**Speaking Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students**

1. Books have a positive influence on many people's lives.

 What childhood books influenced you most?

 What do you think are important elements of a good story?

 If you could be any character from literature, who would you be and why?

2. Imagine that you are lost in the woods.

 What five things would you like to have with you in your rucksack?

 If you could have one other person with you, who would you choose and why?

 What is the first thing you would do once you got out of the woods?

3. Imagine that you are the owner of a new museum.

 What type of museum would you like to own?

 From which time period would you gather most of your materials?

 Who would be the most interested in visiting your museum?

4. Many pupils spend time after school participating in clubs or helping their parents at home.

 What kind of activities do you participate in after school?

 Which after-school activities are important for pupils? Why?

 If you could start any after-school club or program what would it be?

5. Books are a great way to introduce readers to exciting new ideas.

 What types of characters have you met through your explorations of literature?

What places and time periods have you explored through books?

How has reading introduced you to new ideas?

6. Ukrainian teenagers often have responsibilities at school and at home.

 What are some of your responsibilities at home? At school?

 Discuss some of the advantages and disadvantages of working hard at school and home.

 How does age affect your responsibilities?

7. Imagine you are teaching a course in Ukrainian history and culture to American students.

 What events in Ukraine's past do you think have shaped the country?

 How have Ukrainians been affected by the events in their country's past?

 What cultural information would you provide American students with?

8. Choose a character from your favorite television program, movie, or book.

 Why is this character your favorite?

 How is the character similar to you? Different?

 If you could trade places with this character, would you? Why or why not?

9. Choose an athlete you admire.

 Describe the athlete’s skills, character and important achievements.

 Do you only admire this person for his/her skills or do you also admire his/her character?

 Which characteristics would you like to develop in your own life? Why?

10. What is the best gift you were ever given?

 Who gave you the gift and what made it so special?

 What thoughtful gifts have you given to someone? Explain.

 Besides giving gifts, in what other ways can we show our appreciation for people?

11. What extreme sport would you most like to try?

 Describe the sport, including the equipment required, uniform and rules.

 Why is it considered an extreme sport?

 What potential dangers exist when participating in extreme sports?

12. Describe your perfect day, including location and weather.

 What kind of activities would you do? With whom would you spend the day?

 How would this day be different from every other day?

 Do you think it’s possible to have a perfect day? Explain.

13. Holidays are a time to spend with friends and family.

 What is your favorite holiday?

 How do your family and friends celebrate this holiday?

 Do you have any special traditions you share with your family?

14. Television can have both a positive and negative influence on someone's life.

 In which ways has television impacted on your life?

 Do you think there should be a limit to how much television a person can watch?

 Do you think television has had a negative influence on your community? Explain.

15. Describe your hero or heroine.

 How has his or her life influenced yours?

 How do you model their behavior? Explain.

 Who do you think sees you as a hero or role-model? Why?

16. Our parents greatly influence our personalities.

 Which personality traits do you share with your mother or father?

 What makes you different from them?

 Who has had more of an impact on you, your mother or father? Explain.

17. School teachers impact on our futures in many ways.

 Which teacher has been most influential in your life?

 What makes an influential teacher?

 Explain why teaching is a valued profession.

18. Many people fantasize about the perfect vacation.

 Describe where you would go and who you would take with you.

 How long would your perfect vacation last?

 Name five things that could ruin your perfect vacation. Explain.

19. People enjoy decorating their room in a way that reflects their personality.

 Describe your favorite room.

 How does this room reflect your personality?

 If you had the money to decorate your room as you wish, what would you change?

20. Your school is having a competition in which students are designing a new school uniform.

 What colors and styles would you choose?

 Why do you think your design should be chosen?

 What are advantages and disadvantages of school uniforms?

**Speaking Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students**

1. You are waiting in the bus station when an American Peace Corps Volunteer asks if you speak English. You tell her that you do and she asks you to tell her about your city, your school and your culture. You have fifteen minutes until the bus leaves, so you tell her the most important things about your city, your culture and your world in Ukraine.

2. More and more Ukrainian young people are appearing with tattoos and body piercing. What do you think of these fashions? Who that you know will be the first to try these fashions? Will you try them? Why or why not?

3. You believe your school should pay for an Internet connection that students can use. You have found a service provider and there is already a computer in the school library. You make an appointment with the Director. Explain to the Director why you believe it is important for students and teachers in your school to be able to use the Internet.

4. You are being interviewed for the final round of qualifying for the student exchange program. The interviewers ask you to tell them why you want to go to America and why they should choose you to go.

5. An American student is coming to spend a semester at your school. Your English teacher asks you to write to her and tell her what to expect when she arrives at your school. Try to explain how your school will be different from her American school and what kind of educational, social and cultural experience she can expect in your town.

6. The Ministry of Education announces that there will be an additional year of schooling for all secondary students. You are asked for your ideas about what should be taught during this additional, final year of schooling. What additional courses of study would you suggest?

7. You are taking the entrance examinations for the university and you are asked to talk about the contributions to the world of Ukrainian science and technology . Tell the examiners what you know about this topic.

8. Ukraine has been desired by Russian, Austrian and Polish rulers throughout the centuries. Tell why Ukraine’s resources and location have made Ukraine a desirable possession and what Ukrainians should do now to use those gifts to make a better future for Ukrainians.

9. If you could make one new law which would affect your city and oblast, what law would you choose and why?

10. Present your views on billboards which advertise alcohol and cigarettes. Are young people encouraged to smoke and drink by these billboards or not? Should the government have to pay for billboards to discourage these behaviors? Why do young people choose to smoke or drink?

11. Should parents stay together and raise their children, no matter what? Or are there situations in which a couple should not stay together, even though separating or divorcing will create money problems and be very difficult for the children.

12. What is your dream for the future of your country? What is your dream for your own future? How can you make these two dreams come true? Whose help will you need? What steps can you take on your own?

 13. American children recite a pledge of allegiance to their country every morning at school and Americans sing the National Anthem at the beginning of all public events, such as athletic contests or town meetings. Americans believe that these actions help children become patriotic and remind all Americans to love their country. Should Ukraine institute similar practices, such as singing the National Anthem at schools? How would you suggest increasing the patriotism of Ukrainians?

14. Do you think exercise should be an important part of every person’s life? Do you like exercise? Do you see differences between people who exercise and those who do not? Does exercise become more or less important as a person grows older?

15. You want your family to adopt a pet animal. Present your arguments in favor of adopting either a dog or a cat, and also tell what objections your family may have to adopting an animal. Do your best to answer these objections.

16. Why do people admire sports stars? How do you feel about this? Would a sports star be a good role model for your life? Why or why not?

17. Imagine yourself in ten years and describe your life. What are your greatest accomplishments? Tell about your personal and your professional life. What are some obstacles you have faced and overcome?

18. You have an amazing chance to meet any famous person, living or dead, and have dinner and spend the evening with them. Who would you choose and why? What questions would you have for them? What topics would you like to discuss with that person?

19. You are applying to a program which will pay for you to live for a school year in America. At the interview, the interviewers ask you to imagine that you are introducing yourself to your new American friends and family. Tell them about your appearance so they can recognize you when they meet you. Tell them about your family and your interests in Ukraine. Tell them about your character and personality, so they will know what kind of person you are. Tell them about your likes and dislikes, so they can plan well for your stay with them.

20. Do you prefer to be very busy or to have plenty of free time? Discuss the advantages of both types of schedules. Describe the schedule of someone you know who is very busy and someone who often has free time and then tell who you would most like to be like.

21. Many people dream of a special vacation if only they had enough money. Your fairy godmother is going to give you $5000 dollars for a special vacation. Decide where you would go, what you would do, and who would go with you. Tell why you have chosen the place, the people, the activities.

22. Think about the adults you know. Do these adults have best friends? Tell about the best friend of an adult you know and tell why you think they are best friends. How do young people like yourself pick their friends? Do adults choose their friends the same way? When you grow up, will you still be best friends with the same people as now? Why or why not?

23. Tell about someone you know who has an interesting hobby. What does the person do to enjoy his or her hobby? Is the hobby expensive? Does it take a lot of time? Does the person have a collection which you can look at? Do you think this is a hobby that can last for a lifetime?

24. A younger person says to you, “I think playing an instrument or playing football is a waste of time. I’d rather just watch TV.” Tell this young person how a hobby or interest can help in life. Tell how these interests can help when life is difficult for you and tell how a hobby can help you to succeed . Tell other reasons why you think having a hobby or playing a sport is better than watching TV.

25. Tell about a holiday that is celebrated in Ukraine and is also celebrated in other countries. Tell how the holiday is celebrated in Ukraine and then tell how it is celebrated in other countries. Tell how the holidays are alike and different.

26. Tell about a tradition in your family. When does your family observe this tradition? Do all members of the family participate? When you grow up and have your own family, will you continue this tradition? Does one person in your family make this tradition possible? Who is it? Does this tradition mean more to older members of the family or younger ones?

27. Last bell and first bell are important traditions in many schools. Tell about these traditions and tell what each means and why they are important. Tell about other traditions at your school.

Imagine that you are asked to make a movie about your school to send to a pupil in America. But you do not have a movie camera. Describe in words what you would show in your movie about your school.

 28. Tell about an athlete you admire. Describe the athlete’s skills, character and tell about important achievements of this athlete. Do you admire the athlete as an athlete or do you also admire the athlete for character and life away from sports? Can you grow up to be like this person you admire, even if you are not an excellent athlete? Why or why not?

29. Your parents say you may not play sports on the team this year because studying and getting good grades is more important than sports. Present the reasons you would give your parents to help to change their minds.

30. Tell about the geography, culture, features and economy of two regions of Ukraine. If possible, tell about regions you yourself have visited. How are they different from where you live and how are they the same? If you could choose to live in one of these two regions, which would you choose and why?

31. Compare education in your country and education in one other English-speaking country that you have studied. Tell as many ways as you can how they are alike and how they are different.

 32. Tell all that you know about two famous Ukrainians. Tell about their lives, their accomplishments, and why Ukrainians are fond of them. Tell which of the two you would most like to resemble when you grow up and tell why.

33.“If you watch American movies, you will think that all Americans think about is sex, crashing cars, shooting up buildings and stores, and making stupid mistakes that get them into a lot of trouble.” Tell about some American movies you know that seem to prove that this statement is true. Do you think movies about America (or Ukraine) should be realistic about life or should they be fun and entertaining, even if they are not realistic? Tell about at least one movie you have seen that is NOT like the movies described in this statement.

34. Do today’s pop singers and actors and actresses provide good examples of how young people should behave and dress? Give examples of stars who are good examples of how people should behave, and give other examples of stars who set bad examples for young people.

35. “Boys should care more about how they look and how they dress and girls should care less about these things.” Give your opinion about this statement.

**Speaking Comprehension Test for 11th Form Students**

1. You are waiting in the bus station when an American Peace Corps Volunteer asks if you speak English. You tell her that you do and she asks you to tell her about your city, your school and your culture. You have fifteen minutes until the bus leaves, so you tell her the most important things about your city, your culture and your world in Ukraine.

2. More and more Ukrainian young people are appearing with tattoos and body piercing. What do you think of these fashions? Who that you know will be the first to try these fashions? Will you try them? Why or why not?

3. You believe your school should pay for an Internet connection that students can use. You have found a service provider and there is already a computer in the school library. You make an appointment with the Director. Explain to the Director why you believe it is important for students and teachers in your school to be able to use the Internet.

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8. Ukraine has been desired by Russian, Austrian and Polish rulers throughout the centuries. Tell why Ukraine’s resources and location have made Ukraine a desirable possession and what Ukrainians should do now to use those gifts to make a better future for Ukrainians.

9. If you could make one new law which would affect your city and oblast, what law would you choose and why?

10. Present your views on billboards which advertise alcohol and cigarettes. Are young people encouraged to smoke and drink by these billboards or not? Should the government have to pay for billboards to discourage these behaviors? Why do young people choose to smoke or drink?

11. Should parents stay together and raise their children, no matter what? Or are there situations in which a couple should not stay together, even though separating or divorcing will create money problems and be very difficult for the children?

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