

ПРИКАСПИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ДЛЯ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ

7-8 классы

USE OF ENGLISH

I. Read the text below and choose the correct option (a/b/c/d) for each gap.

Computer Technologies in Everyday Life

In today's digital world, computer technologies play a huge role in how we work, study, and 1 __ our free time. My brother Alex is really interested 2 __ programming. He loves to 3 __ simple apps and games in his spare time. Every evening, he sits at his computer and writes code, trying to solve different problems.

When he faces a difficult task, he usually tries to figure it out 4 __ his own first, using online resources. Alex believes this helps him to become a better problem-solver and think more logically. Sometimes, he shares his projects on GitHub to get 5 __ from other developers.

People often ask him 6 __ he can spend so many hours in front of a screen, but for Alex, it's not just a hobby; it's a way to create something useful and understand how technology works. Besides coding, he also enjoys building small robots, which allows him to 7 __ his engineering skills.

Every few months, Alex tries to 8 __ his knowledge by taking online courses or watching tutorials. This winter, he plans to 9 __ in a machine learning program because he finds artificial intelligence fascinating. It's clear that technologies, like the ones Alex works with, are changing our lives, helping us to learn, create, and use our 10 __ more effectively.

Recently, Alex has also started learning about cybersecurity. He thinks it's important to know how to 11 __ your personal data safe online. He now uses stronger passwords and two-factor authentication to 12 __ his accounts from hackers. Alex says that understanding these security measures makes him feel more confident when browsing the internet or working on important projects.

1. a) take b) pass c) spend d) use
2. a) in b) about c) into d) with
3. a) do b) make c) fulfill d) create
4. a) on b) in c) by d) at
5. a) comments b) likes c) feedback d) reviews
6. a) where b) how c) why d) when
7. a) experience b) explore c) develop d) examine
8. a) improve b) update c) increase d) show
9. a) come b) join c) visit d) enroll
10. a) hobbies b) time c) devices d) hours
11. a) keep b) stay c) hold d) save

12. a) defend b) attack c) protect d) hide

2. **Grammar.** Прочитайте текст ниже и заполните пропуски, используя грамматически подходящую форму слова.

The world of technology is evolving at (1) _____ (ASTONISH) speed. Just a few decades ago, the idea of a global network connecting everyone seemed like science fiction. Today, the Internet (2) _____ (CHANGE) how we communicate, work, and learn completely.

One of (3) _____ (BIG) advancements has been the development of smartphones. These devices, which combine a phone, camera, and computer, (4) _____ (BECOME) an essential part of daily life for billions of people. (5) _____ (THEY) popularity shows no signs of slowing down, with new models (6) _____ (RELEASE) every year.

Another significant area is artificial intelligence (AI). AI systems (7) _____ (USE) in various fields, from medicine to transportation. For example, some cars can now drive themselves, (8) _____ (RECOGNIZE) obstacles and making decisions in real time.

However, recently this rapid progress (9) _____ (BRING) challenges as well. Issues like data privacy and cybersecurity (10) _____ (GROW) increasingly important. It is crucial for users to be aware of the risks.

Looking to the future, experts predict (11) _____ (MANY) changes. Virtual reality might transform education, and renewable energy technologies could help solve environmental problems. The possibilities seem almost limitless, and it will be fascinating to see what (12) _____ (INVENT) next.

1		7	
2		8	
3		9	
4		10	
5		11	
6		12	

3. **Vocabulary.** Определите, какие идиоматические выражения (a – f) подходят для предложений 1–5. Запишите выражение, подходящее под пропуск в предложении. Обратите внимание: одна идиома лишняя.

- a) "Hit the nail on the head",
- b) "A piece of cake",
- c) "Break the ice",
- d) "On the same page",

- e) "Cost an arm and a leg",
- f) "Spill the beans"

1. I was nervous about giving the presentation, but my colleague told a funny joke to _____ and everyone relaxed.
2. Learning to play this complex piece on the piano isn't _____; it will take months of practice.
3. Sarah's analysis of the problem was perfect. She really _____ with her solution.
4. We need to make sure all team members are _____ before we start the new project to avoid confusion.
5. That new designer laptop looks amazing, but it must _____; I could never afford it.

4. Reading. Прочитайте текст и ответьте на вопросы, выбрав правильный вариант ответа.

The Rise of Remote Work

The concept of remote work, or working from outside a traditional office, has transformed from a rare perk to a mainstream practice, especially accelerated by recent global events. This shift is redefining the modern workplace, offering both significant advantages and new challenges.

One of the most cited benefits of remote work is the flexibility it provides. Employees can often set their own schedules, allowing for a better work-life balance. This can lead to increased job satisfaction and productivity, as people work during their most productive hours and avoid long, stressful commutes. Companies also benefit by being able to hire talent from a global pool, not limited by geography.

From an environmental perspective, remote work can contribute positively. Fewer people commuting means reduced traffic congestion and lower emissions from vehicles. This can lead to improved air quality in urban areas and a smaller carbon footprint for both individuals and companies.

However, remote work is not without its drawbacks. A major challenge is the potential for isolation and decreased team cohesion. The lack of face-to-face interaction can make communication more difficult and hinder the spontaneous collaboration that often happens in an office. Additionally, the blurring line between work and home life can lead to overworking and difficulty "switching off."

The future of work likely involves a hybrid model, combining the best of both worlds. Many companies are now redesigning their offices to serve as collaboration hubs while allowing employees to work remotely part-time. Success in this new era will depend on effective digital communication tools, strong company culture, and clear boundaries to ensure employee well-being.

Questions

1. What is mentioned as a key advantage of remote work for employees?
 - a) More office social events;
 - b) Better work-life balance and flexibility;
 - c) Guaranteed higher salary;
 - d) Less responsibility.

2. How can remote work benefit the environment according to the text?
 - a) By using more office supplies;
 - b) By reducing traffic and vehicle emissions;
 - c) By requiring larger homes;
 - d) By increasing energy use in residential areas.

3. What is one significant challenge associated with remote work?
 - a) Increased cost of office rent;
 - b) Feelings of isolation and communication difficulties;

 - c) Having too many meetings;
 - d) A mandatory uniform

4. What model does the text suggest as the likely future of work?
 - a) A completely office-based model;
 - b) A fully remote model for all;
 - c) A hybrid model combining office and remote work;
 - d) A return to pre-industrial work styles.

5. What is the main purpose of this text?
 - a) To advertise remote work software;
 - b) To discuss the history of offices;
 - c) To present the benefits and challenges of remote work;
 - d) To argue against flexible working hours.

6. According to the text, what can help ensure employee well-being in a hybrid work model?
 - a) Longer working hours;
 - b) More business trips;
 - c) Clear boundaries and strong company culture;
 - d) Less communication with colleagues

WRITING

Imagine you are to contact an international charity organization who would like to give a great sum of money to a project to help one historic place (building) in Astrakhan, Write a brief premonitory letter (100-140 words) to support one candidate (to your choice). Use the following plan:

- Give brief general information on the place (building) including its name, location;
- 1-2 facts from its history;
- What improvements can be done with the money (2-3 items)
- Encourage the organization to choose your candidate

Start with:

Dear sirs,

I would recommend to help ...