

Время выполнения задания – 180 мин., язык - английский

I. Напишите академическое эссе на одну из следующих тем.

- 1) Collective choice, as we learn from Arrow theorem, cannot be rational. Does it mean that social morality, justice and all the democratic arrangements are doomed to be irrational?
- 2) Marxism and many other political philosophies denounce capitalism as exploitive. Is it truly so and what shall we do with it?
- 3) The political state coerces. Still the state cannot sustain if nobody supports it. Do we have any moral obligation before the state and where does it stem from, if we do?
- 4) The theme of “Post-truth society” has entered public discussion quite recently. What is it about? What are political and social implications of this phenomenon? Is it a matter of political fashion or, rather, a long-term trend?
- 5) 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:

“It is by this class of men that knowledge is cultivated and enlarged; it is also by this class that it is diffused; it is this class of men whose children receive the best education, and are prepared for all the higher and more delicate functions of society, as legislators, judges, administrators, teachers, inventors in all the arts, and superintendents in all the more important works, by which the dominion of the human species is extended over the powers of nature... the men of middling fortunes, in short, the men to whom society is generally indebted for its greatest improvements, are the men, who having their time at their own disposal, freed from the necessity of manual labour, subject to no man’s authority, and engaged in the most delightful occupations, obtain, as a class, the greatest sum of human enjoyment. For the happiness, therefore, as well as the ornament of our nature, it is peculiarly desirable that a class of this description should form as large a proportion of each community as possible.”

- a) When, in your opinion, was this text written, and how would you describe the social and intellectual environment to which it belonged?
- b) Express your opinion about the relevance of the author’s idea for contemporary world: is it more valid, or less valid, or equally valid now as compared with author’s time? Why?

III. Выполните следующее задание:

Below you can see the data characterizing economic dynamics of the three Eurozone countries after the Global economic crisis of 2008.

- 1) Using these data estimate changes in real GDP level of these counties for 5 years since 2008, (i.e. calculate country GDP levels for 2013 in relation to 2008).
- 2) Compare the patterns of post-crisis development in these countries: what can you say about similarities or differences in the conditions underlying development, and in the policies adopted in the three countries?

Real GDP annual growth rate

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Country I	-7,8	1,2	0,6	-2,7	-1,1
Country II	-4,3	-5,5	-9,1	-7,3	-3,2
Country III	-5,4	5	2,8	1,7	1,5



