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**Методические указания по организации
самостоятельной работы
для студентов направления подготовки
41.03.05**

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TEXT №1

The British Isles

England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland were once customarily known as the British Isles. The phrase is still used as a geographical expression. But even as such the term must be used with caution. In fact, the people of these islands have seldom been united, politically or culturally. Efforts were made to unite them since the 12th century but they only came under the same monarch in 1603, and the complete political union, which was at last achieved in 1801, endured only for 120 years.

The first attempt at unity was made by the Norman king Edward I at the end of the 13th century. He succeeded in Wales where huge Norman castles were built and their lords guarded the frontier. Edward I emphasized his conquest of Wales by conferring the title of prince of Wales in 1301 on his eldest son. The title has been regularly given to the eldest son of the reigning monarch ever since. Norman colonization of Ireland, though, did not stretch far beyond Dublin and the coastal towns. In Scotland, Edward failed disastrously.

It was not till the reign of Elizabeth that Scotland was brought — and brought permanently — into the orbit of England. The Scottish dependence on England was achieved by diplomacy and was completed in 1603 by the succession of James VI, to the throne of England as James I.

In the same year the most formidable Irish rebellion was crushed; and James I as the ruler of the three kingdoms could style himself King of Great Britain. But it was a fragile union, and it disintegrated in the next reign.

The third attempt to unify all the three kingdoms was marked by the Act of Union with Scotland in 1707. This Act also illustrates the differences between English policy in Scotland and English policy in Ireland, which were the results of the revolutions of the 17th century. While the Act of Union with Scotland was being negotiated, the Irish House of Commons passed a resolution requesting a similar union, but the English government declined to consider it. The Union of Britain with Ireland came nearly a century later — in 1801. By that time the Irish Parliament was reluctant and the British government had to use wholesale bribery in order to achieve it.

Britain has never been a completely unitary state. It has never had under the same Crown one legislature, one established church, one law. The period from 1800 to 1922 is the period during which unity was most nearly achieved. Even so it was a fragile unity and cracks were not long in appearing. In 1921 a treaty was signed

giving dominion status to Ireland with Ulster (Northern Ireland) remaining within the United Kingdom. Since 1922 the process of unification has been reversed. The greater part of Ireland is independent, and there are political parties which advocate separation and independence for Scotland and Wales.

Comprehension questions:

1. Why should one be careful when using the phrase “the British Isles”?
2. When was the first attempt at unity made? Was it successful?
3. What difficulties did the union with Ireland present?
4. Can Great Britain be described as a unitary state? Why?
5. What does the question mark in the title imply?

TEXT №2

The British Empire

PRE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. What is an empire? In what way is it different from other states? Is there a second meaning of the word? (Give examples)
2. The world has witnessed the rise and fall of many empires. Can you name a few?
3. Think about the history of the Russian Empire. What facts do you remember?

Read the text about the British Empire and point out the stages in Britain's empire building.

At the beginning of the 20th century the British Empire covered more than one fifth of the land mass of the globe; it had interests on every sea, and was the largest empire the world had ever known. At that time London was the centre of the world, and children learned phrases which expressed in simple terms the “truths” which the British regarded as paramount: The sun never sets on the British Empire; India is the brightest jewel in the Imperial Crown; Britannia rules the waves.

The first stage in Britain's empire-building began in the reign of Elizabeth I. The colonies in Virginia and New England along the east coast of North America were central to the First British Empire. After the revolt of the thirteen original British colonies in 1776, the flag of the infant United States was raised, which is usually taken as marking the beginning of a second British Empire. Its foundations were laid in 1750–1850, during which Britain acquired India, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and other territories. The colonization of Australia and New Zealand and, later South Africa was mostly settling and cultivating unoccupied lands. In India, a high civilization more ancient than Europe, which became the centre-piece of the second British Empire, the situation was different. It demanded new diplomatic skills. The unwise treatment of Indian soldiers in British pay resulted in revolt in 1847 which quickly became a national movement against foreign rule.

It was India with its strong independence movement that eventually started the disintegration of the British Empire. After 1945 the Empire collapsed in a matter of 20 years, leaving a legacy of British-influenced institutions, (the British Commonwealth of Nations with Queen Elizabeth II as its head) and, in some cases, anti-British feelings.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What relations prevail within the former empire? Why?
2. Is it inevitable that empires eventually collapse?
3. Looking back at ancient and recent history can you point out possible consequences of the disintegration of empires?

TEXT №3

Russians in Northern California

In 1812 the Russians founded Fort Ross in Northern California, the farthest reach of their eastward expansion. The advance to the Pacific started in 1582 when the renegade cossack Ermak captured Isker, the capital of Western Siberian Khakanate. In 1741 the Russians reached Alaska, which remained Russian territory till 1867.

Count Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, a Russian-American company(1) official, was dispatched in 1806 to Spain's north-ern province of California. His immediate mission was to try to buy supplies, but he was also to investigate prospects for the fur trade.

Spanish authorities were not happy to receive Rezanov. Spain's hold on its frontier province was fragile, and it did not wish to assist another power that might threaten its claim. Besides, trade with the Russians was illegal.

Rezanov knew that he must succeed, or the colony at Sitka(2) might starve. In the midst of the negotiations, which seemed doomed to failure, the count announced that he had fallen in love with Dona Concepcion Arguello. It was no coincidence that she was the daughter of the commandant of the San Francisco Presidio(3). The fifteen-year-old Dona Concepcion, fell for the gallant count, who was thirty-five years her senior. She spoke up for him, and the authorities of church and state, including her father, were won over. Rezanov was furnished with the goods he needed.

But the marriage had to wait. Dona Concepcion, a Roman Catholic, needed permission from Rome, and Rezanov had to ask for the Tzar's consent to the marriage. Rezanov sailed for Sitka with his cargo of supplies, promising to return to his betrothed as soon as possible.

Alas, he was never seen again in California. Rezanov died tragically enroute to Russia. Years went by. Not knowing of his death Concepcion waited, watching the sea for his ship to return, hoping, loving. She turned down many suitors. Dona Concepcion learned of Rezanov's death only after years of waiting. She never married.

Writers have made much of the star-crossed(4) romance. In many accounts, Dona Con-cepcion grieves her lost love; her life thereafter is desperate and empty. The evidence suggests a more commonplace affair. Rezanov might have intended to marry her, but his proposal probably was more a matter of expedience (практическая целесообразность) than love. Far from wasting away in later life,

Dona Concepcion, according to one historian, “became a stout and rather jolly woman who found much pleasure in acts of kindness and charity”. Rezanov brought back two ideas from his venture into Spanish California — the desire to establish permanent trade relations, and the wish to found a trading base on what the Russians referred to as the “New Albion” coast north of Spanish territory. Six years after his death this wish became a reality.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think the story can be made into an exciting / romantic novel / poem? Have you read any? Is it similar to the story above?
2. Read the extract from the beautiful poem “Concepcion de Arguello” by Bret Harte* on the next page. Is it consistent with the facts given in the text? How do you understand the words “And by Love was consummated what Diplomacy begun”?
3. What is your opinion of Rezanov’s diplomatic skills?
4. Do you think the loss of Russia’s possessions in North America was inevitable?

TEXT №4

Commonwealth

The word 'Empire' is no longer in use. The term 'Commonwealth' has already been used for a long time to describe the independent countries associated under the British crown. Within the Commonwealth Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are Britain's first equal partners. The Commonwealth has no formal institutions, though informal contacts are well maintained. After 1945 its structure produced a new problem. Citizens of countries in the Commonwealth were free to emigrate to Britain, and by 1961 the numbers were so great that the Government decided on restriction. Nonetheless, by 1978 about two million people with origins in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the West Indies were living in Britain. There has always been some racial prejudice among the English. Today with the continuing change in the make-up of the population racist feelings in Britain seem to be on the rise.

What is racism according to the young?

Having to keep relationships secret

"I can't walk down the street with my boyfriend because our families wouldn't approve of us going out together." Lisa, 15

Being singled out

"I was in McDonald's and these lads said to my friend, 'Why are you going around with a Paki?' and pointed at me. Then they made jokes about there being a smell of curry." Parveen, 17

Ignorance at home

"My mum says she doesn't really mind my having black friends, but she would draw the line at me going out with 'one of them.'" Karl, 15

Not getting the respect you deserve

"I hate the way people speak to me as though I can't speak English, just because my parents are Chinese. They own a take-away and you would not believe the abuse they have to endure." Anna, 18

Racial discrimination

Racism is a belief that some races are superior based on the false idea that things like skin colour make some people better than others.

The Race Relations Act of 1976 makes it unlawful to discriminate against anyone because of their race, colour, nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins. It applies to: jobs, training, housing, education, services from councils, the health system, banks, pubs, clubs, restaurants, accommodation agencies, etc.

Despite the law, racial discrimination, as well as racial harassment and violence, are still wide-spread, and run through all areas of society. On average, a racial attack occurs every half hour. Black people are 60 times more likely than white people to be targets. Asian people, particularly women and children, experience the highest number of attacks.

The law cannot change, or do anything about, people's attitudes, particularly when racism is not legally recognised. It is also often difficult to prove that discrimination is happening.

Whites are not the only people who show racial prejudice. Blacks, Asians and Jews can be just as hostile in their attitudes to other groups.

Anti-racist organisations

There are many organisations, both locally and nationally, who are actively fighting against all forms of racial discrimination.

The Commission for Racial Equality exists to enforce the Race Relations Act, and will help anyone who feels they have been discriminated against.

Read the text for detail and answer comprehension questions.

1. Is Great Britain the formal leader of the Commonwealth?
 2. What problem did Great Britain face by 1961?
 3. What kind of racial prejudice do the young British people complain about?
 4. What does the Race Relations Act say?
 5. Who suffers most from racial discrimination in Britain?
 6. Does the law effectively protect the victims of racial discrimination? Why (not)?
 7. What is being done to improve the situation?
-

TEXT №5

Russians in London

The Russians are back in London — so much so that *Newsweek International* published the article “London calling” which describes it in some detail. Here are some excerpts.

Three centuries ago, at the age of 26, Peter the Great came to London. The Russian tsar toured the Houses of Parliament and the Tower of London. Dressed as a sailor, he strolled incognito through the streets of 17th century London, excited by the symbols of England’s maritime mastery docked along the Thames. When he went home to build St. Petersburg, Peter summoned England’s finest shipbuilders to build a first-class fleet to go with Russia’s splendid new capital. “The English island is the best and most beautiful in the world,” Peter said at the time.

Modern-day Russians, though, prize the city as the Wall Street of Europe — an English-speaking citadel of wealth and opportunity less than four hours by air from Moscow or St. Petersburg. The Russian Embassy in London estimates that there are 100,000 or more Russian nationals living

in and around the British capital. So many Russians have bought one million-and-up properties that they are known in real-estate circles as “the new Arabs”. Russia’s upper crust now sends its children to posh English boarding schools. The extraordinary number of frequent-flyer businessmen landing at Heathrow persuaded British Airways to provide a VIP “Russian visitors service” to keep them happy.

The history of the links between these two countries on the far reaches of Europe is long and well-known. Trade relations go back at least as far as the days of Queen Elizabeth and Ivan the Terrible, when the English Muscovy Company exported cloth to the Russians in exchange for furs, wax and rope. Russians have always envied the English for their liberal political culture. In the 19th century, expat dissident Alexander Herzen chose London as the home of his influential emigre journal. A generation of revolutionaries settled in London, and the Reading Room of the British Museum counted Lenin and Trotsky among its famous visitors. Later came White Russians who fled their country after the Revolution, and, later still, Soviet refuseniks in the 1970s.

Unlike the Russian diaspora of old today's community is more broadly representative of the motherland. It comprises students and shopkeepers, businesspeople and artists, people who have not turned their back on post-Soviet

Russia, but rather brought a chunk of it with them. They're here to make money, get an education or just get away for a while.

Money is a big mover in this new diaspora. Rich Russians come to Sotheby's auctions, hoping to repatriate paintings by the likes of Serebriakova and Makovsky. At one recent auction of Russian art, Russians snapped up nine of the 10 most expensive paintings.

Natasha Chouvaeva, publisher of the Russian language *The London Courier*, has witnessed the transformation of the Russian community since she arrived in 1991. "Then there were the rich and the asylum seekers — the two extremes," she says. "Now the recent immigrants are middle-class Russians who just want to try their luck in the West. We used to be an expat newspaper. We'd tell readers how to find a solicitor (адвокат) or how to find a good school for their children. But now people don't need that. They just want to keep the cultural side up and pass the language on to their kids."

The transformation underway in London extends well beyond the Russian community. Veteran Muscovites on the Thames say long-held stereotypes of Russia — reinforced by Western ignorance — are finally breaking down more than a decade after the end of the cold war. As Russians broaden their horizons, it seems, Britons are doing the same. Aliona Muchinskaya, director of the Red Square PR agency in London, recalls her first visit to the British capital 11 years ago. "People asked me whether we had refrigerators in Russia". I said, "No. We use the snow". And they thought I was serious! Now people are much more aware of what is going on in Russia".

The changing face of London's Russian community seems less an astonishment—and more like another chapter in a very long story. "We're part of a living tradition," says maestro Gergiev, the music director of St. Petersburg's acclaimed Mariinsky Opera. "The bridge between Britain and Russia has always existed. We're just walking freely over it again".

True / False Statements:

1. Peter the Great was the first Russian tsar to establish trade relations with England.
2. A VIP "Russian visitors service" at Heathrow is a sign of rich Russians' "invasion" in Great Britain.
3. London has always been the home of Russian revolutionaries and dissidents.
4. The Russian diaspora in London has changed a lot over the past decade or so.
5. The English are both ignorant of and hostile to Russians.

TEXT №6

New Media

With wifi* connectivity everywhere in the next decade, people will be divided into three categories: the constantly wired, the selectively wired and the disconnected. Freedom will depend on the ability to se-lect which group you belong to. Relationships between these groups will define society. As most transactions and interactions (economic, electoral, health; education, travel, relationships, and so on) will occur electronically, your personal identity will have to be protected by both you and the government.

* Wifi — wireless fidelity allows you to connect to the Internet from virtually anywhere.

Society

Mental health and quality of life will be worse, as pop-ulation growth eats up green space. More people will be leaving the UK for better living environments (France, Spain). Globalisation will leave us time-stressed and de-natured. Britain's cities will be denser, and more claustro-phobic. Terrorism, drug abuse and drinking will be more widespread. "Natural" (man-made) disasters will be on the rise. Hybrid green cars using some combination of electricity, hydrogen, biodiesel and petrol, will be com-mon on the roads. GM* foods will have spread world-wide — though not quite to the UK. Offices will house dormitory capsules** to maintain round-the-clock pro-ductivity.

* GM — genetically modified;

** Dormitory capsules — a type of hotel where people stay when they finish work late and do not have time to go home.

Science

We will be living in a hotter, stormier country struggling to balance its energy needs with its obligations to decrease carbon-dioxide emissions. A national campaign to build new nuclear plants will become the main focus. Opponents will stress the dangers, and will insist on using wind plants to provide carbon-free electricity. Few experts believe such plants could produce enough electricity and our leaders may have to support new nukes* for Britain. On a more positive note, research on human stem cells** will allow it to have widespread clinical use, giving hope to patients with diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

* Nukes — nuclear power plants;

** Stem cell — a cell taken from a person or animal at an early stage of development and capable of developing into cells of any type.

Global Change

Many of the big changes that have affected our lives over the past couple of decades haven't been predicted by anyone — such as the coming of the internet, the disappearance of communism in eastern Europe almost overnight in 1989–1990, the war in ex-Yugoslavia, the anti-globalisation movement, 11 September 2001, and the invasion of Iraq. Almost certainly, something else as yet unforeseen will come out of the side-field over the next few years to influence our everyday lives and politics. So I will say what I'd like to see, rather than offer empty predictions. I hope (and believe) that Great Britain will become a more social-democratic country. I hope (but doubt) the US will change its attitudes to energy dependence and the ecological crisis. I hope (and believe it to be a real possibility) the aim of ending absolute poverty in the world can be solved.

Fashion

Fashion will polarise: it will either be about being incredibly well-dressed or incredibly casual, with almost nothing in between. The area right under the bust — the midribs — will continue to be exposed. To be able to show this you'll have to stay in really good shape. For men, it's about suits with cling*, and higher heels.

*With cling — fitting in a way that shows the shape of your body.

Comprehension and discussion questions.

1. Are the predictions mostly optimistic or pessimistic?
2. Do the authors tend to focus on the technological advance?
3. In what sphere(s) are the most dramatic changes likely to take place?
4. Which of these do you think a) will certainly happen (*of course, it will...; it is sure to...*), b) will probably happen (*I expect it will...*) c) perhaps will happen (*there is a chance it will...*) Why?
5. Are any of these changes relevant to Russia?

TEXT №7

The World is Running Out of Children

It is not hard to understand how most of us form the impression that overpopulation is one of the world's most pressing problems. Turn on your television and you see asylum-seekers slip-ping across border fences, or crowds of youths throwing stones somewhere in the Middle East. We hear of child soldiers in Africa, the disappearing rainforests of Brazil and melting polar ice caps — all caused by a human population that has nearly doubled in the past 40 years.

Yet, beneath the surface of events, something else is happening. The United Nations Population Division estimates that the number of infants and toddlers in the world (ages 0–4) will begin to decline within little more than ten years. The number of children under 15 will begin to decrease in little more than 20 years. This means that in future population growth will be due to increases in the numbers who survive to older ages. By 2050, there will be 35 million fewer children in the world than today, and 1.2 billion more people aged over 60.

The new demographic tendencies in the world get stranger. Virtually anywhere one looks in the developing world — Egypt, Iraq, Mexico — the pattern is the same. By mid-century, 30 per cent of China's population will be aged over 60, and its total population could be less than it was in 1980. Even Africa is ageing at nearly double the rate of the US, and during the remainder of this century it will likely grow older than Europe is today.

Countries such as Italy and Japan at least got a chance to grow rich before they grew old. Most developing countries are growing old before they get rich.

Why is this happening? It is easy to explain why there are fewer children in developed coun-tries. In today's advanced economies, many people haven't yet finished school or got established in a career, before their fertility(1) begins to decline. Then there is the rising cost of raising chil-dren. A recent survey found that parents in Britain spend on average £164,000 on each child, including the cost of university.

Now the developing world is experiencing the same demographic change, only at a far faster pace. With the rapid growth of megacities, half the world's population now lives in urban areas, where children offer little or no economic benefit to their parents. And like their counterparts in the industrialised world, women in the third world increasingly take jobs and so they, too, may lose income when they bear children.

The availability of television also seems to have a dramatic effect. Since 1975, for example, Brazil's fertility rate has dropped to just 2.27 children per woman. This is not the result of a family planning programme, since Brazil has never adopted one. Today, the number of hours that a Brazilian woman spends watching telenovelas (domestically produced soap operas) strongly predicts how many children she will have. These soaps typically show wealthy individuals living the high life in big cities. The telenovelas have the same cultural message as many North American and western European cultural exports: that people with wealth are people who have at most one or two children.

At first, slower population growth, and the population ageing that goes with it, seems beneficial. Many economists believe that falling birth rates helped make possible the economic boom that occurred first in Japan, and then in many other Asian nations, beginning in the 1960s. As the number of children declined, so did the burden of their dependency.

Yet even if declining fertility rates bring a "demographic dividend", that dividend eventually has to be repaid if the trend continues. At first there are fewer children to feed, clothe and educate, leaving more for adults to enjoy. But soon enough there are fewer productive workers as well, while there are also more and more dependent elderly, each of whom use up far more resources than a child does, mostly in health-related expenses.

This dynamic suggests one of the many ways in which population ageing may become a vicious cycle¹⁶. As the cost of supporting the elderly has risen, governments have already raised taxes on younger workers, and will have to do so much more often in the future. Younger workers will become less able to afford children, thus causing a new cycle of population ageing.

So where will the children of the future come from? Some biologists believe that modern human beings have created environment in which the "fittest", or most successful, individuals are precisely those who have few, if any, children. So does the future belong to those who believe in large families out of religious or chauvinistic convictions?

It seems that those who oppose modern ideas will have an evolutionary advantage, whether they are clean-living Mormons, or Muslims who still live in comparatively large families, or members of new sects that believe in natalism.

Can secular societies avoid population loss and decline?

In his 1968 bestseller, *The Population Bomb*, Paul R. Ehrlich warned: "The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s the world will suffer famines — hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death." Fortunately, Ehrlich's prediction proved wrong, perhaps in part because so many people believed it

would come true. The world now faces the unexpected challenge of population ageing and decline. We are in many ways lucky to have this problem instead of its opposite, but a problem it still is.

Read the text for detail and answer comprehension questions:

1. What is a widespread belief about the causes of many environmental problems?
2. What changes will have taken place in the world's population by 2050?
3. In what parts of the world will the population age more quickly?
4. What is the main economic factor which contributes to the decline in the number of children?
5. Where is this tendency more evident: in cities or rural areas? Why?
6. In what way is television to blame for fewer births?
7. Why is population ageing likely to become a vicious cycle?
8. Who are the "fittest" individuals in modern environment?
9. Why does the author believe that in a way we are lucky to face the problem of population decline?

TEXT №8

Our children are our future

President Vladimir Putin highlighted a demographic crisis as the most serious problem facing Russia in his state of the nation address on May 10, 2006. He outlined three ways of dealing with the population decline: raising birth rate, lowering mortality rate, and working out an effective migration policy.

To boost birth rates, the president said, monthly child benefits should be increased from 800 rubles to 1,500 rubles (\$ 55) for the first child, and mothers should be paid 3,000 (\$110) a month for their second child. He also suggested that the government should give women at least 250,000 rubles (\$ 9,225) as financial aid following the birth of a second child.

These steps may or may not improve the demographic situation in the country, but there is another acute problem Russia is facing.

At the beginning of 2003, Russia's child population was 30.5 million, with approximately half a million children, or two out of every hundred in institutional care (orphanages and boarding schools). The dramatic decline in Russia's economic health has created a new class of "social orphans": children whose parents are unable to take care of them. Many of these children are runaways, children who prefer living on the streets to enduring life in physically and sexually abusive, poverty-stricken families. Often they get arrested for petty crimes and are brought over to children's homes by the police.

A fifteen-year-old Volodya came to a Moscow children's home escorted by the police. He had lived in a basement alone with his four-year-old sister for three years because his alcoholic mother had sold their apartment to feed her addiction. He eventually went to the police and asked for a place for himself and his sister to live. The police also brought two twin 12-year-old sisters who had been arrested for stealing. They had been living on the streets playing musical instruments for money since they were six. They were unable to read or write. In the end Volodya earned his high school diploma, entered a technical college and got his own apartment. The twin girls completed three years of study in one academic year. These, of course, are the success stories.

Yet, it is no secret that children in institutions have always found it difficult to integrate into society. Children need far more than adequate food and shelter. A child cannot truly grow into a fully-rounded human being without tenderness. Even though educators in the orphanages and boarding schools are eager to give it, their

charges still enter the adult world emotionally and socially unprepared for the problems ahead.

Thirteen-year-old Yura Parfenov used to wander around the cold, dark streets of Kaliningrad city, in western Russia, looking for his alcoholic mother. Yura didn't start school at the age of seven, he had no school uniform or books. He was taken away by social workers and put in an orphanage. Yura started going to school and did quite well in some subjects... But there was no privacy at the orphanage, and he felt lonely.

His life changed dramatically when Nadezhda Tkachenko made him an offer he couldn't refuse. "I will take you in, Yura. I will be your foster parent. Would you like to come and live in our family?" He nodded silently, hiding tears of joy and a small fear of what would happen to him if this fostering didn't work.

Nadezhda Tkachenko, now 48, fostered her first child from the infant orphanage in 1996. That was Vanechka, a three-year-old boy.

"After we had lived with Vanechka for four years, I realized that I was able to help one more child," says Nadezhda.

"All of us understand that these children come from difficult families. They are children of drug addicts and alcoholics. You need courage and you need to find the resolve in your heart in order to take such responsibility."

Once she started, she couldn't stop. She subsequently took in Tanya, Olya, Lena, Anya and then Yura.

Today there are six children ranging from 7 to 17 years of age in the Tkachenko household. They live in a two-room apartment and manage to find enough space for every member of the big family. Everybody has his or her own responsibilities.

They help each other with their homework, they take turns to cook, wash clothes and iron. They have fun making their family newspaper and preparing special gifts for family birthdays. Yura couldn't hide his tears when he got a real watch for his birthday, the first birthday present he ever received.

The Tkachenkos are one of more than 200 foster families in Kaliningrad. The fostering system is now developing in the Russia Federation with UNICEF support.

"Fostering has many advantages," says the Vice-Mayor of Kaliningrad. "First, foster parents receive an income but the amount needed to support a child in a foster home is considerably less than if they stay in an orphanage. Secondly, children get a place where they can acquire everyday knowledge, a place where

they can learn to make independent decisions and gain some skills in human communication. And most importantly, they get love and care in a family environment. That has no price tag."

P. S. In his state-of-the-nation address the president also promised to double subsidies for foster families, to 4,500 rubles (\$ 166) per month, a move widely welcomed by child-care experts.

Read the statements and decide which can be inferred from the text and which are clearly stated.

1. There are few success stories of children in institutional care.
2. The Russian President expressed his concern about the demographic situation in the country.
3. Fostering is not yet very popular in Russia.
4. Most "social orphans" have criminal records.
5. The Tkachenkos have six foster children.
6. Children in institutional care do not have the love and individual approach they need.
7. Foster homes work better for orphans than children's homes.

TEXT № 9

Problems of Youth

Life used to be fun for 'teenagers'. They used to have money to spend, and free time to spend it in. They used to wear teenage clothes, and meet in teenage coffee bars and discos. Some of them still do. But for many young people, life is harder now. Jobs are difficult to find. There's not so much money around. Things are more expensive, and it's hard to find a place to live.

Teachers say that students work harder than they used to. They are less interested in politics, and more interested in passing exams. They know that good exam results may get them better jobs.

Most young people worry more about money than their parents did twenty years ago. They try to spend less and save more. They want to be able to get homes of their own one day.

For some, the answer to unemployment is to leave home and look for work in one of Britain's big cities. Every day hundreds of young people arrive in London from other parts of Britain, looking for jobs. Some find work, and stay. Others don't find it, and go home again, or join the many unemployed in London. There used to be one kind of teenage fashion, one style, one top pop group. Then, the girls all wore mini-skirts and everyone danced to the music of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.

But now an eighteen-year-old might be a punk, with green hair and chains round his legs, or a skin head, with short, short hair and right wing politics, or a 'rasta', with long uncombed hair and a love for Africa. There's a lot of different music around too. There's reggae, the West Indian sound, there's rock, there's heavy metal, country and western, and disco. All these kinds of music are played by different groups and listened to by different fans.

When you read the newspapers and watch the news on television, it's easy to get the idea that British young people are all unemployed, angry and in trouble.

But that's not true. Three quarters of them do more or less what their parents did. They do their best at school, find some kind of work in the end, and get married in their early twenties. They get on well with their parents, and enjoy family life. They eat fish and chips, watch football on TV, go to the pub, and like reading about pop stars. After all, if they didn't, they wouldn't be British, would they?

TEXT № 10

Overpopulation

The world's population is an important issue. For hundreds of thousands of years, the human population grew at a low but steadily increasing rate. Then, in less than last 200 years, the world population went from several hundreds of millions to more than 6 billion people.

The Earth has certain limitations and in particular, there are limits to growth of things that consume the Earth resources.

Many people believe that these resources, both the Earth and the human intellect are endless and population growth can continue and that there is no danger that we will ever run out of anything. "Yet, many people had predicted catastrophic shortages of natural resources that would follow, because of continued population growth. Countries try not to raise this subject to the public much, because they do not want to raise panic.

Nowadays they have to do something about it before it gets out of hand. They try to censor it and sometimes lie. Do you know that the USA itself consumes 50 per cent of all electricity produced on the Earth? The population of the USA is just around 285 millions people. It is an interesting fact.

Overpopulation is like a big magnifying glass making little problems into big ones.

Overpopulation is destroying our environment, lowering the standard of living, and generally degrading the quality of life.

Overpopulation also causes more violence, environmental pollution that reflects on land degradation, tropical forest destruction, global warming and destruction of coral reefs. 6 billion member society has to get a huge food infrastructure, so society start producing genetically made food, which is cheaper than ordinary one but might reflect in the nutrient balance. For example, in China it is prohibited to have more than one child for a couple. There is a very dangerous situation in India. By the year 2025 its population might reach 1.5 billion people.

The planet urgently needs population control. Birth control, abortion and quotas need to be supported, if the planet is to remain habitable in the long term.

Every second five people are born and two people die, so there is a gain of three people. At this rate, the world population is doubling every 40 years and would be: 12 billions in 40 years, 24 billions in 80 years and 48 billions in 120 years. But the Earth could provide food only for 20 billions

TEXT № 11

The Problem of Environmental Protection

Environmental protection is the main problem facing humanity nowadays. The image of a sick planet has become firmly established in the public mind lately.

Ten years ago the word 'ecology' hardly meant anything for the majority of people, but today we can't help bearing it in our minds. It has happened because of the growing effect of the rapid industrial development of the natural world which has negative features of its own. As a matter of fact the state of environment has greatly worsened of late.

There is no doubt that soil, water and air are contaminated with toxic wastes. Over the past few years we have been constantly speaking about ozone holes, droughts, high level of radiation, about food contaminated with chemicals. Scientists in many countries are very much concerned about drastic changes in weather patterns. The worst drought, the mildest winter and the most devastating hurricanes have become typical in those parts of the world where they used to be a rare occurrence.

Weather patterns have been changing recently due to the global warming-up process and its major reason — the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect is created by carbon dioxide emissions, released by industrial facilities and a constantly increasing number of cars. Thus it is of vital importance that the world should start cutting down the release of gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect. What is the reason for people getting so much worried about the state of environment? The answer to this question is fairly simple. The thing is the deterioration of the environment is telling heavily on people. They are paying for this with their health. And it is obvious what all people need is a healthy environment.

To solve this burning problem it is necessary for people to combine efforts, to raise safety standards at all industrial facilities, to adequately process by-products of industry, to set up an international space laboratory to monitor the state of environment and set up an international centre for emergency environmental assistance. All these measures will help us in solving these important problems and prevent us from dangerous illnesses and diseases.

TEXT № 12

European Women Yesterday and Today

In the 17th century rich women normally were taught at home by a tutor, they were taught subjects like Latin, French, Needlework and they were also taught how to look pretty and to play the piano and other instruments.

When they became older their parents decided who they were going to marry and the family of the woman should pay a dowry to the parents of the husband. A rich woman wouldn't normally get a job, they could just stay at home and look after the family and tell the servants what to do.

Poor women did not go to school or did not have an education; they just looked after their home, children and prepared meals or worked in fields. They didn't get paid much and had to work hard.

In the 19th century rich women were educated at home and learned pretty much the same as in the 17th century. They were learned to play the piano, speak French, entertain guests and look attractive. After 1870 it was made compulsory for all women to have an education. Girls didn't learn the same subjects as boys. Girls learnt subjects like laundry, cookery, needlework and housewifery skills.

Rich women did not work, but ran their home with the help of their servants, after 1870 some women became teachers and others could work as secretaries or clerks. So, women could work but there was a condition. At that time any woman had to retire when she got married.

Servants of rich women did all her domestic tasks at home. So all they needed to do at home was to look good and attractive and boss servants around.

Poor women had to work as well as bringing up her children, they had to work in coal mines and factories for long hours earning little money. Until 1870 young children from poor families had to work too.

In the 20th century, when the 1st World War started, women could leave their underpaid jobs and could get jobs at a factory because all men had gone off to fight for the war, so women worked in factories, making armours for the war.

When the war was over, women had to go back to their old jobs and they didn't earn as much money as they were used to earn. Later a typewriter was invented and jobs as secretaries became available for women. Some women became teachers. Women were now aloud to vote and the first female presidents came. Some women were involved in politics.

Women started to wear different clothes, they do not wear corsets any more, they wear shorter dresses, even trousers.

To my thinking, the role of women has changed quite a lot. I think all changes that happened in the 20th century were good, because women became to be treated more equally and even more due to the processes of emancipation.

TEXT № 13

Commonwealth of Independent States

Содружество Независимых Государств (СНГ)

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is a confederation, or alliance, created by Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia.

Up to 2005 it consisted of 11 former Soviet Republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Turkmenistan discontinued permanent membership as of August 26, 2005 and is now an associate member.

The creation of CIS signaled the dissolution of the Soviet Union and, according to leaders of Russia, its purpose was to allow a civilized divorce between the Soviet Republics. However, many observers have seen the CIS as a tool that would allow Russia to keep its influence over the post-Soviet states. Since its formation, the member-states of CIS have signed a large number of documents concerning integration and cooperation on matters of economics, defence and foreign policy. The CIS is headquartered in Minsk, Belarus. The chairman of the CIS is known as the executive secretary. All of the CIS's executive secretaries have been from Belarus or Russia. The current executive secretary is former Russian interior minister, Vladimir Rushailo.

Initiating the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the autumn of 1991, the leaders of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine met on December 8 in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha Natural Reserve, about 50 km north of Brest in Belarus, and signed an agreement establishing the CIS. At the same time they announced that the new confederation would be open to all republics of the former Soviet Union, as well as other nations sharing the same goals.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev described this as an illegal and dangerous constitutional coup, but it soon became clear that the development could not be stopped and on December 21, 1991, the leaders of 11 of the 15 constituent republics of the USSR met in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, and signed the charter, thus de facto ratifying the initial CIS treaty. The Soviet government had already recognized the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on September 6, 1991, and the three Baltic nations as well as Georgia refused to join CIS. The CIS charter stated that all the members were sovereign and independent nations and thereby effectively abolished the USSR.

The 11 original member-states were Armenia, Azerbaijan,* Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

In December 1993, Georgia also joined the CIS under somewhat controversial circumstances, following a civil war.

Between 2003 and 2005, the so called «colour revolutions» have been taking place in three CIS member states — Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. The official slogan of these revolutions was the democratization of the society. The new government and political leaders of these countries has taken a clearly pro-Western stance contrasted to their predecessors. And now we can see that Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan are quietly drifting away from the CIS.

In that time frame a number of statements have been made by member state officials, casting doubt on the potential and continued worth of the CIS.

TEXT № 14

European Union - Европейский союз

The European Union or the EU is an intergovernmental and supranational union of 25 European countries, known as member states. The European Union was established under that name in 1992 by the Treaty on European Union, the Maastricht Treaty. However, many aspects of the Union existed before that date through a series of predecessor relationships, dating back to 1951.

The European Union's activities cover all areas of public policy, from health and economic policy to foreign affairs and defence.« However, the extent of its powers differs greatly between areas. Depending on the area, the EU may therefore resemble a federation, for example, on monetary affairs, agricultural, trade and environmental policy or a confederation, for example, on social and economic policy, consumer protection, home affairs, or even an international organization, for example, in foreign affairs.

A key activity of the EU is the establishment and administration of a common single market, consisting of a customs union, a single currency adopted by 12 of the 25 member states, a Common Agricultural Policy, a common trade policy, and a Common Fisheries Policy.

The most important EU institutions are the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Court of Justice.

As to the enlargement of the EU there were five successive enlargements, with the largest occurring on May 1,2004, when 10 new member states joined.

Notwithstanding Greenland doesn't enter the EU because it was granted home rule by Denmark in 1979 and left the European Community in 1985, following a referendum.

Romania and Bulgaria will join the EU on 1 January 2007, so European Union will have 27 member states but if Croatia enter the EU by the year 2008 it will have 28 member-states. In time the European Union may grow to 30 member states. The process of enlargement is sometimes referred to as European integration.

In order to join the European Union, a state needs to fulfill the economic and political conditions generally known as the Copenhagen criteria, after the Copenhagen summit in June 1993. Also, according to the EU Treaty, each current member state and the European Parliament have to agree.

The European Union has 25 member states, an area of 3,892,685 km² and approximately 460 million EU citizens as of December 2004. If it were a country, it would be the seventh largest in the world by area and the third largest by population after China and India.

The European Union has land borders with 20 nations and sea borders with 31.

TEXT № 15

Greenpeace

In 1971, motivated by their vision of a green and peaceful world, a small team of activists set sail from Vancouver, Canada, in an old fishing boat. These activists, the founders of Greenpeace, believed a few individuals could make a difference.

Their mission was to «bear witness» to US underground nuclear testing at Amchitka, a tiny island off the West Coast of Alaska, which is one of the world's most earthquake-prone regions. Amchitka was the last refuge for 3000 endangered sea otters, and home to bald eagles, peregrine falcons and other wildlife.

Even though their old boat, was intercepted before it got to Amchitka, the journey sparked a flurry of public interest. The US still detonated the bomb, but the voice of reason had been heard. Nuclear testing on Amchitka ended that same year, and the island was later declared a bird sanctuary.

Today, Greenpeace is an international ecological organization that has 2.8 million supporters worldwide, and national as well as regional offices in 41 countries. Its headquarters are based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Greenpeace is a non-profit organization and nongovernmental. It unites people of different colours living in different continents and speaking different languages. The common mission of this organization is preserving life on the earth in its full variety.

Greenpeace does not accept donations from governments, corporations or political parties but relies on contributions from individual supporters and foundation grants. Greenpeace does not support any political party. Nevertheless, its members carry on a dialogue with all political forces and struggle for approving and passing laws for the welfare of our environment.

As a global organization, Greenpeace focuses on the most crucial worldwide threats to our planet's biodiversity and environment. It campaigns to stop climate change, save the oceans, stop whaling, say no to genetic engineering, stop the nuclear threat, eliminate toxic chemicals.

The goal of Greenpeace is to expose environmental criminals, and to challenge government and corporations when they fail to live up to their mandate to safeguard our environment and our future.

TEXT № 16

Interpol

Interpol, more correctly the International Criminal Police Organization, was created in 1923 to assist international criminal police co-operation. The organization's new name was adopted in 1956, prior to which it was known as the International Criminal Police Commission.

Interpol was founded in Austria in 1923 as the International. Criminal Police Commission. The organization came under control of Nazi Germany when Germany declared the Anschluss, political union between Germany and Austria. The staff and facilities of Interpol were utilised as an information gathering unit for the Gestapo, until the Nazi regime fell to Allied forces.

Senior military officials from Britain, France, Belgium and Scandinavia reorganized Interpol into today's organization.

The United States, after a period of isolationism, joined Interpol in 1961.

Interpol is the world's second largest international organization, after the United Nations; it currently has 184 member countries. It is financed by annual contributions from its member countries, which total about EUR 30 million; however, Europol receives^ million annually. The Organization is headquartered in Lyon, France, formerly headquartered in Saint Cloud, a town located in the vicinity of Paris.

Because of the politically neutral role Interpol must play, its Constitution forbids any involvement in any political, military, religious, or racial crimes. Its work concentrates primarily on public safety and terrorism, organized crime, illicit drug production and drug trafficking, weapons smuggling, trafficking in human beings, money laundering, child pornography, financial and high-tech crime, and corruption.

In October 2001, the Interpol General Secretariat employed a staff of 384, representing 54 different countries. That same month, Interpol began to change from a 9-to-5 agency to a 24-hour agency, making its work more efficient.

TEXT № 17

OSCE - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

ОБСЕ - Организация по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is an international organization for security. In its region it is concerned with early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. It has 55 participating states from Europe, the Mediterranean, the Caucasus, Central Asia and North America.

The decision making bodies of the organization are the Summit, Ministerial Council and Senior Council, with the Permanent Council, under the leadership of the Chairman-in-Office, who holds the position for one year. For 2005, it was the Slovenian Foreign Minister.

The OSCE headquarters are located in Vienna, Austria. The Organization also has offices in Copenhagen, Geneva, the Hague, Prague and Warsaw.

The OSCE employs close to 440 persons in its various Institutions. In the field, the Organization has about 750 international and 2,370 local staff.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, is the oldest OSCE institution, established in 1990. It is based in Warsaw, Poland, and is active throughout the OSCE area in the fields of election observation, democratic development, human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination, and rule of law.

The organization was established in 1973 as the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). Talks had been mooted about a European security grouping since the 1950s but the Cold War prevented any substantial progress until the talks in Helsinki began in November 1972. These talks were held at the suggestion of the Soviet Union which wished to use the talks to maintain its control over the communist countries in Eastern Europe. Western Europe, however, saw these talks as a way to reduce the tension in the region, furthering economic cooperation and obtaining humanitarian improvements for the populations of the Communist Bloc.

The CSCE opened in Helsinki on July 3, 1973 with 35 states sending representatives.

The collapse of Communism required a change of role for the CSCE. The Paris Charter for a New Europe which was signed on November 21, 1990 marked the beginning of this change. With the changes capped by the re-naming of the CSCE

to the OSCE on January 1, 1995, accordingly to the results of the conference held in Budapest, in 1994.

Ukraine was admitted to the organization on January 30, 1992. On February, 26 1992 Ukraine signed the Helsinki Final Act and on June, 16 of the same year the Charter of Paris was signed. So, Ukraine became the state-member of the OSCE.

TEXT № 18

The History of UN

- История Организации Объединенных Наций (ООН)

The term «United Nations» was coined by Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II, to refer to the Allies. Its first formal use was in the January 1, 1942 Declaration by the United Nations, which committed the Allies to the principles of the Atlantic Charter and pledged them not to seek a separate peace with the Axis powers. Thereafter, the Allies used the term «United Nations Fighting Forces » to refer to their alliance.

The idea for the United Nations was elaborated in declarations signed at the wartime Allied conferences in Moscow, Cairo, and Tehran in 1943. From August to October 1944, representatives of France, the Republic of China, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the USSR met to elaborate the plans in Washington, D.C. Those and later talks produced proposals outlining the purposes of the organization, its membership and organs, as well as arrangements to maintain international peace and security and international economic and social cooperation. These proposals were discussed and debated by governments and private citizens worldwide.

On April 25, 1945, the United Nations Conference on International Organizations began in San Francisco. In addition to the Governments, a number of non-government organizations were invited to assist in the drafting of the charter. The 50 nations represented at the conference signed the Charter of the United Nations two months later on June 26. Poland, which was not represented at the conference, but for which a place among the original signatories had been reserved, added its name later, bringing the total of original signatories to 51. The UN came into existence on October 24, 1945, after the Charter had been ratified by the five permanent members of the Security Council — Republic of China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States — and by a majority of the other 46 signatories.

The United Nations headquarters building was constructed in New York City in 1949 and 1950 beside the East River on land purchased by an 8.5 million dollar donation from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and designed by architect Oscar Niemeyer. UN headquarters officially opened on January 9, 1951. While the principal headquarters of the UN are in New York, there are major agencies located in Geneva, The Hague, Vienna, Montreal, Bonn.

UN membership is open to all peace-loving states that accept the obligations of the UN Charter and, in the judgement of the organization, are able and willing to fulfill these obligations.

TEXT № 19

The NATO - HATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), sometimes called North Atlantic Alliance, is an international organisation for defence collaboration established in 1949, in support of the North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington, D.C., on April 4, 1949. Nowadays NATO headquarters are located in Brussels, Belgium.

Initially there were 12 members in the NATO: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom and United States and it was created as the reaction on the USSR threat to occupy Western Europe. Firstly, it was intended so that if the USSR and its allies launched an attack against any of the NATO members, it would be treated as if it was an attack on all member states. This marked a significant change for the United States, which had traditionally favoured isolationist policies. Luckily, the feared invasion of Western Europe never came.

Greece and Turkey joined the initial 12 members of the organisation in February 1952. Germany joined as West Germany in 1955.

In 1966 Charles de Gaulle removes French armed forces from NATO's integrated military command to pursue its own nuclear defence programme. All non-French NATO troops are forced to leave France. This precipitates the relocation of the NATO Headquarters from Paris, France to Brussels, Belgium by October 16, 1967. However, France remained a member of NATO, notwithstanding it withdrew from the integrated military command. While the political headquarters are located in Brussels, the military headquarters, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), are located just south of Brussels, in the town of Mons.

Following France Greece also withdrew its forces from NATO's military command structure from 1974 to 1980 as a result of Greco-Turkish tensions following the 1974 Cyprus dispute.

In 1978 NATO countries defined two complementary aims of the Alliance, to maintain security and pursue detente. In 1982 Spain joins the alliance. On October 3, 1990, with the reunification of Germany, the former East Germany becomes part of the Federal Republic of Germany and the alliance. To secure Soviet approval of united Germany remaining in NATO, it is agreed that there will be no new foreign military bases in the east, and that nuclear weapons will not be permanently stationed there. On March 31, 1991 the Warsaw Pact comes to an end. It is officially dissolved on July 1, 1991. The Soviet Union collapses in December of the same year.

In 1994 NATO takes its first military action, shooting down two Bosnian Serb aircraft violating a UN no-fly zone over central Bosnia and Herzegovina. NATO airstrikes the following year help bring the war in Bosnia to an end, resulting in the Dayton Agreement. In 1997 three former communist countries, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland, are invited to join NATO. They joined in 1999. The same year NATO sees its first broad-scale military engagement in the Kosovo War, where it wages an 11 -week bombing campaign against what was then the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, aimed at preventing the alleged ethnic cleansing of Albanians. It ends on June 11, 1999, when Yugoslavian leader Slobodan Milosevic agrees to NATO's demands.

During the Prague summit in 2002, seven countries are invited to start talks in order to join the Alliance: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania. The invited countries joined NATO on March 29, 2004. Further countries expressed the wish to join the alliance, including Albania, the Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Croatia.

On March 29, 2004 Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia joined NATO. NATO Summit 2006 took place in Latvia.

TEXT № 20

Cold War - Холодная война

The Cold War was the open yet restricted struggle that developed after World War II between the United States and its allies and the Soviet Union and its allies. The struggle was named the Cold War because it did not actually lead to direct armed conflict between the superpowers on a wide scale. The Cold War was waged by means of economic pressure, selective aid, intimidation, diplomatic maneuvering, propaganda, assassination, local conflicts, low-intensity military operations and full-scale war from 1947 until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Cold War saw the largest conventional and the first nuclear arms race in history. The term was popularized by the U.S. political adviser and financier Bernard Baruch in April 1947 during a debate on the Truman-Doctrine. It was coined by Eric A. Blair and George Orwell in an essay titled «You and the Atomic Bomb» on October 19, 1945 in the British magazine Tribune.

The Cold War is usually considered to have occurred approximately from the end of the strained alliance between the U.S. and the Soviet Union during World War II until the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Korean War; the Hungarian and Czech Revolutions; the Bay of Pigs Invasion and Cuban Missile Crisis; the Vietnam War; the Afghan War; and U.S. backed military coups against governments in Iran (1953), Guatemala (1954), and civil wars in countries such as Angola, El Salvador, and Nicaragua were some of the occasions when the tension related to the Cold War took the form of an armed conflict.

One major hotspot of conflict was Germany, particularly the city of Berlin. The most vivid symbol of the Cold War was the Berlin Wall. The Wall isolated West Berlin, the portion of the city controlled by West Germany and the Allies, from East Berlin and the territory of East Germany, which completely surrounded it.

The Korean peninsula remains a hotspot. The states of North Korea and South Korea and her allies also technically remain at war because although a truce is in effect, no formal peace treaty was ever signed. As a result, tension still remains high on the Korean peninsula, especially since North Korea declared to possess nuclear weapons.

In such conflicts, the major powers operated in good part by arming or funding surrogates, a development that lessened direct impact on the populations of the major powers, but brought the conflict to millions of civilians around the world.

In the strategic conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union a major arena was the strategy of technology. It also involved covert conflict through active acts of espionage.

Particularly revolutionary advances were made in the field of nuclear weapons and rocketry. In reality most or all of the rockets used to launch humans and satellites into orbit were originally military designs.

Other fields in which arms races occurred include: jet fighters, bombers, chemical weapons, biological weapons, anti-aircraft warfare, surface-to-surface missiles and cruise missiles, intercontinental ballistic missiles, anti-tank weapons, submarines and anti-submarine warfare, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, electronic intelligence, signals intelligence, reconnaissance aircraft and spy satellites.

All of these fields required massive technological and manufacturing investment. In many fields, the West created weapons with superior effectiveness, mainly due to their lead in digital computers. However, the Eastern bloc fielded a larger number of military designs in each field and built a larger number of weapons.

In the 1970s, the Cold War gave way to detente and a more complicated pattern of international relations in which the world was no longer split into two clearly opposed blocs. U.S.-Soviet relations would deteriorate once again in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but improved as the Soviet bloc started to unravel in the late 1980s. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia lost the superpower status that it had won in World War II.

TEXT № 21

Human Evolution - Человеческая эволюция

Evolution is the complexity of processes by which living organisms established on the earth and have been expanded and modified through changes in form and function. Human evolution is the biological and cultural development of the species *Homo sapiens* or human beings. Humans evolved from apes, because of their similarities. This can be shown in the evidence. Early humans are classified in ten different types of families.

Humans belong to the mammalian family Primates- In this arrangement, humans, along with our extinct close ancestors, and our nearest living relatives, the African apes, are sometimes placed together in the family Hominidae, because of genetic similarities. Two-leg walking seems to be one of the earliest of the major hominine characteristics. In the course of human evolution, the size of the brain has been more than tripled. The increase in brain size may be related to changes in human being behaviour. The third major trend in hominine development is the gradual decrease in the size of the face and teeth.

Between 7 and 20 million years ago, primitive apelike animals were widely distributed on the African and on the Eurasian continents.

Ancestors of modern humans are divided into the category *Australopithecus* and *Homo*. They appeared about 5 million years ago.

The history of human being begins with the australopithecines. All the australopithecines were bipedal and therefore possible hominines. They divided into five species.

Genus *Homo* is also divided in five different groups. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, *Australopithecus* already lived in Kenya about 4 million years ago. This australopithecine had a brain size a little larger than chimpanzees. No tools of any kind have been found with this distant human ancestor.

According to Encarta Encyclopedia, *Homo erectus* lived from about 1,8 million to 30,000 years ago. Until recently, *Homo erectus* was considered an evolutionary ancestor of modern humans, or *Homo sapiens*. *Homo erectus* had a larger brain than earlier hominines. *Homo erectus* was also taller, with an evenly face and smaller teeth. Scientists believe this species lived in Africa between 2 million and 1.5 million years ago. *Homo habilis* is the earliest known member of the genus *Homo*. *Homo habilis* had a larger brain than australopithecines. Australopithecines had long arms and short legs, similar to those of apes. *Homo habilis* was taller than australopithecines, but shorter than *Homo erectus*. *Homo sapiens* are not identical

in aspect with modern humans. Homo sapiens first appeared more than 90,000 years ago.

But there is an oppositional point of view. There is a theory that human ancestors were not apes. People were always humans, although they were smarter and-larger than humans are today. According to this theory, evolutionary theory is a myth. God created everything. People that believe in creation-ism say that if man descended from ape-like creatures, then humans should be like them. Yet humans have very different DNA. The number of vertebrae in our backbone is different. Human cranial capacity is totally different.

But no evidence is available about human remains from earlier times, which support evolutionary theory. There is evidence that ancient people lived in homes at the same time that others were living under trees or in caves.

The theory of evolution is the most reasonable theory today and is actual living proof that humans did evolve from apes and why the environmental adaptations have made humans the dominant creatures on the earth.

TEXT № 22

WMD - Weapons of Mass Destruction

- ОМП - Оружие массового поражения

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) generally include nuclear, biological, chemical weapons. The term first arose in 1937 in reference to the mass destruction of Guernica, Spain, by aerial bombardment that was made by the German Luftwaffe during the Spanish Civil War.

Nuclear weapons did not exist at that time, but biological weapons were being researched by Japan and chemical weapons had seen wide use. Following the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and progressing through the Cold War, the term came to refer more to non-conventional weapons: atomic, biological and chemical weapons.

The phrase entered popular usage in relation to the U.S.-led multinational forces 2003 invasion of Iraq and today the most widely used definition is that of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

The development and use of WMD is governed by international conventions and treaties, although not all countries have signed and ratified them. There are 8 countries that are known to possess nuclear weapons and, of course, other WMD, only 5 of which are members of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty). All states which possess WMD can be divided into four main groups.

The first one is the group of states which are commonly accepted to possess nuclear weapons: China; France; India; Israel; Pakistan; Russia; the United Kingdom; and the United States of America.

The second one is the group of states with access to nuclear weapons through nuclear sharing agreements: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

The third is the group of states currently suspected of possessing or developing nuclear weapon capabilities. They are Iran and North Korea.

And the last group of countries is states that formerly possessed nuclear capabilities: South Africa, as well as Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine following the break-up of the former Soviet Union.

Weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons are rarely used because their use is essentially an «invitation» for a WMD retaliation, which in turn could escalate into a war so destructive it could easily destroy huge segments of the world's population. During the Cold War, this understanding became known as

mutually assured destruction and was largely the reason war never broke out between the WMD-armed United States and Soviet Union.

But nowadays there is a great concern that the weapon of this kind can be available for terrorist organizations, moreover can be used by these organizations.

TEXT № 23

Sports and Olympic Games

Many people all over the world are interested in sport. Sport helps people to stay healthy and makes them more organized and better disciplined in their daily activities.

They have always paid great attention to sport in our schools, colleges and universities. You can hardly find a school without a gym or a sportsground. Every city and town has a few stadiums or swimming pools, where local or even international competitions are usually held. Traditionally, sport could be divided into professional and amateur sport.

Former Soviet Union and later Ukrainian and Russian sportsmen have set a great number of world records in gymnastics, weightlifting, tennis, swimming, running, high jumping, etc. Our sportsmen also participate in the Olympic Games and always win gold, silver and bronze medals.

The Olympic Games have long history. They started in 776 BC in Greece and took place every four years for nearly twelve centuries at Olympia. They included many different kinds of sports. All the cities in Greece sent their best athletes to Olympia to compete in the Games. When the Games took place, all the wars stopped. So, the Olympic Games became the symbol of peace and friendship.

Now, there are Summer and Winter Olympic Games. They are held separately. There are always several cities wishing to host the Games. The International Committee of Olympic Games selects the most suitable. After that, the host city starts its preparations for the competitions, constructs new sport facilities, or reconstructs them, reconstructs stadiums, hotels, press centres, etc. Thousand of athletes, journalists and guests arrive to the Games, and it takes great efforts to arrange everything.

Russia joined the Olympic movement in 1952. In 1980, Moscow hosted the twenty-second Olympic Games. The latest . Olympic Games were held in Sydney, Australia. Our sportsmen won medals in many sports. Next Olympic Games take place in Greece, the Motherland of these games.

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