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РОССИЯ ГЛАЗАМИ СМИ

Учебное пособие по английскому языку
для студентов-бакалавров
факультетов иностранных языков педагогических вузов

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Содержание

Пояснительная записка	4
.....	
Unit 1. Culture	6
.....	
Unit 2. Economy	31
.....	
Unit 3. Education and Upbringing	57
.....	
Unit 4. Personalities	83
.....	
Unit 5. Science and Technologies.....	114
.....	
References	141

Пояснительная записка

Настоящее учебное пособие предназначено для использования в профессиональной подготовке студентов-бакалавров педагогического университета, обучающихся по направлению 44.03.05 Педагогическое образование, направленность Английский язык. Иностранный язык, в ходе реализации практического курса Коммуникативный практикум английского языка (IX-X семестры).

Пособие представляет собой сборник дидактизированных медиатекстов, источниками которых являются находящиеся в свободном доступе новостные сайты и различные Интернет-издания на английском языке (RT, сайт Министерства образования РФ и т.д.). Предлагаемые для работы тексты объединены в следующие тематические разделы: Культура, Экономика, Образование и воспитание, Выдающиеся личности, Наука и технология. В содержательном плане все представленные материалы носят русскоязычный характер, отражают различные аспекты жизни российского общества, детерминируемые его социально-экономическими и культурными проблемами и достижениями, а также формируют интерес будущих учителей к актуальной информации российской тематики.

В лингводидактическом отношении предполагается, что работа с текстовым материалом должна осуществляться на базе широко известного текстоцентрического подхода, который остается актуальным в иноязычном образовании и в

настоящее время. Англоязычный медиатекст как основа учебного процесса позволяет решить целый ряд лингводидактических задач: расширение словарного запаса, развитие иноязычной коммуникативной компетенции, развитие текстовой компетенции, формирование некоторых медиаумений и навыков. Для решения указанных задач предназначен сопровождающий каждый текст комплекс упражнений, который может выполняться как на аудиторных занятиях под руководством преподавателя, так и в процессе самостоятельной работы студентов над темой

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Unit 1. Culture

Text 1.1 St. Petersburg museum launches virtual exhibition on Africa

More than 100 works by Russian artists, exploring the continent's history and culture, feature in a new digital show

In celebration of Africa Day on May 25, 2024, the Russian Museum unveiled a virtual exhibition featuring more than 100 works by native artists inspired by the African continent.

This digital exhibition in St. Petersburg includes pieces created in Africa or that pay homage to its rich history, people, and the ancient cultural heritage of Egypt.

This innovative online resource builds upon the catalog of the 'Africa in the Works of Russian Artists' exhibition, which was originally presented at the Russian Museum in the summer of 2023 to coincide with the Russia-Africa Summit.

The virtual exhibition features works by renowned artists such as brothers Konstantin and Nikolay Makovsky, as well as graphic works by Prince Grigory Gagarin, Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin, and Zinaida Serebryakova. It also includes a unique collection of watercolor portraits by Stepan Alexandrovsky, which depict members of the first Moroccan embassy to the Russian Empire. "The theme of Africa intrigued Soviet artists throughout the 20th century, offering new readings and interpretations of the past and present of this mysterious continent," the museum's website says.

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, Russian painters, graphic artists, and sculptors made frequent visits to Africa, with

many drawn to the historical depth of Egypt and its ancient monuments, as well as the vibrant landscapes of Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco.

Task 1.1.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

To unveil	An artist who is originally from a particular place
A native artist	A painting of a person made using water-based paints
To be inspired by	To show respect or honor something
To pay homage to	Traditions, monuments, objects, and culture passed down through generations
Cultural heritage	A very famous and respected artist
A renowned artist	To show or reveal something for the first time
A watercolor portrait	To show or represent something in a picture or other form
To depict	To get ideas or motivation from something

Task 1.1.2 Fill in the gaps with the words and phrases from the list.

To unveil | a native artist | to be inspired by | to pay homage to | cultural heritage | a renowned artist | a watercolor portrait | to depict

1. The museum will _____ a new exhibition next month featuring contemporary art.
2. Many works in the exhibition _____ the beautiful landscapes of Africa.
3. The painting was created _____ the rich cultural traditions of the artist's homeland.

4. He is considered a _____ in the world of modern art.
5. The exhibition includes pieces by _____ who have lived and worked in the region for years.
6. The sculpture was made _____ the ancient monuments of Egypt.
7. She received an award for her stunning _____ of the local villagers.
8. The festival celebrates the _____ of the indigenous people through music and dance.

Task 1.1.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 1.1.4 Prepare and present short reports about people and countries mentioned in the text:

- Konstantin and Nikolay Makovsky;
- Prince Grigory Gagarin;
- Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin;
- Zinaida Serebryakova;
- Stepan Alexandrovsky;
- Egypt;
- Algeria;
- Tunisia;
- Morocco.

Task 1.1.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 1.1.6 Discuss the questions.

1. Why do you think the Russian Museum decided to create a virtual exhibition for Africa Day?
2. How do virtual exhibitions compare to traditional, in-person exhibitions? Which do you prefer and why?
3. What is your favorite art gallery or exhibition that you have visited, and what made it special?
4. Have you ever visited a virtual exhibition? What was your experience like?
5. Why might artists be inspired by the cultural heritage of Egypt and other African countries?
6. What types of art do you enjoy the most (e.g., painting, sculpture, photography), and why?
7. Why is it important for museums to celebrate cultural heritage and history from different parts of the world?
8. How important do you think it is for artists to have their work displayed in galleries?
9. What role do you think art plays in bridging cultural gaps between different regions of the world?
10. What is the most unusual or unexpected piece of art you have ever seen in a gallery?

Debate

Topic: "Artists should primarily draw inspiration from their own culture rather than exploring foreign cultures"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for native or foreign culture as a primary source of artists' inspiration.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. The Significance of Africa Day
2. Virtual Art Exhibitions: Pros and Cons
3. Famous Art Movements in Russia and Their Impact on Society
4. The Role of Museums in Preserving Cultural Heritage
5. The Influence of Africa on Soviet and Russian Art
6. The History and Significance of the Russia-Africa Summit
7. Art as a Tool for Cultural Exchange
8. Exploring Contemporary Art: Trends and Innovations
9. Women in Russian Art
10. Personal Experiences with Art: Visits to Galleries and Exhibitions

Text 1.2 Moscow hosts BRICS drama school festival

Theater students from around the world converged on the All-Russian Exhibition Center for eight days.

Dozens of aspiring actors from all over the world gathered in the Russian capital, Moscow, for the seventh annual BRICS International Festival of Theatre Schools. The event took place at the All-Russian Exhibition Center (VDNKh) as part of the Russia EXPO 2024.

Organizers turned VDNKh into a massive stage for students from different countries to show off their acting skills, while professional actors could share their experience. The centerpiece of the festival was Alexander Pushkin's 'The Tale of the Fisherman and the Fish.'

According to Dmitry Tomilin, the head of the festival, Pushkin’s story of an unfortunate fisherman and his three wishes was chosen for the universal message it carries. “The topic was not chosen by chance... Pushkin has been translated everywhere, everyone knows his works... Moreover, it is in sync with many epic literary works of other countries,” he said at a press briefing.

The festival program included a variety of workshops in acting skills, stage movement, and choreography, as well as performances by renowned Russian actors and singers.

The event culminated in a major final performance on June 8 in what the organizers dubbed a ‘let’s play together’ format, whereby actors from different countries performed en masse and interacted with each other in their own languages.

Organizing and hosting the BRICS drama school festival since 2017 has been the Institute of Theatre Arts. The festival has been envisaged as an innovative platform for public diplomacy based on intercultural exchange.

Task 1.2.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

To converge	The most important or main part of something
Aspiring actors	To match or go well with something
A massive stage	A meeting to give information to journalists
A centerpiece	A very large platform where performances take place
A press briefing	The way a country communicates and builds relationships with people in other countries
Stage movement	To come together from different places

Public diplomacy	The way actors move on the stage during a performance
To be in sync with	People who want to become actors

Task 1.2.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

To converge | aspiring actors | a massive stage | a centerpiece | a press briefing | stage movement | public diplomacy | to be in sync with

1. The _____ of the art exhibit was a sculpture by a famous artist.
2. People from all over the city _____ at the central park for the annual festival.
3. The dancers practiced daily _____ each other's movements for the performance.
4. The drama school held auditions for _____ who wanted to join the new play.
5. The concert was held on a _____ that took up half the stadium.
6. The mayor held a _____ to announce new city projects.
7. The ambassador used _____ to improve relations between the two countries.
8. During rehearsals, the director focused on improving the actors' _____.

Task 1.2.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 1.2.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names, events and realia. Explain their meaning, give short reports if necessary.

- the All-Russian Exhibition Center (VDNKh);
- BRICS International Festival of Theatre Schools;
- the Russia EXPO 2024;
- “The Tale of the Fisherman and the Fish”;
- Institute of Theatre Arts.

Task 1.2.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 1.2.6 Discuss the questions.

1. How do you think theater festivals like the BRICS International Festival help aspiring actors from different countries?

2. What role do you think cultural exchanges play in events like the BRICS International Festival of Theatre Schools?

3. What is your favorite play or performance you have ever seen, and what did you enjoy most about it?

4. In what ways can theater workshops in acting skills, stage movement, and choreography benefit aspiring actors?

5. How important is it for professional actors to share their experience with younger actors?

6. Have you ever participated in a theatre production, either on stage or behind the scenes? If so, what was your experience like?

7. What themes do you think are most important in theatre today, and why do they resonate with audiences?

8. Do you think events that feature international cultural works, like Pushkin's stories, can help bridge cultural gaps? Why or why not?

9. What role do you think theatre plays in society? Do you believe it can influence social change?

10. How might hosting international events like the BRICS drama school festival benefit the host country, both culturally and economically?

Debate

Topic: "Should countries invest in hosting international cultural festivals like the BRICS International Festival of Theatre Schools?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments either for or against hosting big international cultural festivals.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. History and Evolution of the BRICS International Festival of Theatre Schools

2. Alexander Pushkin's Influence on Russian and World Literature

3. Famous Russian Theatres and Theatre Schools

4. Innovations in Theater and Theater Education

5. The Intersection of Traditional and Modern Theater Practices

6. Multilingualism and Cultural Exchange in Theater

7. The Economic Impact of Hosting International Cultural Events

8. The Role of Technology in Modern Theater Productions

9. Online Plays and Digitalization of the Theatres

10. Future Trends and Challenges for Theater

Text 1.3 Putin orders reboot of Russian gaming industry

The president requested the government to consider the development of a domestically-produced gaming system.

President Vladimir Putin instructed the Russian government to weigh requirements for organizing production of both stationary and portable game consoles in Russia, according to a statement published on the Kremlin's official website. Aside from consoles, the president also called on the Cabinet of Ministers to consider developing a special operating system and a cloud system for delivering games and programs to users. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin was designated as the person responsible for overseeing completion of the task.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov explained that the president's order to consider the creation of a domestically-produced console is aimed at developing Russia's native gaming industry.

The Organization for Developing the Video Game Industry (RVI) presented a five-year roadmap to the government in February 2024 that laid out an 83-point program for developing video games in Russia. RVI said this year it planned to re-establish relations with various funds and organizations in international

gaming that had ties to Russia and establish ways to consistently support the development of video games inside the country. The organization also said the creation of a full-fledged game console was planned for 2026–2027.

Meanwhile, earlier, Russia concluded its first Games of the Future tournament, which took place in the city of Kazan between February 21 and March 3, 2024. The ‘phygital’ (physical + digital) format of the competition combined traditional sports and cybersports in a unique mix in 21 combined disciplines. They included phygital football, hockey, and basketball, as well as more traditional cybersports and high-tech contests such as drone racing, competitive programming, and robot battles.

The first ever iteration of the tournament involved more than 270 teams from 107 countries and was watched by a “global audience,” according to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko.

Task 1.3.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

Domestically-produced	To renew or rebuild relationships with others, typically after a period of separation or estrangement
To re-establish relations with	People from around the world who are potential viewers or participants in an event or activity
A full-fledged game console	Made or produced within one's own country
Cybersports	A complete and fully functional gaming device that can run a variety of games and applications

A roadmap	To provide continuous assistance or help over a period of time without interruption or wavering
Global audience	Competitive gaming or esports, where players compete in video games
To consistently support	A plan or strategy that outlines the steps or stages to achieve a particular goal or outcome

Task 1.3.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

Domestically-produced | a roadmap | to re-establish relations with | a full-fledged game console | cybersports | global audience | to consistently support

1. The foundation aims to _____ talented students in pursuing careers in game development.

2. The organization aimed to _____ various international partners to strengthen its global presence.

3. The company presented a detailed _____ outlining its strategy for the next five years.

4. The event attracted a _____ with viewers from over 50 countries tuning in online.

5. Their latest release is a _____ that supports multiplayer gaming and high-definition graphics.

6. He has been training hard for the upcoming _____ tournament in Seoul.

7. The government's plan is to promote _____ goods to boost the national economy.

Task 1.3.3 Write 7 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 1.3.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning, give short reports if necessary.

- the Cabinet of Ministers of the Russian Federation;
- Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin;
- Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov;
- The Organization for Developing the Video Game Industry (RVI);
- Games of the Future tournament;
- Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko;
- Kremlin;
- ‘phygital’ (physical + digital) format of the competition.

Task 1.3.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases and names.

Task 1.3.6 Discuss the questions.

1. Do you enjoy playing video games? What kinds of games do you usually play?
2. What are some positive aspects of playing video games? Are there any negative aspects?
3. Have you ever thought about designing your own video game? What kind of game would you create?
4. What role do you think video games play in modern entertainment and culture?
5. How do you think video game developers come up with new ideas for games?
6. What impact do you think the gaming industry has on technology and innovation?

7. What are some popular video games in Russia? Are they different from popular games in other countries?

8. How important do you think it is for countries to develop their own gaming industry?

9. How do Russian gamers participate in global eSports competitions, and what impact does this have on the gaming community in Russia?

10. What are the attitudes toward computer games among parents and educators in Russia? Are they seen as beneficial or harmful?

Debate

Topic: "Video games contribute positively to cognitive development in children and adults"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments either for or against video games and their impact on people's mental health and development.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. History of Video Games
2. Impact of Video Games on Society
3. Psychological Effects of Gaming
4. The Role of E-sports in the Gaming Industry.
5. Cultural Diversity in Gaming
6. Gaming as a Career
7. Gamification and Video Games in Education
8. Video Games and Health

9. Video Game Development in Different Countries
10. The Future of Gaming

Text 1.4 Russia's Hollywood: The legendary film studio Mosfilm celebrates its 100th anniversary

Mosfilm is not only Russia's main and largest film studio; it is the historical birthplace of Soviet and Russian cinema. To this day, Mosfilm's brilliant comedies make people laugh, the touching love stories make us cry, and philosophical arthouse films give food for thought.

On January 30, 1924, the film 'On Wings Skyward' was released in Soviet cinemas, and this date became known as Mosfilm's "starting point." It's true that the film studio existed before the film's release – and, in fact, the motion picture was shot there. However, in order to understand why this event has become associated with the establishment of Mosfilm studios, we must delve a little deeper into history.

The creation of Mosfilm studios

Film production in the Russian Empire goes back to the first years after the invention of the cinematograph. The very first films in Russia were made in the year 1896. In the next two decades, several film studios appeared. The largest ones were the Khanzhonkov and Ermolyev film studios – the two pre-revolutionary film companies that served as the basis for the future Mosfilm.

Soon after the 1917 Revolution – in 1919, to be exact, Soviet Russia nationalized all film production. Khanzhonkov and

Ermolyev's film studios were handed over to Goskino (the USSR State Committee for Cinematography) in 1922 and became known as the First and Third Factories of Goskino. A year later, the factories were merged into a single film studio, and, in January 1924, the first film was released. The film studio became known as Mosfilm in 1936.

The 1930s can be rightfully considered the “golden age” of Mosfilm. In this pre-war decade, many great films, which established the traditions of Soviet and Russian cinema, were made. Directors implemented new ideas and surprised audiences with new techniques; new film genres appeared and the first stars of Soviet cinema were born. In the pre-war period, Mosfilm created many classic movies. The studio was known for innovation, technical progress, and great film stars.

Mosfilm today

The collapse of the USSR strongly affected Mosfilm. In the '90s, the studio no longer made 40 films per year, as it had done just a few years earlier. The country faced difficult times, and so did Mosfilm. However, its caretakers were able to preserve its legacy and prevent the film studio from going into private hands.

In 1989, the studio became part of the State Creative Production Association Mosfilm. Vladimir Dostal, who served as the director of Mosfilm from 1987 to 1998, was able to preserve the studio's production base and its intellectual property. He was aided by film veterans Sergei Bondarchuk, Vladimir Naumov, Georgy Danelia, as well as some younger but already renowned film directors, such as Sergei Solovyov, Vladimir Menshov, and

Valentin Chernykh. During the most difficult years, Mosfilm proved to be the most economically stable film company in Russia, and it still holds the rights to its great collection of films.

In 1998, Karen Shakhnazarov became the new director of Mosfilm, and he heads the studio to this day. In the 2000s, the studio underwent large-scale modernization. Today, Mosfilm is equipped with the latest technology and is able to shoot films that fully comply with modern technical standards.

Task 1.4.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words from the text with their definitions.

Food for thought	Another term for a movie or film, especially in a formal or technical context
A motion picture	To bring under state or government ownership or control, especially industries or services previously in private hands
To delve into history	To adhere to or meet established rules, guidelines, or criteria
To nationalize	To combine or unite two or more entities into a single entity
To be merged into	To possess legal ownership or control over something, usually intellectual property or other rights
Legacy	To put new ideas or plans into practice or action
To implement new ideas	To explore or investigate deeply into the past or historical context of something
Intellectual property	To go through significant changes or updates, especially related to technology, infrastructure, or processes

To hold the rights to	Legal rights that give creators or owners rights over their creations or inventions, such as patents, copyrights, and trademarks
To comply with standards	Something that makes you think deeply or consider various aspects of a topic
To undergo large-scale modernization	Something handed down or inherited from the past, especially a tradition or achievement

Task 1.4.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

Food for thought | a motion picture | to delve into history | to nationalize | to be merged into | to implement new ideas | legacy | intellectual property | to hold the rights to | to comply with standards | to undergo large-scale modernization

1. The city’s infrastructure is set _____ to improve transportation and public services for its residents.
2. The documentary on climate change provided a lot of _____, inspiring many viewers to take action.
3. Protecting _____ is essential for inventors and artists to ensure they receive credit for their creations.
4. The artist was surprised to find out that she did not _____ her artwork when she sold it.
5. The latest _____ was a thrilling adventure that kept the audience on the edge of their seats for two hours.
6. The government decided _____ the industry to better control the resources and distribution.
7. In order to ensure safety, all products must _____ before they can be sold in the market.

8. Historians often _____ to understand how past events shape our current society.

9. The ancient ruins serve as a significant _____ of our ancestors' culture and achievements.

10. The company aims _____ to increase productivity and reduce waste in its manufacturing processes.

Task 1.4.3 Write 10 sentences using the key words.

Task 1.4.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning, give short reports if necessary.

- the film 'On Wings Skyward';
- the Russian Empire;
- the 1917 Revolution;
- the USSR State Committee for Cinematography;
- the First and Third Factories of Goskino;
- the collapse of the USSR;
- the State Creative Production Association Mosfilm.

Task 1.4.5 Prepare short reports about people mentioned in the text:

- Vladimir Dostal;
- Sergei Bondarchuk;
- Vladimir Naumov;
- Georgy Danelia;
- Sergei Solovyov;
- Vladimir Menshov;

- Valentin Chernykh;
- Karen Shakhnazarov.

Task 1.4.6 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, realia, and names.

Task 1.4.7 Discuss the questions.

1. What do you enjoy most about going to the cinema?
2. How has cinema influenced culture and society in your country?
3. What are some of your favorite genres of movies, and why do you like them?
4. Do you prefer watching movies at home or in a cinema? Why?
5. Can you name a Russian movie that you particularly love? What do you like or dislike about it?
6. How do you think Russian cinema differs from Hollywood movies?
7. What are some famous Russian directors or actors that you know?
8. Do you think watching foreign movies can help you learn a language? Why or why not?
9. What role does cinema play in preserving cultural heritage?
10. How has technology changed the way movies are made and watched?

Debate

Topic: "Should classic films be remade for modern audiences?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments either for or against creation of remakes for classic films.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Evolution of Cinema Technology: From Silent Films to CGI
2. Impact of Cinema on Culture
3. The Role of Directors in Film: The Influence of Famous Directors like Alfred Hitchcock, Akira Kurosawa, or Sergei Eisenstein, etc.
4. Genres of Cinema and Their Characteristics
5. Cinematic Techniques: Cinematography, Editing, Sound Design, and Special Effects.
6. Famous Film Movements: French New Wave, Italian Neorealism, or Soviet Montage, etc.
7. Russian Cinema: a Historical Perspective
8. Notable Russian Filmmakers
9. Cultural Themes in Russian Cinema
10. Russian Film Industry Today

Text 1.5 Moscow hosts first pan-Russian wedding festival

Over 400 couples tied the knot at the event, which included various entertainment for brides and grooms-to-be.

Hundreds of couples from all over Russia flocked to the capital for the first nationwide wedding festival being held at

RUSSIA EXPO, an international event which took place at the All-Russian Exhibition Center (VDNKh) in Moscow.

According to organizers of the event, which kicked off on May 12, 2024, some 440 brides and grooms-to-be tied the knot during the week-long festivities. The couples hailed from all over the country and presented wedding traditions from their native regions at the venue, including various pre-wedding customs such as bachelor and hen parties.

The first day of the festival saw a mass wedding ceremony which united in matrimony 151 couples, with each subsequent day culminating in more nuptials. Later, the festival also hosted a wedding ball, as well as a fashion show at which Moscow designers displayed various wedding outfits.

Throughout the week, festival guests were also treated to open-air newlywed processions, theatrical and musical performances, and various wedding-themed exhibitions. Chefs from several Russian regions hosted workshops on preparing traditional wedding dishes.

Newlyweds taking vows at the festival received part of the flame symbolizing the All-Russia Family Hearth, which was lit at the exhibition to honor the start of the Year of the Family in the country.

Task 1.5.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

To tie the knot	To begin or start something, often with energy or enthusiasm
To flock	To organize and conduct a session or meeting where

	participants learn practical skills or discuss specific topics
A nationwide festival	To gather together in large numbers, like a crowd or a group of people
To kick off	Pre-wedding parties organized for men and women respectively, typically involving socializing and celebrating
Bachelor and hen parties	To join together in marriage; to get married
To unite in matrimony	A festival or celebration that takes place across an entire nation, involving people from different regions
Nuptials	To get married; to enter into marriage
To host a workshop	To make solemn promises or pledges, especially during a wedding ceremony
To take vows	Wedding celebrations (old-fashioned word)

Task 1.5.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

To tie the knot | to flock | a nationwide festival | to kick off | bachelor party | to unite in matrimony | nuptials | to host a workshop | to take vows

1. The university will _____ on digital marketing strategies next week.

2. People _____ to the beach during the summer holidays.

3. John and Mary decided to _____ this summer after dating for five years.

4. The concert will _____ with a fireworks display at 8 PM.

5. The couple will _____ at the local church next month.

6. The couple planned a grand celebration to mark their _____, inviting friends and family from all over the world.

7. They will _____ of love and loyalty during the wedding ceremony.

8. Tom had a wild _____ in Las Vegas before his wedding.

9. The city's annual cultural week is a _____ that celebrates diversity and art.

Task 1.5.3 Write 9 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 1.5.4 Retell the text using the key words and phrases.

Task 1.5.5 Discuss the questions.

1. What are some traditional wedding customs in Russia?

2. How important are weddings in your culture?

3. What are some unique wedding traditions you know from other countries?

4. How have modern weddings changed compared to traditional ones in your country?

5. What role do family members typically play in weddings in different cultures?

6. How important do you think it is for couples to discuss their expectations about marriage before getting married?

7. What advice would you give to someone planning their wedding? Are there any common mistakes to avoid?

8. Do you think big weddings are becoming more or less common nowadays? Why?

9. What are some popular wedding venues or locations in Russia?

10. What qualities do you think are most important for a successful marriage?

Debate

Topic: "Should couples spend a large sum of money on elaborate weddings?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments either for or against expensive weddings.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Wedding Traditions Around the World
2. Modern Trends in Weddings
3. The History of Wedding Rituals
4. Wedding Fashion
5. The Economics of Weddings
6. Wedding Planning Tips
7. Cultural Differences in Marriage
8. The Evolution of Marriage: From Ancient Times to Today
9. Marriage and Legal Aspects: Rights and Responsibilities
10. The Psychology of Love and Commitment in Marriage

Unit 2. Economy

Text 2.1 Russian crab ‘conquering’ Chinese market – data

A major Russian crab seller's exports to China soared by more than a third in 2023, statistics show. The Asian nation has become the main buyer of fish products from Russia's Far East following Beijing's ban on all seafood imports from Japan.

Vladivostok-based company Russian Crab is “conquering” the Chinese market, having exported 33% more of the seafood to the Asian nation in 2023 than in the previous year, the Russian Export Center (REC), a government agency tasked with facilitating the sale of Russian goods abroad, said in a statement on Monday.

Russian Crab is the largest crab fishing company in Russia's Far East, with an annual quota of 182,000 tons in the Bering Sea, the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan (known to Koreans as the East Sea.)

Russia has significantly boosted deliveries of marine produce to China after Beijing imposed a ban on imports of all seafood from Japan and Russian exports to the west were curtailed by sanctions. Beijing's decision was a response to Tokyo's discharge of radioactive wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean last August.

In regional terms, seafood exports from Russia's fish-rich Far Eastern Primorsky and Sakhalin federal districts surged 72% last year, according to Rosselkhoznadzor, the regulator responsible for food safety. During that year China became the main buyer of

fish products from Russia’s Far East, followed by South Korea, Nigeria and Japan.

China became Russia’s largest trade partner in 2023 after Moscow redirected many of its exports to the East due to Western sanctions. Last December, the US targeted imports of Russian-caught seafood processed in third-party countries, in a toughening of initial restrictions on Russian fish and seafood imports imposed in March 2022.

Task 2.1.1 Key vocabulary. Match the phrases from the text with their definitions.

A government agency	Seafood or products derived from the ocean, including fish, shellfish, and seaweed
To facilitate the sales	The release or disposal of wastewater containing radioactive substances into the environment, typically from nuclear facilities or industries
An annual quota	To reduce or limit the amount of goods or products that are sent to other countries
Marine produce	An organization or department within the government responsible for carrying out specific tasks or functions, such as regulation, enforcement, or service provision
To curtail exports	Measures and practices aimed at ensuring that food is safe to eat and free from contamination or hazards
Discharge of radioactive wastewater	Countries that are not directly involved in a particular transaction or agreement but may be affected by its outcomes or regulations
Exports surged	The act of making rules, regulations, or limitations more stringent or stricter

Food safety	The amount of goods or products being sent to other countries increased significantly over a specific period
Third-party countries	The maximum amount of something (such as goods or resources) that can be produced, imported, or exported within a year
Toughening of restrictions	To make the process of selling goods or services easier or more efficient

Task 2.1.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

A government agency | to facilitate the sales | an annual quota | marine produce | to curtail exports | discharge of radioactive wastewater | exports surged | food safety | third-party countries | toughening of restrictions

1. The agreement involves trade between two countries and several _____ that handle distribution.
2. New policies were introduced to _____ in the textile industry.
3. Due to increased demand, _____ last month, reaching record levels.
4. The restaurant specializes in _____ like fresh fish and seafood dishes.
5. The _____ is responsible for overseeing environmental regulations in this region.
6. Concerns were raised about the _____ from the nuclear power plant into the nearby river.
7. The new regulations aim to improve _____ standards in the food processing industry.

8. The government decided to _____ to stabilize the domestic market.

9. There has been a _____ on imports of electronic waste to protect the environment.

10. The country has set an _____ for the export of agricultural products to ensure sustainable production.

Task 2.1.3 Write 10 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 2.1.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning.

- Russia’s Far East;
- Vladivostok-based company Russian Crab;
- the Russian Export Center (REC);
- the Bering Sea;
- the Sea of Okhotsk;
- the Sea of Japan;
- Fukushima nuclear power plant;
- Primorsky federal district;
- Sakhalin federal district.

Task 2.1.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 2.1.6 Discuss the questions.

1. What types of seafood are popular in Russia, and how are they usually prepared?

2. Have you ever tried seafood from the Far Eastern region? What did you think of it?

3. How important is the fishing industry in Russian economy?

4. What environmental challenges do you think fishery industries face today?

5. How can sustainable fishing practices benefit both the environment and local communities?

6. What role does seafood play in Russian traditional cuisine?

7. What are some differences you know between freshwater and marine fish?

8. Do you think fish farming (aquaculture) is a sustainable alternative to wild-caught fish? Why or why not?

9. What are some of the economic impacts of overfishing in various parts of the world?

10. How can governments and individuals promote responsible consumption of seafood?

Debate

Topic: "Should commercial fishing be strictly regulated to protect marine biodiversity?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for and against strict regulations over commercial fishing.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Traditional Russian Cuisine In Seafood-Rich Regions
2. Sustainable Fishing Practices
3. Fish Farming vs. Wild-Caught Fish
4. Global Fish Consumption Trends
5. The Role of Seafood in World Cuisine
6. The Economic Impact of the Fishing Industry
7. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
8. Climate Change and Fisheries
9. Food Safety in Seafood
10. Innovation in Fisheries

Text 2.2 Russian energy giant building solar power plant in Africa

The wind energy division of Russia's energy giant Rosatom, NovaWind, has begun construction of a 200 megawatt (MW) solar power plant in Mali, according to Energy and Water Resources Minister Bintu Kamara.

The facility, which will extend over 314 hectares of land in Sanankoroba, near the capital, Bamako, is the largest in the West African subregion, the minister said in an interview with the national broadcaster ORTM on Friday.

“[It] will make it possible to significantly reduce the electricity shortage currently present in the country,” Kamara stated.

Presently, 70% of Mali's electricity is produced from thermal plants.

According to latest World Bank data, approximately half of the country's 21.9 million people have access to electricity. The

former French colony’s authorities have committed to increase access to 90% by 2036, with urban access at 100% and rural access at 55%.

During the signing of the agreement with NovaWind for the photovoltaic solar power plant in March, Malian Minister of Economy Alousseni Sano reportedly said that relying on thermal power was costly and has weighed heavily on the country’s finances.

According to NovaWind’s director Grigory Nazarov, the solar plant, which will cost €200 million (\$217 million), will increase the Sahel nation’s electricity production by 10%, TASS reported.

Construction work will take a year; the station is expected to operate for two decades. It will be under the full control of Mali’s Ministry of Energy ten years after it is inaugurated for operation, the outlet added. The Malian government is cited by local media as saying the collaboration with Russia on the solar project “represents a significant step towards diversifying the Malian energy mix and reducing its dependence on fossil fuels.”

Mali’s military government has repeatedly hailed Russia as a “strategic and sincere partner” after severing ties last year with the country’s former colonizer, France.

Task 2.2.1 Key vocabulary. Match the phrases from the text with their definitions.

A solar power plant	A situation where the demand for electricity exceeds the supply
Electricity shortage	To officially open or start using a facility or service

A thermal plant	Relying mainly on coal, oil, and natural gas for energy
To weigh heavily on the country's finances	A facility that uses sunlight to generate electricity
To inaugurate for operation	The combination of different energy sources used to meet a region's or country's energy needs
Energy mix	A power station that generates electricity by using heat energy, typically from burning fossil fuels
Dependence on fossil fuels	To end a relationship or connection with someone or something
To sever ties with	To cause a significant financial burden or expense for the country

Task 2.2.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct phrases from the list.

A solar power plant | electricity shortage | a thermal plant | to weigh heavily on the country's finances | to inaugurate for operation | energy mix | dependence on fossil fuels | to sever ties with

1. The recent natural disaster will _____ as the government allocates funds for recovery.

2. During the peak summer months, the country often faces _____ due to high demand.

3. The new _____ in the desert will provide renewable energy for thousands of homes.

4. A diverse _____ helps ensure a stable and reliable supply of energy.

5. A _____ burns coal to produce the heat needed to generate electricity.

6. Many countries are trying to reduce their _____ to combat climate change.

7. The president will _____ the new hospital _____ next week.

8. The company decided to _____ its controversial partner due to ethical concerns.

Task 2.2.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 2.2.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning and prepare short reports about them.

- Rosatom;
- NovaWind;
- Malian Energy and Water Resources Minister Bintu Kamara;
- the West African subregion;
- World Bank;
- Malian Minister of Economy Alousseni Sano;
- TASS;
- Mali’s Ministry of Energy;
- Sahel nation.

Task 2.2.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 2.2.6 Discuss the questions.

1. How do you think solar energy can impact our daily lives?
2. What are the benefits and drawbacks of using fossil fuels for electricity?

3. Have you ever considered installing solar panels at your home? Why or why not?

4. How does the cost of electricity affect your daily activities and budget?

5. Do you think governments should invest more in renewable energy sources like solar power? Why?

6. How do you conserve electricity in your household?

7. What changes can we make in our everyday lives to reduce dependence on fossil fuels?

8. How important is it for schools and public buildings to use renewable energy sources?

9. Have you noticed any changes in your electricity usage patterns during different seasons? Why do you think this happens?

10. What are some ways communities can work together to promote the use of solar energy?

Debate

Topic: "Should Governments Prioritize Investment in Renewable Energy Sources Over Fossil Fuels for Electricity Production?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for and against state investment in renewable energy sources.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. The Basics of Solar Energy

2. Renewable Energy vs. Fossil Fuels

3. Energy Conservation at Home
4. The Role of Government in Promoting Renewable Energy Sources
5. Climate Change and Energy
6. Successful Solar Energy Projects Around the World
7. The Impact of Electricity Shortages on Society and Economy
8. The Pros and Cons of Nuclear Power as an Alternative to Fossil Fuels
9. Renewable Energy Policies: Best Practices from Around the World
10. Personal Steps to Support Renewable Energy and Reduce Carbon Footprint

Text 2.3 Russia deepens geological research ties with African state

Russia has deepened cooperation with research organizations in Africa by signing a new agreement with the National Museum of Geology of Mozambique. The A.P. Karpinsky Russian Geological Research Institute has launched a specialized geology class, the institute's press service reported.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from Mozambique's Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy and Russian diplomats.

Mozambique is rich in natural resources, especially in coal, graphite, iron ore, as well as natural gas and bauxite, and others.

Speaking at the event, Pavel Khimchenko, the head of the institute, noted that the contribution of Soviet geologists to mineral

management awareness in Mozambique is significant. “We are glad to return to this cooperation and transfer our knowledge, strengthening friendly and professional relations,” he said. “In our Karpinsky Classes we share with students and experts the results of the latest research by the Karpinsky Institute geologists and we show modern methodological and IT developments,” he added.

Khimchenko also stated that the new facilities would advance the Russian geological school through hosting open lectures, seminars, and hands-on activities. The classes will also function as hubs for collaborative projects.

The geological class is equipped with methodological and graphic materials, specialized geological literature and maps. Additionally, the classroom is set up to facilitate regular online sessions, including professional courses for geologists and popular science lectures for a broader audience, following a methodology developed by Russian experts.

Task 2.3.1 Key vocabulary. Match the phrases from the text with their definitions.

To deepen cooperation	Practical tasks where people use their hands to learn by doing
Mineral management awareness	To make the partnership or collaboration stronger and more effective
To transfer knowledge	To share information, skills, or expertise from one person or group to another
To strengthen relations	Central places or centers where people work together on shared projects

Hands-on activities	To be established or created in order to make a process easier or more efficient
Hubs for collaborative projects	Understanding how to manage and use natural resources like minerals responsibly
To be set up to facilitate	To improve and make connections or relationships stronger

Task 2.3.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

To deepen cooperation | mineral management awareness | to transfer knowledge | to strengthen relations | hands-on activities | hubs for collaborative projects | to be set up to facilitate

1. One of the goals of the workshop is to _____ about new technologies.
2. Increasing _____ is essential for sustainable development and responsible resource use.
3. A new committee will _____ better communication between departments.
4. Diplomatic visits aim to _____ between neighboring countries.
5. Countries are working together to _____ in trade and environmental protection.
6. Universities can act as _____ between students and industry experts.
7. The training program includes many _____ to help participants learn effectively.

Task 2.3.3 Write 7 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 2.3.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names, realia, and scientific terms. Explain their meaning.

- the National Museum of Geology of Mozambique;
- The A.P. Karpinsky Russian Geological Research Institute;
- Mozambique’s Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy;
- coal;
- graphite;
- iron ore;
- natural gas;
- bauxite;
- Karpinsky Classes.

Task 2.3.5 Retell the text using the key phrases, names, and terms.

Task 2.3.6 Discuss the questions. Do some Internet research if necessary.

1. What do you think is the most interesting aspect of geology? Why?
2. How does scientific research contribute to our understanding of the Earth?
3. Can you name any significant geological discoveries that have changed the way we view our planet?
4. How do scientific institutes support advancements in technology and medicine?

5. Why is it important for governments to fund scientific research?

6. What are some challenges that scientists face when conducting geological research?

7. How do geological studies help in disaster prevention and management?

8. In what ways can scientific research impact environmental conservation efforts?

9. What role do universities and scientific institutes play in training the next generation of scientists?

10. How do international collaborations between scientific institutes benefit global research initiatives?

Debate

Topic: "Should Governments Increase Funding for Geological Research to Better Understand and Mitigate Natural Disasters?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for and against increased funding for geological research.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Famous Geological Formations Around the World: Mountains, Canyons, etc.

2. The Importance of Mineral Management and Sustainable Resource Extraction

3. Innovations in Geological Research: Technology and Techniques

4. The History and Impact of Major Geological Discoveries
5. The Role of Scientific Institutes in Advancing Geology
6. Geological Hazards and Their Impact on Human Populations
7. Profiles of Renowned Russian Geologists and Their Contributions
8. Importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Education in Schools
9. Career Paths in Scientific Research: Opportunities and Challenges
10. Citizen Science: Involving the Public in Scientific Research

Text 2.4 Russia legalizes cryptocurrency mining

The President of Russia Vladimir Putin has signed a law that legalizes cryptocurrency mining in the country. A relevant document was published on Thursday on the official portal of legal information.

The new law introduced several key concepts, including digital currency mining, mining pools, and mining infrastructure operators, and defined the rights and liabilities of the crypto mining market's participants.

Cryptocurrency mining will now be recognized as part of turnover rather than the issuance of digital currency.

The new legislation specifies that only Russian legal entities and individual entrepreneurs registered with the government will be allowed to engage in cryptocurrency mining. However,

individual miners can participate without registration, provided their energy consumption remains within government-set limits.

Additionally, the law permits the trading of foreign digital financial assets on Russian blockchain platforms. However, the Bank of Russia retains the authority to ban the placement of certain assets if they are deemed a threat to the country's financial stability.

The legislation also includes a ban on advertising cryptocurrencies and on offering them to an unlimited number of people. In addition, the law provides for the possibility of banning mining in certain territories or in certain regions. An initially-planned ban on the organization of digital currency circulation in Russia was not included in the law.

The legislation will come into effect ten days after the date of its official publication, except for specific provisions that may have different implementation dates.

Putin raised the issue of regulating cryptocurrencies and digital assets at a government meeting on economic issues on July 17, noting it is a promising economic area. He said it is important for Russia "to seize the moment" to promptly create the legal framework and regulation, develop infrastructure and create conditions for the circulation of digital assets, both within the country and in relations with foreign partners.

Task 2.4.1 Key vocabulary. Match the terms and phrases from the text with their definitions. Find Russian equivalents if necessary.

Cryptocurrency mining	Groups of miners who combine their computing power to mine cryptocurrency more efficiently and share the rewards
A digital currency	Legal entitlements and responsibilities associated with owning or using something
Mining pools	The amount of energy used by machines, devices, or activities, like cryptocurrency mining
Mining infrastructure operators	A form of money that exists only electronically and is not in physical form like coins or banknotes
Rights and liabilities	The process of using computers to solve complex math problems to validate transactions and create new digital currency
Turnover of currency	Companies or individuals that manage the hardware and facilities needed for cryptocurrency mining
Issuance of currency	To be considered dangerous or harmful
Legal entity	The process of creating and distributing new money by a government or an organization
Energy consumption	Particular rules or conditions included in a law, contract, or agreement
To be deemed a threat	The total amount of money exchanged within a certain period
Specific provisions	An organization, company, or individual that has legal rights and responsibilities

Task 2.4.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct phrases from the list.

Cryptocurrency mining | a digital currency | mining pools | mining infrastructure operators | rights and liabilities | turnover of currency | issuance of currency | legal entity | energy consumption | to be deemed a threat | specific provisions

1. Many miners join _____ to increase their chances of earning rewards.

2. The new law includes _____ that protect consumers from fraud in digital currency transactions.

3. One of the biggest concerns about cryptocurrency mining is its high _____.

4. Central banks are responsible for the _____ of national currency.

5. Every business must be aware of its _____ when dealing with customers.

6. A corporation is a _____ that can enter into contracts and own property.

7. Some governments have begun to regulate mining activities because they are _____ to the environment.

8. The process of verifying transactions and adding them to the blockchain is known as _____.

9. The _____ of Bitcoin has increased significantly as more people use it for transactions.

10. Bitcoin is an example of a _____ that exists only in electronic form.

11. _____ manage the facilities and equipment needed for large-scale mining operations.

Task 2.4.3 Write 11 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 2.4.4 Retell the text using the key terms and phrases.

Task 2.4.5 Discuss the questions.

1. How do you think digital currencies like Bitcoin will influence the future of traditional banking systems?

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using digital currencies for everyday transactions compared to traditional currencies?

3. Do you often use online payment systems? Which one is the most convenient for you?

4. How do you think digital currencies can affect global trade and international transactions?

5. What security measures do you think are necessary to protect users of digital currencies?

6. How should governments regulate the use of digital currencies and blockchain technology?

7. Do you think government regulations help or hinder innovation in the field of new technologies?

8. What are the potential risks of not having government oversight in emerging technologies like AI or digital currencies?

9. How can governments strike a balance between encouraging technological advancement and protecting consumers?

10. Should governments impose stricter regulations on technology companies to ensure data privacy and security? Why or why not?

Debate

Topic: "Should Governments Exercise Strict Control Over New Technologies?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for or against strict governmental control over new technologies.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Cryptocurrencies, Their Types and History
2. Online Banking: Advantages and Disadvantages
3. History of Money in Different Countries
4. How Digital Currencies are Changing the Global Economy
5. The Future of Cashless Societies: Benefits and Challenges of Digital Payments
6. Regulating Cryptocurrencies: Balancing Innovation with Consumer Protection
7. Cybersecurity in Online Banking
8. The Environmental Impact of Cryptocurrency Mining
9. Online Banking Development in Russia: T-Bank, Sber, etc.
10. Russian Cryptocurrencies: Overview

Text 2.5 Russian luxury car brand takes over major Toyota plant

A St. Petersburg-based plant formerly belonging to Japanese automaker Toyota has been handed over to Russian high-end carmaker Aurus, Russia's acting Minister of Industry and Trade, Denis Manturov, said. The brand is best known for producing limos for the Russian president.

Toyota shut down the plant in 2022 and left the Russian market amid Ukraine-related sanctions against Moscow. The facility, which produced the Camry and RAV4 models, was later sold to the Central Scientific Research Automobile and Automotive Engines Institute, abbreviated as NAMI, which owns the Aurus brand. In 2022, the Institute also acquired French car maker Renault's controlling stake in Russian car manufacturer AvtoVAZ.

Aurus is a line of luxury vehicles that was created a decade ago with the aim of replacing the fleet of mostly foreign-made cars used by top Russian officials. The brand debuted at Russian President Vladimir Putin's inauguration in May 2018. In May 2024, Putin used an updated version of the luxury vehicle during his inauguration ceremony in Moscow.

The cars are assembled at NAMI's factory in Moscow and at an assembly plant in the Republic of Tatarstan, which used to be a joint venture between Russian company Sollers and American car maker Ford. Last year, Aurus production was launched in the United Arab Emirates.

In January 2024, Manturov said that Aurus was expected to broaden its range of vehicles by adding more affordable and mass-market models. Sales of new large executive and business class

sedans will be launched in 2025. The price of currently available Aurus vehicle models is above \$500,000.

Task 2.5.1 Key vocabulary. Match the phrases from the text with their definitions.

To shut down a plant	A group or collection of vehicles owned or operated by an organization or individual
Amid sanctions	Ownership or control of a majority percentage of shares in a company, typically over 50%, allowing significant influence over decision-making
A controlling stake	A business arrangement where two or more parties come together to undertake a specific project or business activity, sharing risks, profits, and control
The fleet of cars	A facility where parts and components are assembled into finished products, often referring to automobile manufacturing plants
An assembly plant	Automobiles designed and marketed for senior corporate executives or professionals, typically characterized by luxury, comfort, and advanced features
A joint venture	In the context of international relations, during the imposition of penalties or restrictions by one or more countries against another, typically for political reasons
To broaden the range of	To cease operations and close a factory or manufacturing facility temporarily or permanently
Executive class sedans	A company that specializes in manufacturing luxury automobiles, typically characterized by high-quality materials, advanced technology, superior performance, and a premium price tag

A high-end carmaker	To expand or increase the variety or scope of products, services, or options offered
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Task 2.5.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct phrases from the list.

To shut down a plant | amid sanctions | a controlling stake | the fleet of cars | an assembly plant | a joint venture | to broaden the range of | executive class sedans | a high-end carmaker

1. The new dealership specializes in _____, catering to executives and professionals seeking luxury and comfort.
2. The rental company added new models to _____ available for corporate clients, including SUVs and electric cars.
3. The company decided to _____ due to declining demand for its products in the local market.
4. The acquisition of a _____ in the company allows for greater decision-making power and strategic direction.
5. Mercedes-Benz is renowned as a _____, known for its exclusive vehicles and prestigious image.
6. The _____ in Detroit has increased production to meet the rising demand for electric vehicles.
7. The company plans to _____ vehicles offered to include more environmentally friendly options.
8. Many businesses face challenges _____ imposed by foreign governments, affecting their international operations.
9. The two companies formed a _____ to develop new technology for autonomous driving.

Task 2.5.3 Write 9 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 2.5.4 Retell the text using the key phrases and names.

Task 2.5.5 Discuss the questions.

1. What factors do you consider when choosing a mode of personal transportation?

2. How important is car ownership in your culture? Do people prefer owning cars or using public transport?

3. What are some popular car brands in Russia, and what makes them popular?

4. How has the automobile industry evolved over the past decade in terms of technology and sustainability?

5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of electric cars compared to traditional gasoline-powered vehicles?

6. How do you think autonomous vehicles will impact personal transportation in the future?

7. What measures can governments take to encourage more people to use environmentally friendly modes of transportation?

8. How do car manufacturers decide on the features and designs of new models?

9. Have you ever visited a car production facility or assembly plant? What was your impression?

10. In what ways can personal transportation be made more accessible and affordable to everyone in society?

Debate

Topic: "The Benefits and Drawbacks of Electric Vehicles (EVs)"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting either benefits or drawbacks of EVs.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. The Evolution of Automobile Design
2. Innovation in Electric Vehicles
3. Comparative Analysis of Hybrid vs. Electric Vehicles
4. Luxury Car Brands and Their Market Appeal
5. The Role of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Car Manufacturing
6. Environmental Regulations and Their Impact on Car Production
7. The Future of Car Sharing and Ride-Hailing Services
8. Safety Innovations in Modern Vehicles
9. Consumer Trends in Car Preferences
10. Importance of Personal Vehicles in Different Countries

Unit 3. Education and Upbringing

Text 3.1 Nothing is more important than love and children – Putin

The most important things in life are love and children, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said. The president was speaking via video conference to families from various regions of the country with three or more children.

The event, which was being held in the run-up to International Children's Day on June 1, 2024, was attended by families who were awarded the Order of Parental Glory and mothers awarded the title of Mother Heroine.

The title 'Mother Heroine' was first introduced in the Soviet Union and was revived by a presidential decree in 2022. It is awarded to mothers who have given birth to or raised ten or more children.

Natalia Yakunina, one of the women attending the meeting, is raising eight children with her husband. "You gave him such a family, such great joy, so many children," Putin said, adding that "there is nothing more important in life than love and children."

The president went on to say that the entire work of the Russian government is directed towards the interests of the family, including education, healthcare, the economy, and housing policies.

Parents should be confident that the authorities are ready to provide them with the necessary support, Putin said, adding that in

recent years, the number of large families in Russia has increased by around 26%, to more than 2 million.

“Families like yours are certainly the pride of our country,” he stressed, addressing the attendees.

In an address to the Federal Assembly in February 2024, Putin said that Russia, like many other countries, is faced with a decline in birth rates. He suggested that all levels of government, civil society, and religious institutions should work together to make large families the norm. The Russian president has designated 2024 the ‘Year of the Family’, stating that the issue is of critical importance for the country.

Task 3.1.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words from the text with their definitions.

To be revived	An official order given by a leader or government
A decline	To be chosen or named for a particular purpose
Authorities	The period of time leading up to an event
A decree	To be brought back to life or made active again
To be designated	A decrease or reduction in number or quality
A run-up	People or organizations in power who make decisions

Task 3.1.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words from the list.

To be revived | a decline | authorities | a decree | to designate | a run-up

1. The mayor signed a _____ banning smoking in public parks.

2. The local _____ announced new regulations regarding recycling in the city.

3. The committee _____ June 1 as the official "Environment Day" for the city.

4. The old theater, which was closed for years, was _____ and reopened last month with a new production.

5. In the _____ to the annual festival, the town was bustling with preparations.

6. There has been a steady _____ in the number of students enrolling in the engineering program over the past five years.

Task 3.1.3 Write 6 sentences using the key words.

Task 3.1.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning, give short reports if necessary.

- International Children’s Day;
- The Order of Parental Glory;
- ‘Mother Heroine’ title;
- The Soviet Union;
- The Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation;
- The ‘Year of the Family’.

Task 3.1.5 Retell the text using the key words and names.

Task 3.1.6 Discuss the questions.

1. Why do you think President Putin emphasized the importance of love and children in his speech?

2. What are some benefits and challenges of having a large family?

3. How do events like International Children's Day help raise awareness about family and parenting issues?

4. What might be the significance of reviving the title 'Mother Heroine' in modern Russia?

5. How can the government support large families more effectively?

6. Why is the decline in birth rates a concern for countries like Russia?

7. How can civil society and religious institutions contribute to making large families more common, as suggested by President Putin?

8. What are some possible reasons for the 26% increase in the number of large families in Russia in recent years?

9. How do you think designating 2024 as the 'Year of the Family' might impact Russian society?

10. In what ways do education, healthcare, economy, and housing policies influence family life?

Debate

Topic: "Is having a large family beneficial in modern society?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for or against having large families.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Traditional vs. Modern Families

2. Roles and Responsibilities in Families
3. Parenting Styles Around the World
4. Challenges Faced by Families Today
5. Celebrating Family Traditions
6. Family Values and Cultural Identity
7. Family Structures in Different Cultures
8. The Impact of Immigration on Families
9. Gender Roles in Families
20. Family in Literature and Media

Text 3.2 Youth Day in Russia: when and how to celebrate in 2024

Every year, Russia celebrates a national holiday dedicated to young citizens of the country. Until 2022, young Russians were honored on June 27. However, in 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin by decree postponed the holiday to the last Saturday in June. In 2024, Youth Day is celebrated on June 29. The history and traditions of the holiday are in the material of Izvestia.

Youth Day in Russia: the history of the holiday

Youth Day is a holiday with a long history, dating back to the beginning of the last century, the prototype of the current holiday was the International Youth Day (MUD), proclaimed in 1915 at the conference of revolutionary youth in Bern.

The Soviet youth had their own holiday in 1958. Citizens noted the labor achievements and international solidarity of young people in the construction of socialism. In the early years, the

holiday was celebrated at the end of summer, and later moved to September 1. The Day of Soviet Youth was accompanied by many mass events: congresses of Komsomol organizations, sports festivals and professional competitions.

The holiday gained its modern interpretation in 1993. The first president of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, renamed the holiday and set a new date – June 27. The word “Soviet” disappeared from the name of the holiday, and the events began to acquire an entertaining character more and more.

In 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin issued an order to postpone the celebration of Youth Day to the last Saturday in June.

Who is considered a youth

According to the law “On Youth Policy”, adopted in 2020, all Russians between the ages of 14 and 35 are considered to be young people. Before the adoption of the law, citizens under the age of 30 were considered to be young people. The status of young people is important for obtaining various benefits and privileges that are assigned to this category of citizens from the state:

- free education and scholarships;
- assistance with housing under the “Young Family” program (spouses must marry before the age of 35);
- assistance in finding employment under the youth employment assistance program until 2030.

Task 3.2.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

To be honored	Unity and cooperation among nations or peoples across borders, especially in support of common goals or causes
To note the labor achievements	To formally give a command or directive, typically from an authority or leader to others
International solidarity	To recognize or acknowledge the accomplishments or efforts made in the field of work or labor
To gain modern interpretation	To acquire advantages, rights, or special treatments through official channels or actions
To issue an order	To be respected, admired, or recognized for one's achievements or qualities
Adoption of the law	To be given a task, duty, or responsibility by someone in authority or by circumstances
To obtain benefits and privileges	The formal process of passing and implementing a new law by a legislative body or authority
To be assigned	To acquire a contemporary or updated understanding or explanation of something, often in the context of tradition or historical concepts

Task 3.2.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

To be honored | to note the labor achievements | international solidarity | to gain modern interpretation | to issue an order | adoption of the law | to obtain benefits and privileges | to be assigned

1. The parliament's _____ on healthcare reform was met with mixed reactions from the public.

2. The company acknowledged and _____ of its employees during the annual awards ceremony.

3. The charity event aimed to promote _____ by bringing together people from different countries to support a common cause.

4. She was _____ the task of coordinating the project due to her organizational skills and experience.

5. The ancient text has been reinterpreted to _____ that resonates with modern readers.

6. The government plans to _____ to regulate the use of plastic bags in all stores.

7. She was _____ for her outstanding contributions to the field of medicine.

8. Veterans often _____ such as tax exemptions and healthcare benefits for their service.

Task 3.2.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 3.2.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning and give short reports if necessary.

- Izvestia;
- the International Youth Day (MUD);
- socialism;
- Komsomol organizations;
- Boris Yeltsin;
- the law “On Youth Policy”;
- the “Young Family” program.

Task 3.2.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases and names.

Task 3.2.6 Discuss the questions.

1. How do young people in different countries typically celebrate milestone birthdays like turning 18 or 21?

2. What are some popular cultural celebrations or festivals that attract a lot of young people in different countries?

3. Do you think mass celebrations have changed over the past decade? If so, how?

4. What measures can be implemented by the government to improve some aspects of the youth's life in our country?

5. How important is it for young people to participate in national or cultural celebrations?

6. What are the benefits and drawbacks of attending large-scale events or festivals?

7. How can mass celebrations help to promote unity and understanding among different generations?

8. What are some large celebrations or festivals you have visited? Share your experience.

9. Do you think technology has influenced the ways mass celebrations are organized and held? How?

10. Have you ever used special programs offered to the youth by the government or any commercial organizations? What were they?

Debate

Topic: "The Influence of Social Media on Youth: For and Against"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for or against social media usage among the younger generations.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Youth Subcultures around the World
2. Impact of Social Media on Youth Culture
3. Traditional vs. Modern Celebrations among Youth
4. Youth Movements for Social Change
5. Youth Participation in Global Sporting Events
6. Youth Volunteerism and Community Engagement
7. Impact of Music Festivals on Youth Culture
8. Youth and Political Activism
9. Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation
10. Cultural Exchange Programs for Youth

Text 3.3 Russian Government approves strategy to protect children from harmful information

According to the State's Telegram channel, Russia has approved a revised strategy to protect the online safety of children in which the government has outlined its plans to improve schoolchildren's digital literacy, to teach them how to be safe when using the internet, as well as developing important social programmes in print and via electronic media.

“Children can encounter a variety of dangers online such as abusers who pose as their peers to access a child's personal data or ask about their family, then use this information to manipulate them for criminal purposes”, the Government channel explains.

The main objective of the strategy is to protect children from “information threats and risks”, stating that the effect of harmful information creates a false perception among children of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values. One of the priorities cited is expanding the range of parental control features on landline and mobile devices used by children.

Parents, teachers, children’s librarians and other professionals will receive regular training on how to keep children safe online.

The regions have been advised to have regard to the strategy when introducing measures to ensure a child’s safety and to submit annual reports on their implementation to the Ministry of Finance.

The document to protect children from harmful information is the second version of the strategy. The first was approved by the Government in December 2015 and revised in 2022 by order of Vladimir Putin. It is expected to remain in force indefinitely.

Task 3.3.1 Key vocabulary. Match the phrases from the text with their definitions.

Digital literacy	To come across different types of risks or hazards
To encounter a variety of dangers	The ability to use digital technologies and tools effectively, including understanding how they work and their impact on individuals and society
To access personal data	The primary goal or purpose of something
A main objective	To consider or take into account a plan or approach

A false perception	To continue to be valid or effective without a specific end date
To have regard to a strategy	To obtain or retrieve information about individuals, often stored electronically, such as names, addresses, or financial details
To submit annual reports	A mistaken or incorrect understanding or belief about something
To remain in force indefinitely	To provide official documents summarizing activities, financial performance, or other relevant information over a year

Task 3.3.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

Digital literacy | to encounter a variety of dangers | to access personal data | a main objective | a false perception | to have regard to a strategy | to submit annual reports | to remain in force indefinitely

1. Digital literacy is essential for navigating the modern world, where individuals may _____ such as online scams and identity theft.

2. Some people have a _____ about the safety of online shopping, believing it to be riskier than it actually is.

3. Companies are required by law to _____ to regulatory bodies to demonstrate compliance with environmental standards.

4. In today's world, having good _____ is essential for navigating the internet safely and effectively.

5. It is crucial to protect your login information to prevent hackers from being able _____ without your permission.

6. The new policy was designed _____, ensuring that all employees will always be aware of the updated regulations.

7. The team met to discuss _____ for the upcoming project to ensure everyone was on the same page.

8. When making decisions about resource allocation, it is important _____ that will promote long-term growth.

Task 3.3.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 3.3.4 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 3.3.5 Discuss the questions.

1. How do you think the Internet has changed the way children and teenagers access information compared to previous generations?

2. What are some potential dangers or risks that children and teenagers might encounter while using the Internet unsupervised?

3. In your opinion, what role should parents play in monitoring and controlling the content their children access online?

4. How can schools and educational institutions educate students about safe Internet usage and protect them from harmful content?

5. What are some effective methods or tools parents can use to safeguard their children's online activities without invading their privacy?

6. Do you think governments should regulate Internet content more strictly to protect young users, or should this responsibility fall solely on parents and guardians?

7. How can society raise awareness about the negative impact of cyberbullying, online predators, and inappropriate content on young people?

8. What are your thoughts on the balance between protecting children from harmful information online and allowing them the freedom to explore and learn independently?

9. Should social media platforms and websites be held accountable for the content shared on their platforms? Why or why not?

10. What are some steps individuals and communities can take to promote a safer online environment for children and teenagers?

Debate

Topic: "Should Internet censorship be increased to enhance children's safety online?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for or against increasing censorship on the Internet.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Cyberbullying: Impact and Strategies for Prevention
2. Parental Controls and Monitoring Apps
3. Social Media Safety for Teenagers

4. Online Predators: Awareness and Protective Measures
5. Digital Footprint: Managing Personal Information Online
6. Educational Resources: How to Find Safe and Reliable Information Online
7. Cybersecurity Threats: Common Risks and How to Avoid Them
8. Fake News and Misinformation
9. Privacy Settings
10. Legal Aspects: Laws and Regulations Related to Online Safety for Minors

Text 3.4 Encouragement for family businesses in Russia

In Moscow, experts and legislators have discussed the advantages of hereditary entrepreneurship. A legislative consolidation of the concept of “social family entrepreneurship” in Russia is planned for the near future.

An expert community together with representatives from all levels of legislative power, the Public Chamber and the Federation’s Industrial-Commercial Chamber discussed the future of a new sphere of development for small and medium-sized businesses at the round-table “Family business in Russia: continuity of traditions and contemporary perspectives”. The event took place in the Expocentre on the Day of the Russian Entrepreneur (26 May).

Drawing upon the experience of countries in Europe, Natalia Karpovich, who was representing the interests of large families and the expert community of the Public Chamber, remarked on the stability of the family business model. The family business can be

inherited and, as a rule, all members of the family are motivated to make sure that the business is successful and effective. According to her, in Germany, small and medium-sized businesses account for 91% of the country's GDP.

However, in order to ensure that social family business in Russia fully develops, supportive conditions need to be created for those wishing to set up their own business.

In Senator Elena Popova's opinion, social enterprises lack informational support for their project in the first instance, later then needing access to financial instruments that are extremely hard to get due to distrust on behalf of the banks. Furthermore, the Senator considered it essential to assist product promotion in order to increase the demand for items and services.

The business trainer from the foundation "Our Future", Rada Vorovich, said that many Russian towns produce national souvenirs. These goods are often of high quality and artistic value, but they do not find buyers. Experts think that specific attention needs to be paid to foreign tourists as consumers.

At the round table, the results of the competition "Mum-Dad-Me – business family" were announced. 27 families took part in the competition, developing their own business. The Public Chamber and the Federation's Industrial-Commercial Chamber rewarded all participants, regardless of the scale of the family business.

Task 3.4.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

A legislator	The process of strengthening or reinforcing an idea or concept to make it more coherent or effective
A hereditary entrepreneurship	A business or organization that aims to achieve social objectives while operating profitably
A consolidation of a concept	A person who makes or enacts laws, especially as a member of a legislative body
A continuity of traditions	Primarily or initially; at the beginning or at first consideration
To draw upon the experience	The total value of goods and services produced within a country in a specific period, typically a year
GDP (gross domestic product)	Lack of confidence or suspicion held by financial institutions
A social enterprise	The passing down of business ownership and management from one generation to the next within a family
Distrust on behalf of the banks	The aesthetic, cultural, or emotional significance of a piece of art, often judged based on its creativity, beauty, or expression
Artistic value	The preservation and continuation of customs, beliefs, or practices from one generation to another
In the first instance	To make use of or benefit from knowledge, skills, or lessons learned from past events or situations

Task 3.4.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

A legislator | a hereditary entrepreneurship | a consolidation of a concept | a continuity of traditions | to draw upon the experience | GDP (gross domestic product) | a social enterprise | distrust on behalf of the banks | artistic value | in the first instance

1. _____ refers to businesses or enterprises passed down through generations within a family.

2. _____ involves strengthening or combining an idea or principle to make it more solid.

3. _____ refers to the ongoing practice or transmission of customs and beliefs from one generation to another.

4. A _____ is an organization that applies commercial strategies to maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being.

5. Many people have _____ due to past financial crises and scandals.

6. The _____ of a painting can be subjective, depending on individual tastes and cultural contexts.

7. Successful entrepreneurs often _____ of others to improve their own business strategies.

8. As _____, she is responsible for creating and passing laws that affect our daily lives.

9. The country's economic health can often be measured by its _____, which indicates the total value of all goods and services produced.

10. We should address the immediate concerns _____ before considering long-term solutions.

Task 3.4.3 Write 10 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 3.4.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning, give short reports if necessary.

- the Public Chamber;
- the Federation’s Industrial-Commercial Chamber;
- Expocentre;
- Day of the Russian Entrepreneur;
- the foundation “Our Future”;
- the competition “Mum-Dad-Me – business family”.

Task 3.4.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 3.4.6 Discuss the questions.

1. What are some advantages of running a family-owned business compared to larger corporations?
2. How can family values and traditions influence the success of a family business?
3. In what ways do family businesses contribute to the local community?
4. What are some challenges unique to family-owned businesses?
5. Would you rather work in a large corporation or a family-owned business? Why?
6. What role does innovation play in the sustainability of family enterprises?

7. How can family businesses balance between maintaining traditions and adapting to modern market demands?

8. What are some examples of successful family businesses in your country or community?

9. If you had all assets and resources necessary, what family business would you start?

10. What are some strategies for promoting and supporting local businesses in your area?

Debate

Topic: "Should governments provide more support and incentives for family-owned businesses?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for or against state support for family-owned businesses.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Success Stories of Local Family Businesses
2. The Role of Social Media in Promoting a Business
3. Government Programs Supporting a Business in Russia
4. Innovation in Micro Businesses
5. The Entrepreneurial Mindset: Traits of Successful Entrepreneurs
6. Sustainability and Eco-Practices in Family Businesses and Local Enterprises
7. Challenges Faced by Family Businesses During Economic Crises

8. Promoting Local Products and Services
9. Startups vs. Established Businesses: Key Differences
10. The Future of Family and Local Businesses in the Digital Age

**Text 3.5 Patriotic education for children is a common task
for education systems in the Russian Federation
and the Republic of Belarus**

Sergey Kravtsov, the Minister of Education of the Russian Federation, participated in the joint session of Agencies from the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus. The session was delivered in Minsk. They discussed the results of joint planned events in 2023–2024, including the cooperation of the countries in education guidance and school student exchange programs.

“The Union State is our reliable partner. We are fully aware of the importance of our cooperation. Russia and Belarus host many joint events in education and child guidance, including patriotic campaigns. We have a lot of working areas, first of all this is about preparing textbooks, organizing child guidance programs, school student exchange programs. The programs for the children with special needs are the center of our attention. Russia has developed quite extensive scientific background, and we see the possibilities for cooperation in joint studies in this area. We are ready to share our experience in information technologies and our practices in My School Federal State Information System”, said Sergey Kravtsov.

He emphasized that vocational professional education, which is extensively developed thanks to the Professionalitet Project, has a huge potential for cooperation.

Andrey Ivanets, the Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus, commented that patriotic education for children is a priority for the systems of education of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. He added that the specialized ministries of both countries have developed close cooperation and reached full agreement in all issues.

Andrey Ivanets said that training of the educators and growth of the Association of the Russian and Belarus Schools are some promising fields for cooperation.

Dmitry Mezentsev, the State Secretary of the Union State, emphasized that 310 Russian schools and 190 Belarus schools have become partners in the Association of the Russian and Belarus Schools since 2021. He commented that pedagogical classes, which are delivered in the Association, are becoming more and more popular; they significantly contribute into the system of training for teachers.

Task 3.5.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

A joint session	Training or education that focuses on specific skills and knowledge required for a particular profession or trade
Education guidance	Children who require additional support or accommodations due to physical, mental, emotional, or developmental challenges

To be fully aware	A broad and comprehensive knowledge base in scientific disciplines, often acquired through education, research, or practical experience
Patriotic campaigns	Areas or sectors where collaboration or working together is likely to lead to successful outcomes or mutual benefits
Children with special needs	To have complete understanding or knowledge about something
Extensive scientific background	Advice, support, or direction provided to individuals to help them make informed decisions about their educational path or career
Vocational professional education	A meeting where members of two or more groups, organizations, or legislative bodies come together to discuss or work on common issues
Promising fields for cooperation	Initiatives or efforts aimed at promoting love, support, or devotion to one's country through various activities or messages

Task 3.5.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

A joint session | education guidance | to be fully aware | patriotic campaigns | children with special needs | extensive scientific background | vocational professional education | promising fields for cooperation

1. Career counselors provide _____ to students on choosing suitable courses.

2. The government organized a _____ to discuss the new education policies.

3. The school launched _____ to instill national pride among students.

4. It's important to _____ of the risks involved before making a decision.

5. His research benefited from his _____ in biochemistry.

6. The center provides support for _____ through specialized programs.

7. Renewable energy and technology are _____ between the two countries.

8. Many young adults opt for _____ to gain practical skills quickly.

Task 3.5.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 3.5.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meanings, give short reports if necessary.

- the Minister of Education of the Russian Federation;
- My School Federal State Information System;
- the Professionalitet Project;
- the Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus;
- the Association of the Russian and Belarus Schools;
- the State Secretary of the Union State.

Task 3.5.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, realia, and names.

Task 3.5.6 Discuss the questions.

1. What are some benefits of international student exchanges for both visiting students and the host schools?
2. How can schools prepare their students to participate in cultural exchange programs effectively?
3. In what ways do you think international exchanges contribute to students' personal growth and global awareness?
4. What challenges might international students face when they first arrive at a new school in a different country?
5. How do you think cultural differences influence teaching methods and educational practices in various countries?
6. What materials should schools incorporate into their curriculum to prepare students for a diverse world?
7. How can technology enhance the experience of international student exchanges in schools?
8. What subjects or skills do you believe are most important for students all over the world to learn today, and why?
9. What are some differences you might expect between schooling in your country and schooling in another country?
10. Can you share any personal experiences you have had with international education programs, such as exchange programs or studying abroad?

Debate

Topic: "Should schools abolish homework?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments either for or against homework for schoolchildren.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Benefits of International School Exchange Programs
2. Comparison of School Systems in Different Countries
3. The Role of Technology in School Education
4. Inclusive Education Practices and Students with Special

Needs

5. Importance of Extracurricular Activities at Schools
6. Educational Innovations
7. School Safety and Security Measures
8. Environmental Education Initiatives
9. Challenges Faced by International Students
10. Future Trends in School Education

Unit 4. Personalities

Text 4.1 Lev Vygotsky's Life and Theories

Lev Vygotsky was a seminal Russian psychologist best known for his sociocultural theory. He believed that social interaction plays a critical role in children's learning – a continuous process that is profoundly influenced by culture. Imitation, guided learning, and collaborative learning feature prominently in his theory.

Lev Vygotsky's Early Life

Lev Vygotsky was born November 17, 1896, in Orsha, a city in the western Russian Empire. In 1917, he earned a law degree at Moscow State University, where he studied a range of topics including sociology, linguistics, psychology, and philosophy.

His formal work in psychology began in 1924 at Moscow's Institute of Psychology. He completed a dissertation in 1925 on the psychology of art but was awarded his degree in absentia due to an acute tuberculosis relapse that left him incapacitated for a year.

Following his illness, Vygotsky began researching topics such as language, attention, and memory with the help of his students. Among these were Alexei Leontiev, the developmental psychologist and philosopher who developed activity theory, and neuropsychologist Alexander Luria, the author of "Higher Cortical Functions in Man."

Lev Vygotsky's Theories

Vygotsky was a prolific writer, publishing six books on psychology in 10 years. His interests were diverse but often

centered on child development, education, the psychology of art, and language development. He developed several important theories about the way children learn and grow within culture and society.

The Zone of Proximal Development

One of Vygotsky's well-known concepts was the zone of proximal development. He defined it as "[The] distance between the actual developmental level as determined by independent problem solving and the level of potential development as determined through problem-solving under adult guidance or in collaboration with more capable peers."

In other words, the zone is the gap between what a child knows and what they do not. Acquiring the missing information requires skills that a child does not yet possess or cannot use independently, but can with the help of a "more knowledgeable other."

The More Knowledgeable Other

Vygotsky's "more knowledgeable other" is a person who has greater knowledge and skills than the learner. Often, this is an adult such as a parent or teacher who provides educational opportunities, such as guided instruction, within a child's zone of proximal development.

Vygotsky noticed that children also learn a great deal from peer interactions. In fact, children often pay more attention to what friends and classmates know and are doing than they do to adults. Teachers can leverage this tendency by pairing less skilled children with more knowledgeable classmates to observe and imitate.

No matter who serves as the more knowledgeable other, the key is that they provide the needed social instruction within the zone of proximal development when the learner is sensitive to guidance.

Sociocultural Theory

Lev Vygotsky also suggested that human development results from a dynamic interaction between individuals and society. Through this interaction, children learn gradually and continuously from parents and teachers.

However, this learning varies from one culture to the next. It's important to note that Vygotsky's theory emphasizes the dynamic nature of this interaction. Society does not just impact people; people also affect their society.

Lev Vygotsky's Contributions to Psychology

Vygotsky's died of tuberculosis on June 11, 1934, when he was just 37. Still, Vygotsky is considered a formative thinker in psychology, and much of his work is still being discovered and explored today.

Although he was a contemporary of Skinner, Pavlov, Freud, and Piaget, Vygotsky never attained their level of eminence during his lifetime. It wasn't until the 1970s that Vygotsky's theories became known outside of Russia, as new concepts and ideas emerged in the fields of educational and developmental psychology. Since then, Vygotsky's works have been translated many times over and have gained international recognition, particularly in the area of education.

Task 4.1.1 Key vocabulary. Match the phrases from the text with their definitions.

A seminal psychologist	To be a noticeable or important part of something, standing out clearly
To be profoundly influenced by	To be unable to perform normal activities or functions, often due to illness or injury
To feature prominently	Social exchanges or communications between individuals of the same age group or status
To be incapacitated	To use a natural inclination or habit to achieve a particular goal or advantage
A prolific writer	A thinker whose ideas have been crucial in shaping or developing a particular field or area of study
Peer interactions	To become known and respected around the world for one's work or achievements
To leverage a tendency	A writer who produces a large amount of work, often with high quality
A formative thinker	To be strongly affected or shaped by something or someone in a deep and significant way
To gain international recognition	A psychologist whose work has greatly influenced the field and is considered foundational or groundbreaking

Task 4.1.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct phrases from the list.

A seminal psychologist | to be profoundly influenced by | to feature prominently | to be incapacitated | a prolific writer | peer interactions | to leverage a tendency | a formative thinker | to gain international recognition

1. The scientist's groundbreaking research helped him _____ in the field of genetics.
2. The teacher emphasized the importance of _____ among students for social development.
3. Sigmund Freud is considered a _____ whose theories laid the foundation for modern psychoanalysis.
4. Stephen King is known as a _____, having written numerous best-selling novels.
5. The company decided to _____ its employees' creativity to boost innovation.
6. Jean Piaget was _____ whose ideas have shaped modern educational psychology.
7. After the accident, he was _____ for several months and needed constant care.
8. In her latest book, the author allows environmental themes to _____ throughout the narrative.
9. The artist's work was _____ the cultural movements of the 20th century.

Task 4.1.3 Write 9 sentences using the key phrases.

Task 4.1.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following terms. Explain their meaning.

- sociocultural theory;
- guided learning;
- collaborative learning;
- activity theory;
- the zone of proximal development;
- the more knowledgeable other.

Task 4.1.5 Retell the text using the key phrases, names, and terms.

Task 4.1.6 Discuss the questions.

1. What is the main idea behind Lev Vygotsky's theory of the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), and how does it apply to language teaching and learning?

2. How does Vygotsky's ideas influence modern educational practices, and can you provide an example of how they might be used in a foreign language classroom setting?

3. Vygotsky emphasized the role of social interaction in cognitive development. How do you think collaborative learning activities in the classroom benefit students according to his theories?

4. What are some possible drawbacks of Vygotsky's theories in education, and how might educators address these problems in their teaching approaches?

5. How can studying with peers enhance the process of learning a foreign language, and what are some specific activities or techniques that might be particularly effective?

6. What are the potential benefits and challenges of peer teaching in a language learning environment, and how can students overcome the challenges to make peer interactions more productive?

7. In what ways can peers support each other in developing language skills outside of the classroom, and how can teachers encourage and facilitate this type of peer collaboration?

8. What role do emotional and social factors play in a child's learning process, and how can parents and teachers create a positive environment to support these aspects?

9. How has the approach to foreign language teaching in Russia evolved over the past decade, and what are some of the new methods or technologies being introduced in Russian classrooms?

10. What challenges do foreign language teachers in Russia face?

Debate

Topic: "Vygotsky's Theory of the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) is more effective in modern educational settings than traditional teaching methods"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group supporting either Vygotsky's ZPD theory or traditional teaching methods.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Prominent Russian Educators: From the Russian Empire to Modern Russia

2. Lev Vygotsky's Theories in Detail

3. Skinner, Pavlov, Freud, and Piaget's Ideas Compared with Vygotsky's Works

4. Modern Methods of Teaching Based on Vygotsky's Ideas

5. The Role of Technology in Enhancing Language Teaching Methods

6. Task-Based Language Teaching: Benefits and Challenges
7. The Impact of the Communicative Approach on Language Learning
8. The Use of Gamification in Language Teaching: Engaging or Distracting?
9. Blended Learning Approaches in ESL Education
10. The Role of Peer Learning in Language Acquisition: Insights and Applications

Text 4.2 Tetris Creator Alexey Pajitnov Initially Received No Royalties for the Game

Tetris, one of the most popular and addictive video games in world, got its start in the Soviet Union during the Cold War. A Russian computer engineer named Alexey Pajitnov threw it together while working for a state-owned research institute in the 1980s, and it quickly became a global sensation.

“The very first version, the very first prototype, I did realize that it might be a very good game because it was very addictive even in the early stage,” Pajitnov said, “but I never could have imagined anything like the history it actually had.”

The story of the Tetris’ creation and the firestorm behind the battle for the game’s international licensing rights is depicted in the new film Tetris. Streaming now on Apple TV+, the movie stars Taron Egerton as Henk Rogers, the video game entrepreneur who befriends Pajitnov (played by Nikita Efremov) and helps secure distribution rights to the game.

The Invention of Tetris

Born in 1955 in the Soviet Union, Pajitnov studied mathematics at the Moscow Aviation Institute and, in 1979, began

working at the Dorodnitsyn Computing Centre, an institute of the Soviet's Russian Academy of Sciences, where he focused on speech recognition and artificial intelligence platforms.

“It was one of the very few Soviet institutes able to communicate with the rest of the world, so people occasionally sent us new hardware,” Pajitnov told *The Guardian*. “We’d assess how powerful it was by writing a simple program for it, which became my excuse for making games.”

His interest in mathematics and puzzles attracted Pajitnov to video games, and he was partially inspired to make Tetris from his childhood memories of playing pentominoes, a game where you create pictures using shapes. In particular, he recalled the difficulty he had putting pentominoes pieces back in the box. That led him to make the first version of Tetris on an antiquated Electronika 60 computer. It didn't even have a graphics card, requiring him to create blocks out of keyboard characters and letters.

“I couldn't stop playing it,” he told NPR, admitting he would sometimes pretend to be busy with work when he was really playing Tetris. He said of the game: “Magic is in it.”

Pajitnov finished the game in 1984, though he continued improving it over the next few years. Tetris became a success, but because Pajitnov was employed by the Soviet Union, he had few options but to relinquish ownership of the game to the government and did not receive any royalties.

Around this time, Mikhail Gorbachev launched Perestroika, a movement restructuring the Soviet economic system and allowing for market-like reforms. Tetris was one of the first pieces of software exported by the Soviet Union, selling about 40 million

copies, but Pajitnov did not personally profit from it. “I didn’t make much money at first, but I was happy, because my main priority was to see people enjoying my game,” Pajitnov told The Guardian.

Pajitnov left Moscow for Seattle in 1991. Five years later, Pajitnov and video game designer and entrepreneur Henk Rogers founded the Tetris Company to handle licensing for Tetris and its spinoffs. By this time, his former deal expired, and the rights to Tetris reverted from the Russian state to Pajitnov, allowing him to finally start earning royalties for his game. “And they’ve been fine so far,” he said in 2019 about the royalties he had since earned (Pajitnov has not shared specific figures).

Pajitnov has continued working on video games since coming to the United States. He worked at Microsoft starting in 1996, where he designed puzzle games and worked on games like Yoshi’s Cookie. More recently, he designed the game Hexic HD, a popular puzzle game that came included with each xBox 360 console.

Even though his later games haven’t enjoyed the same level of success as Tetris, Pajitnov has already gone down in history as one of the most influential computer game developers of all time.

Task 4.2.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

Addictive	To obtain legal permission or authority to distribute a product, content, or service
To befriend	To be remembered or recorded in history for significant achievements, events, or actions

To secure distribution rights	The ability of a computer or machine to identify and respond to spoken language
Speech recognition	To establish a friendly relationship with someone
To relinquish ownership	To earn a share of the profits or earnings from the sale or use of one's work, usually in relation to intellectual property like books, music, or inventions
To receive royalties	A product, service, or entity that is derived from an existing one, often with a specific focus or purpose
A spinoff	Causing a strong and compulsive desire or need
To go down in history	To give up or surrender ownership or control of something

Task 4.2.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

Addictive | to befriend | to secure distribution rights | speech recognition | to relinquish ownership | to receive royalties | a spinoff | to go down in history

1. Authors often _____ from their books long after they have been published.

2. She decided _____ the new student to help him feel welcome at the school.

3. Modern smartphones often include _____ technology, allowing users to control their devices with their voice.

4. Many people find video games to be highly _____, often spending hours playing them.

5. The artist chose _____ of his paintings to a museum for a significant amount of money.

6. Her groundbreaking discovery will _____ as one of the greatest scientific achievements of our time.

7. The new TV show is a _____ from a popular movie franchise, focusing on a minor character's adventures.

8. The company worked hard _____ for its new software in multiple countries.

Task 4.2.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 4.2.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia from the text. Explain their meaning, prepare short reports if necessary.

- the Cold War;
- the Moscow Aviation Institute;
- the Soviet's Russian Academy of Sciences;
- Dorodnitsyn Computing Centre;
- pentominoes;
- The Guardian;
- NPR;
- Mikhail Gorbachev;
- Perestroika;
- Microsoft;
- Yoshi's Cookie;
- Hexic HD;
- xBox 360 console.

Task 4.2.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 4.2.6 Discuss the questions.

1. What was the first video game you ever played, and how did it make you feel?
2. How do you think video games have evolved over the years in terms of graphics and gameplay?
3. What are the positive and negative effects of playing video games on children and teenagers?
4. Do you think video games can be educational? Can you give examples of games that teach useful skills or knowledge?
5. How important is storytelling in video games? Can you name a game with a particularly engaging story?
6. What are some of the most popular genres of video games, and which one is your favorite? Why?
7. What may be some of the challenges faced by game developers in the industry today?
8. Do you think virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) will change the future of gaming? In what ways?
9. How do you think video games influence culture and society? Can you think of any examples where a game has had a significant impact?
10. Do you think computer games made in Russia reflect the country's culture? Can you give examples?

Debate

Topic: "For and Against Pursuing a Career in Video Game Development"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for and against building a career in video game development.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Various Careers in Video Game Development
2. Women in Game Development
3. The Biggest Gaming Markets Around the World
4. The Rise of Indie Video Games
5. Mobile Games
6. Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) in Gaming
7. The Business Side of Game Development:
8. Game Development Process
9. Video Games Localization and Cultural Adaptation
10. The Phenomenon of Streaming in Gaming

Text 4.3 Down to Earth:

Q and A with Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev

No matter how many pictures of Earth you see, nothing can match gazing out the windows of the International Space Station at our planet rotating below. For the few hundred people who have had that privilege, it can be life changing.

To come as close as possible to experiencing this perspective, view Earth through the eyes of Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, who ranks third to cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Yuri Malenchenko for time spent in space, logging over 800 days aboard the International Space Station, Mir space station, Soyuz spacecraft, and the space shuttle. He kicked off more than 20 years of continuous human habitation aboard station in

November 2000 as one of three members of Expedition 1. Krikalev shared his unique perspective on the power of collaboration in space and looking down on Earth.

What was it like seeing the Earth from space for the first time?

I was amazed to see the horizon. Before that, when on the globe, I flew very high on different airplanes and still saw a flat horizon. But from orbit, you can already see a curvature of Earth. The second surprise was to see with your own eyes that we have a pretty thin layer of atmosphere protecting us.

How did the pictures you took contribute to science?

We actually not only had specific directions from scientists, but they also educated us generally on what they may be interested in. So if I see something, even if I do not have direct guidance from scientists, I know that, for example, this bloom of water from a river into the ocean and see how it spreads different colors in the ocean can be interesting. And it can be interesting, actually, for several scientists. For oceanographers, for people who study living creatures in fresh water and salt water, to know how this water spreads. And sometimes you can really see what is happening when two different waters mix. When you see some unusual structure of clouds, you take a picture, knowing that people are studying some effects in the atmosphere. Then we have a very interesting discussion with scientists to explain what we see.

Did you have any big takeaways from your first time in orbit?

I remember from my first flight, when you look down, it is a little more difficult to find things on the surface. When you do it

on the map, you have borders and start to use borders as a landmark. But in space, you have no borders. You have only the natural rivers, mountains, beaches, forests, or something like that. You start to understand that in many cases, our separation on Earth is more artificial. We are living on the same surface. When you see a forest fire, you see that smoke is going sometimes for hundreds of kilometers. They cross all borders. There is no wall on this border. If you have disaster on one side, it can easily spread on another side. If you have flooding, it floods an area not looking at the border between different regions or different countries. You start to see that we are more united.

This feeling of being united, how do you think it can be brought back down to Earth?

I think what we do in space together is a good example of how people need to live on the ground. I know that people sometimes start to argue with no good reason; but especially when you are in a harsh environment, you rely on each other and try to help each other. That is how we live in space, and that probably can be a good example for people on the ground. We try to keep this area protected and keep this good example to politicians and maybe other people in my country and your country, showing that is really how we need to live.

Task 4.3.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

To rank first/second/third to somebody	The slight curve of the Earth's surface due to its spherical shape
Human habitation	A place with very tough and difficult living conditions
The curvature of Earth	To be in the first, second, or third position compared to someone else in a list or competition
A big takeaway	Places where people live
Harsh environment	To help advance scientific knowledge through research or discoveries
A landmark	Made by humans, not natural
To contribute to science	The most important point or lesson to learn from something
Artificial	A significant or well-known place or event

Task 4.3.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

To rank first to | human habitation | the curvature of Earth | a big takeaway | harsh environment | a landmark | to contribute to science | artificial

1. The development of new medicines can _____ and improve our understanding of diseases.
2. A lighthouse is a common _____ along coastlines to help guide ships.
3. The _____ in the Arctic makes it a challenging place to live and work.
4. One _____ from the conference was the importance of early childhood education.

5. Scientists use advanced technology to measure the _____ accurately.

6. The researchers discovered ancient structures that provided evidence of early _____ in the area.

7. She managed to _____ the competition despite being the youngest participant.

8. The company has developed an _____ intelligence system to automate tasks.

Task 4.3.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 4.3.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning, give a short report if necessary.

- the International Space Station;
- Gennady Padalka;
- Yuri Malenchenko;
- Sergei Krikalev;
- Mir space station;
- Soyuz spacecraft.

Task 4.3.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 4.3.6 Discuss the questions.

1. What do you think is the most exciting part of being an astronaut?

2. How do you feel about the idea of humans living on other planets in the future?

3. What are some of the biggest challenges astronauts face while in space?

4. What do you think the future of space exploration will look like in 50 years?

5. Why do you think space exploration is important for humanity?

6. What are some potential risks associated with space travel?

7. What role do private companies, like SpaceX, play in the future of space exploration?

8. How important do you think it is for countries to invest in space programs?

9. What do you think about the idea of space tourism becoming more common in the future?

10. How do you think international cooperation in space exploration can benefit global relations?

Debate

Topic: "Should Governments Continue to Invest Heavily in Space Exploration?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for and against investments in space industry and space exploration.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Mars Exploration: History, Current Missions and Future Plans
2. The Life and Work of an Astronaut: Training, Missions, and Daily Routines
3. Space Technologies Used on Earth
4. The Impact of Space Exploration on Scientific Knowledge and Technology
5. Russian and Soviet Milestones in Space Exploration
6. Moon Exploration: History, Current Missions and Future Plans
7. Private Space Companies: SpaceX, Blue Origin, and the Future of Commercial Space Travel
8. The Search for Extraterrestrial Life: Scientific Methods and Recent Discoveries
9. The International Space Station: A Hub for International Collaboration
10. Soviet and Russian Organizations Connected with Space Industry

Text 4.4 Woman in the News; Russia's Golden Girl Lidiya Skoblikova

If Lidiya Skoblikova – with her blonde hair, blue eyes and dimpled cheeks – does not match some Westerners' conception of a Siberian woman speed skater, her grim application to training regimen and fierce determination to win typify the Soviet approach to the IX Winter Olympics. Early last month in Moscow, she was sitting quietly next to Yuri D. Mashin, the top Soviet

athlete, while he was saying that a “feeling of patriotism may play a decisive role” in Olympic competition.

Mrs. Skoblikova, a member of the Young Communist League who soon will join the Communist party, nodded silently during this talk in the office of the Soviet State Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. Then, without smiling, she predicted that she would sweep the women's speedskating events at Innsbruck, Austria.

“We will pick up silver and bronze medals, too,” she said.

At Innsbruck yesterday, while the crowd roared “Leedee-a, Lee-dee-a,” Mrs. Skoblikova stood on the podium with four gold medals dangling from her neck, the fulfillment of her prediction. No other athlete had won more than three gold medals in one Olympics.

The 24-year-old physiology teacher had skated an extra lap after finishing her 3,000-meter race, then refused to talk to reporters until a little North Korean girl had completed her course. “I knew the Korean was five seconds slower than I,” the Soviet woman said in a matter-of-fact tone that was not boastful.

This calm acceptance of her ability to skate faster than any other woman (“I enjoy being the strongest in the world”) has emerged from her domination of the world's speed skaters since she won two gold medals in the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, California.

She has become something of a performer as well as an athlete.

“I like to skate around the stadium after a victory,” she said. “People applaud and that gives me pleasure.” Her voice is strangely harsh, coming from a girlish, heart-shaped face.

One observer at Squaw Valley thought she had a “macabre sense of humor.” He recalled her having said, for no particular reason, “Men like to watch girls ice-skating, yes?”

The impression at Innsbruck, where the athletes have been sheltered somewhat from press and public, is that she is alternately “warm but afraid to display her warmth.” When a British questioner became too aggressive at a postrace interview, she tried to leave, but was persuaded to stay.

Mrs. Skoblikova, wearing royal blue tights, a stocking cap of red, white and blue, and the sealskin coat that is part of the Soviet uniform, said she liked “all sports, music and literature – like any other Soviet person.”

Her husband, Alexander, has sent her a congratulatory telegram after each victory. He has remained at their home in Chelyabinsk, in the Urals, where he is an athletic trainer at the Physical Culture Institute. She also teaches there. Five other members of her family are teachers.

This is an industrial area, where the winters are long. Lidiya, the daughter of a metallurgical engineer, was born March 8, 1939. She started skating at the age of 10 and won her first medal at 18, shortly before she was married. She has won 62 medals (“I have a big pocket”).

For Mrs. Skoblikova, as with other Soviet Olympians, athletics is a way of life. Because there is no artificial ice in Chelyabinsk, she must train on outside pitches from November to April. She trains five hours a day; she also skis and bicycles to stay trim. The result: a lithe, compact figure of 5 feet 5 inches and 126 pounds that can unleash startling speed from a racing crouch, like an uncoiled spring.

The old concept of the Siberian woman as a stocky, muscular peasant-type has been shattered by Mrs. Skoblikova.

“Skating makes us more feminine,” she asserts.

Task 4.4.1 Key vocabulary. Match the phrases from the text with their definitions.

Training regimen	Finding humor in grim or gruesome situations
Fierce determination	Speaking in a straightforward, unemotional, and factual manner
A fulfillment of a prediction	To maintain a fit and healthy body
A matter-of-fact tone	When something happens that was expected or forecasted
Macabre sense of humor	A body that is slim, flexible, and graceful
To stay trim	A strong and intense will to achieve something despite difficulties
A lithe figure	To suddenly start moving very fast
To unleash startling speed	A planned and structured schedule of exercises and activities to improve fitness or skills

Task 4.4.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

training regimen | fierce determination | fulfillment | a matter-of-fact tone | macabre sense of humor | to stay trim | a lithe figure | to unleash startling speed

1. Regular exercise helps her _____ and maintain good health.

2. Despite the horror of the situation, some people have a _____ and make jokes about it.
3. To become an astronaut, one must follow a strict _____ that includes physical and mental training.
4. When the cheetah saw its prey, it was able to _____ and catch it in seconds.
5. He explained the dangerous situation in a _____ that did not convey any panic.
6. Her _____ allowed her to overcome every obstacle in her path.
7. The weather report was accurate, leading to the _____ of a prediction about the storm.
8. The dancer's _____ allowed her to move with exceptional grace and agility.

Task 4.4.3 Write 8 sentences using the key phrases.

Task 4.4.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning, give a short report if necessary.

- Lidiya Skoblikova;
- Winter Olympics;
- IX Winter Olympics;
- Yuri D. Mashin;
- the Young Communist League;
- the Communist party;
- the Soviet State Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries;
- Innsbruck, Austria;

- Squaw Valley, California;
- the Physical Culture Institute, Chelyabinsk.

Task 4.4.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, names, and realia.

Task 4.4.6 Discuss the questions.

1. Have you ever tried ice skating? If so, what was your experience like?

2. What qualities do you think are necessary for an athlete to succeed in the Olympic Games?

3. How important do you think mental strength is for an athlete's success? Can you give an example?

4. What do you think motivates athletes to train hard and compete at the highest levels?

5. Have you ever watched an ice skating or another sports event performance that left a strong impression on you? What made it special?

6. How do you think athletes balance their personal lives with their intense training schedules?

7. What do you think are the biggest challenges Olympic-level athletes face during their careers?

8. What is your favorite Olympic sport to watch, and why?

9. What do you think about the idea of adding new sports to the Olympic Games? Which sports would you like to see included?

10. How do you think the Olympic Games promote international cooperation and peace?

Debate

Topic: "The Benefits and Drawbacks of Pursuing a Career as a Professional Athlete"

Students are divided into two groups, with group one presenting the benefits and group two presenting the drawbacks of a professional athlete's career.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. History of Ice Skating in Russia and the Soviet Union
2. Athlete Training Regimens
3. The Journey to the Olympics
4. Technology in Sports
5. Famous Athletes of Chelyabinsk and the Urals
6. Mental Toughness and Sports Psychology
7. Olympic Events in Russia and the Soviet Union
8. Cultural Impact of the Olympics
9. Women in the Olympics
10. Iconic Olympic Moments

Text 4.5 Denis Matsuev: "My family is the belief that everything will be fine"

Denis Matsuev, the world-famous virtuoso pianist, celebrated his birthday on June 11. On this day, we remember not only his incredible achievements on the music scene, but also the important role that his family played in the formation and development of his talent. As part of the joint project of the Year of the Family and the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives "Family in

Culture”, Denis Matsuev told how family values and support helped him reach heights in the world of music.

Denis Matsuev was born on June 11, 1975 in Irkutsk into a musical family. His grandfather was a circus orchestra artist, his father, Leonid Viktorovich Matsuev, was a pianist and composer, and his mother, Irina Dmitrievna Gomelskaya, taught piano. It was in the family that the foundations of Denis’s creative path were laid. The closest people understood that a talented child needs to be helped and conditions created for his development.

“My family is such an indicator of service to art, and some kind of inner belief that everything will be fine,” Denis Matsuev shared.

To give his son the opportunity to develop and improve, his parents, despite difficult times, left their jobs in Irkutsk and moved to Moscow in 1991. At first they rented a one-room apartment, and then they lived on the money earned from the sale of their grandmother’s apartment.

The path to success was not easy. “It wasn’t so cloudless,” Matsuev recalls. The family worked to ensure that he could develop, and this path required many sacrifices and efforts. Denis gratefully remembers his parents and all the relatives who supported him and believed in his success. It was this faith and family support that helped him overcome difficulties and achieve significant heights in the world of music.

Today Denis Matsuev not only continues his successful career, but also actively invites families to classical music concerts. He believes that music is the best medicine and therapy that can purify, energize and inspire. “This is one of the best

vaccines today,” says Matsuev, inviting people to come to concerts and enjoy the magic of classical music.

Matsuev actively participates in the popularization of classical music, organizes festivals and concerts. One of these projects is the “Denis Matsuev Presents: Dialogue of Generations” festival, which has been held for several years with the support of the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives in the regions of Russia. Both young talents and recognized masters perform at concerts, which contributes to the transfer of traditions and the maintenance of a high level of performing skills.

Denis Matsuev’s story is a vivid example of how important family values, support and faith in success are. His path proves that with the right foundations laid in the family, you can reach incredible heights and inspire others with your example. In the Year of the Family, we once again realize how important the family is as a support and source of strength for each of us.

The special project of the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives “Family in Culture” is a media project dedicated to the Year of the Family and designed to inspire viewers to reflect on their own attitude to family and family values, as well as provide them with examples of positive family relationships and support for each other.

Task 4.5.1 Key vocabulary. Match the phrases from the text with their definitions.

Service to art	To need to give up something valuable or important to achieve a goal
An inner belief	Dedication and contribution to the field of art

To require sacrifices	An expert or highly skilled person acknowledged by others in their field
To achieve significant heights	Keeping one's ability to perform at a high level through practice and training
A recognized master	A clear and striking instance that illustrates a concept or idea
Maintenance of performing skills	To think about and evaluate one's own feelings and behavior
A vivid example	To reach a high level of success or accomplishment
To reflect on one's attitude to	A deep, personal conviction or faith in something

Task 4.5.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct phrases from the list.

Service to art | an inner belief | to require sacrifices | to achieve significant heights | a recognized master | maintenance of performing skills | a vivid example | to reflect on one's attitude

1. She is a _____ in her craft, known and respected by all her peers.

2. Achieving your dreams often _____, such as time with family or financial security.

3. Many artists dedicate their lives in _____, striving to create and inspire.

4. The teacher used a _____ to help the students understand the concept.

5. After the incident, he took some time _____ and how it affected his actions.

6. Through hard work and determination, he was able _____ in his career.

7. Regular practice is essential for the _____ of any musician's _____.

8. Her success was driven by a strong _____ in her abilities.

Task 4.5.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words.

Task 4.5.4 Retell the text using the key phrases and names.

Task 4.5.5 Discuss the questions.

1. Who is your favorite composer and why?
2. Do you think it is important for children to learn to play a musical instrument? Why or why not?
3. What are some challenges that musicians may face in their careers?
4. How can families support their children who show talent in music or other arts?
5. Have you ever attended a classical music concert? What was your experience like?
6. Do you think classical music is relevant in today's modern society? Why or why not?
7. How do you think the internet and social media have changed the way we access and enjoy classical music and music in general?
8. How important do you think formal training is for becoming a successful musician?
9. How do you think classical music can be made more accessible and appealing to a wider audience?

10. What role do you think classical music plays in cultural heritage and identity?

Debate

Topic: "Should Musicians Rely on Formal Education or Self-Taught Methods for Success?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments in support of either formal education or self-taught methods as more effective in becoming a musician.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Russian Classical Composers: from the Russian Empire to Modern Classics

2. The Role of Family Support in Nurturing a Talent

3. The Evolution of Classical Music Over the Centuries

4. The Importance of Music Education for Children

5. Music and Foreign Languages Teaching

6. The Daily Life and Practice Routines of Professional Musicians

7. Iconic Classical Music Performances and Their Cultural Impact

8. Music Festivals and Competitions in Russia

9. Famous Russian Musicians, Singers and Bands

10. The Influence of Classical Music on Modern Culture

Unit 5. Science and Technology

Text 5.1 Microsoft makes Russia U-turn

Microsoft appears to have unblocked access to major updates for users residing in Russia, according to IT specialists who spoke with Izvestia news outlet in an article published on Monday.

Following the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict in 2022, the US-based tech giant announced its exit from Russia, suspending sales and services. Users in the country were also blocked from downloading any updates, forcing them to use Virtual Private Networks (VPN) to mask their location.

However, the latest major update for Windows 11 has now become downloadable on Russian PCs without having to use a VPN. Programs within the Office suite, such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint, can now also be obtained without resorting to additional software.

According to Valentin Makarov, the president of the Russoft association of Russian software companies, “Microsoft is looking for loopholes to stay in the Russian market, which is very important to them. Even if the company claims otherwise in its statements, in private conversations they guaranteed full support for their software.”

Previously, Microsoft had also announced that Russian IT companies would lose access to its software after March 20. However, according to multiple sources who spoke with Izvestia, as of April 13, this has yet to happen.

The tech giant does not appear to be trying to prevent the purchase or activation of new licenses in Russia that have been

purchased through parallel imports, one source at a large IT distributor told the outlet.

Mobile Research Group analyst Eldar Murtazin has suggested that, despite publicly vowing to adhere to sanctions, the main concern for any US corporation is money and supporting sales by any means.

“Of course, formally they should follow the sanctions, but in reality this is not the case. For example, when the company was still publicly present in the Russian Federation, they created a special legal entity in Krasnodar, which sold licenses to Crimea, although they officially stated that they did not do this,” Murtazin told Izvestia.

Microsoft’s decision to restore access for Russian users could also be based on its desire to preserve its dominance in the market, another source told the outlet.

While the Windows operating system remains the most popular choice for ordinary users in Russia, new domestic solutions are currently being developed, and state corporations and companies with state participation have been ordered to fully transition to Russian-developed software by January 1, 2025. This includes operating systems, office suites, anti-virus programs, and virtualization systems.

Database management systems will have to be switched by 2026, according to Russia’s Ministry of Digital Development.

Task 5.1.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

To reside in	To be acquired or gotten
To be obtained	A small mistake or exception in a rule or law that allows someone to avoid its requirements
To resort to	To live or dwell in a particular place
A loophole	To use or turn to something as a final option
To claim otherwise	An organization or company that has legal rights and responsibilities, like a person
To adhere to	To state or assert something different or the opposite
A legal entity	To stick to or follow closely, such as rules or guidelines

Task 5.1.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

To reside in | to be obtained | to resort to | a loophole | to claim otherwise | to adhere to | a legal entity

1. All employees are expected _____ the company's code of conduct.

2. When negotiations failed, they had to _____ legal action.

3. The company found a _____ in the tax law that saved them thousands of dollars.

4. The report stated that the project was on schedule, but the workers _____.

5. The business was registered as a _____ separate from its owners.

6. She decided to _____ a small village near the mountains.

7. The necessary permits must _____ before construction can begin.

Task 5.1.3 Write 7 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 5.1.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning, give a short report if necessary.

- Microsoft;
- Virtual Private Networks (VPN);
- Microsoft Office suite;
- the Russoft association of Russian software companies;
- Mobile Research Group;
- the Crimea;
- Windows operating system;
- Russia’s Ministry of Digital Development;
- parallel imports.

Task 5.1.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, realia and names.

Task 5.1.6 Discuss the questions.

1. What digital tools do you use most frequently in your daily life, and why?
2. How have digital tools like smartphones and laptops changed the way we live, work, and communicate with each other?

3. How do you think digital tools will evolve in the next 10 years, and what impact will this have on society?

4. How do you feel about using online platforms for teaching foreign languages compared to traditional classroom methods?

5. How can digital tools help in assessing students' language skills more accurately?

6. What challenges may teachers face when integrating digital tools into their language lessons?

7. How do you think virtual reality (VR) could be used in language learning?

8. Do you believe that digital tools can replace a human language teacher? Why or why not?

9. Can you share an experience where a digital tool significantly helped you improve your language or any other skills?

10. How important do you think it is for foreign language teachers to receive training on using digital tools?

Debate

Topic: "The benefits and drawbacks of using digital tools for work or study"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting either benefits or drawbacks of digital tools use in work and study.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Essential Digital Tools for a Foreign Language Teacher

2. The Most Effective Language Learning Apps and Websites
3. Social Media in Foreign Language Learning and Teaching
4. Digital Collaboration Tools (e.g. Google Docs or Zoom) for Work or Study
5. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Language Education
6. The Impact of Digital Tools on Remote Work Trends
7. Gamification in Language Learning: Tools and Techniques
8. E-books and Online Libraries for Work, Study, and Personal Use
9. The Role and Types of Digital Portfolios in Showcasing Student Work
10. Using Podcasts and Audiobooks for Language Immersion and Self-Education

Text 5.2 Russia had its coldest-ever start to May – data

The first 10 days of May 2024 were the coldest the European part of Russia has witnessed in the history of meteorological observations there, the scientific director of Russia’s Hydrometeorological Center, Roman Vilfand, has said.

The European part of Russia was a “funnel” attracting cold air masses from the Arctic Ocean during the beginning of the month, Vilfand told TASS on Monday.

“Two centers with different signs – an anticyclone to the west of Moscow and a cyclone to the east of Moscow – created

conditions for the retraction and advection of the cold air masses of the Arctic Ocean,” he explained.

According to Vilfand, the current process is a rare case. Temperatures remained about 8-10 degrees below average during this period, as cold air masses arrived from the Kara Sea, the East Siberian Sea, Novaya Zemlya, the Laptev Sea, and from Spitsbergen.

The temperature in the Russian capital lagged 1.5 months behind the normal climate calendar, resulting in snowstorms, which is unusual for this time of the year in Moscow.

The snow that fell in Moscow on May 9, when Russia celebrated Victory Day, was the first ever recorded on that day of the year in the capital, according to meteorologists. The temperature in Moscow averaged 1.7°C (35°F), making it the coldest May 9 since 1972.

Moscow’s cold snap followed the warmest April in 23 years, Gismeteo website said earlier this month. The average temperature last month stood at 10.9°C, which was 5°C above the norm. On April 2, a record temperature of 23.2°C was recorded, according to Gismeteo.

Task 5.2.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

Retraction	To fall behind or not keep up with others
Advection	A short period of unusually cold weather
To lag behind	A cyclone is a system of winds rotating inward to an area of low pressure, while an anticyclone is a system of winds rotating outward from an area of high pressure

Cold snap	The horizontal movement of air, water, or other substances in the atmosphere or ocean
Cyclone and anticyclone	Taking back or withdrawing a statement or claim
To be witnessed	The collection of data related to the weather and atmosphere
Meteorological observations	To calculate the mean or typical value of a set of numbers
To average	To be seen or observed

Task 5.2.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

Retraction | advection | to lag behind | cold snap | cyclone | anticyclone | to witness | meteorological observations | to average

1. During the winter, a sudden _____ can cause temperatures to drop significantly for a few days.

2. Meteorologists use _____ to gather data about weather conditions.

3. The company had to issue a _____ after realizing they had made a mistake in their announcement.

4. The hurricane developed into a powerful _____ with strong winds and heavy rain.

5. When the warm air mass moves in, it is due to the _____ of tropical air.

6. If we don't hurry, we'll _____ and miss the start of the meeting.

7. Over the past decade, the region's temperature has _____ to about 15°C annually.

8. We _____ a beautiful sunset at the beach last evening.

9. After the storm, the _____ brought clear and sunny weather.

Task 5.2.3 Write 8 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 5.2.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning, give a short report if necessary.

- Russia’s Hydrometeorological Center;
- TASS;
- the Arctic Ocean;
- the Kara Sea;
- the East Siberian Sea;
- Novaya Zemlya;
- the Laptev Sea;
- Spitsbergen;
- Victory Day;
- Gismeteo website.

Task 5.2.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 5.2.6 Discuss the questions.

1. What is your favorite type of winter weather? Do you enjoy snow or cold but sunny days?
2. How does the winter season affect your daily routine or activities?

3. Have you ever experienced a severe winter storm? What was it like?

4. How do people in Russia typically prepare for winter?

5. What are some traditional winter foods or drinks in your culture?

6. Do you prefer a mild winter or a very cold winter with lots of snow? Why?

7. How do you stay warm during the winter months? Do you have any special clothing or accessories?

8. What winter activities do you enjoy the most? Skiing, snowboarding, ice skating or something else?

9. Have you ever traveled to a place with a different winter climate than your own? How was the experience?

10. Does the change of seasons influence your mood and well-being?

Debate

Topic: "Winter Sports Should be Mandatory in Schools"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for and against compulsory winter sports in schools.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Winter Traditions and Holidays in Russia

2. Traditional Winter Food in Russia and Other Countries

3. Winter Sports and Winter Olympic Games

4. Seasonal Affective Disorder: Influence of Seasons on Mental Health

5. Ethnical Minorities of Russia Inhabiting Northern Areas
6. Winter Festivals Around the World
7. Preparing for Winter: Safety Tips and Precautions
8. Winter in Literature and Art
9. Comparing Winter Weather Across Different Regions
10. The Impact of Climate Change on Winter Weather Patterns and Northern Regions

Text 5.3 Gold and silver tubes in a Russian museum are the oldest known drinking straws

Eight silver and gold tubes held in a Russian museum have long been thought to have been either ceremonial staffs or canopy supports. In reality, the long tubes are the oldest surviving drinking straws, researchers say.

People used these high-end straws to drink beer from a communal vessel more than 5,000 years ago, conclude archaeologist Viktor Trifonov of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg and colleagues. Excavations in 1897 in Russia uncovered the metal tubes, jewelry and other goods in a burial mound containing three individuals from the Maikop culture, which dates to between about 5,700 and 4,900 years ago.

Each slender tube extends for just over one meter. Four of the finds include a gold or silver bull figurine, punctured by a hole so that it could be slid up and down the tube. Meanings attributed to straws with or without figurines are unknown, Trifonov's group says.

Residue from the inner surface of one tube, near its tapered tip, contains barley starch granules, cereal particles from a wild or

domesticated plant and a pollen grain from a lime tree, the scientists report in the February *Antiquity*. Those may have been ingredients of a flavored beer, though further work needs to confirm that the barley remains show fermentation damage.

Maikop people, who inhabited southern Russia and southeastern Europe, probably had cultural ties to Sumerians living near the Persian Gulf, the researchers say. More than 4,000-year-old Sumerian carvings show people using long straws to drink from communal vessels.

Beer brewing began as early as around 13,000 years ago in the Middle East. And seal impressions on clay tablets dating to roughly 7,000 years ago in Iraq and Iran depict people drinking with straws.

Task 5.3.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

Ceremonial staffs	A small statue or sculpture, typically representing a person or animal, often used as decoration or for symbolic purposes
Canopy supports	A natural process where microorganisms like yeast or bacteria break down substances, such as sugars, into simpler compounds like alcohol or acids
To uncover	Structures or poles used to hold up a covering or roof, usually over a space or area
A burial mound	A carbohydrate extracted from barley grains, used in cooking and brewing
A figurine	Flat pieces of clay used as writing surfaces in ancient times, where inscriptions or records were made before the invention of paper

Residue	A raised area of earth or stone used as a grave or tomb for the deceased, often found in ancient cultures
Barley starch	Decorative sticks or poles used in formal events or ceremonies, often symbolizing authority or tradition
Fermentation	The process of making beer, which involves fermenting grains, usually barley, with yeast and other ingredients
Cultural ties	To reveal or expose something that was previously hidden
Beer brewing	Connections or relationships between people or groups based on shared customs, traditions, or heritage
Clay tablets	The small amount of something that remains after the main part has been removed or used

Task 5.3.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

Ceremonial staffs | canopy supports | a burial mound | a figurine | residue | barley starch | fermentation | cultural ties | beer brewing | clay tablets

1. The ancient artifacts included several intricately carved _____, which were likely used in religious ceremonies.
2. During the excavation, archaeologists discovered a _____ that had been hidden for centuries.
3. The team found a small _____ that depicted a deity from the era.
4. Analysis of the soil revealed _____ of barley, indicating that the area was once used for farming.
5. The presence of _____ in the samples suggested that beer production had taken place.
6. _____ was a significant activity in the ancient culture, as evidenced by the tools and residues found.

7. Several tall _____ were found around the ancient site, marking significant areas.

8. Researchers used advanced techniques to identify _____, a process crucial for understanding ancient diets.

9. The ancient scripts were inscribed on _____, providing valuable insights into the civilization's daily life.

10. The artifacts uncovered provide valuable insight into the _____ between the ancient civilizations.

Task 5.3.3 Write 11 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 5.3.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names and realia. Explain their meaning, give a short report if necessary.

- the Russian Academy of Sciences;
- the Maikop culture;
- the Antiquity;
- Sumerians;
- the Persian Gulf;
- the Middle East.

Task 5.3.5 Retell the text using the key words, phrases, and names.

Task 5.3.6 Discuss the questions.

1. What interests you most about archaeology and the study of ancient civilizations?

2. Have you ever visited an archaeological site? What was your experience like?

3. Why do you think it is important to study ancient artifacts and ruins?

4. What are some examples of cultural exchange between ancient civilizations you know of?

5. How do you think ancient cultural ties have shaped modern societies?

6. What role did religion play in establishing cultural ties in ancient times?

7. What types of museums do you know and who, in your opinion, is the target audience for every type?

8. How do museums contribute to the preservation of history and culture?

9. Have you ever participated in a museum workshop or guided tour? What did you learn from it?

10. What do you think is the role of museums in today's society?

Debate

Topic: "Should Museums Offer Free Admission to All Visitors?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for or against free admission to museums for general public.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Archeology in Russia: Scientists, Universities, Discoveries, and Archeological Sites
2. Modern Technology and Archaeological Discoveries
3. Recent Archeological Discoveries All Around the World
4. History of Trade Routes and Their Influence on Cultural Ties between Ancient Civilizations
5. Significant Cultural Ties of Ancient Rus' (Early and Medieval Russia), the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union and Modern Russia
6. Your Favorite Museum
7. Famous Museums of Russia
8. Technology and Innovation in Modern Museums
9. Museum Tours in Education
10. UNESCO and Cultural Heritage Objects in Russia

Text 5.4 State Programme “Scientific and Technological Development of the Russian Federation” (2019-2030)

The new State Programme “Scientific and Technological Development of the Russian Federation” (2019–2030) was developed taking into account the targets of the National Projects "Science", "Education" and "Digital Economy". The programme is focused on the development of the intellectual potential of the nation; science, technology and intellectual support of structural changes in the economy; effective organization and technological renewal of science, technology and innovation (high-tech) activities.

Subprogramme 1 “Development of national intellectual capital” focuses on development of an effective system for

balanced reproduction of scientific, engineering and entrepreneurial personnel and increasing their competitiveness at the global level. The subprogramme implementation includes international cooperation activities, in particular, attraction of world-class scientists and young researchers with high-level scientific results to research in Russia

Subprogramme 2 “Ensuring the global competitiveness of Russian higher education” envisages actions for effective reproduction of personnel for scientific and social sphere, as well as for basic and high-tech industries. Russian universities will provide high quality educational programmes for foreign students, including on-line courses, summer and winter schools. At least 30 Russian leading universities globally ranked will implement breakthrough R&D and educational programmes demanded at the global market.

In the framework of Subprogramme 3 “Basic research for long-term development and ensuring the competitiveness of society and the state” a system for the timely recognition and respond to emerging major challenges will be created. Russian researchers and engineers will receive an opportunity to be more deeply involved in scientific and technological development globally.

Subprogramme 4 “Forming and implementing integrated scientific and technological programmes <...> across a wide range of directions” focuses on establishing a balanced system to support all stages of the innovation cycle: from generation of new basic knowledge to its practical use, creating technologies, products and services and market entry. At least 16 world-class research centers

will be established, including a network of international mathematical and genomic research centers.

Subprogramme 5 “Infrastructure of scientific, technological and innovation activity” includes building and development of megascience unique research facilities in Russia and Russia’s participation in megascience projects abroad. The subprogramme 5 envisages the development of infrastructure and free access information systems for science, technology, innovation and high-tech activities thus contributing to promotion of international cooperation.

Task 5.4.1 Key vocabulary. Match the words and phrases from the text with their definitions.

To take into account	The process of recruiting and training new employees to replace or supplement existing staff
Digital economy	The value of a company's knowledge, experience, and skills, including its employees' expertise and innovative ideas
Technological renewal	The process of putting a plan or program into action to achieve its goals
Intellectual capital	The ability to quickly identify and address issues or opportunities as they arise
Programme implementation	The process of updating or improving technology to keep it current and efficient
To envisage actions	To consider something when making a decision or forming an opinion
Reproduction of	Large-scale scientific research that often

personnel	involves significant resources and collaboration, addressing major scientific questions or challenges
Timely recognition and response to	To imagine or plan what actions will be taken in the future to achieve a goal
Emerging challenges	An economy that is based on digital technologies, especially the internet and computers, to conduct business and transactions
Megascience	New or developing difficulties that need to be addressed as they come up

Task 5.4.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct words or phrases from the list.

To take into account | digital economy | technological renewal | intellectual capital | programme implementation | to envisage actions | reproduction of personnel | timely recognition and respond to | emerging challenges | megascience

1. Companies must adapt quickly to _____ in the global market.

2. A company's _____ is often considered its most valuable asset, as it includes knowledge and expertise.

3. To stay competitive, companies must focus on continuous _____.

4. _____ projects often require international collaboration and significant investment in research.

5. The _____ is vital for ensuring that a company has the right talent to meet future demands.

6. The growth of the _____ has transformed how businesses operate worldwide.

7. Quick _____ changes in market trends can give a company a competitive edge.

8. When making a business decision, it is crucial _____ all potential risks and benefits.

9. Successful _____ requires careful planning and coordination among all team members.

10. The project manager needs _____ that will help the company meet its long-term goals.

Task 5.4.3 Write 10 sentences using the key words and phrases.

Task 5.4.4 Retell the text using the key words and phrases.

Task 5.4.5 Discuss the questions.

1. What are some of the most significant scientific achievements in Russia's history?

2. How does Russia contribute to global scientific research today?

3. What role do Russian universities and research institutes play in scientific development?

4. How does government support influence scientific innovation in Russia?

5. What are some key areas where Russia is leading in technological innovation?

6. How has Russia's technological development impacted its economy?

7. What challenges does Russia face in keeping up with global technological advancements?

8. How are Russian tech companies contributing to the global tech industry?

9. In what ways is Russia promoting technological education and innovation among its youth?

10. How has your life changed due to recent scientific and technological development?

Debate

Topic: "Does technological development enhance or hinder the quality of education in today's schools and universities?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments supporting their points of view.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. Famous Russian Scientists and Their Contributions
2. Megascience Projects of XXI Century
3. Big Russian Tech Companies
4. Leading Scientific Institutions in Russia and Abroad
5. Technologies of the Future
6. Eco-friendly Scientific Studies
7. The Evolution of Digital Technology in Education
8. Cybersecurity Challenges of the Digital Age
9. National Scientific Projects
10. Impact of Technologies on Societies' Well-Being

Text 5.5 Russian experts produce revolutionary genetic method to predict high-blood pressure risk

Researchers from the Belgorod State University (BelSU) have created an unprecedented technique for forecasting the onset of high-blood pressure through genetic analysis, the BSU press office reported. The innovation, already patented, will make it possible to caution patients about the risk of a high-blood pressure related ailment's onset.

Hypertension (or high-blood pressure) is one of the most widespread cardiovascular ailments, which can lead to coronary artery disease, heart attacks, and strokes.

"The genetic approach to evaluating the risk of developing diseases and complications may reveal a risk group. Furthermore, by working with the target group more specifically, one could prevent unfavorable consequences. We have used genes of the matrix metalloproteinases to evaluate their impact in the formation of the disease and use it in predicting risks of developing these diseases and any complications. The Belgorod scientists are the first researchers in the world who have managed to obtain such information. This allows us to put forward a method of forecasting and we have already patented it," commented Mikhail Churnosov, head of the study, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Department head of Medical and Biological Research at the BelSU Medical Institute.

The research group from Medical Institute of BelSU discovered combinations of genes that are connected with a high risk of developing cardiovascular ailments.

The suggested technique was tested in a study held at the Belgorod Regional Clinical Hospital of St. Joasaph. The

experiment involved about 1,500 patients, with 1,000 in this test group suffering from high-blood pressure and about 500 people comprising the control group.

"The results proved that by applying the new analysis technique one can mark risk groups among patients at the preclinical stage and start promoting health habits that prevent the onset of essential hypertension (high-blood pressure)," Churnosov said.

This latest approach will assist in determining a predisposition for developing high-blood pressure and in preventing its onset.

"Patients should take full care of their health before the illness has already set in. It is always easier and better to prevent the onset of a disease than to deal with treating it later. All these activities are aimed at one goal: improving diagnostic and medical assistance for our citizens," Professor Churnosov stressed.

Task 5.5.1 Key vocabulary. Match the phrases from the text with their definitions.

An unprecedented technique	Diseases or conditions affecting the heart and blood vessels
Cardiovascular ailments	To propose or suggest a new way of doing something
Unfavorable consequences	The beginning or start of high blood pressure
To put forward a new method	A natural tendency or higher likelihood of developing a particular illness
The onset of hypertension	To make up or form the group in an experiment that does not receive the treatment being tested, used for comparison

A predisposition for a disease	Negative or harmful results or outcomes
To comprise the control group	A method or approach that has never been done or seen before

Task 5.5.2 Fill in the gaps with the correct phrases from the list.

An unprecedented technique | cardiovascular ailments | unfavorable consequences | to put forward a new method | the onset of hypertension | a predisposition for some diseases | to comprise the control group

1. Stress is often linked to _____, which can lead to serious health issues if not managed.
2. Regular exercise can help prevent _____ and improve overall heart health.
3. The scientist decided _____ that could potentially change the course of the experiment.
4. Due to her family history, she has a _____ like diabetes or heart disease.
5. In the study, 100 participants were selected _____ for the experiment.
6. Ignoring the warnings of climate change could lead to _____ for future generations.
7. The researchers introduced an _____ that had never been used before in the study.

Task 5.5.3 Write 7 sentences using the key phrases.

Task 5.5.4 Find Russian equivalents to the following names, terms, and realia. Explain their meaning, give short reports if necessary.

- the Belgorod State University (BelSU);
- hypertension;
- metalloproteinases;
- cardiovascular;
- the Belgorod Regional Clinical Hospital of St. Joasaph.

Task 5.5.5 Retell the text using the key phrases, terms, and names.

Task 5.5.6 Discuss the questions.

1. How do you think genetics influence a person's personality and behavior?
2. Can genetic testing help predict certain diseases? Would you consider getting tested?
3. How do you feel about the idea of genetically modifying humans to prevent diseases?
4. Do you believe that talents and abilities are inherited through genetics, or are they developed through experience?
5. What are the ethical implications of genetic engineering and cloning in today's society?
6. What lifestyle choices do you think are most important for maintaining good cardiovascular health?
7. How can stress management play a role in preventing cardiovascular diseases?
8. What do you think about the role of diet and exercise in preventing heart-related conditions?

9. How aware are people in your country about the risks of cardiovascular diseases?

10. What are the common symptoms of cardiovascular ailments, and why is early detection important?

Debate

Topic: "Should genetic information be used in public health policy to prevent diseases?"

Students are divided into two groups, with each group presenting arguments for and against open public use of genetic information.

Presentation

Prepare a short presentation on one of the following topics:

1. The Role of Genetics in Understanding Human Behavior and Personality Traits

2. Genetic Engineering: Existing Projects and Future Prospects

3. Genomics and Personalized Medicine: How Genetics is Revolutionizing Healthcare

4. Genetic Modification in Agriculture and Its Effects on Human Health: GMOs in Russia

5. Diet and Exercise in Maintaining Cardiovascular Health

6. Innovations in Treating Cardiovascular Diseases: From Surgery to Medication

7. The Link between Stress and Heart Disease: How Mental Health Impacts Cardiovascular Health

8. History of Genetic Research in Russia

9. Innovations in Cardiovascular Surgery: How Technology is Saving Lives

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Учебное пособие

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