# Тексты для чтения и ответов на вопросы по английскому языку.

Read the teхts, answer the questions. Make up a list of unknown words (15-17 words or w-c)

**1 курс. Знаменитые композиторы** (Famous composers).

Quite possibly the most famous classical composer ever – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart –was born in Salzburg in 1756. His father, Leopold, was a composer and violinist, so young Wolfgang was brought up surrounded by music. By the age of five he could already play the piano and violin, and a year later he toured Europe giving concerts as a child prodigy. By the time he was 16 Mozart had written three operas and 25 symphonies. Mozart continued to compose at an amazing rate and by the time of his death at the age of 35 he had produced in excess of 500 pieces.

Like Mozart, Franz Liszt was regarded as a child prodigy. He was born in Doborjan (now Raiding) in what was then part of Hungary in 1811. By the age of 12 he was playing concerts across Europe and is still regarded as one of the greatest ever pianists. However, Liszt’s greatest achievement and legacy was probably his work in helping other composers and musicians. Between 1848 and 1859 he was the musical director and conductor at Weimar in Germany and later on he set up the Conservatory of music in Budapest, Hungary. In 1886 he was visiting Bayreuth in Germany, attending a feast held in honour of Wagner, when he fell ill and died.

Sergei Rachmaninov was born in Semyonovo, Russia in 1873. At a young age his family moved to St Petersburg where he studied at the conservatory. He composed and performed his first piece of work at the age of 13, but it wasn’t until the age of 19 that he completed his first piano concerto. However, it was his second piano concerto composed in 1901 for which he is probably best known partly because it was used in films such as Brief Encounters and Marilyn Monroe’s The Seven Year Itch. In 1918, after the October Revolution, Rachmaninov left Russia and emigrated to New York. He died, at the age of 69 in Beverly Hills, California in 1943.

*Complete the sentences using the information in the box. Be careful! There is one extra date and one extra nationality.*

1943 1873 1811 1756 Austrian French Hungarian Russian

1. Liszt was born in \_\_\_\_\_. He was a \_\_\_\_\_\_ composer.

2. Rachmaninov was born in \_\_\_\_\_. He was a \_\_\_\_\_\_ composer.

3. Mozart was born in \_\_\_\_\_. He was a \_\_\_\_\_\_ composer.

*Discuss the questions.*

1. Do you like listening to classical music? 2. Do you know any famous classical composers from your country? 3. Have you ever been to a classical concert? 4. Can you play the violin or piano? 5. Would you like to learn a musical instrument?

**2 курс.**

**Text for Reading. Choosing a musical instrument**

Many people would like to learn how to play a musical instrument, but they are put off by one big problem: what to play? Here are a few questions to help you decide.

What kind of music do you like?

Many instruments are versatile, but some are more suited to certain types of music. Although there is some classical repertoire for the saxophone, for example, people associate it more with jazz, and it is not a permanent feature of many orchestras. Some instruments may lend themselves better than others to the music you like, so consider this before you start.

Do you want to play with other people?

Think about your long-term future as a musician. If you want to play with other people, what sort of instrument would be most practical? The initial attraction of playing a dazzling solo instrument like trumpet, violin, flute or lead guitar might fade when you realise how many other people are competing with you to get the main part with the same instrument! If you want to play rock music, there will always be a demand for bass players or drummers, and if you fancy being part of an orchestra, the bassoon is a great bet to make sure you are always needed.

Where are you going to practise?

Many people live in flats and practising the drums, for example, will drive your neighbours crazy. Think about where and when you are going to practise, as well as the patience of the people you live with or near. Electric versions of instruments like the piano, drums, guitar and even violin give you the option of playing into the night using headphones, while your housemates sleep in peace. Alternatively, you may need to consider going to a school or a community centre to practise.

How much money can you spend?

This is quite a big factor. A lot of instruments can be purchased in different price ranges, for example, guitars. But this doesn’t alter the fact that many, such as the piano, are always pretty expensive. If you can’t afford your chosen instrument, will you be able to borrow someone else’s or hire one?

Are there any physical limitations?

If you’re small and don’t like lifting heavy objects, you won’t want to carry around a double bass. Apart from that, use your common sense, and don’t let your perceived physical shortcomings put you off. Who says small skinny people can’t play the tuba? It’s true that some wind instruments require a lot of lung power but with the right coaching, everyone can develop the right technique.

Still not sure?

Talk to people you know who already play instruments. They might even let you try theirs. It’s also a good idea to find an experienced music teacher, preferably one who plays a few different instruments, who can give you some advice and push you in the right direction. If you find an instrument you love and that suits your needs, you’ll find the time spent choosing was well worth it. Good luck with making your choice!

*Jenny,17*. In all types of instruments, I would like to learn piano. The reason why the piano is my option has to tell my childhood. When I was a kid, I saw many people playing this instrument. At that moment, I thought they were so professional and talented who could know how to play on a lot of piano keys. According to their inspiration, I painted the piano keys on the paper and then imitated them to play. That was so childish and funny. However, I couldn't fully understand by simulating without any instructions and a real piano. Until now, I still want to learn it because it makes my childhood memory be meaningful. Playing the piano makes me feel great and sophisticated. No matter who you are, you will still look cool! Because the beauty of music will radiate from within you. Music brings us all so much happiness – it really is very central to our lives. It is important to be given the chance to make music because it can give us an emotional and creative outlet.

*Think it over:*

Put the musical instruments in the correct groups.

* bassoon flute saxophone trumpet tuba guitar tambourine cello
* violin double bass bass guitar xylophone drums maracas

String instruments

Wind instruments

Percussion instruments

*Answer the questions:*

Is it a problem to choose an instrument to learn?

How to choose an instrument in a right way?

Which instrument would you like to learn?

# 3 курс.

*Glastonbury festival.*

The first Glastonbury Festival took place in 1970 and was organised by Michael Eavis, who still runs the festival now on his farm in Somerset in the south-west of England. Michael charged people just £1 to enter, and the ticket included free milk from the farm. Only 1,500 people attended on that occasion, but this number has grown exponentially since then.

In 2011, there were approximately 100 times more people in the crowd and tickets, which cost £195 each, sold out within 4 hours. The festival takes place almost every year in the last weekend of June and lasts for three days. Although it is best known for contemporary music, Glastonbury (or ‘Glasto’ as it is often called) is host to other performing arts such as dance, comedy and theatre. The festival site is now made up of distinct zones, each one providing something different to cater for the tastes of all those present. Countless famous British musicians have played at the festival, including Sir Paul McCartney, Oasis and Coldplay, however the festival also attracts international interest, and has seen headline acts in recent years such as the likes of Beyonce Knowles, Stevie Wonder and Jay-Z.

The festival is renowned for being extremely muddy, and on many occasions, most notably in 1997, heavy rainfall turned the whole festival site into a quagmire. Glastonbury-goers remain undeterred, however, and are quite happy to boogie the festival away in their wellies. Because of the high demand for tickets, the festival has also been famous for ‘fencejumpers’. In 2000, when only 100,000 tickets were sold, about 250,000 people attended the event – many of whom jumped over the surrounding fence to gain entry. Security increased in 2002 and a ‘superfence’ was created to prevent people from entering without a ticket. In the same year, the new Pyramid Stage, graced by the presence of David Bowie, was welcomed back following its demise in 1994 when it burnt down just a week before the festival was to begin.

The festival supports Fair Trade and has made substantial contributions to charity over the years. In 2003, over a million pounds was donated, and Greenpeace, Oxfam and WaterAid continue to be main beneficiaries. The next Glastonbury festival is set to take place in 2013, following a year off in 2012 to make way for the Olympics and give the farmland a chance to recover. Registration for tickets is already open.

*Consider the following questions:*

• What is the name of your festival? • Where does it take place? • How often does it happen? • How long does it last for? • How much did tickets cost at first? • What sort of music is played? • Are there any other activities?

**4 курс.**

# *Musical Instruments. Flute*

A melodic instrument for the most part, the flute has a clear and bright sound with a distinctive warmth, refinement, and subtlety to its tone. Another feature of the flute is the use of expensive materials such as gold, silver, and gems in its manufacture.

Transverse flutes made out of animal bones were used in Europe in the Paleolithic era. These instruments can certainly be regarded as the ancestor of the flute. However, it was not until the sixteenth century during the Renaissance period that the prototype of the flute that plays such a prominent role in the modern orchestra first came into widespread use.

The term "flute" was originally applied both to pipe instruments held sideways and pipe instruments held vertically. Thus, the vertically held recorder was also called a "flute." Indeed, up until around the middle of the eighteenth century (the era of Baroque music), the word "flute" was commonly used to describe the recorder.

# *Clarine*t

The appeal of the clarinet is its rich variety of expression, which ranges from a light timbre to a deep mysterious timbre. It also boasts a register of approximately four octaves-the largest of any wind instrument.

In order to produce good sound, you should blow facing straight forward, without puffing your cheeks out.  
Use only the thumb of your right hand to support the instrument, and hold the barrel with your left.  
How much of the mouthpiece you put in your mouth and the angle at which you hold the clarinet are important points.  
 If you don't put the mouthpiece in your mouth far enough, it will be hard to make any sound. If you put it in too far, the sound can get distorted.

# *Saxophone*

The saxophone is an instrument with a tone somewhere between a brass instrument and a woodwind. The sax is a must in all types of music from jazz, to classical, to pop, when a smooth and bright sound is called for.

## The metal parts of a saxophone are made of brass. Brass is used to make the metal parts of a saxophone. Some saxophones are gold plated or silver plated, but underneath the plating is brass.

## The saxophone is loved by both jazz and classical musicians, but the qualities demanded of the instrument are different for each genre. With jazz, the ideal instrument allows players to express their individuality, and so they like a saxophone with a greater taper (a high angle of graduation). The raspy tones and buzz of the instrument contribute to the texture of the music. With classical music, the player must perform with the many other instruments in the orchestra, and so they prefer an instrument with a clean, finely controlled pitch.

## *Trumpet.*

## The trumpet is characterized by its striking, triumphal sound and by the fact that it boasts the highest register of all the brass instruments. It does splendid work, single-handedly giving expression to heroism.The origins of the trumpet can be traced back several thousand years. However, since the primitive trumpets were rudimentary wind instruments that the player sounded simply by moving his lips, they cannot clearly be distinguished from the forerunners of the horn, on which sound is produced in the same way.

## Trumpets of old were made out of various materials, including wood, bamboo, bark, clay, human bone, and metal. Found on every continent, they are thought to have been used in religious ceremonies and sorcery. In the ancient Greek and Roman eras, trumpets were used for marching in wartime, for which they were admirably suited. Subsequently, almost all European royalty had trumpet bands that played military music. Ancient trumpet made of clay, found in Peru.

## *Answer the questions:*

## What sound does the flute have?

## Does the clarinet boast a register of approximately four or three octaves?

## What is a saxophone made of ?

## In what way were trumpets used in the ancient times?