

COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

1. **Do you agree with the following quotation: “To travel is to live”?**
(Hans Christian Andersen)
 1. Are there any interesting places to visit in Belarus?
 2. Do you prefer summer vacations or winter vacations? Explain why?
 3. If you were going on a camping tour for a week, what 5 things would you bring with you?
 4. What’s the most beautiful place you’ve ever been to?
2. **Do you agree with Mark Twain’s point of view about books and reading?**
He said: “A person who won’t read has no advantage over one who can’t read”.
 1. Do you have a favourite author? Why do you like this author’s books?
 2. Have you ever considered writing some fiction? What kind of story might you like to write?
 3. Do you tend to read books more than once? What would make you read a book again?
 4. List three books you would encourage other people to read and explain why you would recommend them to others.
3. **Teachers can change lives. Give your opinion on the role of a teacher in our society.**
 1. What is your favourite subject at school? Why do you like it?
 2. Up to what age is education compulsory in Belarus?
 3. Do you know any effective learning strategies?
 4. Do you think some parents put too much pressure on their children to perform well at school? Give examples to support your answer.
4. **It can be quite difficult to learn a new language. What do you think are the most difficult aspects of learning English? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.**
 1. What do you enjoy most about studying English?
 2. Do you think a culture can be lost if the language spoken within that culture is lost?
 3. If you were asked to learn 1000 English words, how would you go about learning them?
 4. What are the most widely spoken languages in the world today?
5. **What kind of clothes impress you? Describe a well-dressed man or woman. What kind of clothes would he or she wear? What colours?**
 1. How trendy are you?
 2. Do you agree that celebrities have always had a very direct influence on what is trendy or in fashion?
 3. Do certain cities or countries seem to be leaders in fashion? If so, which ones?
 4. What do you think the expression “a slave to fashion” means?

6. Analyse your lifestyle. Would you say it is healthy or unhealthy?

1. Does your daily routine involve any physical exercise? Why or why not?
2. Do you eat three meals every day?
3. Do you avoid eating sweets to reward yourself?
4. What do you think about household chores as a way of keeping fit?

7. Saving the world may not be a priority among nations, but it should be. Do you agree with this? Explain your answer.

1. What do you understand by the term “global warming”?
2. What are the main causes of global warming?
3. Do you know any animal species whose numbers are diminishing?
4. What measures are being taken to protect animal species in Belarus?

8. There is a saying, “Money cannot buy happiness.” Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

1. Do you think you will be rich someday? How will you feel if you're not?
2. Can you name any millionaires or billionaires known worldwide? What do they do?
3. What project or organization do you think is most worthy of receiving a million-ruble donation?
4. What bad things can happen to people who win a lottery?

9. How do you understand the following English saying: “You are what you eat”?

1. What types of food do you eat every day?
2. How many meals or snacks have you eaten so far today? What did you eat?
3. What are the main sources of fat in your diet?
4. Are there foods commonly eaten in Belarus which are typically not part of the diet in other countries? What are they?

10. Speak about the positive and negative sides of new technologies.

1. Have modern gadgets facilitated our life? In what way?
2. What are the benefits and threats the Internet poses to us?
3. Would you agree to have a computer chip inserted into your head that would allow you to speak any foreign language fluently? Why or why not?
4. Could you do without your smartphone?

11. Keeping your body healthy reduces stress. Do you think this is true? What do you usually do to cope with stress?

1. Do you often feel stressed out?
2. Is it important to get enough sleep to be healthy? Why or why not?
3. Do you normally plan your working day and prioritize the tasks you have to perform during the day? How do you think it can help to reduce stress?
4. What role does laughter play in your life? Do you often laugh?

- 12. What effect has technology had on the way people shop today?**
1. Do you think shopping nowadays is more pleasurable than it used to be?
 2. Do customers have greater expectations of products and services nowadays?
 3. What kind of things make customers angry these days?
 4. Are people becoming more materialistic nowadays?
- 13. If you could go anywhere in the world on any holiday, which place and which holiday would you choose? Explain your answer.**
1. Do you have a favourite holiday? Which one is it?
 2. What holidays do people celebrate in Belarus?
 3. What do you and your family members do on public holidays?
 4. Do you think public holidays are important?
- 14. Talk about popular sports in Belarus.**
1. Do you know any famous Belarusian sportsmen?
 2. What type of sport appeals to you most: team or individual; rough or gentle; indoor or outdoor; amateur or professional?
 3. Have you ever taken part in any sporting competitions?
 4. Do you agree that sport helps people get along with each other?
- 15. Describe how parents or teachers could reach a better understanding of young people.**
1. Is technology making the generation gap bigger or smaller?
 2. Do you think your life is easier or harder than your parents'?
 3. Is it possible for parents and children to be friends?
 4. It is often said that we live in a permissive age, one in which people are allowed to do almost anything they like. Is this good for teenagers?
- 16. Agree or disagree with the following statement: “The pressures of modern life are making families smaller.”**
1. Who is the breadwinner of your family?
 2. If you have siblings, do you get along with them? If you are an only child, do you wish you had siblings?
 3. What are some of the earliest memories of your childhood?
 4. Do you agree that an only child is a lonely child?
- 17. How would you define your taste in music? What kind of music do you like to listen to and why?**
1. Are there any types of music you have heard that sound unusual or extraordinary to you?
 2. Can you play any musical instruments? Are there any musical instruments that you would like to learn to play?
 3. Does Belarus or Belarusian culture have any kind of unique music, or musical instruments, not widely heard of in other countries? Do you like to listen to this music?
 4. Do you ever watch MTV? If so, how often?

- 18. What should young people do to reap benefits when they are older?**
1. Could you tell us a little about your plans for the future?
 2. Would you say that you are an ambitious person?
 3. What do you think is the secret of success?
 4. Say a few words about your greatest achievements so far.
- 19. Do you generally have a taste for traditional art forms or cutting-edge ones? Explain your answer.**
1. Are there any films, concerts or exhibitions that you are looking forward to attending?
 2. Should children be encouraged to appreciate traditional art forms?
 3. Do you have a favourite song? What makes it your favourite?
 4. Which TV shows or channels are considered to be the “coolest” these days?
- 20. Compare yourself today and yourself five years ago. In what ways are you the same or different? Give examples to support your answer.**
1. Could you tell us a little about what you liked doing in your free time five years ago?
 2. What school subjects were you keen on?
 3. Did you have any hobbies?
 4. What do you think you will be doing five years from now?
- 21. Which film has affected you the most? Give reasons and details to support your answer.**
1. How often do you go to the cinema?
 2. Have you ever had any acting experience? If not, would you like to have some?
 3. Give your opinion about the advantages and disadvantages of being a film star.
 4. What can spoil your visit to the cinema?
- 22. Explain what makes a good friendship.**
1. Is it easy for you to make friends? Why or why not?
 2. Do you think you are a good friend? Why or why not?
 3. What makes friendship a long-lasting one?
 4. How many people do you consider your best friends?
- 23. Speak about the features of character you find positive and negative.**
1. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
 2. What features of character are important to be a good parent?
 3. Do people fall in love with good looks or with a great personality?
 4. What qualities do you value in people?

24. Some people prefer to live in large cities, while others prefer to live in small towns. Which of these two life-styles do you prefer? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.

1. What is the population of your hometown?
2. Do you like the place you live in? Why or why not?
3. If you could change anything about your present home, what would it be?
4. Describe briefly the interior of your room. What things in your room couldn't you live without?

25. Describe a person whom you find good-looking.

1. Do you think clothes can make a person look better? Why or why not?
2. What is your idea of beauty?
3. What do you think of celebrities who get plastic surgery?
4. Is it more important to be physically attractive or to be intelligent?