

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

10-11 классы / 10th and 11th Grades

Вариант 3 / Version 3

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).

Is the English Language Taking over the World?

Recently a leading Greek linguist lamented the incursion of English into Greek. This process has accelerated with pandemic-related terminology. Other languages are not immune from this. The Covid-19 updates page on the Turkish health ministry website, for instance, uses “inkübasyon”, meaning “incubation”. After all, the rapid development of the pandemic led to an “urgent and global need to communicate public health information that left relatively little time for traditional and formal language planning activities.”

Even before the pandemic, English was spreading all around the world, taking over local words and phrases. About 1.5 to 2 billion people speak English, making it the most spoken language. It's the main language in almost 60 countries and used a lot in many others. People use it for business, science, and communication online. It is also the language for research and conferences, science, diplomacy, international news media, social media, and, importantly, the internet. The acceptance of English as the world's most widely spoken second language reflects the concept known as linguistic uniformity. This means that a single language gains prominence as a lingua franca and transcends national borders and cultural contexts.

However, while it helps with international communication and collaboration, some scholars critique the dominance of the English language. They raise issues regarding inequality and discrimination toward non-English speakers, or speakers of “non-standard” English. Critics posit that such proliferation of a single language may inadvertently marginalize indigenous languages. It may also contribute to the homogenization of cultural identities. Any language is intertwined with cultural expressions and identities. It's important to celebrate and protect these languages because they hold unique stories, traditions, and ways of seeing the world.

Many countries have tried to stem the influence of English and other foreign languages into local or national languages. Their aim is to preserve linguistic diversity and unique linguistic expressions that reflect the soul of a people. The Turkish Language Association, for example, develops new, local vocabulary to keep up with emerging lexicon. Some, like “bilgisayar,” the

Turkish word for “computer,” have caught on and are used widely. Others, like “özçekim” for “selfie” were not as successful.

Some language experts don't think worries about the dominance of English are as serious as they seem. They believe that languages have always changed over time. And new words have always been added as history unfolds. Such processes as international trade and travel also add to that. The quick spread of English is due to the digital age and modern technology. Even well-known language organizations, like the Académie française, have added English words like "vegan," "selfie," and "big data" to their dictionaries. English is even influencing how other languages are structured.

Thus, in navigating the global linguistic landscape, the interplay between uniformity and diversity remains a dynamic dialogue. As our world changes, we need to find a balance. We should ensure we can talk to each other, but also remember that our unique ways of talking are special and important.

by TRT World Magazine

1. According to the author, the dominance of the English language should be reconsidered.
 - a) True
 - b) False
2. The scholars who don't share the concerns about the overreliance on the English language claim that
 - a) in many languages there is a lack of certain terms.
 - b) the digitisation of all the processes is inevitable.
 - c) it is a natural process of language change.
 - d) it is the most spoken language.
3. What is the dominance of the English language attributed to according to the text? Check all that apply.
 - a) the popularity of the English culture
 - b) the global outbreak of a disease
 - c) the expansion of the British Empire
 - d) global commerce
4. The influence of the English language is only reflected in the lexicons of other languages.
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Not stated
5. Match these characteristics or consequences with the concept of linguistic uniformity or linguistic diversity descriptions given in the text.
 - a) In some countries the lexicons of their own languages are developed to reflect new trends without any borrowings. UNIFORMITY/DIVERSITY
 - b) A certain language can be used for communication throughout the world. UNIFORMITY/DIVERSITY
 - c) Different unique cultures may be under threat of blending. UNIFORMITY/DIVERSITY

- d) The variety of linguistic forms mirror the essence of a community.
UNIFORMITY/DIVERSITY
6. Find the word from the text that means the following: 'to make certain' =
_____ (*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. The echo _____ all languages. (Finnish proverb)
Who _____ the language is at home everywhere. (Dutch proverb)
You are as many a person as languages one _____. (Armenian proverb)
8. If you want people to understand you, _____ their language. (African proverb)
After all, when you come right down to it, how many people _____ the same language even when they _____ the same language? (Russell Hoban)
To quarrel with a man of good speech is better than to converse with a man who does not _____ well. (Sanskrit proverb)
9. To have another language is to possess a second _____. (Charlemagne)
Language is originally and essentially nothing but a system of signs or symbols, which denote real occurrences, or their echo in the human _____. (Carl Jung)
Learn a new language and get a new _____. (Czech proverb)
10. More than one war has been caused by a single _____. (Arabian proverb)
A _____ that escapes the lips is like a wild horse that cannot be retraced. (Korean proverb)
One kind _____ can warm three winter months. (Japanese proverb)
11. To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the _____. (Chinese proverb)
The _____ is not real for me until it has been pushed through the mesh of language. (John Banville)
The limits of my language mean the limits of my _____. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)
12. _____ understands all languages. (Romanian proverb)
_____ has its own language, but marriage falls back on the local dialect. (Russian proverb)
_____ makes the world go around, and language keeps it on track. (Yiddish proverb)

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).

A	USA	D	South Africa	G	Kazakhstan
B	India	E	Japan	H	New Zealand
C	Wales	F	Tajikistan	I	Iceland

13. In the language of this country there is a different alphabet for writing and transliterating foreign words and names.
14. People of this country take pride in the purity of their language and they have a special language committee to create new words rather than adopting foreign terms.
15. In this linguistically diverse country, there are 22 officially recognised languages and hundreds of dialects.
16. The language of this country has been successfully revitalised and is used nowadays, which serves a good example for other minority languages.
17. There are many education initiatives and media campaigns to preserve the language of the indigenous population of this country.
18. This country transitioned from the Cyrillic to the Perso-Arabic script for their language to emphasise its historical ties with Iran and Persian culture.
19. This country has 11 official languages, reflecting its diverse population and complex history.

PART 2. ANALYTICAL WRITING (50 points)

Task 4. Now you have learned about the concepts of linguistic uniformity and linguistic diversity in intercultural communication. Write an essay analysing the role of either linguistic diversity and/or linguistic uniformity in your everyday life 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) C

- 3) B, D
- 4) B
- 5) a - DIVERSITY; b - UNIFORMITY; c - UNIFORMITY; d - DIVERSITY
- 6) (to) ensure

TASK 2

- 7) knows
- 8) speak
- 9) soul
- 10) word
- 11) world
- 12) love

TASK 3

- 13) E
- 14) I
- 15) B
- 16) C
- 17) H
- 18) F
- 19) D