

**ИНОСТРАННЫЕ ЯЗЫКИ И МЕЖКУЛЬТУРНАЯ КОММУНИКАЦИЯ  
(Английский язык) /  
FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION  
(English Language)**

10-11 классы / 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grades

Вариант 2 / Version 2

**The test consists of 2 parts: Language and Culture Studies and Analytical Writing.  
Duration – 80 minutes. Maximum score – 100 points.**

**PART 1. LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES (50 points)**

**Task 1. For questions 1-6, read the text below and answer the questions (24 points).**

**The World Must Learn From “Karoshi”**

What are the most dangerous occupational hazards? If you're like most people, you probably conjure images of shaky ladders or heavy machinery. But rarely do we consider the harm a job's social environment can have on workers, and when we do, it's often seen as more of a nuisance than a life-debilitating concern. We frame work-related stressors as something we have to put up with, whilst they can create hazards that risk not only a person's psychological well-being but their physical health as well. There is perhaps no more prominent example of this than the Japanese social issue of karoshi, or perishing from overwork. First recognized in the 70s, karoshi has resulted in hundreds of lost workers in Japan. Unfortunately, the rest of the world doesn't seem to have learned the lesson as deaths attributable to overwork have risen worldwide.

The reasons for karoshi are multifaceted. For one, the Japanese have been enduring a labour market shortage for decades. The collapse of the economic bubble in the 90s, the subsequent global recession, and the continually ageing and shrinking workforce led to intense demands and pressures being put on the workers who remained. Another reason is that Japanese culture values hard work and long hours pre-eminently. Colleagues who leave earlier might not be seen as serious about their job and might be viewed as lacking diligence and loyalty; even sleeping in public from exhaustion, or *inemuri*, can possibly enhance your reputation at work. This cultural mindset bleeds into managerial practices. Some supervisors may use hours on the clock as the yardstick of productivity. As Yoko Ishikura, professor at Tokyo University, said: “Many companies and bosses evaluate performance by face-time. They do not know how to evaluate performance other than the time.”

The one country that does know is Denmark, which has a reputation for being the happiest country in the world. Healthy work-life balance is a crucial part of Danish culture, and its government encourages a 37-hour workweek, a paid vacation, extended and paid parental leave, flexible schedules, and the option to work from home. On average, Danes spend less than one-third of their time working — and yet, they're still more productive than most of the EU or the USA.

Danish national values are behind the country's commitment to work-life balance. By and large, people want to work and do a good job. So instead of finding ways to pass the time until the clock hits 5 pm, they just do what they must do for work and then leave. Another factor is that people are encouraged to value their families — and everyone else respects it. It's totally normal for the Danish to list their family matters in their calendars for others to see, since there shouldn't be any shame in prioritising family.

Granted, there are some people who think the Danish secret to happiness is actually just lowered expectations — but yet, being humble, realistic, and appreciative isn't such a bad thing. Either way, the Danes have proven a healthy moderation of labour and leisure is not only possible, but it's measurably preferable to forcing people to live to work and work themselves to karoshi.

1. According to the author, the culture of overwork is the social phenomenon, encountered exclusively in Japan.
  - a) True
  - b) False
2. In many Japanese companies, employees' performance is evaluated by face-time because of
  - a) the conventional cultural beliefs.
  - b) the practice to equate factual working hours with productivity.
  - c) the seriousness with which managers take their job.
  - d) the lack of other performance evaluation tools.
3. What does the karoshi phenomenon stem from? Check all that apply.
  - a) the Japanese cultural mindset
  - b) the lack of skilled and experienced workers
  - c) the increase in the number and percentage of older population
  - d) the lack of managerial presence
4. According to the text, the Danish find working too hard damaging to their mental health.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  - c) Not stated
5. Match these characteristics with the Japanese or Danish workplace cultures described in the text.
  - a) Staying at your workplace for the whole working day demonstrates your loyalty to the company. JAPANESE/DANISH
  - b) The quality of the work done is more relevant than the specific amount of time spent on it. JAPANESE/DANISH
  - c) Putting crucial non-work tasks first is viewed as an employee's right. JAPANESE/DANISH
  - d) Living to work is perceived positively in the society. JAPANESE/DANISH
6. Find the word from the text that means the following: 'to a very great degree' =  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*type it in small letters*).

**Task 2. For questions 7-12, think of one word which can be used appropriately in all three idioms, proverbs, or expressions from around the world. Type the word in small letters (12 points).**

7. Nothing is more expensive than a missed \_\_\_\_\_. (H. Jackson Brown Jr.)  
 If time be a ring of gold, \_\_\_\_\_ is the rich diamond that gives it both its value and glory. (John Flavel)  
 Time and \_\_\_\_\_ are in no man's sleeve. (German proverb)
8. The only place \_\_\_\_\_ comes before work is in the dictionary. (Vince Lombardi)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is doing what you like and making a living at it. (Greek proverb)  
 Failure is the mother of \_\_\_\_\_. (Chinese proverb)
9. Where there's \_\_\_\_\_, there is the devil; but where there's none, a greater evil. (German proverb)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ grows on the tree of persistence. (Japanese proverb)  
 We can laugh happily with our children, but not with \_\_\_\_\_. (Japanese proverb)
10. We do in haste what we repent at \_\_\_\_\_. (German proverb)  
 A life of \_\_\_\_\_, and a life of laziness, are two things. (English proverb)  
 Unemployment does not guarantee \_\_\_\_\_. (Darkovan proverb)
11. He that is \_\_\_\_\_ is tempted but by one devil, he that is idle by a legion. (Italian proverb)  
 Grass doesn't grow on a \_\_\_\_\_ street. (Spanish proverb)  
 None so \_\_\_\_\_ as those who do nothing. (French proverb)
12. Where the body wants to \_\_\_\_\_, there the legs must carry it. (Polish proverb)  
 Even the mightiest eagle comes down to the treetops to \_\_\_\_\_. (African proverb)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is the sweet sauce of labour. (Plutarch)

**Task 3. For questions 13-19, match the sociocultural facts with their countries of origin. There are more countries than you will need (14 points).**

<b>A</b>	Egypt	<b>D</b>	Saudi Arabia	<b>G</b>	Belgium
<b>B</b>	Taiwan	<b>E</b>	China	<b>H</b>	India
<b>C</b>	France	<b>F</b>	Sweden	<b>I</b>	Kuwait

13. Overworking is so common in this country that there's even a word for it: "guolaosi" that means "death from overwork."
14. In this Middle East country, workweeks run from Sunday to Thursday, with Friday and Saturday being the weekend.

15. In this country, the idea of “lagom”, the philosophy that aims to introduce balance to every area and juncture of everyday life, is applied to workplace culture.
16. Workers in this island country used to strive to do whatever their employers asked, including putting in free overtime, but in 2017 the government issued a law that obliges everyone to have two days off a week.
17. In 2017 this country added the droit à la déconnexion (the right to disconnect) to the country's Labour Code that officially allows employees not to take calls or read emails related to work during their time off.
18. In this largely Muslim state, people never hold work meetings on a Friday. It is considered a day of rest.
19. This country developed the world's oldest food delivery system. For over 125 years, people known as dabbawalas deliver hot lunches from homes and restaurants to the people who work.

## **PART 2. ANALYTICAL WRITING (50 points)**

**Task 4. Now you have learned about the role of national values in shaping the workplace culture in Japan and Denmark. Write an essay analysing the impact of the national values of your country on your educational culture from the perspective of your cultural experience and background. Your essay should have an introduction, two/three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.**

**You must:**

- define the cultural phenomenon using your own words;
- explain how this cultural phenomenon impacts intercultural communication;
- analyse how this cultural phenomenon is reflected in your culture in the given sphere providing examples.

**You can receive a maximum of 50 points for this task.**

## **ANSWER KEY**

### **TASK 1**

- 1) B
- 2) B
- 3) A, C
- 4) C
- 5) a - JAPANESE; b - DANISH; c - DANISH; d – JAPANESE
- 6) pre-eminently

### **TASK 2**

- 7) opportunity
- 8) success
- 9) money
- 10) leisure
- 11) busy
- 12) rest

**TASK 3**

13)E

14)I

15)F

16)B

17)C

18)A

19)H