

Билет 23.

Let's talk about youth and society

1. What national and international youth organisations do you know?

There are a lot of youth organizations in Belarus and abroad. The largest international youth organisations are Girl Guides, the Scout Association, Greenpeace Youth, 4-H, and others. They offer a wide range of activities from volunteer work to sports.

The Scout Association, for example, aims at preparing young people for today and for life and is adventure, family, fun, character and leadership.

The largest youth organisations in Belarus are the BRSM (the Belarusian Republican Youth Union) and the BRPO (the Belarusian Republican Pioneer Organization.)

The BRSM was founded in 2002 and unites young people from 14 to 31. The organisation promotes patriotism and involves young people in useful public activities.

To my mind, it's natural for young people to unite in organisations. As a member of a youth organisation you can find new friends, get new knowledge, discuss important issues and learn new skills. As a result, young people learn to be active in the society and can make the life in their country better.

2. Are you a member of any youth organization?

Sorry to say, but I'm not a member of any youth organization because I have no free time. But I think that youth organizations do useful work.

3. What questions will you ask about a new project organised by the BRSM?

What kind of project is it?

What's the aim of this project?

How many people are involved into it?

4. What youth organisation would you recommend young people to join? Why?

I would recommend them to join the BRSM. I am sure they will find new friends and get involved in some useful public activities as members of this organisation.

5. People say that volunteering can make a great difference to our lives and the lives of others around us. What do you think about it?

There's a quote that says 'Volunteers are not paid — not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless'. It means volunteering has a positive effect on the community. I think it's very noble to give your time and energy to help people or wildlife around you.

Билет 24

Let's talk about education

1. What is the difference between the British and Belarusian school systems?

Great Britain and Belarus differ in their languages, traditions and culture but their educational systems have much in common.

To start with, there is primary and secondary school in both countries, but in Britain school is divided into 4 Key stages. We don't have Key stages in Belarus.

Then, children in Belarus start school at the age of 6 while in Britain they do it at 5. So, school in Britain lasts from 5 to 16 or 18 while in Belarus it lasts from 6 to 15 or 17.

Next, it is the school year. In Belarus it is from the 1st of September to the 31st of May and is 35 weeks long while in Britain it is from September to June and is 39 weeks long.

In both countries the school year is divided into terms and vacations. In Belarus there are 4 terms and summer vacations are the longest. In Britain there are 3 or 6 terms and one, two or 6 weeks' vacations after the terms.

In Belarus pupils take exams after the 9th and the 11th forms while in Britain they take exams after each Key stage.

All subjects in Belarusian schools are compulsory. In Britain there are compulsory and optional subjects.

Finally, marks in Belarusian schools are given out of 10, while in Britain marks are given out of 9 (from 9 to 1, and they have U letter for ungraded).

2. Have you decided what you will do after leaving school?

Yes, I have. I am going to take my entrance exams to the university and become an engineer/a programmer/a doctor/etc.

3. What questions will you ask a British teenager about their system of education?

What is the difference between state and private schools?

How much do private schools cost?

What are boarding schools?

What are compulsory and optional subjects?

4. Give advice to your friend on how to make school life more interesting and enjoyable.

First of all, be positive about school. Ask for help if you have problems. Take part in different school activities. Enjoy meeting with friends.

5. People believe that we learn from our own mistakes. What do you think about it?

I think it makes sense. Good decisions come from experience. And experience comes from mistakes. Other people's mistakes can't be your experience; you need your own.

Билет 25

Let's talk about tourism.

1. What types of tourism do you know?

As an industry tourism is developing rapidly. Alongside with traditional cultural tourism new types of tourism appear. Some popular unconventional types of tourism are voluntourism, film tourism, space tourism, gastronomy tourism, slum tourism and jailoo tourism.

As for me, I enjoy travelling because travelling broadens my mind. I prefer traditional cultural tourism. It's always interesting to see other countries and continents, discover different ways of life, meet different people and to try foreign food. Of course,

I'd like to try a new type of tourism as well, but I don't want it to be extreme or dangerous. Maybe, voluntourism. It means travelling and helping other people and animals. You can discover new places and cultures along with helping out those in need. Doing voluntary work can be challenging but it's a rewarding and worthwhile type of holiday.

2. Is it better to hire a travel agent or organise a trip by yourself? Why?

I think, it is better to hire a travel agent. Planning a trip is time consuming. Travel agents help you save the time. They help you to plough through information overload. With a travel agency you can get more for the same price. They can plan a tailor-made tour for you. Finally, travel agents can help you in case of emergency.

3. You are going on a trip around England. What questions will you ask your British friends?

What places of interest would you recommend me to visit?

Where should I stay to make accommodation cheap?

What national dishes would you recommend me to taste?

Will you be able to show me some interesting places?

4. Your Belarusian friend will spend his/her summer vacation in Great Britain. Give him/her a piece of advice on how to organise the trip.

Plan your trip. Think of where to stay, what places to visit and what means of transport to use. There are a lot of tour guides online, find and study some of them. Use a travel agent to book a tour. Remember, package tours are less expensive.

5. Every country should encourage and promote tourism. What do you think about it?

I think that every country should encourage tourism to promote local culture, making it popular and benefit from it. But I also think that it should be controlled and planned. Local landmarks and the life of local people shouldn't be destroyed.