**На экзамене по английскому языку одним из аспектов проверки (помимо грамматического теста и чтения короткого текста с выполнением заданий на понимание его содержания) является такой вид иноязычной речевой деятельности как говорение. Пересказ лексической темы (топика) или заучивание ее наизусть в большей мере способствует быстрому запоминанию новых слов иностранного языка и постижению структуры английского предложения.**

**Каждый топик должен содержать минимум 15 распространенных предложений по выбранной тематике и представлять собой законченное сообщение. Предложенные варианты можно взять за основу или использовать в готовом виде при подготовке к экзамену.**

**Список предложенных вариантов топиков:**

1. **About myself (Обо мне).**
2. **Choosing my future profession (Выбор будущей профессии).**
3. **Hobbies (Хобби).**
4. **The USA (США).**
5. **Great Britain (Великобритания).**
6. **London (Лондон).**
7. **My motherland (Моя родина, О России).**
8. **Moscow (Москва).**
9. **Healthy way of life (Здоровый образ жизни).**
10. [**Holidays in Russia and in English-speaking countries**](http://wearelinguists.narod.ru/materials/topics_en/english_russian_holidays.html) **(Праздники в России и англо-говорящих странах).**
11. **About myself.**

   My name is Inna, and my last name is Romanenko. I am seventeen years old. I was born on the 12th of June, 1984.1 am Russian, I live in Saint Petersburg in Syezdovskaya street. I live with my mother, my father, my grandmother and a younger sister.
       My mother is 36. She is an art critic. She works at the Academy of Technology and Design as a professor. She is a short woman with fair hair and big blue eyes. My mother knows many interesting stories, she also sings well. She is a great cook.
       My father is 40. He is a technologist at a small chemical plant. He is very good at mathematics, physics and chemistry.
       My sister is little, she is only six. My mother and I teach her to read, write and help about the house.
       Our grandmother and grandfather do not live with us. They live in the country.

I'm not very good at physics and chemistry. It is difficult for me to memorize and use formulas. These subjects require much force from me. If I could choose, I would have more lessons of Humanities and fewer lessons of Science Studies. Still, I do my best and try to get good marks in all subjects.
       As for my hobby, I have several hobbies. I collect postcards with flowers. I learn to sew and knit - my mother teaches me.

1. **Choosing my future profession.**

The choice of the future profession is a very delicate topic. Youngsters usually are not so aware of the world of the grown-ups. The choice is very important and not so easy, as it may seem, and one should keep in mind that it will strongly affect you and your family.
       Choosing a profession one should take into consideration many factors.
       The first is talents, gifts and abilities. If somebody is good at languages, likes reading and writing, writes poems or articles for the school wall newspaper, he can make a good journalist or a writer.
  It is a good idea to discuss your choice of future profession with your parents and friends, but now there are a lot of other possibilities.
       It is also necessary to realize the advantages and possible disadvantages of the profession chosen. The profession can be well-paid, can give you freedom to create and be very interesting, but it can at the same time require your travelling a lot, learning Chinese or working late. If these conditions are not acceptable for you, choose another profession.
       The choice of the profession usually, determines the choice of the educational institution. There are many places where I can continue my education now, both in Russia and abroad.
       Some people think that there are jobs considered to be more suitable for men, for example, a lawyer, a driver, a pilot, a porter. At the same time it is supposed that there are jobs suitable only for women, like a teacher, a secretary, a governess, a cook or a manicurist.
       Cutting the story short, it must be said that our destiny is in our hands and we have a right to choose what we like, irrespective of what others expect from us and towards what they us lead.

1. **Hobbies.**

Hobby can be any types of activity, which people do during their leisure time. Many people choose a hobby for relaxation, pleasure, or for development of new interest. Most hobbies divided into 4 general categories. They are the arts, collecting, handicrafts, games, and sports. There are such art forms as dancing, painting, theatre, graphic arts, and music. Each art form has many possibilities for a hobby. For example music can include singing, playing an instrument, collecting CD’s. Painting offers the people a wide choice of materials, such as oil paints or watercolors. Collecting is probably the most widespread kind of hobby, because almost anything can be collected. Stamps and coins were very popular 90’s. People also collect rich things as autographs, books, dolls, tickets. Handicrafts attract people who can work skillfully with their hands. Many of them are engaged in needlework activities, crocheting, knitting and sewing. Some use kits to make modal airplanes, boats and cars. Games and sports are popular with many people, who enjoy competition, physical activity and exercise. Thousands of people take part in sport, such as bowling, fishing, mountain climbing, skiing, and tennis. Popular indoor games include card games, chess. Nowadays, electronic related hobbies become popular. Many people especially children play computer games.

1. **The USA.**

The United States of America form a state which has existed only since 1776.
       The country is situated in the North American continent and washed by the Pacific Ocean in the west and the Atlantic Ocean in the east. The territory of the state is about 9 363 million square kilometres.
       The biggest lakes are the Great Lakes (Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario). Great Salt Lake in the state of Utah is also known. The longest river is the Mississippi with the Missouri and the Ohio, the Columbia, the Colorado and the Yukon (in Alaska). There are many national parks and monuments the (Grand Canyon, Death Valley, Big Bend, Everglades).
       The USA borders on Canada in the north and on Mexico in the south. It has a sea-border with Russia.
       The USA is rich in mineral resources such as coal, gas, oil and metals.
       The climate of the country is mostly continental, temperate or subtropical.
       The country is a federative republic which consists of 50 states and District of Columbia, where Washington, D.C., the capital of the country, is situated. The head of the country is the President, who is elected every four years.
       The main political parties are the Republicans (their symbol is Elephant) and the Democrats (their symbol is Donkey).
 The flag of the USA has thirteen white and red stripes and 50 white stars against the blue background (one for every state).
       There are some national holidays celebrated in the USA, such as Thanksgiving Day and Columbus Day.
      Many famous Americans, such as Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Franklin Roosevelt, William (Bill) Clinton, Mark Twain, O'Henry, J.D. Sallinger are famous all over the world.

1. **Great Britain.**

The official name of the state is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is situated in Western Europe. It occupies the territory of about 244,000 square kilometers, which is only two times larger than the Leningradskaya region. The country is situated in the British Isles and includes Great Britain, a part of Ireland, the Hebrides, the Shetland Islands and the Orkney Islands. There are about 5,000 small islands.
       The country is washed by the North Sea in the East, the Irish Sea and the Celtic Sea in the West and the English Channel in the South.
       The climate is temperate, oceanic and moist (humid) because the territory is not large and surrounded by water. The English weather is very changeable, so the English like to discuss it.
       The most important river of Great Britain is the Thames; it is 334 kilometers long and flows into the North Sea. Other important rivers are the Severn (the longest river), the Trent and the Clyde. (1309). The Cambrian Mountains in the West include the Snowdon (1085).
       There are many beautiful lakes in Great Britain, especially in the Lake District where many people like to spend their holidays. But the most famous is Loch Ness with its monster called Nessie.

       The main parties of English Parliament are the Labour Party (social-democratic ideology), the Tory party (the conservative party, for freedom of business, the leader is David Cameron, the present prime-minister) and the Whigs (not very important now).
For a long time the red rose has been the emblem of England.
       Many British people, such as William Shakespeare, Robert Burns, Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Lewis Carroll, Charles Dickens, Arthur Conan Doyle, Jonathan Swift, are famous all over the world.
One more famous Englishman, Robin Hood, who lived in Sherwood Forest, should be mentioned. He robbed the rich to give money to the poor and so became the symbol of social justice.
       The Beatles is probably the best-known music band.

1. **London.**

       London is the capital of Great Britain, its political, economic and commercial centre. It is one of the largest cities in the world and the largest city in Europe. Its population is about 8 million.
       London is one of the oldest and most interesting cities in the world. It began life as a Roman fortification at a place, where Romans founded a settlement on the river Thames 2,000 years ago. They called it Londinium. London became a prosperous trading centre during Middle Ages.
       London suffered two big catastrophes: a terrible Plague in 1665 and the Great Fire in 1666. As a result of the Great fire St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed. It took Sir Christopher Wren 35 years to restore it. As a result of its long and exciting history, London offers a visitor a rich store of fascinating buildings, streets, monuments and colourful ceremonies.
       London is the manufacturing centre and the country's main banking and financial centre. It's also one of the largest ports in the United Kingdom; London is a great educational and cultural centre. There is the University of London, The British Library, well-known museums and galleries, among them the British Museum, the National Gallery.
       Traditionally it is divided into several parts: the City, Westminster, the West End and the East End. They are very different from each other.
 London has a few famous parks: Hyde Park, St James' Park, Regent Park with its wonderful Zoo and others.

1. **My motherland (Russia).**

By its total area Russia is the largest country in the world. It occupies some 17,000 million square kilometres. The country is situated in the North hemisphere on the continent of Eurasia and is washed by 3 oceans (the Pacific in the east, the Arctic in the north and the Atlantic in the west) and numerous seas (the Baltic Sea, the White Sea, the Barents Sea, the Kara Sea, the Laptev Sea, the East Siberian Sea, the Chukchi Sea, the Bering Sea, the Sea of Okhotsk, the Sea of Japan, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea).
       Russia has both sea and land borders. It borders on China, Mongolia, Korea, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Azerbaijan in the south.

 Russia has about 3,000,000 rivers, the longest one is the Volga. Other important rivers are the Ob, the Yenisei, the Lena and the Amur. The main lakes are the Baikal (the deepest in the world - 1600 metres, the world's greatest fresh water reservoir), the Ladoga lake, the Onega lake.
        There are many political parties in Russia. The most well-known are the Communist party of the Russian Federation, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. Power is headed by the President, who controls the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers, or the Government. The President appoints the ministers, and the Council of Federation approves them.
The main law of Russia is the Constitution. It guarantees the rights of the citizens of Russia. The most important rights that all people have are the following: the right on life, on freedom in choosing the religion, on the privacy of the house, correspondence and life, on education, on healthcare, on juridical protection. These are important rights, but I would also mention the right on the alternative army service.
 If I happened to choose a place for living, I wouldn't live anywhere but n Russia. But Russia offers a variety of places for living. There are many industrial cities, where you can enjoy visiting theatres, museums, cinemas and libraries. But such cities are noisy and full of smoke. There is heavy traffic in the streets but there are few parks and gardens. Life is very busy, everyone runs and hurries. At the same time, in Russia there are many small towns, where you can visit only one or two museums, one cinema, and sometimes theatre companies come from big cities on a tour.

1. **Moscow.**

 Moscow is known all over the world because it is the capital of the largest and one of the most powerful states on the Earth. It is the political, economic, scientific and cultural heart of Russia. More than 8,000.000 people live in Moscow.

 Moscow was founded centuries ago. The first settlements appeared earlier, but it was for the first time mentioned in the chronicles in 1147. This year is now accepted by the historians as the beginning of the city's history.

  Moscow is now one of the most important centres of culture and science. There are more than 70 educational and research institutes and universities in Moscow, including the greatest Moscow State University named after M.V. Lomonosov.
       The President and the Federation Assembly of Russia are located in Moscow as well as other important political organisations, headquarters of political parties, embassies and consulates of all countries, all ministries and services.
       There are more than 80 museums in Moscow. The most famous of them are the following.
       Oruzheynaya Palata is one of the oldest and richest museums.
       The State Tretyakov Gallery is the greatest museum of Russian art, one of the world's leading museums.
 The Historical Museum is the main museum of the State history.

 Moscow receives about a million guests from all over the world every day. Moscow is also a port of 5 seas. There are 9 large and many smaller railway stations in Moscow.

1. **Healthy way of life.**

    To be healthy is very important. Health is the man's greatest wealth. Only a healthy man can enjoy his life, work well and be happy.
       The first rule of the healthy way of life is to have normal weight, not to be overweight, and not to change your weight quickly.
       Diet does not mean you eat only lettuce. You need to get all types of substances including fat, vitamins and fibre. You should eat fruit and vegetables. The English say «An apple a day keeps the doctor away».
 The third rule is regular exercise. Many people jog, walk or cycle in their free time.
       There are also some bad habits which can ruin your health. They are smoking, drinking alcohol and using drugs. My parents do not smoke, and I do not-smoke, either; I think these bad habits ruin health and show your weak character.
       Speaking about smoking, I must say that smoking in some aspects is worse than other bad habits.
       Drinking alcohol is another bad habit. Some people think that alcohol can help you relax and feel more confident. I don't agree with this opinion. Sometimes I see drank people in the streets. They look terrible. They don't care about their appearance or health. So they ruin their health and their lives.
      So you can see that smoking, drinking alcohol are not simply habits, but they can be called a voluntary suicide.
       To be healthy you have either to give up these habits or never start them, this is the fourth rule.

1. [**Holidays in Russia and in English-speaking countries**](http://wearelinguists.narod.ru/materials/topics_en/english_russian_holidays.html)**.**

Russian people love holidays, any of which is celebrated with lots of food and presents, with real Russian hospitality. Any important moment in the life of a family is treated as a great holiday and is celebrated with relatives, friends and neighbours. But all the holidays can be divided into state, religious and family holidays.
       State holidays include the New Year's Day (the 1s' of January), Constitution Day (the 12'" of December), Defender of Motherland Day (the 23rf of February), Women's Day (the 8"' of March), May Day (the 1sl of May), Victory Day (the 9 of May) and Independence Day (the 12\* of June). Religious holidays are Christmas, Easter and other Christian holidays and other holidays, such as the Day of Knowledge and the Teacher's Day.
       There are also personal, or family holidays such as birthdays, anniversaries, wedding days, days of graduation and other important days.
       New Year's Day is, probably, the main holiday in our country. The Russians prepare for it for a long time - everybody buys and makes presents, families and friends discuss the menu. Most people believe it is a family holiday, but young people sometimes gather together to celebrate it.
      There is no traditional dish for the holiday, except the Russian salad, As for my family, we usually have the Russian salad, fruit salad, fish salad, a plate with slices of smoked meat and sausage, fish or meat in aspic.
 One more holiday is May Day , that used to be a political holiday, but now it is the holiday of spring. It is a state holiday, so nobody goes to school or to work. Victory Day is the day when we remember the heroic deeds of our grandfathers during the Great Patriotic war. This holiday is celebrated all over the country. There are patriotic films on TV, the songs of that period over the radio. where soldiers demonstrated their skills. The parade of the veterans of the Great Patriotic War is held every year as well.

 This is a very touching sight.
       One more holiday, which grows more and more popular every year, especially among the young people, should be mentioned. It is St. Valentine's Day, the day of those who are in love. Chocolates and flowers are popular gifts on this holiday.