

Генеральный партнер олимпиады – Сбербанк — приветствует участников! Сбер сегодня — это команда единомышленников, которые разрабатывают новые крутые технологии и горят идеей менять мир к лучшему.



Для нас твоё участие в олимпиаде «Высшая проба» означает, что ты не боишься сложных задач, ориентирован на развитие, личностный рост и ответственно относишься к своему будущему. Верим в тебя, искренне желаем удачи на заключительном этапе.

**Time limit: 120 minutes**

**Maximum score: 100**

**Внимание! Обязательно перенесите ответы в бланк ответов.  
Жюри проверяет только бланк ответов.**

### LISTENING (20 Points)

**Task 1. Listen to the first part of the text. Decide which sentences are A. True or B. False according to the text. You will hear the recording once. Transfer your answers onto the answer sheet.**

№	Statement	A	B
1.	The students of the Imperial Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg did not have to pay for their trips to Europe.		
2.	Even though they visited many European cities, Russian artists preferred Paris the most.		
3.	The Russian artists of the 19th century especially admired Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel.		
4.	The Russian public was introduced to Impressionism at an agricultural exhibition.		
5.	Kandinsky was going to become a lawyer before seeing a painting by Monet.		
6.	According to the audio, Russian artists generally disliked Impressionism.		
7.	Konstantin Korovin's teachers praised him for his style of painting.		
8.	When Impressionism first appeared in Russia, the main artistic trend was Surrealism.		
9.	According to the audio, Impressionist paintings mostly express the artist's feelings.		
10.	Pavel Tretyakov promoted Impressionism in Russia.		

**Task 2. Listen to the second part of the text. Each sentence contains a factual error, which is written in bold. Replace the word/words in bold with the correct word/words from the text. Write down only the correct word/words according to the number in brackets. You will hear the recording once. Transfer your answers onto the answer sheet.**

№	Statement	Your answer
11.	Serov and Repin had the <b>best success</b> of all the early Russian Impressionists.	_____ (2 words)
12.	Putting together the bright French manner and the <b>dark themes</b> did not always work out well.	_____ (3 words)
13.	When painting portraits, Russian artists could be more sincere and express more <b>meaning</b> .	_____ (3 words)
14.	The Russian avant-garde artists were the <b>fourth</b> generation to be familiar with the works of the French Impressionists.	_____ (1 word)
15.	Avant-garde painters used a <b>paintbrush</b> that could make colours look brighter on canvas.	_____ (1 word)

### LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES (40 points)

**Task 1. Read the first part of the text. There are ten statements listed after the text. The statements are not related to the text but they contain synonyms (in bold) to the words in the text. Find synonyms to the words in bold in the text and write them down in the box. Do not change the word form given in the text. Transfer your answers onto the answer sheet.**

Konstantin Korovin was destined to become one of the leading figures of Russian Impressionism. It wasn't just that he was born at the right place at the right time. It was that his artistic sensibilities had always been unconventional.

Konstantin Korovin was born on December 5, 1861, in Moscow. His grandfather was a merchant of the first guild, so Konstantin spent a part of his childhood in a luxurious mansion with a garden and stables. Konstantin enjoyed being a witness to his family's grand dinners and salons, but he was most observant of nature. In his memoirs, he recalled seeing a comet that was "red and almost breathing - it was terrifying." Yet, Konstantin was fascinated by this force of nature, this beam of light. In fact, light became the main visual focus of Konstantin's paintings - a feature that he had in common with the Impressionists before he was even aware of such a movement.

When Konstantin's grandfather passed away, the business passed on to Konstantin's father who was unable to keep things going, and soon the family's fortune was gone. Konstantin and his relatives moved to the countryside - a turn of events which was a pleasant surprise for Konstantin. He quickly fell in love with the countryside and no longer wished to return to the city: "In Moscow,

it's all cobblestones and strangers. But in the countryside, I am surrounded by my people - all of them are kind to me. I will never go to the city again.”

From an early age, Konstantin showed interest in the arts - an interest that was encouraged by his family. Both his parents painted as a hobby and were friends with some of the artists from the Peredvizhniki group. Konstantin's older brother Sergei excelled at painting and was accepted to the Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture. Despite having an apparent artistic talent, Konstantin was not so keen on following in his brother's footsteps, not only because he longed to live in the countryside, but also because he wasn't so sure that his artistic style could meet the demands of the School. Indeed, Konstantin did not do well on his entrance exams, but his landscapes garnered praise from the School's professors, who saw potential in the artist but did not approve of his unique style. Konstantin Korovin entered the Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture in 1875. He studied alongside Valentin Serov and Isaac Levitan who became his lifelong friends. Among Konstantin's teachers were such renowned artists as Vasily Perov, Evgraf Sorokin, and Vasily Polenov.

№	Statement	Your answer
1.	Sometimes it's the <b>nontraditional</b> business practices that help a company stand out from the rest and, subsequently, succeed.	
2.	Taj Mahal is such a <b>magnificent</b> building that people get awestruck when they see it for the first time.	
3.	A <b>sharp-eyed</b> viewer spotted an error in last night's broadcast.	
4.	The dog's howl was so loud and <b>frightening</b> that it woke Billy up and he couldn't go back to sleep.	
5.	Stilt houses are <b>widespread</b> throughout those areas of Florida that get flooded on a regular basis.	
6.	Savva Mamontov enjoyed using his <b>wealth</b> to support Russian artists.	
7.	It is crucial that wellness is <b>promoted</b> among all of the country's citizens.	
8.	The solution to Mike's problem was so <b>obvious</b> that I was amazed by how long it took him to figure it out.	
9.	The new advertising campaign was met with <b>enthusiastic</b> support from the customers.	
10.	The marketing department presented compelling arguments, and the board of directors were happy to <b>accept</b> their new strategy.	

**Task 2. Read the second part of the text. There are five incomplete sentences after the text. Complete each sentence with the words from the text. Write down only the correct word/words according to the number in brackets. Transfer your answers onto the answer sheet.**

Once, Evgraf Sorokin invited Konstantin to his country house to work on landscapes. Sorokin presented the painting that he had been working on for three years. Konstantin was struck by how precise all the measurements were, yet, to him, the objects in the painting looked completely fake. As Sorokin himself was not satisfied with the result, he asked Konstantin to fix the painting since he had a lot of faith in his student. What Konstantin did, shocked the master - according to Konstantin's memoirs, he proceeded to "mix up the colours and balance out the shadows to let more light into this picture of Spring." While Sorokin was not a fan of Korovin's technique, he had to admit that the end result was exactly what he had been trying to achieve for so long.

During his final year at the School, Korovin studied mostly under the tutelage of Vasily Polenov who introduced Konstantin to Savva Mamontov, a wealthy merchant, industrialist, and patron of the arts. Mamontov owned the Abramtsevo estate which was home to the so-called Abramtsevo Circle of artists. Konstantin quickly became one of Mamontov's favourite artists and was invited to paint set decorations for the Russian Private Opera, which Mamontov patronised. Korovin was more than happy to work at the theatre since it gave him the chance to do his own paintings on the side, using the actors, singers, and dancers as models. Among them was Feodor Chaliapin, an outstanding opera singer, who became one of Korovin's best friends.

In 1888, Mamontov organised a trip to Italy and Spain for Konstantin and some other artists of the Abramtsevo Circle. The expedition to the Russian North, which Konstantin embarked upon with his friend Valentin Serov, inspired Korovin to create his signature northern landscape series. Konstantin continued to paint in the style of the Impressionists, which, at the turn of the century, was met with praise, unlike before when Korovin was generally misunderstood.

In 1901, Korovin was invited to teach at his alma mater, the Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture, where he, once again, worked alongside Serov. At the same time, Korovin continued painting theatre decorations and became so renowned for his impressive designs that, in the last years of his life, he was designing sets for the major theatres of Europe, Asia, and the United States. Overall, Konstantin Korovin enjoyed tremendous success in his career and still remains one of the best-known Russian Impressionists.

№	Sentence	Your answer
11.	Korovin was shocked to discover that, while the painting was done to scale, the objects on the canvas /_____/.	_____ (3 words)
12.	Sorokin did not appreciate Konstantin Korovin's style, yet he acknowledged that the /_____/ was just what he had been looking for.	_____ (2 words)

13.	Mamontov liked Korovin's art and offered him a job as set designer at the opera house that he /_____/.	_____ (1 word)
14.	Konstantin Korovin, along with a trusted companion, /_____/ a trip that resulted in him doing several paintings.	_____ (2 words)
15.	Korovin /_____/ throughout his life, and he continues to be praised for his art.	_____ (3 words)

**Task 3. Match the historical site to its description. There are two extra descriptions listed below. Transfer your answers onto the answer sheet.**

№	City	Your answer
16.	Trafalgar Square	
17.	Rockefeller Center	
18.	Sydney Opera House	
19.	Empire State Building	
20.	The Plaza Hotel	

**A.** This crucial road junction connects the major areas of Central London. Each day, heavy traffic of vehicles and pedestrians flows through it, and it serves as a popular meeting place. The site attracts attention with its giant neon screens and signs, as well as several notable buildings, like London Pavilion.

**B.** This iconic Manhattan building has achieved the status of a National Historic Landmark. It has been the site of many significant cultural events, such as presidential visits, benefits, and press conferences. Due to its prime location and grand architecture, it has been featured in a number of films, including *Home Alone 2*.

**C.** This large public space in Central London has been a site of cultural significance since the 1200s. Its name commemorates a major British naval victory in the battle that took place in 1805. The focal point of the site is an elaborate monument to a famous general.

**D.** This multi-venue performing arts centre is considered a masterpiece of the 20th-century architecture and one of the world's most distinctive buildings. Designed and completed by an international team, the site was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1973. 8 million people flock to this centre every year, including about 350,000 tourist visits.

**E.** This Art Deco masterpiece is one of the most famous American landmarks. Its name is derived from the nickname of the state of New York. Initially, it was intended to be a hotel, not a skyscraper, but as construction went on, its owners' plans got much more ambitious. This building

is among the Seven Wonders of the Modern World and has been immortalised in over 250 films and TV shows.

**F.** This large building complex is best known for being the home to Radio City Music Hall, as well as the location of American TV and radio studios. It was designed and completed during the Great Depression and has been declared a Historic Landmark. It is famous worldwide for having the biggest and brightest Christmas displays in the United States.

**G.** This impressive skyscraper, located in the heart of Chicago, was originally known as the Sears Tower. It opened in 1973 as the world's tallest building and held this title for 25 years. The building's futuristic design still attracts more than 1.5 million visitors every year, who enjoy picturesque views from the highest observation deck in the United States.

### CREATIVE WRITING (40 points)

**Внимание! Не указывайте свои ФИО в творческом задании.**

Describe one of Konstantin Korovin's paintings in about 180 – 200 words. You must follow the plan below:

I. Introduction.

II. Main body:

- describe the person's appearance;
- think of and describe the person's character;
- imagine and describe the person's occupation / interests;

III. Conclusion.



