

I. Напишите академическое эссе на одну из предложенных тем на английском языке.

Темы эссе:

- 1) What are the basic tenets and principles of liberalism as a political ideology? Please illustrate your arguments by drawing on the legacy of one or more thinkers whom you believe to be classical / typical representatives of political liberalism.
- 2) What are the normative assumptions and procedural rules of “modern democracy” and how does it compare with the classical “ancient democracy” (embodied, for example, in Greek polis)?
- 3) What is the nature of the tensions between individual freedom and the state interests? What is the right balance between them?
- 4) Middle class melting down and changes in its political agenda (in developed countries)
- 5) Affluence of religious groups and their attitude to "fashionable" liberal agenda
- 6) GDP is a conventional measure of social welfare. In recent years it was sharply criticized by many economists and social scientists. What are the main points of this critique? Why is it still used in practice despite the critique?

II. Прочитайте нижеследующий фрагмент текста и ответьте на вопросы по тексту по-английски:

“Certainly all historical experience confirms the truth – that man would not have attained the possible unless time and again he had reached out for the impossible. But to do that a man must be a leader, and not only a leader but a hero as well, in a very sober sense of the word. And even those who are neither leaders nor heroes must arm themselves with that steadfastness of heart which can brave even the crumbling of all hopes. This is necessary right now, or else men will not be able to attain even that which is possible today. Only he has a calling for politics who is sure that he shall not crumble when the world from his point of view is too stupid or too base for what he wants to offer. Only he who in the face of all this can say “In spite of all!” has the calling for politics”.

- a) Who, in your opinion, is the author of this excerpt and how would you describe the character of the epoch to which this excerpt relates?
- b) How would you characterize the general tenor of this excerpt – is it a declaration of extreme pessimism (“crumbling of all hopes”), or of hard-nosed *realpolitik*, or contrariwise, of visionary utopianism (“reach out for the impossible”), or of stoic resolve to fulfill one’s duty against all odds and no matter what, or maybe of something else?
- c) Do you agree that the true “calling for politics” consists in going against the grain and in acting “in spite of all” buttressed by the steadfastness of heart and the ability to never get disheartened by all possible failures and disappointments?