

**Государственное учреждение образования  
«Гимназия г.Пружаны»**

**Методическое пособие  
«Учебные материалы для подготовки  
монологического высказывания, стимулирующие  
учащихся к решению коммуникативных задач  
в процессе изучения иностранного языка в 10 классе»**

**“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”**

**2018 г.**



## **Contents**

**1. Houses and homes**

**2. Education**

**3. Youth and society**

**4. Art**

**5. Science**

**6. Great people**

**7. Mass Media**

## 1. HOUSES AND HOMES

### My dream house

**On** many occasions, people have asked me what my dream house would look like. I never really thought about it, but after seeing pictures of an apartment in New York, I immediately said that it was my dream house. Well, apartment. First of all, it is in **the centre of the city, on the very top of the building**. Thanks to that, it has the most beautiful view of **New York**. The thing I like about it the most, is that it is **placed on the whole floor, so I would have all that space to myself**. Considering that, it has **its own** private elevator. After exiting this lift, you would enter a spacious hallway with large glass windows. The walls are covered with **beige wallpapers and pictures**. A **beautiful red sofa** is put facing the window. The **kitchen** is really spacious. It has **high bar chairs**, as well as a **beautiful eating table**, made of glass, and chairs covered with white leather. The **living room** has such a modern design. **The wall to the outside is totally made out of glass**, which gives it a special look. There is a huge **plasma TV** on the other wall, and **in every corner of the room** you can find speakers, as a part of Home Theater system. In the centre of the room, there is a **sofa**, where you can sit or lie down while watching TV. A **beautiful fireplace** is put in the room to make it look, and if needed, feel **warm**. The **bedroom** is made in a **white-red** combination. The walls and the floor are **white, and the bed and the curtains**, as well as some decorations **are red**, which gives the room that special touch. There are also doors that lead to the **dressing room** which has **lots of clothes, a place for shoes, a big mirror with lights and a table for make-up**. And finally, there is a **bathroom**, which is huge. It has a bath and a shower. It is made in gold-white combination, and it looks **kind of antique**. That is pretty much it about my dream house. I just hope I will get to it one day.

### My house

It is large and has big windows and the front of the house gets the morning sun. It is made of red brick and has tiling on the roof. It has two spacious bedrooms which have two large windows each, a roomy kitchen with three side windows and a back door. There is a lounge with one giant window, and a huge bathroom with a long narrow window so that there is privacy, yet there is still natural light. The house is supposed to be stylish and roomy while not being too big and showy; there are fewer rooms and more space. There are many large windows so that during the day the rooms are never dark. There is a fireplace in the lounge so that the people living in the house can warm themselves by the fire in the winter. The front of the house has two bedrooms that seem to welcome people walking up to the front door. The whole house except the windows is covered in green vines, growing wildly all over the red brick front. There are beautiful trees in the front garden. On a hot summer's day the trees shade the pathway leading up to the front door. In the back garden there are birch trees and fragrant flowers growing near the main kitchen window, and there are jasmine and rose bushes growing by the fence.

\*\*\*

**Programme host:** In the latest in his series of programmes on British life, Nicky Owen looks at where the British live and what the advantages and disadvantages of living in different types of houses are.

**Nicky Owen:** There are four basic types of housing in the UK: detached houses, semi-detached houses, terraced houses and flats. The most popular type of home in England is semi-detached (more than 27% of all homes), closely followed by detached then terraced.

Some of the detached houses are cottages and bungalows.

It must be understood that a detached house can take on any form or style. It does not matter if the house is a bungalow, a cottage or a mansion. As long as it is not joined to another house, it is a detached house. **One advantage of a detached house is the fact that the free space surrounding the building belongs to the family. You can do whatever you would like to be done in your house.** The disadvantage is that all repairs in the house should be made by the owner.

A semi-detached house is a pair of houses that share one common wall. The two houses are built to mirror each other. Interestingly enough, this type of housing is called a duplex in other parts of the world. This type of housing became popular in the UK in the 1920s to the 1930s. Now the semi-detached house is still the most popular type of housing in England. **One advantage of living in a semi-detached house is that there is still some privacy** even if one wall is shared by the two houses. A disadvantage is that you are responsible for the upkeep of your side of the house. Another disadvantage is that you cannot just plan repairs or renovations as you have to consider your twin house.

Terraced housing is also known as townhouses. The origin of this type of dwelling was in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Europe. A row of identical looking houses share side walls. The end units of this row of housing are called end terrace and are far larger than the units in between. In the past, terrace housing used to be only associated with the working class for this type of housing was cheap, small and had very little privacy. As time went by, terrace housing became known as townhouses which were more associated with the **rich.**

**One of the major advantages of terrace housing is that it is relatively cheaper than a semi-detached built in the same location.** One disadvantage is that there is typically no yard or garden that comes with a unit. As two walls are shared, there is less privacy too.

A flat or an apartment is a part of a larger building. Such building is called an apartment building or a block of flats. A flat can be a studio unit, a one-bedroom, two-bedroom or three-bedroom unit. People prefer renting flats to buying them.

The main disadvantage of renting out a flat is that it will never be yours. You do not have the right to make repairs or renovations to suit your needs. **The one advantage of renting a flat is that you are not responsible for it - you are only renting. In case you feel like moving house, you can just leave.**

**Programme host:** Thank you, Nicky ...

### **My flat**

We have a nice flat in a new block of flats. Our flat is on the fourth floor. It has

all modern conveniences: central heating, gas, electricity, cold and hot water, a lift and a chute to carry rubbish down.

There are three rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a hall in our flat.

The living-room is the largest and most comfortable room in the flat. In the middle of the room we have a square-table with six chairs round it. To the right of the dinner-table there is a Wall-unit which has several sections: a sideboard, a wardrobe and some shelves. At the opposite wall there is a piano and stool before it. Between the two large windows there is a little table with a colour TV set on it. Near the TV set there are two cosy armchairs. A small round table, a divan-bed and a standard lamp are in the left-hand corner. This small table is for newspapers and magazines. My father is used to having a rest sitting on this divan-bed reading books, newspapers, magazines or watching TV.

The bedroom is smaller than the living-room and not so light as there is only one window in it. In this room there are two beds with a bedside-table between them. An alarm-clock and a small lamp with a pink lamp-shade are on the table. In the left-hand corner there is a dressing-table with a big mirror. In this room we have a built-in wardrobe with coat-hangers to hang clothes on. There is a thick carpet on the floor and plain light-brown curtains on the window.

The third room is my study. It is not large but very cosy. There isn't much furniture in it, only the most necessary. It has a writing-table and an armchair before it. In the right-hand corner there is a bookcase full of books, magazines and newspapers. A small table with a radio is standing in the left-hand corner. Near it there is a sofa with some cushions. In my opinion, the study is the best room in our flat. But the warmest place in our flat is the kitchen, I think — the place where the whole family gathers every evening not only to have supper together, but also to speak and rest. I like the English proverb: "My home is my castle" because my flat is, indeed, my castle.

\*\*\*

When I think about my housing conditions, I come to the conclusion, that it doesn't really matter whether my house is large or small, whether it is of a modern or old design — it always remains the place I am most concerned about. I am sure that it's not the size of the place where you live that matters but the way you feel about it. And if everything is all right in your household then it becomes the place you want to stay at as long as possible and where you always want to return to. I quite agree with the proverb «East or West home is best». When I travel on long distances it's always a great joy and pleasure for me to be back home again. When my curiosity for new places and sights is satisfied I turn my thoughts towards home. So besides the delight of travelling I have the warmest feeling of returning home.

Now it's time for me to say a few words about what my home is like. Frankly speaking it doesn't suit the idea of a modern-looking comfortable flat and it leaves much to be desired as far as its space is concerned because five of us share a rather small two-room flat. But the bright side of it is that though it's small and not very comfortable, it is situated close to the city centre. So you can easily get to any place you want fairly quickly as well as to the places of interest which are within a short

reach. I must admit that our housing conditions are poor by all standards. As I have already said it is a two-room flat, but in fact in its size it's not much larger than a one-room flat, because the rooms are not separate and small. We feel the shortage of space especially when all of us get together in the evening, when my father returns from work, and my brother and I are back from school. It's in the evening when everybody needs a rest and a kind of privacy after a busy day, we start solving the problem of dividing our tiny flat into small private areas. My father feels tired after a hard day's work and he wants to have a rest in peace. His usual way of relaxing is watching TV. My mother has to do a lot of housework like cooking and washing. The children, my brother who is seven and my sister who is four, get most restless and active just at the time I have to do my homework. So every evening begins with a quarrel with my father who doesn't want to turn down the TV in the sitting room, then with my mother who occupies the smaller room which by the way was mine when I was an only child in the family. So I usually clear out my ways with the smaller ones, who don't want to stop screaming and running about the flat. Finally I find a shelter in the kitchen, the quietest, the warmest and the most comfortable place in our flat. It is comparatively large and looks like a typical modern kitchen you can see in many other homes. It is the most popular and favourite place with us. It's hard to describe where there is what in a small place like ours with so many of us in it. I think we've got all the modern conveniences and facilities of a modern city resident. There is a minimum of furniture we need, a rug on the floor and some pictures on the walls. I can't describe my room as I haven't got one for myself. In view of the advantages that I've mentioned of living in the city centre I think our flat has more disadvantages. I mean its very limited space, bad layout of the whole flat, and practically a very small hall. Of course, we are looking forward to improving our housing conditions and moving into a large flat or a house. But for the time being these are only sweet dreams. Our father promises they will one day become a reality. But I think only in a distant future. To crown it all, I'm sorry to say that this is not a very encouraging and inviting topic for me to talk about. I love my home, but I can't say I like the flat I live in.

### **I like my home**

To begin with I should say that I like my home. Of course, when we are talking about one's home, we as well mean the kind of housing a person has got. Some people think that one's home is as much a reflection of his personality, as the clothes he wears, the food he eats, the friends he spends his time with. I agree that many homes reflect the ways of life and habits of their owners. In my view to live comfortably doesn't mean to live in luxury in a detached house, which contains all modern conveniences and appliances, which is well-furnished and nicely decorated. Certainly it's essential to have modern facilities like central heating, running water, all kinds of electric appliances, which make our life easier, more enjoyable and pleasant. But I'm convinced that all these things are not so important as the relaxing friendly atmosphere at home. But not in the least I would like to deny good housing conditions which are very important for creating a good quality of life. So I'd like to tell you a few words about my housing conditions. I live in a three room flat of a five-

storeyed block of flats. The design of the building is rather old, because it was built long ago.

My house has a very pleasant and convenient location, because there is an underground station fairly close to it. It takes only a few minutes to get to the city centre.

Our flat is on the ground floor. That's why we haven't got a balcony, it's a disadvantage of course. My parents were very happy, when we moved into this flat ten years ago. The flat looked very spacious to them at that time. But now, as I have grown up, they think it's not as large as it used to be though there's enough space for the three of us.

The flat consists of a living-room, my parents' room and my room. Of course, there's a kitchen and a bathroom, two halls and a lavatory. What is no less important is its good layout. All the rooms are separate. We have all modern conveniences such as central heating, electricity, gas, cold and hot running water and a telephone.

I think our flat is nicely furnished. There are no luxury things in it but all the rooms look cosy and attractive.

Our living-room is the largest in the flat. The windows of the living-room face the avenue. This room looks very nice, because the curtains on the windows match the wallpaper and the furniture. By the wall you can see a sideboard, in the corner there is a colour TVset. In the opposite corner there is a sofa, two arm-chairs and a small table. On the floor we have a nice thick carpet. All this makes the room cosy.

The parents' bedroom and my room are practically of the same size. The parents' bedroom has two beds with bed-side tables and a wardrobe. My mum likes flowers, and there are several flower pots on the bedroom window sills.

\*\*\*

It's really wonderful to have a room for yourself. I think it means that I've got some independence and privacy. My room is just across the hall on the right. It is quite big and spacious. It contains almost everything I need. The writing-table and two chairs are placed near the window. There are several bookshelves on the walls. I use my room as a study, where I do my homework. That's why all these things are essential for my work. I have an armchair and a little table with a tape-recorder opposite my bed. The piano is on the right, I used to play it some years ago. My friends often come to my place and we like to get together in my room. They say that they would also like to have such a big and nice room as mine.

Our kitchen is fairly large. There is a gas-stove and a table, two refrigerators and a cupboard in it. The kitchen serves us as a dining-room too. But when we receive guests or have our family celebrations, we have our meals in the living-room.

There is a saying «Men make houses, women make homes». It's true about our family. My father tries to renovate the flat from time to time. But mum wants to make it cosier and more attractive. All of us do our best to keep the flat clean and tidy.

I really like my flat, because it's cosy and comfortable. Everything in my home is dear and precious to me. All small things and old toys remind me of my childhood. Many pleasant and happy moments of my life are connected with my home. All modern conveniences are not so important for me as the friendly climate in our



family. The house starts to be home when it is warmed by the people who live in it, doesn't it?

### **My favourite room**

*Actor and playwright Simon Peters tells us about his favourite room.*

My favourite room is my study, at the end of the house. I call it a study but sometimes it's a kitchen and sometimes it's a bedroom, too. Well, it hasn't got a bed but I fall asleep in the armchairs all the time.

My mother, bless her, was very houseproud. We always had to take our shoes off when we came in the room, in case we made the carpet dirty. We couldn't sit back in the armchairs, in case our hair made them dirty. So I have old rugs on the floor. I bought this blue one at Dubai airport when I was flying back from the Middle East, after doing a play out there. And the armchairs are old leather ones I bought second-hand in junk shops. Comfort comes first, you see.

I have a small microwave oven in the corner and a kettle. I make simple meals and coffee late at night. I'm a bit of a night owl and I do most of my writing in the early hours of the morning. I play music then, too. I live alone, so there's nobody to disturb.

On the table there's my computer. I'm a bit of a computer fun so I have lots of toys like a scanner, that I don't really need. I don't play computer games, though! Next to the computer there's my CD player, which really is important to me. I play everything from Vivaldi to the Beatles but I do like rock music, played loudly.

All around the walls you can see my past. I'm a hoarder — I never throw anything away. You can see certificates I got when I was at school on the walls. And there are photos from a lot of my plays. There are no pictures of me, though. I don't want to see my ugly face when I'm learning my lines or writing.

And now I'll tell you what isn't in my room. Because I think you can learn as much about a person from what is not in his/her room as from what is there. There is no television. There isn't a television in the house. Enough said! And there are no photographs of other people, except actresses and actors who have been in my plays. There's an old saying, you know: "He walks farthest who walks alone".

I've got one brother — Roland. He's all right, I suppose, but I wish I had more brothers and sisters. I think it must be awful to be an only child. An only child is often spoilt — they get everything they want from their parents all the time. And then sometimes they're a bit shy or at least not very sociable because they're not used to being with other people. Well, I suppose there are some advantages too, I mean, you get lots of attention and time from your parents and you don't have to share everything with the other children. But I think big families are better. A big family teaches the older children how to look after the younger ones and that's a good thing. All the big families I know are always friendly and good fun. Of course, it's more expensive to look after a big family — so, money can be a problem. Personally, I think the ideal family size is four. I'd like to have a sister and two brothers. That would be nice. Roland's OK though. He's nineteen now — two years older than me. He's tall, dark with black wavy hair and brown eyes. Some of my friends say he's good-looking but I don't know about that. He's very quiet and rather serious. He reads

a lot and likes fishing. Last year, he started helping in our local youth club. The younger children like him very much. He organised two summer trips for them.

The person in my family who I get on best with is my cousin Ellie. She's really great. She's a year older than me — 18. She's got long, straight, fair hair. She's medium height and quite slim. She's very pretty too. I stay with Ellie's family in the summer. We *go* cycling a lot into the countryside. We go dancing too, sometimes — Ellie likes the same kind of music as I do. She had to take her exams again last year — she passed them the second time. Then she left school and she got a job in a bank. She's changed quite a bit since she started working at the bank. She's made a lot of new friends and she goes out a lot more in the evenings now.

## 2. EDUCATION

### State Schools

In the UK 93% of the children in England and Wales go to state schools. State schools are non-fee-paying, funded from taxes and most are organised by Local Authorities (LA).

Parents are expected to make sure that their child has a pen, pencil, ruler, etc. but the costs of other more specialised equipment, books, examination fees, etc. are covered by the school.

Parents are, however, expected to pay for their child's school uniform and items of sports wear. Sometimes parents pay for music lessons. Schools may ask for voluntary contributions for school time activities - but no pupil may be left out of an activity if their parents cannot or do not pay.

#### Primary schools (5—11-year-olds)

In the UK, the first level of education is known as primary education. These are almost always mixed sex, and usually located close to the child's home. Children are with the same group throughout the day, and one teacher has responsibility for most of the work they do.

Parents are asked to help their children, particularly with reading and writing, and small amounts of homework are set to all children, even during the early years at school.

#### Secondary schools (11—16-year-olds)

**At** the age of **11** most children transfer to a nearest secondary school, though the law allows parents in England and Wales to choose other schools too. A place has to be offered at the parents' preferred school unless the school has more applicants than places; in that case it will admit the children who have the highest priority.

Most secondary schools cater for both sexes. They are much larger than primary schools.

Nearly 88% of secondary school pupils in England and Wales go to comprehensive schools. These take children of all abilities and provide a wide range of secondary education for all children in a district from 11 to 16 or 18-years-old. All children in Scotland go to non-selective schools.

**Grammar schools** are selective: they offer academically oriented general education. Entrance is based on a test of ability, usually at 11 (11+). Grammar schools are single sex schools i.e. children either go to a boys' grammar school or a girls' grammar school. There are grammar schools in Northern Ireland and some parts of England.

## Fee-Paying Schools

### Independent schools

7% of the children in England go to independent schools. Independent schools are known as private schools and public schools. Parents pay for their children to attend these schools.

A preparatory school (7 to 11 or 13 years old) is a school to prepare pupils to go to a public school.

A public school (11 or 13 to 18 years old) is an independent secondary school. Public schools in England are not run by the government. The entrance exams used by most public schools are known as Common Entrance exams and are taken at the age of 11 (girls) or 13 (boys). The most famous public schools are Eton, Harrow and Winchester.

Read the definitions of the underlined words and find their Russian equivalents.

**Primary school** — 1) in Britain a school for children below the age of 11. It is usually divided into an infant and a junior section; 2) in the US and Canada a school equivalent to the first three or four grades of elementary school, sometimes including a kindergarten.

**Secondary school** - a school for young people, usually between the ages of 11 and 18.

**Independent school** - 1) in Britain a school that is neither financed nor controlled by the government or local authorities; 2) in Australia a school that is not part of the state system.

**Private school** — a school under the control of a private organisation, accepting mostly fee-paying pupils.

**Public school** - 1) in England and Wales a private independent fee-paying secondary school; 2) in the US any school that is part of a free local educational system.

**Comprehensive school** - 1) chiefly British - a secondary school for children of all abilities from the same district; 2) Eastern Canadian- another name for a composite school.

**Grammar school** - 1) in Britain a state secondary school providing an education with an academic bias for children who are selected by the eleven-plus examination, teachers' reports, or other means; 2) United States - another term for an elementary school; 3) New Zealand - a secondary school forming part of the public education system.

**mixed sex schools** — schools where boys and girls study together.

**selective** schools — schools that accept students based on the tests results.

**free / free of charge** — not costing anything.

fee-paying — a fee-paying school is one that you pay money to go to.

**to cover a fee** — have enough money to pay for something.

**to make sure** - to check something so that you can be sure about it.

**to be located** - to be situated.

### **Education in Great Britain**

Education in Great Britain is provided by the Local Education Authority (LEA) in each county. Until recently, each LEA was free to decide how to organize education in its own area. However, in 1988 the «National Curriculum» was introduced. It means that there is greater government control over what is taught in schools now.

Children under five don't have to go to school, but there is some free nursery-school education before that age. The places are usually given to families in special circumstances, for example families with one parent only. That's why in many areas parents have formed play groups where children under five years can go for a morning or afternoon a couple of times a week.

At the age of five children go to primary schools, first to infant schools for pupils aged from 5 to 7 and then to junior schools for pupils from 8 to 11 years.

Some parents choose to pay for private education though there are free state schools. Private schools are called by different names compared to state schools. The preparatory schools are for pupils aged up to 13, and the public schools are for 13 to 18 year-olds. These schools are very expensive and they are attended only by about 5 per cent of the schoolchildren.

Free secondary education has been available to all children in Britain since 1944. Children must go to school until the age of 16, and pupils may stay on for one or two years more if they wish.

Over 80 per cent of schoolchildren go to comprehensive schools at the age of 11. These schools are not selective — you don't have to pass an exam to go there. But before 1965 all children took an exam at the age of 11 called the «11+». The top 20 per cent were chosen to go to the academic grammar schools. Those who failed the «11+» went to secondary modern schools. A lot of people thought that this system of selection at the age of 11 was unfair on many children. So, comprehensive schools were introduced to offer education for pupils of all abilities. There are a few LEAs who still keep the old system, but most LEAs have now changed over completely to non-selective education in comprehensive schools.

Comprehensive schools want to develop the talents of each individual child. So they offer a wide choice of subjects, from art and craft, woodwork and domestic science to the sciences, modern languages, computer studies, etc. All these subjects are enjoyed by both girls and boys. All pupils move to the next class automatically at the end of the year.

At the age of 14 or 15 pupils begin to choose their exam subjects. In 1988 a new public examination — the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) — was introduced for 16 year-olds. This examination assesses pupils on the work they do in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year at secondary school. For University entrance pupils have to take «A» Level (Advanced Level) GCE exam.

Many people decide to leave school at the age of 16 and go to a Further Education (FE) College for practical vocational training, for example in engineering, typing, cooking or hairdressing. The US System of Education in America upon which the national culture is created and adapted to changing needs. Its goal is universal education from kindergarten to university.

All, regardless of race or class or economic status, are entitled to a fair chance and to the tools for developing their individual powers of mind and spirit to the utmost.

Education in the United States comprises three basic levels: elementary, secondary and higher education. Parents may choose whether to send their children to their local free public schools, or to private schools which charge fees. The organization and curricula of private schools and colleges are similar to those of public schools although the administration differs.

The vast majority of students at the primary and secondary levels go to public schools. Most of those who attend private schools attend church sponsored parochial schools.

The school year is usually nine months long, from early September to mid-June. The common pattern of organization, referred to as the 6-3-3 plan, includes elementary school in grades 1 through 6, junior high school in grades 7 through 9 and senior high school in grades 10 through 12. However, many variations on the pattern exist in the USA.

The main purpose of elementary school is the general intellectual and social development of the child from 6 to 12 or 15 years of age.

In secondary schools most pupils follow a course that includes English, science, social studies, mathematics and physical education. Elective subjects may be chosen in the fields of foreign languages, fine arts and vocational training. Pupils usually elect about half their work in grades nine through twelve.

The vocational program may give training in four fields: agricultural education, business education, home economics and trade and industrial education. This program prepares students either for employment or further training.

Most young Americans graduate from school with a high school diploma upon satisfactory completion of a specified number of courses. Students are usually graded from A (excellent) to F (failing) in each course they take on the basis of performance in tests given at intervals throughout the year.

Students receive «report cards» at least twice a year which indicate the grades they have received in each of the subjects. High schools maintain a school «transcript» which summarizes the courses taken and the grades obtained for each student.

Usually, the pupil has one teacher for all major subjects during his or her first six years of schooling. For the last six grades, however, they have a separate teacher for each discipline.

The US is committed to providing every youngster with a good, solid education, regardless of the economic background or even the inherent ability of the youngster.

In May 1983 the National Commission on Excellence in Education stirred

considerable concern when it reported that the US was «at risk» from the «rising tide of mediocrity». It judged that standards were too low, the school day too short, teachers paid too little, and education was too far down on the list of national priorities. Among the Commission's recommendations were calls for higher standards, more time to be devoted to basic academic subjects and attracting a higher calibre of individual to the teaching profession.

Besides, it was necessary to strengthen the bonds between federal, state and local authorities aimed at raising student achievements at all levels.

The American people have accepted the view that the quality of education is directly related to the quality of life. It is part of the American tradition to presume that they can improve.

### **The British educational system**

All state schools in Britain are free, and schools provide their pupils with books and equipment for their studies. Education is compulsory from 5 to 16 years. Parents can choose to send their children to a nursery school or a preschool playgroup to prepare them for the start of compulsory education. Children start primary school at the age of 5 and continue until they are 11. At primary school children become acquainted with reading, writing, and arithmetic and develop their creative abilities; they are taught to sing, dance, play, and draw. Primary school children do all their work with the same class teacher, except for physical training and music, which are often taught by specialists. Most children are taught together, boys and girls in the same class.

At 11 most pupils go to secondary schools called comprehensives, which accept a wide range of children from all backgrounds and religious and ethnic groups. Ninety per cent of secondary schools in England, Scotland and Wales are co-educational. At the age of 16 pupils take a national exam called "GCSE" (General Certificate of Secondary Education) and then they can leave school if they wish. This is the end of compulsory education.

Some 16-year-olds continue their studies in the 6<sup>th</sup> form at school or at a sixth-form college. The 6<sup>th</sup> form prepares pupils for a national exam called "A-level" (Advanced Level) at 18. Pupils need A-levels to enter a university.

Other 16-year-olds choose a college of further education to study hairdressing, typing or mechanics. Universities and colleges of higher education accept students with A-levels from the age of 18. Students study for a degree, which takes on average three years of full-time study. Most students graduate at 21 and are given their degree at a special graduation ceremony. Seven per cent of British schoolchildren go to private schools. There are 3 levels of private schools: primary schools (age four to eight), preparatory schools (age eight to thirteen). At the age of 13, children take an examination. If they pass it, they go to public school, where they usually remain until they are 18. Many preparatory and most public schools are boarding schools; the children live at school during the school terms. But though these schools are called public, they are, in fact, private and it can be very expensive to send a child to such a school. The most famous public schools have a long history and tradition. It is often necessary to put a child's name on a waiting list at birth to be sure he or she gets a

place. Children of wealthy or aristocratic families often go to the same public school as their parents and their grandparents. Eton is the best known of these schools. Traditionally, public schools were always single-sex schools but now many of them are becoming co-educational, both boys and girls attend the school. Eton, however, still remains a public school for boys only.

### **The U.S. educational system**

The US educational system is varied decentralized and schools vary greatly from state to state. There are three levels of subsidizing of education: federal, state and local. They subsidize 3—5 per cent on a federal level, around 20 per cent on a state level and 70—80 per cent on a local level. There are 15,000 school districts, which are different in size. A school district is governed by the Board of Education / School Board / School Council, which is elected every two years by the residents of the school district. Members of school boards perform their responsibilities on a volunteer basis, which means they do not get any salaries. They are to define the policies for the administration of the school district. Teachers, in their turn, decide about the program and approaches of teaching.

Every resident pays a school tax to the school district he/she lives in, no matter if he/she has schoolchildren or not. School education in the United States is free and parents are free to choose a school for their children. But if parents send their child to a school of another school district they have to pay the sum equivalent to the school tax directly to the school the child goes to. There are also a lot of private schools, mainly religious, and parents have to pay for them. The cost is \$5,000 — \$10,000 a year.

The school system structure in the United States looks like this. Children start school at the age of five. First they go to eight-year elementary school and then to high school or if they go to five- or six-year elementary school, then they attend three- or four-year middle school, and then high school. Teenagers study at high school for four years and graduate from it at the age of eighteen. Members of each grade in high school have special names: a ninth grader is called *a freshman*, a tenth grader — *a sophomore*, an eleventh grader — *a junior*, a twelfth grader — *a senior*. The completion of high school is called graduation. In order to graduate, students must accumulate a certain amount of credits during their four years at school. Credits are points given for every subject that is passed successfully. In addition to that, students must successfully complete specific subjects required by the state or local educational authorities, such as US history, English, mathematics and physical training. This may vary from state to state.

Over 60 per cent of school graduates continue their education in two- or four-year colleges or universities. At least 10 per cent of high school students are allowed to finish school at the age of 16. A school year starts at the beginning of September or at the end of August and ends in late June or early July, just before the Independence Day, and is divided into three terms/trimesters or four quarters. School children have winter and spring breaks for two or three weeks and summer vacation for six up to eight weeks. There is a great variety of Saturday or Sunday schools, vacation camps and other schools. The most popular one is summer school. It is for students who

want to get a deeper knowledge in a particular subject, or to skip a year. It is also for those who have failed their examinations. It lasts six weeks and parents have to pay for it.

American schools today house a large number of students, but making friends can be difficult, as the same group of students does not attend all the classes together. In order to encourage meeting and knowing a broader population at school, special emphasis is placed on so-called extracurricular activities where interests, rather than academic ability, bring students together. In addition to clubs and sports teams, one will find the Student Council and the class officer meetings. Students are elected by their school and classmates to represent them in these bodies and to organize activities for their school.

### **Education in Belarus**

A. Scientific and intellectual potential is the main strategic resource of Belarus. In the 1950s, Belarus became a country of universal **literacy**. In 1989, according to the results of the **census**, 899 people per thousand engaged in the national economy had higher and secondary education; 144 people among them were the graduates from higher educational establishments. Thus, we can say that Belarus had a developed system of education. It embraced 11,000 educational establishments at which 430,000 teachers worked, and 33 per cent of the population attended different forms of classes.

B. Nowadays the number of students attending different educational establishments has not changed. The country guarantees its citizens the right to universal secondary education and creates means for further professional education. It tries to preserve the democratic character of education, paying much attention to common human values, developing independent critical thinking instead of simple perception of information.

C. The country is reforming its system of education today with the aim of creating an independent, qualitatively new national school, corresponding to international standards and ensuring each citizen the right to the high-quality education according to his or her abilities and inclinations.

D. The reform **envisages** continuity of study at all stages, such as preschool, primary school, secondary school, vocational training and specialized secondary school, and at the higher level. It gives teachers and students freedom in the choice of educational forms and methods, while the results must correspond to the state educational standards.

E. The main principles of the educational system in Belarus are the priority of human values, national culture as the basis of education, humanism, sense of ecological purpose, scientific basis, democracy, support of gifted children and so on.

F. New types of educational establishments have appeared in Belarus, for example, gymnasias, lyceums, experimental schools, colleges, private kindergartens, schools at home, and commercial institutes. So, it stimulates effectiveness of education and creates a non-idealistic attitude towards society on the part of the students.



## **Education in Belarus**

Pre-school education is not compulsory in Belarus but around 70% of children attend nursery or kindergarten before they start school.

Most children in Belarus start school at the age of 6.

All pupils must follow the basic education curriculum up to the age of 15, and the vast majority of pupils stay at school until they finish their high school education at 18.

At the age of 15, pupils that have successfully completed basic education can attend college or professional technical institutions where they can focus on completing their high school education and work toward a professional certificate.

Completion of a high school or professional certificate allows students to apply to continue their education at the university level.

The higher education system in Belarus is seen as prestigious due to its high quality and affordability. There are four main types of higher education establishments to choose from, which can be either private or state operated: classical universities, profile universities or academies, higher colleges. Most courses run for 5 years and students can choose to study full time, at evening classes or by correspondence. Grants are available for full-time students and scholarships are awarded to very gifted students.

All higher education establishments are governed by the Ministry of Education in Belarus.

More than 6,000 foreign students study at higher education institutions and universities in Belarus every year.

Higher education fees for foreign nationals range from 700—3500 USD depending on the subject and the institution.

Once you have decided to continue your education at a university in Belarus, you will need to contact the university in order to receive an invitation to apply to study there. To do this you will need to provide the following documents: completed application form, copy of your certificate of education showing your subjects and grades, copy of your passport and birth certificate, copy of your medical certificate.

Most students live in student hostels, which cost around 15—30 USD per month.

There are more than 50 higher education establishments in Belarus.

## **Education in Belarus**

Scientific and intellectual potential is the main strategic resource of Belarus. In 1950s Belarus became the country of universal literacy. In 1989, according to the results of the census, 899 people per each thousand engaged in the national economy had higher and secondary education; 144 people among them were the graduates from the higher educational establishments. Thus, we can say that Belarus had a developed system of education. It embraced 11,000 educational establishments; 430,000 teachers worked there; 33 per cent of population attended different forms of classes.

Nowadays the number of students attending different educational establishments has not changed. The republic guarantees its citizens the right to

universal secondary education and creates means for further professional education. It tries to preserve the democratic character of education, paying much attention to common human values, developing independent critical thinking instead of simple perception of information.

The republic is reforming its system of education today with the aim of creating an independent, qualitatively new national school, corresponding to international standards and ensuring each citizen the right to the high-quality education according to his abilities and inclinations.

The reform envisages a continuity of study at all stages, such as pre-school, secondary school, vocational training and specialized secondary school, and at the higher school level. It gives teachers and students freedom in the choice of educational forms and methods, while the results must correspond to the state educational standards. The main principles of the educational system in Belarus are the priority of human values, national culture as the basis of education, humanism, sense of ecological purpose, scientific basis, democracy, support of gifted children and so on.

In the period from 1996 till 2010 the reform envisages:

1. 12 year secondary school. Academic education in the 11—12<sup>th</sup> forms according to the main trends of the higher education: humane, natural, aesthetic and technological.

2. Primary vocational training at vocational schools.

3. Secondary vocational training at secondary specialized schools and colleges.

4. Higher education at two levels: the first level for those seeking a bachelor's degree (4—5 years) and the second level to obtain a master's degree (5—6 years).

5. Possibility for masters to obtain doctoral degree. There have been changes in the organization of education itself. New types of educational establishments have appeared: gymnasium, lyceum, experimental school, college. There appeared non-state-owned schools of various kinds, private kindergartens, schools at home, commercial institutes. So, it stimulates effectiveness of education, creates non-idealistic attitude to society on students' part.

### **My Future Career**

It's rather difficult sometimes to choose a career and to speak about the future profession. I'd say it's because a lot may change in our life in a moment. There are lucky people who chose their profession in childhood and since that time have been doing everything possible to acquire proficiency. But they are few.

If we are not indifferent to our future, while thinking about the future career we are to pay attention to a number of important things. We should determine our abilities and inclinations. Then we should analyse job prospects. We must know whether the profession we have chosen will guarantee good living conditions and give promotion. We must be sure we'll avoid unemployment or at least will be able to apply our knowledge and skills in other fields of human activity. In short, we are to decide what we are going to do in our life and feel satisfied, but not bored or disappointed.

When I was a fifth former, I dreamt of becoming a doctor. I wanted to be a

surgeon and treat people and save their lives. I admired the courage and generosity of surgeons. But then I noticed I can't bare the sight of blood, I'm not able to deal with surgical instruments. And I gave up this idea.

At that time I realized that I was fond of English. I was always good at English at school. And when we got acquainted with the English and American literature, the lessons of British and American Studies I understood that I want to have a perfect command of the English language and become a good specialist in English.

So I do my best to master the language because I have made up my mind to apply to the Linguistic University and become either a teacher or an interpreter. I haven't chosen it yet. Both professions are interesting and necessary in our society. Perhaps, I'll keep our family tradition and become a teacher of English. But I'll think about it tomorrow if I enter the University.

\*\*\*

I am leaving school this year and I realize that the time to choose my future profession has come. It's probably one of the most important decisions I have to make, since leaving school is a far more serious examination of my abilities and character than I have ever had.

It's quite natural that before you take the final decision on what you want to do in future, you must consider the possibilities you have and your fitness for this or that job. Some pupils choose their future professions under the influence of their parents or friends, whose advice they find helpful and valuable. In my opinion the final choice should depend on what you are interested in. For me an interesting and creative job is the most important thing. I want to enjoy my work and get satisfaction from it. Certainly if it is well-paid at the same time, then it looks most desirable and attractive.

Once you have finally made your choice, you should think of what you must do to achieve your goal. Of course, school tries to provide pupils with this or that practical skill. Some schools give a vocational training in certain practical jobs, like computer operating, sewing, typing, etc. But I'm sure that college or university education is most essential for making a good career in future.

I made my choice many years ago when I was still at primary school. Since then I've been dreaming of becoming an English language teacher. For many years at school English has been my favourite subject. My strong liking for foreign languages has not been free from the influence of my English teacher, whose lessons are always a joy and a pleasure to attend. She is not only a wonderful teacher but has a charming personality in many other ways. I hope that one day I may become a good teacher like her.

I have always realized the importance of foreign languages in modern world. Firstly it is essential for the development of international contacts. It is also required in the sphere of business and cultural relations. Secondly it offers good job opportunities and it enables you to find work almost anywhere in the world. It's natural that so much attention is paid to teaching foreign languages at school and foreign language teachers are in great demand today. Now my greatest desire is to enter the linguistic university, learn several languages and make a practical use of

them in my future job.

At present teaching English to children has the greatest appeal to me as no society can do without the common but no less necessary job as that of a teacher.

\* \* \*

Choosing a career is not a simple thing and it demands careful consideration because of the great importance of your choice. For that reason you should realistically consider your abilities and how you can make use of them. You should also ask yourself a question if you are suitable for it and how much you know about the reality of your future job. You should also find out if you are expected to possess certain qualities needed for the job or whether you will be able to reveal and develop these qualities in the process of training and education. As a matter of fact many of us are still on the fantasy level about the future jobs, for there is a great difference between the career aspirations and the real world of work. We neglect the fact that every job has a share of drudgery and boredom about it. That's why you'd better think about all pros and cons so as not to regret your decision to follow this or that career afterwards. Actually it's not a pleasant thing to stay all your life in the job which you don't like. And certainly it's always nice being well paid for what you enjoy doing. Anyway, choosing a profession is a crucial point in a school-leaver's life.

Like most of my classmates I made my final choice when I was in my last year at school. Before that I had asked myself a lot of times what I wanted to do when I left school. A few years ago it was difficult to give a definite answer as I changed my mind too often. One day I wanted to be a film director, the next day I thought there was no better job than that of a journalist. My father suggested that I should study humanities

at a far more profound level than I was expected to do them at school. His arguments were convincing. So for two years, when I was in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> forms, I put a lot of effort into a more systematic and consistent learning of English, Russian and Belarusian.

There is no doubt that learning even one foreign language is a hard job. That's why quite a number of people lose heart and give up even though they understand the importance of foreign languages in the modern fast moving world. It's evident that those who speak foreign languages have many more job opportunities as all sorts of international, business and cultural contacts involve the use of foreign languages. English is the major language of communication in such areas as science, computer technology, mass entertainment and international tourism. I find any of these jobs interesting and attractive.

I understand that once you have chosen this profession you must be prepared to work really hard and systematically I also realize that it is difficult to learn to communicate in a foreign language if you are not a sociable and easy-going person.

I think I possess these qualities and I hope I'll pass the entrance examinations successfully. I don't know exactly what practical use I'll make of foreign languages in future, it may be either teaching or interpreting or journalism, but I am definitely sure that after graduating from the university I will become an educated person, useful for the progress of the society I live in.

### **Perfect method of teaching and learning a foreign language**

Students in my English classes sometimes ask for my opinion on the best method of learning a foreign language. The answer I give is always the same: learning a foreign language can never be quick and easy. There is no single method that can guarantee success.

In the Callan Method, the teacher talks a lot and makes the students repeat questions and answers. By contrast, in the Silent Way Method, invented by Dr Caleb Gattegno, the teacher tries not to talk at all! The teacher uses pictures, diagrams, objects to give the students problem-solving activities. The idea is that students learn better if they can discover the rules by themselves. Certainly that is an important part of learning. But I'm not sure it can guarantee success.

I think that it is wrong to look for a method of teaching/learning that gives all the answers. Often, the method is not so important. Obviously, you need good materials (e.g.: a good course book, etc.) that are interesting and clear. And you need a good teacher too. The individual qualities of the teacher are very important. The teacher and the students must have a good relationship. The students must like their teacher. That is one important way to help make learning fun.

At the same time, we have to recognize that you can't make progress without doing some old-fashioned hard work. There must be a method involved in teaching and learning, but the same method doesn't work for everyone. People are different and they have different reasons for wanting to learn. The method will naturally change depending on the purpose of the lesson. However, it is important that each lesson should have a clear objective. The material should be presented in a context. There should be practice and consolidation work. Students should use all four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

There is nothing revolutionary about these ideas. But they give the best chances of success for different kinds of learners.

## **3. YOUTH AND SOCIETY**

### **Youth and society**

1. Let's talk about the role of youth in our society. Today young people take an active part in the social life of the country. How do they do it?

I think that the teenage years are the most wonderful years in our life. At this age we start a new adult life. We get more and more freedom. We can go to parties, discos, cafes, etc. We can have a lot of fun with our friends. At this age we start dating. We can start travelling around the world if our parents can afford it and give us some money for the trip. We think more for ourselves and do not blindly accept the ideals of our parents and grandparents. To put it in a nut shell we constantly need to express ourselves. That's why we join together in a group to dance, read books to put on theatre performances, become members of youth organizations or representatives of subcultures.

Being together is very important for teenagers, this feeling of solidarity with like minded friends makes us feel stronger and more confident. Together we can do much more than on our own. Research also proves that teenagers who belong to clubs

and youth groups lead a happier life, are less likely to smoke or drink, and are more socially able and physically active. Various activities provide them with a chance to make friends, learn through new experience, have fun and develop different skills and good personal qualities.

There are a lot of organizations, groups and movements, so young people can find a group or a movement that will suit their interests. The biggest youth organization in Belarus is the BRSM, which includes about 500,000 young people from 14 till 31. The main aim of this organization is to promote patriotism, develop youth's initiative and involve young people in useful public activities. Everybody can find something to their taste. Those who want to help people in need join "the Kind heart movement" and go to hospitals or orphanages and work with disabled or sick people, those who need care and love. Some young people who are full of creative ideas can take part in festivals, exhibitions, contests organized by the BRSM to show their talents. We remember their DJs' battles, Bridges, marathons. They also provide young people with working places in summer.

Today many young people participate in exchange programmes organized either by schools or youth organizations. The programmes are very successful. The desire to learn more about the country attracts more and more students to participate in them. When students arrive in different countries, everything is different for them: the way people eat, sleep, work, and all the various leisure activities. It is an incredible experience and something that the students will remember forever. When they come back their understanding of themselves is better, their view of another nation is different, the stereotypes are broken. They also learn to represent their own country.

Some young people set up environmental groups and join charity projects. I strongly believe that the initiative of young people should be supported by teachers, schools, parents and other organizations as it's very important for us to understand that we can realize our ideas and, — that other people can count on us. Last year, our school decided to arrange New Year presents for the little ones in the nearest orphanage and made a performance for them on the eve of the holiday. Our parents of course helped a lot, the teachers helped to rehearse the concert as well. That day I will remember for all my life. That day I understood that by making people happy you become happier yourself.

Though it's not easy for a teenager to find their own way of life still being involved in the social life of the country makes us feel more grown up and it trains us to be more confident. The real life is here in the family, in the country we live in.

2. Would you like to join any of the organizations you have heard about?

There is no person in Belarus who has never heard of UNESCO. I really want to become a member of this organization. They arrange conferences, bridges to involve young people from all over the world in decision making process. They learn how to negotiate in a peaceful way, how to find the right arguments, how to be tolerant towards each other and how to make decisions which are good for the both sides. They offer a wonderful opportunity to meet interesting people.

3. What questions would you like to ask a person who has joined a new international organization?

What organization did you join? Who is the leader of this organization? Are you taking an active part in its work?

4. What issues would you recommend to discuss at a monthly meeting of a debate club?

It will be interesting to discuss youth subcultures. Not all young people rush to cooperate and do something useful for the society. Some people join subcultures: hipsters, emo, punks, goths. They wear unusual clothes and hair, have special principles to follow. Most of them oppose themselves to the society. Some of them are quite peaceful but some can be rebellious and aggressive. And it's sad. They even can be associated with drugs and alcohol. It's important to learn more about these groups and listen to the people who joined them.

5. If you have a chance to start a campaign, what kind of campaign will it be? What would you campaign for?

If I had a chance to launch a campaign, it would be the campaign for a healthy way of life. Young people turn out to be the first victims of all sorts of addictions: drugs, smoking, computer and junk food addictions. Mass media and advertising have a great influence on us. And we try to taste or do whatever is promoted. We should be more critical and reasonable. It's important to talk about good habits and how to develop them.

I think it's a good idea for all classes to make up a healthy life programme and defend it. It's also good to invite specialists and discuss some issues with them. Some classes are very creative and why not make a film or films and put them on YouTube for other people to watch. And we can finalize the event by going hiking around Belarus.

### **Goals in Life**

High school is a very important time in a person's life. It's the time to set goals. We not only set goals, but set out to find their solutions. My first goal, in no particular order, is to be-come a good athlete. My second goal is to be a good student and graduate from high school, with a 3.0 GPA. There's another goal, but I am saving it for later. My goals sound simple, but not as easy to achieve.

Sports are fun, and may help count towards another goal in life. Though they are fun you need to work hard to become good at them. There is a chance that one day I may be able to get a scholarship for college even though I haven't decided on a sport yet. I should have decided by the end of the year. Sports take up time, and sometimes are hard and burden-some, but it is all worth it in the end. Becoming an athlete is a goal of mine, but there are more important goals, such as my second.

Only being good at sport and not having an education it would be like owning a car, but without an engine inside. I want that engine; therefore I must get my education and maintain a high GPA. I could accomplish this by doing all my work (I am working on this at the time being). Also, not only doing my work, but doing it on time and as neat as I can get it (also working on these two at the time being). My goal may also be accomplished by paying attention in class (there are a lot of things to learn that school teaches us), and trying to do more listening and less talking. All of this will make a great recipe for at least a 3.0 GPA. Have you ever had to use a

combination lock? If you have, you know that there are three numbers you have to input. Well, the combination for my success in life is first education, then athletics, and last, but definitely not least, going to a four-year college. This is the perfect goal in life, besides the fact that my other two goals fit right in this category. Sports may help me get an athletic scholarship, which may make my parents happier, at least financially. The next goal is education, and you can't get an athletic scholarship if you don't have the grades. Even without sport you can still get an academic scholarship, but that takes a lot of hard work and sacrifice. During college I plan on majoring in psychology and becoming a psychologist.

The reason I want to become a psychologist is that I like to hear what people have to say and maybe help them. Ideally, I'd like to live in a city such as Los Angeles or New York. But first things first, I have to graduate from high school. These goals are pretty simple, but will be tough to accomplish. All I know is that I will make it.

### **My goals**

1. A person needs to achieve certain goals in one's life before you can call them successful. Success is to achieve the goals you have set. I have set certain goals I would like to achieve in my lifetime. ... My professional goals in life are to get a good education, to find a good job that makes me happy and makes enough money for me to support my family.

2. One of my goals for the future is to be happy regardless of what I choose to do. I want to be satisfied with my decisions, to be able to accept and forgive, and most of all to be able to live up to the expectations I have for myself. I realize I cannot set my goals and dreams on the basis of others and I need to achieve things for myself. I will only accomplish my goal in being happy when I am able to live my life for myself and still be able to provide love and support to others.

3. My goal is to be a role model especially for my younger brother but also to all my younger cousins, nieces, nephews, and to all the young kids out there to never give up hope. Some- day, I will reach my destination in life when I earn my degree...

4. First of all, I need to get a high score on the SAT<sup>1</sup> test because I want to go to a good college with a scholarship. In order to do this, I have to learn many things about grammar, writing, reading and vocabulary. I have to learn as much as possible because I don't have a lot of time just to focus on them only. I have about one and a half more years to study for the SATs. The test won't be easy; it is a challenge for students who want to receive a good education. If I get a good education, it will be easier for me to find a good job in the future.

5. Your future depends on the actions and decisions that you make on a daily basis. Even though the world is chaotic, we still have paths in life to follow. It's up to us which path we take to achieve our future goals. Once we have thought above what we want from life it is up to us to plan and to stay on course to order to achieve it. We might run into obstacles along the way, but we should still be able to stay focused and move ahead. Any struggles or obstacles that we may face need to be used as a learning experience. It is up to us to achieve the future that we want. Many of us are afraid to step into adulthood. We feel that we are missing out on our youth instead of



starting the rest of our lives. We have to realise that when we close one chapter in our lives, another one opens for something new in our lives. The key to life is looking ahead and it takes vision, trust, and courage to work towards your future. We need to learn to leave the past in the past and not let it hinder our future. Let's learn to have a go and set our journey ahead by having confidence and setting concrete plans.

### **Earning money**

A lot of teenagers in England work in their free time. Girls often do baby-sitting. Young fathers and mothers sometimes want to go to the cinema or to the party and someone must take care of the baby. So they pay a girl to come and sit with it. It is very easy work if the baby is asleep. The girl just sits and does her homework or reads a book, or watches television.

Boys often do a newspaper round. Before school they deliver newspapers to people's houses. To do that they get up early every day of the week, and on Sunday, too.

Several of Susan's friends are going to work in their free time this year. Paul wants to go to Italy next summer, so he will do a newspaper round, like many boys.

Helen wants to buy some smart clothes. She will help the woman at the small shop where Mrs. Wilson buys cakes. She will work there every Saturday.

Jane wants to buy some new pop records and she will go babysitting two evenings a week. So teenagers can earn money.

\*\*\*

To be honest I wouldn't like to be as famous as a TV star. I can say that many of my classmates dream of becoming famous. Singers, musicians, dancers, actors, sportsmen and fashion models are the idols of thousands of teenagers who try to copy them in the way they dress, walk and style their hair. Their lifestyles are advertised on TV and in fashion magazines. Ads play on our feelings, emotions, and especially our wish to be up-to date. Many of my classmates are on the fantasy level about the life of a celebrity. They want other people to admire and adore them. They would like to be popular with fans, to give interviews and so on.

I'm not a person of that kind. I'll try to go into a more common job and I want to make a successful career. At the same time I am an ambitious person. When I want something, I keep on trying until I succeed in getting it. I have a lot of energy.

To my mind, being a celebrity is a hard task. These people are always in the highlight. Journalists and reporters try to learn everything about their personal life, drawbacks and bad habits. Paparazzi are in constant search for sensations. Tabloids make up unbelievable stories about famous people.

The life of a celebrity is stressful and involves risks. That's why many of them try to release tension by drinking alcohol, taking light or heavy drugs and so on. Merlin Monroe, for example, was a beautiful actress who suffered from drug-addiction. Britney Spears used to drink a lot of alcohol, she had psychological problems and needed help of qualified doctors. Many celebrities are afraid of being abused or killed, so they need strong bodyguards to protect them.

As for me, my idols are not famous singers or models. I admire scientists,

writers and sportsmen. I admire people who are brave, hard-working, devoted to their jobs and hobbies, kind-hearted, open-minded and self-organized. I don't like people who are lazy, rude, hot-headed and bossy. I don't like it when celebrities show off, tell lies, humiliate or even hurt other people. When I read about Naomi Campbell's beating her servant with a mobile phone, I felt sorry for the model.

What famous people do I admire? My favourite sportsman is Roger Federer who is a Swiss professional tennis player. Many sports analysts, tennis critics, former and current players consider Federer to be one of the greatest tennis players. He is one of seven male players to capture the career Grand Slam and one of three (with Andre Agassi and Rafael Nadal) to do so on three different surfaces (clay, grass and hard courts). He is hard-working, persistent and ambitious. Although he lost his first final game in 1998, he defeated four-time defending champion Pete Sampras in Wimbledon in 2001. His great devotion to tennis helped him to win 4 ATP World Tour Finals and 17 ATP Masters Series tournaments. He also won the Olympic Gold Medal in doubles with his compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

Roger Federer is kind-hearted and helpful. He supports various charities. He established the Roger Federer Foundation in 2003 to help disadvantaged people and to promote sports. In 2005 he auctioned his racquet from his US Open championship to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. He was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador by UNICEF in 2006. Since then he has visited South Africa and one of the areas in India most affected by the tsunami caused by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake. He has also appeared in UNICEF public messages to raise public awareness of AIDS. In my opinion, this famous person sets a good example of human behaviour.

As I have already said, I want to make a successful career. In my view, a person can realize his or her abilities and talent only if he or she works hard to develop them. To realize any talent, to have success in life a person needs a strong will. In my opinion, to develop their abilities people must be devoted to the activity they are keen on. They shouldn't be afraid of difficulties, bad luck or envy. They should be strong enough to concentrate on the most important things in their lives. If you want to achieve much success in any sphere of life, you should work hard and try to make an effort every day of your life.

At present I consider being a top-pupil and learning to play the guitar my greatest achievements. I'm sure good education is most essential for making a good career in future. That's why I work hard at school, staying late hours and burning my candle at both ends.

In conclusion I'd like to say that I admire people who don't want to be celebrities. I try to learn useful things from people who lived their lives to enlighten their native people, to speak about their native land. To my mind, when a person is devoted to his native land and its people, makes a great contribution into the development of the country and its culture - all that makes him or her well-known all over the world.

\*\*\*

1. Do you agree that work is a necessity and no worker goes to work because

he likes it?

To begin with, I would like to say that I absolutely disagree with the saying that no worker goes to work because he likes it. There are several reasons to uphold my opinion. In one way or another, all people around the world work for the ultimate purpose of seeking a better life. It is widely believed that people work solely for money. However, it is only one of the numerous important purposes of working, and there are a lot of benefits that people obtain from working without even consciously realizing them. Nowadays, besides money, people still work for many reasons, including understanding and fulfilling their responsibilities in society, avoiding wastefulness and keeping their minds active.

People usually work to get the things that they need to live. The most basic needs are food, clothing and shelter. In some places people grow their own food, make their own clothes and build their own shelters, living much as their ancestors have for thousands of years. In other places people earn money to buy those things.

But people work not only for money but also for self-realization. By working people can feel satisfied with themselves. This is because when people work, they can apply what they have learned before in reality. They can feel they are useful. This feeling of satisfaction will generate happiness and motivations develop themselves.

For many people the biggest benefit of working lies in a priceless lesson of responsibility. Through working people learn how to be responsible, first for themselves, then for their families and the society. If working is all about money, why even kids from well-off families, Bill Gate's for example, bother going to work even though they are guaranteed a wealthy future life? It is because they want to be responsible for their own lives, to live on their labor, not on their parents' fortune. Next, working gives them a strong sense of responsibility for their family and society. Family life is happiest when all members share family work and together contribute to making a more comfortable and harmonious life. Likewise, a country is most prosperous when all citizens contribute their parts to make it thrive.

Another important reason that makes people look for a job is that they understand the importance of producing property and avoiding wastefulness. As a matter of fact, not working leads to indolence; indolence facilitates spending and extravagance. People who don't work at all have nothing to keep themselves busy with, waste lots of time and money on entertainment, lavish shopping and so on. Realizing this, many people choose to work to stay away from wastefulness and to be helpful. In short, working or living on what they created teaches them not only the value of labor and property but also the importance of frugality and economy.

Last but not least, to work is to keep us active and fit. Working is about constantly learning and understanding things around us. When we stop working, we spend less time thinking and pondering about things that so far have deeply affected our lives. Soon knowledge is eroded and our brains become idle and selfindulgent. As time goes on, we gradually lose concern about everything except ourselves. To prevent this from happening, some people, especially the old, still learn and work in various ways even though they have retired. As for the case of a group of sixty-year-old men in the US I learnt about from the newspaper, retirement did not prevent them from going to college and doing farming. They said it helped them stay active and

healthy.

To sum up, working is rewarding because of the great benefits it brings about. Apart from earning money, people also work for many important purposes, including being aware of their duties, staying lively and active and steering clear from wastefulness. I may say that people work because working is the best way through which they can enjoy life.

### **What do young people want to get from life?**

<p>The New Wave Young don't like to be treated as teenagers. They want to work hard and to be successful. They want to be independent and to talk to their parents as friends</p>	<p>Teenagers only want to get a lot of money to buy clothes, records and tapes, makeup and video. They think that money is very important</p>	<p>Today's Young reject everything to express themselves. They don't bother about social problems, only smoke and drink and use drugs.</p>
<p>have strong values respect authority learn to know more like clever, funny books active in politics charity projects develop youth culture new generation solve serious problems search for meaning in live</p>	<p>wear leather jackets, jeans and hairgel sell on the black market Western style gangs of punks rockers and hippies want to be stylish and individual</p>	<p>enjoy life justify smb join a gang support violence steal medical drugs not interested in... not worry about life just have a good time and fun</p>

Set your own goals and don't be influenced by those whose judgement you don't respect

### **Youth organizations in Belarus**

It's quite natural that young people want to socialize with their equals so as to express their views on several political and social issues. They join youth organizations and societies. The main aim of these organizations is to involve young people into socially useful activities such as sporting events, volunteering at hospitals, taking care of war veterans, assisting the old and the handicapped, carrying out some ecological projects and doing other things.

There are a lot of youth organizations in Belarus. The most authoritative of them are: the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM), the Belarusian Republican Pioneer Organization, the Association of Belarusian Scouts, the Belarusian Organizations of Falcons, the Belarusian National Scout Organization, the Association of Belarusian Guides, etc. The aforementioned organizations take an active part in the formation of the basis and implementation of the state policy in respect of youth. These activities are managed and directed by the State Committee on the Affairs of Youth.

The most numerous youth organization in our country is the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM). This organization works in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus.

### **Belarusian republican youth union**

The Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM) is a youth organization in Belarus. Its *goals are to promote patriotism and to instill moral values into the youth of Belarus, to unite patriotically thinking young people for active participation in the construction of a society of social justice and progress using activities such as camping, sporting events and visiting memorials.* The organization was created after a merger of other youth groups in 2002 and is the successor of the Leninist Communist Youth League of the Byelorussian SSR. The BRSM is the largest youth group in Belarus and is supported by the Belarusian government. *The main objectives of the organization* are as follows: to express, defend and realize the rights and legal interests of its members;

- to form the world outlook, based on moral and spiritual, as well as Christian, values;
- to foster patriotism as the main spiritual and social value;
- to express devotion to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, to the country, its people and its state symbols; to give assistance to every member of the organization in his spiritual, intellectual and physical development and in realization of his abilities and creative potential;

to take part in preparation of young people for the defense of their motherland.

*The Belarusian Republican Youth Union* and its members accomplish their goals and objectives in the following activities:

- they participate in formation of youth policy and put it into practice;
- they support the initiatives of the youth, directed at self-perfection and all-round development of their individual abilities;
- they help young people to become integrated members of society;
- they elaborate and accomplish different educational, social and other youth programs which do not contradict the present legislation of the republic of Belarus;
- they render assistance in finding employment;
- they promote international youth co-operation;
- they attract the attention of the mass media and the bodies of state power to the problems and initiatives of the youth;
- they organize conferences, meetings, lectures, exhibitions, concerts for young people; etc.

### **CREATION**

The BRSM was created on 6 September 2002, after the merger of two Belarusian youth organizations, the *Belarusian Youth Union and the Belarusian Patriotic Youth Union.* The Belarusian Youth Union had been considered the legal successor of Leninist Communist Youth Union of Belarus (the Komsomol branch in the Byelorussian SSR), the Belarusian Patriotic Youth Union had been created in 1997.

## **ORGANIZATION**

The BRSM national headquarters is located in Minsk, the national capital of Belarus. Each oblast of Belarus— Minsk, Brest, Vitsebsk, Gomel, Grodno and Mogilev—has its own branches of the BRSM. The BRSM has estimated that it has 6803 branches located inside Belarus.

The national leadership of the BRSM is controlled by the central committee, which is headed by the first secretary of the central committee. Below the first secretary are the second secretary of the central committee, the chairman of the central investigation commission, and three secretaries of the central committee. Collectively, these leaders are also referred to as the secretariat of the BRSM.

While the exact yearly and total funding of the BRSM are not known, the majority of funds given to the BRSM are given by the national government.

## **SYMBOLS**

The BRSM has *two official symbols: an emblem and a flag*. The emblem, which is based on the Komsomol badge and modeled on the Belarusian national flag, has a red bar bearing the initials of the BRSM, written in gold in Cyrillic, over a green bar bearing a golden olive branch.

The flag of the BRSM has the same elements as the emblem, but the reverse of the flag bears the organization's full name in gold (in Russian) in the red section, with the green section unemblazoned.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

In order to join the BRSM, the applicant must be between the ages of 14 and 31 and must send a photo of himself or herself. If the applicant is between the ages of 14 and 16 written permission from a parent or legal guardian must be granted. A count in 2003 by the Institute for War and Peace Reporting showed that the BRSM had roughly 120,000 members.

A person must also pay a one-time fee of 1,400 Belarusian rubles (around US\$0.65) and a mid-year fee to continue membership in the BRSM. The total amount of the fee is adjusted based on the person's working and living status, and fee waivers are granted for children who are orphaned or disabled. Members of the BRSM have certain rights and duties and they can leave the organization at their own free will.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Most of the BRSM's activities are similar to those that were performed by the Soviet Komsomol. The main activities of the BRSM involve the promotion of Belarusian patriotism. This is accomplished by participating in wreath-laying ceremonies at various memorials around the country. BRSM members also pass out flowers to veterans of the Great Patriotic War (World War II) to honor their service during the national holiday Den Pobedy (Day of Victory). Both the memorial visits and the flowers for the veterans give BRSM members an idea of what sacrifices their ancestors made. During other national holidays, the BRSM passes out a ribbon that resembles the national flag of Belarus, to be worn on a shirt or jacket. This program,

along with other events, is part of its "For Belarus!" (Russian: За Беларусь!) campaign.

The BRSM participates in outdoor activities and sports, including football, running, swimming and hockey. Some of these athletic events involve different groups from inside Belarus or from neighboring countries, such as Russia, Ukraine or Latvia. BRSM members also participate in competitions amongst themselves or with other foreign groups that are similar to the BRSM.

Social events, such as concerts for the youth of Belarus, are hosted by the BRSM. The BRSM was one of the main organizers of the 2004 "Miss Belarus" pageant, a beauty competition along the same lines as Miss America and Miss Universe. While the BRSM does not get involved in politics, it's the first secretary, Mikhail Orda, signed a letter along with other public officials denouncing the United States' Belarus Democracy Act of 2004.

BRSM organizes student construction brigades, a practice also originated in the Soviet Union.

### **International cooperation**

International cooperation is among the objectives of youth policy in our country as well. The existing agreements are aimed at establishing and developing relations with youth organizations of other countries, including the CIS states. Our young people attend various forums and conferences at which they debate and exchange opinions on youth problems in different countries. Youth international contacts are important and we all understand that the future of our planet is with the young and we lay our best hopes on them.

### **Girls Brigade**

As a child I was a very shy person. Everything started to change when I was ten and my best friend introduced me to a Christian youth organization.

At first I just went for the arts and crafts but I soon started to become really involved in the other aspects and, even though many of my friends started dropping out as we entered our teens, I never did. Going to a youth group helped me meet new people and I got involved in lots of different things I wouldn't have otherwise, like sport.

Sadly, as I grew older, other people didn't see youth groups as such a good thing. By the time I was 13, if I mentioned I still went to the brigade, people made fun of me and said I was sad. When I was 14 I went through a rough patch; I had health problems and I fell out with my closest friends. Things at home were bad and I actually started self harming, which was the worst thing I've ever done. The people at Girl's Brigade gave me the shoulder I needed to cry on. They supported me and I, with their help, finally came clean to my parents about how I'd been feeling. I also made new friends at the group who I can't live without now. I soon started Young Leader Training where I helped look after over around 30-40 young girls in the younger age groups. I led them in crafts and games - it was great! At 15 I joined the London massed bugle band and since then I've performed at two London marathons, the Lord Mayor show and the Horse Guard Parades, plus at other major events too.

People may call me sad that I do these things, but they were green with envy when I was given a once in a life time experience... when I was asked to represent Girl's Brigade at Buckingham Palace!

The event was an actual garden party at the palace and when I was there I met Boris Johnson (the mayor of London), the duchess of Cornwall and even Prince Charles! This was all thanks to going to a youth group.

I'm 16 now and I still go to all the groups. I am starting my Queen's Award soon, for which I'll do loads volunteer work. All the experience I've gained looks really good on my CV and I've recently got my first job - the employer talked more about my Girls' Brigade experience than anything else, saying it showed I was a serious person.

#### **4. ART**

##### **What is Art Therapy?**

At some point in their lives, people may find themselves over whelmed by the emotions which are difficult to face either by themselves or with others. Art therapy offers a chance to express these thoughts and feelings in a supportive environment. It involves using a wide variety of art materials, for example paints, clay and batik, to create a visual representation of thought and feelings.

Who is it for?

It's for everybody. For people who are generally stressed and over-worked. For people with health problems. For people with learning difficulties. For children and young people who have problems in school or personal problems at home. For people who feel they are problem free but would like to learn more about themselves.

What skills do you need?

The simple answer is none. Art therapy requires no artistic ability. The Art Therapist offers guidance and support and a variety of art materials.

What is the aim of art therapy?

The aim of art therapy is to improve or maintain mental health and emotional well-being.

But whereas some of the other expressive therapies use the per-forming arts for expressive purposes, art therapy generally uses drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, and other forms of visual art expression. For that reason art therapists are trained to recognize the non-verbal symbols and metaphors that are communicated within the creative process, symbols and metaphors which might be difficult to express in words. By helping their clients to discover what underlying thoughts and feelings are being communicated in the artwork and what it means to them, it is hoped that clients will perhaps develop a better understanding of themselves and the way they relate to the people around them.

##### **Abstract Art**

Want to learn how to understand abstract art? Let's start with this quote from Jackson Pollock, one of America's most famous abstract painters:



"Abstract painting is abstract. It confronts you. There was a reviewer a while back who wrote that my pictures didn't have any beginning or any end. He didn't mean it as a compliment, but it was."

Pollock's critic didn't know where to begin in terms of how to understand abstract art. There is nothing to hold onto, so you have to open up your intuition and see where the painting takes you. Abstract art allows the viewer to decide what the artwork is about, on a <sup>V</sup>ery personal level.

**Understanding abstract art is easy: all it requires is an open mind and a big imagination.**

When you look at an abstract painting, what do you see? Flying shapes, colorful patterns... The path of a river cutting through grasslands... or maybe you see cosmic energy? There is no right or wrong answer to this question. Abstract art is open to interpretation, and that is one of the beautiful things about it. An abstract painting doesn't jump out and declare "THIS is what I'm all about." Instead, you must enter the painting and see where it takes you.

Understanding abstract art does not come naturally for everyone. It is the kind of art that makes some people scratch their heads and say, "My 5-year old could do that." What people don't realize is that the best abstract artists have excellent drawing skills, a fine sense of composition, and a deep understanding of the workings of color. Most abstract artists have the ability to draw a perfectly portrayed rose or a realistic portrait, but they choose not to. Instead they choose to express their emotions by creating a piece that is more **free**, free of the weight of objects.

**If you want to fully understand an artwork, it's important to know the artist's intention behind it.** On the one hand, a large part of the beauty of art is that we, the viewers, can bring our own meaning. On the other hand, knowing the artist's thought process **for** creating a certain work of art adds to the meaning and value of a painting.

Well, Pablo Picasso once said: "Everyone wants to understand **art**. Why not try to understand the song of a bird?" Picasso has a point. Art can't be explained in words, because its influence on people is very personal. Look at abstract art in the same way that you would listen to a symphony. When you listen to music, you don't try to hold on to the notes - you let them wash over you. **Let your eyes play with the painting, slipping around corners, following the lines, twists and turns. Let your eyes dance around the piece.**

Rather than trying to figure out what the painting looks like, just allow yourself to be taken in by the painting. **See what emotions, images or memories emerge. Examine the colors, forms, materials.** Take your time. Let the painting "speak" to you.

\*\*\*

1. I live in a fairly small town and when we got our first **set** of traffic lights installed (in 2008 only!), we were all excited and **it** was the talk of the town. The first time I drove through them after they were installed, I felt it was really **a** sign our town was going up. I kept thinking about them and started to draw sketches and came up with my version of this special event. I called my painting "The Road Home". I was pleased with my painting and I painted it in black and white, and then put red in

it for impact. I also won first prize in **an art** show I entered it in so that was really special. I sold my painting to a man that was visiting here after those terrible Victoria bush fires that took so many lives. He liked the name "The Road Home" and said the name would give him hope to rebuild his house, so that was really special.

2. I was on an abstract painting course on holiday and I had reached a point where I was blocked and not able to produce anything. I went for a walk down to the nearby beach and sat and watched a heron wading and feeding in the foreshore rock pools. Just watching 10 minutes of this free nature show lifted my spirits and inspired me. When I got back to the studio I started painting and this was the result. I love that no one can pinpoint exactly what it is or what it represents. The course tutor was lost for words and said she had never seen anything quite like it. I can see elements of the heron in it but that's purely accidental I think. Oddly enough we had also been discussing the work of abstract artist Patrick Heron that very morning so initially I called this my 'two herons' picture. I also love that it was painted in one go and without a moment's conscious thought.

3. "Guitar and bottles" was painted from life. It was an attempt to learn from the Cubist masterworks created by Picasso. I usually paint in an expressionist way, so this was a new style to try. I love the colours and the style of the work. Most of all, I enjoyed the process. I began with pasting on papers of various kinds, which was a child-like experience, much like being a kindergarten student! I liked the result. Results are often more interesting when I work quickly and instinctively. Then I went back and changed the guitar to primarily blue. I often use too many colours, and with the many lines and colours I often use, my paintings can be too "cluttered". When I look at it, I find it can hold my attention for some time. I always find some new thing to look at within the body of the work. I have it in my bedroom. Sometimes I move it to the hall.

### **Chagall's 'I and the Village'**

Influenced by a **childhood spent in rural surroundings**, Chagall's 'I and the Village' is a **dreamlike** representation of **goats, "pastures, a farmer, a violinist, and simplistic images of houses**, some of them upside-down. The whole could be viewed as a **jigsaw puzzle in a child's imagination**. Clearly exhibiting **aspects of Cubism**, the components are randomly put together to produce an abstract arrangement. The colours are **rich** and a stark contrast exists between the red, the green and the blue. It is a painting that provides many viewpoints and perspectives.

The painting is full of **intrigue and symbolism**. In the foreground of the painting, **a green-faced man, wearing a cross around his neck, a cap on his head, and holding a glowing tree, stares directly across at the head of a goat**. In the background, **a row of houses, an Orthodox church, and a man dressed in black hurries past an upside down woman playing what looks like a violin**.

**The geometric shapes and symbols** catch the viewer's attention. The small and large circles have been said to represent 3 spatial phenomena: the sun's revolution in orbit, the earth's revolution around the sun, and the moon's revolution around the earth.

'I and the Village' illustrates **the relations between human beings and the natural world** surrounding them. It is a clear display of the relationship between humans, animals and plants.

### Graffiti

A. Four years ago I knew two things about graffiti: that it was all criminal and that it was ugly. I was right it was ugly but I was wrong about it being all criminal. Most of it is done by kids of every race and social group from big cities to small towns. Today **I'm a member of Together Against Graffiti (TAG)** group aimed at bringing people together to fight against this kind of so-called street-art.

B. In the past ten years graffiti seems to have become more about leaving your mark, and less about art or political statement. Most of it is unreadable anyway. I say make it illegal if **it's not saying anything of interest**.

C Graffiti as a public service! Oh please - the majority of graffiti you see is not art, but tags scribbled on someone else's property - trains, walls, tubes or buildings. **6 weeks service cleaning trains or public toilet** )should do the trick.

D. I am a mural artist and have also been involved with graffiti art. Most of my graffiti-style work has been done on large canvases in my town centre. **Spray paint is the most fun to use because it is fast, rustic, colourful and loud**. I would like to suggest the following: a - fight vandalism (especially taggers); b -provide gallery space and public places for graffiti artists and encourage trouble-makers to participate by providing materials and guidance.

E. There has been a council sponsored graffiti wall in Walton-on-Thames for many years. This looked fantastic, until **the local kids started to "tag" it**. Now the original, and quite frankly brilliant, art is covered in nasty, pointless little scribbles. I would love to see graffiti walls where the best artists can be free, but whilst these taggers continue then this will not work.

F. There are two very different types of graffiti artists, with two very different AIMS. One is the '**bombers**', **who just tag everything to get their name up**. **Then there's the real artists who spend more time doing pieces that have artistic merit and are pleasing to the eye**. The authorities, however, call both types of graffiti vandalism. But the latter is not vandalism, but art with the street as a canvas. There are, of course, legal parks where pieces can be put up, but the point of graffiti is taking over spaces that have been closed off. So having little corners or large walls for creation is against the whole philosophy.

G. I used to live in London where the graffiti simply made the already grubby city look worse. Mural walls for graffiti artists may help but I doubt it will stop general rot. I now live in Valencia, Spain and here too there is graffiti. However, it is far less of a problem because **the authorities are very quick to clean it up**.

H. If walls were set up throughout Britain, and everyone was encouraged to use them (all ages, classes, etc.) then **graffiti could become a democratic form of cultural expression that need not trouble anyone**. **It would be cheap public art (2)**.

I. Graffiti should be banned. The creation of graffiti is danger bus. Graffiti artists climb to high places to draw on highway signs or billboards. To get to these

high places, **the graffiti artist has either got to climb to the high place or in some cases, hang down from high places to draw their picture or make their inscription.** (4) This is taking an unnecessary risk. The artist may believe that their life is not in any danger, but if there is one wrong move, the artist can lose his life.

### **Going to the theatre**

Hello, I'm Andrei D. Before speaking about my impressions of a theatre performance I'd like to say a few words about theatre in general. For many centuries theatre has been one of the favourable arts that attracted so many people. As a matter of fact, the reason for this is that theatre creates a special atmosphere. All of us need to have a rest, and I think that one of the best ways to relax is theatre going. I should say that theatre always gives me a feeling of a holiday, and I believe that a lot of people share my view. In Minsk at this point there are a few good theatres, and you can choose where to go. Theatre goers never miss a new performance at the Maxim Gorki Russian Drama Theatre or Yanka Kupala Belarusian Drama Theatre. Those who are fond of classical music can go to the Opera and Ballet Theatre or to the Philharmonic Society. I remember well one of my last visits to the theatre which was in November during the autumn break at school. Our teacher of the Belarusian language had bought tickets for Yanka Kupala's play "Tuteyshiya" ("The Locals"). As our teacher explained to us, this play had a lot of implications, and one of the issues about it was that it helped to develop a sense of identity, which perhaps is the weakest point in the mentality of Belarusians. My classmates and I had arrived at the theatre about twenty minutes before the performance started. We left our jackets in the cloak-room and some of us bought the programme to see the cast. Then we found our seats which were in the ninth row of the pit. As the play was very popular with the public, the house was full, and I think there were no vacant seats in the boxes, the dress-circle, and the balcony. The performance began at 7 PM, and from the very first minute I was deeply impressed by everything I saw on the stage. I must point out that the setting was splendid and the acting was really talented. The play "The Locals", as far as its genre is concerned, belongs to comedies, and there are a lot of funny and true-to-life scenes in it. We laughed heartily at the ad-ventures of the main character who, depending on the situation, changed his surname from Russian Znosilov to Belarusian Znosak and Polish Znosilowski. When watching the play, I couldn't help thinking about the attitude of our people to the Belarusian history and their language. Yanka Kupala's point was very clear and simple in his desire to make people remember their roots. This performance helped me to better understand that Belarus deserves a better life and we really must be aware of our history. It won't be an exaggeration to say that all of us have enjoyed every minute of the performance, so no wonder it was accompanied by hearty applause over and over again. In conclusion I want to emphasize that the role of theatre is not diminished with the progress of science and technology. What is important, in my opinion, is that in the theatre you are part of the action and honest to yourself. Theatre really develops one's personality and makes us realize what life is about.

## What is Art?

What are the forms of art? When you think of art, what do you think of? Paintings, statues? What else?

Is there a size limit to art? What's the largest piece of art you can imagine? How small is the smallest?

Is art defined by its materials? We're all used to thinking of paintings as art. Or bronze sculptures. But art can be made from all kinds of materials. Try to think of some. Various kinds of paint and metal, wood, plastics... it can even be an old shoe or a newspaper. What about putting different materials together?

Does art have to be understandable? Is it necessary for it to actually look like something, such as a woman, or a vase of flowers? Does art have to be realistic? Is it better if it is realistic?

What about abstract art? Do you know what that means? What is abstract art about? Can art describe feelings?

Is all art good art? Who decides, and how is it decided?

Does art have to be beautiful? What about a piece that looks truly ugly to you? Is it still art?

Sometimes the artist is trying to shock the viewer, or to make you feel uncomfortable. Why would an artist want to do that? Perhaps to make people see things in a new way?

Does art have to "say" something? Communicate some feeling, idea, a record of fact, another way of looking at something? Just try to think of an example of art that does not communicate anything... can you?

## Art

**Interviewer:** Our world has become a very visual one - we have art all around us. Understanding art is understanding our world! A good first step is to try to understand what we mean by art. Let's ask Shelley Esaak, a portrait artist, graphic designer, writer and educator. Hi, Shelley, could you clarify this question?

**Shelley Esaak:** I'd be delighted to. First of all, there's the arts that are a great subdivision of culture. It is a broader term than art, which usually means only the visual arts. The arts includes visual arts, literary arts and the performing arts, like music, theatre, and film, among others.

If you ask people in the street what art is, paintings and statues are common answers. But actually that's a bit more than that. The types of visual art include architecture, animation, collage, comics, design, drawing, graffiti, illustration, installation art, photography, sculpture and so on.

**I:** All right. But how do you know it's art that you are looking at?

**SE:** The first time that the question of what art is came up was in the 19th century in an essay by Leo Tolstoy. In his work he argues against numerous theories which define art in terms of the good, truth, and especially beauty. In Tolstoy's opinion, art at the time was much more than that. According to him, art must create an emotional link between artist and audience, one that "infects" the viewer. The idea that art is actually about communicating the feelings of the artists is a romantic one

which is widely popular among the researchers. Or as Frank Zappa once said: "Art is making something out of nothing and selling it."

**I:** Ha-ha-ha. For all that, how would you personally answer this question today?

**SE:** I could tell you that art plays a large part in making our lives infinitely rich. Imagine, just for a minute, a world without art! (You may think "So what?" but please consider the effect that lack of graphics would have on your favourite video game.) Art stimulates different parts of our brains to make us laugh or cry, calm down or start shouting. For some people, art is the entire reason they get out of bed in the morning. You could say "AH is something that makes us more thoughtful and well-balanced humans." On the other hand, art is such a large part of our everyday lives that we may hardly even stop to think about it. Look at the desk or table where you are, right this minute. Someone designed that. It is art. Your shoes are art. Your coffee cup is art. All functional design, well done, is art. So, you could say "Art is something that is both functional and (hopefully) beautiful." Art is form and content. Form means: The elements of art, the principles of design and the actual, physical materials that the artist has used. Form, in this context, is fairly easily described - no matter which piece of art we are studying. Content, now, gets a little more tricky. Content is idea-based and means: What the artist meant to say, what the artist actually did say and how we react, as individuals, to the author's messages.

## **5. SCIENCE**

### **Science and Technology**

Today we see the world in which social, industrial and political life is greatly influenced by science. Modern experimental science began about 400 years ago. Man learned to use the energy of fire and water. Fire was the first discovery and wheel was the first invention. Since that time, science has travelled far. Half of our present day inventions were unthinkable a century ago. I think Electric engineering is the most powerful and exiting science nowadays. I am fond of Electric engineering because it influences our lives and every day enters our flats. Picture - tube televisions have turned into LCDs and Plasma. Computers have given way to laptops and notebooks. The mobiles have turned into a wonderful island of entertainment and communication. All these achievements are very important for us, especially for me, because I can't live without my computer, MP3 and mobile.

The world knows the names of many great scientists: mathematicians, physicists, biologists, chemists, historians etc.

Among the names of great scientists who contributed a lot to different fields of science we should mention Konstantin Tsiolkovsky (the father of space engineering), Thomas Edison (the father of the photograph and movie camera), Albert Einstein, Charles Darwin and many others.

As for me I think that Isaak Newton is one of the greatest men in the history of science. Newton was born in England in the 17th century (1642). He studied physics, astronomy and mathematics at Cambridge. He is considered the father of modern mathematics, physics and spectroscopy. Newton discovered the law of motion and the universal law of gravitation. He discovered the spectrum - the composition of

different colours. He was a really great scientist.

Among the names of the greatest Belarusian scientists we can mention the first publisher Francisk Scoryna, a prominent mathematician Boris Kit and, of course, an outstanding Belarusian physicist Zhores Alferov. Zhores Alferov was born in Vitebsk. He studied in the Leningrad Electrotechnical Institute. Alferov is a creator of modern heterostructure physics and electronics. He invented the heterotransistor for satellite communications. Today he is a famous politician who lives in Russia.

I think that all scientific achievements are very important.

In conclusion I should say that our life is impossible without science and technology.

Your friend has won money in a lottery. He wants to buy some latest gadget. Advise your friend what to buy.

I would advise to buy a net-book. It's a computer with all the necessary functions, but it's smaller, more comfortable and, besides, a net-book works much longer. It doesn't cost much money. Or you can buy iPad6. It has a lot of functions, a censor screen, a video camera. iPad6 is very comfortable and you can use it everywhere. The main disadvantage is that iPad6 is expensive.

People are becoming more dependent on high-tech devices. Is it good or bad?

Today many people are becoming dependent on high-tech devices, but we should understand that our life is impossible without modern technologies. MP3, mobile phones, iPads and iPods are very common. People all over the world are crazy about the Internet. Some people can't even live without it, but sometimes it's dangerous to surf the Internet for many hours. You can get stupid and even ill.

I think we should use modern technologies very carefully.

Why do you think cloning was banned in some countries?

Clone is a genetic copy of something. Scientists have cloned a carp, a cow, a cat, but the biggest star in the cloning world is sheep Dolly. But clones have different DNA, so in reality you can't clone your pet, it will be the other animal. In some countries cloning (especially human cloning) is banned. Most people think it's illegal. In the USA and Australia human cloning is banned and the government doesn't give money for human cloning research.

I agree that human cloning should be banned.

Pupils nowadays are encouraged to carry out their own scientific research. Have you ever taken part in any? What do you think of it?

Modern life makes a person be flexible and mobile, creative and inventive. And our life is impossible without science and technologies. Pupils of our gymnasium carry out their own scientific research and take part in scientific conferences every year. I have never taken part in such conferences but I think it's very useful and interesting. Pupils learn how our world works. They solve different problems. The results of scientific research can be useful in future.

\*\*\*

Scientific and Technological Progress

It's difficult to overestimate the role of science and technology in our life. They accelerate the development of civilization and help us in our co-operation with

nature. Scientists investigate the laws of the universe, discover the secrets of nature, and apply their knowledge in practice improving the life of people.

Let's compare our life nowadays with the life of people at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has changed beyond recognition. Our ancestors hadn't the slightest idea of the trivial things created by the scientific progress that we use in our every day life. I mean refrigerators, TV sets, computers, microwave ovens, radio telephones, what not. They would seem miracle to them that made our life easy, comfortable and pleasant. On the other hand, the great inventions of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, I mean radio, aeroplanes, combustion and jet engines have become usual things and we can't imagine our life without them.

A century is a long period for scientific and technological progress, as it's rather rapid. Millions of investigations, the endless number of outstanding discoveries have been made. Our century has had several names that were connected with a certain era in science and technology. At first it was called the atomic age due to the discovery of the splitting of the atom. Then it became the age of the conquest of space when for the first time in the history of mankind a man overcame the gravity and entered the Universe. And now we live in the information era when the computer network embraces the globe and connects not only the countries and space stations but a lot of people all over the world. All these things prove the power and the greatest progressive role of science in our life.

But every medal has its reverse. And the rapid scientific progress has aroused a number of problems that are a matter of our great concern. These are ecological problems, the safety of nuclear power stations, the nuclear war threat, and the responsibility of a scientist.

But still we are grateful to the outstanding men of the past and the present who have courage and patience to disclose the secrets of the Universe.

\*\*\*

Can people live without scientific and technological progress?

They say necessity is the mother of invention that's why since prehistoric times humans have always tried to invent tools to make their lives more convenient. 10 million years ago humans made the first tools from bones, stone and wood. About 2 million years ago fire was discovered. The invention of wheel has become one of the most important discoveries in the history of mankind. Then other discoveries and inventions were made which helped people to minimize hardships and improve their lives. The industrial revolution improved textile manufacturing, metallurgy, transportation system and led to the development of technology. Everything we have today is due to science and technology.

The term «science» comes from the Latin word «knowledge» as science is the study of the physical and natural world around us.' Nowadays science is everywhere and goes hand in hand with technology, the application of science. While science helps us to gain knowledge, technology is used to create tools for better communication, manufacturing, transportation and learning. Technology has transformed people's lives helping them to save time, effort and money. New



scientific knowledge leads to new technological advances, which gives us the understanding that V science is ongoing and will never be finished.

However, scientific progress has both advantages and disadvantages. Science and technology are widely used in every sphere of life. Technology affects us every day from the alarm clock in the morning to wake us up to various gadgets we use for studies, work and entertainment. Internet is one of the greatest gifts of technology and computers are used everywhere nowadays. We can't imagine our life without computers and the Internet: we use Internet technology such as multimedia devices, e-books, e-libraries and virtual classes in the field of education. Numerous diagnostic tools in hospitals such as X-ray machines, blood pressure monitoring tools, glucose level-measuring machines help to make accurate diagnoses, while modern medical equipment helps doctors to cure diseases that were incurable before. Advanced technology has led to the development of various machines that can do the work faster and more efficient: modern irrigation and cultivation technologies help to increase food output, advanced engineering technologies increase industrial output, automated housing and kitchen gadgets help us to save time and effort and make life more convenient. Smartphones and social networks give people possibilities to be immediately informed of the current news and to keep in touch with family, friends and colleagues. Technology has transformed the travel industry: modern airplanes, trains and vehicles have conquered distance as today people can travel faster, cheaper and with all comforts they need.

Enjoying the advantages that innovations bring to us let's not forget that science and technology can turn to a curse for humanity and the world we live in if we use them in an inappropriate way. The main disadvantage of scientific progress is our increasing dependency on the advanced technology. Man has become a slave of gadgets: people are stuck to the screens wasting time and isolating themselves from person-to-person communication. Some people have become so addicted to gadgets that they can feel helpless and furious if these gadgets break. The gadgets we use in our everyday life are often used for espionage purposes and cyber bullying. Innovations in the military field have led to the creation of powerful weapons. Deadly weapons including guns, missiles, atomic and hydrogen bombs are the main threat to our planet. Too much use of technology leads to the destruction of our environment: industrialization has already led to air, water and soil pollution and to the depletion of natural resources.

To conclude, scientific progress can be both a blessing and a curse to mankind and our survival on this planet depends on whether people will use science and technology for constructive or destructive purposes. Without science and technology the world would be a different place but people should ensure that technology is used for the benefit of humanity.

\*\*\*

Do you agree that Belarusian scientists have made a great contribution to the world science?

The world knows the names of Belarusian scientists who have made a great contribution to both Belarusian and world science. They contributed to different

fields of science: physics, medicine, IT sector, natural sciences, economy and many others.

Belarusian printing owes its beginning to Dr. Francisak Skaryna, a prominent scholar and humanist. Dr. Skaryna was born into a wealthy merchant's family in the old Belarusian city of Polotsk in 1490. He was a true Renaissance man. His intellectual interests embraced theology, literature, linguistics, poetry, art, law, medicine, natural sciences and printing. The most important of his achievements was the translation and printing of the Bible into the Belarusian language, first in Prague in 1517-1519, and later in Vilnya. Like other translators working elsewhere in Europe at that time, he wanted to make knowledge available to the people in their own language.

Ignaty Dameika was born on July 31, 1802 in Medvyanka not far from Grodno. In 1822 after graduating from the Vilno University he got Master of Science degree. Dameika was a member of a secret patriotic society but in 1823 he was arrested and in 1832 Dameika left Belarus and moved to Paris where he studied chemistry and geology. In 1838 he went to Chile. Dameika became the Head of the Chile University. Ignaty Dameika was a real scientist and humanist. He was the author of 130 scientific works. 4, 500 books, stories and essays about Ignaty Dameika were written and published in Europe and America. A mineral, some flowers and shellfish, mountain ridge, several towns in Chile, the National Library in Santiago, museums, streets, squares, post-offices, sports funds were named after Ignaty Dameika as he was the national hero of Chile. 2002 was declared the Year of Ignaty Dameika.

The founder of the Belarusian physiotherapy Yakub Narkevich-Yodko was born on December 27, 1847 in a small village of Turin near Minsk. Yakub attended grammar school in Minsk. The boy was intellectually gifted and had a great musical talent. Yakub gave some concerts in Europe and they were a great success. But his interest in science was stronger. Narkevich-Yodko studied medicine in Florence, Sorbonne and Austria. In 1873 he came back to Belarus where he founded a sanatorium «Nadneman» and a popular-scientific magazine «Meteorological Bulletin». His scientific activity was dedicated mostly to electricity. Narkevich-Yodko proved that electricity influenced plants and human beings. He worked out a method of electrography which made him world-famous. The modern science owes many ideas to Narkevich-Yodko. He constructed a hail conductor, a meteorological station (one of the biggest in Russia), discovered a method of electrotherapy with the help of electromassage. He even got a name of «electric man». Yakub Narkevich-Yodko was the first who demonstrated wireless transmission of signals but this idea of wireless telegraph was developed by A. Popov 50 years later.

A prominent doctor and scientist Nikolai Russel-Sudzilovsky was born into a family of a poor nobleman in 1850 in Mogilev. He studied at St. Peterburg and Kiev Universities. In 1877 Sudzilovsky graduated from Bucharest University. In 1887 he immigrated to America but then Nikolai moved to the Hawaiian Islands where in 1900 he got a name Kauka Lukini (Good Doctor) and was elected a senator of the Hawaiian Islands. Nikolai Russel-Sudzilovsky was a talented doctor who made several scientific discoveries.

One of the most outstanding aircraft designers Pavel Suhoy was born on July 22, 1895 in Glubokoye near Vitebsk. After graduating from Moscow Technical College he worked with a talented aircraft designer A. Tupolev and constructed planes 1-4, 1-14, ANT-25 and ANT-37, BB-1. During World War II Pavel Suhoy constructed bombers and low-flying attack aircraft or attack planes. He was also a designer of Su-2(1937), Su-9(1946), Su-15(1948), Su-17(1966), Su-24(1970), Su-25, Su-27(1975). In 1962 Suhoy's planes T-431 and T-405 set up speed and height records. His work initiated a program of aircraft building. Moscow Machine-Building Plant is named after Pavel Suhoy.

Zhores Ivanovich Alferov was born on March 15, 1930 in Vitebsk, Belarus into a family of a factory manager. He finished high school in Minsk and in 1947 entered Belarusian Politechnical Academy. In 1952 began to work in the Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute where he got several scientific degrees. In 1987 Zhores Alferov became the Director of the Institute. Alferov invented the heterotransistor which revolutionized the mobile phone and satellite communications. In 2000 Zhores Alferov received the Nobel Prize in Physics together with Herbert Kroemer and Jack Kilby for their work that laid the foundation for the modern era of information technology.

Simon Smith Kuznets was born on 30, April 1901 in Pinsk but moved to America with his family. He was a famous American economist, educator, pioneering statistician, founder of national income measurement and creator of quantitative economic history, for which he got the Nobel Prize in economic sciences in 1971. Especially cited was his contribution to our understanding of the economic growth of nations. He was the President of the American Statistical Association and the American Economic Association, and a member of the American Philosophical Society, a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, the Econometric Society, the British Academy, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Many universities awarded him honorary doctorates, among them Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. His approach to the study of economic growth and many of his findings are best summarized in three major books of this period: *Six Lectures on Economic Growth* (1959), *Modern Economic Growth: Rate, Structure, and Spread* (1966), and *Economic Growth of Nations* (1971). Among many generalizations that Kuznets developed in this statistical extravaganza is the «Kuznets Curve or Law», which asserts that there is an increase in the inequality of income distribution during the early stages of economic development but that later there is a movement toward greater equality as a nation's economy matures.

Among the other recognizable Belarusian names there are Yan Chersky, an outstanding geographer, geologist and explorer of Siberia and Alexander Chizhevsky, an outstanding biophysicist who founded heliobiology, the study of the sun's effects on biology. Nowadays Belarus is a country with highly developed scientific potential, and it has a great number of institutions and organizations conducting scientific research.

Belarusian physicists created the source of terahertz radiation which helps to make different objects visible while they are inside solid or liquid bodies. Our

scientists grew a red emerald for the first time in the world. This kind of emerald is very rare in nature, and the artificial analogue created by Belarusian scientists is 100 times cheaper. Belarusian scientists also created an electronic system «ForestFire» to determine the level of radioactive contamination after forest fires. This innovation helps to model possible situations and to find possible solutions during and after forest fires. Belarusian agriculturists have grown new kinds of potato and wheat. Our scientists created a brand new-generation laser which can be used in different industries from medicine to the manufacturing sector. This laser is smaller, safer for eyes and more functional than its foreign analogues.

According to the World Health Organization (the WHO) Belarusian surgeons demonstrate a high level of surgery skills. The first liver transplant surgery in Belarus was operated in 2008. At present an entire range of transplant surgeries is performed in our country, even the rarest in the world — heart transplantation and kidney transplantation. In 2012 Belarusian surgeons conducted the first liver-kidney transplantation which is rarely conducted worldwide. Belarusian scientists were the first in the world to perform surgeries on patients with disordered gastric emptying. They used a unique laparoscopic method to preserve and restore the patient's gastric functions. The Republic of Belarus is included in «European Top-10» list of the countries in terms of the average long-term survival rate of patients with malignant tumors and hematopoietic disease.

Belarusian scientists create unique medications and medical equipment. Scientists of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus developed a series of original medications on the basis of amino acids and their modified derivatives. Belarusian chemists developed a new technology of producing medications with various therapeutic effects. These medications include «Asparcam» (a drug to treat cardiovascular diseases), «Taurine» (a radioprotective substance), «Leucine» (an immune corrector), «Teturam» and «Glian» (anti-alcoholic substances), «Clofarabine» (a drug to treat child's leukaemia), a unique drug «Alginomax» (to reduce gastric acidity), «Pemetrexed» and «Azatsidin» (both are the first-generation anti-tumor drugs). Scientists of the NASB also created a device for non-contact express optical cancer diagnostics which reduces the time spent on cancer diagnostics, «smart bondage» based on chitosan, an organic substance which promotes fast healing of burns and wounds. The innovations of Belarusian scientists in the sphere of medicine are used all over the world.

\*\*\*

Do you agree that Belarusian IT companies and brands are well-recognized worldwide?

Belarus with its scientific potential is now called the Silicon Valley of Europe. The High-Tech Park of Belarus, one of the leading innovation-based IT clusters in Europe, appeared in 2006. The software produced by the HTP resident companies is in high demand abroad and is used by Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Google, Toyota, MTV, Reuters, Samsung, Mitsubishi, British Telecom and the World Bank. In 2011 six resident companies of the HTP were included in the «WORLD Top-100

Providers of IT Services» list. Our country is also number 1 IT technologies exporter within the CIS.

Viber, called «a Belarusian miracle», is the most recognizable Belarusian brand in the IT sector. This is an instant messaging and voice application for smartphones. With the help of Viber you can exchange video and audio messages. Viber Media Company was founded by Israeli-Belarusian partners Talmon Marko and Igor Magazinnik. The company is run from Israel but has its development centres in Belarus. The company started in 2010 as a small development firm of 40 people and its founder Sergei Goncharic. Nowadays Viber is the leader of social applications category in the Appstores in 30 countries. Viber has about 280 million global registered users.

Another famous Belarusian IT company is Belarusian-Cypriot company «Wargaming» with its massively multiplayer online game «World of Tanks». The developer of WoT «Game Stream», Minsk Development Centre of Wargaming, is a resident company of the High-Tech Park in Belarus. Game Stream provides IT support in organizing international events. The game was officially announced in 2009 and in August 2010 the Russian version of the game was officially released. The players can choose six primary types of battles, take control of a single-armoured vehicle and they can communicate with other players through typing or voice chat. In 2011 the number of WoT users reached 1 million. In January 2011 the world record «The Most Players Online Simultaneously» was officially registered by the Guinness Book of Records (91,311 players). In 2012 the game was improved and new features and vehicles were added. Also in 2012 WoT debuted as an eSports game at the World Cyber Games. In 2013 and 2014 WoT was named the «Online Game of the Year» and got the «Golden Joystick Award». Today the number of WoT fans exceeds more than 100 million.

Belarusian company OAO Peleng is one of the leading developers of optical devices and optoelectronic systems for military and dual use. The company produces exclusive space equipment. On July 22, 2012 the Belarusian satellite for the remote sensing of the Earth was launched into outer space. This satellite is a part of a cluster of five satellites by the «Soyuz-FG» booster rocket from the Baikonur space launch site. The Belarusian satellite can relocate in the orbit and take images at the required angle. The satellite is fitted with the equipment produced by OAO Peleng and works jointly with the Russian satellite «Canopus-B». Peleng also created a «SKIF-GRID» supercomputer on the basis of 12-core AMD Opteron processor and graphic processing units.

\*\*\*

What will you advise a person who wants to become a scientist? A scientist is a person who finds the right answers and solutions. Firstly, you should choose a field of science you are interested in. To become a scientist, a person should be curious, passionate, creative, hard-working and well-motivated. Good grades at school are important and you should practice doing science while at school. Observations and experiments, the two leading scientific methods, can be performed on your own or in a research laboratory. Secondly, it is important to choose a good supervisor or a

teacher as well as a good project to gain experience, necessary techniques and skills. Thirdly, a future scientist should learn broadly: read a lot, develop skills of writing and critical thinking, learn languages, especially the English language because the most significant works in science are published in English. You should also establish connections with other researchers. It will help you to share ideas and experience as well as to make a name in a community of scientists.

\*\*\*

They say Belarusian science faces some problems. What are they?

Like any other country Belarus faces problems in different spheres of life and science is not an exception. According to the state Committee for Science and Technology the problems include: international isolation of Belarusian scientists, growing gerontocracy (власть принадлежит старшим по возрасту) and poor salaries for Belarusian scientists. Only three Belarusian institutes have a reasonably good H-index (Hirsch index, which measures the productivity and impact of scientific publications in the world): the Scientific and Research Institute of Physics and Chemistry Problems at the Belarusian State University, the Belarusian State University, the Physics Institute at the National Academy of Sciences.! Today about 60 % of all Belarusian professors are pensioners. Many young Belarusian scientists refuse to choose careers in research because of low government funding and financial shortages. However, the state tries to support its scientists, especially the young ones, encourages them to be more active on the international scientific arena and enlarges financial support.

\*\*\*

What are the most significant scientific achievements/discoveries/ inventions in the history of mankind?

Since ancient times humans have made countless discoveries and to choose the most important achievements in any field of life is difficult because they are all significant for us. The list of the discoveries that have changed our life starts with fire which was discovered rather than invented. Fire was discovered about 2 million years ago and led to other significant inventions. Wheel was invented by Mesopotamians about 3500 BC and led to improving transportation and commerce. Today vehicles make it possible for us to travel long distances. The steam engine invented in the 18th century by James Watt led to significant achievements in manufacturing and transportation, especially to the improvement of trains, airplanes and ships. Paper was invented about 100BC in China and gave a start to the spread of knowledge in a written form. The printing press, invented in 1439 by Johannes Gutenberg revolutionized the spread of knowledge. The discovery of electricity, the most significant scientific achievement in our history, started in Ancient Egypt and Greece when Thales of Miletus conducted his first research. Then Benjamin Franklin's studies of static and lightning in the 1700s, Alessandro Volta's first battery and Thomas Edison's invention of the light bulb in 1879 led to the creation of the first generator, the forerunner of modern generators that produce electricity. Electricity led to the invention of the telephone (the first patent for this invention was given to

Alexander Graham Bell in 1876), the radio (that started as wireless telegraphy), the personal computer and the Internet (started as a military project in the USA in 1969 but now is considered to be one of the most significant invention of the mankind). Among the most important discoveries made in the sphere of medicine we can name Edward Jenner's first vaccine (for smallpox) in 1796, Lois Pasteur's invention of the process of pasteurization in 1860s, Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen's discovery of X-rays in 1895, Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin in 1928 which began the era of antibiotics. All these discoveries had tremendous effects on public health and industry development.

\*\*\*

What can you tell me about the role of women in science?

Women have always taken an active part in the development of our society and the sphere of science is not an exception. Scientific progress wouldn't be possible without women's active participation in this process. The history knows a lot of examples of successful women-scientists. In fact there are over 90 famous women-scientists in the history of science. The most recognizable names include Aspasia, an ancient mathematician and philosopher, Hypatia, an Egyptian mathematician, philosopher and astronomer, Sofia Kovalevskaya, a Russian mathematician and astronomer, Marie Curie and her daughter Irene Curie. Marie Curie is famous for her work on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize and the only woman to win it in two categories: Physics and Chemistry. She discovered polonium and radium and contributed to the creation of X-rays. Marie Curie became the first female professor at the University of Paris. Irene Curie is famous for her work on radiation and the invention of silicon. She won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Caroline Herschel is famous for discovering comets. She was the first woman-scientist to be recognized by the United Kingdom. Lise Meitner is famous for her works on radioactivity and nuclear physics. Grace Hopper, a prominent American mathematician, computer scientist and US Navy admiral is also worth mentioning here because she popularized the idea of machine-independent programming languages. Grace Hopper made the computer easier in use which increased its popularity. In general, women show a more practical approach in using technologies making them more available for ordinary people.

\*\*\*

Who can be named number one scientist in the world?

The world knows many prominent scientists and it's hard to decide who has made the greatest contribution to the development of science because they all have made significant scientific achievements. These are only some of the world's outstanding scientists. Leonardo da Vinci, an Italian polymath, was a mathematician, engineer, anatomist, sculptor, architect, inventor, musician and writer. He is usually described as «the Renaissance man» and is widely-known for his inventions: da Vinci constructed a tank, a calculator, a helicopter, which led to further development of these inventions by other scientists. In general, Leonardo da Vinci is considered to be the father of several machines that are used today.

In 1928 a Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin. Penicillin is the first antibiotics to cure infectious bacterial diseases such as abscesses, scarlet fever, staphylococcus infections, Lyme disease etc. Although only after further research made by other scientists, penicillin was produced on an industrial scale, Alexander Fleming is considered to be the father of the first antibiotics.

Charles Darwin, an English biologist and naturalist of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is widely-known for his theory of evolution. Darwin claimed *I* that all species evolved over time from common ancestors through the process of natural selection. In his books he gave the explanation of diversification of nature. Darwin is described as one of the most influential figures in human history.

Nicola Tesla, a Serbian engineer and inventor, is best-known for his research in the field of electricity and magnetism as well as robotics, remote control and computer science, which gives people all reasons to call Tesla the father of Physics.

A German physicist Albert Einstein is well-known for his theory of relativity and a theory of gravitation. Einstein received the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect. His other scientific achievements are so tremendous that the name «Einstein» has become the synonymous with genius.

The list of outstanding scientists is endless because more and more new names are appearing in the sphere of science nowadays.

## 6. GREAT PEOPLE

### Vladimir Korotkevich

Vladimir Korotkevich is a well-known Belorussian writer. We know him as the author of historical novels, plays and also short stories.

He was born in 1930 in Orsha. He studied at Kiev University and took a literary course in Moscow.

Korotkevich was also a poet. He published his first poem in 1955. But his main interest was the history of Belarus. Among Korotkevich's best works about the past of Belarus were the novel *Old Legend*, the novel *Olshansky Black Castle* and also his novel about Kastus Kalinovsky and the uprising of 1863. The writer often described historic events in the form of detective stories. You can see it in his novels *King Stakh's Wild Hunting*, *Impossible to Forget* and some others.

V. Korotkevich's book *The Land Beneath White Wings* is about the history and culture of Belarus from old times to today. Every line of this novel speaks of the author's love for his motherland, its people and its beautiful nature. In his books Korotkevich used lines from the poems of other poets to describe the beauty of Belarus. He wrote many short stories which are full of poetry, beauty and love of nature.

Plays by V. Korotkevich are staged at the theatres of Minsk, Vitebsk and other cities and towns of Belarus. There are several films made on his novels. We may think that the best of them is *King Stakh's Wild Hunting*. It was shown at many film festivals.

Vladimir Korotkevich was the winner of the Ivan Melezh and Y. Kolas literary prizes in Belarus. His books are translated into many languages.



He died in 1984 at the age of 54. His books are popular today not only in Belarus, because they are romantic, full of beauty and justice and very interesting to read.

### **Francisk Skaryna**

In 1990 the Belarusians celebrated the 500th anniversary of the birth of Doctor Francisk Skaryna, the first translator and publisher of the *Bible* (1517—1519) in the Belarusian language. Skaryna's work had a profound influence both on the cultural development of Belarus and on the Belarusian patriotic movement. Belarusian printing owes its beginnings to Dr Francisk Skaryna, a prominent scholar and humanist.

Francisk Skaryna was born into a family of a wealthy merchant in the old Belarusian city of Polotsk in 1490. He received elementary education in his native town. Later he got education at the Universities of Krakow (where he got the Bachelor's degree in philosophy) and Padua (where he got the Doctor's degree in medicine). He was a true Renaissance person — his intellectual interests embraced theology, literature, linguistics, poetry, art, law, medicine, botany and printing. He knew the Polish, old Jewish, Greek and Latin languages.

Dr Skaryna began his publishing activity in Prague in 1517. One of the most important his achievements was the translation of the Bible into the Belarusian language and printing it, first in Prague, then in Vilno. Dr Skaryna wanted "to make knowledge available to people in their own language". He said, "I vow the Belarusian language will become a language of books, not only of speech".

At the beginning of 1520 Francisk Skaryna went to Vilno where he founded the first printing-house. In 1522 he published *The Small Travelling Book* (*Малая падарожная кніжыца*) and in 1525 he published *The Apostle*.

### **Efrosinya Polotskaya**

When discussing outstanding people of Belarus, we can't but mention the name of Efrosinya Polotskaya, a princess, a philosophical and spiritual leader in Polotsk principality in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

She was born in Polotsk into the family of Izyaslavovichy in 1100. She was the granddaughter of the famous Vseslav Charodey. She was a highly educated person of that period. She had a good knowledge of geography, Greek, Latin, mythology and other sciences. She was well aware of both Christian and pagan beliefs. At the age of 12 she refused to marry and entered the Convent as the rest of the members of the family were sent to the Byzantine Empire. First she was a nun and later Mother Superior of the Convent.

She did a lot of charitable work which included opening schools and hospitals. She taught other people, wrote and rewrote books by hand. She founded the Spass-Efrosinya church in Polotsk. On her request in 1161 a famous jeweller Lasar Bogsha created a Cross to symbolize Christianity in Belarus and the unity of the nation. Efrosinya Polotskaya raised her voice against intestine strife which could destroy the state. The Cross was decorated with gold, silver and precious stones. There were icons of saints, the founders of the Christianity, Efrosinya and her parents on it. It

became a national sacred thing. Unfortunately, the Cross was taken out of the country during the Great Patriotic War and disappeared.

In 1173 Efrosinya decided to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Some months later she got seriously ill and died. She was buried in Jerusalem. Twelve years later the body was transported to Kiev and then returned to Polotsk to be reburied in Spass-Efrosinya church which she had founded.

Now Efrosinya Polotskaya is considered to be the protectress of Belarus. Paying tribute to her great service to the Motherland, the Belarusians restored the Cross of Efrosinya Polotskaya and placed it in the Spass-Efrosinya church in 1998. It has become one of the sacred things in Belarus.

### **M. Lomonosov**

Lomonosov was a scientist, a poet, a grammarian. He is often considered the first great Russian linguistic reformer. Lomonosov made substantial contribution to the natural sciences, reorganized the St. Petersburg Imperial Academy of Sciences, established in Moscow the university that today bears his name, and created the first coloured glass mosaics in Russia.

Lomonosov was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, 1711 near Kholmogory, Russia. He was the son of a poor fisherman. At the age of 10 he took up that work, too. When the few books he was able to obtain could no longer satisfy his growing thirst for knowledge, he left his native village, penniless and on foot, for Moscow. He was 19. His ambition was to educate himself to join the learned men on whom the tsar Peter I the Great was calling to transform Russia into a modern nation.

His bitter struggle began as soon as he arrived in Moscow. It was not an easy task for a man of humble origin to get education at that time. But his exceptional intelligence enabled him in five years to assimilate the eight-year course of study and in 1736 Lomonosov became a student at the St. Petersburg Academy.

Seven months later he left for Germany to study at the University of Marburg and later in Freiberg. He studied Western philosophy and science, the technologies of mining, metallurgy, and glassmaking.

In 1741 he returned to St. Petersburg. Here he worked on «276 Notes on Corpuscular Philosophy and Physics», where he set forth the dominant ideas of his scientific work. In 1745 he was appointed a professor at the Academy. He translated scientific works into Russian and wrote in Latin such important works as «Cause of Heat and Cold», «Elastic Force of Air» and «Theory of Electricity». He recorded more than 4,000 experiments, the results of which enabled him to set up a coloured glass works and to make mosaics with these glasses. His «Discourse on the Usefulness of Chemistry», «Letter to LI. Shuvalov Concerning the Usefulness of Glass», «Origin of Light and Colours» and the «Ode» to Elizabeth celebrated his fruitful union of abstract and applied science.

To these achievements were added the composition of Rossiyskaya grammatika and «Short Russian Chronicle» and the «universal law of nature» — that is, the law of conservation of matter and energy.

From 1755 he did a lot for the development of Moscow State University. Appointed a councillor by the Academy in 1757, he undertook reforms to make the

university an intellectual centre closely linked with the life of the country. He wrote several works on voyages and navigation in the Northern Seas. His prestige was considerable in Russia, and his scientific works and his role in the Academy were known abroad. He was a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and of that of Bologna.

The persecutions he suffered, particularly after the empress Elizabeth's death in 1762 exhausted him physically, and he died in 1765. The empress Catherine II the Great had Lomonosov buried with great ceremony, but she confiscated all the notes in which were outlined the great humanitarian ideas he had developed.

The publication of his «Complete Works» in 1950—1983 by Soviet scholars revealed the full contribution of Lomonosov, who has long been misunderstood by historians of science.

### **A. Pushkin**

A. Pushkin was a Russian poet, novelist, dramatist, and short-story writer. He is considered his country's greatest poet and the founder of modern Russian literature. He is the author of «Yevgeny Onegin», «Little Tragedies», «The Queen of Spades», «Boris Godunov» and wonderful verses and fairy tales.

We have grown up with his learned cat, who walked round and round the oak-tree, singing songs as he circled right, and telling tales as he circled left. We were fond of his exiled Prince, who was turned into a bumble-bee so that he could fly to his father's court and sting his wicked aunt on the nose. Later we experienced Onegin's boredom, Tatiana's unrequited love, Godunov's uneasy conscience, Herman's tension at the gaming table, Saliere's jealousy of Mozart, and heard the dead steps of the Stone Guest and the thundering hooves of the Bronze Horseman.

His life was no less exciting than his works. He was born in Moscow on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1799. His father came of an old boyar family. His mother was a granddaughter of Abram Hannibal, who, according to family tradition, was an Abyssinian princeling bought as a slave at Constantinople (Istanbul) and adopted by Peter the Great and became his comrade in arms. Pushkin immortalized

him in an unfinished historical novel, Arap Petra Velikogo (The Negro of Peter the Great). Like many aristocratic families in early 19<sup>th</sup> century Russia, Pushkin's parents adopted French culture. Alexander and his brother and sister learned to talk and to read in French. The children were left much to the care of their maternal grandmother, who told Alexander stories of his ancestors in Russian. From his old nurse Arina Rodionovna Yakovleva, a freed serf, he heard Russian folktales. During summers at his grandmother's estate near Moscow he talked to the peasants and spent hours alone, living in the dream world of an imaginative child. He read a lot and gained stimulus from the literary guests who came to the house.

In 1811 Pushkin entered the newly founded Imperial Lyceum at Tsarskoye Selo and there began his literary career. Here he wrote a number of verses following the style of the Romantic poets.

While at the Lyceum Pushkin also began his first completed major work, the romantic poem *Ruslan i Lyudmila* with an old Russian setting and making use of

Russian folklore. It brought Pushkin fame, and Zhukovsky presented his portrait to the poet with the inscription «To the victorious pupil from the defeated master».

In 1817 Pushkin accepted a post in the foreign office at St. Petersburg. He joined the Green Lamp association founded for discussion of literature and history but in reality a branch of a secret society, the Union of Welfare. In his political verses and epigrams he made himself the spokesman for the ideas and aspirations of the participants of the Decembrist rising of 1825. For these political poems, Pushkin was banished from St. Petersburg to a remote southern province.

He travelled in the Caucasus, the Crimea and gained the impressions for his «southern cycle» of romantic narrative poems: «Kavkazsky plennik» (The Prisoner of the Caucasus), «Bratya razboyniki» (The Robber Brothers), and «Bakhchisaraysky fontan» (The Fountain of Bakhchisaray).

In 1823 he started work on his central masterpiece, the novel in verse «Yevgeny Onegin» (1833).

From 1820 to 1824 he stayed in Kishinyov and Odessa. He led the life of a society, fought several duels, and was discharged and exiled to Mikhaylovskoye, near Pskov.

Although the two years at Mikhaylovskoye were unhappy for Pushkin, they were one of his most productive periods. Alone and isolated, he wrote «Tsygany» (The Gypsies), «Yevgeny Onegin», the poem «Graf Nulin» (Count Nulin), the historical tragedy «Boris Godunov».

Another extremely productive period is connected with Boldino, a family's estate near Nizhny Novgorod. There he wrote the so-called «Little Tragedies» — «Skupoy rytsar» (The Covetous Knight), «Motsart i Salyeri» (Mozart and Salieri), «Kamenny gost» (The Stone Guest), and «Pir vo vremya chumy» (Feast in Time of the Plague) and the famous short story «Pikovaya Dama» (The Queen of Spades).

Eventually, he was allowed to return to St. Petersburg. Soon marriage to one of the leading beauties of the society brought its problems. Pushkin was mortally wounded defending his wife's honour in a duel. And died on February 10, 1837.

Pushkin's use of the Russian language is astonishing in its simplicity and profundity. His novel in verse «Yevgeny Onegin» was the first Russian work depicting contemporary society and pointing the way to the Russian realistic novel of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Pushkin's importance as a great national poet was recognized even during his lifetime. Pushkin was the creator of the Russian literary language and stood as the cornerstone of Russian literature, «the beginning of beginnings». Pushkin has thus become an inseparable part of the literary world of the Russian people. He also exerted a profound influence on other aspects of Russian culture, most notably in opera.

Pushkin's work has struck an echo all over the world with its nobility of conception, its emphasis on civic responsibility, its life-affirming vigour, and its confidence in the triumph of reason over prejudice, of human charity over slavery and oppression.

His works are translated into all the major languages. They are transcending national barriers expressing most completely Russian national consciousness.

### **My Favourite American Writer**

I've read several books by American writers. The first American writer who came my way was Jack London whose stories struck me by unusual situations and the courage of his heroes. I also admire the humour of Mark Twain. I've read some of his stories and, of course, «The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn». A few years later I happened to read «A Farewell to Arms» by Ernest Hemingway and since then I've been fascinated by this great American writer.

When I read his biography I was impressed by his personality. He was born in 1899 in Oak Park, Illinois. His life <sup>1</sup> was full of adventures and events that required courage, strong will and determination. He began his career as a brave war correspondent during the first world war. The scope of his interests was incredibly wide.

His war experience and adventurous life provided the background for many of his short stories and novels. He achieved success with «A Farewell to Arms», the story of a love affair between an American lieutenant and an English nurse during the first world war.

Hemingway actively supported the Republicans in the Spanish civil war. In his articles he denounced the fascist regime of Franco. «The Fifth Column» is a play about the Civil War in Spain.

In 1940 Hemingway completed the novel «For Whom the Bell Tolls». It's a story about a young American teacher of Spanish who joins the Spanish partisans and gives his life for the cause of freedom.

In 1952 Hemingway finished his tale «The Old Man and the Sea». This story about an old Cuban fisherman is a hymn to human courage and endurance. Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954.

Hemingway is famous for his simple style, which has been widely imitated but never achieved by other writers. His heroes

### **My Favourite Russian Writer**

As far as Russian literature is concerned it's hard to name one favourite writer and one favourite book especially if we talk about the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, known as the «golden» and «silver» periods in the Russian culture. Such giants of Russian literature as A.Pushkin, I.Turgenev, F.Dostoyevsky, L.Tolstoy, A.Chekhov and many others are known all over the world.

The writer who stands out of this list for me is Dostoyevsky. I look upon him not only as a great writer but a great philosopher as well. His ideas had an immense influence on the literature that followed and his deep penetration into the human soul and the motives of people's behaviour impresses the modern reader as much as it did his contemporaries.

Dostoyevsky was born in Moscow in 1821 into a many-children family of a doctor. Though the Dostoyevskies were a middle-class family the father was able to provide the best education for his sons. They studied at one of the most prestigious Moscow private schools of the time. After leaving school, F. Dostoyevsky entered the Engineering College in St.Petersburg. He started writing at the age of 25. His first

publication was the novel «Poor People». In 1849 he was arrested for his political views and spent four years of his life as a convict.

Some years later Dostoyevsky and his brother Michael, who was his best friend throughout his life, started publishing a literary magazine «The Time». His world-famous masterpieces were all written between 1850 and 1880. For many years

Dostoyevsky suffered from epilepsy and that caused his death in 1881.

Among his outstanding novels are «The Brothers Karamazov», «Humiliated and Abused», «Crime and Punishment», «The Idiot», «Demons». I've read all of them, but I think I am most impressed by «The Idiot».

In this novel Dostoyevsky wanted to depict a living ideal man. As he was deeply interested in religion and knew a lot about it, he was convinced that Jesus Christ was the only positive person in the history of mankind. That is why the main character of the novel, Prince Myshkin, resembles Christ in his I qualities and intentions. Myshkin was Dostoyevsky's favourite I character. He comes back to Russia from Switzerland, but can't find his place in the society of «the cult of money». He argues I with other characters of the novel about beauty and morality.

**But** like Griboyedov's hero Chatsky he can't change much about the world he lives in. Myshkin can't be understood by the society which considers him «an idiot». Dostoyevsky contrasts two different approaches to human virtues and beauty. The main I character says that beauty will save the world. But in the end he realizes that it is beauty that should be rescued. Unable to adjust to the cruel society he found himself in, he becomes I mentally ill and is taken back to Switzerland.

Thus the eternal struggle between the good and the evil is | lost by Dostoyevsky's character, but the problems raised have I not lost their significance. At the present time Dostoyevsky is I still among the most widely read authors, whose contribution to I the world literature can't be overestimated. Although Dostoyevsky wrote about Russian people and the problems of E the Russian society of his time, his genius made the problems I raised international and vital for people of all nationalities and Dostoyevsky's legacy belongs to the whole world.

### **Yakub Kolas**

Yakub Kolas by right belongs to the outstanding people of our country. In his literary works he most fully expressed the spirit, character and hopes of the Belarusian people. His talent had a great effect on the development of literature and other arts in our country.

Yakub Kolas (Konstantin Mitskevich) was born on 3 November 1882 in a small village near the town of Stolbtsy in the family of a peasant. He spent his childhood in a village on the river Nieman, one of the most picturesque places in Belarus. Later on his family moved to another place where the future writer's father worked as a forest guard. The years spent there were the most unforgettable in the writer's childhood and youth. One of the main works by Yakub Kolas «New Land» depicts this period in the life of the writer's family. Here the future writer came to know a lot of new people and learned to respect the hard labour of a farmer. Through folk songs and legends he came to learn the authentic Belarusian language. The boy was first taught to read and write by the so-called director. Very soon reading became

his favourite pastime. Among his first favourite writers were Krylov and Pushkin both of whom made a great impression on the boy. After leaving school he worked hard to prepare for the entrance exams to Nesvizh teachers' training seminary. After receiving the diploma he worked as a teacher in Polessye. He couldn't remain indifferent towards social injustices and took part in peasants' disturbances. He was put into prison for organising an illegal teachers' congress. In 1921 Yakub Kolas moved to Minsk and since then was engaged both in creative and scientific activities.

One of the best known works by Yakub Kolas is the novel «Na Rostanyakh». Among his best works are also two large epics «New Land» and «Simon the Musician» which were published in 1923 and 1925.

My favourite work by Yakub Kolas is the poem «New Land». The poet worked at it for more than twelve years.

Most of the events described in the poem are based on the facts from the life of his family. But the poem is not just an autobiography of a peasant's family. It became an encyclopedia of peasants' life. It depicts their life, psychology, the peculiarities of the Belarusian national character and Belarusian nature.

Yakub Kolas is a classic of Belarusian literature, a truly people's writer. In his works he managed to show the best features of the Belarusian national character.

### **Mother Teresa**

Mother Teresa was a simple nun. She never wanted to be famous, but everyone in the world knows who she is.

Mother Teresa was born in **1910** in what is now Macedonia. She was the youngest of three children. Agnes's father died when she was a child. Her mother made dresses to support the family. Agnes's mother also liked to do charity work, such as visiting the sick. Agnes often went with her, and she enjoyed helping these people.

Even as a child, Agnes wanted to be a nun. When she was 18 years old, she joined a group of nuns in India. There, she chose the name Teresa. Then she went to Calcutta to work at St. Mary's School, in a convent. Sister Teresa worked there for 20 years and eventually became the principal.

One day in 1946 Sister Teresa was riding on a train to Darjeeling. She looked out of the window and saw dirty children wearing rags and sleeping in doorways. Sick and dying people were lying on dirty streets. At that moment, she believed God sent her a message. She decided to go to work with the poor.

Two years later, Sister Teresa left the convent and opened a school for the kids from poor families. Though at the very beginning the school had no roof, no walls, and no chairs, later it became well-known all around India. In 1948, Sister Teresa started her own group of nuns. They were called the Missionaries of Charity. The nuns lived in the slums with people who were poor, dirty, and sick. It was hard work and the days were long. But many young nuns came from around the world to join Mother Teresa.

Later, she started homes for children without families. She also started clinics. Over the years, news of her work spread around the world. Many people sent her

donations of money, others came to work with her. By 1990 the Missionaries of Charity were working in 400 centres around the world.

Mother Teresa got the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. But she always said her greatest reward was helping people. Her message to the world was: "We can do no great things — only small things with great love."

### **Pythagoras**

Pythagoras is often described as a very important mathematician, yet we know little about his achievements. What we do know is that he was the leader of a society which was half scientific and half religious. It was a secret society and today Pythagoras is still a mysterious figure.

It is believed that Pythagoras was born on the Greek island of Samos. His father was a merchant, and as a child, Pythagoras travelled with him selling their goods. Pythagoras was well educated. He learned music and poetry and had three philosophers to teach him who introduced Pythagoras to mathematics and advised him to travel to Egypt to learn more about mathematics and astronomy. So in 535 BC, Pythagoras travelled to Egypt where he visited many temples and took part in discussions with priests. Many of the customs he learnt in Egypt he came to adopt. For example, the Egyptian priests refused to eat beans and wear animal skins, as did Pythagoras later in his life.

In 525 BC the King of Persia invaded Egypt. Pythagoras was taken prisoner and was transported to Babylon. It was here, taught by the Babylonians, that he reached perfection in arithmetic and music. When Pythagoras returned to Samos he founded there a school which was called 'The Semicircle'. It seems that the people of Samos did not appreciate the teaching methods of Pythagoras and they treated him rudely and improperly. Furthermore, they wanted to involve Pythagoras in local politics against his will. For these reasons, he went to Italy.

Pythagoras believed that numbers rule the universe and that numbers are present in all things. He also connected mathematics to music and recognized the healing power of music. He used it as a kind of therapy to help those who were ill. Another of his beliefs was that there are three types of men: those who love wisdom, those who love honour and those who love wealth.

Pythagoras was a mathematician, an astronomer, and a philosopher. Today we remember him best for his famous geometry theorem, known as Pythagoras' theorem.

## **7. MASS MEDIA**

### **Reporting the news on television**

Each morning, the news director meets with editors and reporters, and gives them their assignments for the day. People may be sent to cover special events, accidents, or political events. They may also be assigned to work together on a future special report or a documentary. By 9.00 or 10.00 the reporters and camera crews have left for their assignments.

A reporter and a cameraman often work together to cover a story. They must decide how to show the viewers what really happened. If they are covering a football



game, a speech or a political event, the reporter takes notes or tape records of what happens, while the camera must decide how and what to film. The reporter must also decide who to interview. The camera crew may use a life camera, which can film events and broadcast them at the same time. If they are covering some kind of event (weather disaster or accident) which has already happened, they must use interviews and pictures to recreate the event for the television viewers.

Newspapers prepare scripts for special features, documentaries, or interviews.

The news programme itself is directed from a control room in the studio, which contains monitors so the director can see what each camera is showing. The news director decides how the programme will be shown on television. Before the show, he looks at the film made by the camera crew and edits (or cuts) it to fit into the show. In the control room are the director, an audio man and a video man (who controls the quality of the sound and pictures). During the news broadcast, the news director gives orders to the cameramen and other technicians. He tells them to switch from one camera to another, or to use film, videotape or even a live broadcast.

In most larger American stations, there is usually a chief news commentator (called an "anchorman" in America). There are also several reporters who report news from the studio, and others reporters who present the news "live" (from where it actually happens). Finally there is a weatherman and one or more sports announcers. The chief commentator not only presents the news, but also gives editorials (opinions) about the news.

### **Vast majority of people still disbelieve in mass media**

Alarming statistics reinforce skepticism about mass media. Many people think that it's not democratic and that it's not objective. Not so, says News Agency commentator — and in his exclusive interview he explains why.

Reader: We need democratic mass media. We want everything printed correspond to our interests. I mean the interests of all of us: workers, farmers, school teachers, doctors, sportfans, artists, servicemen and children. Are you going to stir up readers' interest focusing only on social life?

Correspondent: Certainly not. Pressmen see the aim of mass information media not only in informing the people of everything that is going on both in their own country and abroad, but in helping them to understand and correctly interpret the events. We realize that information has a very great educational role to play. We also know the great responsibility resting on the mass media. Broadly speaking they are means of creating moral and political climate.

R- But what climate? It's clear that information media can serve either the purposes of peace and confidence among nations or they can spread all over the world the lies and discord between countries and peoples. What is the credo of your journalists?

C: In the majority of cases they write for their readership things which serve the good of man, they try to give objective interpretation of news.

R- But the majority of people think that mass media information doesn't promote, in many cases, mutual understanding and mutual respect among nations. They say that the facts it informs the readers of are interpreted in the interests of

Business only.

C: I think it's not so. The press traditionally gives a lot of attention to new-born market relations, but rationally limiting

it. Our correspondents keep their finger on the pulse of the country and serve the common cause. That's why reader's letters take a great deal of space in the newspapers. In fact, the reader not only buys the paper, but helps to write it. Our newspapers publish thousands of letters, those which are more current and the ones which would be more interesting for the majority of the readers.

### **Newspapers in Britain**

The British people are great readers of newspapers. There are few homes to which at least one paper is not delivered every morning. Many households have two, or even three newspapers every day.

As in other countries, newspapers in Great Britain differ greatly in their ways of presenting the news. There are serious papers for those who want to know about important happenings everywhere. There are popular newspapers for those who prefer entertainment to information. There are newspapers whose pages are largely filled with news of sport and with stories of film stars, or accounts of crime and of law court trials.

The London newspaper that is best known outside Britain is probably "The Times". It began in 1785.

The correspondence columns of "The Times" are interesting and often amusing. Most of the letters are on serious subjects, but from time to time there can be a long correspondence on a subject that is not at all serious, perhaps on a new fashion of dress, or the bad manners of the younger generation compared with the manners of thirty years ago.

"The Times", of course, does not publish the strip cartoons that are so common in the cheaper and popular papers. It does, however, publish a cross-word puzzle every day, with clues that are both clever and amusing.

### **Press is the Mirror of Current Events**

Every day millions of newspapers and magazines are published all over the world. Now it's difficult to say how many different newspapers and magazines are issued in our country. The list of their titles may seem endless. There are different national and local papers, dailies and weeklies, some that are issued three times a week and even monthlies. They satisfy different interests and tastes.

People subscribe to various papers and magazines, but they have one common aim. People want to know what is going on in the world, in the country, city, town or village, what people are anxious about. That's why newspapers and magazines inform the readers of the current events and home and international affairs. They inform the readers of all important developments, give full attention to the most important national and international affairs, carry commentaries on the most interesting events. There are also articles on sports, art, music, new books. There are interviews with well-known people and celebrities. Everything printed corresponds to people's interests.

As our press is democratic, following the principle of freedom of speech, it makes readers acquainted with different opinions on various problems.

As for me, I subscribe to «Computer News». It's a weekly for specialists and entrepreneurs. In Britain such newspapers are called quality newspapers, because they are serious and cover news thoughtfully. In «Computer News» you can find all the necessary information on computer world: new discoveries and inventions, network, software, hardware, interesting and entertaining facts, advertisements. The paper has a supplement, which contains information about the computer market: prices, sellers, types of computers and peripherals on sale.

This newspaper has a circulation of 10500. Personally I, find it useful and interesting. And if you are interested in all these things I advise you to subscribe to «Computer News». You won't regret.

This newspaper has a circulation of 10500. Personally I, find it useful and interesting. And if you are interested in all these things I advise you to subscribe to «Computer News». You won't regret.

### **The Role of TV in our Life**

TV is one of the best inventions the man has ever made. We are beginning to forget what the world was without TV. Everybody knows what a great force TV is in the world today. Thanks to TV we get a great amount of information. It gives wonderful possibilities for education. It enriches our intellect. We also become better informed by watching documentaries, science programmes, discussions and by learning the most important issues of the day.

TV gives an opportunity to see the best actors, sport matches, to meet famous people. TV brings the world to our room. We see people in our country and in other lands and learn about their customs, occupations, traditions, problems. We become cultured people by learning more of the arts. Television helps us to relax after a hard day's work, so we can then cope better with the next day's work. Besides, there is a considerable amount of TV programmes: News, different talk-shows, TV games, concerts and variety shows, sport programmes, feature films, serials and so on and so forth. They are of great entertainment value and provide useful topics for conversation. A lot of these programmes are very popular. For example, News deal with political and social problems of modern society. Their aim is to give analysis of the problems and show different view points. They are concerned with the country's national events, the most topical political problems of the day. Musical Review presents songs, pop groups, folk songs. It is very popular with TV viewers.

Thus, we can say that TV is a great force which attracts millions of people to the screens.

But tastes differ. Some people are against TV. They say that TV is doing a lot of harm. It occupies a lot of free time. People used to have hobbies, to meet with friends, to go to the cinema or theatre, to read books, to listen to music. Nowadays many people sit watching TV hour by hour. They don't read books, they don't do sports, they begin to forget the art of conversation. Watching TV for a long time may lead to poor health and ruin eye-sight.

But nobody makes you watch TV for hours. You can simply switch off your TV-set. But nobody can deny the fact, that TV is a great force in the world today.

### **The British press**

Probably in no other country are there such great differences between the various national daily newspapers — in the type of news they report and the way they report it.

On the one hand, there are the “quality” newspapers: *The Times*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, the *Financial Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. These concern themselves, as far as possible, with factual reports of major national and international events, with the world of politics and business and with the arts and sport.

On the other hand, there are the “populars” and “tabloids,” so-called because of their smaller size. The tabloids — the most widely read of which are *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Express*, the *Daily Mirror*, *The Sun* and *The Daily Star* — concentrate on more emotive reporting of stories often featuring sex, violence, the Royal Family, film and pop stars, and sport. It’s often said that the popular press aims to entertain its readers rather than inform them.

The tabloid press is much more popular than the quality press.

In some countries, newspapers are owned by government or by political parties. This is not the case in Britain. Newspapers here are mostly owned by individuals or by publishing companies, and the editors of the papers are usually allowed considerable freedom of expression. This is not to say that newspapers are without political bias. Papers like *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Daily Express* and *The Sun*, for example, usually reflect Conservative opinions in their comment and reporting, while the *Daily Mirror* and *The Guardian* have a more left-wing bias.

In addition to the 12 national daily newspapers there are nine national papers which are published on Sundays. Most of the “Sundays” contain more reading matter than daily papers, and several of them also include “colour supplements” — separate colour magazines which contain photographically-illustrated feature articles. Reading a Sunday paper, like having a big Sunday lunch, is an important tradition in many British households.

Besides, nearly every area in Britain has one or more local newspapers.

The British are one of the biggest newspaper-reading nations in the world.

