

Время выполнения задания – 180 мин., язык - английский

1. Write an academic essay on one of the following topics.

Essay topics:

1) Transparency policy has entered political agenda in many countries. What are political and social implications of this phenomenon? Is it rather a matter of political fashion or a long-term trend?

2) Several years ago in Switzerland there took place a referendum on so called “basic income”. What was at issue? Which were the main reasons of the supporters and the opponents of the proposal? How would you vote in a similar referendum, and why so?

3) As is widely accepted the Eurozone is in crisis. Was its enlargement in the 1990s and 2000s the factor that softened or aggravated this crisis, and why so?

4) Why did healthcare reforms gain one of central places in the US political debates? What main interest groups are involved into them? Is the US case rather specific or rather common in this regard, and why so?

5) It was once said: “If you owe your bank a hundred pounds, you have a problem. But if you owe a million, it has”. Explain this paradox. To what domain – psychological, political, economic, or some other – does it belong?

2. Read the following fragment and answer the questions given below:

«Wherever there is great property there is great inequality. For one very rich man there must be at least five hundred poor, and the affluence of the few supposes the indigence of the many... The acquisition of valuable and extensive property... necessarily requires the establishment of civil government. Where there is no property, or at least none that exceeds the value of two or three days labour, civil government is not so necessary...

The rich, in particular, are necessarily interested to support that order of things which can alone secure them in the possession of their own advantages. Men of inferior wealth combine to defend those of superior wealth in the possession of their property, in order that men of superior wealth may combine to defend them in the possession of theirs... Civil government, so far as it is instituted for the security of property, is in reality instituted for the defence of the rich against the poor, or of those who have some property against those who have none at all».

- a) Who, in your opinion, could be the author of this excerpt and how would you describe the character of the epoch to which this excerpt relates?
- b) What was the impact of ideas expressed in this fragment on political and economic practices?
- c) Do you agree with the author or not, and why so?

3. Using data given below estimate dynamics of real incomes of the population of Russian Federation for the period of 2013-2016:

ROSSTAT DATA	2012 (for reference)	2013	2014	2015	2016
Average per capita money incomes <i>(Roubles per month)</i>	23 230	26 000	27 8000	30 500	30 750*
Consumer price index <i>(December of respective years related to December of previous years - %)</i>		107	111	113	105

Explain how you obtained the solution.

