

Listening Comprehension Text for 9th form

In America, we celebrate many holidays during the year. I will tell you about three of my favorite holidays, when they occur, why they are important and how we celebrate them. These three holidays are the Fourth of July, Halloween, and Thanksgiving.

On the Fourth of July, we celebrate the birthday of the United States. This holiday is not only called the Fourth of July, but also Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, the people of the American colonies declared their independence from England. Many people, including George Washington, helped the early Americans gain their freedom and independence. Today, Americans celebrate the Fourth of July in different ways. Many families gather to enjoy a special meal outdoors in the warm weather. Some families go to the beach to relax. Some families watch sports such as baseball. And all over America, people watch a beautiful show of fireworks.

Another one of my favourite holidays is Halloween. We celebrate Halloween on the 31st of October. Children all over America love Halloween. They dress up in costumes, looking like ghosts and witches. They ask people for candy and other sweet things to eat. They go to parties and try to scare one another. Even adults love Halloween, because it is a time to dress in costume and pretend to be someone else.

My third favourite holiday is Thanksgiving. We celebrate Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November. Children do not go to school and adults do not go to work on this special day. Early Americans celebrated Thanksgiving to express their thanks for the fall harvest. Today, we celebrate Thanksgiving to take time to be thankful for all the wonderful things we have, such as family, food, good health and freedom. On Thanksgiving, families gather and enjoy a special meal of turkey, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie. In New York City, there is a special parade with music and dancing. Many Americans watch the Thanksgiving parade on television to make the day special. I have been to the parade and have enjoyed seeing how happy everyone is to celebrate this special day.

Listening Comprehension Test For 9th form Students

Directions:

In this Test you will carefully listen to a text read aloud twice. The text is followed by 20 tasks. You should do tasks 1 through 10 following the first reading of the text on the basis of what is stated or implied in the text. The text will be read a second time and you should do tasks 11 through 20 following the second reading of the text on the basis of what is stated or implied in the text. For each task you will choose from four possible answers (A, B, C, or D), or two symbols (+ or -) as specified prior to each task. Choose the best answer and mark the letter or symbol of your choice on the Answer Sheet.

Questions 1 through 10 (on your answer sheet circle + if the statement is true, - if it is false).

1	The Fourth of July is also called Independence Day.	+	-
2	The American colonies declared their freedom from Spain.	+	-
3	Many Americans watch sports such as basketball on July 4 th .	+	-
4	The story also discussed Halloween, which falls on October 30 th .	+	-
5	It is customary for children to ask people for flowers on Halloween.	+	-
6	Both children and adults like dressing up in costume on Halloween.	+	-
7	The third holiday mentioned, Thanksgiving, occurs in August.	+	-
8	One of the traditional foods of Thanksgiving is macaroni.	+	-
9	Thanksgiving is a time to express gratitude for good health and freedom.	+	-
10	In New York City, there is a big parade every Thanksgiving Day.	+	-

STOP. WAIT FOR THE SECOND READING OF THE TEXT

Questions 11 through 20 (choose the correct letter A, B, C, or D)

11) **All of the following holidays are mentioned in the passage except:**

- a) the Fourth of July
- b) Christmas
- c) Thanksgiving
- d) Halloween

12) **The Fourth of July commemorates:**

- a) U.S. independence from Spain
- b) U.S. independence from France
- c) U.S. independence from England
- d) U.S. independence from all foreign powers

13) **The weather on the Fourth of July is described as:**

- a) cool
- b) hot
- c) warm
- d) moderate

14) **America declared its independence in the year:**

- a) 1876
- b) 1772
- c) 1676
- d) 1776

15) **Halloween is celebrated on:**

- a) October 31st
- b) October 13th
- c) October 30th
- d) October 3rd

16) **The speaker mentions that on Halloween children dress up as:**

- a) movie stars
- b) baseball players
- c) ghosts and witches
- d) animals

17) **Thanksgiving is celebrated on:**

- a) the first Friday in November
- b) the last Thursday in November
- c) the third Thursday in November
- d) the last Tuesday in November

18) **Early Americans celebrated Thanksgiving to express thanks for:**

- a) the winter harvest
- b) the fall harvest
- c) rainfall
- d) peace with their neighbors

19) **The speaker mentions all of the following foods except:**

- a) pumpkin pie
- b) corn
- c) sweet potatoes

d) turkey

20) **In New York City on Thanksgiving there is a special:**

a) football game

b) political demonstration

c) parade

d) fireworks show

Reading Comprehension Test for 9th form Students

Directions:

In this Test you will read four texts. Each text is followed by 5-12 tasks. You should do the tasks following the text on the basis of what is stated or implied in that text. For each task you will choose the best possible answer from four possible answers (A, B, C, or D) or two symbols (+ or -) as specified prior to each task. Choose the best answer and write down the letter or symbol of your choice on the answer sheet.

Questions 1 through 8 refer to Text 1.

Text 1

BLACK AND RARE WHITE BEARS

Along the coast of British Columbia lives a population of between 120,000 and 160,000 black bears. Adult male black bears range from about 130 to 190 centimeters in length and 60 to 300 kilograms in weight.

The bears are generally vegetarian. Their diet consists of roots, berries, nuts, fish, insects and sometimes other animals.

Female black bears become mature at the age of three and usually give birth to two or three cubs. Cubs remain with their mothers for a year and a half. Consequently, the most often that female black bears can give birth is every two years. An amazing fact about black bears is that they can produce beautiful bears that are white in color!

Except for females with cubs, black bears spend most of their time alone. During the breeding season, a male and female may remain together for several days at a time. Their life expectancy in their natural environment is twenty to twenty-five years. The Canadian Government realises that these black and white bears are very special. As a result, some steps have been taken to protect them. For example, there is a law that prevents people from hunting the bears.

Questions (on your answer sheet circle + if the statement is true, - if it is false)

1.	Canadian black bears are always vegetarian.	+	-
2.	Except for mothers with their young, black bears are solitary animals.	+	-
3.	Canadian black bears can be observed in two different color varieties.	+	-
4.	An average black bear may measure 160 centimeters in length and 200 kilograms in weight.	+	-
5.	A black bear is not considered an adult until it is at least ten years old.	+	-
6.	Hunting season for black bears occurs every spring.	+	-
7.	The population of British Columbian black bears along the Pacific Ocean is approximately 120,000 – 160,000.	+	-
8.	Most black bears have the same lifespan as most people.	+	-

Questions 9 through 15 refer to Text 2.

Text 2

“So you think I’m courageous?” she asked.

“Yes, I do.”

“Perhaps I am. But that’s because I’ve had some inspiring teachers. I’ll tell you about one of them. Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at Stanford Hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liza who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her five-year-old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, “Yes, I’ll do it if it will save Liza.”

“As the transfusion progressed, he lay in a bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked in a trembling voice, “Will I start to die right away?”

Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give her ALL his blood.

“Yes, I’ve learned courage,” she added, “because I’ve had inspiring teachers.”

Questions (on your answer sheet circle + if the statement is true, - if it is false)

9.	The speaker tells us that she has learned to be brave from the examples of others.	+	-
10.	The speaker was at Stanford Hospital because she was a doctor.	+	-
11.	A family member is the only person who can save Liza because her brother has the needed antibodies in his blood.	+	-
12.	A “transfusion” is probably taking blood from one person and giving it to another.	+	-
13.	An “antibody” is probably protection from a disease.	+	-
14.	The little brother turns pale because Liza has stopped breathing.	+	-
15.	The speaker learned courage from a five year old.	+	-

Questions 16 through 20 refer to Text 3.

Text 3

Rechargeable batteries are restoring coral reefs in the tropical island of Vanuatu. The tiny Pacific Island of Vanuatu has no main supply of electricity – inhabitants rely on batteries for their electrical energy. Batteries are expensive and account for a large proportion of most families' monthly income. They are also difficult to dispose of as they release acids and toxic chemicals as they decompose (decay, rot).

In Vanuatu, most households solved this problem by dumping used batteries into the sea. This was severely damaging to the island's finest asset (benefit): its coral reefs. Chemicals seeping from the sunken batteries were poisoning fish and killing the coral.

Vanuatu's Marine Protected Area Group decided to tackle the problem by encouraging the use of rechargeable batteries. The "Nguna-Pele" Rechargeable Battery Project purchased a powerful 600W solar panel, a battery charger, and 900 rechargeable batteries. In the tropical sunshine, this array is capable of recharging around 60 batteries per day. Charged batteries are rented to the population at a fraction of the cost of new ones.

The benefits to the coral reef are already being seen. Dead batteries are no longer being found within the Marine Protected Area and the fish populations appear to be returning.

Questions (on your answer sheet choose the correct letter A, B, C or D)

16. Vanuatu is:
 - a. a mountain area
 - b. an island
 - c. a river
 - d. a lake area
17. Vanuatu's finest asset is its:
 - a. working animals
 - b. beautiful birds
 - c. rare pigs
 - d. coral reefs
18. Vanuatu's solar panels:
 - a. provide cooking fuels
 - b. heat their homes
 - c. provide hot bath water
 - d. recharge their batteries
19. Vanuatu inhabitants rely on:
 - a. electricity
 - b. coral minerals
 - c. batteries
 - d. solar heat
20. A problem for Vanuatu was:
 - a. finding food
 - b. electrical wires
 - c. disposing of batteries
 - d. marine fish

Questions 21 through 30 refer to Text 4.

Text 4

Georgian cooking has something in common with other regional cuisines but is on the whole unmistakably distinctive. The ingredients are usually very fresh (different dishes are cooked in different seasons), and the recipes elaborate. Many dishes involve grated walnuts, garlic, and a range of herbs and spices. West Georgian cooking in particular can be quite hot, as it employs the use of a lot of chili.

Georgian cuisine is good news for vegetarians, as there are many delicious vegetarian specialties such as *lobio* (red or green beans with herbs and spices), *pkhali* (a spinach or beetroot paste with walnuts and garlic), aubergines, mushrooms and salad. The table is usually covered with a great variety of dishes, some meat, some vegetable, from which you can take your choice.

Fish is not eaten much, but there are many excellent meat dishes. There are mouthwatering combinations such as lamb with tarragon and wild plums, chicken with tomatoes and herbs, lamb stew with aubergines, and tomatoes and turkey or chicken eaten cold in a walnut sauce. Other tasty sauces include the wild plum *tkemali* and the hot chili *ajika*.

Georgians generally like their food salty, and many people would say that some of their cheeses suffer from this, though *sulguni* and *gudis kveli*, two of the more famous types, deserve their reputation. The Georgian variety of yoghurt, *matsoni*, is very good.

Dessert usually means cakes, typically laden with cream and sugar, and fruit, which the country has in great abundance. In the autumn in eastern Georgia, *churchkhela* is made by coating strings of nuts in wine juice and flour.

People eat at any time of day, and often the food dished up for breakfast may be similar to what you get at dinner (including the wine or vodka if you are a house guest). However, the most typical breakfast fare is bread with cheese, omelettes, honey and jam.

Questions (on your answer sheet choose the correct letter A, B, C or D)

21. Georgian cooking is characterized as:

- a) simple
- b) bland
- c) elaborate
- d) unimportant to people

22. The use of chili in many dishes makes them taste:

- a) salty
- b) hot
- c) sweet
- d) like chocolate

23. The Georgian diet is characterized as:

- a) having great variety
- b) very limited
- c) using a great deal of fish

d) using few herbs and spices

24. All of the following are mentioned as ingredients in Georgian vegetable dishes except:

- a) mushrooms
- b) aubergines
- c) spinach
- d) zucchini

25. Georgian cheeses are sometimes criticized as being too:

- a) rich
- b) creamy
- c) salty
- d) soft

26. Wild plums are an ingredient in:

- a) tkemali
- b) matsoni
- c) ajika
- d) pkhali

27. Fruit is characterized as being:

- a) in short supply
- b) available only in the summer months
- c) rarely eaten with cake
- d) very plentiful

28. Meal times among Georgians:

- a) Are set by strict tradition
- b) Vary from family to family
- c) Are not fixed
- d) Vary according to region

29. Wine and vodka may be served:

- a) At dinner only
- b) At breakfast and dinner
- c) At lunch
- d) if a house guest asks for them

30. Foods eaten at breakfast may be:

- a) similar to foods eaten for dinner
- b) bread, cheese, or omelettes
- c) honey and jam
- d) all of the above

Writing Comprehension Test For 9th form Students

Directions:

In this Test you will select from the three tasks written on the board one which you feel you are most capable to write about. You will then begin writing your essay on the pages provided. When you are finished, close your papers, lay down your pen, and wait for us to collect your test materials.

1. Think about dating. What does the phrase “to date someone” mean? Where do people go on dates? What do they do? Why is it important to date someone?
2. In the 1920s, a family in Florida was digging a hole on their property when they hit something metal with their shovels. It was a chest filled with 3,700 Spanish coins dating from the 1740s to the 1760s. The coins were worth around \$150,000 USD. If you found \$150,000 USD, what would you spend it on?
3. Every culture has stories. Stories serve different purposes. Some entertain. Others teach history or help people understand their own culture. In many cultures, stories are used to teach the difference between right and wrong behaviours. What kinds of stories are traditional in your culture? Describe a story that teaches a lesson.

Speaking Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students

Directions:

In this Test you will choose from 20 topics to speak about. Each number corresponds to one topic. The number of your choice is the theme of your oral presentation. Take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. Take a deep breath and begin.

1. Which person has had the greatest influence on your life?
 - Was this person in your family or outside of your family?
 - Why was this person influential?
 - What did this person teach you?
2. What is the value of learning English?
 - Do you think English will be important in your professional career?
 - Do you think it is important for other reasons?
 - Do you think English should be required of all students in Ukraine?
3. A friend is visiting you from another city and you have only three hours to show him or her your city or town.
 - Which places would you show your friend?
 - What would you tell your friend about your city or town?
 - Would you encourage your friend to visit again? Why or why not?
4. An important person is visiting your school and has only one hour to spend there.
 - What would you show this person at your school?
 - What would you tell this person about your school?
 - What would you like this person to remember about your school?
5. What makes a person a good leader?
 - What personal characteristics should a good leader have?
 - What kinds of ideas should a good leader have?
 - How does a good leader communicate and work with other people?
6. If you could live somewhere else in the world for one year, where would you like to live?
 - Would you live in your own country or in a foreign country?
 - Would you live in a city or country where another language is spoken?
 - Would you live in a place that is similar to your home or different?
7. Whom do you most depend on when you need advice?
 - Do you depend on someone in your family, or someone outside of your family?
 - Do you ask someone older than you or someone your own age?
 - Do you usually follow the advice or just listen and then make your own decisions?

8. What is your favorite room in your house?
 - Describe the room in as much detail as you can.
 - Why is this room your favorite?
 - What special memories do you have in this room?
9. Who is your favorite author or poet?
 - Why is this author or poet your favorite?
 - When did you begin reading works by this author or poet?
 - What are your favorite works of literature by this author or poet? Why?
10. If you could raise children anywhere in your country, where would you do so?
 - Would you raise children in a city or in a small town or village?
 - What things would be important to you and your children?
 - What would you like to give your children that you did or did not have when you were a child?
11. Do you think students should be given more choice over what subjects they study?
 - What would be the advantages of giving students more choice?
 - What would be the disadvantages of giving students more choice?
 - If you were given a choice, what subjects would you study?
12. How much television should children be allowed to watch each day?
 - Is watching television good for children?
 - What types of programs are good for children?
 - What do children learn from watching television?
 - What problems do children have as a result of watching television?
13. You have an opportunity to go anywhere in the world for one month. Where would you go?
 - You may choose more than one place to go to.
 - Why did you choose to go there?
 - Would you go for pleasure, to spend time with someone you know, or to learn something?
14. What is the biggest problem in your town or city?
 - How does this problem affect people's lives?
 - How would you address the problem?
 - How would you ask other people to help you address the problem?
15. What is your favorite family tradition, something that is unique to your family?
 - Why does your family follow this special tradition?
 - How did this tradition get started in your family?
 - Would you like to continue this tradition in the future, when you have a family of your own?

16. How important are extra-curricular activities?
- Do they help students learn, or do they take time away from academic studies?
 - How much time should a student devote to extra-curricular activities?
 - What is the purpose or value of extra-curricular activities?
17. You are moving to a new house and cannot take everything with you. Choose three things from your childhood that you feel you must take with you.
- What items would you take?
 - What is the significance of these items? What memories do they bring up?
 - Be specific and share stories or memories that you associate with these items.
18. You have just moved into a new neighborhood and do not know anyone.
- Who would you try to meet first in order to learn your way around the neighborhood?
 - How would you try to make friends?
 - How would you try to become part of your new community?
19. You will be spending the summer (three months) in a country where you do not already know the language. You will take language classes for three hours a day.
- In addition to classes, how would you go about learning this new language?
 - What resources would you use to help you learn?
 - How important are listening, speaking and reading to learning a new language?
20. What do you consider your best accomplishment?
- What did you do, and why do you consider it your best accomplishment?
 - Was it something you did in school or outside of school?
 - What did you learn from this accomplishment?