

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 statements are A. **True** according to the text, B. **False**, or C. **Not mentioned** in the text. You will hear the recording once. **Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.**

№	Statement	A	B	C
1.	Wilkie Collins defined the genre of sensation literature.			
2.	Wilkie Collins was the only child in the family.			
3.	The atmosphere of his first job inspired Collins's first publications.			
4.	Wilkie Collins's first novel was not published during his lifetime.			
5.	An illness caused Collins to lose his sight completely.			

Task 2. Listen to the second part of the text. Each statement contains a factual error, which is written in bold. Replace the 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 to the answer sheet.**

№	Statement	Your answer
6.	<i>The Woman in White</i> was published in Charles Dickens's journal, and the public received it with harsh criticism .	_____ (2 words)
7.	Wilkie Collins met a real woman in white when he was coming home in 1858, abandoned by his companions.	_____ (1 word)
8.	The detective works of Wilkie Collins had a significant impact on his followers , including Trollope and Conan Doyle.	_____ (1 word)
9.	To get inspiration for his novel, the author came to a police station in London.	_____ (2 words)
10.	A bunch of Collins's subsequent works does not have the appeal of his first novels.	_____ (3 words)

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 antonyms (in bold) to the words in the text. Find **antonyms** 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 to the answer sheet.**

The emergence of detective fiction can be traced back to the second half of the 19th century when legal trials became the primary source of justice. What was so special about them is that in the past, during the age of the monarchy, decisions on whether someone was guilty or not were made by the king. However, after the fall of monarchy and the rise of the bourgeoisie, people had to create a new legal system.

Another reason for the rise of the detective genre was the Industrial Revolution that took place in the 19th century. During the Industrial Revolution, many people started to move to the cities which became densely populated, and that led to rising crime rates.

Many literary critics trace the development of the modern detective story back to *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, an 1841 short story by the American author Edgar Allan Poe. Poe's writing often centers around mysterious or macabre subject matter, and the story is no exception. The story's protagonist is an armchair detective named Auguste C. Dupin who solves the case by thinking outside the box. The story's narrator is a friend of Dupin's who never ceases to be amazed at the detective's deductive reasoning.

The first detective novel that followed soon after was the British author Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone*. It is significant not only because it is considered to be the first detective novel, but also because it established many of the classic tropes and attributes of the detective novel. *The Moonstone*'s detective character Sergeant Cuff was based on the real-life detective Inspector Jonathan Whicher, one of the first ever detectives of Scotland Yard.

The character who really shaped the way we see literary detectives to this day is, undoubtedly, Sherlock Holmes. Not only is he the most famous detective character to ever have been written, Sherlock Holmes is one of the most popular characters in the history of fiction. Holmes was partly inspired by Poe's detective Dupin, but he was also based on a real man: Dr. Joseph Bell. Bell was a surgeon and lecturer at the University of Edinburgh. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of the character, met Dr. Bell in 1877. The first Sherlock Holmes novel, *A Study in Scarlet* came out in 1887, and Doyle continued to write Sherlock Holmes novels and short stories until around 1927.

The period between 1920 and 1939 came to be known as the Golden Age of Detective Fiction. The queen of this age was Agatha Christie. During her lifetime, Agatha Christie wrote sixty-six detective novels and fourteen short story collections. Her novel *And Then There Were None* remains one of the best-selling books of all time, and as of 2018, Christie is listed in the Guinness World Records as the best-selling fiction writer of all time.

№	Statement	Your answer
1.	She only wrote about ordinary life, yet her stories were never boring.	
2.	Despite all the evidence against him, Paul still claimed that he was innocent .	
3.	We entered a sparsely decorated room that had only a table and two chairs in it.	
4.	This author has a lot of supporters even though his books are full of controversial ideas.	
5.	They started to notice the signs of regression , when his vision unexpectedly started to blur.	
6.	Her life is full of pleasant moments, yet she keeps focusing on that one embarrassing moment at work.	
7.	Andrew always starts his day by having a cup of coffee and reading the newspaper.	
8.	The builders destroyed the wall, and were shocked to discover that there was another room hidden behind it.	
9.	The detective's questionably close relationship with the suspect put the entire investigation at risk.	
10.	He stopped arguing with her and decided to just walk away.	

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

The detective novels of this period were known for their intricate plots and cleverly concealed clues. The detectives were often portrayed as brilliant, eccentric, and solitary figures who used their intellect and power of observation to solve the crime. They were often aided by a sidekick, which helped to explain the crime to the audience. The Golden Age detective novels also introduced the concept of the “fair play” mystery, in which all the clues necessary to solve the crime are provided to the reader, allowing them to solve the mystery along with the detective. This convention has been used in many detective novels since then. In contemporary literature, this style has evolved into what we now call “cozy mysteries”.

In response to the Golden Age authors, some American writers began to examine and reconsider the formula for detective fiction. Many people started to think of puzzle-solving crime fiction as too unrealistic and too clean. This is how the hardboiled detective genre was born. Unlike the amateur detectives of the Golden Age, detectives in these stories were often professional private investigators. They were typically portrayed as tough, cynical, and morally ambiguous figures. They often dealt with themes such as corruption, crime, and the darker side of human nature.

While hardboiled detective fiction emerged as early as the 1920s, the detective genre really took off in the U.S. in the 1930s-1950s. One of the most popular hardboiled detective novels from this period is Raymond Chandler’s *The Big Sleep*, the novel that introduced readers to the detective Philip Marlowe. This character would go on to feature in many of Chandler’s short stories and novels.

The Modern Era of detective novels, which began in the 1970s and continues to the present day, has seen a significant evolution of the genre. This phase is characterised by the incorporation of forensic science and technology into the plot, which brought additional realism and credibility to the stories. This has led to the emergence of sub-genres such as the police procedural and the legal thriller, which focus on the inner mechanism of the criminal justice system and the use of forensic evidence to solve crimes.

№	Sentence	Your answer
11.	The investigators in the detective novels of the Golden period were usually shown as ingenious, strange and _____, who solved crimes using their brain and attentiveness. (2 words)	
12.	The concept of a “fair play” in a detective story transformed into a contemporary detective style known as _____. (2 words)	
13.	In comparison with the detectives of The Golden Age, those in hardboiled detective fiction were usually _____. (3 words)	
14.	Modern detective stories have demonstrated a(n) _____ of the genre. (2 words)	
15.	The incorporation of modern technologies into detective stories helps to add more _____ into them. (3 words)	

Task 3. There are five British and American authors listed below. Match the author with the brief description of his/her work. There are two extra descriptions. **Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.**

№	Author's name	Your answer
16.	Ian Fleming	
17.	Agatha Christie	
18.	Gilbert Chesterton	
19.	Rex Stout	
20.	Erle Gardner	

Descriptions

A. This British novelist is one of the best-selling writers in the world. As an author of detective fiction, this writer is famous for creating two quite different, but iconic characters. One of them is an amateur sleuth, a smart and cynical old lady and the other – a private detective and former policeman.

B. This American author is mostly famous for creating the character of an armchair detective. He hardly ever leaves his mansion; and with the help of his assistant solves all his cases from his home. This is one of the most popular characters of American pop culture.

C. This British writer is the author of numerous books featuring a variety of characters, but the brightest one is considered to be a genius private detective. He is usually accompanied by his friend, a military doctor, who is the narrator of the story.

D. Before becoming a novelist, this British author was an officer and journalist. His experience helped him to write very detailed and deep novels. He is famous for creating a legendary spy character. There has been a lot of films based on the books, and also those that went beyond the original plot.

E. This British writer is considered to be the author of the first real detective novel published in the English language. He established some rules of modern detective stories. The author often incorporated the depiction of the social problems of his time in his books.

F. A British writer and philosopher, this author is famous for creating the character of a fictional priest-detective. The life and work of this character are depicted in a series of short stories. The character solves mysteries using his intuition and the knowledge of human nature.

G. This American author was a former lawyer. The writer published books under numerous pseudonyms, and was mostly famous for the best-selling books about a lawyer. The character helped his clients by uncovering the truth and identifying the real criminals.

CREATIVE WRITING (40 points)

Внимание! Не указывайте свои ФИО в творческом задании.

Task: Read two quotes about literature.

A quote by Wilkie Collins:

I have always held the old-fashioned opinion that the primary object of a work of fiction should be to tell a story.

A quote by George R. R. Martin, an American novelist:

But my philosophy is that plot advancement is not what the experience of reading fiction is about. If all we care about is advancing the plot, why read novels?

Now write **an article** comparing these two points of view on literature and giving your own opinion. You must write **250 – 300 words**.