***ART***

**1.This country is world-famous thanks to its painters, composers, sculptors, architects… Tell me about some of them.** Without a shadow of a doubt, Belarus has given birth to a great number of prominent composers, painters, sculptors and so on. For instance, those who contributed a lot to the development of Belarusian sculpture are A.Bembel, Z.Azgur, S.Vakar, I.Misko, A.Anikeychik and many many others. Luminous pictures of the our second to none painters like V.Yushkevich, N.Orda, V.Volkov, U.Pen and others, captivate imagination. If to turn to architecture, an outstanding role in our history belongs to S.Selikhanov, Y.Gradov, V.Zankovich, L.Levin and now I want to tell you about one of them. Valentine Zankovich is a Soviet Belarusian architect, sculptor, laureate of the Lenin Prize and the Lenin Komsomol Prize of Belarus. He was born in the family of teachers, in the village of Priluki, in 1937. He graduated from the Belarusian Polytechnic Institute at the age of 22 and the Belarusian State Academy of Arts at the age of 39. Many of Zankovich's works, made in collaboration with other architects have been significant for Belarus for a long time. I'm sure you know such sculptures as the monument "Courage" in the Brest Fortress Memorial Complex, the sculpture "Unbowed man" in Khatyn, the obelisk monument "Minsk, a city-hero" and bas-reliefs on the new building of the Great Patriotic War Museum in Minsk. On a final note all the mentioned above makes me feel really proud of my dear motherland and of the very fact I’m Belarusian.

**2. Are you a creative person in your everyday life? Why/Why not?** To be honest, I’m not extremely busy nowadays but in the ninth form and earlier I had a full diary: intensive studies in the first part of the day and numerous after-school activities. For example, I graduated from music school with honors in 2020 and now I often sit at my piano and learn something new. Moreover, I went to dance classes for 10 years but this year I’ve taken a break for some reason. But for me, dancing gives an opportunity to relax, to throw out energy and leave all the bad things behind, to feel free. But there is another activity I’m obsessed with. I joined the exemplary choir of our gymnasium at the age of nine. At first I was scared of the number of people and the program complexity but then I got really excited about it. Besides I’m passionate about drawing so the theme "Art" is close to me in some way. All in all, all the facts mentioned above make me think that I am a creative person.

**3. Ask some questions about the film or the theatre performance I have lately seen/exhibition I have lately visited.** My first question will be like this: what theatre did you go to last time? The next question is: what do you think about the theatre performance you have lately seen? And finally I’d like to find out what genre of performance it was.

**4. Give me some advice on what sights are worth visiting in Belarus.** Taking into account the fact that Belarus holds numerous international events a lot of tourists pay a visit to this fabulous country. The first place they set their foot on is of course the capital of Belarus, the city of Minsk. As we all know, Minsk is a beautiful city with a long history. Besides, it's the city with modern architecture, shady parks and some churches. So I would advise starting the route from Upper Town where you can enjoy our gorgeous churches and, of course, the Trinity Suburb. We can see the Island of tears not far from Upper Town. By the way, a visit to Victory Square with its lofty obelisk and eternal fire is a must for every tourist. But not only Minsk is renowned for its sights. There are quite a number of palaces and ancient castles in Belarus too, for example Mir Castle, Kosava Castle,   
Lida Castle and Nesvizh Castle. History lovers can visit the oldest places of this country, such as Polotsk, the cradle of Belarusian statehood, Zaslavl, where the Bible by Simon Budny was published, and many others. So, I hope that I convinced you that Belarus is definitely worth visiting.

**5. People say that creative activities are very good for our mental health. Do you agree with it? Why/Why not?** I absolutely agree with this statement because creative activities are, without exaggeration, a therapy for our mind. Any type of creative activity boosts confidence and self-esteem. Personally for me, such activities as dancing and drawing help to leave all the bad things behind, to combat stress, to relax. Furthermore, being a member of the exemplary choir of my school often gives me an opportunity to raise my spirits, to enrich my inner world and just have fun with my friends. Attending and participating in concerts reduces psychological stress and anxiety. Yes, performing on stage isn't so easy, but when you hear that applause all the problems seem insignificant. In summation, I hope these facts will inspire you to pick up a pen or a paintbrush. Let start you creative power run wild!