

ПРИКАСПИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ДЛЯ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ

9-10 классы

READING

Read the text and do the tasks below.

The Price of Convenience

In the modern world, convenience has become one of the most important values. Thanks to technology, people can order food, buy clothes, communicate with friends, and even attend classes without leaving their homes. While this lifestyle saves time and effort, it also raises questions about its long-term effects on individuals and society.

One of the main advantages of convenience is efficiency. Online services allow people to complete tasks much faster than before. Instead of spending hours in a shop, customers can compare prices and make purchases in just a few minutes. For students and working adults with busy schedules, this reduces stress and leaves more time for rest or personal interests.

However, convenience often comes at a price. When everything is easily accessible, people may become impatient and less willing to make an effort. As a result, important skills such as problem-solving and creativity may gradually weaken. Some researchers point out that teenagers are particularly affected, as they are still developing habits that will influence their future lives.

Another serious concern is social interaction. Although people are constantly connected online, face-to-face communication is becoming less frequent. Many prefer messaging to real conversations, which can lead to misunderstandings and shallow relationships. Over time, this may affect emotional intelligence and mental well-being.

Despite these drawbacks, rejecting convenience completely would be unrealistic. The real challenge lies in finding balance. Technology should support everyday life, not replace real experiences. By limiting screen time and staying socially active, people can enjoy the benefits of convenience without losing essential life skills.

In conclusion, convenience has transformed modern life in many positive ways, but it also creates challenges that require responsible choices. The future depends on how wisely technology is used.

Task 1. Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answer (1–5).

1. The main purpose of the text is to
 - a) explain how modern technology works
 - b) discuss both advantages and disadvantages of convenience
 - c) describe teenagers' lifestyle
 - d) promote online services
2. Convenience is especially helpful for people who
 - a) prefer shopping in stores
 - b) have a lot of free time
 - c) have busy daily schedules
 - d) avoid using technology
3. According to the text, one negative effect of convenience is that people
 - a) become more creative
 - b) lose social skills completely
 - c) make less effort in everyday life
 - d) spend more money
4. The author suggests that online communication
 - a) is more effective than real communication
 - b) has no influence on relationships
 - c) may weaken emotional connections
 - d) should replace face-to-face interaction
5. The author's attitude towards convenience can best be described as
 - a) completely negative
 - b) uncritical and enthusiastic
 - c) balanced and cautious
 - d) indifferent

Task 2. True / False

Decide whether the statements are **True (T)**, **False (F)**.

6. Convenience helps people save time and effort.
7. Online services always make life less stressful.
8. Teenagers are less affected by convenience than adults.
9. The author believes that technology should be used responsibly.
10. Limiting screen time is suggested as a possible solution.

Task 3. Vocabulary from the Text

Find words or phrases in the text that match the definitions (11–13).

11. The ability to solve problems and deal with difficulties

12. Communication that happens in real life, not online

13. A careful and sensible way of making decisions

USE OF ENGLISH

Word Formation. For questions 14-23, form a related word from the one given in capitals to complete the sentence.

14. The ___ of the new law caused a lot of debate. (INTRODUCE)

15. She faced the problem with great ___. (DETERMINE)

16. The information turned out to be completely ___. (ACCURATE)

17. His sudden ___ was a shock to everyone. (APPEAR)

18. We need to find a more ___ solution to this issue. (PRACTICE)

19. She is a world-renowned ___ in ancient history. (SPECIAL)

20. The ___ of the evidence was crucial for the case. (COLLECT)

21. Don't underestimate the ___ of regular exercise. (IMPORTANT)

22. The movie was visually stunning but lacked ___ depth. (EMOTION)

23. His ___ to help was greatly appreciated. (WILLING)

Phrasal Verbs. For questions 24-40, fill in the gaps with the correct particle to form a phrasal verb.

24. I came ___ an old photograph while cleaning the attic.

25. The negotiations broke ___ because neither side would compromise.

26. She takes ___ her mother in both looks and character.

27. We need to cut ___ on unnecessary expenses.

28. He promised to look ___ the matter and give us an answer soon.

29. The students were told to hand ___ their essays by Monday.

For questions 30-40, choose the correct word from the box below to complete each sentence. There are TWO extra words that you do not need to use.

Word Bank: *consensus, landmark, leverage, stigma, deterrent, hindsight, jargon, benchmark, precursor, empathy.*

30. In _____, we realize that our decision was not the best one.

31. The discovery of penicillin was a _____ achievement in medicine.

32. There is a social _____ attached to mental health issues in some cultures.

33. The threat of severe punishment acts as a _____ to potential criminals.

34. The two parties failed to reach a _____ and the talks were suspended.

35. He used his connections as _____ to get a better deal.

36. The ability to feel _____ is crucial for a good psychologist.

37. Try to avoid using too much technical _____ when explaining it to beginners.

38. The fall of the Berlin Wall was a _____ to the end of the Cold War.

39. This company's environmental policy sets a new _____ for the industry.

Write an essay (180–200 words).

Topic:

Some people believe that success depends mainly on hard work, while others think talent plays a more important role. What is your opinion?

Follow the plan:

- introduction (paraphrase the topic)
- your opinion with 2–3 arguments
- opposite opinion (briefly)
- conclusion