**ОРІЄНТОВНІ ЗАВДАННЯ ОЛІМПІАДИ З АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ СЕРЕД УЧНІВ 8 КЛАСІВ**

**Reading**

**Directions:** in this section you will have to read a short text. The text will be followed by a set of statements or questions with four possible answers. Read each of the statements (questions) carefully, choose the answer that best corresponds to what is stated or implied in the texts you have read, and mark your answer in the booklet by encircling the letter of your choice.

**Text**. ***IS OPTIMSM DEAD IN AMERICA?***

Americans are supposed to be an optimistic, can-do people, but no one seems to be talking about the future with starry-eyed wonder any more.

An NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll conducted last week found nearly two-thirds of respondents saying they don't believe that life for their children's generation will be better than it has been for them.

Only 27 per cent think the United States is headed in the right direction, and 58 per cent believe the war in Iraq will not end in success. Of those who think the nation is not on the right track, 81 per cent believe it's part of a longer-term decline.

"This is just a horrendous set of numbers", said Peter D. Hart, one of the pollsters who conducted the survey. He called the national mood "as dank and depressing as I've ever seen".

By way of comparison, when a similar question about the direction of the nation was asked in a 1956 Gallup poll, only 3 per cent questioned whether the nation was enjoying prosperity and just 8 per cent doubted that things would keep getting better indefinitely.

Granted, in 1956, people were dreaming big. There was talk then of four-day, 30-hour workweeks and living standards that would double by 1976. Never mind that this belief in a more abundant, more prosperous future petered out by the late 1960s. What happened to that kind of optimism?

Granted, there is much to be depressed about today — things that the futurists never dreamed of. Global warming. The export of American jobs to other countries. The ever-increasing national debt and trade deficit. Rising energy prices and dwindling supplies of oil and gas. Imperial wars without end in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the threat of more wars and more terror attacks. A democracy that is ail but broken. A growing gap between rich and poor.

The optimism that has long been the hallmark of America has given way to the realization that our nation is facing many difficult problems and that our leaders haven't a clue how to deal will them.

So that leads to the next question. Is our future going to be environmental collapse and violent competition for the remainder of the world's resources? Or will we free ourselves from the downward spiral into chaos and find for ourselves a new way to care for each other and the fragile planet we all share?

In my part of the world, there are individuals and groups addressing these questions and developing solutions for them. They're starting community gardens and teaching people how to can vegetables. They're developing ways to use less energy and getting towns and businesses to participate. They are preparing for the possibility of food and energy disruptions and building community-oriented solutions.

More and more people around the country know that if we are to find a way to cope with the many problems that face us, we can't count on our political leaders for help. That's because our society is structured for the quick fix, not for the long-term consequences. Our economy is structured for endless growth, not sustainability. And our politics is structured to preserve the status quo, and address new problems with old thinking and rhetoric.

Can we change this? We must, because our nation, and the world at large, is heading into a turbulent time that demands creativity, innovation, flexibility and hard work from all of us. The choice, quite simply, is between chaos or community.

**Questions 1—10**

1. According to the article, the Americans' attitudes seem to be:

a) rather atypical;

b) unexpectedly negative;

c) inexplicably positive;

d) quite careless.

2. The author bases her opinion on:

a) a recent survey;

b) a historical background;

c) her own research;

d) her readers' responses.

3. It can be inferred that a lot of Americans:

a) are sure in some changes for the better;

b) believe the war will be won soon;

c) hope there will be another war;

d) demonstrate pessimism.

4. The figures provided give the idea of drastic changes in the course of about:

a) 20 years;

b) 30 years;

c) 40 years;

d) 50 years.

5. It can be inferred from the article that once there were plans for reducing:

a) the living standards;

b) the working hours;

c) the workforce;

d) the optimism.

6. The author claims that nowadays there's going something:

a) unbelievable;

b) unreadable;

c) unexpected;

d) untraceable.

7. Which of the reasons provided below was NOT mentioned in the article?

a) Shortening natural resources.

b) Climatic changes.

c) Mistrust in the existing social order.

d) Racial and gender conflicts.

8. One of the problems pointed out in the article is:

a) the incompetence of the authorities;

b) the optimism of the American nation;

c) democracy as the-way of government;

d) the decline of the US Army.

9. One of the suggested possible ways for the society is seen as:

a) working out innovative technologies;

b) producing more energy to last for a lot of time;

c) cutting out energy supply for industries;

d) learning to use canned vegetables.

10. Which of the following drawbacks was NOT provided?

a) Short-sightedness.

b) Inappropriate methods.

c) Creative thinking;

d) Traditionalism.

**Ключі до тестових завдань**

1. A; 2. A; 3. D; 4. D; 5. В; 6. C; 7. D; 8. A; 9. A; 10. C;

**Writing**

Choose one of the three quotations given below and comment upon it.

1. Home is the place where boys and girls first learn how to limit their wishes, abide by rules, and consider the rights and needs of others. (Sidonie Gruenberg)

2.   Hold a true friend with both your hands. (Nigerian Proverb)

3.   A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle. (Kahlil Gibran)

**Speaking**

1.      Can you say that you like everything in the area where you live? What in your opinion could be done to make it seem better?

2.      What or who influences the books that you like to read? Give some examples of the books you have read.

3.      What holiday, in the United States or Great Britain , would you like to take part in? Why?

4.      Can any kind of sports be considered uniquely Ukrainian, British, or American? If yes, give an example.

5.      How have computers changed the lives of the people who use them?

6.      What makes one person interesting to another person? Give four examples of how this occurs.

7.      Describe what you like to do when you are not required to attend school. What would happen on a typical "day-off" from school?

8.      What is your most favorite month or season? Why do you prefer your favorite to all others?

9.      History books are full of interesting personalities. Give an example of one interesting person from the present time, and say what he or she did.

10.If you had to live somewhere without a television, movies, or use of a computer, what would you do for your entertainment? Give examples.

11.If you appreciate music, what is more important for you, the melody or the lyrics? Tell us about it and give an example of your choice.

12.The history of Ukraine goes back thousands of years. What is one event you found interesting while studying about Ukraine's history.

13.What can you do to help clear up the litter (bits of paper thrown on the ground) of your environment? What do you suggest others should do to help?

14.Cats and dogs seem to be running wild in many cities and areas of Ukraine. Tell us what you believe should be done to help reduce the numbers of unwanted animals.

15.Is "beer" considered an alcohol/ drug? If you believe it is an alcohol/drug, what kind of law should there be for a person to be able to purchase it? If you believe it is not an alcohol/drug, why do people want to drink it?

16.Do you plan to go to the university after you complete your schooling? If so, what do you want to study and why?

17.You are learning to speak the English language in your school. What do you think is the most difficult part about learning the English language? Why?

18.Many people believe both boys and girls should learn how to cook, and clean their home. Do you agree? Why or why not?

19.If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you want to go and what would you want to do there?

20.Friendships are very important to us all. What needs to be done to begin making friends, and to keep them as your friends?