

## **Билет 1**

### **Let's talk about accommodation**

#### **1. What types of houses do the British people live in?**

There are four basic types of housing in the UK: detached houses, semi-detached houses, terraced houses and flats.

A semi-detached house is the most popular type of housing in the UK. A semi-detached house is two houses joined together. A semi-detached house gives its owner enough privacy. The disadvantage is that the owner cannot plan repairs or renovations without considering the twin house.

A detached house stands alone and is not joined to any other house. Cottages, bungalows and mansions are detached houses. The advantage of a detached house is that the free space around it belongs to the family. The disadvantage is that all repairs in the house should be made by the owner.

Terraced houses are several houses joined together. Such houses are cheaper than semi-detached but there is typically no yard or garden that comes with a unit.

As for flats in blocks of flats, people in Britain prefer renting to buying them. The advantage of renting a flat is that you are not responsible for it. You can leave it anytime if you feel like moving house.

#### **2. Do we have the same types of houses in Belarus?**

No, we don't. People in Belarus live mostly in flats, cottages and detached houses. Townhouses are a new type of dwelling in Belarus.

#### **3. Your family is going to move into a new house/flat. What questions will you ask your parents about the new house/flat?**

- ✓ How many rooms are there in our new flat?
- ✓ What floor is the flat on?
- ✓ Is there a lift in the block of flats?
- ✓ Are there any shops nearby?
- ✓ Is there WIFI in the flat?

#### **4. Give your parents a piece of advice on where to move: a multi-storied building or a detached house.**

I think a detached house is the best. It will give us privacy. There will be some land around the house so we can have a garage, a swimming pool and arrange some flower beds.

#### **5. What does your ideal house look like?**

In future I'd like to live in a detached house. It will be a two-storied building with big windows and a large sitting room. It will have enough space for all the family. There will be a garden behind my house and a lot of flowers in front of it. There will be a garage for my car.

## **Билет 2**

### **Let's talk about education**

#### **1. Tell me about the system of education in Belarus.**

There are 5 stages of education in Belarus: preparatory, primary, secondary, high and postgraduate. At the age of three children go to kindergarten. They stay there up to the age of 6. At the age of 6 children start going to school. There are 2 types of school in Belarus: state and private. Parents can choose between secondary school, lyceums and gymnasiums.

The school year starts on the 1st of September and finishes on the 31st of May. It is 35 weeks long and is divided into four terms. After each term there are vacations. Pupils study a range of subjects at school: Maths, Russian, Geography, History, Foreign Languages, etc. All subjects in Belarusian schools are compulsory. Marks are given out of 10.

After the 9th and the 11th forms pupils take their exams. After the 9th form at the age of 15 pupils can leave school and go to college or to vocational training school or they can continue studying in the 10th form. Then they leave school at the age of 17.

After secondary school those who show good abilities can go to high school which lasts for 4 or 5 years. To become a student one should take special written exams which are called tests.

After high school most talented students can continue studying and it is called postgraduate education.

#### **2. Do you like your school? Why or why not?**

Yes, I do. I like my school because of the high level of education it provides. I also like the building, the classrooms and the teachers.

#### **3. Ask me about the school I went to when I was young.**

- ✓ Where was your school situated?
- ✓ Was it a village school?
- ✓ What subjects did you study at school?
- ✓ What was your favourite subject?

#### **4. What advice can you give me on how to prepare for exams well?**

Don't leave your exam revision to the last minute. Organize your working place. Take breaks during your study. Have enough sleep. Eat healthy brain food.

#### **5. If you were to write an article about school problems, what would you write about?**

I would write about homework. A lot of pupils are stressed because of their homework. Pupils should get knowledge in the lessons and have a rest at home. I believe only creative home tasks should be done at home.

## **Билет 3**

### **Let's talk about the environment**

#### **1. Do you share the opinion that our planet is in danger?**

Environment is the nature around us: air, water, trees, flowers, animals, birds and insects. Nature has served people for many years, but people's interference in nature has increased and the results are dramatic. Nowadays mankind faces numerous problems which threaten our environment. Among the most urgent problems are the ozone layer destruction, acid rains, global warming, pollution in its many forms, contamination of under-ground waters by chemical elements, disappearance of forests, animal extinction, etc.

I can't but mention the tragic consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

The planet needs our immediate help and we should take measures to protect it.

#### **2. Do you recycle or throw away all the waste?**

Most of us are in the habit of throwing the waste away, it's a bad habit though, so I try to sort out waste, especially paper, glass and plastic, and put it in separate containers. I also reuse plastic shop product bags.

#### **3. Ask your British friend what environmental problems they are concerned about.**

- ✓ What are your country's main environmental problems?
- ✓ What does your government do to protect rare animals and birds?
- ✓ How are marine species protected?
- ✓ What measures are taken to lower carbon emissions?

#### **4. Give a piece of advice on what people can do to protect the environment.**

To protect the environment, stop wasting paper. This will help to save trees. Limit unnecessary car journeys. This will prevent air pollution. Use gas and water carefully, these resources are limited.

#### **5. If you have a chance to start a campaign to help the environment, what will you campaign for?**

I think, it would be a campaign against plastic bags. I would promote an idea of going to the shop with a shopping bag made of fabric rather than made of plastic.