**Контрольное задание**

**вариант 2**

**TEXT 1**

**Задание 1. Письменный перевод текста**

**water cycle**

Water cycle, also called hydrologic cycle is a cycle that involves the continuous circulation of water in the Earth-atmosphere system.

Evaporation, one of the major processes in the cycle, is the transfer of water from the surface of the Earth to the atmosphere. By evaporation, water in the liquid state is transferred to the gaseous, or vapour, state. This transfer occurs when some molecules in a water mass have attained sufficient kinetic energy to eject themselves from the water surface. The main factors affecting evaporation are temperature, humidity, wind speed, and solar radiation.

Transpiration is the evaporation of water through minute pores, or stomata, in the leaves of plants. For practical purposes, transpiration and the evaporation from all water, soils, snow, ice, vegetation, and other surfaces are lumped together and called evapotranspiration, or total evaporation.

Water vapour is the primary form of atmospheric moisture. Although its storage in the atmosphere is comparatively small, water vapour is extremely important in forming the moisture supply for dew, frost, fog, clouds, and precipitation. Practically all water vapour in the atmosphere is confined to the troposphere (the region below 6 to 8 miles [10 to 13 km] altitude).

The transition process from the vapour state to the liquid state is called condensation. Condensation may take place as soon as the air contains more water vapour than it can receive from a free water surface through evaporation at the prevailing temperature. This condition occurs as the consequence of either cooling or the mixing of air masses of different temperatures. By condensation, water vapour in the atmosphere is released to form precipitation.

Precipitation that falls to the Earth is distributed in four main ways: some is returned to the atmosphere by evaporation, some may be intercepted by vegetation and then evaporated from the surface of leaves, some percolates into the soil by infiltration, and the remainder flows directly as surface runoff into the sea. Some of the infiltrated precipitation may later percolate into streams as groundwater runoff. Direct measurement of runoff is made by stream gauges and plotted against time on hydrographs.

**TEXT 2**

**Задание 2. Устный пересказ текста (на родном или английском языке)**

**rivers and streams**

Rivers and streams make up a very small part of the total surface of the earth but of all the ecosystems they are perhaps the most intensely used by people. Throughout the history of man they have been used for water, power, food, recreation, transportation, and waste disposal. Today the sickest rivers are in the nations considered to be the richest and most advanced. Unlike lakes and ponds, rivers and streams are open ecosystems. Minerals and other nutrients enter them from watersheds and are carried steadily downstream. They don't accumulate as they would in the basin of a lake.

As a river or stream nears an ocean or lake, it flows slowly and drops more and more fine particles of soil (silt) on its bottom. Dead plant material builds up on the bottom, attracting many more decomposers and bottom-dwelling fish. Plankton populations are never great in rivers and streams, but they do add to the food production of sluggish streams.

Few streams exist that haven't been affected by humans through pollution by silt, sewage, or industrial wastes. Given a chance, a stream can rid itself of many pollutants. But nowadays the load of wastes in streams is sometimes so great that the decomposers cannot cope with it. Even if no more pollutants were added, it would take years for many rivers to cleanse themselves.

When ecologists study biomes and ecosystems, they try to understand nature as it existed before humans made great changes. This is increasingly difficult because all of the web of nature has been affected by man and some ecosystems have been greatly modified. Man's effects on nature can't be ignored. This doesn't mean that ecologists will stop investigating nature in those wild areas that have been little touched by man. It does mean, however, that ecologists will devote more effort to understanding "man-made" ecosystems. Take, for example, the "big city" or "suburban sprawl" ecosystems. You won't find them listed in any Textbook on ecology. Yet these are the ecosystems where many people live and work, and surprisingly little is known about them.

**TEXT 3**

**Задание 3. Устный пересказ текста (строго на английском языке)**

**Stonehenge**

Stonehenge is a prehistoric stone circle monument, cemetery, and archaeological site located on Salisbury Plain, about 8 miles (13 km) north of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England. It was built in six stages between 3000 and 1520 BCE, during the transition from the Neolithic Period (New Stone Age) to the Bronze Age. As a prehistoric stone circle, it is unique because of its artificially shaped sarsen stones (blocks of Cenozoic silcrete), arranged in post-and-lintel formation, and because of the remote origin of its smaller bluestones (igneous and other rocks) from 100–150 miles (160–240 km) away, in South Wales. The name of the monument probably derives from the Saxon stan-hengen, meaning “stone hanging” or “gallows.” Along with more than 350 nearby monuments and henges (ancient earthworks consisting of a circular bank and ditch), Stonehenge was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986.

*Speculation and Excavation*

Stonehenge has long been the subject of historical speculation, and ideas about the meaning and significance of the structure continued to develop in the 21st century. English antiquarian John Aubrey in the 17th century and his compatriot archaeologist William Stukeley in the 18th century both believed the structure to be a Druid temple. This idea has been rejected by more-recent scholars, however, as Stonehenge is now understood to have predated by some 2,000 years the Druids recorded by Julius Caesar.

In 1963 American astronomer Gerald Hawkins proposed that Stonehenge had been constructed as a “computer” to predict lunar and solar eclipses; other scientists also attributed astronomical capabilities to the monument. Most of these speculations, too, have been rejected by experts. In 1973 English archaeologist Colin Renfrew hypothesized that Stonehenge was the centre of a confederation of Bronze Age chiefdoms. Other archaeologists, however, have since come to view this part of Salisbury Plain as a point of intersection between adjacent prehistoric territories, serving as a seasonal gathering place during the 4th and 3rd millennia BCE for groups living in the lowlands to the east and west. In 1998 Malagasy archaeologist Ramilisonina proposed that Stonehenge was built as a monument to the ancestral dead, the permanence of its stones representing the eternal afterlife.

In 2008 British archaeologists Tim Darvill and Geoffrey Wainwright suggested – on the basis of the Amesbury Archer, an Early Bronze Age skeleton with a knee injury, excavated 3 miles (5 km) from Stonehenge – that Stonehenge was used in prehistory as a place of healing. However, analysis of human remains from around and within the monument shows no difference from other parts of Britain in terms of the population’s health.

**Задание 4. Беседа по устной теме «My research»**