Linguistics and Modern Languages: Second-round sample tasks for the Open Doors Postgraduate Track

The variant includes 30 tasks, of which 18 are entry-level tasks with one correct answer (a correctly completed task is estimated at 2 points), 9 are intermediate-level tasks with several correct answers (a correctly completed task is estimated at 3-6 points), 3 are advanced-level tasks with a detailed answer (the correctly completed task is estimated at 6-16 points).

For complex tasks with a detailed answer, assessment criteria and a standard answer are provided.

Language & Linguistics, Comparative Studies

Task 1
Entry level (2 points)

_____ is the type of language, often used in government documents, that is formal and often difficult to understand. Choose ONE correct answer.

a) slang
b) dialect
c) officialese
d) jargon

Answer: c.

Task 2
Entry level (2 points)

What is understood by translation loans? Choose ONE correct answer.

a) borrowings that undergo the process of translation
b) fully assimilated borrowings
c) partially assimilated borrowings
d) words of the same origin

Answer: a.

Task 3
Entry level (2 points)

_____ consists in making a new word from some existing word by changing the category of a part of speech. Choose ONE correct answer.

a) composition

b) affixation
c) conversion
d) sound imitation

Answer: c.

Task 4
Entry level (2 points)

It is a corpus containing texts from different periods and is used to study the development or change in language. Choose ONE correct answer.

a) synchronic corpus
b) diachronic corpus
c) static corpus
d) monitor corpus
e) parallel corpus

Answer: b.

Task 5
Entry level (2 points)

Corpus annotation involves assigning special tags to texts and their components: metatextual and linguistic. This type of annotation contains "language data" or "data about data" that characterizes a communicative act according to specified parameters. This annotation can describe both general text properties and additional technical data. Choose ONE correct answer.

a) linguistic annotation
b) metatextual annotation
c) morphological tagging

Answer: b.

Task 6
Intermediate level (3 points)

Which corpora provide materials for learning American English? Choose THREE correct answers.

a) Brown Corpus
b) BNC
c) COCA
d) ANC

Answer: a, c, d.

Task 7
Intermediate level (4 points)

What type of discourse does this text belong to?

What do you think of my new car?
Well, I'm sure it's much faster than mine.

Answer: everyday discourse, everyday.

Task 8
Advanced level (6 points)

Identify the word-building process used to create each of the following words. Explain how the word-building process works, and offer a brief commentary on the meaning of each word:

a make;
a greenhorn;
posish.

Note: the assessment will take into account the progress of the solution; writing only the answer is not enough.

Solution:
a make – conversion from a verb. The act or process of making.
a greenhorn – a compound word. An inexperienced person, especially the one who is extremely gullible.
posish – shortening (posish is formed within English, by clipping or shortening, from position). Short for position.

Answer: - conversion; the act or process of making;
- composition; an inexperienced person, especially the one who is extremely gullible;
- shortening, short for position.

Assessment criteria:
Criterion 1 – 1 point for explanation of each word-building process.
Criterion 2 – 1 point for an explanation of the meaning of each word.

Task 9
Advanced level (6 points)

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Write the main characteristics of scientific discourse, advertising discourse, and medical discourse.

Answer:

Scientific discourse is characterized by objectivity, precision, formality, and a well-organized, systematized structure.

Advertising discourse, in contrast, prioritizes influence over information, often featuring softened or partially credible messages, user-generated content, and a playful tone, with little to no feedback from the audience.

Medical discourse, typically classified as institutional or status-oriented, is defined by its deontological focus, tolerance, persuasive strategies, and a linguotherapeutic approach aimed at guiding patient understanding and compliance.

Assessment criteria:

Criterion 1 – 2 points for each correctly described discourse.

Criterion 2 – 2 points for 3 or more correct characteristics of one type of discourse.

   1 point for two correct characteristics of one type of discourse.

Russian Language Studies and Other Languages in Russia

Task 10
Entry level (2 points)

Borrowings contribute to the enrichment of a language. From which language did the words "фужер," "гравюра," and "кальмар" enter the Russian language in the 19th century? Choose the correct answer.

   a) English
   b) French
   c) German

Answer: b.

Task 11
Entry level (2 points)

How many nationalities does the Russian Federation unite today? Choose ONE correct answer.

   a) 193
   b) 85
   c) 89
   d) 104

Answer: a.

Task 12
Entry level (2 points)

In the XX century, Russian became one of the global languages. How many people do you think consider it their native language (approximately)? Choose ONE correct answer.

a) 166.2 million people
b) 136.7 million people
c) 1 billion people

Answer: b.

Task 13
Intermediate level (4 points)

What phrases violate the norms of word compatibility? Choose TWO correct answers.

a) **draw the theme of love**
b) provide a service
c) **take a considerable role**
d) pay attention to a child

Answer: a, c.

English Language Studies

Task 14
Entry level (2 points)

What is the time period during which Old English was spoken? Choose ONE correct answer.

a) 1550-1800
b) 350-1066
c) 450-1066
d) 1660-1900

Answer: c.

Task 15
Entry level (2 points)

Until what time was England predominantly inhabited by the Celts?
Choose ONE correct answer.

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a) 4th century BC
b) 5th century BC
c) never
d) today

Answer: b.

Task 16
Entry level (2 points)

The most important dialect during the Old English period was …..
 Choose ONE correct answer:

a) Welsh
b) Wessex
c) Kentish
d) Mercian

Answer: b.

Task 17
Intermediate level (4 points)

In the New England era, which languages continued to play a significant role in enriching the English vocabulary?
Choose TWO correct answers:

a) Greek and Latin
b) Romance
c) Latin and French
d) Germanic
e) French dialects

Answer: c, e.

Literary theory & criticism

Task 18
Entry level (2 points)

The term that originally referred to the first actor in early Greek drama and is now used to describe the main character in a literary work is_____
Choose ONE correct answer.
a) antagonist

b) anti-hero
c) deuteragonist
d) hero
e) protagonist

Answer: e.

Task 19
Entry level (2 points)

An analogy identifying one object with another and ascribing to the first object one or more of the qualities of the second is a _____.
Choose ONE correct answer.

a) conceit
b) **metaphor**
c) metonymy
d) simile
e) synecdoche

Answer: b.

Task 20
Entry level (2 points)

What term refers to the systematic examination of literature's nature and the methods used for literary analysis?
 Choose ONE correct answer.

a) **literary theory**
b) literary history
c) literary criticism
d) literary philosophy

Answer: a.

Task 21
Intermediate level (4 points)

What type of literary theory examines texts by considering their historical context and the author's biography?
Choose TWO correct answers.

a) historical criticism
b) historical analysis
c) historical review
d) biographical analysis
e) biographical review

f) biographical criticism

Answer: a, f.

Task 22
Advanced level (16 points)

Write a short story (120-180 words), using the following words/word combinations: **holiday camp, disaster, old lady, loud music, announcement.**

Answer:

The worst holiday

It was the worst holiday I had ever had. I had never been to a <u>holiday camp</u> before but thought that it would be a good place to meet lots of people of my age. I was wrong.

The holiday was a total <u>disaster</u> from the very beginning. The first thing that went wrong was that I had to share a room with a bad-tempered <u>old lady</u> who went to bed early, snored loudly all night, and then complained that I woke her up when I came back at 3 a.m.

The next problem was that I had to wake up early. Every morning I woke up at 7 hearing a cheerful voice saying, 'Good morning everybody! Time to get up and start the day!' The <u>announcement</u> was followed by loud music and repeated every five minutes.

At the end of the fortnight, I was absolutely exhausted and had not had much fun either. That was the last time I would go to a holiday camp.

167 words

Assessment criteria:
Criterion 1 – Content – maximum 6 points:
  120-180 words – 1 point, less than 120 words – 0 points;
  creativity - 2 points;
  use of 5 words/word combinations from the task (5 words – 2 points, 3-4 words – 1 point, 1-2 words – 0 points);
  use of linking words (3 minimum) – 1 point.
Criterion 2 – Structure – maximum 4 points:
  heading – 1 point;
  using the appropriate functional style for such type of texts – 1 point;
  paragraphs (introductory, main part (1 or 2 paragraphs, concluding paragraph) – 2 points.
Criterion 3 – Grammar and lexical mistakes:
  grammar mistakes – 0-2 mistakes 2 points, 3-4 mistakes – 1 point, 5 or more mistakes – 0 points;

lexical mistakes – 0-2 mistakes 2 points, 3-4 mistakes – 1 point, 5 or more mistakes – 0 points;
spelling/punctuation mistakes – 0-2 mistakes 2 points, 3-4 mistakes – 1 point, 5 or more mistakes – 0 points.

Communication

Task 23
Entry level (2 points)

Read the text and fill in a missing word/phrase:
The media genre in which a reader or spectator experiences the effect of being present at the scene of the event, with a vivid and dynamic portrayal of what is happening, is called _____...
Choose ONE correct answer.

- a) interview
- **b) reportage**
- c) performance
- d) talk show

Answer: b.

Task 24
Entry level (2 points)

Read the text and identify the functional style, to which it belongs (choose ONE correct answer):

Slots are the elements of the knowledge structure tied to an established set of elements of a given frame constructing this frame and defining its reference object (topic), which are not fully specified in their epistemological form but serve only as conditions that specific elements of knowledge have to meet as constitutive features or components of a frame designed to make it a fully specified (instantiated) knowledge organization.

- a) official
- b) publicistic
- c) conversational
- **d) scientific prose**

Answer: d.

Task 25
Intermediate level (3 points)

The main features of the text include …

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Choose THREE correct answers:

   a) **informativity**
   b) **coherence**
   c) subtext presence
   d) **integrity**
   e) ambiguity

Answer: a, b, d.

Task 26
Intermediate level (6 points)

Match each functional speech style with the set of its characteristic features.
There is one extra speech style.

   a) conversational
   b) scientific prose
   c) belles-lettres
   d) publicistic

   A) social and intellectual evaluation, activity of emotional information; relative activity of the subtext;
   B) direct human contacts; solving immediate practical problems; mostly unprepared, spontaneous speech; full direct contact type;
   C) leading form of language manifestation is written; conscious interest in the rational use of communication; marking the boundaries of generalization; active analytical information.

Answer: a) – B); b) – C); d) – A).

Education & Educational Research

Task 27
Entry level (2 points)

Which of the following techniques would NOT be effective in demonstrating to students the difference in pronunciation of the English words shop and chop? Choose ONE correct answer.

   a) show transcription of these words
   b) **translate these words into their native language**
   c) show how the sounds are formed in these words by articulating or drawing pictures
   d) listen to a recording of these words and ask students to repeat them several times

Answer: b.

Task 28
Entry level (2 points)

What stage of teaching listening comprehension does NOT exist?
Choose ONE correct answer.

    a) pre-listening
    b) while-listening
    c) sub-listening
    d) after-listening

Answer: c.

Task 29
Intermediate level (4 points)

Which TWO statements are true about the national heroine of Britain, Boudicca?

    a) she was the wife of a Celtic king
    b) she was a daughter of a Celtic king
    c) she was an Anglo-Saxon queen
    d) she fought against the Romans
    e) she fought against the Vikings
    f) she had two sons

Answer: a, d.

Task 30
Intermediate level (4 points)

Which TWO types of reading fit these definitions?
1) This type of reading involves careful reading of the entire text. Its goal is to understand the exact meaning of what is read to answer detailed questions.
2) This type of reading involves quickly familiarizing yourself with the text to understand the general meaning or find the answer to a short question.

    a) intensive reading
    b) extensive reading
    c) skimming
    d) scanning
    e) inference
    f) reading for pleasure

Answer: a, c.

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