

Факультет иностранных языков
английский язык
Специальность «Перевод и переводоведение»
Дополнительное вступительное испытание

Устное экзаменационное задание

1. Прочитайте текст, передайте его содержание на иностранном языке, ответьте на вопросы экзаменатора по тексту.

Trying to Get Away

From “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone”

By J.K. Rowling, abridged.

Harry did not know he was a wizard but his uncle and aunt did, and they didn’t like it. So when letters addressed to Harry started to come from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry¹, they destroyed them. But more and more letters came. The Dursleys were in despair.

On Sunday morning Uncle Vernon sat down to breakfast looking tired but happy.

“No post on Sundays,” he said happily, “no damn letters today.”

Something came whizzing down the kitchen chimney² as he spoke. Next moment thirty or forty letters came pelting out of the fireplace like bullets³. Harry jumped into the air trying to catch one.

“Out! Out!” Uncle Vernon seized Harry around the waist and threw him into the hall. When Aunt Petunia and Dudley had run out, Uncle Vernon slammed the door shut.

“That does it,”⁴ said Uncle Vernon trying to speak calmly. “I want you all back here in five minutes, ready to leave. We’re going away. Just pack some clothes. No arguments!”

Ten minutes later they were in the car. They drove and drove. Aunt Petunia didn’t dare ask where they were going. From time to time Uncle Vernon took a sharp turning and drove in the opposite direction for a while. “Shake them off,”⁵ he muttered whenever he did this.

They didn’t stop to eat or drink all day. At last Uncle Vernon stopped outside a gloomy-looking hotel on the outskirts of a big city. Dudley and Harry shared a room with twin beds and damp sheets. Dudley snored but Harry stayed awake, sitting on the window sill and wondering...

They had just finished breakfast next day when the owner of the hotel came up to their table.

“Excuse me, but is one of you Mr. Potter? I’ve got about a hundred of these at the front desk.”

She held up a letter so they could read the green ink address:

Mr. Harry Potter

¹ Школа Чародейства и Волшебства

² Something came whizzing down the kitchen chimney – В дымоходе что-то засвистело.

³ ... came pelting out of the fireplace like bullets – полились дождем из камина

⁴ That does it – Ну и все!

⁵ Shake them off – Сбить их со следа!

Room 17
Railview Hotel
Cokeworth

“I’ll take them,” said Uncle Vernon, standing up quickly and following her from the dining room.

“

“Wouldn’t it better just to go home, dear?” Aunt Petunia suggested timidly, hours later, but Uncle Vernon did not seem to hear her. Exactly what he was looking for, none of them knew. Late that afternoon he parked on the coast, locked them all inside the car and disappeared.

It started to rain. Dudley sniveled⁶. “It’s Monday,” he told his mother. “I’ve missed five television programmes I wanted to see. I want to stay somewhere with television.”

Monday. This reminded Harry of something. If it was Monday, then tomorrow, Tuesday, was Harry’s eleventh birthday.

Of course, his birthdays were never exactly fun. Still, you weren’t eleven every day.

Uncle Vernon was back and he was smiling.

“Found the perfect place!” he said. “Come on! Everyone out!”

It was very cold outside the car. A storm was gathering. Uncle Vernon pointed to a large rock way out in the sea. There was a miserable little shack⁷ on top of it.

They got there by boat borrowed from an old man. Uncle Vernon led the way to a broken-down house. The inside was horrible. The wind whistled through the gaps in the wooden walls and the fireplace was damp and empty. There were only two rooms.

Uncle Vernon gave each a packet of crisps and a banana. He tried to start a fire but the empty crisp packets only smoked. But Uncle Vernon was in a very good mood. He was sure nobody could reach them here in a storm to deliver post.

As night fell, the promised storm blew all around them, the high waves beat against the walls of the hut. Aunt Petunia found a few blankets and made up a bed for Dudley on the sofa. Harry was left to find the softest bit of floor he could and curl under the thinnest blanket.

The storm raged as the night went on. Harry couldn’t sleep. He shivered and turned over, trying to get comfortable. Dudley was snoring on the sofa. The lighted dial of his watch showed Harry that it’d be twelve in ten minutes’ time. He lay and watched his birthday tick nearer, wondering where the letter-writer was now.

Five minutes to go. Harry heard something creak⁸ outside. Four, three, two minutes to go. What was that funny noise outside?

One minute to go, and he would be eleven. Thirty second ... twenty ... ten ... - two, one –

Boom! Harry sat up staring at the door. Someone was outside, knocking to come in.

⁶ Snivel – хныкать

⁷ Shack – хижина

⁸ Creak – скрипеть

Trying to Get Away

Questions:

1. Why did Harry's aunt and uncle destroy the letters addressed to him?
2. What happened on Sunday morning?
3. What was Uncle Vernon's decision? Where did they go?
4. What happened in the hotel?
5. When did Harry realize that the next day was his eleventh birthday?
6. What was "the perfect place" where Uncle Vernon took them all?
7. What happened when the watch showed 12?