



МОСКОВСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ  
имени М.В.ЛОМОНОСОВА

Вариант 2

Место проведения Москва  
город

ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РАБОТА

Олимпиада школьников «Ломоносов»  
наименование олимпиады

по английскому языку  
профиль олимпиады

Постниковой Александры Евгеньевны  
фамилия, имя, отчество участника (в родительном падеже)

Дата  
«14» февраля 2026 года

Подпись участника  
Постникова

**Блок 1. Listening.**

You are going to listen to a TED talk about love. For questions 1-10, complete the tasks.  
 Read the questions and be ready to listen. You will hear the text twice.  
 You have 10 minutes before the listening task starts. Fill in the answer boxes with your answers.

For question 1, choose one option.

- 1 What is the main focus of the TED talk?  
 A The text characterises love explained through character traits and attachment styles only.  
 B The text approaches love from a scientific, neurobiological perspective.

1 B +

For questions 2 and 3, fill in the blanks with three words exactly the way they are used in the text. Articles, prepositions are also considered a word. DO NOT use contracted forms.

- 2 While this first stage of love can be ... .. of emotions and brain activity, it typically only lasts a few months.  
 3 As time goes on, these regions of the brain help you regain control and can ... .. on this distress and craving signaling.

2	an +	intense +	rollercoaster +
3	pump +	the +	brakes +

For question 4, choose ONE option which shows the meaning of the word in the context of the TED talk.

- 4 The word "draws" in this text was used in the following meaning:  
 A attracts or elicits  
 B makes, formulates, or derives  
 C sucks or takes in (air, liquid, etc)  
 D meanings A and B combined  
 E meanings A and C combined

4 A +

For questions 5-10, read the given information and fill in the blanks in the table with the terms/special purpose vocabulary from the list. Use only the ones that are used in the TED talk. One blank WILL NOT be filled in as the text does not provide the relevant information. Write N/A in this space.

Note: A **hormone** is a chemical messenger released into the **bloodstream** that travels to different parts of the body to **control or influence how organs and tissues work** over time. A **neurochemical** is a

chemical messenger used by the nervous system, especially the brain, to send signals between nerve cells and influence thoughts, emotions, and behaviour.

Hormones/neurochemicals	Brain areas
<p><b>Adrenaline</b> prepares the body for sudden action; increases heart rate and energy.</p> <p><b>Cortisol</b> helps the body manage pressure during long-term stress.</p> <p><b>Dopamine</b> makes you feel pleasure, motivation, and desire to repeat enjoyable experiences.</p> <p><b>Endorphins</b> reduce pain and can create a feeling of happiness.</p> <p><b>Estrogen</b> affects physical development and reproductive health.</p> <p><b>Melatonin</b> controls sleep and helps the body know when it is time to rest.</p> <p><b>Noradrenaline</b> helps with alertness, focus, and responding to stress.</p> <p><b>Oxytocin</b> helps people feel close, safe, and trusting with others.</p> <p><b>Prolactin</b> involved in parenting behaviours and caregiving.</p> <p><b>Serotonin</b> helps control mood, happiness, and emotional balance.</p> <p><b>Testosterone</b> influences physical development and sexual attraction.</p> <p><b>Vasopressin</b> fosters long-term attachment, loyalty, and commitment.</p>	<p><b>Amygdala</b> becomes less reactive in secure attachment, reducing fear and emotional threat.</p> <p><b>Higher cortical regions</b> regulate reasoning and impulse control, gradually reducing distress and craving over time.</p> <p><b>Hypothalamus</b> produces and releases oxytocin and vasopressin, the core bonding hormones.</p> <p><b>Insular cortex</b> processes emotional and physical pain, including the distress and social pain experienced during heartbreak.</p> <p><b>Nucleus accumbens</b> helps turn repeated closeness into a stable, rewarding bond.</p> <p><b>Prefrontal cortex</b> supports trust, long-term planning, impulse control, and commitment.</p> <p><b>Ventral tegmental area</b> links attachment to reward and motivation, making closeness feel pleasurable and meaningful.</p>

Stage of love	Hormones / neurochemicals	Brain regions involved	Main effects described
<p><u>Infatuation</u> (passionate love)</p>	<p>5 <span style="color:red">-</span></p> <p><u>dopamine</u></p>	<p>6 <span style="color:red">+</span></p> <p><u>ventral tegmental area</u> <u>higher cortical regions</u> <u>prefrontal cortex</u></p>	<p>Euphoria, intense pleasure, motivation, craving, idealisation, reduced critical judgement</p>
<p><u>Attachment</u> (compassionate love)</p>	<p>7 <span style="color:red">+</span></p> <p><u>oxytocin</u> <u>vasopressin</u></p>	<p>8 <span style="color:red">-</span></p> <p><u>amygdala</u></p>	<p>Bonding, trust, commitment, emotional security, relaxation, reduced stress</p>
<p>9 <span style="color:red">+</span></p> <p><u>break up</u></p>	<p><u>Stress hormones;</u> <u>Dopamine</u></p>	<p>10 <span style="color:red">-</span></p> <p><u>insular cortex</u></p>	<p>Emotional and social pain, distress, craving contact, stress response, gradual emotional regulation</p>

T51.7

Блок 2 Вариант 10

**Блок 2. Reading.**

You are going to read two synopses, A and B, of a play by William Shakespeare.  
For questions 1-10 complete the tasks.

**A**  
Shakespeare sets the scene in Verona, Italy. Juliet and Romeo meet and fall instantly in love at a masked ball of the Capulets, and they profess their love when Romeo, unwilling to leave, climbs the wall into the orchard garden of her family's house and finds her alone at her window. Because their well-to-do families are enemies, the two are married secretly by Friar Laurence. When Tybalt, a Capulet, seeks out Romeo in revenge for the insult of Romeo's having dared to shower his attentions on Juliet, an ensuing scuffle ends in the death of Romeo's dearest friend, Mercutio and his famous words 'A plague o' both houses!' Impelled by a code of honour among men, Romeo kills Tybalt and is banished to Mantua by the Prince of Verona, who has been insistent that the family feuding cease. When Juliet's father, unaware that Juliet is already secretly married, arranges a marriage with the eminently eligible Count Paris, the young bride seeks out Friar Laurence for assistance in her desperate situation. He gives her a potion that will make her appear to be dead and proposes that she take it and that Romeo rescue her. She complies. Romeo, however, unaware of the friar's scheme because a letter has failed to reach him, returns to Verona on hearing of Juliet's apparent death. He encounters a grieving Paris at Juliet's tomb, reluctantly kills him when Paris attempts to prevent Romeo from entering the tomb, and finds Juliet in the burial vault. There he gives her a last kiss and kills himself with poison. Juliet awakens, sees the dead Romeo, and kills herself. The families learn what has happened and end their feud to the echo of Prince's words, 'For never was a story of more woe Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.'

**B**  
The prologue of *Romeo and Juliet* calls the title characters "star-crossed lovers"—and the stars do seem to conspire against these young lovers. Romeo is a Montague, and Juliet a Capulet. Their families are enmeshed in a feud. Yet Romeo and his friends attend a party at Juliet's house in disguise. The moment the two meet they fall in love. They urgently decide that they want to be married. A friar secretly marries them, hoping to end the feud. Romeo and his companions almost immediately encounter Juliet's cousin Tybalt, who challenges Romeo. However, Romeo refuses to fight. Romeo's friend Mercutio accepts the challenge and is killed. Romeo then kills Tybalt and is banished. He spends that night with Juliet and then leaves for Mantua. Juliet's father forces her into a marriage with Count Paris. To avoid this marriage, Juliet takes a potion, given her by the friar, that makes her appear dead. The friar will send Romeo word to be at her family tomb when she awakes. The plan goes awry, and Romeo learns instead that she is dead. In the tomb, Romeo kills himself. Juliet wakes, sees his body, and commits suicide. Their deaths appear finally to end the feud.

For questions 1 and 2, decide whether the statements are true or false. Fill in the blanks with True or False.

1. The friar provides Juliet with a substance that makes her seem lifeless.
2. Romeo remains in Verona after his exile.

1	True
2	False



For question 3, fill in the blank with the letter representing a character from a different play by Shakespeare, NOT *Romeo and Juliet*.

*Character A* Shows loyalty by stepping into a conflict not originally their own. Acts when another person refuses to fight. Becomes directly involved in violence. Loses their life during the confrontation. Their death triggers further consequences.

*Character B* Is closely connected to the central couple. Avoids involvement in violent disputes. Survives a public confrontation. Leaves the city voluntarily. Is present at the end of the story.

3	A
---	---

For question 4, fill in the blank with the character who committed this action.

This character's ignorance of a prior commitment undermines the arrangements he later initiates.

4	Romeo
---	-------

For question 5, match the synopses, A or B, with their descriptions.

1. This synopsis demonstrates fragmented narration, implicit linear chronology, sequential cause-effect structure, requires active reconstruction, and is light per sentence but cumulatively highly condensed.
2. This synopsis demonstrates continuous narrative, explicit and carefully staged chronology, incorporates cause-effect signals, guides interpretation and sequence, and is heavily cognitively loaded.

5	1	B
	2	A

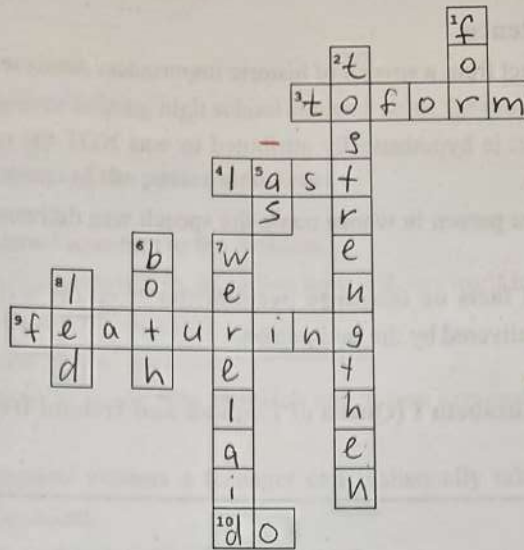
For question 6, reflect on the ultimate cause of Romeo and Juliet's tragedy. You can agree or disagree, partially or completely, with the following statement. Refer to the synopses to support your point of view. Write your answer in the style of Synopsis A. Write your answer in 50-60 words.

*The tradition of vendetta is to blame.*

It is believed that the tradition of vendetta is to blame for the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, with what I agree. The feud between their families was generational, which is rather ridiculous - why would you hate someone for their ancestors' deeds? If their families were able to reflect on their hatred, the young lovers would escape such solemn fate.

3

752: 6



You are going to read an extract of an article on society. For questions 1-5, read the text and **match two halves of the sentences** below. There is one extra half you do not need to use. The beginnings of the sentences follow the same order as the full sentences in the original text.

1. Those who practise racism often believe that only low-status jobs should go to people of	A against immigrants from former colonies, and reluctance on the part of many nations in many areas to accept Southeast Asian refugees are just a few examples of the results of conflicts between racial and ethnic groups.
2. They also often believe that members of the economically and culturally dominant	B all races.
3. The lived experience of racism for members of "low-status" races can include daily insults and frequent acts and verbal expressions of contempt and disrespect, all of which have serious effects	C from racism and ethnocentrism remain a serious problem.
4. Conflicts stemming	D on social relationships.
5. Lingering racial divisions in post-apartheid South Africa, social inequality and unrest in the United States and other parts of the world, resentment in Great Britain directed	E race alone should have access to privileges, political power, economic resources, educational opportunities, and unrestricted civil rights.
	F races considered low-status.

1 F 2 E 3 D 4 C 5 A

53:14

Ответ на задание Блока 4

This speech was not spoken by Elizabeth I due to several reasons. Firstly, the United States ~~did not~~ <sup>did not</sup> exist as an independent country until the 18th century. Secondly, during her reign, there were no wars against China. Lastly, the language is way too modern for 16th - 17th century. The way of addressing the public ("My Lords, and Gentlemen") is uncharacteristic. The use of ~~pronouns~~ <sup>pronouns</sup> is also telling ("you" instead of "thou" etc.)

ТВ 4: 8

Ответ на задание Блока 5

Get rid of boredom!

Unfortunately, it isn't uncommon for teenagers to face boredom. It's a very unpleasant state in which you may feel apathetic or even exhausted whenever you do something. The feeling of boredom usually appears when you're not stimulated enough. If your daily routine consists of doing the same things over and over again, it's no wonder you get tired of it. Sometimes boredom can develop into the feeling of constant fatigue or even depression, which is why it's very important to learn how to deal with it. Don't worry, this poster will help you with that!

### Take a break

It may seem silly, but seriously - sometimes you just need a proper rest so you can return to your life with a fresh mind and a new wave of enthusiasm. Put away your phone. Meditate. Allow yourself to just... exist. After such digital detox, you might feel much more energetic.

### Try out new things

It sometimes feels like picking up a new hobby is difficult, but it's really not. There are a lot of accessible things you can try such as knitting, cooking or even learning something you haven't considered learning before. You never know, what if you'll find astrophysics or neuroscience interesting? You can't be sure until you try!

### Consume more media

Even if you feel like it's difficult to find an interesting book to read or a movie to watch, it's really not. Ask your family or friends for recommendations or search it up online. If I were to recommend something, it'd be a movie called "Ruby Sparks". It's fun, with a sudden ~~with~~ twist and an important message. Check it out, especially if you're a fan of romcoms!

### Fresh perspective

If you don't feel like trying out something new, try doing things you've done before in a different way. You've only drawn with pencils before? Try out new materials or even digital drawing. You always study by reading the textbooks over and over again? Look up interesting videos ~~on that~~ online or

VB5: 54

OTB: 7 + 6 + 14 + 8 + 54 = 89

Шифр

1. -B
- 2 an intense rollercoaster
- 3 pump the brakes

4 - A

5 <sup>hormones</sup>  
dopamine

brain regions

6 ventral tegmental area  
Prefrontal cortex } higher cortical regions

7 oxytocin  
vasopressin

8 insula

9 break up

10 insular cortex

8

9

10

1

2

6. The tradition of vendetta is to blame vvv  
I agree with the

to strengthen

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

featuring

1

2

3

4

5

F

E

D

C

A

6. It is believed that "the tradition of vendetta is to blame" for the <sup>tragedy</sup> of Romeo and Juliet, and, ~~ultimately~~, I agree. Tradition in general tends to hold society back. The ~~best~~ generational feud between their families was ~~caused~~ by their past conflicts, ~~and~~ ultimately, ~~there~~ was generational, which, when you think about it, is rather ridiculous - why would you hate someone for their ancestors' ~~deeds~~ deeds? Unfortunately, people tend to stick to habits as they learned hatred. If their families were able to reflect on their hatred such solemn fate would not reach the young lovers. unreasonable.

I + is believed that the tradition of the vendetta is to blame for the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, and I agree with that. The feud between their families was generational, which is rather ridiculous - why would you hate someone for their ancestors' deeds? If their families were able to reflect on their hatred, the young lovers would escape such solemn fate.

1) US haven't a thing until 18th century

Get rid of boredom! ~~It's~~ <sup>It's</sup> ~~accessibility~~ <sup>access</sup> for us all to access  
 Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for us all to access  
 face boredom in our lives. It's a very unpleasant state  
 when you feel apathetic towards most things or just  
 have that feeling that you've got nothing to do. If that's  
 something you're familiar with, ~~don't worry~~ <sup>this poster</sup>  
 will help you learn how to deal with this!

### Take a break.

It may seem silly, but seriously - sometimes you just  
 need a proper rest so you can return to your life with  
 a refreshed mind. ~~And~~ <sup>And</sup> ~~however~~ Put away your phone  
 and allow yourself to just exist. Meditating might  
 also help. After such detox, you may feel much more  
 energetic and enthusiastic.

### Try out new things ✓

~~It may seem~~ like picking up something new is  
 difficult, but it's really not. If you feel ~~like everything~~  
 fed up with everything, choose a new hobby to try  
 out - there're so many accessible things you can do!  
 Drawing, knitting, cooking, learning new things - you never  
 know, what if you'll find astrophysics or neurobiology  
 interesting? You can't be ~~for~~ sure unless you find out!

### Fresh perspective

If you don't feel like trying out something  
 new, you can try to do something you've already  
 done before but in a different way. You've only  
 drawn with pencils before? Try out new techniques or materials,  
 or ~~maybe even try~~ <sup>try</sup> digital drawing. Consider learning  
 digital drawing. You always study by reading your  
 textbook over and over again? Look up interesting  
 videos online or attempt to make a mind map. A unique  
 perspective can always help you with boredom.

### Reasons and consequences.

~~It's~~ <sup>It's</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> feeling of boredom usually appears  
 when you don't feel stimulated enough. If your  
 life consists of ~~doing~~ <sup>doing</sup> repeating the same actions over  
 and over again, it's won't be ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> surprising for you to  
 get tired of it. Sometimes boredom can develop into  
 the feeling of ~~chronic~~ <sup>constant</sup> exhaustion or even depression.

which is why it is very important to deal with it ~~and~~ ~~or~~  
 Consume <sup>new</sup> ~~more~~ media learn how

Even if you may feel like it's difficult to find an interesting book to read or a movie to watch, ~~there's~~ <sup>it's</sup> simply not true. Ask your friends or parents, search it up online - there <sup>is</sup> so many ~~things~~ to choose from you might feel overwhelmed! If I were to recommend something, a movie called "Baby Sparx" would be my pick. It's very fun yet with a serious message and a sudden twist. Check it out, especially if you enjoy romcoms!

This speech was not spoken by Elizabeth I, due to various reasons. Firstly, the United States are mentioned, which did not exist as an independent state during her reign. The speech style is ~~too~~ more modern than ~~Shakespeare's~~ the one that was used in 16th century (you instead of thou). During Elizabeth's reign, England didn't have any wars against China.