

**Завдання II етапу Всеукраїнської учнівської олімпіади  
з англійської мови  
9 клас**

**Тип I  
Аудіювання**

*Прослухайте текст і виконайте завдання.*

**Wild weather**

British people are famous for always talking about the weather, but there's a good reason for this. The British Isles is located in a place where two huge weather systems meet. This means our weather can change many times in just one day! Although we are used to this, strange things have been happening in recent years. In fact, this is the same for many other places around the world. Most people seem to have experienced weather that was hotter, wetter, drier or wilder than normal. This article, based on an article by Peter Miller from the September 2013 issue of National Geographic Magazine, looks at what is happening to our weather.

What is happening to our weather?

What is «extreme» weather? Why are people talking about it these days? «Extreme» weather is an unusual weather event such as rainfall, a drought or a heat wave in the wrong place or at the wrong time. In theory, they are very rare. But these days, our TV screens are constantly showing such extreme weather events. Take just three news stories from 2010: 28 centimetres of rain fell on Rio de Janeiro in 24 hours, Nashville, USA, had 33 centimetres of rain in two days and there was record rainfall in Pakistan.

The effects of this kind of rainfall are dramatic and lethal. In Rio de Janeiro, landslides followed, burying hundreds of people. In Pakistan, the floods affected 20 million people. Meanwhile, other parts of the world suffer devastating droughts. Australia and East Africa have been hit in the last ten years. And then there are unexpected heat waves, such as in 2003 in Europe. That summer, 35,000 deaths were said to be heat-related.

So, what is happening to our weather? Are these extreme events part of a natural cycle? Or are they caused by human activity and its effects on the Earth's climate? Peter Miller says it's probably a mixture of both of these things. On the one hand, the most important influences on weather events are natural cycles in the climate. Two of the most famous weather cycles, El Niño and La Niña, originate in the Pacific Ocean. The heat from the warm ocean rises high into the atmosphere and affects weather all around the world. On the other hand, the temperature of the Earth's oceans is slowly but steadily going up. And this is a result of human activity. We are producing greenhouse gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. This heat warms up the atmosphere, land and oceans. Warmer oceans produce more water vapour – think of heating a pan of water in your kitchen. Turn up the heat, it produces steam more quickly. Satellite data tells us that the water vapour in the atmosphere has gone up by four percent in 25 years. This warm, wet air turns into the rain, storms, hurricanes and typhoons that we are increasingly experiencing.

Climate scientist, Michael Oppenheimer, says that we need to face the reality of climate change. And we also need to act now to save lives and money in the future.

### **I. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False)**

1. The British always talk about the weather because they cannot get accustomed to it.
2. Extreme weather is a problem because we can't predict it.
3. Extreme weather is often very destructive.
4. Devastating droughts are more frequent in the Western part of the world.
5. Natural processes as well as human activity make weather conditions become extreme.
6. Most important weather cycles come from the Pacific Ocean.
7. The temperature of the ocean depends on the human activity.
8. Greenhouse gases produce heat in the Earth's atmosphere.
9. The amount of water vapour in the atmosphere has recently decreased by 25 percent.
10. According to Michael Oppenheimer we can stop climate change.

### **II. Circle the correct item**

1. Extreme weather is ...
  - a) not a natural occurrence;
  - b) difficult for scientists to understand;
  - c) more unusual in the USA;
  - d) becoming more common.
2. Examples of extreme weather include ...
  - a) warm, wet air;
  - b) very hot weather in Europe;
  - c) changeable weather in the British Isles;
  - d) El Niño and La Niña.
3. In 2010 abnormal rainfall was not registered in:
  - a) Australia;
  - b) Brazil;
  - c) the USA;
  - d) Pakistan.
4. Why was the rain in Nashville an extreme event?
  - a) It happened a thousand years ago;
  - b) A lot of rain fell over a long time period;
  - c) It doesn't usually rain in Nashville;
  - d) A lot of rain fell in a short time.
5. What didn't happen after the extreme rain in Rio de Janeiro?
  - a) There were major floods;
  - b) There were many landslides;
  - c) Millions of people were affected;
  - d) Hundreds of people were buried alive.

6. Extreme weather can be caused by ...
  - a) floods across large areas;
  - b) satellites above the Earth;
  - c) water vapour in the atmosphere;
  - d) very hot summers.
7. What caused many deaths in 2003?
  - a) extreme rainfall;
  - b) a period of hot weather;
  - c) floods that followed a bad summer;
  - d) a typhoon.
8. Which of these things is the basis of normal weather patterns?
  - a) El Niño and La Niña;
  - b) greenhouse gases;
  - c) human activity;
  - d) heat waves.
9. What is happening to the oceans?
  - a) They are getting bigger;
  - b) They are getting smaller;
  - c) They are getting hotter;
  - d) They are producing greenhouse gases.
10. Satellites can ...
  - a) tell the amount of water vapour in the air;
  - b) measure the temperature of the Pacific Ocean;
  - c) count the number of hurricanes;
  - d) trap greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

## **Тип II**

### **Визначення рівня мовленнєвої компетентності**

*Для вибору учням пропонується 20 тематик ситуативного спілкування.*

1. Have you ever experienced extreme weather? How does the weather change your feelings/plans? Do you always try and look at or read the weather forecast? Do you agree with John Ruskin who said: «There is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather».

2. What are your hobbies? How long have you been doing these hobbies, and how did you get started? What hobbies did you use to have, but now do not? Is it important to have hobbies? Why/why not?

3. How often do you plan things? Why? What do you think of this quote: «Having no plan is a plan to fail?» Do you have any back-up plans?

4. What do clothes tell people about our personalities? Do you ever buy used clothes? Do you have a favourite clothes shop? Do you have clothes in your closet that you've never worn? What new clothes would you like to buy if you had lots of money?

5. How serious is the problem of pollution in Ukraine? Why is global warming happening? Do you personally do anything to improve the situation? What kind of environmental policies does Ukraine have/need?

6. What is your favourite game ever? What games did you play as a kid? How competitive are you when it comes to games? What games are popular in your country?

7. Do you get on well with all of your family members? Why? Is there a black sheep in your family? When do you need your family most? Is «blood thicker than water» true regarding your family?

8. How often do you watch TV? What television programs are popular in your country? What do you think will be the future of television? If you had your own TV show, what would it be like?

9. Concerning the production of energy, which is the most important consideration: human value or environmental risk? Which kind of energy do you support? What is your opinion of nuclear energy?

10. How important is learning? Why? What things are you good/bad at learning? Why? What is the most difficult part of learning? Why? What would you most like to learn?

11. What was the last movie you saw? How was it? What is your favourite movie? Why? What Ukrainian movies can you recommend to your peers? How often do you watch movies in English?

12. Could you live in an area that could have a natural disaster at any moment? If so, which one? Why? How would you ensure your and your family's safety?

13. What would life be like without friends? Are friends sometimes more important than family? Why? Do you agree with the expression «a friend in need is a friend in deed»? How often do you quarrel with your friends?

14. What are the pros and cons of owning a pet? Should pets wear clothes? If you could be an animal, what animal would you choose to be and why?

15. Is recycling too much of a hassle? What happens to recyclable materials after they are picked up from your house? Is it okay to send our garbage into space?

16. Why do people spend lots of money on clothes? Who decides which clothes are fashionable? Where do you buy your clothes? Do you think clothes are a waste of money? How long does it take you to decide which clothes to wear?

17. What comes to mind when you hear the word «family»? How important is your family to you? How important are you to your family? Do you prefer spending time with your family or friends? Why?

18. Do you worry about the natural environment? Do you think our environment is beyond repair? If the environment could speak, what would it tell us? What do you think our grandkids will think of the way we treated the environment?

19. What makes you a good friend? Is it easy for you to make friends? Do you have any particularly close friends? Is there a difference in friendship between male friends and female friends?

20. What is your favourite weather? What do you think of today's weather? Why do different countries have different weather? Do you worry about the world's changing weather? Has the weather in your country changed over the past decades?

### **Тип III**

#### **Творча письмова робота**

*Оберіть одну тему й дайте розгорнуту відповідь.*

1. Zoos are seen as necessary but sometimes poor alternatives to a natural environment. Discuss some of the arguments for and/or against keeping animals in zoos.

2. Should teachers have to wear uniforms or have a dress code? Write an essay to support your choice and to persuade the other students to vote for your choice.