ЗАДАНИЕ 1

Choose one question out of the three given. Write your answer in 250-300 words providing arguments and examples.

1. What are linguistic peculiarities of the two Americas?
2. How can gender studies be applied to foreign language studies?
3. Why understanding speech is different and difficult in all languages?

ЗАДАНИЕ 2

ЛЕКСИКО-ГРАММАТИЧЕСКИЙ ТЕСТ

You are going to read an article. For questions 1-10, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, or C) best fits each gap.

At first glance, van Gogh’s painting of a simple rustic chair appears to be a straightforward still life—the kind of picture that might (1) ____ in a calm atmosphere, with no emotional or symbolic overtones. In reality, it was painted just (2) ____ weeks before van Gogh’s breakdown, at a time when his friendship with Paul Gauguin was disintegrating. When van Gogh moved to Arles, in the south of France, in February 1888 he hoped that it might become the center of an artists’ colony. Gauguin’s arrival that year seemed a promising start. Van Gogh was delighted. He bought furniture for the house and started painting in a frenzy, to show the Frenchman how far his art (3) ____. Unfortunately, it was not (4) ____ before the dream turned sour. Gauguin had come mainly for practical reasons, as van Gogh’s brother was helping him financially, and he rapidly regretted his decision. He disliked the town, feeling “very much a stranger in Arles,” and soon quarreled with his host. Van Gogh painted two pictures of chairs—his own and Gauguin’s—in early December 1888, when it seemed likely that his visitor would leave. It is possible that he thought they might persuade Gauguin to stay, but (5) ____ probable that they were a sad acknowledgment of the two men’s irreconcilable differences.

Van Gogh (6) ____ well have borrowed the idea of using an empty chair as a form of symbolic portrait from a well-known illustration by the British artist Luke Fildes, showing the chair in which Charles Dickens died. The objects on Van Gogh’s chairs were definitely designed to identify the sitters. It is also likely that van Gogh had intended the pictures (7) ____ a vindication of his art. Gauguin had encouraged him to paint from imagination, rather than from nature. Van Gogh had tried, but found the results unsatisfactory. So, (8) ____ Gauguin’s chair was depicted in dark, artificial conditions, his own was plain and simple, but fulfilled all his needs. As such, it echoed his artistic philosophy: “I cannot work without a model... I exaggerate, sometimes I make changes, but I do not invent the whole picture...I find it all ready in nature.”

Van Gogh chose very carefully when deciding which objects to include in his chair pictures. They had a symbolic meaning, (9) ____ not only to the person who used the chair but also to the person’s artistic approach. In Gauguin’s case, the books signified that his work stemmed (10) ____ the intellect and imagination. On his own chair, by contrast, Van Gogh placed his pipe and a pouch of tobacco. Through these, he meant to show that he required nothing more for his painting than the everyday objects that surrounded him.
ФРАЗОВАЯ СВЯЗНОСТЬ

You are going to read an excerpt from a book. Read the text and fill in the blanks (1-10) with the words from the list. One word is extra.

adopted
taught
break
bring

contrast
go
impinge
lays

lies
seeking
upsetting

Some would say that postmodernism is a form of critical theory and distinguish between a postmodern critical theory and a Marxian critical theory. The difference between the two approaches (1) ___ in the postmodernist’s critique of the idea of modernity. For them, modernity consists of the belief, made popular during the Enlightenment period of the eighteenth century, in the power of value-free scientific analysis to (2) ___ about progressive change towards a predetermined goal (or Telos). While (Marxian) critical theorists like Cox strongly reject the idea of valuefree neutral scientific inquiry, critical theory’s commitment to the notion of an emancipatory theory of social change does not totally (3) ___ with the Enlightenment tradition.

In (4) ___ to expose the relationship between knowledge and power, postmodernists have (5) ___ a range of distinct methodological tactics. One of these is the technique of textual analysis – the analysis of language or ‘texts’ though deconstruction. What this involves is (6) ___ the notion that there are any stable concepts in the study of social phenomena and challenging the tendency in western thinking to construct boundaries around what we consider to be opposites. Thus we might take a concept like ‘rationality’ which constantly talks of the state as a rational actor and (7) ___ that with the idea of ‘emotion’. Clearly rationality is a concept that is more highly valued in mainstream International Relations, and our ‘common sense’ view is that rationality is an important virtue for any diplomat or foreign policy holder to possess. However, does the privileging of rationality over emotion reflect a world order in which violence and aggression can be reasonably defended rather than seen as abhorrent and at odds with our common humanity?

At the core of postmodernist thinking is a belief that the person studying international relations cannot be separated from the object of their studies. So whereas some theories of IR placed emphasis on the need for the scholar to look at the world from an impartial value-free objective standpoint, postmodernists claim that the goal of value-free neutrality can never be (8) ___. Things like the social class, race and ethnicity, gender and nationality of the author all (9) ___ in some way on how knowledge is created. Theories that present themselves as ‘scientific’ do so because being described as such adds legitimacy to the work of a scholar – but postmodernists argue instead that these theories are as unscientific and full of values and opinions as any other set of theories. As we now (10) ___ on to discuss, many of these important concerns about the position of the theorist/researcher are central to feminist perspectives in IR too.
You are going to read an excerpt of a speech made by Winston Churchill. Ten sentences have been removed from the text. Read the text and complete the gaps with the sentences from the list. One sentence is extra.

(1) __It was the evident wish and will of Parliament and the nation that this should be conceived on the broadest possible basis and that it should include all parties, both those who supported the late Government and also the parties of the Opposition. (2) __A War Cabinet has been formed of five Members, representing, with the Liberal Opposition, the unity of the nation. The three party Leaders have agreed to serve, either in the War Cabinet or in high executive office. The three Fighting Services have been filled. It was necessary that this should be done in one single day, on account of the extreme urgency and rigor of events. A number of other key positions were filled yesterday, and I am submitting a further list to His Majesty tonight. (3) __The appointment of the other Ministers usually takes a little longer, but I trust that when Parliament meets again, this part of my task will be completed, and that the administration will be complete in all respects.

Sir, I considered it in the public interest to suggest that the House should be summoned to meet today. (4) __At the end of the proceedings today, the Adjournment of the House will be proposed until Tuesday, the 21st of May, with, of course, provision for earlier meeting, if need be. (5) __I now invite the House, by the Resolution which stands in my name, to record its approval of the steps taken and to declare its confidence in the new Government.

Sir, to form an Administration of this scale and complexity is a serious undertaking in itself, but it must be remembered that we are in the preliminary stage of one of the greatest battles in history, that we are in action at many points in Norway and in Holland, that we have to be prepared in the Mediterranean, that the air battle is continuous and that many preparations have to be made here at home. (6) __I hope that any of my friends and colleagues, or former colleagues, who are affected by the political reconstruction, will make all allowances for any lack of ceremony with which it has been necessary to act. I would say to the House, as I said to those who have joined the government: (7) __

(8) __We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. You ask, what is our policy? I will say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: victory; victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival. Let that be realized; no survival for the British Empire, no survival for all that the British Empire has stood for, no survival for the urge and impulse of the ages, that mankind will move forward towards its goal. (9) __I feel sure that our cause will not be suffered to fail among men. At this time I feel entitled to claim the aid of all, and I say, (10) __

A  "Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength."
B  "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."
C But I take up my task with buoyancy and hope.
D I have completed the most important part of this task.
E I hope to complete the appointment of the principal Ministers during tomorrow.
F In this crisis I hope I may be pardoned if I do not address the House at any length today.
G Mister Speaker, on Friday evening last I received His Majesty's commission to form a new Administration.
H Mr. Speaker agreed, and took the necessary steps, in accordance with the powers conferred upon him by the Resolution of the House.
I The business to be considered during that week will be notified to Members at the earliest opportunity.
J We have before us a leisurely undertaking.
K We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind.

ПОНИМАНИЕ ПИСЬМЕННОГО ТЕКСТА

You are going to read an extract from an essay by George Orwell. For questions 1-10, read the text below and choose the answer (A, B, or C) which you think fits best according to the text.

"In March or April, say the wiseacres, there is to be a stupendous knockout blow at Britain...What Hitler has to do it with, I cannot imagine. His ebbing and dispersed military resources are now probably not so very much greater than the Italians' before they were put to the test in Greece and Africa."

"The German air power has been largely spent. It is behind the times and its first-rate men are mostly dead or disheartened or worn out."

"In 1914 the Hohenzollern army was the best in the world. Behind that screaming little defective in Berlin there is nothing of the sort... Yet our military 'experts' discuss the waiting phantom. In their imaginations it is perfect in its equipment and invincible in discipline. Sometimes it is to strike a decisive 'blow' through Spain and North Africa and on, or march through the Balkans, march from the Danube to Ankara, to Persia, to India, or 'crush Russia', or 'pour' over the Brenner into Italy. The weeks pass and the phantom does none of these things—for one excellent reason. It does not exist to that extent. Most of such inadequate guns and munitions as it possessed must have been taken away from it and fooled away in Hitler's silly feints to invade Britain. And its raw jerry-built discipline is wilting under the creeping realisation that the Blitzkrieg is spent, and the war is coming home to roost."

These quotations are not taken from the CAVALRY QUARTERLY but from a series of newspaper articles by Mr H.G. Wells, written at the beginning of this year and now reprinted in a book entitled GUIDE TO THE NEW WORLD. Since they were written, the German army has overrun the Balkans and reconquered Cyrenaica, it can march through Turkey or Spain at such time as may suit it, and it has undertaken the invasion of Russia. How that campaign will turn out I do not know, but it is worth noticing that the German general staff, whose opinion is probably worth something, would not have begun it if they had not felt fairly certain of finishing it within three months. So much for the idea that the German army is a bogey, its equipment inadequate, its morale breaking down, etc etc.
What has Wells to set against the "screaming little defective in Berlin"? The usual rigmarole about a World State, plus the Sankey Declaration, which is an attempted definition of fundamental human rights, of anti-totalitarian tendency. Except that he is now especially concerned with federal world control of air power, it is the same gospel as he has been preaching almost without interruption for the past forty years, always with an air of angry surprise at the human beings who can fail to grasp anything so obvious.

What is the use of saying that we need federal world control of the air? The whole question is how we are to get it. What is the use of pointing out that a World State is desirable? What matters is that not one of the five great military powers would think of submitting to such a thing. All sensible men for decades past have been substantially in agreement with what Mr Wells says; but the sensible men have no power and, in too many cases, no disposition to sacrifice themselves. Hitler is a criminal lunatic, and Hitler has an army of millions of men, aeroplanes in thousands, tanks in tens of thousands. For his sake a great nation has been willing to overwork itself for six years and then to fight for two years more, whereas for the commonsense, essentially hedonistic world-view which Mr Wells puts forward, hardly a human creature is willing to shed a pint of blood. Before you can even talk of world reconstruction, or even of peace, you have got to eliminate Hitler, which means bringing into being a dynamic not necessarily the same as that of the Nazis, but probably quite as unacceptable to "enlightened" and hedonistic people. What has kept England on its feet during the past year? In part, no doubt, some vague idea about a better future, but chiefly the atavistic emotion of patriotism, the ingrained feeling of the English-speaking peoples that they are superior to foreigners. For the last twenty years the main object of English left-wing intellectuals has been to break this feeling down, and if they had succeeded, we might be watching the SS men patrolling the London streets at this moment. Similarly, why are the Russians fighting like tigers against the German invasion? In part, perhaps, for some half-remembered ideal of Utopian Socialism, but chiefly in defence of Holy Russia (the "sacred soil of the Fatherland", etc), which Stalin has revived in an only slightly altered form. The energy that actually shapes the world springs from emotions—racial pride, leader-worship, religious belief, love of war—which liberal intellectuals mechanically write off as anachronisms, and which they have usually destroyed so completely in themselves as to have lost all power of action.

The people who say that Hitler is Antichrist, or alternatively, the Holy Ghost, are nearer an understanding of the truth than the intellectuals who for ten dreadful years have kept it up that he is merely a figure out of comic opera, not worth taking seriously. All that this idea really reflects is the sheltered conditions of English life. The Left Book Club was at bottom a product of Scotland Yard, just as the Peace Pledge Union is a product of the navy. One development of the last ten years has been the appearance of the "political book", a sort of enlarged pamphlet combining history with political criticism, as an important literary form. But the best writers in this line—Trotsky, Rauschning, Rosenberg, Silone, Borkenau, Koestler and others—have none of them been Englishmen, and nearly all of them have been renegades from one or other extremist party, who have seen totalitarianism at close quarters and known the meaning of exile and persecution. Only in the English-speaking countries was it fashionable to believe, right up to the outbreak of war, that Hitler was an unimportant lunatic and the German tanks made of cardboard. Mr Wells, it will be seen from the quotations I have given above, believes something of the kind still. I do not suppose that either the bombs or the German campaign in Greece have altered his opinion. A lifelong habit of thought stands between him and an understanding of Hitler's power.
1. According to the quotations, H. Wells

A. considers British military experts visionary.
B. castigates those who prophesied World War II.
C. lambasts British military experts for what he believes to be the prophetic words.

2. According to H. Wells, Hitler

A. wasted his military resources on unnecessary tricks.
B. squandered all the resources as he was addicted to gambling.
C. failed to allocate the resources effectively due to his low intellect.

3. H. Wells believes that the German army led by Hitler

A. is on the way home.
B. is much stronger than its predecessor.
C. has lost its power, and it will do more harm to Germany than to any other country.

4. According to G. Orwell,

A. H. Wells’ idea about the German army merits enormous respect.
B. H. Wells’ idea about the German army being a phantom was unsuccessful.
C. H. Wells provided ample evidence against widespread misperceptions about the German army.

5. H. Wells believed that

A. the world could stand up united to insane tyrants like Hitler.
B. the international government cannot control national air forces.
C. his appeal to establish an international government was embraced enthusiastically.

6. G. Orwell’s attitude to a possibility of a World State can be characterized as

A. skeptical.
B. ludicrous.
C. credulous.

7. Hitler’s popularity with people is explained by the fact that

A. his pacifist views enabled him to maintain power.
B. the pursuit of personal pleasure was his strong suit.
C. to lead the masses, a leader does not have to be sane.
8. G. Orwell voices

A. a jocular plea to kill Hitler to defeat the German army.
B. criticism about the way the Soviet Union fought Hitler.
C. an unpopular sentiment that to defeat Hitler, the British have to bolster their sense of superiority.

9. G. Orwell deemed the exaggerations about the role of Hitler in the world history

A. plausible.
B. far-fetched.
C. short-sighted.

10. G. Orwell considers the lifestyle of the British society

A. too comfortable and free from woes to see the potential threat Hitler posed.
B. too insular to embrace the values Hitler was intending to spread in the world.
C. too militarized and controlled by law enforcement agencies to fail to withstand Hitler.