is not as pleasant as at other times of the year. Have you ever grown fruit and vegetables? Yes, I have grown quite a lot of fruit and vegetables in the past. My husband and I love cooking and it is great to cook with home grown fruit and vegetables. More than anything else we use all our own herbs from the garden when we're cooking. It's wonderful to be able to go out and pick things like parsley, mint, coriander or rosemary from the garden for dishes we're making; it is the ultimate in fresh ingredients. For that reason, I have always had a herb garden. Most herbs have flowers so they look pretty in the garden and they smell nice too. They are also quite easy to grow and don't take up much space so you can grow them even if you have a small garden.

Have you ever won any prizes for your plants or flowers?

We live in a small village in the countryside and each year there is a flower show which I have taken part in. I've won a couple of times but I am not that interested in competitions. I don't think growing plants and flowers should be competitive. I enter the flower show each year because I want to support the village, and the spring flower show is a long established tradition which I think it is important to maintain.

What advice would you give someone who wants to start gardening?

Don't be too ambitious. I would say you should start with well-known plants that are easy to grow, and have a look at what grows in other gardens near you to get an idea of what sorts of plants suit the area you are in. The main thing is not to be impatient. You need to realise that it takes a long time to see the fulfilment of your work.

1 Why does she say she was quite unique in her family?

A She started gardening when she was younger than her brother and sister.

B She was the only one who really loved gardening.

C She had more money to spend on the garden than the others.

D Everyone else in her family disliked gardening.

2 Why did she collect wild flowers when she was a child?

A She liked being outside in the countryside.

B She wanted to do well in science at school.

C She enjoyed finding new flowers she hadn’t seen before.

D She wanted to have a big collection of dried flowers at home.

3 What does she mean when she says, ‘You never really know how it will turn out inthe end’?

A You can’t predict how successful your plans for the garden will be.

B You don’t know what the weather will be like.

C You can’t have a beautiful garden all the time.

D You don’t know exactly if the plants will grow.

4 Why does she think gardening is challenging?

A Sometimes your ideas don’t work out the way you planned.

B There is a lot to learn and think about.

C It takes a long time to plant new things.

D You have to spend time travelling around and looking at other people’s gardens.

5 Which of the following does she not say is a negative point of gardening?

A The weather controls when you can and can’t do gardening.

B It is hard work.

C Sometimes it can be boring.

D It is not nice to be outside when it is cold.

6 Why does she like growing her own herbs?

A She likes to use them when she is cooking.

B It is satisfying to see them grow.

C It is easier than going to the shops to buy herbs.

D She only has a small garden.

7 How does she feel about her village flower show?

A It is an out-of-date tradition and they shouldn’t do it anymore.

B She doesn’t like it because it makes gardening too competitive.

C She likes it because it is an opportunity to win prizes for her flowers.

D It is an important part of village life and should continue to happen every year.

8 What does she think is the most important quality to be a successful gardener?

A ambition

B patience

C physical strength

D scientific knowledge

Task 2. Read the first part of the article about hedgehogs. Then fill in the gaps with the appropriate part of the sentence. Write your answers in CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet. You will earn 2 points for each correct answer.

Recent scientific studies about hedgehogs have helped explain mysteries as varied as why hedgehogs 9)…….. , how they have survived on the planet for 30 million years, why they chew toxic toad skin and 10)…….. . As one of the most primitive mammals on the planet, the hedgehog has been helping geneticists understand evolutionary relationships among mammals and even 11)…….. . At Duke University, for example, scientists choose the hedgehog and 14 other species to study the lineages of mammals. They determined among other things that marsupials (e.g kangaroos) are not related to monotremes (the egg-laying platypus and echidna), 12)…….. . Such questions are not just academic. "If you are trying to trace, for example, the evolutionary steps of foetal heart development to better understand how foetal defects occur, it helps to 13) ……. , so that you can make accurate inferences about one mammal from another mammal's development " says researcher Keith Killian.

A) which had long been a subject of debate
B) uncover secrets of the human genome
C) what secrets they may hold about evolution
D) know which mammals are related
E) apply saliva to their entire bodies

Task 3. Read the second part of the article about hedgehogs. Then fill in the gaps with the appropriate part of the sentence. Write your answers in CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet. You will earn 2 points for each correct answer.

Adult hedgehogs eat just about anything they can find: insects, snakes, bird eggs, small rodents and more. Veterinarians trying to understand gum disease in domesticated hedgehogs

have concluded that the varied diet of wild hedgehog gives them more than nutrition – 14)……. . All hedgehogs also share the same defence mechanism: they retract their vulnerable parts – head, feet, belly- into a quill-covered ball, 15) ……. . Any perceived threat can make them roll up, including the approach of a biologist, so researchers have invented a new measurement for the animals 'ball length'. Young hedgehogs have a few extra defence strategies. 'One is to spring up in the air,' says hedgehog researcher Nigel Reeve of Britain's University of Surrey. 'A fox would get a face full of bristles'. They make a little squeak while they do it.' Evidence suggests that hedgehogs may also add unpleasant chemicals to their quills 16) …….. . In behavior that may be unique for a vertebrate, they chew substances laden with toxins and then 17)…….. . In one 1977 study, human volunteers pricked themselves with quills from hedgehogs that had coated themselves after chewing on venomous toad skins. The volunteers found those 18) ……. .

A) to make them even less appealing

B) apply frothy saliva to their entire bodies

C) the hard bodies of insects also scrape the hedgehogs' teeth clean

D) quills much more irritating and painful than the clean ones

E) using special skin down their sides and over their heads and feet

USE OF ENGLISH

Task 1. Replace each word in bold with the most suitable synonym

Example: This is a **0) beautiful** hat

0) a. **pretty** b. delicate c. fast d. hard

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

You will earn 2 points for each correct answer.

The first step was to(1) **alter** my surroundings. I needed a new, (2) **peaceful** place to think, away from the city's noise. I looked at a map to (3) **select** a walking (4) **route**. I chose one that followed the quiet (5) **border** of Silverwood Lake. It was not a (6) **common** choice for most hikers, which made it perfect.

The walk began easily, but soon the path became very (7) **tough** and steep. After an hour of climbing, I felt (8) **exhausted** and made a break. I tried to (9) **describe** the view in my journal: the calm water, the tall pines. It was truly (10) **intriguing**. As I sat, I made a decision to (11) **improve** this trip from just a walk to a real adventure, I would try to (12) **discover** the old fire lookout marked on my map.

I used my black marker to draw various landmarks I found on the way. Suddenly, a felt (13) **pure** happiness. There it was! A small, wooden tower. Any (14) **frustration** from the difficult climb disappeared completely. I had found my quiet place, and it was better than I had (15) **imagined**.

1. a. improve b. quit c. transform d. fix
2. a. calm b. gentle c. convenient d. dangerous
3. a. sketch b. pick c. reject d. forgive
4. a. location b. spot c. highway d. path
5. a. core b. course c. beach d. edge
6. a. strange b. poor c. simple d. usual
7. a. easy b. complicated c. long d. difficult

8. a. satisfied b. angry c. tired d. curious

9. a. collect b. explain c. write down d. remember

10. a. worthwhile b. ancient c. interesting d. giant

11. a. exchange b. realize c. upgrade d. reform

12. a. find b. pass c. restore d. reach

13. a. shy b. true c. clean d. modest

14. a. discomfort b. surprise c. pleasure d. sadness

15. a. ignored b. doubted c. dreamed d. invented

Task 2. Match the English idioms with body parts to their meanings. Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet. You will earn 2 points for each correct answer.

16. break someone's heart	A. think about something to solve a problem
17. go behind someone's back	B. be hypocritical
18. be two-faced	C. upset someone greatly
19. be all ears	D. do something secretly
20. use one's head	E. listen attentively

Task 3. Complete the spaces by finding one word which fits in all three sentences. Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet. You will earn 2 points for each correct answer. Please, be careful with spelling.

21) a) We aimed to _____ 400 miles before nightfall.

b) The light was so bright that I had to _____ my eyes.

c) He tried to _____ up his nervousness.

22) a) My knowledge of car engines is pretty _____.

b) Before you start working here you should have a short course in _____ computer skills.

c) The _____ problem in the company is the lack of investment.

23) a) I was all _____ in the house.

b) Time _____ will show who was right.

c) We can't leave him _____ because he is very depressed.

24) a) Be careful not to _____ your fingers on the broken glass.

b) Some scenes are _____ from the film.

c) We _____ our way through the forest.

25) a) The singer _____ a high note at the end of the song.

b) She _____ the tennis ball over the net.

c) He fell down and _____ his head.

26) a) Employees should take a _____ away from office equipment every hour or two.

b) In some countries if underage youngsters _____ the law the parents are held responsible too.

c) The teacher decided to _____ the ice and made a little conversation.

27) a) I must finish this painting while the _____ lasts.

b) I can't read when you're standing in my _____.

c) Some new information has come to _____ about the accident.

Task 4. Complete the following colour idioms. Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet. You will earn 2 points for each correct answer.

28)	Tom is the black …… in the family.	A)	look
29)	Jessica adores gardening; she has green ……..	B)	sheep
30)	Kate came back as brown as a …….. after her summer holidays.	C)	berry
31)	The teacher gave the student a black ……. and went on.	D)	lie
32)	My son is so honest, he would never tell even a white …...	E)	fingers