

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 1

1. Read and translate the text in written form. Answer the questions after the text.

There is no easy escape from America's debt-ceiling mess

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2023/01/23/there-is-no-easy-escape-from-americas-debt-ceiling-mess>

Reference date: 23.01.2023

America, when Republicans in Congress face off with a Democratic president over the debt ceiling, is exceptional. This legal limit on the amount of debt issued by the Treasury is periodically raised — but never by enough to avoid a repeated standoff. Without a bipartisan political deal to raise the ceiling America would be in dangerous territory, bumbling into pointless default.

On January 19th Janet Yellen, the treasury secretary, announced that the country had hit its maximum debt (of \$31.381trn) and that she had begun taking “extraordinary measures”—accounting tricks such as deferring pension investments to conserve cash. These measures, which have become routine, buy several months before the calamity actually arrives, called the “X-date”. The last close call, in 2011 when Barack Obama was president and Joe Biden was vice-president, was resolved with only days to spare, spooking stockmarkets and leading one rating agency to downgrade the federal government’s credit. The impasse of 2023 may well be just as dramatic.

Republicans, who have newly taken control of the House of Representatives, say that they cannot abide runaway spending and must rein it in. This deep concern is episodic. When Donald Trump was president, the debt ceiling was increased three times with Republican support, and the national debt rose by \$8trn over his term (\$3.2trn of which came before Covid-induced spending began in 2020). Those increases were not particularly contentious, and the White House wishes the same for this one. “Raising the debt ceiling is not a negotiation; it is an obligation of this country and its leaders to avoid economic chaos,” Mr Biden’s press secretary said in a statement released on January 20th.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики


Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 2

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Women are revitalising funeral services in America

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2022/12/01/women-are-revitalising-funeral-services-in-america>
Reference date: 01.12.2022

Not long ago one could admire Crystal Jovae Coratti's handiwork from the audience at Chicago's prestigious Goodman Theatre. Ms Coratti designed costumes and powdered actors with make-up. For "The Iceman Cometh" she distressed the trousers and clothes worn by a group of revellers looking for redemption at a bar in New York. These days Ms Coratti displays her talents in a less lively venue: a funeral home. To the surprise of family and friends she became a funeral director and embalmer, trading actors for cadavers. "Almost everyone was pretty gobsmacked because it was so out of left field," she says.

Like graves in a forlorn cemetery, American burial traditions lay undisturbed for most of the 20th century. Interment was the standard practice, funeral homes were owned and run by families and most memorial-services directors were men. But traditions are changing.

These days nearly 60% of Americans are opting for cremation, a cheaper and more flexible alternative to burial (in a costlier option, some firms let you launch your relative's ashy remains into space.) Funeral homes also are withering: since 2010 more than 1,000 have closed, and between 2011 and 2018 enrolment in mortuary schools dropped by nearly 20%. And women are now revitalising the industry.

In 2021 accredited mortuary-science programmes churned out more than 1,500 embalmers and funeral directors. About 70% were women—and their share among first-year students is growing. "When we think about who is a funeral director, we typically think white male. That is no longer the case," says Leili McMurrough, president of Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Illinois and chair of the accreditation board for mortician schools. It also is no longer the case that funeral services is an exclusive family trade. Ms McMurrough reckons only a tenth of Worsham's graduates come from legacy funeral homes.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 3

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Racial discrimination in mortgage lending has declined sharply in America

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2022/11/24/racial-discrimination-in-mortgage-lending-has-declined-sharply-in-america>

Reference date: 24.11.2022

“Atlanta’s black neighbourhoods are under attack.” So wrote the editors of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution in May of 1988 upon the release of “The Colour of Money”, a series of articles documenting racial disparities in mortgage lending in Georgia’s most populous city. The Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation, which analysed \$6bn-worth of home loans made over six years, found that Atlanta banks made five times as many loans to white neighbourhoods as black ones, and rejected black applicants four times as often. The reaction was swift. Demonstrators marched through bank lobbies, the NAACP urged black residents to withdraw their bank deposits and the Justice Department launched an investigation into discriminatory lending practices.

Much has changed in the 35 years since “The Colour of Money”, and yet racial disparities in mortgage lending remain. Data reported under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) show that 15% of black applicants were denied conventional mortgage loans in 2021, compared with just 6% of white applicants, a ratio of more than two-to-one. Black homeowners seeking to refinance their existing loans were rejected 24% of the time, compared with 12% of the time for whites. Some lenders have been singled out. A recent analysis by Bloomberg News found that Wells Fargo, a bank, approved less than half of refinancing applications filed by black homeowners in 2020, compared with nearly three-quarters of those filed by white customers.

To many Americans, such wide discrepancies in lending are proof of discrimination. A survey conducted in 2020 by the Pew Research Centre, a think-tank, found that 49% of American adults—and 86% of African-Americans—believe that black people are treated less fairly than white people when applying for a mortgage. But bankers have long argued that imbalances in mortgage approval rates reflect underlying differences in creditworthiness, not racial bias. Indeed African-Americans fare significantly worse than whites on several key lending criteria. Credit scores of black borrowers, for example, are about 8% lower than those of white borrowers. Their debt-to-income levels, meanwhile, are about 10% higher. Black borrowers have much higher loan delinquency rates, too.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 4

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

As Lula takes over, Brazil's economic prospects are looking up

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2023/01/26/as-lula-takes-over-brazils-economic-prospects-are-looking-up>

Reference date: 26.01.2023

At first glance Lula's second presidential act looks badly timed. In 2002 Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva inherited an economy that had just been subjected to wrenching reforms. Lula governed capably, but was bolstered by friendly global forces: soaring demand for Brazil's commodity exports, low global interest rates and a sagging dollar. He left office in 2010, having presided over average annual growth of 4.5%, a 50% increase in average Brazilian incomes, and a hefty drop in unemployment, poverty and government debt.

Yet during last year's election campaign, few thought Lula's second stint as president would be as lucky. He inherits an economy hardly richer than the one he bequeathed his successor, Dilma Rousseff. Under her, the country plunged into a deep recession; her impeachment over a corruption scandal tarnished Lula's Workers' Party (PT). The economy still bears the scars of the pandemic, which killed nearly 1m Brazilians and knocked 4% off GDP. Gross government debt now stands at 88% of GDP—an eye-watering level for an emerging market with a history of macroeconomic crises—while inflation is well above the central bank's target. Most disconcertingly, he takes the reins of a country which suffered serious damage to its environment and its democratic institutions under Jair Bolsonaro, his Trumpish predecessor, whose supporters stormed government buildings in the capital, Brasília, in early January.

So Lula does indeed have his work cut out. Brazil sorely needs investment in its infrastructure, as well as spending on education to train Brazilian workers for better jobs and to make up for learning lost during the pandemic. The Amazon rainforest, the health of which depends on efforts to strengthen and enforce rules against deforestation, will require more spending. So will poverty; it soared during the pandemic, after falling for much of the 2010s. Enacting policies to meet these needs means not only maintaining unity in the congressional coalition led by the pt, but also mastering difficult budget arithmetic.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 5

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

What does China's reopening mean for Latin America?

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2023/01/18/what-does-chinas-reopening-mean-for-latin-america>

Reference date: 18.01.2023

Chinese investment in other infrastructure appears to be accelerating. A survey by Mexico's National Autonomous University reckons that of 192 regional infrastructure projects with Chinese involvement undertaken between 2005 and 2021, 57 were carried out in 2020 and 2021. The reasons may have to do with strategic projects linked to strengthening China's food security. A state-owned firm is building a port 50km (30 miles) north of Lima in order to increase China's supply of food. (So far the protests in Peru do not appear to have affected it.)

All this has ruffled feathers in Washington. In 2020 Donald Trump's administration put pressure on Brazil not to allow Huawei, a Chinese telecoms giant, to participate in a 5g auction. The Brazilian government went ahead anyway, but is creating a separate network for government agencies that excludes Huawei. Similarly, the Trump administration extended a loan to Ecuador to help it pay off billions of dollars' worth of debt to China on the condition that it exclude Chinese telecoms firms from its 5g network. In 2021 the G7 launched “Build Back Better World”, to compete with Chinese infrastructure investment around the world. It was such a flop that it had to be rebranded last year.

South America has less to gain than Central America from cosying up to the United States. Brazil's relationship with China “just really makes sense”, says Larissa Wachholz, at Brazil's Centre for International Relations. “It's beneficial for both sides.” She thinks the investment that is lacking in Latin America—in roads, ports and utilities—is exactly what China can offer. Now that the leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is in power in Brazil, its government is likely to make more overtures to China.

A few countries are trying to lessen their reliance on the Asian superpower. Although Ecuador's centre-right president is finalising a free-trade agreement with China, his administration also wants to join the Pacific Alliance, a trade bloc composed of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. Uruguay, which exports more than 60% of its beef to China, is seeking a free-trade deal with China as well as trying to join other free-trade agreements. Yet across the region, few countries are thinking about how to adapt if China's comeback turns out to lack the potency of the past. The coming boom may not last long.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

 Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»

“УТВЕРЖДАЮ”
Проректор
по образовательной деятельности
К.Э.Н. доцент

Е.П. Верховская



Билет № 6

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

El Salvador's bitcoin experiment is not paying off

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2022/11/17/el-salvadors-bitcoin-experiment-is-not-paying-off>
Reference date: 17.11.2022

Will the fall in the price of bitcoin following the collapse of FTX, a cryptocurrency exchange, cause El Salvador's bitcoin-backing president, Nayib Bukele, to reconsider his gamble with the country's finances? So far Mr Bukele, who made bitcoin legal tender in September 2021, appears defiant. On November 17th he tweeted that his government will buy one bitcoin a day, after not having bought any in almost six months. He has also brushed off any criticism of his decision to buy it using public money. “Stop drinking the elites’ Kool-Aid and take a look at the facts,” he wrote two months ago.

Sadly the facts are dire, at least for El Salvador's 6.5m people. The country has lost \$65m, or two-thirds, of the \$105m the social-media obsessed leader has shelled out on the cryptocurrency. (This assumes Mr Bukele can be taken at his word; purchases are tracked using his tweets.) Mr Bukele has claimed these are not really losses, since he has not sold any of the coins—apeing the bitcoin bros who cry that one bitcoin is worth one bitcoin whenever it slumps in price. He also claims that the fall is no big deal as it represents 0.2% of GDP. He reckons that bitcoin boosts tourism.

Even so, the government is cash-strapped. And the losses from Mr Bukele's bitcoin binge have cost the country in other ways. Analysts and creditors fret that El Salvador will be unable to service its debt, including around \$667m due in January. In order to reassure markets that it would avoid a default, the government bought back \$565m of its sovereign bonds in September. But that month Fitch, a ratings agency, downgraded the country. El Salvador may turn to China to buy its foreign debt, if a potential free-trade deal is struck.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»	“УТВЕРЖДАЮ” Проректор по образовательной деятельности К.Э.И., доцент  Е.П. Верховская
Направление подготовки 5.2.3 научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая экономика отрасль науки «Экономические науки»	

Билет № 7

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Sergio Massa is the only thing standing between Argentina and chaos

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2022/10/13/sergio-massa-is-the-only-thing-standing-between-argentina-and-chaos>

Reference date: 13.10.2022

Walk down Calle Lavalle or Calle Florida in the centre of Buenos Aires and every 20 metres someone will call out “cambio” (exchange), offering to buy dollars at a rate that is roughly double the official one. In supermarkets prices rise every month. Inflation this year is heading for 100%. As it has been several times in the past 50 years Argentina is once again lost in an economic labyrinth mainly of its own making. The distortions have reached danger point. “If this carries on, we’ll see looting of supermarkets again,” says a taxi driver.

At the root of the current instability is a weak and divided Peronist government. Alberto Fernández, the president, owes his job to the decision by Cristina Fernández de Kirchner (no relation), Peronism’s most powerful figure, to pick him as the Peronist candidate and to run herself to be his vice-president. They inherited an economy that their conservative predecessor, Mauricio Macri, had tried, but failed, to fix. He reached a \$57bn agreement with the IMF to avert disaster. Mr Fernández’s first finance minister, Martín Guzmán, an academic, expanded price and exchange controls, restructured foreign bonds and negotiated a new accord with the IMF.

The fund was more lenient than in the past. Even so, to make the economy viable the agreement requires Argentina to cut the fiscal deficit and the printing of money by the Central Bank to finance the government, and to shore up international reserves. Preferring inflation to austerity, Ms Fernández’s allies in Congress voted against the accord, which was approved with the votes of moderate Peronists and the opposition. When Mr Guzmán tried to implement it, she forced him out in July. That prompted the peso in the street to plunge; demand for the government’s peso bonds dried up. With protests and strikes growing, some feared the government might fall.

The Fernándezes reluctantly turned to Sergio Massa, a third important figure in Peronism, who moved from presiding over the lower house of Congress to heading a beefed up economy ministry. He has brought some calm, albeit not much. His aims, he told Bello in his office in Buenos Aires, are to get inflation down both by cutting the fiscal deficit and by building confidence in the peso with a trade surplus and foreign reserves. “The IMF agreement is an anchor, not an objective,” he says. “It’s useful as a route map.”

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики



Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 8

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Indonesia embraces resource nationalism

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2023/01/26/indonesia-embraces-resource-nationalism>
Reference date: 26.01.2023

Indonesia banned exports of nickel ore in 2020 in a bid to capture more of the metal's value. So far, so good. Exports of Indonesian nickel products were worth \$30bn last year, more than ten times what they were in 2013. Nickel smelters have sprouted around the country, and makers of batteries, in which the metal is a key component, are building factories. On January 17th a cabinet official said the government was close to sealing deals with the world's two largest makers of electric vehicles (EVs), Tesla and BYD, to build cars in Indonesia.Flushed with progress, the government is now thinking beyond nickel.

“This success will be continued for other commodities,” said Joko Widodo, Indonesia’s president, last month. He confirmed that an export ban on bauxite, the ore used to make aluminium, was coming in June. The bauxite industry is scrambling to prepare itself for the shock. Production of the metal is expected to fall from 50m tonnes last year to 31m. Access to the country’s limited refining capacity will be “fought over by 30 companies”, the head of a bauxite lobby group, Ronald Sulistyanto, told local media. “Who wants to produce bauxite, but can’t sell the bauxite?”

Mr Widodo, who is known as Jokowi, says this wrangling represents mere teething troubles, and that the bauxite export ban will eventually lead to a tripling of bauxite-based revenues. The government has suggested that a ban on copper exports could be implemented next, with bans on tin and gold exports to follow. Such a wholesale embrace of resource nationalism looks ill-advised.

The country’s pulling power in the global nickel market will be hard to replicate. Indonesia produces 37% of the world’s nickel. But its bauxite, gold and copper production is less than 5% of the global total. And an earlier metals export ban under Jokowi’s predecessor, in 2014, underlined how much market share matters. It spurred Chinese firms to build nickel smelters. But Chinese buyers of bauxite switched to Guinea and Australia. Indonesia’s share of China’s bauxite supply—then at 60%—collapsed. Today it stands at just 15%. The carnage forced Jokowi to pause that earlier export ban in 2017; it is not obvious why he wants to revive it.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики



Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»	“УТВЕРЖДАЮ” Проректор по образовательной деятельности К.Э.Н., доцент Е.П. Верховская
Направление подготовки 5.2.3 научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая экономика отрасль науки «Экономические науки»	

Билет № 9

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

India's rocketing internet-user growth has stalled

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2023/01/12/indias-rocketing-internet-user-growth-has-stalled>

Reference date: 12.01.2023

When India implemented its first lockdown in 2020 and its schools moved over to online learning, Sharmila found herself in a quandary. She is a maid in the posh western suburbs of Mumbai; she had enrolled her son and daughter in a fee-paying school. But her family possessed a single smartphone. So her children would either both have to skip some online classes or one would have to miss them all. Happily, her employers gave her a second smartphone, at a cost of 10,000 rupees (\$122). That is more than Sharmila's monthly wage.

Most Indians lack such a benefactor. Of the country's roughly 1bn mobile-phone users, a third still use old-fashioned dumbphones, mainly for voice calls. And recent data suggest that they are not about to upgrade them. All but a tiny proportion of Indian internet users get online using their phones. Yet the number of wireless broadband connections is flat. In October last year, the latest month for which figures are available, the telecoms regulator counted 790m wireless broadband connections, barely exceeding the previous peak of 789m, which was recorded in August 2021. (The number of subscribers is lower than this, because many people have more than one connection.)

Smartphone sales are down. After growing for a decade, sales peaked at 161m units in 2021, according to IDC, a market researcher, which reckons that last year the number fell to 148m. Meanwhile the average smartphone price has surged, from \$163 before the pandemic to \$220 in 2022.

Prices are rising in part because of global factors, including supply-chain bottlenecks, Chinese lockdowns and rising component costs. But it is also because manufacturers no longer find it worth their while to sell ultra-cheap phones, says Navkendar Singh of IDC. The market share of smartphones costing less than \$100 dropped from 30% in 2019 to 12% last year, according to Counterpoint, another research firm. Before the pandemic some 5m people traded up from a dumbphone to a smart one every month. That dipped last year to about 3m, says Shilpi Jain, an analyst with Counterpoint. Mobile subscriptions are getting dearer, too. In the year to June 2022, prices rose 28%. The number of converts, from dumb to smart, is expected to fall again this year.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики


Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГІЯ»

<p>Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»</p> <p>Направление подготовки 5.2.3 научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая экономика отрасль науки «Экономические науки»</p>	<p>“УТВЕРЖДАЮ” Проректор по образовательной деятельности к.э.н., доцент Е.П. Верховская</p> 
--	--

Билет № 10

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text

Sri Lanka's president pushes economic stability over political reform

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2022/11/17/sri-lankas-president-pushes-economic-stability-over-political-reform>

Reference date: 17.11.2022

Inflation, at 66% in October, has left millions of people unable to afford enough food. A bail-out from the International Monetary Fund that would allow Sri Lanka to resume servicing its debts and restore regular access to international credit markets appears to be months away. Still, the progress made on power cuts and fuel shortages has at least mollified middle-class city-dwellers—an important component of the street protests that did for Mr Rajapaksa. This has created space for Mr Wickremesinghe, whose cabinet is mostly composed of former Rajapaksa loyalists, to quietly shelve the reform agenda.

The political alliance led by the disgraced former president's party will probably have a parliamentary majority at least until February. At that point Mr Wickremesinghe could dissolve parliament and call fresh elections, another popular demand of pro-reform activists. But he has given no indication that he will do so. Instead, he has used anti-terror laws to arrest and intimidate the most persistent activist leaders. Human-rights groups complain of a shrinking space for dissent. A promised constitutional amendment to limit the overweening powers of the presidency passed parliament in such a watered-down form that one opposition lawmaker claimed it amounted to "fraud".

Mr Rajapaksa, whom the protesters want to be prosecuted for his contribution to ruining the economy, has returned to Sri Lanka and is living in a heavily guarded residence in Colombo at public expense. His almost equally reviled brother and former prime minister, Mahinda, and Mahinda's son Namal are meanwhile back on the trail in the country's south, rallying their Sinhala Buddhist supporters. Namal Rajapaksa has been put in charge of a parliamentary committee that is developing policy recommendations on everything from health care to fisheries.

Having seemingly gambled all on his economic management, Mr Wickremesinghe had better hope it comes good. And it may not. The IMF bail-out has been delayed by Sri Lanka's struggle to come to a debt-restructuring agreement with its bilateral creditors, including China and India. Liberalisation, particularly of vast state enterprises, is progressing slowly if at all. So long as inflation remains devastatingly high and Mr Wickremesinghe is unable to point to more convincing signs of a turnaround, he has reason to fear that the streets around his office will throng with angry citizens once again.

Write 180-200 words for each response.

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов)

Декан факультета Экономики

✓
✓

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

<p>Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»</p> <p>Направление подготовки 5.2.3 научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая экономика отрасль науки «Экономические науки»</p>	<p>“УТВЕРЖДАЮ” Проректор по образовательной деятельности К.Э.Н., доцент Е.П. Верховская</p> 
--	---

Билет № 11

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Japan and South Korea are allowing in some foreign workers

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2022/11/03/japan-and-south-korea-are-allowing-in-some-foreign-workers>

Reference date: 03.11.2022

The ubiquitous rule-giving signs of the Icho Danchi district on the outskirts of Yokohama, near Tokyo, speak far more languages than any of its residents could. Motorcycle riding is restricted in Chinese, English, Japanese, Spanish and Vietnamese. Instructions for sorting rubbish, a particularly finicky part of Japanese daily life, are offered in 11, including Portuguese.

With its Vietnamese cafés and Cambodian markets, the area is a microcosm of Japan’s growing but still small migrant community. In 2009 the country had 2.1m foreign residents. By 2019 that number was up to 2.9m. Just across the water, South Korea shares with Japan more than just byzantine waste-management rules. Its foreign population more than doubled from 1.1m to 2.5m over the same period.

The influx to both countries slowed during the pandemic, but it is set to pick up. The number of foreign residents in Japan grew by 200,000 in the first half of this year. Those on work visas made up more than half the increase. The South Korean government announced on October 27th that it would welcome some 110,000 foreign workers in 2023, twice as many as in each of the past eight years.

The new arrivals may help alleviate a short-term need for labourers. But they will do little to tackle the long-term problems both countries face. In the coming decades, Japan and South Korea will need ever more foreigners to till their fields, assemble their widgets and care for their old. And both will need more taxpayers, too. Japan’s population is expected to decline from over 125m now to 104m by 2050. South Korea’s is predicted to fall from 52m to 46m by 2050, and then to 36m by 2070. The ratio of over-64s to the working-age population in both countries is projected to shoot up.

Getting more women into the workforce, raising the retirement age and boosting productivity would help. But “we have to accept more foreigners, that is the reality,” says Takahashi Susumu of the Japan Research Institute, a think-tank in Tokyo. A recent study led by Japan’s aid agency concluded that, even assuming big investments in automation, at least 6.7m foreign workers will be needed in 2040 to achieve the government’s modest yearly GDP growth targets of 1-1.5%. A study last year by the Migration Research & Training Centre (MRTC), an institute in Seoul, found that South Korea would need some 4m foreign workers by 2030 to maintain its working-age population.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики



Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 12

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

New Zealand is toughening up on China

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2022/10/20/new-zealand-is-toughening-up-on-china>

Reference date: 20.10.2022

To have one politician accused of spying for a foreign government may be regarded as misfortune. But to have two is certainly carelessness. In 2017 Yang Jian, a Chinese-born member of New Zealand's National Party, was revealed to have worked for more than a decade in Chinese military-training centres. He admitted to teaching spies (though not to being one) yet remained in his Kiwi job until 2020, when he retired. Days later, a second Chinese-born MP, Raymond Huo of the Labour government, said he was leaving politics. He too was accused of having links to China's Communist Party. New Zealand's intelligence agencies had prodded both parties to remove the men.

Snooping is just one way that China attempts to influence New Zealand's democracy. Donors linked to China's government have given money to both its big parties. Chinese companies have hired outgoing Kiwi politicians. All this has earned New Zealand a reputation for being weak on China and security. A report published by Canadian intelligence in 2018 called it "the soft underbelly" of Five Eyes, an intelligence-sharing pact among those two countries and America, Australia and Britain.

China accounts for about 30% of Kiwi exports, including lots of dairy and meat products. With just 5m people, New Zealand worries about being clobbered with trade bans like those inflicted on Australia. Unlike its bigger neighbour, which proved resilient to China's measures, it does not have piles of iron ore to protect its economy against coercion, officials reason.

Yet the country has lately been toughening up to its biggest trading partner. In recent years, Jacinda Ardern's Labour government has changed a slew of laws and policies, reflecting "a more clear-eyed view of the challenges that China presents", as David Capie of Victoria University of Wellington puts it. That includes blocking Huawei, a Chinese telecoms giant, from involvement in New Zealand's 5g network, and strengthening foreign-investment rules to include a "national-interest assessment" (meaning that deals can be knocked back if they are deemed a threat). Foreign political donations have been banned. The government plans further changes to the electoral act, to make the identities of more donors public.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики



Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 13

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

China's slowdown is hurting the young

<https://www.economist.com/china/2022/11/24/chinas-slowdown-is-hurting-the-young>

Reference date: 24.11.2022

China's economy is in grim shape. Much of the pain is being felt by the young. Unemployment among Chinese aged 16-24 is running at 18%. That number is an undercount: it misses rural youngsters and those out of work for more than three months. The crisis is hurting even relatively privileged youths, including nearly 3.5m who earned undergraduate university degrees this year.

Pandemic-induced lockdowns are hurting the whole economy. Some industries that formerly employed millions of graduates have shrunk, after Communist Party chiefs declared them threats to economic and social stability. Specifically, leaders squeezed giant property developers in the name of curbing debt-fuelled speculation. They slapped fines on internet companies deemed over-mighty. Almost overnight, they crushed an after-school tutoring industry accused of provoking cut-throat competition between families. Many youngsters are fleeing the business world for safer havens. Almost 2.6m signed up to sit national civil-service examinations, a big jump since last year. A still larger number have applied to pursue postgraduate studies. In the long term, the dashed ambitions of university graduates pose political risks. Middle-class parents, a vocal bunch, have grown used to the notion that their children will have bright prospects in a rising China. Less is heard about another group trying to enter the labour market: millions of students in vocational and technical colleges.

Vocational students might be thought well-equipped in this downturn. After all, they study real-world skills rather than abstract academic notions. China's manufacturing sector has fared better than many others during the pandemic, in part because of “closed-loop” policies, a euphemism for sealing workers in a factory and having them sleep on site, for weeks on end. Many manufacturing firms report that they lack skilled technicians and generally struggle to recruit young staff. The rural-to-urban migrant workers who built modern China (some of them the parents of today's vocational students) are ageing. In 2021 there were still 292m rural migrants who worked in cities far from home, but their average age had risen to nearly 42. The proportion of such people who are in their teens or their 20s has halved over the past decade or so.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 14

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

China shows few signs of loosening its zero-Covid policy

<https://www.economist.com/china/2022/10/13/china-shows-few-signs-of-loosening-its-zero-Covid-policy>

Reference date: 13.10.2022

Will the Communist Party congress mark a turning-point in China's fight against Covid-19? The week-long event, beginning on October 16th, will see Xi Jinping re-anointed as the party's leader. Some hope he will use the stage to signal an end to his “zero-Covid policy”, which relies on mass testing, big lockdowns and draconian restrictions to contain outbreaks. But in recent days the People's Daily, a party mouthpiece, has dimmed those hopes. “Fighting the epidemic is a test of the spirit,” said one commentary in the paper. Another condemned “war-weariness and wishful thinking”.

Much of the public has indeed grown weary of the zero-Covid policy. Whereas China has experienced a much lower death toll from the virus compared with other big countries, its economy is buckling under the weight of virus-related restrictions. The imf expects China's GDP to grow by just 3.2% this year, much slower than the government's target. Youth unemployment is close to 20%. China's commercial hub, Shanghai, suffered a two-month lockdown earlier this year—and may soon close again, amid a spike in cases. The region of Xinjiang has been largely sealed off since the summer owing to multiple outbreaks. An ever-increasing number of people have been caught up in the government's Covid controls.

Will they ever end? Parsing the People's Daily is one way to gauge Mr Xi's intentions. Another is to look at the checklist of things China must do to exit the zero-Covid policy without a big loss of life. So far Mr Xi has approached these tasks with a revealing lack of urgency.

A new vaccination campaign would be an essential first step. Over 90% of the population has received two or more doses of one of China's vaccines. A recent push to vaccinate more old people has been somewhat successful. But, as of September, only two-thirds of those aged 60 and over had received three doses, the amount needed to greatly reduce the risk of severe illness and death (see chart). Meanwhile, protection from booster shots is fading. In September experts at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention argued that the population would have to have a fourth dose of vaccine before the government loosened controls, otherwise the health system would be overwhelmed.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики


Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»	“УТВЕРЖДАЮ” Проректор по образовательной деятельности К.Э.И., доцент Е.Л. Верховская
Направление подготовки 5.2.3 научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая экономика отрасль науки «Экономические науки»	

Билет № 15

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

A populist plan to pay off private debts is another sign of Kuwait's ills

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2023/01/26/a-populist-plan-to-pay-off-private-debts-is-another-sign-of-kuwaits-ills>

Reference date: 26.01.2023

In October, Kuwait's finance ministry sent a stern message to the government: no frivolous spending. Yes, oil prices were high and the deficit had narrowed, but this was a time for fiscal discipline. And yet a few weeks later lawmakers introduced a bill that would force the state to pay for new cars, holidays or indeed anything else citizens might have bought on credit.

Under the proposal, the government would buy up billions of dinars' worth of consumer loans. It would write off the interest and schedule repayments on the principal over a long period, with monthly instalments deducted from a cost-of-living allowance paid to citizens. The state would, in effect, pay off private debts.

The proposal has caused an uproar in Kuwait's parliament, which unlike others in the Gulf has real power. Ministers walked out of a session earlier this month in protest. On January 23rd the cabinet resigned because of its power struggle with parliament, the fifth time since December 2020 that a Kuwaiti government has quit.

Supporters say it would help struggling families. Critics say the measure would blow up the public finances. The central bank estimates that more than 500,000 Kuwaitis have eligible loans worth 14bn dinars (\$46bn), 60% of projected revenue in this year's budget. (MPs claim the plan would cost far less.) It would also set a precedent for future write-offs: the scheme is the epitome of moral hazard.

These ought to be boom times for Kuwait. It is the world's tenth-largest oil producer, pumping around 2.8m barrels a day, and a tiny country of just 4m people, fewer than half of them citizens. The imf says GDP grew by 8.7% last year. Its sovereign-wealth fund is one of the world's biggest, and the government's debt-to-GDP ratio of 7% is among the world's smallest.

But dysfunctional politics is holding it back, as it long has. Conservative Islamists did well in last year's general election. About one-third of the newly elected MPs have signed a pledge that called for gender-segregated schools and other strictures. Last year hardliners tried to ban an annual marathon because it featured musical acts and men and women running together.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики



Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 16

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

A crisis of confidence in Egypt

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2023/01/24/a-crisis-of-confidence-in-egypt>

Reference date: 24.01.2023

It is all anyone can discuss. For the poor, trips to the market are now an ordeal: shopping bags get lighter, yet bills get bigger. The middle class must choose between car payments, school tuition and groceries. Business owners are wrestling with supply-chain woes caused by a shortage of hard currency that has left billions of dollars of goods stuck at ports.

The past few weeks have been a reckoning for Egypt's unsustainable economy. Since 2013, when Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi seized power in a coup, it has been characterised by a moribund private sector, large twin deficits and debt-fuelled state spending on infrastructure projects, some of dubious value. Egypt posted decent growth numbers, but they were a mirage: for most of its 104m people, life kept getting worse.

Last year the fiscal deficit was 6.2% of GDP and the current-account shortfall was 3.6. The government debt-to-GDP ratio hovers around 90%, while external debt has more than doubled since 2013, to 34%. Debt service consumes 45% of government revenue.

Well-meaning Egyptians have warned for years that the country was tumbling into a debt trap. Mr Sisi ignored them, and foreign investors, lured by some of the world's highest interest rates, were eager to help him sustain his illusion. Buying short-term Egyptian debt seemed a lucrative and risk-free proposition: surely the biggest Arab country was too big to fail.

Failure is still unlikely—but no longer impossible. The pound is the world's worst-performing currency this year, which fuels galloping inflation. Soaring interest rates will be a drag on private business. The public sector, a main driver of recent growth, is being told to cut back. After years of short-sighted policy, there are no easy solutions to Egypt's woes.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

<p>Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»</p> <p>Направление подготовки 5.2.3 научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая экономика отрасль науки «Экономические науки»</p>	<p>“УТВЕРЖДАЮ” Проректор по образовательной деятельности к.э.н., доцент Е.П. Верховская</p> 
--	---

Билет № 17

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise in India

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/economicsurvey/doc/echapter.pdf>

Reference date: 15.01.2023

Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute significantly to the economic and social development of the country by fostering entrepreneurship and by generating employment opportunities. The relative importance of MSMEs can be gauged from the fact that the share of MSME GVA in total GVA (current prices) for 2019-20 was 33.08 per cent. 8.25

The government has taken several initiatives to nurture and promote the MSMEs. The revision in the definition of MSMEs brought in w.e.f. 1st July, 2020 as part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat package introduced a composite-criteria of investment and annual turnover- and identical limits for manufacturing and services sector. The modified definition of MSMEs will facilitate expansion and growth of these enterprises. The resulting economies of scale can enhance productivity without the MSMEs losing out on several government incentives including market support, export promotion, preferential procurement in the public sector and incentives through the Micro Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) and enabling of IT ecosystems. This enabling environment will promote competition and avoid dwarfism among MSMEs. The recent measures taken by the Government to improve the ease of doing business for the MSMEs include the launch of the new Udyam Registration Portal in July 2020.

The registration process under this is fully online, digital, paperless and is based on self-declaration. No documents or proof are required to be uploaded for registering as a micro, small and medium enterprise. Aadhaar and PAN are required for registration and details on investment and turnover of enterprises are taken automatically from relevant Government databases. New registration process has boosted the ease of doing business for MSMEs by reducing transaction time and costs. As on 17.01.2022, 66,34,006 enterprises have registered on the Udyam portal, out of which 62,79,858 are micro; 3,19,793 are small; and 34,355 are medium enterprises. Further, among the new measures, the retail and wholesale trades were included as MSMEs and they are allowed to be registered on Udyam Registration Portal. However, the benefits to retail and wholesale trade MSMEs are to be restricted to Priority Sector Lending only. In this regard, now, street vendors can also register as retail traders on Udyam Registration (UR) portal and avail the benefit of priority sector lending.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

 Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 18

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

A business-friendly regulatory framework

<https://www.eurochambres.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/EUROCHAMBRES-ECONOMIC-SURVEY-2022-Report-4.pdf>

Reference date: 15.11.2021

Companies operating in the Balkans and Western Europe drive the overall negative expectations over the shortage of skilled workers. Lastly, Southern European companies consider 2022 as a crucial year to position themselves competitively to access affordable energy and raw materials.

- European decision-makers must enable the creation of a law-making environment that guarantees a level playing field and reduces burdens for SMEs to help them adapt to unforeseen changes and contribute to job creation and boosting growth.
- Europe needs a suitable financial framework to ensure that banks, institutional and retail investors can support SMEs in raising more capital to fund their short-term needs as well as long-term investment projects. EU programmes must support the diversification of financial sources available to SMEs by unlocking equity type resources, broadening their investor base, and fostering de-risking practices.
- More access to public procurement contracts should be fostered by allowing easy tender application requirements and processes to small businesses. Finally, there is a need to ensure a proper implementation and enforcement of the Late Payment Directive to ensure that payments are made on time. Solutions to address exacerbating skills shortages
- The exacerbating labour shortages must be addressed by providing the right skills; thus, member states should leverage recovery funds and ESF+ to strengthen and expand the labour market's resilience and flexibility through improved financing schemes for businesses that provide labour market-relevant training opportunities.
- Vocational and adult education and training curricula must be modernised to ensure the delivery of skills that businesses need in line with the results of skills intelligence, which should be used more effectively in curricula and policy design.
- Entrepreneurial education should be promoted, with a particular emphasis on digital and green skills, to encourage the establishment of new businesses that are competitive in the transitioning economy.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 19

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

The world's population has reached 8bn. Don't panic

<https://www.economist.com/international/2022/11/11/the-worlds-population-has-reached-8bn-dont-panic>

Reference date: 11.11.2022

It took a dozen years (from 1998 to 2010) for the global population to grow from 6bn to 7bn. It has taken the same length of time to notch up the next billion. Against the backdrop of catastrophising, it is worth recalling what is behind this growth: longer lives, improvements in nutrition and public health; falls in infant mortality, disease and maternal deaths in childbirth. The world's population carried on growing even in the teeth of the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the virus killing—according to The Economist's best estimates—between 16m and 28m people. That would represent as much as a fifth of all deaths over the period.

Not much evidence, then, of a global demographic collapse. Nor is one coming soon. On current trends, the global population will reach 9bn in 2037 and peak at 10.4bn sometime between 2080 and 2100.

The spectre of overpopulation looks equally unthreatening. Even though the extra-billion milestones are passing with the same regularity, the global population growth rate is falling fast. In 1963 total population rose by 2.3%. In 2022 it grew by just 0.8%, the lowest rate since the 1950s.

How can growth be falling while the population rises steadily? The answer is that inertia and momentum matter hugely. The 1990s and 2000s were both decades of relatively fast population growth. The children born then are now reaching their child-bearing years. The number of adults aged between 18 and 49 was 2.2bn in 1987. It is 3.6bn now. But this bumper crop of potential parents seems to be choosing to have smaller families. The total fertility rate, which measures how many children a woman can expect to have in her lifetime, has plunged from 3.3 in 1990 to 2.3 now, only slightly above the “replacement rate”—at which the population stays constant—of about 2.1. Though the population continues to rise, the increase hardly seems uncontrolled.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 20

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Should rich countries pay for climate damage in poor ones?

<https://www.economist.com/international/2022/11/20/a-new-un-fund-for-loss-and-damage-emerges-from-cop27>
Reference date: 20.11.2022

Loss and damage generated the most headlines. The idea dates back to 1991 when Vanuatu, an island nation in the Pacific, suggested an insurance scheme to help pay for the consequences of rising sea levels. For 30 years such demands were rebuffed. Leaders of big carbon-emitting countries—and their lawyers—would not give any airtime to anything that might suggest financial liability for climate change.

But last year, at the previous cop summit in Scotland, that country's first minister promised £2m (\$2.4m) to the cause. Against the scale of the problem, of course, that is an invisibly tiny sum. But it was a first hint that the tide might be turning. Earlier this year, heavy monsoon rains caused more than \$30bn of damage and financial losses in Pakistan, nearly 9% of the country's GDP. Natural climatic variations, notably an ocean-cooling phenomenon known as “La Niña”, were partly responsible. But the rains were very likely made heavier by the effects of greenhouse gases.

The floods were seized upon at COP27 as demonstrating the need for rich countries to loosen their purse-strings. A scattering of promises made by other European governments brought the total pledged to €255m (\$262m), with the bulk of the money—€170m—coming from Germany. Bolstered by support from the European Union, the G7, a group of poor and middle-income nations, obtained a promise to set up a new fund under the auspices of the un, the details of which will be agreed by November next year.

The summit, in other words, created a coffer. But how much money will end up inside it is unclear. Persuading the citizens of industrialised nations to pay up for sins committed at least partly by their grandfathers will be tricky, to put it mildly. And history suggests poor countries would be unwise to hope for too much. One common complaint at COP27 concerned the developed world's failure to honour promises made at the Copenhagen climate summit in 2009. That had promised to raise \$100bn a year to help poor countries adapt to a warmer world by building flood defences, heat-proofing homes and the like. That amounted to an “egregious and unexplained default”, said William Ruto, Kenya's president. (No more than \$83bn has arrived in any single year.)

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

 Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 21

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Can rich countries care for the old without going bust?

<https://www.economist.com/international/2022/08/04/can-rich-countries-care-for-the-old-without-going-bust>
Reference date: 04.08.2022

“I am in a hurry,” says Conny Helder, a Dutch minister who juggles the portfolios of sport and care for the elderly. She is referring to the second half of her job. The number of Dutch people aged 75 and older is expected almost to double by 2040, to 2.5m. The proportion of Dutch GDP spent looking after the elderly is already among the highest in the world (see chart). Without big changes, it could double by 2050. The share of the workforce helping the sick and frail could rise from one-seventh to one-third, the government fears.

So, on July 4th, Ms Helder announced that the Netherlands would not carry on as before. In future, she said, old people will have to rely more on themselves and less on professional caregivers. Care in a nursing home, which costs the government one-fifth more than looking after people in their own houses, will be a last resort.

The Netherlands is hardly alone in worrying about the coming stress on its finances. In North America and much of Europe the oldest baby-boomers are pushing 80. They will “stretch every part of the system” in America, says David Grabowski, a scholar at Harvard Medical School. Workers who take care of the elderly are ageing themselves. In the OECD, a club mainly of rich countries, their median age is 45, 18 months higher than that of all workers. Labour shortages, already a problem, are bound to get worse. To maintain the current ratio of care workers to people over 65 (which is one to 20), OECD countries would need to find 13.5m more care workers by 2040, a rise of 60%.

Few promises are harder for governments to keep than to provide good care to the next generation of the elderly. A survey in 2020 by the OECD found that the availability of affordable old-age care is among people’s biggest worries about the future. Pensioners already claim a big slice of governmental budgets, and the share will only rise as their numbers swell. Yet governments are loth to pay by taxing windfalls from higher property values that have largely benefited older voters. Many are also reluctant to increase immigration, which could help them cope with labour shortages.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

 Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 22

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Costly food and energy are fostering global unrest

<https://www.economist.com/international/2022/06/23/costly-food-and-energy-are-fostering-global-unrest>

Reference date: 23.06.2022

“Money no longer had any value in Istanbul,” laments the narrator of “My Name is Red”, a novel by Orhan Pamuk set in the 16th century. “[B]akeries that once sold large...loaves of bread for one silver coin now baked loaves half the size for the same price.” The royal mint was slyly reducing the amount of silver in each coin. When the Janissaries (an elite military force) found that their wages had been debased, “they rioted, besieging Our Sultan’s palace as if it were an enemy fortress.”

Galloping inflation afflicts Turkey again today. Officially it is 73%, but everyone suspects it is higher. Mr Pamuk, a Nobel laureate for literature, says he has “never seen such a dramatic rise in prices”. He makes no predictions about what the political consequences might be. To criticise Turkey’s modern sultan, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, would be risky. But from his book-strewn flat overlooking the Bosphorus, Mr Pamuk observes that his compatriots are reacting with “shock, surprise and anger”.

A visit to a street market suggests the novelist is right. A vine-leaf seller gripes that he has had to treble his prices since last year. “People used to buy 5kg at a time and put them away for winter. Now they can only afford 300g.” A grandfather complains that his pension has been so eroded that he has not eaten meat this year. “The government is responsible, who else?” he says. He voted for Mr Erdogan’s party at the most recent election, in 2019, but will not do so again. “The solution is to change the government,” says the vine-leaf seller. “I want to leave the country,” says his younger brother. “I’ll clean toilets in Europe if I have to.”

The strongest predictor of future instability is past instability, finds a forthcoming paper by Sandile Hlatshwayo and Chris Redl of the imf. Historically, the probability that a country will experience severe social unrest in a given month is only 1%, but this quadruples if it has suffered it within the previous six months and doubles if a neighbouring country has experienced it, they calculate. Protesters are more likely to surge onto the streets if they think others will join them.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

<p>Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»</p> <p>Направление подготовки 5.2.3 научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая экономика отрасль науки «Экономические науки»</p>	<p>“УТВЕРЖДАЮ” Проректор по образовательной деятельности к.э.н. доцент Е.П. Верховская</p> 
---	--

Билет № 23

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Britain has fewer hospital beds than almost any other rich country

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2023/01/26/britain-has-fewer-hospital-beds-than-almost-any-other-rich-country>

Reference date: 26.01.2023

Britain has 2.3 hospital beds per 1,000 people, compared with 5.7 in France, and 7.8 in Germany. So in the middle of what is perhaps the worst winter in the history of the National Health Service (NHS), it is not surprising that hospitals are rammed. In the second week of January, 95.7% of beds in acute and general wards in England were occupied, the second-highest figure ever recorded. High occupancy rates mean that it takes longer for sick patients to be admitted, resulting in record waiting times in accident & emergency (A&E) departments.

After more than 12 years in power, the Conservative government can be blamed for many of the NHS's current problems. Its refusal, until recently, to have a workforce plan helps explain why one in ten posts in the NHS are vacant. Cuts to the capital budget have run down hospital premises and led to skimping on medical equipment like scanners. Given the extent of current problems, it would be easy to blame the government for the bed shortage, too. In fact, it is more complicated than that.

In the decades leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries reduced their numbers of hospital beds. Those who did so fastest—including Britain—were celebrated as paragons of caring efficiency. Beds for those with mental illnesses and learning disabilities were replaced by more appropriate care in the community. Medical advances helped patients in general, acute and maternity wards to get out of hospital faster, and therefore to recover more quickly at home. In the 20 years to 2020-21, the number of acute and general beds fell by 30%. During that same period the length of the average stay in hospital fell more sharply still, from 8.2 days to 4.3.

The idea of bed reductions commanded support among managers and policymakers during the last Labour government. In 2006 the NHS Confederation, which represents NHS organisations, released a briefing paper entitled “Why we need fewer beds”. An all-party parliamentary group for dementia, headed by a cross-bench peer and former boss of Age Concern England, suggested in 2011 that at least 10% of acute beds should be cut in order to fund improved dementia care.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики



Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 24

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Britain's carmaking industry is increasingly under threat

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2023/01/24/britains-carmaking-industry-is-increasingly-under-threat>

Reference date: 24.01.2023

The performance of Britain's car industry over the years has varied as much as the vehicles it has produced. In the 1950s Britain churned out more cars than anywhere except America; by the 1970s the industry was close to collapse. Six years ago it was purring like a Rolls-Royce: 1.7m cars rolled off production lines in 2016. Since then COVID, Brexit and the rapid shift to battery power have made it look more like a Morris Marina. The country fell from 13th in the carmaking league table in 2016 to 18th five years later. Only 775,014 cars emerged from British factories in 2022, the worst year since 1956.

Recent setbacks have added to the mood of pessimism. On January 16th Britishvolt, a battery startup once lauded by the government as a symbol of the electric-vehicle (EV) age, entered administration. BMW, the German owner of the Mini brand, confirmed in October that electric versions of the car would be made in China, and that its factory in Oxford would henceforth produce only petrol-powered cars. Shortly afterwards Arrival, a startup making electric delivery vans, said it would shift most of its operations to North Carolina.

Carmaking is an industry that directly accounts for 182,000 jobs and had a turnover of £67bn (\$83bn; 3% of GDP) in 2021. But the chances of another revival in fortunes are ebbing, for three reasons: the globalisation of the car industry, Britain's withdrawal from the EU and, above all, its poor performance on electrification, the most profound shift in the industry since the advent of mass production.

The globalisation of the industry since the 1980s was good for Britain. Japan's Toyota and Nissan set up shop locally and other foreign firms snapped up the best British brands. All were keen to take advantage of domestic engineering prowess, flexible labour laws and membership of the EU, which made the country a useful base for exports. Some 80% of cars still go abroad, over half to Europe.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики



Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»

“УТВЕРЖДАЮ”
Проректор
по образовательной деятельности
к.э.н., доцент

Е.П. Верховская

Билет № 25

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Britain's trade unions lose faith in the pay review bodies

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2023/01/19/britains-trade-unions-lose-faith-in-the-pay-review-bodies>

Reference date: 19.01.2023

British employers lost 467,000 working-days to strikes in November, the highest in over a decade, according to figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on January 17th. That mark will almost certainly be breached before Britain's winter of strife is over. Scottish teachers, London bus drivers, nurses, courtroom staff and driving instructors were among those picketing this week.

More strikes are being called by the day. On January 16th teachers in England and Wales voted for seven days of walkouts. Some 100,000 civil servants in 124 government departments will strike on February 1st. The government sounds by turns emollient and aggressive: a bill that would force certain unions to maintain a minimum level of service during industrial action is now going through Parliament.

Grievances over pay lie at the heart of the disputes. Private-sector pay (excluding benefits such as pensions) increased by 7.2% in the year to November, the ONS said on January 17th, compared with a rise of 3.3% in the public sector, and a rise in consumer prices of 10.7%. But underpinning these grievances is a loss of faith in the pay review bodies (PRBs) that advise the government on what to pay public-sector employees. The trade unions say the PRBs lack clout and independence. On January 11th, 14 unions representing health-care workers said they would not submit evidence to the NHS PRB as it starts to weigh salaries for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

There are eight PRBs, covering the armed forces, doctors and dentists, other NHS staff, prison officers, teachers, police and the most senior public-sector managers. They typically number six to eight wonks and worthies, appointed by the government. The PRBs analyse evidence from the government, employers and unions, and commission their own research, before proposing pay deals.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 26

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Britain is well-placed to cope with a downturn in the housing market

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2023/01/19/britain-is-well-placed-to-cope-with-a-downturn-in-the-housing-market>

Reference date: 19.01.2023

Tanya McWaters, a 30-year-old television production manager, and her husband may have managed to buy right at the peak of the housing market. Like others their age the couple used their savings, as well as a little money from her parents—and, in their case, emptying his Australian pension pot—to cobble together the money for a deposit. They moved from a rented flat in London into a house in Bicester, near Oxford, last April. “I love it,” she says. “[The mortgage bill] was the same as our rent for the one-bed in London.”

Not for much longer. Having taken out a one-year fixed-rate mortgage as “the economy was so confusing at the time”, they now face a steep rise in their housing costs. Even the best deals on offer would see the couple’s monthly housing bill increase by £300 (\$370), over 25% more than they pay now. “It’s a bit grim,” she says.

According to data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), over 1.4m fixed-rate mortgages will come to an end this year. Nearly all of these mortgages have an interest rate of less than 2.5%; new two-year fixed-rate mortgages will typically cost more than double that, at about 6%. The average variable-rate mortgage, which tracks the Bank of England’s base rate, is about 4.4% and will rise further as the central bank tightens monetary policy. Heftier mortgage bills will be painful. The big question for the economy is whether they signal something really ominous.

As in many other countries, housing transactions surged in Britain during the COVID-19 pandemic. Low interest rates, a temporary pause in stamp duty on some property sales and the spread of working from home combined to fuel a dash for space. First-time buyers were enthusiastic participants in the market, accounting for more than half of all new mortgages during the pandemic. Between March 2020 and November 2022, the average cost of a house rose by a quarter, from £233,000 to £295,000, according to official statistics.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики


Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 27

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

British politics needs more money

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2023/01/19/british-politics-needs-more-money>

Reference date: 19.01.2023

At times it feels as if Westminster is awash with cash. Boris Johnson, the former prime minister, recorded the biggest single donation in British political history, when a crypto mogul handed over £1m (\$1.2m). Moonlighting mps have earned a collective £17m from second jobs since the last election. According to a handy new database put together by Sky News, a broadcaster, and Tortoise Media, a news firm, over £180m has flowed into Westminster since 2019, triggering a week of chatter about the unhealthy effects of Mammon on politics.

British politics does have a problem with money: there is not enough of it. Total political donations per year add up to roughly the cost of a competitive Senate race in America. A benevolent millionaire could fund almost all of Britain's biggest political think-tanks and have change left from £20m. Salaries for those working in government and Parliament are skimpy. British politics operates on a shoestring. Being cheap comes at a high cost.

Start at the bottom of the political food chain. There are many humiliations involved in being a ministerial aide, from serving as a metaphorical punchbag to helping a minister hone his conference speech while he strides around a hotel room in his underpants. To cap it off, considering the importance of the job, the pay can be lousy. Only a few top aides earn six-figure salaries. For the rest, pay ranges from £40,000 to £80,000, to help run departments with budgets that can stretch to over £100bn. In Britain it is quite common to find a minister trailed by a 20-something, not because they are especially brilliant but because they are the only one willing to put up with terrible conditions.

Away from the government front bench, things are even worse. Although opposition parties are handed “short money” from the state to fund their day-to-day parliamentary business, the amounts are stingy. Labour, which is odds-on to form the next government, recently searched for a new head of economic policy. The salary on offer was about £50,000, for a key role shaping the direction of a £2trn economy. The prospect of power may be enough to tempt someone to quit a well-paid career elsewhere. Equally, the weight of a mortgage may keep them where they are.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

 Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 28

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Assembling a better British relationship with Europe

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2023/01/05/assembling-a-better-british-relationship-with-europe>
Reference date: 05.01.2023

The reality of Brexit is hitting home for others, too. It is now two years since the Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA), the trade deal negotiated by Boris Johnson, took effect. The picture is muddied by the effects of COVID-19 and high energy prices; it is too soon to assess Brexit's long-run effects. But the evidence suggests that leaving the bloc has inflicted a lot of damage.

John Springford of the Centre for European Reform (CER), a think-tank, has constructed a phantom country that tracked Britain's performance before the referendum in 2016. This shadow nation shows the path Britain might have taken had it not voted to leave the EU. He estimates that by the second quarter of 2022, Brexit had left GDP 5.5% smaller and dragged down investment by 11%. Given that Britain was already one of the worst performers on investment among G7 countries before the referendum, Brexit seems to have made a bad situation worse.

Mr Springford's model has its critics, but the picture he paints is plausible. The uncertainty induced by years of bickering over the terms of Britain's departure has put managers off making big investments. Trade barriers have done their job: British exports to Europe have fallen from 70,000 to 42,000 product types, according to a paper by researchers at Aston Business School. The dream of a “sovereign global Britain” has fizzled. A promised trade agreement with America has gone nowhere. Trumpeted ones with Australia and New Zealand are expected to lift GDP by 0.08% and 0.03% per year respectively.

Mr Johnson's form of hard Brexit suddenly looks more fragile. If you exclude people who answered “don't know”, 60% of Britons now think leaving the EU was an error, according to polling by YouGov. Only a quarter pick rejoining as their preferred solution, but some 70% of Britons favour a closer relationship with the EU, according to the Tony Blair Institute, a think-tank.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»	“УТВЕРЖДАЮ” Проректор по образовательной деятельности К.Э.Н. профессор Е.П. Верховская
Направление подготовки 5.2.3 научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая экономика отрасль науки «Экономические науки»	

Билет № 29

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

The impact of Brexit, in charts

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2023/01/03/the-impact-of-brexit-in-charts>

Reference date: 03.01.2023

Pragmatism calls for trying to make Brexit work better. It also requires an understanding of how much damage leaving the EU has done to Britain's economy. After Britain formally left the bloc in January 2020 with a bare-bones trade deal, optimists clung to the hope that some of its poor performance was due to COVID-19, and so would fade. Perhaps the disruption associated with new trade barriers would be short-lived, as traders got used to new arrangements. It is still too soon to assess Brexit's long-run effects. But the evidence so far shows that it has hurt.

John Springford of the Centre for European Reform, a think-tank, tries to isolate the effect of Brexit by constructing a phantom country that tracked Britain's performance before 2016's referendum result. By using an algorithm to pick from a set of 22 countries rather than just selecting, say, a few economies of a similar size, he builds a plausible description of Britain's path had it not voted to leave the EU. He estimates that by the second quarter of 2022, Brexit had hit GDP by as much as 6% relative to this counterfactual. Using the same method, he reckons that Brexit dragged down investment by 11%.

The effects on trade are a little more complicated. The latest data suggest that Brexit hasn't had much effect on trade in services at all (though all estimates should come with the caveat that services trade is notoriously hard to measure). But it appears that Brexit had depressed Britain's trade in goods by 7% by the second quarter of 2022.

These numbers are not gospel. Critics of Mr Springford's model say that some of its comparator countries unfairly disadvantage Britain: Australia and New Zealand were more able to close their borders during the pandemic and avoid the worst effects of lockdowns; America became an energy exporter in 2019. They also point out that Britain's productivity problem predicated Brexit: it was already the worst performer on investment among G7 countries during the decade before the referendum. Mr Springford has argued in turn that his approach is better than cherrypicking countries based on rules of thumb. Whatever the precise scale of the hit, the overall message is clear: Brexit has made a bad situation worse.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЕРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 30

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

South Africa's blackouts hurt the economy in unexpected ways

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2023/02/02/south-africas-blackouts-hurt-the-economy-in-unexpected-ways>

Reference date: 02.02.2023

“We slaughter chickens 24 hours a day,” says Izaak Breitenbach of the South African Poultry Association (SAPA), an industry body. At least that is the plan. Normally 4m birds are sent to abattoirs every day. But power cuts implemented by Eskom, the state-owned utility, have been “an absolute disaster”, he says, causing butcheries to cease butchering. The curious yet potent effects on this one industry hint at the vast cost of blackouts for the rest of the country’s economy.

The question of what came first, the chicken or the egg, is irrelevant for poultry producers; all they see is one long value chain. They raise parent chickens, whose eggs are taken to hatcheries. The hatched chicks are moved to broiler farms, the cacophonous prelude to the abattoir. Chickens are typically slaughtered at a precise, young age—34 days old—to meet buyers’ requirements. Fast-food restaurants such as KFC have tightly controlled processes: if wings or legs or breasts are too big, then the allotted cooking time is insufficient and the meat is raw. South African consumers are generally too poor to afford large birds, so retailers also encourage producers to slaughter birds earlier than happens in richer countries.

Last year the total amount of “load-shedding”, as the local euphemism goes, was more than twice as high as in any previous year. In 2023 there is literally no light at the end of the tunnel. South Africans expect to be without electricity for six to ten hours a day. That means a quarter fewer chickens are being slaughtered, with two direct effects. First, farmers breed fewer chicks, since there is no space at broiler farms. Second, the 1m or so poult that are spared every day are growing bigger. They are too big, in fact, for the likes of KFC, meaning lost sales for chicken firms.

Power cuts mean higher prices, too. In part this is because of reduced supply. But it is also a result of higher costs. One farmer says that he spends 800,000 rand (\$47,000) a day on fuel for his generators.

Poultry is just one sector hurt by load-shedding. Mining output has fallen year-on-year for ten consecutive months. The small businesses that serve millions of consumers in poor, mostly black townships are going bust. Shoprite, a large grocery chain, forecast that if power cuts continue, it will spend 1.2bn rand a year on diesel to keep the lights on, a sum equal to about a fifth of its annual profits. Economists reckon power cuts may tip the country into recession in 2023.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики



Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 31

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise in India

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/economicsurvey/doc/echapter.pdf>

Reference date: 15.01.2023

Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute significantly to the economic and social development of the country by fostering entrepreneurship and by generating employment opportunities. The relative importance of MSMEs can be gauged from the fact that the share of MSME GVA in total GVA (current prices) for 2019-20 was 33.08 per cent. 8.25

The government has taken several initiatives to nurture and promote the MSMEs. The revision in the definition of MSMEs brought in w.e.f. 1st July, 2020 as part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat package introduced a composite-criteria of investment and annual turnover- and identical limits for manufacturing and services sector. The modified definition of MSMEs will facilitate expansion and growth of these enterprises. The resulting economies of scale can enhance productivity without the MSMEs losing out on several government incentives including market support, export promotion, preferential procurement in the public sector and incentives through the Micro Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) and enabling of IT ecosystems. This enabling environment will promote competition and avoid dwarfism among MSMEs. The recent measures taken by the Government to improve the ease of doing business for the MSMEs include the launch of the new Udyam Registration Portal in July 2020.

The registration process under this is fully online, digital, paperless and is based on self-declaration. No documents or proof are required to be uploaded for registering as a micro, small and medium enterprise. Aadhaar and PAN are required for registration and details on investment and turnover of enterprises are taken automatically from relevant Government databases. New registration process has boosted the ease of doing business for MSMEs by reducing transaction time and costs. As on 17.01.2022, 66,34,006 enterprises have registered on the Udyam portal, out of which 62,79,858 are micro; 3,19,793 are small; and 34,355 are medium enterprises. Further, among the new measures, the retail and wholesale trades were included as MSMEs and they are allowed to be registered on Udyam Registration Portal. However, the benefits to retail and wholesale trade MSMEs are to be restricted to Priority Sector Lending only. In this regard, now, street vendors can also register as retail traders on Udyam Registration (UR) portal and avail the benefit of priority sector lending.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики

Кухаренко О.Г.

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «СИНЭРГИЯ»

Кандидатский экзамен по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»

Направление подготовки 5.2.3
научная специальность Региональная и отраслевая
экономика
отрасль науки «Экономические науки»



Билет № 32

1. Read and translate the text. Answer the questions after the text.

China shows few signs of loosening its zero-Covid policy

<https://www.economist.com/china/2022/10/13/china-shows-few-signs-of-loosening-its-zero-Covid-policy>

Reference date: 13.10.2022

Will the Communist Party congress mark a turning-point in China's fight against Covid-19? The week-long event, beginning on October 16th, will see Xi Jinping re-anointed as the party's leader. Some hope he will use the stage to signal an end to his “zero-Covid policy”, which relies on mass testing, big lockdowns and draconian restrictions to contain outbreaks. But in recent days the People's Daily, a party mouthpiece, has dimmed those hopes. “Fighting the epidemic is a test of the spirit,” said one commentary in the paper. Another condemned “war-weariness and wishful thinking”.

Much of the public has indeed grown weary of the zero-Covid policy. Whereas China has experienced a much lower death toll from the virus compared with other big countries, its economy is buckling under the weight of virus-related restrictions. The imf expects China's GDP to grow by just 3.2% this year, much slower than the government's target. Youth unemployment is close to 20%. China's commercial hub, Shanghai, suffered a two-month lockdown earlier this year—and may soon close again, amid a spike in cases. The region of Xinjiang has been largely sealed off since the summer owing to multiple outbreaks. An ever-increasing number of people have been caught up in the government's Covid controls.

Will they ever end? Parsing the People's Daily is one way to gauge Mr Xi's intentions. Another is to look at the checklist of things China must do to exit the zero-Covid policy without a big loss of life. So far Mr Xi has approached these tasks with a revealing lack of urgency.

A new vaccination campaign would be an essential first step. Over 90% of the population has received two or more doses of one of China's vaccines. A recent push to vaccinate more old people has been somewhat successful. But, as of September, only two-thirds of those aged 60 and over had received three doses, the amount needed to greatly reduce the risk of severe illness and death (see chart). Meanwhile, protection from booster shots is fading. In September experts at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention argued that the population would have to have a fourth dose of vaccine before the government loosened controls, otherwise the health system would be overwhelmed.

Write 180-200 words for each response

1. Please comment on how you can use the material in this publication for the purposes of your research.
2. What is the purpose of the text?
3. How can this publication contribute to your research?
4. What are the global trends in your field?
5. What are the Russian trends in your field?

2. Тестирование (тест состоит из 35 вопросов).

Декан факультета Экономики



Кухаренко О.Г.