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## Testing through Saint Petersburg

**С**анкт-Петербург — это город, который хранит много тайн и загадок. Культурное и историческое наследие города неисчерпаемо. Предлагаемый комплекс тестовых заданий поможет учащимся не только проверить свой уровень владения английским языком, но и вспомнить факты из истории, культуры и жизни города. Возможно, кто-то откроет для себя новую информацию.

Минимальный уровень, который потребуется для выполнения тестовых заданий, — B2 по Общеввропейской шкале уровней владения иностранным языком. Данные задания можно использовать при подготовке к ЕГЭ и другим экзаменам в группах с достаточным уровнем владения английским языком. Учащиеся попробуют свои силы при выполнении различных заданий: на множественный выбор, множественные соответствия, заполнение пропусков, заполнение таблицы, сравнение информации, подбор заголовков к тексту и абзацам, составление синонимических пар.

### I. HISTORY

The text below gives a brief history of St Petersburg. Be ready to highlight new facts which are given in the text and compare them with those from text B.

• **Choose an appropriate heading for each paragraph. There is one extra heading.**

1. Built according to a pattern
2. What's in a name?
3. The city comes into being
4. Two capitals
5. Peter the Great's ideas have come true
6. Overcoming resistance

**A.** In the place where Peter the Great first set his foot on the Baltic coast, as a legend says, he proclaimed “Here there shall be a town”. And so on Hare Island on May 16, 1703, workers laid the foundation for Peter and Paul Fortress, his bastion against the Swedes. The city of St Petersburg soon spread across the Neva Delta. It replaced Moscow as Russia's capital in 1712.

**B.** A traveller in his youth, Russia's greatest westernizer was determined to build a new capital that would should imitate the imposing ports of London and Amsterdam, which were familiar to him from his brief stints as a shipwright.

**C.** Only an autocrat and a visionary could have built such a city, and neither Sweden, nor a reluctant court in Moscow could stand in his way as he dragged Russia into a modern world. At a prodigious cost to the imperial treasury, a city more European than Russian rose from the Baltic swamps.

**D.** Today we can see Peter's legacy everywhere: in the wealth of baroque and neoclassic architecture; in dozens of research centres famous for discoveries in chemistry, genetics, psychology, and space sciences; and in the shipyards that once equipped the Soviet Navy for nuclear confrontation with the West. Accessible year-round, the harbour links "Peter", as its inhabitants call the city, to the open sea.

**E.** During World War I, Tsar Nicholas II russified the city's name by changing it to Petrograd. But this change could not mask the bankruptcy of the Romanov dynasty, which was toppled by the revolution in 1917. In 1924, following the death of Lenin, the Soviets — who had returned the government to Moscow — changed the name again, to honour the Bolshevik leader. The name Leningrad lasted until 1991, when the new Russian Parliament approved the city's petition to resume its historic name.

- Read the summary of the text and fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

expanded opposed heritage free of ice moved restored founded  
eager impressive

On May 16, 1703 Peter and Paul Fortress was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on Hare island. The city soon (2) \_\_\_\_\_ across the banks of the Neva River. Peter I was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to make his capital similar to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ seaports of London and Amsterdam. Moscow court was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to modernization. Today Peter's (6) \_\_\_\_\_ is everywhere. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the year, the harbour links the city to the open sea. In 1924 the government (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to Moscow. In 1991 the original name of the city was (9) \_\_\_\_\_.

- Read the text "St Petersburg in the Times of Peter I". Be ready to do several tasks based on the text. Look through tasks from 1 to 4 given after the text.

### Useful vocabulary

imagine *v* — представлять  
hatred *n* — ненависть  
unwilling — нежелающий делать что-либо  
deportment *n* — поведение, манеры  
contemporary *n* — современник  
hastily *adv* — поспешно  
construct *v* — воздвигать, сооружать  
flooding *n* — затопление  
marshy *adj* — болотистый  
lack *n* — нехватка, недостаток  
available *adj* — доступный  
labour *n* — рабочая сила

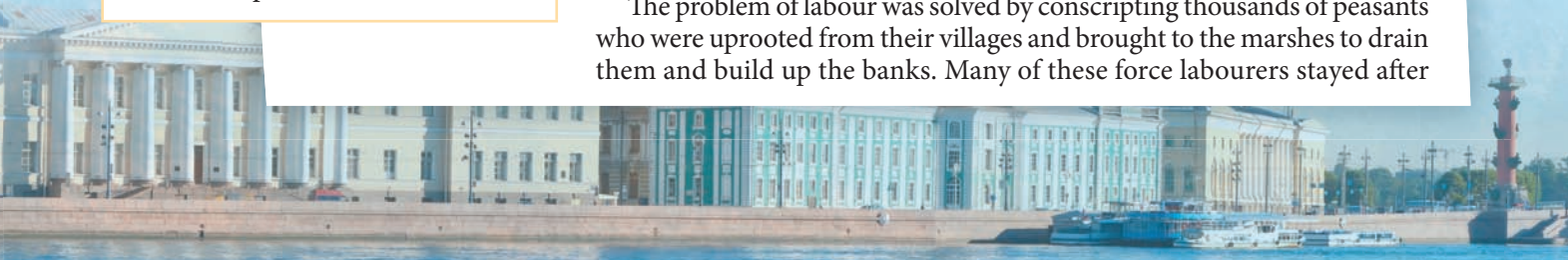
### St Petersburg in the Times of Peter I

Peter I did not at first imagine the new town as his capital, but his hatred of traditional conservative Moscow and the decisive victory over the Swedes in the battle of Poltava in 1709 led him to concentrate his energies on St Petersburg and to begin thinking of it as the main city.

Peter wanted a total break with the past. He had already forced new styles of dress and deportment upon his unwilling countrymen, and now a new capital in many ways a unique city, was to be built, upon the latest European concepts of engineering, planning and construction.

Unlike his contemporaries, Peter considered St Petersburg, at first a port and a fortress, the most wonderful place. The original buildings which had to be laid on piles were hastily constructed of wood. The two main problems were the frequent flooding of the low-lying marshy land and the lack of easily available building materials. Stone had to be brought in with great difficulty from some distance away.

The problem of labour was solved by conscripting thousands of peasants who were uprooted from their villages and brought to the marshes to drain them and build up the banks. Many of these force labourers stayed after





conscript *v* — набирать на работу  
в приказном порядке  
uproot *v* — срывать (людей  
с места)

expire *v* — истекать (о сроке)

edict *n* — указ

persuade *v* — убеждать

estate *n* — поместье

expenses *n* — расходы

decisive victory — решающая победа

total break with the past — решаю-  
щий разрыв с прошлым

to issue an edict — издать указ

to override objections — отменить  
возражения

tremendous achievement — огром-  
ное достижение

their contracts expired to be taken on for private construction; they added to the growing population of the city. In 1714 an edict was issued that no stone buildings were to be built in any part of the empire except in the capital.

It was very difficult to persuade court and nobility to move to St Petersburg from their comfortable homes in Moscow. In 1710 Peter's close relatives had moved north and in 1712 the Tsar ordered that 1,000 noble families transfer their homes to the new capital. There they were obliged to construct new houses according to the set plans based on the family and ranks. As they could no longer live as cheaply as in Moscow many of them were made almost bankrupt by the new expenses in St Petersburg. But the Tsar's will overrode all the objections and, having no alternative, they came to St Petersburg. By 1725, at the death of the Tsar, 40,000 people lived in the city (including 14,500 soldiers). That was a truly tremendous achievement.

### Task 1. Answer the following questions.

1. Why was St Petersburg a unique city?
2. What did 'total break with the past' mean in relation to St Petersburg?
3. What problems did Peter I face constructing the city?
4. How was the population of the city formed?

### Task 2. Translate the following phrases. Make up a sentence with each of these phrases.

Decisive victory, unwilling countrymen, frequent flooding of the low-lying marshy land, by conscripting thousands of peasants, to build up the banks, to issue an edict, to be made bankrupt by new expenses, to override all objections, a truly tremendous achievement.

### Task 3. Fill in the gaps.

Use: hastily, expired, transfer, persuade, deportment, imagine, uprooted

1. Peter I did not at first ... the new town as his capital.
2. Peter I had already forced new styles of dress and ... upon his unwilling countrymen.
3. The original buildings, which had to be laid on piles, were ... built of wood.
4. The problem of labour was solved by conscripting thousands of peasants who were ... from their villages.
5. Many of these forced labourers stayed when their contracts ...
6. It was very difficult to ... the court and nobility to move to St Petersburg.
7. In 1712 the Tsar ordered that 1,000 noble families ... their homes to the new capital.

### Task 4. Make up pairs of synonyms.

1. imagine
2. decisive
3. deportment
4. unique
5. hastily
6. marshy
7. construct
8. persuade
9. oblige
10. achievement

1. swampy
2. manners
3. quickly
4. force
5. unusual
6. envision
7. breakthrough
8. final
9. convince
10. set up



### Task 5. Make up pairs of antonyms.



- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. hatred      | 1. partial        |
| 2. total       | 2. consent        |
| 3. unique      | 3. common         |
| 4. hastily     | 4. thoroughly     |
| 5. lack        | 5. abundance      |
| 6. available   | 6. absent         |
| 7. uprooted    | 7. admiration     |
| 8. cheap       | 8. settled        |
| 9. objection   | 9. expensive      |
| 10. tremendous | 10. insignificant |



## II. ARCHITECTS OF ST PETERSBURG

### Task 1. Read the texts about some architects of St Petersburg. Match the name of the architect with the statement.

- |               |                                                                                                    |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Trezzini   | a) His plan of the city never came true.                                                           |
| 2. Le blond   | b) He was of humble origin.                                                                        |
| 3. Rastrelli  | c) His father commemorated Peter I in the work of art.                                             |
| 4. Starov     | d) He was a pioneer architect of St Petersburg.                                                    |
| 5. Quarenghi  | e) The scope of his mature classical buildings is unsurpassed.                                     |
| 6. Voronikhin | f) The religious building designed by the architect had unusual interior decorations for its time. |

### Task 2. After reading the texts complete the table.

The name of the architect	Nationality	Prevailing style	Most important buildings

### Domenico Trezzini (1670–1734)

Domenico Trezzini was of Swiss-Italian origin. He was actually the first architect of St Petersburg, after Peter himself, and the results of his planning shaped the city. Trezzini's most significant work is SS Peter and Paul Cathedral. One of the principal monuments of St Petersburg, it marks a definite watershed with native Russian architecture. A tall drum and dome with windows, topped with a small golden cupola over the eastern altar, are balanced on the west side by the bell tower mounted with a tall, slender, gilded spire. This slim, sharp spire was the first in Russian architecture and became a leitmotif of St Petersburg, differentiating it from Moscow and other ancient Russian towns with onion-shaped cupolas.





### Jean-Baptiste Leblond (1679–1719)

In the last years of Peter's reign, with the arrival of Leblond, a French style began to creep in and to influence sober Dutch-style buildings. In 1716 Leblond was hired at a generous salary in Paris, where he was well known for his mansions and much admired by Peter. He brought painters, sculptors and wood-carvers with him, and set up the Office of Construction which oversaw all the designs. His great design for St Petersburg, however, proved ill-founded for he based it on Vasilievsky Island and envisaged a grid of straight streets interconnecting important squares with a large central palace from which diagonal avenues would cut the grid. Menshikov, who was to oversee the work in Peter's absence in 1717, compromised the plan, not wishing to share his palace site. He made sure that the canals were constructed too narrow for shipping, which infuriated the Tsar. Leblond also designed Peterhof (Mon Plaisir) and participated in landscaping the Summer Gardens.



### Count Bartolomeo Francesco Rastrelli (1700–1771)

The exceptional architect during the reign of Elizabeth I was an Italian, Francesco Rastrelli. He was the son of a sculptor who had brought his family to Russia in 1716 and whose bust of Peter the Great still stands in the Hermitage. His son's talents were recognised during Anna's reign and she appointed him a court architect; he built palaces for her in Moscow and St Petersburg which have not survived. Elizabeth was delighted by these baroque buildings, which she watched being built and, indeed, lived in one in Moscow called Annenhof, which later burnt down. The pretty, brightly coloured buildings suited her essentially fun-loving nature. On becoming empress, she confirmed Rastrelli as a court architect and increased his salary to a generous 2,500 roubles a year. Rastrelli's crowning achievement is the Winter Palace. It is in the form of a closed square with a spacious courtyard in the centre. Within, the Jordan staircase is the only part of the interior which has survived. The second of Rastrelli's great private palaces was built for an influential courtier of Empress Elizabeth's time, Baron Sergei Stroganov. The palace was inherited by Count Alexander Stroganov, who became President of the Academy of Arts. The rich and influential Stroganov family remained in the palace until 1917.



### Ivan Yegorovich Starov (1743–1808)

Starov studied in Paris. He brought to St Petersburg a pure classical form and moved entirely away from the influence of Rastrelli's baroque. In 1776 Starov was appointed by Catherine II as the architect of the Trinity Cathedral of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra after the old cathedral had been demolished. Lacking the verticality of earlier Petersburg churches, the cathedral has a Latin-cross plan, a central dome and two western towers. Like a Roman Catholic church, it contains oil paintings and statues of saints by the great sculptor, Fyodor Shubin. In 1783 Starov was commissioned to design and oversee the construction of the palace for Grigory Potemkin, a favourite of Catherine the Great, who took part in the coup d'état which brought Catherine to power. Potemkin was a Field-Marshal and Commander-in-Chief of the Russian army in the Turkish War waged on the Crimean Peninsula. Since the peninsula was often called Taurida, he was given the title of Prince of Taurida, hence the name of the building — Taurida palace. The palace was a milestone in the history of Russian architecture with, its noble simplicity more Greek than Roman. Its features are plain: a long yellow, two-storey building with a portico of six columns, with a low dome, flanked by extensive wings above. It became a model for similar mansions for the Russian nobility everywhere in the Empire.



### Giacomo Quarenghi (1744–1817)

Quarenghi arrived in St Petersburg from Italy in 1780 and he was one of the most gifted and most prolific architects of Catherine's reign. He brought a mature understanding of the classical style to the architecture of the period. His pavilions in Tsarskoe Selo, his palaces and buildings for the Empress, and his many private commissions gave him scope to fully develop his style. The perfectly proportioned Alexander Palace at Tsarskoe Selo, Nicholas II's favourite home, was followed by the building of the Smolny Institute. The Smolny Institute was a purpose-built school for the daughters of the nobility. The severely classical building with a portico of eight columns contrasts sharply with Rastrelli's rococo convent next door. The gateways in classical style were added, surprisingly, in 1923, an illustration of how Soviet architects had taken up the classicism of this period.



### Andrei Voronikhin (1759–1814)

Andrei Voronikhin, a serf of the Stroganovs, who had been educated with the best Russian architects and then sent to Paris and Rome, was picked up by Paul and his close advisor, Count Alexander Stroganov, to design the Kazan Cathedral. The Kazan Cathedral was meant to accommodate the miraculous icon of the Virgin of Kazan, which had been brought from Moscow to Petersburg in 1710, as a mark of the new capital's permanence and dignity, and placed in the church of the Nativity of the Virgin.



## III. ARCHITECTURE

**Task 1. Read 7 texts about the landmarks of St Petersburg. Put down the number of the text or texts which give information about the**

- wooden building replaced by a stone one
- building being the result of joint work of a Russian and a foreign architect
- building which is connected with a life of a great Russian scientist
- building decorated with a weather vane
- building which belonged to a person not favoured by Peter the Great
- building whose construction was supervised by several Peter's associates
- building which is the compositional centre of the part of the city
- structure which is decorated by imitation images
- structure decorated by allegorical sculptures
- building which used to house a library



### 1. Peter and Paul Fortress

The Peter and Paul Fortress, which occupies the entire island, is still in the shape, designed by Peter I, of an elongated hexagon. The six bastions at each corner are named after his favourite courtiers, responsible for the construction. First built of wood and clay in 1703, the fortress was reconstructed of brick by Domenico Trezzini. Trezzini's most significant building in the fortress is the cathedral. The wooden church of 1703 was demolished and the new cathedral was raised (1712–1733) in the northern German / Dutch baroque style. A tall drum and



dome with windows, topped by a small gold cupola, are balanced on the west side by a bell tower surmounted by a tall gilded spire with a weather vane in the form of an angel. This slim sharp spire, the first in Russian architecture, became a leitmotif of St Petersburg, differentiating it from Moscow and other ancient Russian towns. In the course of history the Peter and Paul Fortress has been a fortress, a prison and a museum.



## 2. Menshikov Palace

The real governor of St Petersburg when Peter I was absent was Prince Alexander Menshikov, the son of a court stableman who had so caught the young Tsarevich's fancy in Moscow that he became his closest friend. Menshikov built a fine palace for himself which still stands, although in an altered state. Designed in 1710 by Giovanni Fontana, it was constructed by a German builder Gottfried Schadel and was the most splendid palace in a new city. After Menshikov's fall, the palace was taken over by the First Cadet Corps, altered and extended. However, the central section was restored as it was under Menshikov; the rooms decorated with blue

and white Dutch tiles as in his days convey the atmosphere of the period. It is now a museum belonging to the Hermitage.



## 3. Kikin's House

There are few great houses of the new civil servants of the Petrine era that have survived in St Petersburg. Among them is the impressive red and white Kikin's House near the Taurida Palace which stands in the open grounds, an outstanding example of Petrine baroque with its curved window designs. Its construction began in 1714, presumably by Schluter. The building was owned by Alexander Kikin, one of Peter's new men, who was appointed to head the Admiralty. Unfortunately, Kikin ruined his career and lost his life because of his friendship with Tsarevich Alexey, Peter's son. His splendid house was confiscated and until 1727 was used to house Peter's library and collection of rarities. Later the collection of rarities moved to the Chamber of Curiosities. When

barracks were built nearby, the Kikin's House became a military hospital and was heavily reconstructed. Its rebirth took place after the World War II during which it was badly damaged. The post-war restorer, Irina Benois (of the Benois family of architects and artists), was able to return it to its original Petrine form.



## 4. Chamber of Curiosities (Kunstkamera)

Georg Mattarnovi, who began working in St Petersburg in 1714, designed the building of the Chamber of Curiosities. Russian architect Zemtsov also participated in the project. It was the first building dedicated to science (it housed a collection of rarities and oddities). It had an observatory in its central tower. The great Russian polymath, Mikhail Lomonosov, worked here from 1741 till his death. It later became the library of the Academy of Sciences and is now the Museum of Ethnography and Anthropology.





### 5. The Stock Exchange

The Stock Exchange building forms the compositional centre of St Basil Point. The noble building of the Stock Exchange (1805–1810), planned by a Russian architect Zacharov in 1804 but designed and executed by a French architect Thomas de Thomon, is like an ancient temple. It was positioned on the Point at the head of the island, on the site of a former Exchange which had been established by Peter. Rectangular in shape on a high foundation, it is surrounded by columns of the simple Doric order.



### 6. Rostral Columns

Two rostral columns over 30 metres high rise on each side of St Basil Point. The ancient Romans used to set up such structures in celebration of military victories. They were usually adorned with trophies — prows of vessels. These prows bore the name of Rostre, hence came the term Rostral Column. Here, however, they are decorated with carved images, not with the prows of ships. At the base of the column there are 5-metre tall allegorical figures of the Russian rivers — the Volga, the Neva, the Volkhov and the Dnieper. At the time when St Basil Point marked the entrance to the port, these columns played the role of beacons with torchlights flaming high over them. Nowadays 7 metre high flames can be seen blown by the wind on top of the columns on great national holidays.



### 7. The Admiralty

One of Peter's decisions, taken in 1704, was to move the shipyard to the mainland opposite and a little west of the Peter and Paul Fortress. The yards were previously situated on Lake Ladoga — out of which the Neva rises — some 60 kilometres away from the city. Many workers of the Admiralty began building their houses nearby. The foreign aspect of St Petersburg life was evident in the workforce of the Admiralty; there were so many foreign workers in the yards that it came to be known as the German settlement. Peter the Great himself worked at the Admiralty as a carpenter.

The present Admiralty building was put up in 1823 according to the design of Andrian Zakharov. The golden spire above its tower carries a weather vane in the shape of a ship which has become a symbol of St Petersburg. The allegorical figures and high reliefs tell the naval history of the city, the cradle of the Russian Navy. A note should be made of an interesting decision of the city's planners. Recalling the trident of Neptune, the god of sea, the three avenues radiate in different directions from the Admiralty.





## IV. MODERN CITY

### *Places to stay*

**Task. Read texts from A to G about places to stay in St Petersburg. Match the texts with headings. There is one extra heading.**

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. We meet your expectations | 5. Within easy reach of everything |
| 2. See-through feeling       | 6. King size hotel                 |
| 3. You might be disturbed    | 7. A haunted hotel                 |
| 4. Unique in every way       | 8. Literary touch                  |

**A. Courtyard by Marriott St Petersburg Vasilievsky.**

Situated on the quiet banks of the Malaya Neva this 214 room hotel is aimed firmly at the business traveller. With 8 conference rooms, including the massive assembly room, and enormous desks in every room even the most workaholic guest is well-catered for. The rooms and beds themselves are generously sized and decorated in a gold and purple scheme.

**B. NashOTEL.** This hotel has been designed and built with the modern guest in mind; with bright colour schemes, large art prints, a glass lift shaft and conference rooms with glass walls and tables. When you look around, there are almost no visual barriers. Rooms are fully equipped and have large windows or French doors.

**C. Sokos Hotels Olympic Garden.**

For the business traveller looking for a hotel that does things right, the Olympic Garden is a breath of fresh air. It has everything you could want. Thick curtains, flat-screen TVs and sleek Finnish furniture complete the small but functional rooms. The mattresses were even designed using NASA technology. You just name it, and it is there.

**D. Brothers Karamazov.** The name of this hotel needs no explanation: you are in the part of the city where the brothers Karamazov were born and bred. This area was the setting for many of Dostoevsky's tragedies, and for real fans the Dostoevsky Museum is a short walk way. But don't expect to find his ghost: everything is bright, well done and convenient.

**E. Crazy Duck.**

The Crazy Duck is a fully renovated flat. Clean and spacious with high ceilings and a common room, there is also a brilliant modern kitchen which wouldn't be out of place in an interior magazine. However, there is one thing approaching crazy here. Your privacy might be invaded here. Not all the rooms have their own entrances, so you have to pass through one room to get to the next.

**F. Astoria.** This bustling hotel lobby has a library, the glamorous Kandinsky bar, the Rotunda Lounge and a chocolate fountain! The original marble work such as the Winter Garden is magnificent. Bedrooms are well-equipped and modern in design, made with 100% natural materials like wood and linen. The presidential suites feature art, furniture and lighting from Astoria original collection and incredible views of St Isaac's cathedral.

**G. Park Inn Nevsky.** Facing on to Nevsky and within a stone's throw of the railway station, you couldn't dream of a more practical location than this well designed hotel. Visitors will find themselves smack in the middle of all the bars, shops and restaurants they could hope for. Despite its central location the noise of the city is inaudible and rooms are all bright and comfortable.

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