

Situations 11 Form

1. What should we do to protect nature and to clean up the environment?
2. You remember the proverb: "Busiest man find the most time." How do you find time for all the things that you have to do?
3. Name two or three hobbies which you can describe as useful.
4. If you were free to travel where you wanted, what countries would you like to visit? Why?
5. Describe in what way today's fashion is different from the fashion of the days when your parents were your age.
6. Speak about some similarities and differences between living in a big city and in the country.
7. What do you believe to be the greatest problem in today's society? Describe where you see it. Explain why you consider it to be so bad. How would you propose to do away with the problem?
8. Speak about hobbies which are typical for people of your age (form, company).
9. Do you believe in proverb: "When in Rome do as Romans do?" Explain the situation when it is important to follow this advice and when to ignore it. When living in a different country is it important to forget old customs in order to follow the local customs?
10. What stereotypes do you think foreigners have about Ukraine? Do you think these stereotypes are correct? What stereotypes are particularly harmful for the Ukrainian people?
11. Give a description of some famous person without mentioning his/her name.
12. Describe a person whose life is (was) quite ordinary, yet very interesting/important.
13. Do you get on well with your brothers/sisters/parents?
14. Doing which things is pleasant for you?
15. There is a plenty of reasons why we study foreign languages. Speak about some of them.
16. Speak about your future career.
17. Which of the school subjects will be the most useful in your future career?
18. If you were to make a list of the most outstanding Ukrainians, what names would you include in it?

Listening 11 Form 2004p.

THE WHITE HERON

The forest was full of shadows as a little girl hurried through it one summer evening in June. It was already eight o'clock and Sylvie wondered if her grandmother would be angry with her for being so late. Every evening Sylvie left her grandmother's house at five-thirty to bring their cow home. This evening it had taken Sylvie longer than usual to find her cow.

On the way home she met a young man carrying a gun. The stranger began walking with Sylvie as she has followed her cow through the forest. "I've been hunting for birds", he explained, "but i lost my way. Do you think i can spend the night at your house?"

Sylvie didn't answer She was glad they were almost home. She could see her grandmother standing near the door of the farm house. When they reached her, the stranger put down his gun and explained his problem to Sylvie's smiling grandmother. "Of course you can stay with us", she said. "I have much, but you're welcome to share what we Sylvie, get a plate for the gentleman!"

After eating, they all sat outside. The young man explained he was a scientist, who collected birds. "Do you put them in a cage?" Sylvie asked. "No", he answered slowly, "I shoot them and stuff them with special chemicals to preserve them, i have over one hundred different kinds of birds from all the United States in my study at ho me."

"Sylvie knows a lot about birds, too", her grandmother said proudly.

" I saw a white heron not far from here two days ago. I've been looking for it ever since. It's a very rare bird, the little white heron. Have you seen it, too?" he asked Sylvie. But Sylvie was silent. She knew that strange white bird with soft feathers and long thin legs. She had seen it on the other side of the forest. The young man was staring at Sylvie. "I would give ten dollars to the person who snowed me where the white heron is". That night her dreams were full of all the wonderful things she and her grandmother could buy for ten dollars.

She had a plan that would get the ten dollars for her, her grandmother and make the young man happy. When it was almost time for the sun to rise, she quietly left her house and hurried through the forest. Her plan was to climb to the top of a huge pine tree and to see where the white heron had hidden its nest.

So she climbed to the top of the tree and suddenly her eyes caught a Jasb of light that grew larger and larger. At that moment she saw the white heron and its nest in a nearby tree.

Sylvie gave a long sigh. She knew the bird's secret now.

About an hour later, when she came back to the house, the splendid moment to speak about her secret had corner. But Sylvie was silent. She remembered how the white heron came flying through the golden air and how they watched the sun rise together from the top of the world. She could not speak. She could not tell the heron's secret and give its life away.

The young man went away later that day, disappointed. Sylvie was sad. She wanted to be his friend. He never returned. Were the birds better friends than their hunter might have been? Who can know?

Choose the right variant.

1. What was the young man's occupation?
 - a) He was a farmer.
 - b) He was a scientist.
 - c) He was a cowboy.
2. Where did the girl and her grandmother live?
 - a) They lived in a big city.
 - b) They lived in a block of flats.
 - c) They lived in the farm house.
3. What was the man doing in the forest?
 - a) He was hunting birds.
 - b) He was gathering mushrooms.
 - c) He was hunting wild animals.
4. What did the man do with birds?
 - a) He put them in the cage.
 - b) He shot them and stuffed them with special chemicals.
 - c) He took photos of them.
5. Why was the man looking for the white heron?
 - a) It was the smallest bird of all.
 - b) It had beautiful grey feathers.
 - c) It was a very rare bird.
6. What was Sylvie about that night?
 - a) She was dreaming about the white heron.
 - b) She was dreaming about the young man.
 - c) She was dreaming about the things she could buy for ten dollars.
7. Why did the girl go to the forest at dawn?
 - a) To watch the sunrise.
 - b) To find the bird's nest.
 - c) To breathe in fresh air.
8. Where did Sylvie find the bird's nest?
 - a) Near the farm house.
 - b) On the others side of the forest.
 - c) Nowhere.
9. How did Sylvie behave when she returned home in the morning?
 - a) She was silent.
 - b) She began to cry bitterly.
 - c) She told the man about the heron's secret.
10. Why was Sylvie sad?
 - a) The hunter fount the bird and killed it.
 - b) The bird disappeared.
 - c) She wanted to make friends with the young man.

Put "+" or "-" according to the text.

1. The scene was laid in Canada.
2. Sylvie's parents didn't live with her.
3. It was a must with Sylvie to take their cow home.
4. Once she met an old man in the forest.
5. The stranger was a bird hunter.
6. Sylvie's grandmother knew much about birds.
7. The stranger didn't stay in the farm house for the night.

8. The girl knew from the beginning where the bird's nest was.
9. The man offered Sylvie and her grandmother some money for showing him the bird's nest.
10. The girl didn't want to betray the bird.

Reading 11th form 2004p.

THINGS I WISH I'D KNOWN AT 18

Jack Higgins left school at 15, later became a teacher, then a university tutor before succeeding as a writer and becoming a millionaire. Here he writes about some things he wishes he had known at 18.

"I wish I had known at 18 somebody like I am now at 53, an older person with hard-won wisdom to whom I could have gone for advice.

As a teenager I was obsessed with the idea of becoming a writer. I had pretensions to being a kind of Ernest Hemingway. I wish I'd known my limitations.

I wish I had known that you are capable of anything at 18. I was a teenager in the days before teenagers were invented- when it was a handicap to be young. You were held back because you were only 18, 20 or whatever. There were no pop singers speaking for younger people then.

Getting a safe job earning a steady wage -that was the philosophy of life. It was a philosophy based on parents' attitudes. So I went into a succession of boring clerical jobs. I wish I hadn't wasted my energies in so many directions before I finally got to grips with writing.

I wish, for instance, I'd had the courage to try to become an actor. I was quite good, I used to act at the Civic Theatre in Leeds as an amateur and longed to try my luck with a seaside repertory company. But when I talked about it to friends - who were all office workers, factory workers, shop workers - they'd say. "Oh no!"

I wish I'd known at 18 that other people's opinions were nothing like as important as I thought they were. For me it's what I think that's important, and I don't mean that in an arrogant way. In writing, for example, I had to learn to trust my own judgement. For years I earned modest sums and my first break didn't come till 1971, with a thriller called "The Savage Day", based on the Irish troubles. Everyone I told thought it was a terrible idea for a book, but I went ahead and wrote it. It got to number ten in the best-seller list without any fanfare of publicity. When I suggested writing about Winston Churchill spending a quiet weekend in the country when German paratroopers drop in to kidnap him, my publisher said it was the worst idea he'd ever heard, I was terribly shaken. But I was so hooked on the idea, I persisted. That was "The Eagle Has Landed", which created publishing history.

Because I left school at 15 with no School Certificate I thought I was a failure, but I think now that being a school drop-out was probably a good thing. It made me an instinctive writer. I think too much education can be a disadvantage for a writer. Universities are full of professors, who want to write but can't. I wish I'd known

that at 18. When I pulled Dostoyevskiy's "The House of the Dead" off the library shelf as a youngster I read it simply because I enjoyed the story, not because I'd been told to read it.

But at 18 I longed for a piece of paper that I was intelligent. I got it eventually when I was 31 after taking a double honours degree through night-school and correspondence courses. It didn't mean much apart from improving my career prospects. I became a lecturer in a polytechnic and finally a tutor at Leeds University.

For me life has been a disappointment in general terms, which may sound surprising. I thank God for my wife, Amy, and for marvellous kids, but life is life, in spite of success.

I've climbed my personal Everest. And so what?

I realize I've been driven by a terrible desire to achieve. That desire made me a workaholic, I didn't have time for hobbies, so now that I do I find there's nothing I really want to do. I tried karate for a year and thought "What am I doing this for?" Then I tried being very healthy and running everywhere and weight-lifting.

These days I get invited to Buckingham Palace garden parties and lunch with Princess Margaret and to talk to Prime Minister. I feel as though it's all a mistake.

So what? is a phrase, that has figured rather largely in my life. I'm glad I didn't know at 18 that when you've got to the top of the peak you're left with an emptiness.

Choose the right variant.

1. Jack Higgins succeeded as a writer and...
 - a) became a university tutor.
 - b) left school.
 - c) became a millionaire.
2. In his teens Jack Higgins had an obsession about...
 - a) writing as a career.
 - b) getting a safe job.
 - c) pop music.
3. Jack Higgins didn't have the courage to try.
 - a) he was bad on the stage.
 - b) he didn't have the courage to try.
 - c) his parents were against it.
4. His first success in writing came...
 - a) before 1971.
 - b) in 1971.
 - c) when he was 18.
5. Jack Higgins left school at 15...
 - a) after taking three A-levels.
 - b) and entered Oxford university.
 - c) with no school Certificate.

6. When he was 31...
 - a) he got a double Honours degree
 - b) he took up a clerical job
 - c) he was invited to Buckingham Palace garden parties.
7. The books that made him famous were
 - a) thrillers.
 - b) biographies.
 - c) horror stories.
8. He read Dostoyevskiy's book because...
 - a) he was going to translate it into English.
 - b) he had been told to read it.
 - c) he enjoyed the story.
9. He didn't develop any hobbies because...
 - a) he was not allowed to.
 - b) he didn't want to .
 - c) he didn't have time for that.
10. Jack Higgins is disappointed with life because...
 - a) he had no family.
 - b) there nothing he really wants to do after he has climbed his personal Everest.
 - c) he didn't achieve anything.