



Reading 264

Task 1. Looking through a magazine you come across an interesting article on the topic of English as a national foreign language in India. Four paragraphs have been removed from the story. Choose from paragraphs A—D the one which fits each gap (1—4). Then answer the questions. Some questions may have several answers.

English as a National Foreign Language

India has two national languages for central administrative purposes: Hindi and English. Hindi is the national, official, and main link language of India. English is an associate official language. The Indian Constitution also officially approves twenty-two regional languages for official purposes. Dozens of distinctly different regional languages are spoken in India, which share many characteristics such as grammatical structure and vocabulary.

Gap 1 (choose a paragraph and mark the letter with “+” in the ANSWER SHEET)

Since the early 1600s, the English language has had a toehold on the Indian subcontinent, when the East India Company established settlements in Chennai, Kolkata, and Mumbai, formerly Madras, Calcutta, and Bombay respectively.

Gap 2 (choose a paragraph and mark the letter with “+” in the ANSWER SHEET)

In India, English serves two purposes. First, it provides a linguistic tool for the administrative cohesiveness of the country, causing people who speak different languages to become united. Secondly, it serves as a language of wider communication, including a large variety of different people covering a vast area. It overlaps with local languages in certain spheres of influence and in public domains.

Generally, English is used among Indians as a ‘link’ language and it is the first language for many well-educated Indians.

Gap 3 (choose a paragraph and mark the letter with “+” in the ANSWER SHEET)

English has special national status in India. It has a special place in the parliament, judiciary, broadcasting, journalism, and in the education system. One can see a Hindi-speaking teacher giving their students instructions during an educational tour about where to meet and when their bus would leave, but all in English. It means that the language permeates daily life. It is unavoidable and is always expected, especially in the cities.

The importance of the ability to speak or write English has recently increased significantly because English has become the de facto standard. Learning English language has become popular for business, commerce and cultural reasons and especially for internet communications throughout the world.

Gap 4 (choose a paragraph and mark the letter with “+” in the ANSWER SHEET)

The prevailing view seems to be that unless students learn English, they can only work in limited jobs. Those who do not have basic knowledge of English cannot obtain good quality jobs. They cannot communicate efficiently with others, and cannot have the benefit of India’s rich social and cultural life.

A positive attitude to English as a national language is essential to the integration of people into Indian society. There would appear to be virtually no disagreement in the community about the importance of English language skills. Using English you will become a citizen of the world almost naturally. English plays a dominant role in the media. It has been used as a medium for inter-state communication and broadcasting both before and since India’s independence. India is, without a doubt, committed to English as a national language. The impact of English is not only continuing but increasing.

THE REMOVED PARAGRAPHS

A. It is also the second language for many who speak more than one language in India. The English language is a tie that helps bind the many segments of our society together. Also, it is a linguistic bridge between the major countries of the world and India.

B. English is a language that has become a standard not because it has been approved by any ‘standards’ organization but because it is widely used by many information and technology industries and recognized as being standard.

C. Apart from these languages, Hindi is used for communication in India. The homeland of Hindi is mainly in the north of India, but it is spoken and widely understood in all urban centers of India. In the southern states of India, where people speak many different languages that are not much related to Hindi, there is more resistance to Hindi, which has allowed English to remain a lingua franca to a greater degree.

D. The historical background of India is never far away from everyday usage of English. India has had a longer exposure to English than any other country which uses it as a second language, its distinctive words, idioms, grammar and rhetoric spreading gradually to affect all places, habits and culture.

Task 2. Answer the following questions. Some questions may have several answers. Mark your answer (answers) with "+" in the ANSWER SHEET.

1. According to the writer, the Indian constitution recognizes

- a) 22 official languages.
- b) Hindi as the national language.
- c) 2 national, official languages.
- d) 2 national languages.

2. English's status as a lingua franca is helped by

- a) its status in northern India.
- b) the fact that it is widely understood in urban centres.
- c) the fact that people from the south speak languages not much related to Hindi.
- d) it shares many grammatical similarities with Hindi.

3. In the paragraph, which starts with "Since the early 1600s", the word 'toehold' means that English

- a) dominated India.
- b) changed the names of some cities in India.
- c) has had a presence in India.
- d) has been in India longer than any other language.

4. Hindi-speaking teachers

- a) might well be heard using English.
- b) only use English.
- c) only use English for instructions.
- d) use English in every-day life.

5. The last but one paragraph starts with the words 'the prevailing view', which suggest that

- a) the view is correct.
- b) the view is held by the majority.
- d) the view is incorrect.
- c) the view is held by the minority.

6. English in India

- a) is going to decrease.
- b) is widely used in the mass media.
- c) causes disagreement.
- d) is going to have a greater importance.

Task 3. You have read the article about English as a national foreign language in India and decided to express your opinion with regard to the topic "ENGLISH IS A LANGUAGE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION".

Your essay should consist of 150–180 words. You are not allowed to use fragments of the text (the length of more than 4 words running). Your text should contain various points of view, including your own.

Reading 264 — Keys

TASK 1

1 — C

2 — D

3 — A

4 — B

По 2 балла за правильный ответ. Всего 8 баллов.

TASK 2

1 — A

2 — C

3 — C

4 — A, D

5 — B

6 — B, D

По 2 балла за правильный ответ. Всего 12 баллов.

TASK 3

Критерии оценивания конкурса письменной речи

Максимальное количество баллов: 20

Внимание! При оценке 0 по критерию «Решение коммуникативной задачи» выставляется общая оценка 0.

Баллы за: РЕШЕНИЕ КОММУНИКАТИВНОЙ ЗАДАЧИ

Коммуникативная задача полностью выполнена — содержание раскрыто полно, точно и интересно.

В работе участника:

- есть вступление — 2 балла;
- представлены разные точки зрения — 1-2 балла;
- представлена своя точка зрения — 1-2 балла;
- представлены обоснованные аргументы 1-2 балла.

Объём работы либо соответствует заданному, либо отклоняется от заданного не более чем на 10 % (в сторону увеличения — не больше 198 слов, в сторону уменьшения — не меньше 135 слов) — 2 балла.

Итого: максимум 10 баллов.

Баллы за: ОФОРМЛЕНИЕ

Общая оценка за оформление выводится на основании критериев, приведённых в таблице:

Композиция	Лексика	Грамматика	Орфография	Пунктуация
Максимум 2 балла	Максимум 3 балла	Максимум 3 балла	Максимум 1 балл	Максимум 1 балл

Итого: максимум 10 баллов.

Композиция — 2 балла

Работа не имеет ошибок с точки зрения композиции: представлены введение, основная часть и заключение.

Соблюдена логика высказывания. Средства логической связи присутствуют и используются правильно. Текст правильно разделён на абзацы.

Лексика — 3 балла

Участник демонстрирует богатый лексический запас, необходимый для раскрытия темы, точный выбор слов и адекватное владение лексикой. Работа не имеет ошибок с точки зрения лексического оформления.

Грамматика — 3 балла

Участник демонстрирует грамотное и уместное употребление грамматических структур в соответствии с коммуникативной задачей.

Работа имеет 1 негрубую ошибку с точки зрения грамматического оформления.

Орфография и пунктуация — 2 балла

Участник демонстрирует уверенное владение навыками орфографии и пунктуации. Работа не имеет ошибок с точки зрения орфографии. В работе могут быть 1-2 пунктуационные ошибки, не затрудняющие понимание высказывания.

Коммуникативная задача раскрыта частично. Тема раскрыта, однако в работе отражены не все аспекты. Отсутствие каждого аспекта приводит к потере 2 баллов.

Если аспекты присутствуют, но раскрыты не развернуто, то выставляется только 1 балл.

При отсутствии любых 4 аспектов выставляется оценка «0» по критерию «Решение коммуникативной задачи».

Композиция — 1 балл

В целом текст имеет чёткую композицию. Однако в делении текста на абзацы имеются 1-2 нарушения.

Допущены 1-2 ошибки при использовании средств логической связи и/ или 1-2 нарушения логики высказывания.

Лексика — 2 балла

Участник демонстрирует богатый лексический запас, необходимый для раскрытия темы, точный выбор слов и адекватное владение лексикой. В работе имеются 1-2 незначительные (негрубые) лексические ошибки, не затрудняющие понимание текста.

Грамматика — 2 балла

Участник демонстрирует грамотное и уместное употребление грамматических структур. В работе имеются 2 незначительные (негрубые) грамматические ошибки, не затрудняющие понимание высказывания.

Орфография и пунктуация — 1 балл

В тексте присутствуют орфографические (1-3) и/или пунктуационные ошибки (3-4), которые не затрудняют общее понимание текста.

0 баллов: коммуникативная задача практически не выполнена — отсутствуют необходимые аспекты ИЛИ объём высказывания менее 135 слов.

Источник задания: финал олимпиады РГГУ, 2019/20, 11 класс