**Listening Comprehension**

**11 form**

**As intelligent as…?**

Ask abiologist what the most intelligent creatures are on Earth, and they'll probably come up with a fairly similar list: larger mammals such as horses, dogs, dolphins, pigs, the great apes as well as some birds like crows and ravens. But now some scientists believe that one of the most intelligent being on Earth is in fact the octopus — which doesn't belong to any of these groups.

Every school child knows that octopuses (or octopi) have eight legs and can shoot ink while trying to escape from enemies, but there are many other unusual things about octopuses. For example the legs of some octopuses can grow to over nine meters in length and are extremely strong. If an octopus loses a leg, it can grow a new one. It also has three hearts and complex eyes, which seem to belong to a mammal rather than a sea creature. Octopuses also seem to be experts at escaping — they have extremely soft, flexible bodies and can escape through holes not much bigger than their eyes. There are many biologists who have stories about walking into the laboratory after lunch to find their octopus had escaped from its aquarium and was now hiding in a teapot or climbing a bookshelf!

However, even until quite recently, little was known about octopus intelligence. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, octopuses usually live at the bottom of river mouths and seas — areas which are not attractive to researchers. Secondly, they are not social animals so it can be difficult to study their interaction with others. Perhaps most importantly, octopus intelligence is not easy for humans to understand. When we observe mammals such as rats or dogs we can often instinctively understand their behavior. Octopuses, however, can seem like aliens. Scientist needs to have a lot of imagination to be able to understand what an octopus is thinking!

In the 1950s, the US Air Force sponsored scientists to study the way octopuses use their brains. They hoped that they could use this knowledge to help them build better computers. However, their brains were so complex that the scientists quickly gave up. And even today the octopus brain is a mystery. Octopuses have a very complex nervous system and recent research suggests that they have some of their intelligence inside each arm, which means that each arm can think' for itself. It also appears that they have good memories, perhaps similar to a car's. Some octopuses in laboratories seem to play with objects as if they were toys - a sure sign of intelligence. Others could pick up complicated skills like opening jars.

Perhaps the most striking thing about octopuses istheir ability to change their color and body pattern. They do this to camouflage themselves and also to communicate with others. They can completely change their appearance in less than a second — a striped octopus can suddenly become spotted. It can change its skin to look like rocks, sand or plankton. A scientist once observed an octopus that changed its appearance nearly 1,000 times during seven hours of feeding. It can change its appearance to look like a dangerous predator - and can even copy its style of swimming.

Some scientists have even suggested that these different patterns and colors are in fact a very sophisticated language — and that each design is a different verb, adjective or noun. But nobody has been able to work out what they might he saying. It seems like the problem isn’t the limitation of the animals… but the limitations of humans!

**Listening 11 form. Task 1**

**Multiple choice**

1. Now some scientists believe that
2. all octopuses are more intelligent than larger mammals
3. we can add the octopus; to the list of most intelligent animals
4. the octopus isn't in fact a mammal
5. we should find a new group for octopuses.
6. An octopus's eye is
7. something that even schoolchildren know about
8. rather unusual for a mammal
9. rather unusual for a creature that lives in the sea
10. not very complicated
11. Octopuses are good at escaping because
12. they can change the shape of their body
13. they choose surprising places to hide in
14. they have very small eyes
15. the scientists who study them often go out
16. One of the reasons that we didn’t know how intelligent octopuses are until recently was that
17. they live in places where researchers don't like going
18. they didn’t like being observed
19. they don’t like socializing with humans
20. they are so different from other animals we know
21. One thing that suggests that octopuses are intelligent is that
22. they were smarter than US Air Force computers
23. their brains are similar to cats'
24. they learn how to do complicated tasks
25. the octopus brain is a mystery.
26. One of the reasons octopuses often change their appearance is because
27. they want to become less noticeable
28. they get bored when they are eating for a long time
29. they are very talkative
30. they enjoy copying other animals.
31. Scientists have suggested that the language the octopuses use is
32. The change of their appearance
33. The change of their color
34. The change of their behavior
35. The change of their color and body design
36. Humans can’t understand what octopuses say because
37. Their language is too primitive
38. They “talk” very quickly and it’s difficult to catch up
39. Their language is too sophisticated
40. Human’s brain is too limited to work it out
41. Scientists gave up studying the way octopuses use their brain because
42. They have their intelligence inside each arm
43. They have good memories
44. They showed complicated skills
45. They have a very complex nervous system and brains which remain a mystery
46. In fact octopuses are the most intelligent
47. Mammals
48. Predators
49. Sea animals
50. Creatures

**Task 2**

**True/false**

1. All the biologists have common opinion what creatures are the most intelligent on Earth
2. There are only some things that make octopuses unusual creatures
3. Octopuses are experts at escaping as they can shoot ink.
4. Octopuses can escape through tiny holes.
5. Octopuses are reluctant to get on with other creatures.
6. Octopuses are the creatures which are absolutely different from other animals.
7. Both octopuses and cats have very good memories
8. The ability to play with objects is the only sign of intelligence that octopuses have.
9. Octopuses change their body shape to hide themselves.
10. Octopuses can imitate the appearance and the style of behaviour of their creatures.

**Listening 11 form. Task 1**

**Multiple choiсe**

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**Task 2**

**True/false**

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**Reading 11th form**

**PART 1**

You are going to read an article about a woman who writes children's books. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B, C **or** D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Jane Hissey, creator of the 'Old Bear' stories

If anyone knows what makes a great children's book, it must be Sussex author and illustrator Jane Hissey. Her 'Old Bear' books have achieved classic status in a variety of formats: books for different ages, audio tapes, calendars and diaries.

I caught up with Jane at her home in the East Sussex countryside and asked her what she thinks is the secret of a classic children's book. 'That's a difficult one. I suppose it's got to be relevant to the child's stage of development - for young children, pictures on a page that are familiar, for older children, an experience. The book should be familiar, but hold some surprises too, in order to maintain the interest. It must inspire and delight, but there is also an element of the matter-of-fact, the things that happen every day.'

Jane was born in Norwich and studied design and illustration at Brighton College, after which she taught art to secondary school students. She married a graphic designer and settled in East Sussex. After the birth of her first child, Owen (who is now 18), she gave up teaching and worked on her own artwork, drawing pictures of teddy bears and designing greeting cards. An editor from a publishing company saw her work and invited Jane to do a children's book. After the birth of her second child, Alison (who is now 14), she set to work.

'Old Bear', the leader of the gang, was Jane's childhood teddy and she still loves him. T get the feeling he's writing his own words. I look back at the first book I wrote and realise he's lost a lot of his fur. That's partly because I pin him in front of me in order to draw him. Like the other toys, he gets stuck on little clamps. All the toys have aged more than I show in my drawings; I'm able to keep them looking youthful.’

Over the years, from the first 'Old Bear' book in 1988, her children have made a huge contribution - not least in terms of plot. I used to give my children the toys to play with - and they had tea parties and so on. One of my bear characters, 'Little Bear', is the same age as Ralph, my youngest, who's seven now. All the children have been involved and, in years to come, they will realise how much.'

Jane's technique is very interesting. Unlike many other children's illustrators, she works in coloured pencils, which makes her work immediately accessible to children because it's the medium most familiar to them. She likes to draw the original about four times larger than it appears in the book. Because they are eventually reduced in size, the drawings then look more dense, with a deeper texture. T build up layers and layers of colour,' she explains, 'so the effect is not wishy-washy. There's a depth of colour and you can see the other colours underneath.' With such a laborious, meticulous method of working, a single book takes a year to write and illustrate. How, I asked her, does this work fit in with the demands of a large family and home? She told me it was a combination of teamwork and good planning. 'My husband is also an illustrator, so we both work from home and we can juggle things so that one of us is always there.'

Despite such phenomenal success in the book world, Jane remains very down-to-earth about her collection of toys. But, she admits she would miss them if she suddenly had no contact with them. T hope I'll know when people are getting fed up with the characters. If ever they did, I think I'd go on drawing them for fun. My own children have been very useful to me in my work, but as they are older now, I'll just have to hope that other people's children can inspire me.'

1. **According to Jane, a successful children's book**

A contains material that is unexpected.

B should offer an escape from everyday life.

C does not lose its attraction as children get older.

D is set in a place which is known to its readers.

1. **Jane first became involved in book writing because**

A she got in touch with an editor.

B her artwork attracted professional

C husband encouraged her to try.

D she wrote stories for her own children.

1. **What does Jane say about her teddy bear illustrations in paragraph 4?**

A They have improved over time.

B She uses real models to work from.

C They have been pinned up around the house.

D She has had difficulty keeping them up-to-date.

1. **How did Jane's children assist her in her work?**

A by allowing her to concentrate on her work

B by telling her what they thought of her stories

C by suggesting characters for her stories

D by giving her ideas for her stories

1. **According to the writer, Jane's books take a long time to produce because**

A the pages have to be so large.

B the colouring is a lengthy process.

C she redoes so many of her drawings.

D she colours each page to suit the mood of the story.

1. **When Jane says 'we can juggle things', she means that she and her husband can**

A find someone to look after their children.

B afford to turn down work.

C find space in the home to work.

D organise their daily schedules.

1. **How does Jane feel about her future work?**

A uncertain

B excited

**C** encouraged

**D** depressed

1. **What do we learn from the article as a whole about Jane's attitude to her books?**

A She is interested in experimenting with different drawing techniques

**B**  She regards her characters simply as a commercial project.

C She is fond of the toys that she draws regularly.

D She is bored with writing about bears all the time.

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PART 2

You are going to read an article about sending scientific expeditions to the Moon. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap (9-15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Getting back on the Moon

Several decades after the Apollo 11 Moon landing, scientists want another trip.

One of the most dramatic events in human history took place in 1969. Dressed in his space suit and equipped with an oxygen backpack, a walkie-talkie, a camera and a special visor to block out the fierce light of the sun, the astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped from the Eagle lunar module out onto the Moon. He was soon joined by Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin. The two men collected rock samples and took photographs before returning to the Apollo spacecraft.

After several decades, the excitement surrounding mankind's first visit to another world has not decreased. 9 \_\_\_ Moreover, the snapshot of a sapphire-blue Earth, as seen from the Apollo spacecraft, remains a powerful symbol of space exploration.

However, some scientists claim that, despite twelve men having walked on the Moon in six missions between 1969 and 1972, basic questions about it remain unanswered. For example, is there really water there? What is the 'far side' like? How did the Moon come to orbit the Earth? 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Human beings, they say, would be better at gathering information and samples than unmanned spacecraft.

David Heather, a lunar researcher from London, agrees that such questions could be answered more easily if people were sent up rather than robots. He thinks that people are more intelligent and useful. 11\_\_\_\_\_

The researcher, who is studying data from unmanned spacecraft, believes that because scientists have got some sample material from the Moon, most people considerthat it is unnecessary to go back there. He insists, however, that a lot of the material we have does not give a good idea of what all parts of the Moon are like. 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_ As a result, there are very few pieces of rock from the highland regions and insufficient material from the lunar seas.

13 \_\_\_\_\_That is another reason why people like David Heather would like to see more scientists up there, working with more advanced equipment. A lot more could be done today.

There are problems, however, the main one being that it is incredibly expensive to send humans to the Moon. 14 \_\_\_\_\_\_ There is only so much money to go round. There would be arguments about the best use of resources between people who want to go to the Moon, people who want to build telescopes on Earth and people who want to build telescopes in space. Each group would argue that their project is the most important and urgent undertaking.

There is another problem to be faced. 15 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_For example, astronauts on the far side of the Moon, which is invisible to Earth, would be out of contact. A lot of people would oppose manned missions for that reason alone.

**A** All the Apollo missions had to land near the Moon's equator, so the samples have come from a limited area.

B It is easy to forget, too, that the

technology of the early lunar missions was the technology of the 1960s.

C They are supposed to do the kind of tasks that astronauts cannot do.

D The most mysterious areas of the Moon are probably the most dangerous.

**E** Now, some believe that manned missions should begin again.

**F** The human footprints on the lunar surface seem as incredible now as they did in the 1960s.

**G** For that reason, some people might oppose any plans for new missions.

**H** They can make quick decisions about what they should collect and examine.

PART 3

**You are going to read a magazine article about four athletes. For questions** 16-30, **choose from the athletes** (A-D), **The athletes may be chosen more than once.**

Which athlete

started doing her sport as a way of using up energy? **16\_\_\_\_\_\_**

thinks she sometimes demands too much of herself? 17\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

has worked as a model? 18\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

sometimes feels too tired to go on? 19\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

took a break from her sport to improve her motivation? 20\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

used to have to combine training for her sport with a job? 21\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

hasn't completely recovered from an old injury? 22\_\_\_\_\_\_

feels people's envy is misplaced? 23\_\_\_\_\_\_

doesn't avoid any particular type of food? 24\_\_\_\_\_\_

knows the time when she can continue in her sport is limited? 25\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

wouldn't consider having a day in the week free of training? 26\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

goes straight from the running track to the pool when she is training? 27\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

says she has a different attitude to her body from non-athletes? 28\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

feels that she was born with certain advantages? 29\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

gave up something time-consuming to concentrate on her sport 30\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A Jessie, 31, is 100m hurdler

'People are always commenting on my arms. I think I'm lucky genetically because I had good muscle tone even before I started training. I've actually been earning some extra money recently by posing for some photographers who appreciate the beauty of the strong, fit bodies athletes possess. Obviously, I have to watch what I eat carefully, and as desserts and chocolate are a weakness of mine, it can be a problem! I tore the ligaments in my knee three years ago and since then I've been in constant pain, and have had it operated on four times. But I'm running well at the moment. I train about three to four hours a day, six days a week. I have friends who say they wish they looked like me, but it's hard work to maintain my body in peak condition.'

**B Natasha, 16, is a gymnast.**

'My mother got me into gymnastics because I was an over-active child - I was always getting into trouble for standing on my head and leaping around. At the moment, I train up to six hours a day and Sunday is my only day off. I don't worry about my weight or what I eat as my parents do that for me - they think I don't know when to stop. But I do have to keep off peanuts! Anyway, it's more about muscle tone than weight. I don't envy models their bodies because they're a different shape. We're not skinny, we're toned and muscled. Most of us retire at 19 or 20 because you invariably get bigger then. Three years ago, I had a hip injury which put me out of the sport for 18 months and I had to be really committed to get through it. There are days when you're so worn out that you think "I can't do it today", but you must try to work through the exhaustion.'

**C Sophie, 21, is a backstroke swimmer.**

Three years ago, I took three months out because I knew I had to if I was to carry on. I now know that every time I get in the water, it's because I really want to be there. In my time out, I occasionally treated myself to chocolate, which is normally forbidden. I didn't train either, so it was hard when I started swimming again. My body is a tool for me and I don't see it in the way other women view theirs. I was approached by a major chain store once about modelling swimwear, but I wasn't keen on the idea. I train seven days a week, which is tiring, but missing a session is never an option. I swim for two hours in the morning, then spend two hours in the gym before going back to the pool. Now that I have the advantage of financial sponsorship, I can train full-time and no longer have to get up at 4.45 am to swim before going to the office.'

**D Karen, 28, is a modern pentathlete**

I’m very competitive and I can push myself too far in training. I'm never tempted to miss it, except when I feel ill. A typical day's training is: shooting from 8 am to 9.30 am; running from 10 am to 11 am; swimming from 11 am to midday; riding from 1pm to 3 pm; and then 45 minutes fencing. I snack on bananas to keep up my energy levels, but it's impossible to fit in time to eat and digest anything substantial until the end of the day's work-out. I limit my coffee-drinking because it's bad for me, but I can eat anything really, as long as it's in moderation. I only eat around 2,500 calories a day, which isn't much more than the average woman needs. I was studying to be a vet when I started competing in pentathlons. I was training every day and fitting it in round my coursework, which was exhausting, so eventually one of them had to go. I'm more focused now.'

**Writing**

**11 form**

1. Albert Camus, the French writer, once said: “We are all special cases. The rest of society has a moral obligation to help those who are less fortunate” Write a composition on the topic: “What can be done to help homeless?”
2. An educational magazine has asked readers to discuss the statement: “All children should be made to learn at least one foreign language”. Write an article for the magazine discussing this statement.
3. You have recently visited a new leisure center and your company is interested in what facilities are available there. Write a report for your company describing the leisure center and its facilities commenting on its good and bad points.

**Speaking**

**11 form**

1. Journalism is a vital and challenging profession.

* Why is journalism important?
* If you were a journalist, what kinds of news stories would you enjoy reporting about?
* Who would be the first person you would interview and why?

1. Many students choose to attend schools or universities outside their home country.

* Why do some students study abroad?
* How could studying abroad be viewed as a waste of time?
* How can a student make the most out of his or her abroad?

1. Choosing a career path can be a difficult decision.

* What should be one’s motivation in choosing a career path?
* When you have a family to support, is it fair to choose a job that gives you personal satisfaction even if the salary is lower than other available jobs?
* How can people balance their professional and personal lives?

1. “Don’t judge a book by its cover” is a popular idiom.

* How do you interpret this phrase?
* Describe a time when you misjudged someone or something based on appearances.
* What value do you think our culture places on appearances, and is it appropriate? Explain.

1. Many families in Ukraine grow their own food, but in many parts of the world people buy the majority of their food from supermarkets.

* What are the benefits of growing your own food?
* Why do some people prefer to buy all their food from stores?
* If you had a garden and could only plant three things, what would they be and why?

1. Globalization describes the process by which regional economies, societies, and cultures connect through communication, transportation, and trade. This process has sped up greatly over the last two decades.

* What advances in communication have caused globalization to speed up?
* What roles have travel played in the globalization of world economies?
* How can globalization positively affect different countries? How can it negatively affect them?

1. Websites, magazines, and television shows are free to say anything about celebrities and public figures – even if it’s not true.

* Is this practice fair?
* Why is the public so fascinated with the private details of famous people’s lives?
* Would you be willing to trade privacy for fame? Explain your reasons.

1. Some people believe that violent films and video games make our society more violent.

* Do you think there is a connection between violence in the media and violence in real life?
* Should there be greater restrictions on portraying violence in films and games?
* Do you enjoy watching films or playing video games that have violent content?

1. Social networking websites like Vkontakte and Facebook are incredibly popular, but some are concerned that young people are being too free with their personal information.

* What information about yourself are you comfortable with sharing on the Internet.
* Do you think people are being careless about their private lives?
* What are the possible consequences, good or bad, of so much online sharing?

1. In the United States, it’s common for private schools to accept only boys or only girls.

* What do you think are the positive aspects of single-sex education? What are the negative aspects?
* Would you like to attend an all-girls or all-boys school? Why or why not?
* If a school denied admission to a student based on race, it would be discrimination. How is sex different, if at all?

1. With all the pressures of the modern world, time is an important factor in our lives today. How does time impact your life?

* Do you have enough time to do all things you’d like to do in your life?
* How do you prioritize your time to accomplish the things that are most important to you?
* Do you follow a strict schedule and calendar, or do you “take life as it comes”? What are the advantages and disadvantages of your approach?

1. We all try to avoid illness through healthy daily habits and diets. When we get ill, most of us go to the doctor for advice or prescription medicines.

* What preventative measures do you take to maintain your health?
* How do different cultures approach health care? Compare and contrast Ukrainian health care with another culture.
* In your opinion, do people rely too much on pharmaceuticals?

1. A teenager’s life can often be more difficult than their parents suspect.

* What real problems do teenagers face today?
* What can you say about generation gaps between you and your parents?
* Do you feel that teenagers need to show more respect to older generations?

1. Everyone has his or her own set of priorities or a list of things that he or she considers more important than other things.

* What is most important to you in your life?
* What made you decide upon your list of priorities?
* Do you think priorities change over time? Why?

1. What do you believe to be the greatest problem in today's so­ciety? Describe where you see it.

* Explain why you consider it to be so bad.
* How does it affect society as a whole and the individuals making up that society?
* How would you propose to do away with this problem?

1. Technological inventions don’t make our lives better. They simply create more products we are expected to buy.

* Do you agree or disagree with the statement.
* Give arguments to support your view.

1. You will soon be finishing your studies at school and will either continue your education at a higher institution or you will begin working towards a career.

* What’s your dream profession?
* What qualifications must you have to get this job?
* What would you do? Describe your average day.

1. How do you feel people from other countries view Ukrainians when they visit?

Do you think it is similar or different from how you view visitors?

Why do you think so?

1. Holidays are special times when people give and receive presents signifying their love for one another.

* What do you think is better, to give or to receive presents? Why?
* What presents do you especially wish for? Why do you want these things?
* If you had the money or ability to give one person in the world anything, to whom would you give it, what would you give, and why?

1. Celebrities have a lot of influence nationally and internationally.
   * What Ukrainian celebrity are you most proud of?
   * What are some of this celebrity’s accomplishments?
   * How does this person bring pride to your nation and culture?