

## Linguistics & Modern Languages: second-round sample tasks

### Section 1. General Linguistics: cognitive-discursive studies

#### 1. Which of the words and expressions are recognized by Anna Zaliznyak, Irina Levontina, and Alexei Shmelyov as key ideas of the Russian linguistic picture of the world?

1. Rus. dusha naraspashku (lit. soul open wide),
2. Rus. semya - family
3. Rus. na vsyakiy sluchay – just in case
4. Rus. trud oblagorazhivaet (lit. work ennobles)

Entry level

Answer:1

Points: 2

#### 2. Match the text with the discourse.

The philosophical interpretation of the word “conscience” indicates the dual nature of manifestation of the ethical category behind this word. Conscience can manifest itself both in the rational form of realizing the moral significance of one’s actions and in a complex of emotional experiences (e.g., “remorse”).

- 1) scientific discourse
- 2) legal discourse
- 3) everyday discourse
- 4) advertising discourse
- 5) medical discourse
- 6) social media discourse

Entry level

Answer:1

Points: 2

#### 3. Choose the type of speech acts the following phrase “I wouldn’t settle for less if I were you!” corresponds to

- 1) congratulations
- 2) gratitude
- 3) complaint
- 4) apology
- 5) advice

Entry level

Answer: 5

Points: 2

#### 4. A play on words task:

How is a man like the weather? Nothing can be done to change either one of them.

- 1) The weather can be changed.
- 2) A man can be changed.
- 3) Neither a man, nor the weather can be changed.

**ONE CLICK TO OPEN ALL DOORS**

Entry level

Answer: 3

Points: 1

**5. Match the given discourse with its communicative purpose.**

- 1) Study of the object of research and formation of scientific knowledge.
- 2) Distribution of information about current laws.
- 3) Distribution of scientific knowledge and formation of skills in learners.
- 4) Communication for the sake of communication.

- A. scientific discourse
- B. legal discourse
- C. everyday discourse
- D. pedagogical discourse

Intermediate level

Answer: 1A 2B 3D 4C

Points: 4

**6. Give your explanations to the following metaphors:**

- 1) There's a rat among us
- 2) Laughter is the best medicine
- 3) His heart was made of gold

Advanced level

- Answer: 1) Rats are said to be sneaky animals and are associated with betrayal.  
2) Laughter is compared with medicine so as to help you heal or recover from an event.  
3) Here, gold is used to indicate kindness and generosity.

Points: 9 (3\*3): 1 point for explaining the meaning, 1 point for explaining the inner/figurative form of the phrase, 1 point for the clarity of expression.

**Section 2. Theory and practice of communication**

**7. Which term reflects a speech clash that is based on aggression expressed through linguistic means?**

- 1) communicative instability
- 2) communicative conflict
- 3) communicative failure
- 4) communicative success

Entry level

Answer: 2

Points: 1

**8. Read the dialogue below and answer the question.**

A young woman: "Do you actually know Oscar Wilde?"

Gareth: "Not personally, no. But I do know someone who could get his fax number for you. Shall we dance?" (from Four Weddings And A Funeral)

**What is the cause of communication failure?**

- 1) Communication failures occur when interlocutors have different background knowledge.
- 2) Communication failures occur when interlocutors are of different gender and age.

Entry level

Answer: 1

Points: 1

**9. Which form of the language is illustrated by the following examples?**

In / da / hood...

Ain't nobody...

She right here.

/ dat, dem /

They been ready.

- 1) dialect
- 2) vernacular language
- 3) argot and jargon
- 4) barbarisms

Entry level

Answer: 2

Points: 2

**10. Identify a word combination where lexical co-occurrence is intentionally violated.**

- 1) forward outpost
- 2) night serenade
- 3) free vacancy
- 4) vanity of vanities

Entry level

Answer: 4

Points: 2

**11. Find errors in the use of phraseological unit(s) in the sentence below, make a stylistic correction of the sentence and write down the correct version.**

Even your grandma wouldn't know whether it'll be rain up in the air.

Advanced level

Answer: "Even your grandma wouldn't know whether it'll be rain or snow" or "up in the air."

Points: 5

**12. Match the lexical error with the sentence where it appears. Correct the error and write down the correct version of the sentence.**

- 1) use of a word in its figurative meaning
- 2) distortion of phraseological units
- 3) mixing of paronyms
- 4) use of pronouns leading to ambiguity of speech
- 5) use of an unnecessary word which does not carry a semantic load (pleonasm)

- A. You should have your own head behind your shoulders.
- B. The floor is introduced to the general director.
- C. We quarreled over the goat, despite the neighbor's promise that she wouldn't fight anymore.
- D. There were no customers, and the store went down the drain.
- E. Valuable materials are wasted vainly at the factory.
- F. The whole world is shocked by the flooding in the countries of Europe.

Answer: 1F 2A, D 3B 4C 5E

Intermediate level

Points: 6

### Section 3. Linguostylistics and literary text

#### 13. Definition of the integrity (coherence) of the text involves analyzing

- 1) the surface structure of the text
- 2) the semantic unity of the text
- 3) cohesion of text elements following each other
- 4) cohesion of text elements at a distance from each other

Entry level

Answer: 2

Points: 1

#### 14. The basic properties of text are

- 1) informativeness
- 2) cohesion
- 3) presence of subtext
- 4) coherence
- 5) multiple meanings

Intermediate level

Answer: 1, 2, 4

Points: 6

#### 15. Match the speech styles with their inherent linguistic means:

- 1) journalistic
- 2) literary
- 3) academic

- A. abstract nouns, terms, complicated syntax
- B. socio-political vocabulary, expressive vocabulary, evaluative vocabulary
- C. the use of figurative means, exclamation and interrogative sentences

Intermediate level

Answer: 1B 2C 3A

Points: 3

#### 16. Choose the phraseological unit with the meaning "to bear a resemblance".

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- 1) birds of a feather flock together
- 2) a mere name
- 3) one end

Entry level

Answer: 1

Points: 2

**17. Choose a phrase with the words in their direct meaning.**

- 1) cool relationships
- 2) cold juice
- 3) warm welcome
- 4) hot embrace

Entry level

Answer: 2

Points: 1

**18. Match the sentences with the types of rhetorical devices used in them.**

- 1) I like onions, but they don't like me.
- 2) Time is a drug. Too much of it kills you.
- 3) I'm the king of the world!
- 4) I love the records of the king of rock and roll.

- A. periphrasis
- B. personification
- C. hyperbole
- D. metaphor

Intermediate level

Answer: 1B 2D 3C 4A

Points: 4

**Section 4. Linguopragmatics and modern media**

**19. Pragmatics investigates**

- 1) the relationship between the sign and the denotatum
- 2) the relationship between sign and user
- 3) the relationship between signs
- 4) the relationship between sign and text

Entry level

Answer: 2

Points: 1

**20. The illocutionary act is equal to**

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- 1) intension
- 2) implication
- 3) act of utterance
- 4) impact

Entry level

Answer: 1

Points: 1

**21. Identify the type of speech act in the sentence below.**

I'll show you who's the boss!

- 1) promise
- 2) threat
- 3) warning
- 4) suggestion

Entry level

Answer: 2

Points: 1

**22. Choose the appropriate characteristics for the text from the Telegram messenger (multiple answers).**

Hi. Briefly about the news of the day.

The last month of this summer will bring us the introduction of digital ruble, an increase in the utilization fee for cars and other innovations (RIA Novosti).

- 1) mediated communication
- 2) written communication
- 3) oral communication
- 4) contact communication
- 5) phatic communication
- 6) mass communication

Intermediate level

Answer: 1, 2, 6

Points: 6

**23. Match different gestures with their description. For example: 1A 2B 3C**

- 1) Quiet! Don't make noise, please (The teacher wags their finger towards a noisy group of students).
- 2) What a handsome son you have! Knock on wood (The woman knocks three times on the tree).
- 3) I think I forgot my passport at home! (Husband clutches his head).
- 4) The man hands his wife her coat and helps her dress.

A. a ritual gesture

B. an indicative gesture

- C. an emotional gesture
- D. a symbolic gesture
- E. an auxiliary gesture
- F. a pictorial gesture

Intermediate level

Answer: 1B 2A 3C 4E

Points: 4

**24. Match the notions with their definitions. For example: 1A 2B 3C**

- 1) speech
- 2) sentence
- 3) utterance
- 4) discourse
- 5) communicative competence
- 6) intension
- 7) communicative situation

- A. A unit of structural and semantic syntax
- B. The act of speaking, expression or communication of thoughts and feelings by spoken words
- C. A speech level unit
- D. A complex set of external conditions of communication and internal states of communicators represented in an utterance or discourse
- E. A set of personal features and capabilities which ensure the communicative activity of a person
- F. A speaker's intention
- G. The connected text with extralinguistic factors.

Intermediate level

Answer: 1B 2A 3C 4G 5E 6F 7D

Points: 7

**Section 5. Academic writing (humanities research methodology)**

**25. What refers to the primary genres of scientific style?**

- 1) Dissertation
- 2) Textbook
- 3) Lecture notes
- 4) Review

Entry level

Answer: 1

Points: 1

**26. Bibliographic references, as well as citations \_\_\_\_\_ in the scientific text.**

- 1) must not be used
- 2) may be used but are not required
- 3) are used at the discretion of the author.

4) must be used.

Entry level

Answer: 4

Points: 2

**27. Match the addressees with the kinds of scientific style.**

**For example: 1A 2B 3C**

- 1) audience without special knowledge
- 2) the specialist
- 3) the learner

A. scientific style

B. scientific and educational style

C. style of popular science

Intermediate level

Answer: 1C 2A 3B

Points: 3

**28. The development of academic writing skills involves**

- 1) hypothesizing
- 2) analyzing information
- 3) formulating a thought
- 4) presenting the result via language tools
- 5) conducting business correspondence
- 6) all of the above

Entry level

Answer: 6

Points: 2

**29. Which of the following is not acceptable in a business letter?**

- 1) summing up the letter
- 2) dividing the letter into paragraphs
- 3) inaccurate wording of the letter subject
- 4) using the full addressing, not the abbreviation (mr, asap. etc.)

Entry level

Answer: 3

Points: 2

**30. Select the text belonging to the scientific prose style.**

**Text 1**

According to Jakobson's famous model of language functions, any proper analysis of speech events has to conceptualize them as fulfilling several purposes at the same time, that is, referring to aspects of the context, expressing the speaker's attitudes, influencing the hearer's actions, as well as exhibiting poetic, reflexive (metalingual) and phatic (basic social relationship-establishing) aspects (Jakobson 1960). The particular ordering and terminology of this model, which built upon



earlier functionalist concepts of language and was superseded by more elaborate ones, such as, inter alia, Hymes's "Ethnography of Speaking" (1968) and Halliday's "Systemic-Functional linguistics" (1978), is today mainly of historical interest.

### Text 2

Two skulls found in China shed light on the ancient humans who inhabited the region before our own species arrived. We know that Europe and western Asia was dominated by the Neanderthals before Homo sapiens displaced them. But remains belonging to equivalent populations in East and Central Asia have been scarce. It's unclear if the finds are linked to the Denisovans, a mysterious human group known only from DNA analysis of a tooth and finger bone from Siberia. Professor Erik Trinkaus, one of the authors of a study on the remains in Science journal, said it was not possible to say at this stage whether the ancient people from Xuchang were connected to the Denisovans. "The issue here is the patterns of variation and the population dynamics of "archaic" populations during the later part of the Pleistocene," Professor Trinkaus, from Washington University in St Louis, told BBC News.

Entry level

Answer: 1

Points: 1

### 31. Choose one of the topics below and write an essay (100-300 words).

- 1) Are language, speech, and culture the creators of human beings?
- 2) Learning the Language Develops Your Mind
- 3) I. Guberman: "The author's skin is used to bind the best books" (to the question of literary text and stylistics)
- 4) Silence is golden! (on non-verbal communication)
- 5) The topic of research should correspond to a particular student's aptitudes

Advanced level

Answer: 2. Learning the Language Develops Your Mind

Learning one or two foreign languages has become part of a pattern of modern education. But no matter whether we start learning a foreign language at school or decide to take it up later in life we are not fully aware of the venture we embark on. Language textbooks supply us with a ready-made set of answers to the question "Why are you learning the language?" It is usually something like "I need it to travel", "I need it for my job", or "to get a place at university". However, as soon as you get started you find many other things that keep you going.

First of all, you discover that you have to know more of the language than the portion that enables you just to listen to the lectures and take notes or perform the tasks listed in your job description. And that implies a little more than boosting your language skills. The need to "function properly" within a different culture makes you find out about its inner workings and it destroys your stereotypical attitudes towards the foreign culture and – ironically – your own culture as well. The mere fact that things might go not the way you think.

The following step is an understanding that a foreign language is still a foreign language. You might speak it for a long time to your colleagues, family and friends, you might even teach it - and still, it will every day offer you an opportunity for a small discovery, which definitely enhances your life if you are not afraid of making a stupid mistake, of course.

Next, with more than a nodding acquaintance with a foreign language you may decide to make your language skills a profession – become a tour guide, an interpreter, a language teacher or an advisor. Thus, learning a foreign language may change your life trajectory.

Finally, learning a foreign language can save you a lot of age-related health issues. A number of studies suggest that this challenging activity promotes mental alertness and safeguards your memory from decrement.

All in all, learning a foreign language is a life-long journey involving hard work but rewarding with continuous adventure. It does not only offer health benefits and promote professional development but introduces you to a different culture a large part of which you would never discover, if it were not for the language. Doesn't it mean that by learning a foreign language you emerge into a different person?

Points: 15

Assessment criteria	Score
<b>Criterion 1. Relevance of the topic</b>	
The student correctly and consistently develops the essay topic in one form or another: they speculate on the proposed topic by choosing a convincing way of its development (for example, they answer a question posed in the topic, or speculate on the proposed problem, or make a statement based on the theses related to the topic, etc.), the communicative intent of the essay is expressed clearly.	3–2
The student speculates on the proposed topic not deeply enough or speculates on a topic close to the proposed one, the communicative intent of the essay is traceable.	1
The essay does not correspond to the topic, and/or the communicative intent of the essay is not traceable.	0
<b>Criterion 2. Argumentation</b>	
When developing a topic, the student consistently argues their position in one form or another: they put forward a thesis (theses) and an argument (arguments), or use a selection of arguments based on values, or build argumentation as logical speculation, or use rhetorical argumentation techniques, etc. The argumentation proposed by the student is consistent, convincing and sufficient for a full development of the topic.	3–2
The student argues their position inconsistently, or partially, the arguments do not sufficiently correspond to the topic, or the arguments are contradictory, and/or it is difficult to distinguish individual arguments in the essay.	1
The student does not argue their position, limiting themselves to general speculations.	0
<b>Criterion 3. The use of factual material</b>	
When developing a topic, the student consistently uses factual material relevant to this topic (in the form of references to scientific and publicistic literature, or fiction, facts of public life, historical facts, philosophical material, works of art, etc.). The factual material used by the student is convincing and sufficient for a full development of the topic.	3–2

The factual material is scarcely used, it develops the topic not deep enough or from one side only, and/or there are 1–3 factual errors in the used factual material.	1
There is no factual material involved and/or there are 4 or more factual errors in the essay	0
<b>Criterion 4. Originality</b>	
The development of the topic is original, and non-trivial, the student avoids clichés. The essay has unexpected moves in logic, argumentation, the choice of factual material, compositional solutions, rhetorical moves, etc. The originality of the topic development correlates successfully with the logic of the topic formulation.	3–2
The essay contains separate logical, factual, argumentative, compositional, etc. solutions that allow talking about the signs of originality in the topic development.	1
The topic has no original development, there are only known and expected clichés.	0
<b>Criterion 5. Composition and logic of speculation</b>	
The essay is well-organized, well-written, and flows logically. The different parts of the essay are balanced and appropriate in length, and there is no unnecessary repetition or tautology.	3–2
The compositional intent is traceable in the essay, but there are violations of the compositional connection between the parts, and/or the thought is repeated and not developed, and/or there are 1–3 logical errors.	1
Logical inconsistencies hinder the understanding of the intended meaning. There are 4 or more logical errors, and/or there is no thesis-proof part, and/or the argumentation is not convincing.	0
<b>Criterion 6. Compliance of the used language (lexical and grammatical) means with the norms of modern Russian and English</b>	
Violation of lexical norms: 4–6 mistakes – 2 points are deducted 7–10 mistakes – 4 points are deducted more than 10 mistakes – 6 points are deducted	minus 3–1
Violation of morphological norms: 4–6 mistakes – 2 points are deducted 7–10 mistakes – 4 points are deducted more than 10 mistakes – 6 points are deducted	minus 3–1
Violation of syntactic norms: 4–6 mistakes – 1 point is deducted 7–10 mistakes – 3 points are deducted more than 10 mistakes – 5 points are deducted	minus 2–1
For every 3 spelling and/or punctuation errors, 1 point is deducted	minus 1
<b>Additional score</b>	
Means of artistic expression, depth of the topic development, and other positive characteristics of the essay, as well as the overall impression	2–0
<b>MAXIMUM SCORE</b>	<b>15</b>