

## Linguistics and Modern Languages: Second-round sample tasks for the Open Doors undergraduate track

You will be asked to complete 45 tasks, including:

- 29 entry-level tasks, each correct answer worth 1 point;
- 12 intermediate-level tasks, each correctly answered task worth 1-3 points;
- 4 advanced tasks (constructed response), each correctly completed task valued at 8–15 points.

Evaluation criteria and standard answers are provided for the advanced tasks requiring constructed responses.

### Pedagogical Research

#### Task 1

#### Entry level (1 point)

Which word contains an emotional-evaluative connotation?

- A) correspondency
- B) tendency
- C) agency
- D) decency**

**Answer:** d.

#### Task 2

#### Entry level (1 point)

Which pair represents speech antonyms?

- A) sea – island**
- B) contradict – correspond
- C) first – last
- D) bravely – cowardly

**Answer:** a.

#### Task 3

#### Entry level (1 point)

Find the contrary antonyms between which a middle member is possible.

- A) mother – father
- B) forget – remember
- C) past – future**
- D) life – death

**Answer:** c.

#### Task 4

#### Entry level (1 point)

Find the addresses that are not acceptable in the official style.

- A) Ladies and gentlemen
- B) Mr. Vice Prime Minister
- C) Highly honored veterans

**D) Darling**

**Answer: d.**

**Task 5**

**Entry level (1 point)**

Which statement is appropriate in business communication in English?

A) Gramercy!

**B) Thank you for your attention!**

C) Thanky!

**Answer: b.**

**Task 6**

**Entry level (1 point)**

Find the pseudonyms (fictitious first and/or last names).

**A) Lewis Carroll**

B) Nicole Kidman

C) Jennifer Aniston

D) Charles Dickens

**Answer: a.**

**Task 7**

**Entry level (1 point)**

Which word contains the diminutive suffix?

**A) ridicule**

B) funniest

C) helpful

D) gracious

**Answer: a.**

**Mass Communication**

**Read the text and complete tasks 8-12.**

(1) In recent years the number of homeless cats on the streets of our city has sharply increased.

(2) This is largely due to the fact that cats are the most common pet, and perhaps the most fertile.

(3) Over the long course of their coexistence with the feline family, humans have come up with two reliable ways to get rid of cat's offspring.

(4) However, not everyone can lay their hands on newborn kittens, and not everyone is capable or has the financial means to go the vet. (5) Keeping two or three cats in your home is also expensive and bothersome. (6) So our domesticated-wild animals are out on the streets. (7) Is this a good thing?

**Task 8**

**Entry level (1 point)**

Which of the statements DOES NOT match the content of the text?

**A) To avoid the problem of homeless animals, you need to keep 23 cats at home**

B) The number of homeless cats has increased recently

C) Medical sterilization of cats is expensive and not affordable for all owners

**Answer: a.**

**Task 9**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

Which of the following statements is correct?

- A) Sentences 1-2 present a description
- B) Sentence 3 states the main idea of the text
- C) Sentences 3-7 are of the reasoning type**
- D) Sentences 4-5 are of the narration type

**Answer:** c.

**Task 10**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

Complete the sentence according to the text: The number of homeless cats...

- A) increased due to the fertile nature of cats**
- B) decreased thanks to reliable methods of their sterilization
- C) is related to animal protection activities
- D) can be reduced in three ways

**Answer:** a.

**Task 11**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

Complete the sentence according to the text: The author's position on the issue of homeless cats...

- A) is contradictory and ambiguous
- B) is expressed directly through the main message
- C) is unambiguous but not directly expressed**

**Answer:** c.

**Task 12**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

Choose the answer options that contain the correct characteristics of the text excerpt.

- A) The author's goal is to draw attention to the problem of homeless cats**
- B) The text contains an individually authored comparison (domestic-wild animals)
- C) Along with colloquial vocabulary (streets, city, increased, animals, humans, etc.), the text contains vernacular vocabulary (get rid of, lay their hand on)

**Answer:** a.

**Task 13**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

Which communicative quality of speech is violated in the phrase: She was wished to recover from the illness and many happy returns of the day.

- A) logic
- B) accuracy
- C) clarity**
- D) expressiveness

**Answer:** c.

**Task 14**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

Which word is commonly used to greet another person upon meeting in different communication situations?

- A) Hi!
- B) Hey!
- C) Hello!**
- D) Be well!

**Answer: c.**

**Literary theory and Critical Literary Practice**

**Task 15**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

The organization of separate elements, parts, and images of a literary work is...

- A) composition**
- B) plot
- C) conflict

**Answer: a.**

**Task 16**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

An event or a series of interconnected and sequentially developing events that make up the content of a literary work is...

- A) composition
- B) plot**
- C) conflict

**Answer: b.**

**Task 17**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

An emotional and colorful definition that carries a special emotional and semantic meaning is...

- A) epithet**
- B) hyperbole
- C) synonym

**Answer: a.**

**Task 18**  
**Entry level (1 point)**

What expressive device is used in this passage:

“The rich loved the poor,  
The wise loved the foolish.”

- A) metaphor
- B) epiphora

**C) antithesis**

**Answer: c.**

**Task 19**

**Entry level (1 point)**

What genre of literature does a short story belong to?

**A) epos**

B) lyric

C) drama

**Answer: a.**

**Task 20**

**Entry level (1 point)**

Which style of speech corresponds to the following definition: “A functional variety of the literary language that affects the reader's feelings through artistic imagery?”

**A) literary**

B) official

C) publicistic

**Answer: a.**

**Theoretical, Applied and Comparative Linguistics**

**Task 21**

**Entry level (1 point)**

The theory of language origin, according to which language arose as a result of human imitation of the sound and non-sound characteristics of the named objects of nature, is called:

A) divine source theory of language

**B) the bow-wow theory**

C) yo-he-ho theory

D) pooh-pooh theory

E) theory of social contract

F) evolutionary theory

**Answer: b.**

**Task 22**

**Entry level (1 point)**

Languages that use derived (compound) words or word forms equivalent to sentences are called:

A) isolating

B) agglutinative

C) fusional

**D) polysynthetic**

E) monosynthetic

**Answer: d.**

**Task 23**

**Entry level (1 point)**

The series big, large, huge, gigantic reflects:

- A) syntagmatic relations
- B) paradigmatic relations**

**Answer:** b.

**Task 24**

**Entry level (1 point)**

A language that arises from a pidgin when it becomes the primary language of a community:

- A) jargon
- B) slang
- C) creole language**
- D) argot
- E) pidgin
- F) constructed language

**Answer:** c.

**Task 25**

**Entry level (1 point)**

The word to chill belongs to:

- A) dialect
- B) sociolect**

**Answer:** b.

**Task 26**

**Entry level (1 point)**

The word vibe belongs to the following sociolect:

- A) argot
- B) professional slang
- C) youth slang**

**Answer:** c.

**Task 27**

**Entry level (1 point)**

The word academy is a:

- A) archaism
- B) internationalism**
- C) occasionalism
- D) calque
- E) historicism
- F) neologism

**Answer:** b.

**Russian Language. Languages of Russia's Ethnic Groups**

**Task 28**

**Entry level (1 point)**

Find the form of the anthroponym (personal name) which in Russian linguistic culture turns out to be ambiguous in terms of emotional coloring.

- A) Yuri
- B) Yurik
- C) Yurok**
- D) Yurka
- E) Yurochka

**Answer:** c.

### English Language

#### Task 29

**Entry level (1 point)**

What is appropriate to say at a conference in English?

- A) If you have any questions, please feel free to ask them**
- B) If you liked my performance, feel free to thank me
- C) If you have any questions, don't ask them

**Answer:** a.

### Pedagogical Research

#### Task 30

**Intermediate level (1-3 points)**

Find the stylistically neutral introductory constructions.

- A) much as I regret it
- B) without doubt
- C) so to speak**
- D) that is**

**Answer:** c, d.

#### Task 31

**Intermediate level (1-3 points)**

Find two extra words that are not included in this synonymous series.

- A) quickly
- B) slowly**
- C) dashingly
- D) spryly
- E) swiftly
- F) simultaneously**

**Answer:** b, f.

#### Task 32

**Intermediate level (1-3 points)**

Find the sentences that contain a euphemism – a stylistically neutral word or expression that replaces a direct name that is unacceptable for ethical reasons:

- A) “The venerable Prokhor Semyonovich, meanwhile, has just passed away into eternity about a week ago.” (M. Saltykov-Shchedrin)**

B) “And it looks like the narrowed eyes of the hagglers, and their sly smiles, that they are being disingenuous.” (N. Zadornov)

C) “Even the smallest lie embarrassed him.” (V. Kataev)

D) “To outward seeming everything was fine with them, there were no quarrels, no shouting, but there was no joy either.” (G. Nikolaeva)

E) **“It's time for us old folks to rest!”** (A.P. Chekhov)

**Answer:** a, e.

## Mass Communication

### Task 33

#### Intermediate level (1-3 points)

What quotes can be used to support the proposed thesis? Check several answer options.

Message: Remember your high human responsibility!

A) “Love – and do what you want” (A. Blessed)

**B) “You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed” (A. Saint-Exupéry)**

C) “The whole life of humanity has consistently settled in books” (A. Herzen)

**D) “Action comes not from thought, but from readiness for responsibility” (D. Bonhoeffer)**

**Answer:** b, d.

### Task 34

#### Intermediate level (1-3 points)

In which of the phrases the statement purpose is a wish?

**A) God bless you!**

B) Please borrow me money until payday.

C) Please pass the salt.

D) Let me know when it's ready.

**Answer:** a.

### Task 35

#### Intermediate level (1-3 points)

Analyze the phrase and determine which of the following are not speech manipulation techniques: “Who do you actually take us for?”

A) the “Demonstration of Hurt Feelings” trick

**B) the “Frank Statement” trick**

**C) the “Belittlement with Irony” trick**

**Answer:** b, c.

## Literary theory and Critical Literary Practice

### Task 36

#### Intermediate level (1-3 points)

In which fragments is the portrait depicted?

**A) “She was far from a beauty, but I have my own prejudices about beauty as well”.**



B) “...In front of her, on the desk, hunched a skinny, wild boy with a broken face, unkempt, motherless and alone, in an old, washed-out jacket on sagging shoulders, which fit on the chest, but from which the arms were sticking out far; in soiled light-green trousers, altered from his father's breeches and tucked into teal, with traces of yesterday's fight.”

C) “Sometimes, as soon as our Harlampy Diogenovich entered the classroom, everyone immediately became quiet, and so was on until the very end of the lesson. It's true that sometimes he made us laugh. But this was not spontaneous laughter, but fun organized from above...”

**Answer:** a

### Task 37

#### Intermediate level (1-3 points)

Point out the answer options that correctly indicate the means of artistic expression in the fragment of the poem by M. Yu. Lermontov "Sail".

“A lone white sail steadfastly glistens

Through azure mists afar at sea.

What does it seek in far-off distance?

What has it lost in native realm?

The waves break fast, the wind is clipping,

The mast is creaking as it sways.

Alas, it seeks no blissful being,

Nor does it run from happiness.”

A) epithet

B) personification

C) comparison

**Answer:** a, b.

### Task 38

#### Intermediate level (1-3 points)

Indicate the answer options in which the expressive means of speech is a metaphor.

(1) That morning Dinka woke up with anxiety in her soul and, as soon as she opened her eyes, she remembered Andrey, remembered that today, as usual, he, Khokholok, would come. (2) She had to think carefully about how to tell him that she, Dinka, had grown up and would never again sit on the frame of his bicycle, would not go for a ride with him. (3) **Not in the forest, not in the field, not along the long path among the sea of rye.** (4) None of this will happen anymore! (5) There will be no secrets told to Khokholok, a faithful childhood friend. (6) **And in the depths of the terrace stood Lenya, and his heart was squeezed with pain.**

**Answer:** 3, 6.

## Theoretical, Applied and Comparative Linguistics

### Task 39

#### Intermediate level (1-3 points)

According to Ferdinand de Saussure, the language-speech dichotomy is manifested in the fact that language is:

A) an object of ideal and material nature

B) material

C) a socio-cultural legacy

D) a functional system

**Answer:** a, c.

### Russian Language. Languages of Russia's Ethnic Groups

#### Task 40

Intermediate level (1-3 points)

Mark the grammatically correct sentences in Russian:

A) **Благодарю, но, думаю, я откажусь от вашего предложения. (Thank you, but I think I'll decline your offer.)**

B) Предполагаю что он откажется от твоего предложения. (To my mind he will decline your offer).

C) Я с радостью откажусь от вашего предложения. (I would gladly decline your offer).

D) Твое предложение мне интересно, но пока я не могу его принять. (Your offer interests me, but I can't accept it yet).

**Answer:** a.

### English Language

#### Task 41

Intermediate level (1-3 points)

Mark the grammatically correct sentences in English:

A) **Don't hesitate to contact me anytime.**

B) He will be here some time.

C) Any of my time is yours.

D) **I am free for you at any time.**

**Answer:** a, d.

### Pedagogical Research

#### Task 42

Advanced level (8-15 points)

Write a detailed statement of 60 to 100 words on the given topic.

How do you understand the words of the Polish cultural figure E. Lec (1909-1966): "The words that are not used say more about the era than those that are abused."

**Note that** the evaluation will consider how you solve the task; providing only the final answer is not sufficient.

**Sample solution text:** "Jerzy Lec's words that "words that are not used say more about an era than those that are abused" reflect the paradox of our time. We often see empty words, devoid of meaning, filling the information space. Their abuse devalues their meaning, making them ineffective in conveying the true meaning. At the same time, words that for some reason are not spoken remain in the shadows, carrying a hidden charge of meaning, unspoken emotions and understatement. These words can be the key to understanding the essence of an era, its hidden motives and contradictions."

### Mass Communication

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**Task 43**  
**Advanced level (8-15 points)**

Write a detailed statement of 60 to 100 words on the given topic.

Modern development of media communications is a new cultural revolution.

**Note that** the evaluation will consider how you solve the task; providing only the final answer is not sufficient.

**Sample solution text:** “Modern development of media communications can be safely called a new cultural revolution. It radically changes the ways of receiving and distributing information, erases the boundaries between countries and continents. The emergence of social networks, streaming platforms and virtual spaces creates new forms of communication, creativity and content consumption. Thanks to the availability of information, people are becoming more informed and critically thinking. However, on the other hand, there is a risk of information noise, manipulation and propaganda. The new time requires us to understand the role of media in the life of society and develop media literacy for effective navigation in this ocean of information.”

**Literary theory and Critical Literary Practice**

**Task 44**  
**Advanced level (8-15 points)**

Write a detailed statement of 60 to 100 words on the given topic.

How do cultural and national differences affect the perception of fiction?

**Note that** the evaluation will consider how you solve the task; providing only the final answer is not sufficient.

**Sample solution text:** “Cultural and national differences play a significant role in the perception of fiction. Different cultures have their own traditions, values, and worldviews that shape literary tastes and interpretations. For example, a text filled with metaphors and allusions that are understandable to a reader from one culture may be incomprehensible to a representative of another. In addition, differences in national characters, histories, and ideologies can affect how a reader perceives characters, plot lines, and the general idea of a work. Despite these differences, fiction can serve as a bridge between cultures, expanding the reader's horizons and allowing him to see the world from a new point of view.”

**Theoretical, Applied and Comparative Linguistics**

**Task 45**  
**Advanced level (8-15 points)**

Write a detailed statement of 60 to 100 words on the given topic:

How do you think language is related to thinking?

**Note that** the evaluation will consider how you solve the task; providing only the final answer is not sufficient.

**Sample solution text:** “Language and thinking are closely intertwined, like threads in a single fabric. Language is a tool for thinking that allows us to structure thoughts, express them, and share them with others. On the one hand, it limits us to the framework of its grammar and vocabulary, forming certain models of thinking. On the other hand, it gives us the opportunity to create new ideas, enriching our inner world and promoting the development of thought

processes. It is difficult to imagine abstract thinking, planning, and understanding the world without language. It is the key to our understanding of reality and ourselves.”

<b>Task number</b>	<b>42-45</b>
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>K1. Relevance to the topic</b>	
The student consistently and accurately addresses the proposed topic in various ways: by answering the question posed, reflecting on the identified issue, or formulating a statement based on relevant points. The communicative intent is conveyed clearly.	<b>2-3</b>
The student engages with the proposed topic at a surface level or addresses a topic that is somewhat related but not directly aligned with the original prompt.	<b>1</b>
The statement is unrelated to the topic, and its intended message is unclear.	<b>0</b>
<b>K2. Argumentation</b>	
When exploring a topic, the student consistently articulates their position, presenting points and supporting arguments. The reasoning provided is coherent, persuasive, and adequately developed to thoroughly address the subject.	<b>2-3</b>
The student presents their position inconsistently, with incomplete arguments or reasoning that does not adequately align with the topic.	<b>1</b>
The arguments are inconsistent, making it challenging to identify specific points in the detailed statement; the student relies mainly on broad reasoning.	<b>0</b>
<b>K3. Involvement of factual material</b>	
When exploring a topic, the student consistently incorporates relevant factual information, drawing from a variety of sources such as scientific studies, journalistic articles, literary works, historical events, philosophical texts, and artistic creations. The factual content utilized is both compelling and adequate to thoroughly develop the subject matter.	<b>2-3</b>
The use of factual information is inadequate; it presents the topic in a superficial and biased manner.	<b>1</b>
There were one to three inaccuracies in the factual information provided, or the factual material was not utilized at all.	<b>0</b>
<b>K4. Originality</b>	
The topic is approached in a unique and innovative way; the student steers clear of clichés and presents surprising twists in reasoning, argumentation, selection of factual content, and structural choices. The originality of the topic aligns effectively with the logical formulation of the subject matter.	<b>2-3</b>
The work features some unique logical, factual, and argumentative approaches that demonstrate originality in exploring the topic.	<b>1</b>
The topic is approached in a conventional way, relying heavily on clichés and lacking originality.	<b>0</b>
<b>K5. Cohesion and logic of reasoning</b>	
A statement is characterized by its cohesive structure, clear logical flow, and absence of disjointed sequences or unnecessary repetitions within its meaning.	<b>2-3</b>

The statement exhibits breaches in the logical connection between its semantic components, and/or the ideas are reiterated without further development. There are 1-3 logical errors present.	<b>1</b>
The argumentative part is missing or the argumentation is not convincing.	<b>0</b>
<b>K6. Suitability of the used linguistic means (lexical, grammatical) to the norms of modern Russian and English languages</b>	
For every three infractions of lexical, morphological, syntactic, spelling, or punctuation standards.	<b>Minus 1</b>
<b>Extra points</b>	
The incorporation of artistic elements, the complexity of the subject matter, additional unmeasured strengths of the essay, and the overall impression it leaves.	<b>1-3</b>
<b>Maximum score for an advanced level task</b>	<b>15</b>