Е. В. Карцева, А. А. Флаксман

Учебное пособие по английскому языку

CULTURAL STUDIES

Министерство науки и высшего образования Российской Федерации Федеральное государственное бюджетное образовательное учреждение высшего образования «Нижегородский государственный архитектурно-строительный университет»

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Учебное пособие по английскому языку «Cultural Studies» предназначено для студентов I, II курсов, обучающихся по направлению подготовки 54.03.01 «Культурология» очной и заочной формы обучения.

Цель учебного пособия — формирование базовых знаний по специальности, ознакомление с терминологией специальности, овладение профессионально-ориентированным языком, формирование профессиональной, коммуникативной и социокультурной компетенций в рамках профессиональной подготовки специалистов.

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Введение

Учебное пособие по английскому языку «Cultural Studies» предназначено для студентов I, II курсов, обучающихся по направлению подготовки 54.03.01 «Культурология» очной формы обучения. Также данное пособие может использоваться для слушателей магистратуры.

Целью учебного пособия является формирование базовых знаний по специальности, ознакомление с терминологией специальности, овладение профессионально-ориентированным языком, формирование профессиональной, коммуникативной и социокультурной компетенций в рамках профессиональной подготовки специалистов.

Учебное пособие состоит из 5 модулей, включающих актуальные культурологические темы. Каждый модуль имеет текстовую описательную часть и набор заданий, содержащих вопросы и темы для устных сообщений на практическом занятии с последующим обсуждением в форме дискуссии, а также краткий тематический словарь.

UNIT 1. What Is Culture?

- 1. What is culture? What components does culture include? Discuss it in the group and present your definition.
- 2. Read the text and compare your ideas with the information from the text.

(https://www.livescience.com/21478-what-is-culture-definition-of-culture.html)

Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts.

The Center for Advance Research on Language Acquisition goes a step further, defining culture as shared patterns of behaviors and interactions, cognitive constructs and understanding that are learned by socialization. Thus, it can be seen as the growth of a group identity fostered by social patterns unique to the group.

"Culture encompasses religion, food, what we wear, how we wear it, our language, marriage, music, what we believe is right or wrong, how we sit at the table, how we greet visitors, how we behave with loved ones, and a million other things," Cristina De Rossi, an anthropologist at Barnet and Southgate College in London, told Live Science.

The word "culture" derives from a French term, which in turn derives from the Latin "colere," which means to tend to the earth and grow, or cultivation and nurture. "It shares its etymology with a number of other words related to actively fostering growth," De Rossi said.

Western culture

The term "Western culture" has come to define the culture of European countries as well as those that have been heavily influenced by European immigration, such as the United States, according to **Khan University**. Western culture has its roots in the Classical Period of the Greco-Roman era and the rise of Christianity in the 14th century.

Other drivers of Western culture include Latin, Celtic, Germanic and Hellenic ethnic and linguistic groups. Today, the influences of Western culture can be seen in almost every country in the world.

Eastern culture

Eastern culture generally refers to the societal norms of countries in Far East Asia (including China, Japan, Vietnam, North Korea and South Korea) and the Indian subcontinent. Like the West, Eastern culture was heavily influenced by religion during its early development, but it was also heavily influenced by the growth and harvesting of rice, according to the book "Pathways to Asian Civilizations: Tracing the Origins and Spread of Rice and Rice Cultures" by Dorian Q. Fuller. In general, in Eastern culture there is less of a distinction between secular society and religious philosophy than there is in the West.

Latin culture

Many of the Spanish-speaking nations are considered part of the Latin culture, while the geographic region is widespread. Latin America is typically defined as those parts of the Central America, South America and Mexico where Spanish or Portuguese are the dominant languages. Originally, the term "Latin America" was used by French geographers to differentiate between Anglo and Romance (Latin-based) languages, according to the University of Texas. While Spain and Portugal are on the European continent, they are considered the key influencers of what is known as Latin culture, which denotes people using languages derived from Latin, also known as Romance languages.

Middle Eastern culture

The countries of the Middle East have some but not all things in common. This is not a surprise, since the area consists of approximately 20 countries, according to **PBS**. The Arabic language is one thing that is common throughout the region; however, the wide variety of dialect can sometimes make communication difficult. Religion is another cultural area that the countries of the Middle East have in common. The Middle East is the birthplace of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

African culture

The continent of Africa is essential to all cultures. Human life originated on this continent and began to migrate to other areas of the world around 60,000 years ago, according to **the Natural History Museum** in London. Other researchers, like those from Estonian Biocentre in Tartu, believe that the first migration may have been much earlier, as early as 120,000 years ago. Researchers come to these conclusions by studying human genomes from various cultures to trace their **DNA** to common ancestors. Fossil records also factor into some of these theories.

Africa is home to a number of tribes, ethnic and social groups. One of the key features of this culture is the large number of ethnic groups throughout the 54 countries on the continent. Nigeria alone has more than 300 tribes, for example.

Currently, Africa is divided into two cultural groups: North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. This is because Northwest Africa has strong ties to Middle East, while Sub-Saharan Africa shares historical, physical and social characteristics that are very different from North Africa, according to the University of Colorado. The harsh environment has been a large factor in the development of Sub-Saharan Africa culture, as there are a number of languages, cuisines, art and musical styles that have sprung up among the far-flung populations.

Constant change

No matter what culture a people are a part of, one thing is for certain, it will change. "Culture appears to have become key in our interconnected world, which is made up of so many ethnically diverse societies, but also riddled by conflicts associated with religion, ethnicity, ethical beliefs, and, essentially, the elements which make up culture," De Rossi said. "But culture is no longer fixed, if it ever was. It is essentially fluid and constantly in motion." This makes it so that it is difficult to define any culture in only one way.

While change is inevitable, the past should also be respected and preserved. The United Nations has created a group called **The United Nations Educational**, **Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** to identify cultural and natural heritage and to conserve and protect it. Monuments, building and sites are covered by

the group's protection, according to the international treaty, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. This treaty was adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

My glossary:

- 1. Encompass содержать, охватывать
- 2. language acquisition освоение языка
- 3. Social pattern общественный уклад, модель общества
- 4. Behavior поведение
- 5. Derive from происходить от
- 6. Foster поощрять, культивировать, способствовать
- 7. Term термин
- 8. To define определять
- 9. According to согласно
- 10.Root корень
- 11. Refers to относиться к
- 12. Secular society светское общество
- 13. Have smth. in common имееть общее
- 14.Essential существенный
- 15. Trace следить, отслеживать
- 16. Ancestor предок
- 17. Tribe племя
- 18. Harsh environment суровые условия
- 19.Inevitable неизбежный
- 20. Preserve сохранять
- 21. Heritage наследие
- 22. International treaty международный договор
- 3. Read the text again and match the terms and their characteristics.

- 1. Western culture a. The Arabic language is one thing that is common throughout the region
- 2. African cultureb. has its roots in the Classical Period of the Greco-Roman era and the rise of Christianity.
- 3. Latin culture c. refers to the societal norms of countries in Far East Asia and the Indian subcontinent.
- 4. Middle Eastern culture d. denotes people using languages derived from

 Latin
- 5. Eastern culture e. is home to a number of tribes, ethnic and social groups.
- 4. Find the information on the Internet about organizations and terms in bold and present it in the group.
- 5. Make a presentation about Western, African, Latin, Middle Eastern or Eastern culture.

UNIT 2. Language: The Essence of Culture

1. Read the following statement of Khaled Hosseini, Afghan-born American novelist and physician and explain how do you understand it:

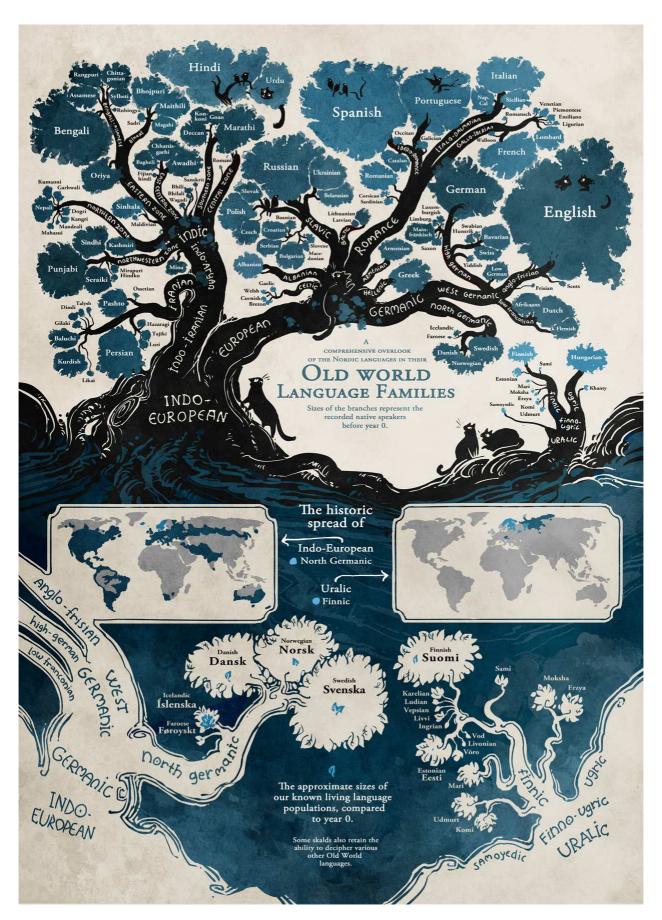
If culture was a house, then language was the key to the front door, to all the rooms inside."

(https://greenheart.org/blog/greenheart-international/language-the-essence-of-culture/)

2. Read the text. Why is language one of the most important parts of any culture?

Language is one of the most important parts of any culture. It is the way by which people communicate with one another, build relationships, and create a sense of community. There are roughly 6,500 spoken languages in the world today, and each is unique in a number of ways.

Communication is a core component of any society, and language is an important aspect of that. As language began to develop, different cultural communities put together collective understandings through sounds. Over time, these sounds and their implied meanings became commonplace and language was formed. Intercultural communication is a symbolic process whereby social reality is constructed, maintained, repaired and transformed. As people with different cultural backgrounds interact, one of the most difficult barriers they face is that of language. Check out the graphic below that shows how language has evolved over time!



Cultural identity is heavily dependent on a number of factors including ethnicity, gender, geographic location, religion, language, and so much more. Culture

is defined as a "historically transmitted system of symbols, meanings, and norms." Knowing a language automatically enables someone to identify with others who speak the same language.

My glossary:

- 1. Core component основной компонент,
- 2. Implied meanings подразумеваемое значение,
- 3. Commonplace избитое выражение; распространённая цитата; известный афоризм,
- 4. To maintain сохранять,
- 5. То evolve развиваться.
- 3. Look at the graph. What language family do English and Russian belong to? Do they have common roots?
- 4. Make a presentation about one language family.
- 5. Read the text about the interdependence of language and culture.

Why Is Language Important to Culture?

(https://www.brighthubeducation.com/language-learning-tips/99894-why-language-is-important-to-culture/)

Why Is Language Important?

Language is an important part of our lives. It is a uniquely human gift which lets us communicate and differentiates us from primates. But language is much more than just a means of communication. It is also an inseparable part of our culture.

Why is language important to culture?

While there is still some debate whether the particular language influences people's thought process or it is indeed people's culture that influences the language, there is no doubt that language and culture are closely connected.

Noam Chomsky, one of the most well-known linguists in the world, argues that all languages are dialects of one language, which is the human language. He says that even though they appear very different, they are in fact very similar. Nevertheless, different cultures have a predominant fashion in which they use their language and they have differences which cannot be underestimated.

Direct and Indirect Styles

Cultures such as the United States or Western Europe value self-expression and verbal precision. We are encouraged to be direct and to speak our mind. On the other hand, Asian cultures use an indirect style of communication. Words such as "perhaps" and "maybe" are used much more frequently than "yes", "no" or "for sure". In Japanese culture precise articulation is appreciated much less than speaking between the lines or being understood without words; therefore, the language is used quite differently.

Personal and Contextual Styles

The United States, which is an individualistic culture, uses a personal style of communication. Two of the most frequently used words in our culture are "I" and "you". Linguists point out that it is impossible for Americans to hold a conversation without using these pronouns. Compared to other cultures, American culture is not very formal, so it is appropriate to say "you" to your boss, to the President, to a stranger, to your spouse or to your child. In Thai language there are twelve forms of the pronoun "you", which depend of factors such as status or level of intimacy.

Contextual style of communication is used in collectivistic cultures (such as Asian.) The style of language is focused on speaker and depends on someone's status and identity.

If you wanted to learn Japanese, it would be impossible to do so without learning about their culture. Japanese pay a lot of attention to someone's status and they use linguistic forms called honorifics, which are used according to the rank of the person who is speaking and who he or she is speaking to.

Untranslatable Words

Another way to show why language is important to culture is to look at the vocabulary that a particular culture is using. Many people don't realize that there are plenty of words that cannot be translated from one language to another simply because they don't exist in another language.

The word "shopping", which describes one of the most favorite activities of Americans, doesn't exist in some other languages (such as for example in Russian) as a noun. Why? Because it is not a huge part of the other cultures. The same goes for the word "fast food", which is not only not popular, but unacceptable in many other cultures.

Another interesting example is the word "ilunga". It comes from the Tshiluba language of the Republic of Congo and is considered to be the most untranslatable word in the world. Ilunga describes a person who is ready to forgive any transgression a first and a second time, but never for a third time.

Language Is Changing Along with the Culture

When the culture changes, so does the language. Many of you probably remember that the words he and his were used generically in English language. Since the United States and most of the English-speaking Western Europe are becoming less and less male-dominant cultures, the grammar rules have been changed and new gender agreement rules were created.

Fifty years ago, nobody was suspecting that one day in the United States the words "mother" and "father" would become controversial and that some schools would agree to change them both to "parent".

I hope this article helped you understand why language is important to culture and hopefully encouraged you to cherish the language you speak even more.

My glossary:

- 1. Means of communication средство коммуникации,
- 2. Inseparable part неотъемлемая часть,
- 3. Argue утверждать, доказывать; спорить,
- 4. Underestimate недооценивать,
- 5. Verbal precision словесная точность,

6. Encourage – спосооствовать, поощ	рять,
7. To hold a conversation – вести бесе,	ду.
8. Compared to – по сравнению с,	
9. Honorific – форма вежливости,	
10.Unacceptable – неприемлемый,	
11.Suspect – подозревать,	
12.Controversial – спорный; дискусси	онный,
13. Cherish – почитать, высоко ценить	
6. Match the adjectives to the nouns and	then make sentences using the completed
phrases.	
1. inseparable	a. cultures
2. human	b. precision
3. indirect	c. cultures
4. collectivistic	d. style
5. verbal	e. word
6. untranslatable	f. language
7. male-dominant	g. part
7. Read the text again and answer the quest	tions:
1. Why is language important to cultu	re?
2. Who was Noam Chomsky and wh	at was his theory?
3. What is the difference between dir	rect and indirect styles?
4. Where is the personal style of com	nmunication dominated?

8. Find the information about untranslatable English words on the Internet and talk about their meaning.

5. What cultures do the contextual style of communication have?

6. How does language reflect changes in the culture?

Unit 3. Education Systems in Different Countries

- 1. What does it mean to be educated? Discuss in the group.
- 2. Read the text about education systems in different countries and compare your ideas with the information from the text.

Education Systems in Different Countries

(https://www.uniassignment.com/essay-samples/education/education-system-in-different-countries-of-the-world-education-essay.php)

Introduction

There is a very strong paradigm in the mind of people that to be educated means a good job with a high salary and a high standard of living. In the following sections the researcher is going to present the meaning, purposes and benefits of education.

Meaning of Education

Education involves the acquisition of knowledge and the learning of skills. The word education has two etymological sources, namely "educare" and "educere" (Wronka, 2007). These two latin origins are sometimes used interchangeably, while some authors do make a difference between them. "Educare" means "to mould" or "to train" (Teeroovengadum et al., 2010), while "educere" means "leading out" or "leading forth" or "to bring out and bring forth what is within" (Rosado, 2010). As a result, as Teeroovengadum et al. (2010) observed, education in its truest sense refers to the latin word "educere" which means "to lead, draw, educe and bring forth what is latent in an individual. However, the other dimension of education which is "educare", is also considered important and useful since it allows the training of an individual where he/she acquires the necessary knowledge and skills for doing a particular job, thus ensuring material progress at personal and societal level.

Education system in different countries of the world

According to the Jomtien conference on "Education for All" held in Thailand (1990), primary and secondary education is free and compulsory in many countries around the world. In most countries, education is compulsory up to the age of 16.

The Education system in Finland which is considered as the world number one is different to that in many other countries. Compulsory education starts at 7 years old, with a maximum of one year of pre-school education. There is a national core curriculum, but timetabling and delivery are left up to schools and teachers. There is no selection in terms of formal testing or national examinations at any stage prior to higher education until matriculation (end of secondary education) which is required for entry to post 19 education.

The Education system in USA is also based on free and compulsory primary and secondary education, however, the ages by which children are compelled to begin and allowed to finish education varies from state to state. Typically, education is compulsory from first grade (usually age 6) to tenth grade (age 16). At the end of secondary school, most students sit for SAT examinations in order to pursue tertiary education.

The Education system in India is based on 10 years of primary education, from the age of 6-14, consisting of 5 years of primary education and 3 years of upper primary, followed by 2 years of high school. This is followed by 2 years of higher secondary education and finally 3 years of college education for bachelor's degree.

The Education system in Australia is based on compulsory primary and secondary education from age 6-19. Prior to primary education, there is pre-primary education which is non-compulsory. After secondary education, there is tertiary education at Universities or technical schools.

The Education system in Hong Kong consists of a voluntary three years kindergarten, compulsory 6 years of primary and 3 years of secondary education, selective 3 years of senior secondary based on performance. Finally, tertiary education is offered at Universities.

The Education system in Singapore which is considered among the best in the world consists of preschool (3-6), compulsory primary education (6-12), secondary

education (12-17) and tertiary education. It is worth noting that at the end of primary schooling, children have to take the Primary School Leaving Examination which is highly competitive and decides the secondary school allocated to a child.

My glossary:

- 1. To mould образовывать, формировать,
- 2. Compulsory education всеобщее обязательное образование,
- 3. Core curriculum основные предметы обучения, профилирующие дисциплины,
- 4. Timetabling составление расписания,
- 5. Delivery предоставление образовательных услуг,
- 6. Matriculation зачисление в высшее учебное заведение,
- 7. SAT examinations тест на проверку академических способностей,
- 8. Tertiary education вузовское образование.

3. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. What does education involve? What two Latin origins does the word education have?
- 2. Why do you think primary and secondary education is free and compulsory in many countries around the world? Give your reasons.
- 3. What is common and what is different in the education systems of different countries?
- 4. Read the second part of the text and be ready to speak about the factors that influence the quality of an education system.

20 Best Education Systems in the World

Top 20 Countries with the Best Higher Education System in the World

Education is of paramount importance to an individual as well as society. No matter which region or country we are living in, we must preserve our education system so that it helps us in preserving our knowledge.

Education System

Education helps an individual to grab a basic understanding of civilization and their role as a civilian. But as the geographical region differs, the education system in different countries differs.

Therefore, in this article, we will get a brief glimpse of 20 such different education systems of the present world and their ranking through a yearly poll.

Note: The list is prepared by considering some factors like developed education system for the public, quality of basic and higher education and rate of students attending university.

Below is a list of 20 education systems in the world.

Sl no	The country with Top Education Systems
1	<u>Finland</u>
2	<u>Japan</u>
3	South Korea
4	<u>Denmark</u>
5	<u>Russia</u>
6	<u>Norway</u>
7	<u>United Kingdom</u>
8	<u>Israel</u>
9	Sweden
10	<u>Hongkong</u>
11	<u>Netherlands</u>
12	<u>Belgium</u>
13	<u>Germany</u>
14	<u>China</u>
15	Singapore
16	<u>Portugal</u>
17	<u>Hungary</u>

Sl no	The country with Top Education Systems
18	<u>Estonia</u>
19	<u>France</u>
20	<u>United States</u>

The list of 20 Education Systems

1. Finland

The title is yet to be official; however, according to a survey made recently, Finland has the world's best education system. The country has been in the limelight since the year 2000 and successfully made into the year 2018.

In fact, when five new parameters were added in the year 2017 for the categorization of best education systems worldwide, Finland managed to perform well and gave a strong competition to South Korea and Japan. The country ranked higher on indicators, like;

- Teachers to student ratio
- Number of passing students in primary schools
- Number of passing students in secondary schools

Why does Finland rank as the Top Education System in the World?

- Finland offers free education to citizens with no dead ends.
- The country has been a top performer on every program for International Student Assessment Survey.
- Finland follows American education research and philosophers. (Ex: John Dewey), and are inspired by them

The education system of Finland is celebrated in great esteem and is considered as one of the best education systems in the world. For years, this country outperformed the United States in science, math, and reading.

What are the Major Principles outlaying Finland's Education System?

There are a couple of facts behind this:

• They have shorter school days (190 days per year)

- There are certain core principles underlying the education system of Finland
- Students are free to choose their educative path

Let's see how the Education System works in Finland

Finland's early education system is laid around the concept of learning through play. Until the age of 6, students aren't required to attend schools.

They provide basic education when the child turns 7. For the next nine years, they follow a single structure education. They take special steps to revise and revamp their curriculum to meet the needs of each individual.

The Finnish National Agency for Education promotes self-evaluation for both teachers and schools to help them improve them. Also, Finland does not incorporate national standardized testing but they do evaluations for testing learning outcomes. One of the other striking features is the free meals.

The upper secondary education is split into two - General and Vocational.

In general education, students have all the freedom to choose their study schedules and, in the end, they need to attend a matriculation exam. And these scores are counted for their college applications.

Vocational education is job focused whereas school learning and apprenticeships go hand in hand. Students achieve competence-based qualifications after this.

Higher secondary education is also completely free. Students need to pay only for their books, transportation, and other school supplies.

The colleges of Finland are divided into two - Universities and Universities of applied sciences.

The Universities in Finland, focus on applied sciences, whereas, the Universities of applied sciences stress on practical applications.

How is Finland able to provide universal and comprehensive education to all citizens?

The Finnish people value education and put their time to build a system that adheres to the best education research.

2. Japan

Like Finland, Japan has also maintained its second position for three years. Despite such tough competition by South Korea and other countries, it has been bragging the second position without fail. The main indicator contributing to its success has been – development of an understanding of students between the age of 5 to 14.

3. South Korea

South Korea has been a three-time winner of poll (World's 20 education systems), and it has successfully earned the third position every time. It has given a strong competition to Japan for the second position.

After Japan, only South Korea has worked well in the sector of bringing immense development in students in the age of 5 to 14 years. As per surveyors, the country would have been a strong contender for the 2nd position, but a few indicators made it lose.

A few indicators which denied South Korea second position in the poll are-

- Fall in test scores of high school students (calculated annually)
- Fall in test scores of graduation students (calculated annually)

4. <u>Denmark</u>

Denmark has never been a celebrated country for its ranking in the poll yet it has been known for its developed education system among elites.

Earlier, Denmark was on position 8, but due to passing the five newly included indicators, it has taken a giant leap from 8th position to 4th.

The indicator that helped Denmark to jump on the 4th position is – increased teacher-to-student ration for secondary and primary schools.

5. Russia

No matter Russia has gained the 5th position, yet it should be applauded for being in the top 5 countries with the world's best education system. Russia's education system is known for preparing students' workspace ready. It also has a good teacher-to-student ratio.

If we talk in numbers, then Russia has a ratio of 1 teacher to 9 students approximately.

6. Norway

Norway was in the 16th position in the earlier quarter. However, with certain changes in its education system, it has jumped ten positions and successfully landed in the 6th position. If we talk about its teacher-to-student ratio than it is '1 teacher to 10 students approximately.'

It has competed well with Russia and Japan in terms of teacher-to-student ratio.

7. The United Kingdom

Although this country would have been a great competitor to all the five-pointers in the list, yet current clashes between government and teachers have made it fall back on the 7th position.

The United Kingdom could get better if the government prudently handles the current situations like giving better wages to teachers, enhanced classroom support to students, and rendering each class with modern educational facilities.

8. <u>Israel</u>

No matter Israel is kept on 8thposition in terms of the education system, it ranks second in terms of the better upbringing of kids and a developed childhood. If we compare the development with yesteryears, people can gather immense changes and betterment.

The enrolment rate in primary schools and graduation has increased a lot, but still, it could not help Israel to grab a position in top 5 until the next year.

9. Sweden

Like its other Nordic mates, Finland, Norway, and Denmark, Sweden has really performed well to keep the pace.

Its progress in the field of education has been impressive from 2015 to 2018. In terms of increased enrolment of students age between 15 to 18, it has ranked third among the countries.

However, it still has to work hard to improve its world's top-ranking to get in the first five.

10. Hong Kong

If we take account of the last year's poll of the world's top 20, then Hong Kong was in 14th position. It has really worked hard on prime indicators and managed to reach the top 10.

The indicator that helped Hong Kong lift its position is – higher enrolment rate of primary age students.

If it works out on enrolment of all age students and their passing test scores then, it could even raise its position and get counted among the top 5.

11. Netherlands

Unfortunately, Netherlands has lost one spot and dropped from 10th position to 11th. The reason behind its negative acceleration is decreased international test scores in subjects like science, Maths, and reading.

If the country works on this indicator along with others, then it could possibly regain its former position.

12. Belgium

With the most complex education system, including three different communities like Flemish, German and French, Belgium shines on 11th position.

During annual surveys, it secured a 4th and 9th position for teacher-to-student ratio and 5th position for increased enrolment of students' primary and secondary age in school.

To score a position in top 20s, Belgium has to work hard with two primary indicators,

1) students' enrolment rates and, 2) teachers-to-students' ratio.

13. Germany

Germany is known for its social and economic justice worldwide. The country has worked hard to reach the top 10 but couldn't due to a lack of improvement in a few indicators in the last two years.

Currently, the country is fighting to retain a position in the top 10 but it couldn't until it brings desired changes in the education system.

14. <u>China</u>

No doubt China's employment rate is pretty high, but still, this factor could not make the country bag a secured position in the list of top 10 this year.

It was in position 9 in the year 2016, but it failed to repeat the same in 2017. Since then, China is improving its education system to get it a position among top 10 countries.

The only thing which could help China is improving the enrolment rates of students at early age.

15. Singapore

Known as the world's best test-taking country, Singapore had ranked highest in primary and secondary international tests in subjects like Maths, science, and reading in the year 2016.

Later, the score somewhere settled and made the country struggle to get the highest position back. They failed to achieve two indicators, enrolment of students of primary and secondary ages, and international test scores in maths, science and reading.

A good investment in the education sector could make this country shine again and grab a position among the top 10.

16. Portugal

Portugal has always shown a pendulum movement between below average, average, and good.

In 2018, the country was predicted to secure a position in the top 20, but it failed. However, this year, the country not only entered the top-20 list, it even secured the 16th position which is comparably good.

In terms of better enrolment rates of primary and secondary ages, it ranks 2^{nd} highest. If it works hard, it could make it into top 15 soon.

17. Hungary

Last year, Hungary secured the 20th position, but this year, it managed to jump three ranks up. If Hungary maintains its highest teachers-to-students' ratio in secondary school, there are chances that it could finish in the top 15.

The only indicator, Hungary is unable to fulfill, is higher graduation rates.

Balancing higher graduation rates could slip Hungary to top 15.

18. Estonia

Out of Northern Europe, Estonia is an 8th country to grab a rank. In 2018, it failed to grab even a position in the top 20 whereas, this year, it managed to get the 18th position.

If the country works a little on indicators like higher enrolment rates of primary and secondary school students and higher international test scores, it could grab a better position this year.

The only helping indicator in its growth is - a higher completion rate of primary school students.

19. France

Having the highest enrolment rate of early childhood made France stay in the top 20 last year.

If it works hard and continues to invest wisely in the education system, it could retain its position successfully in top 20.

As the present government is taking extra care and investing in the educational system, it could secure a position in the top 10 by the year 2020.

20. The United States

Because of the transition in the State's government, it has to stay put at the 20^{th} position. In the last year, it had secured 7^{th} position but catastrophically failed to maintain it in this year.

The indicators are suggesting that the United States will either get its position back or jump a position backward.

- 5. Read the text about Higher Education in different countries and say if the following statements are true or false.
 - 1. British certificates, diplomas and awarded degrees are the best throughout the world.

- 2. The British programs on getting a bachelor's and master's degrees last only for 4 and 2 years respectively.
- 3. America and Canada are very popular among European students.
- 4. The close connection between science and practice is the strength of the Canadian university.
- 5. In the U.S. there is uniform state system of education.
- 6. You do not have to pay for education in state institutions in France.
- 7. French baccalaureate is similar with the English bachelor.
- 8. The main principle of higher education in Germany is "academic freedom".
- 9. A diploma Abituris a kind of admission to study at German university.
- 10. The enter campaign to universities of Germany is once a year.

Higher Education in Different Countries

In modern society a new "tradition" has appeared most recently: wealthy people tend to send their children abroad to study. For some it is a tribute to the new fashion, but for others – is a major step forward. The most popular is a higher education abroad. In fact, it is much more effective to go to learn when you have already decided on the future profession, than just receive secondary education in colleges or high schools. The education in England is considered as the most prestigious.

The advantages of studying in the UK:

- 1. British certificates, diplomas and awarded degrees are the best throughout the world and certainly the most prestigious. Education received in England is a reliable foundation for any career, and a guarantee of high wages (even for beginners)!
- 2. Most modern teaching methods, the equipment is constantly modernized at schools and, most importantly, professional teachers of British universities help to fulfill the full academic and creative potential of students.
- 3. British universities are in the "tops" of the educational rankings. Many countries have taken the British model of education as a basis.

- 4. The knowledge, gained in the courses of English, will form the basis for your future career or guarantee of the successful education in students' own country. Worldwide, the English language used in business, science and information technology.
- 5. The British programs on getting a bachelor's and master's degrees last only for 3 and 1 years respectively, compared with 4 and 2 years in most other countries. Thus, due to the intensity of training, its term is reducing, and hence the cost of education and accommodation.
- 6. United Kingdom is a multinational and multicultural country. It absorbed the cultural diversity of its former colonies, and many other countries.
- 7. Educational traditions of Great Britain, among which, by the way, the tradition of taking students from different parts of the Earth, rooted in the distant past. The UK was one of the first countries in which there were universities. The famous Oxford and Cambridge quickly gained popularity and fame throughout the world and evolved into the international educational centers. As such, they are more than 700 years give the world many talented scientists, writers, and physicians. The share of the UK accounts for nearly 5% of all researches in the world. But British scientists have received more Nobel Prizes than any other country in the world except the United States.
- 8. Continuous monitoring! All universities (both old and new) are regularly inspected and assessed by special public and state institutions such as the Office for Standards in Education, The British Council and British Accreditation Council.

America and Canada are not so popular among European students, because they are on another continent. Flights to America takes a long time (on average about 12 hours), and tires. Nevertheless, education is high quality, and diplomas of many American universities are highly regarded throughout the world.

So, Canadians and foreigners pay for education ridiculous money according to American standards. You can, for example, find a university in the eastern provinces of the country with the cost of the course of about USD 2.500 per year. This is due to

the fact that in Canada there are no private schools (except for some private religious schools). All schools are funded by two-thirds of the state budget and public funds. Another thing is that due to the global economic crisis, Canadian prices are rising by an average of 10% per year. However, they are now much lower, for example, than U.S. Established in 1911 the Association of Universities and Colleges of this country (AUCC) brings together 90 universities and about 100 (of 175) colleges, most of which have a good reputation far beyond the borders of Canada. Two-thirds of university's professors have a doctorate. They have a lot of charges: in Canadian universities more than 500 thousand students and 75 thousand graduate students study.

The close connection between science and practice is the strength of the Canadian university. According to official statistics, a Canadian university science creates in the country the 150-200 thousand jobs annually. Canadians are the leaders in the development of satellite navigation systems and life support systems, methods of relieving stress and pain.

In the U.S. there is no uniform state system of education; each state has the right to determine its own structure. In the U.S. there is no clear definition of the term "institution of higher education". Any institution that carries out further training after high school, so-called "post-secondary educational institutions" (postsecondary school), could be equally called "college", "school", "institute" or "university". Higher education is one of the expensive things in the U.S. The procedure of enrollment and screening of applicants to the U.S. institutions of higher education depends on their prestige. There are no uniform requirements for applicants. In particular, some universities carry out the selection by competitive examination, interview, test, while for others the only condition is the presence of secondary education (for example, open enrollment in the two-year colleges). A common requirement for entering the college is to provide documentations of secondary school completion; a list of subjects studied at school and received marks on them, total scores on the tests, the characteristics, the results of interviews during the entering campaign. Every educational institution creates a students' contingent

according to own system without worrying about whether everyone will finish the full course, and where they will be able to work. Formally, the U.S. universities accepted the person of any age. Duration of training is also not limited. The maximum value of average annual expenditure per student ranges from \$7,000 in state universities up to \$15,000 in private institutions. The U.S. has more than 1,350 local colleges and 2,000 colleges and universities, 65% of which are private.

The best balance between price and quality belongs to French institutions of high education. To study there is cheaper than in the English-speaking countries, but graduates of these institutions occupy senior positions in various enterprises. So, for education in state institutions in France you do not have to pay. However, a small fee, which ranges from 130 to 700 euros per semester, depending on the university and the chosen specialty, it is necessary to make for use of the library, laboratories, campus infrastructure, etc. Accommodation in the hostel will cost 140-400 euros per month, food – about 130-200 euros. Therefore, it is the most prestigious education in France and to get into such institution is not easy, especially for a foreigner. Certificate and an excellent knowledge of French at a high level do not guarantee entering the institution.

The University learning process is divided into three cycles. Each of them completed with the pass of exams and get of a diploma. *The first cycle*, which comes at the end of the French lyceum (lycée), lasts two years and provides general education. French baccalaureate has nothing similar with the English bachelor. In France, the bac is passed at the end of the lyceum, and only those who have passed all the exams successfully, receive a bachelor's degree and are eligible to enter the college. After two years of study students take exams and receive a diploma of general university education – DEUG, or the degree of scientific and technical education – DEUST. During *the second cycle* of education, which also lasts two years, students have more specialized knowledge. The first year of the second cycle, called license, ends with the award of the degree of Licentiate. Licentiates, having studied for a year, received a master's degree – maitrise. To do this, the student must choose a theme and write a thesis. *The third cycle*, which many foreigners tend to

enter, lasts one year and ends up with getting a full-fledged diploma. There are two types of diplomas. First is a diploma DESS – a diploma of special higher education. It is issued after a year of specialization in a particular occupational area, and provides training from 3 months to six months. Further employment significantly depends on the correct choice of training. The second one is a diploma DEA (Diplôme d'études appliquées) – Diploma of Higher Education in-depth that allows the holder to continue his/her scientific work and apply for the writing of a thesis.

Germany has the standard general rules for entering the institution of higher education. A diploma Abitur, which is issued as a result of study in high school or in public school on high school which is issued as a result of study in high school or public-school program for high school, is a kind of admission to study at university. To obtain this diploma school graduates must pass exams in four core subjects. Compliance with educational standard, fixed by diploma Abitur, usually allows to enter the university without examinations, but now some prestigious universities accept into the ranks of students those who pass the entrance exams at faculty (especially in the medical). The main principle of higher education in Germany is "academic freedom" – a system that allows any student to determine the list of disciplines that will be part of his diploma. The higher education system in Germany also means the combination of the educational process and scientific research. These characteristics determine the schedule of the educational process in universities: each semester consists of a lecture period (14-20 weeks) and non-lecture, during which the student engaged in independent research work.

Germany's higher education system combines 326 institutions, most of which are public (non-public institutions are required to have a state license on teaching). The base of system is formed by universities (Universität) and related institutions of higher education (total number – 78): classical universities (faculties of medicine, humanities and natural sciences, theology, sociology, economics, agriculture and forestry, engineering), technical universities (Technische Universität) (Engineering), general universities (Gesamthochschulen) (special professional education and scientific researches), pedagogic institutions (Pädagogische Hochschulen), medical

colleges, philosophical-theological and ecclesiastical colleges (Theologische Hochschule), Sports College. Among the non-university higher education institutions there are professional high schools (Fachhochschulen) (professional education in the fields of business, economics, services, agriculture and crafts) and Colleges of Art (Kunsthochschule and Musikhochschule).

The average duration of training in higher educational institution of Germany lasts for 5 years, although there are institutions with a four or six-year courses. The maximum duration of higher education in Germany is 10 years. The enter campaign to universities of Germany is twice a year: spring, before the summer semester and fall semester before the winter. Results of study during the semester can be expressed in credit points, which are awarded to students after each session. University course is divided into two parts: the base (3-4 semesters), which is assigned on the basis of Licentiate (Vordiplom), and primary (4-6 years), following which is assigned to a master's degree (Magister Artium) (students of technical specialties instead of this degree receive a diploma.) In addition to the graduation from the university on basic course, the graduate must defend a thesis or dissertation.

Focus on your ability! Because cheap education is not a measure of non-prestigious. University diplomas of other countries, where education is cheaper (Poland, Czech Republic, etc.) give the graduate an opportunity to find work and settle abroad. In most cases this is the purpose of applicants of the foreign universities.

6. Read the text again and be ready to answer the questions:

- 1. What tradition has appeared in modern society most recently?
- 2. Why are British certificates, diplomas and awarded degrees considered to be the best throughout the world and the most prestigious?
- 3. How many years does it take to get a bachelor's and master's degrees in England?
- 4. Why is United Kingdom considered to be a multinational and multicultural country?

- 5. Why do you think Oxford and Cambridge universities are the most popular and prestigious in the world?
- 6. Explain the reasons why education in Canada not expensive according to American standards?
- 7. What is the strength of the Canadian university?
- 8. How can explain that in the U.S. there is no uniform state system of education?
- 9. What does the procedure of enrollment and screening of applicants to the U.S. institutions of higher education depend on?
- 10. What are uniform requirements for applicants in U.S.?
- 11. What age should a person be to be accepted to American University?
- 12. How much can you pay for education in state institutions in France?
- 13. What does the first cycle of the University learning process in France include?
- 14. What does the second cycle of education end with?
- 15. What two types of diplomas can you get after the third cycle of education in France?
- 16. What are the standard general rules for entering the institution of higher education in Germany?
- 17. What is the main principle of higher education in Germany? What does it mean?
- 18. How many institutions are there in Germany's higher education system? Describe them.
- 19. How long is the average duration of training in higher educational institution of Germany?
- 20. What two parts is University course divided into?
- 6. Choose one of the countries and prepare a Power point presentation about the education system of this country.

(https://www.assignmentexpert.com/blog/higher-education-in-different-countries/)

Unit 4. Types of Cuisine from around the World with their Popular Foods

- 1. Discuss the following questions in your group:
 - 1. What is your favorite dish?
 - 2. What country does it come from?
 - 3. Have you ever tried dishes from other countries? Did you like them?
- 2. Read the texts about types of cuisine from around the world and compare your answers with the information from the text.

Food is something unavoidable to humans and due to the onset of a modern era, many different experimental dishes have been invented. From ancient times, different regions had differently unique cuisines of their own. Some of the cuisines like Turkish cuisines, Chinese cuisines and Italian have been the most influential of all. French cuisine is the world's best cuisine for being healthy, tasty and innovative ingredients. So, which are the world's best cuisines and the most popular in the world? Here, a list of the greatest cuisines for their taste, health, and varieties has been composed for all the foodies out there. These are never to miss cuisines in the world and to be tried at least once in your lifetime.

United States

The cuisine of the United States is not just about burgers and hams but more awesome than that. The cuisine of the United States reflects its history due to European colonization that added more ingredients to the cooking styles. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the cuisine expanded and evolved due to the influx of immigrants from various countries. Today, American food is rich and diverse. The cooking styles of the Native American people and European cooking blended into a wide array of rich culinary customs. The cuisine varies across regions and mainly consists of fish, crabs, oats, turkey, red meat, meat oil, molasses, bacon, pork, chicken and other bread products. They also enjoy using rich dietary products like

milk, yogurt, and butter. Some variety from the country includes Bar B Que, country cooking, New England seafood cuisine, Tex-Mex, and Cajun cooking. There are many different things to try in the United States from street food to seafood cooking.

My glossary:

- 1. Awesome классный, потрясающий,
- 2. Influx приток, наплыв,
- 3. Blend смешивать,
- 4. Array множество,
- 5. Oat овсяная крупа,
- 6. Molasses патока,
- 7. Тех-Мех техасско- мексиканская кухня,
- 8. Cajun cooking Каджунская кухня (луизианский стиль приготовления пищи, характеризующийся использованием только свежих продуктов, животного жира (чаще свиного), специй, сладкого и жгучего перцев, бобов, а также разнообразных густых коричневых соусов.

3. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. What influence did the cuisine of the USA have due to its history?
- 2. Why can we say that American food is rich and diverse today?
- 3. Why do many people think that The cuisine of the United States is t just about burgers and hams?

China

The tradition of Chinese food goes back to more than thousands of years with rich heritage and culinary history. The Chinese cuisine techniques, styles, and ingredients have evolved over time from imperial periods, external trade with nearby regions, pre-modern times and modern external European and Asian influence. Some of the most popular cuisines within China is known as the "Eight Culinary Cuisines" of China – Anhui, Cantonese, Fujian, Hunan, Jiangsu, Shandong, Sichuan, and Zhejiang cuisines. The best known and most influential are Cantonese cuisine, Shandong cuisine, Jiangsu cuisine (specifically Huaiyang cuisine) and Sichuan

cuisine. The main part of typical Chinese cuisine includes rice, noodles, sausages, sauces, vegetables, and seasonings. The historical Chinese cuisine is based on people's traditional medical beliefs. Today, modern Chinese cuisines are highly regional and intermixed with many other outside influences.

- 1. Seasonings специи,
- 2. Huaiyang cuisine Хуайянская кухня одна из четырех великих традиций китайской кухни. Он происходит от местных кулинарных стилей региона, окружающего нижнее течение рек Хуай и Янцзы, и сосредоточен в городах Хуайань, Янчжоу и Чжэньцзян в провинции Цзянсу.
- 3. Cantonese cuisine Кантонском или Юэ кухни является кухня в провинции Гуандун Китая, в частности, столицы провинции Гуанчжоу, и прилегающих к нему районов в дельте реки Чжуцзян, включая Гонконг и Макао. Строго говоря, кантонская кухня это кухня Гуанчжоу или кантонских жителей, но она часто включает в себя кулинарные стили всех носителей китайского языка юэ в Гуандуне.
- 4. Shandong cuisine Кулинарное искусство Лу, также известное как кухня Шаньдун, является одним из четырех основных китайских стилей в приготовлении блюд из свежих продуктов и известных своим соленым привкусом. Истоки в особенностях ее приготовления исходят из традиционных и исторических методов приготовления блюд в Шаньдун, прибрежной провинции Восточного Китая. Лу кухня считается самой влиятельной и популярной в Китае,
- 5. Sichuan cuisine Сычуаньская кухня, это стиль Китайская кухня происходит из провинции Сычуань. Он обладает ярким вкусом, особенно острым и острым, обусловленным обильным использованием чеснока и перца чили, а также уникальным ароматом сычуаньского перца.
- 4. Read the text again and answer the questions.
 - 1. What is the specific feature of Chinese cuisine?

- 2. How did the Chinese cuisine techniques, styles, and ingredients evolve over the time?
- 3. What are the best known and most influential cuisines in China? Give examples of their dishes.
- 4. What is the historical Chinese cuisine based on?

Thailand

In the book *The Principles of Thai Cookery*, celebrity chef, writer, and authority on Thai cuisine McDang praised:

"What is Thai food? Every country in the world has its own food profile. It reflects its culture, environment, ingenuity and values. In the case of Thailand, these words come to mind: intricacy, attention to detail, texture, color, taste, and the use of ingredients with medicinal benefits, as well as good flavor."

Thai cuisine is one of the most popular cuisines in the world for its taste, great textured foods, medicinal values, beautiful aroma, and flavor. Dishes such as tom yam goong, pad Thai, som tam, massaman curry, Thai fried rice, green curry, and moo nam tok are considered the world's most popular and delicious foods. Thai food is not just about fried and fast foods but it's more about healthy rich medicinal elements and powerful ingredients.

- 1. Ingenuity изобретательность, мастерство,
- 2. Intricacy тонкость, особенность,
- 3. Nam Tok Moo Нам Ток, буквально, на тайском языке водопад. Слегка обжаренная на гриле свинина смешивается с доброй порцией лимонного сока, зеленым луком, перцем чили, веточкой мяты, рыбным соусом и поджаренным рисом,
- 4. Tom yam goong Том ям кисло-острый суп с курицей или рыбой или креветками или другими морепродуктами. Национальное блюдо Лаоса и Таиланда,
- 5. Pad Thai тайская рисовая лапша,

- 6. Som tam Сом там традиционный тайский острый салат из зелёной папайи,
- 7. Massaman curry Карри *Массаман* является одним из самых популярных блюд тайской кухни, как в Таиланде, так и за его пределами. Это восхитительно сочное блюдо с пряно-сладким и пикантно-острым вкусом традиционно готовят из говядины методом медленного томления, в результате чего разваливающееся на части мясо в буквальном смысле тает во рту.

5. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. What is the specific feature of Thai cuisine?
- 2. Why is Thai cuisine one of the most popular cuisines in the world?
- 3. What are the world's most popular and delicious foods in Thailand?

Japan

Japanese cuisines have influenced many countries far from Japan. Most of the healthy vegetable and meat soups are from Japan. Some of the all-time popular soups – sushi, tempura, teriyaki, and miso soup all belong to Japanese cuisine. The perfect balance of rice, noodles, meats, vegetables, and fruits in the Japanese dishes makes it healthy and a balanced diet. Other dishes from around the world have influenced the cuisine such as Chinese noodles, western hamburgers and curries are common in the cuisines today. Sushi is the most popular in all parts of the world. There are many regional and traditional cuisines in the country that are highly varying in taste and composition. Japanese foods are tasty, healthy and balanced. In short, the cuisine is considered one of the healthiest cuisines in the world.

- 1. Тетрига категория блюд японской кухни из рыбы, морепродуктов и овощей, приготовленных в кляре и обжаренных во фритюре. Подается со специфическими соусами,
- 2. Тегіуакі традиционный японский способ обжарки с использованием распространённого в японской кухне сладкого соуса.

- 3. Miso soup японский суп из пасты мисо, бульона даси, сыра тофу.
- 6. Read the text again and answer the questions:
 - 1. What makes Japanese cuisine healthy and a balanced diet?
 - 2. What other dishes from around the world have influenced the cuisine?
 - 3. What is the most popular in all parts of the world?

India

Indian cuisines are known to vary extensively from one region to another. Indian cuisines are highly dynamic from one part of the country to another because of rich diversity, varying religions, typography, demography, climate, occupations, regional availability of herbs and spices, English rule, Mughal invasions, and Portuguese colonization. Many types of food are available in India such as spicy, sweet, tasty and juicy. Still, the cuisines are evolving due to various external interactions of society. Some of the common ingredients of the cuisines are rice, wheat, vegetables, spices, tomatoes, onions and dairy products like milk and curd.

7. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. Why are Indian cuisines highly dynamic from one part of the country to another?
- 2. What are some of the common ingredients of the cuisines in India?

Turkey

Turkish cuisines are the continuation of ottoman cuisines and Balkan cuisines. It has adapted its style from other cuisines like Greek, Middle East, North Africa, Caucasus, Central Asian, and Sephardi Jewish cuisine. Turkish cuisines have considerably influenced other cuisines in Western and Central Europe. The ottoman dishes cover all delicacies from Greek, Syrian, Lebanese, and Balkanise dishes. Food in Turkey is considered serious and the taste is given high importance. They are tasty and equally healthy. Dishes vary very much across the country. Ottoman court cuisines are followed in Istanbul, Bursa, and Izmir. Fish is extensively used in the Black Sea Region. The best part of the country is that the Turks prefer rich breakfast

like eggs, honey, olives, and tomatoes, popular common bread called Simit, cheese, cucumber, butter, and jam. Turkish cuisine is one of the world's best and most influential cuisines for its rich heritage and historical culinary presence that has a mutual influence with Iranian cuisines.

8. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. Why is it considered that Turkish cuisines are the continuation of ottoman cuisines and Balkan cuisines?
- 2. Where (what regions) can you find Ottoman court cuisines? Where is fish extensively used?
- 3. What kind of breakfast do Turks prefer?
- 4. Why is Turkish cuisines one of the world's best and most influential cuisines?

Spain

Spanish cuisines have been influenced by many invasions and conquest of new territories by Spain. The complex history of Spanish cuisines has made it one of the greatest and best cuisines in the world. Some of the delicacies of Spanish cuisines include and not limited to a spiced tortilla, Churros with chocolate dipping sauce, Spanish sardines on toast, Spanish chicken pie and chicken & chorizo rice pot. Spanish food provides you with rich delicious saucy healthy dishes that can leave you mouth-watering and craving for more. Spanish regional cuisines have become more popular all around the world and have been influencing other European cuisines.

- 1. Tortilla омлетом из яиц с картофелем и луком,
- 2. Churros сладкая обжаренная выпечка из заварного теста, имеющая в сечении вид многоконечной звезды или просто круглая в сечении,
- 3. Chorizo пикантная свиная колбаса.
- 9. Read the text again and answer the questions:
- 1. What made Spanish cuisine one of the greatest and best cuisines in the world?
- 2. What does Spanish food provide you with?

Mexico

Mexican cuisines are rich for its history and heritage. Mexican cuisine is a fusion of Spanish cuisine with indigenous Mesoamerican cooking. European food has highly influenced the Mexican foods. The basic ingredients in a typical Mexican cuisine would include beans, corns, tomatoes, chili peppers, avocados, and rice. Europeans introduced domesticated animal meats, dairy products, herbs, and spices. Today, every region has its own cuisine in Mexico. The traditional Mexican cuisine was inscribed in 2010 by UNESCO on the list of "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity". Chiles en nogada is one of the most popular dishes from the Mexican cuisine that represents the Mexican flag.

My glossary:

- 1. Indigenous –национальный, коренной,
- 2. Domesticated прирученный,
- 3. Mesoamerican месоамериканский (относящийся к культуре, истории, географии и т.п. Мезоамерики территории, к которой относят южную часть Мексики и всю Центральную Америку,
- 4. Chiles en nogada мексиканское блюдо поблано чили фаршированный пикадилло (смесь, обычно содержащая измельченное мясо, ароматические вещества, фрукты и специи), покрытый сливочным соусом на основе грецкого ореха, называемым ногада, семенами граната и петрушкой, и это обычно подается при комнатной температуре.

10. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. What are Mexican cuisines rich for?
- 2. What food has highly influenced the Mexican foods? How?
- 3. What is the most popular dish from the Mexican cuisine that represents the Mexican flag?

Italy

Italian cuisines are the finest cuisines in the world for its high-quality ingredients, variety, and aroma. They have more than 10,000 varieties of spaghetti

and pizzas. They also include rich seafood variants. Italian fast foods are the worlds' most popular for their taste. Many people from around the world know Italian food, as their cuisines are the most publicized. Italian dishes have influenced other cuisines and dishes from around the world. So why are their best? They make amazing pasta, tasty pizzas, fresh mozzarella, they can play with eggplants, masterful at Italian gelato, wine, and olive oil are important parts of their dishes, and finally, their ice creams and burritos are world's best.

My glossary:

- 1. Eggplant баклажан,
- 2. Gelato мороженое, холодный десерт,
- 3. Burrito лепешка с начинкой.

11. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. Why are Italian cuisines considered to be the finest cuisines in the world?
- 2. How many varieties of spaghetti and pizzas are there?
- 3. Why are Italian cuisines their best?

France

French cuisines are the worlds' best in quality, variety, and taste. They are the products of centuries of research and refinements. In November 2010, UNESCO added the French gastronomy to its lists of the world's "intangible cultural heritage". French cuisines are heavily influenced by Italian cuisines, but also have its highly indigenous styles of cooking as well. French gastronomy is all about a unique style of cooking, serving and eating in a planned fashion – starting with starters, the main dish, and the dessert. Every region of France has its unique cuisines today. French cuisines are rich in sausages, stews, wine, and mirepoix.

Many regard French cuisine as one of the best cuisines in the world. French food involves ingredients such as butter, cream, wine, herbs, chocolate, and vegetables. French pastry dishes, cheese, bread, and wine are famous throughout the world.

Food culture in France also revolves around locally sourced ingredients. On the Mediterranean coast, seafood is very popular. Provencal cuisine uses tarragon and a host of other herbs and spices. Paris itself has over 9,000 restaurants serving French classics and dishes from around the world.

My glossary:

- 1. Мігероіх мирпуа (измельчённые лук, морковь и сельдерей),
- 2. Pastry dishes мучные кондитерские изделия,
- 3. Tarragon соус с экстрагоновым уксусом.

12. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. Why do you think French cuisines are the world's "intangible cultural heritage?
- 2. What are French cuisines rich in?
- 3. How many restaurants are there in Paris?

Greece

Greek food culture is one of the oldest in the world. Cuisine from Greece and the Greek islands is heavily influenced by olive oil, vegetables, fish, and various types of meat. In fact, a simple Greek salad may just be fresh cucumbers, tomatoes, red onions, a dash of olive oil, a few tasty olives, and a thick slice of feta cheese.

Some popular Greek dishes include moussaka made from eggplant, (a type of yogurt dip), or gyro – a type of kebab with lamb, pork, or chicken meat. Due to its long coastline, seafood such as squid, mussels, fish, and lobster are popular food choices.

After feasting on Greek delicacies, you may have room for some common Greek desserts. A delicious filo pastry with layers of nuts and honey called baklava is one of the most favorite Greek sweet foods.

- 1. Moussaka Греческая мусака состоит из запечённых слоёв: из нижнего слоя баклажанов с оливковым маслом, среднего слоя из баранины с помидорами и верхнего слоя из соуса бешамель. Иногда в мусаку добавляют кабачки, картофель или грибы,
- 2. Тzatziki Дзадзи́ки соус. Для приготовления дзадзики используют густой отжатый через кусок марли йогурт без вкусовых добавок (в Греции и Турции обычно из овечьего или козьего молока), греческий йогурт. В него кладут несколько зубчиков чеснока, а также натёртый на тёрке и отжатый огурец, затем заправляют солью и перцем и добавляют немного оливкового масла. Иногда также добавляют лимонный сок, укроп, петрушку или мяту,
- 3. Gyro- блюдо греческой кухни, схожее с турецким донером (донер кебабом) или арабской шаурмой. Разница в том, что гирос можно делать из курицы и из свинины, с картошкой фри, красным луком и соусом дзадзики,
- 4. Squid кальмар,
- 5. Baklava пахлава,
- 6. Filo pastry слоеное тесто пресное вытяжное тесто, которое раскатывают тончайшими пластами шириной менее 1мм.
- 13. Read the text again and answer the questions:
- 1. What is cuisine from Greece and the Greek islands influenced by?
- 2. What are some popular Greek dishes?
- 3. What is the most favorite Greek sweet food?

Morocco

Moroccan dishes are a great example of when different cuisines fuse to form a new type of food genre. Moroccan cuisine uses a goat, lamb, poultry, beef, and seafood as its basis. These meats are spiced and cooked along with lemons, dried fruits, and olive oil.

One of the most famous foods in the popular Moroccan cuisine is couscous. This common wheat-based food is combined with various spices, herbs, and vegetables to create a versatile and delicious side dish. Another favorite Moroccan classic dish is a tagine. This is an earthenware dish used to cook meat along with vegetables or dried fruits.

As with many dishes in North Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean, Moroccan cuisine uses flatbread as a meal accompaniment.

My glossary:

- 1. Couscous пшеничная крупа, которая служит основой для одноимённого блюда магрибского или берберского происхождения. Исторически кускус готовили из проса. В наше время наиболее распространён кускус из манной крупы, получаемой из твёрдой пшеницы. Внешне напоминает круглый рис,
- 2. Tagine Таджин или тажин— блюдо из мяса и овощей, популярное в странах Магриба, а также специальная посуда для приготовления этого блюда.
- 3. Earthenware глиняная посуда, фаянсовая тарелка,
- 4. Flatbread лепешка.

14. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. What is couscous?
- **2.** What is used as a meal accompaniment?

Germany

German cuisine is famous for its sausages called *Wurst* in German. There are an estimated over 1,500 different types of German sausage. However, German food isn't all about *bratwurst*. There are many flavorful dishes in German cuisine.

German specialties include German fries, sauerkraut, rye bread, *Spätzle* (a type of noodle), and dumplings. Popular German desserts include donuts (without a hole), Black Forest cake, and *Rote Grütze* (a delicious berry fruit pudding).

Of course, Germany is also well-known for its beer such as pilsner and wheat beer.

- 1. Bratwurst жареная колбаса,
- 2. Sauerkraut кислая капуста.
- 3. Spätzle клецки,
- 4. Dumplings клецки,
- 5. Donut пончик,
- 6. Black Forest cake торт «Шварцвальд», торт «Чёрный лес», шоколадный торт со взбитыми сливками и вишнёвой начинкой, пропитанный киршвассером,
- 7. Rote Grütze Póте грю́тце (красный кисель, букв. «красная каша») десерт в немецкой кухне, похожий на загущённый фруктовый суп или кисель. Название сладкого блюда обусловлено его типично красным цветом и соответствующей консистенцией, которые обеспечивают соответственно ягоды и крахмалосодержащие ингредиенты.

15. Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1. How many different types of German sausage are there?
- 2. What do Popular German desserts include?

Russia

Russia has a wide and varied food culture due to many culinary influences from its different regions. Due to the harsh climate, soups and stews play an important role in Russian cuisine. Thick spicy meat broths, noodle soups, and cabbage soups are very popular. A popular type of Russian soup is borscht that contains beets, cabbage, beef, and eaten with sour cream.

Grains are another important part of Russian food. For example, buckwheat, barley and millet are all used as accompaniments to main meals. Beef Stroganoff, meatballs, and a type of Shish kebab are popular meat dishes.

Even though it has become more expensive, caviar still enjoyed by many people in Russia.

(https://listamaze.com/top-10-best-cuisines-in-the-world/)

(https://leafyplace.com/types-of-cuisine/)

My glossary:

- 1. Stew тушеное мясо, жаркое,
- 2. Broth мясной бульон, суп,
- **3.** Buckwheat гречневая крупа,
- **4.** Barley ячмень,
- **5.** Millet пшено,
- 6. Accompaniment сопутствующий продукт,
- **7.** Meatball фрикаделька,
- **8.** Shish kebab шашлык.
- 16. Read the text again and answer the questions:
- 1. Why do soups and stews play an important role in Russian cuisine?
- 2. What kinds of grains are popular in Russia?
- 3. What is the most enjoyable dish in Russia?
- 17. Choose one of the countries and prepare a Power point presentation about its most popular dish.

Unit 5. Museums

1. What museums do you know? What are the main purposes of museums? Discuss in the group und then read the passage and compare your ideas with the information from the text.

(https://www.artspace.com/magazine/art_101/the_hot_list/the-14-best-art-museums-in-the-world-and-the-iconic-masterpieces-they-house-56252)

Currently, there are more than 55,000 museums in 202 countries around the world. And while art museums are some of the most important cultural institutions—preserving history, displaying humanity's creativity, and providing unique insights across cultures and identities—it's no secret that not all of them are created equal.

Despite taste in art being highly subjective, there are numerous ways to rank museums, like by the number of visitors annually, or by how progressive the curatorial programing is, for instance.

- 2. What types of museums do you know? Which of them have you visited? What is your favorite museum?
- 3. Read the text and say what types of museums you haven't visited yet?

Different Types of Museums

(http://www.historyofmuseums.com/museum-facts/types-of-museum/)

There are different types of museums. Here are some of them:

Archaeology museums. They display archeological artifacts. They can be open-air museums or they can exhibit items in a building.

Art museums. Also known as art galleries. They are spaces for showing art objects, most commonly visual art objects as paintings, sculpture, photography, illustrations, drawings, ceramics or metalwork. First publicly owned art museum in Europe was Amerbach-Cabinet in Basel (Now Kunstmuseum Basel).

Encyclopedic museums. They are usually large institutions and they offer visitors a wide variety of information on many themes, both local and global. They are not thematically defined nor specialized.

Historic house museums. A house or a building turned into a museum for a variety of reasons, most commonly because the person that lived in it was important or something important happened in it. House is often equipped with furniture like it was in the time when it was used. Visitors of the house learn through guides that tell story of the house and its inhabitants.

History museums. They collect objects and artifacts that tell a chronological story about particular locality. Objects that are collected could be documents, artifacts, archeological findings and other. They could be in a building, historic house or a historic site.

Living history museums. Type of a museum in which historic events are performed by actors to immerse a viewer and show how certain events looked like or how some crafts were performed because there is no other way to see them now because they are obsolete.

Maritime museums. Specialized museums for displaying maritime history, culture or archaeology. Primarily archaeological maritime museums exhibit artifacts and preserved shipwrecks recovered from bodies of water. Maritime history museums, show and educate the public about humanity's maritime past.

Military and war museums. Museums specialized in military histories. Usually organized from a point of view of a one nation and conflicts in which that country has taken part. They collect and present weapons, uniforms, decorations, war technology and other objects.

Mobile museums. Museums that have no specific strict place of exhibiting. They could be exhibited from a vehicle or they could move from museum to museum as guests. Also, a name for parts of exhibitions of a museum that are sent to another museum.

Natural history museums. Usually display objects from nature like stuffed animals or pressed plants. They educate about natural history, dinosaurs, zoology, oceanography, anthropology, evolution, environmental issues, and more.

Open-air museums. Characteristic for exhibiting outdoors. Exhibitions consist of buildings that recreate architecture from the past. First opened in Scandinavia near the end of the 19th century.

Pop-up museums. Nontraditional museum institutions. Made to last short and often relying on visitors to provide museum objects and labels while professionals or institution only provide theme. With that is constructed shared historical authority.

Science museums. Specialized for science and history of science. In the beginning they were static displays of objects but now they are made so the visitors can participate and that way better learn about different branches of science.

- 1. To preserve history сохранять историю,
- 2. To display humanity's creativity демонстрировать творческие способности человека,
- 3. To provide unique insights обеспечивать уникальную информацию,
- 4. To rank классифицировать,
- 5. Open-air museum музей под открытым небом,
- 6. To turn into превращать,
- 7. To equip with оснащать чем-либо,
- 8. Inhabitant житель, обитатель,
- 9. Historic site историческое место,
- 10. To immerse погружать, вовлекать,
- 11.Obsolete устаревший,
- 12. Maritime museum морской музей,
- 13. Preserved shipwrecks сохранившиеся обломки судов,
- 14. To exhibit выставлять, экспонировать,
- 15. Weapons оружие,
- 16. Vehicle транспортное средство,
- 17.Stuffed animal чучело,

- 18. Pressed plant прессованное растение,
- 19. Environmental issues экологические проблемы,
- 20. Pop-up museum внезапно появившиеся музей,
- 21. Different branches of science разные сферы науки.
- 4. Read the text again. Match types of museums and definitions.
- 1.Encyclopedic museums a. display objects from nature
- 2. Natural history museums b. collect and present weapons, uniforms,

decorations

- 3. Maritime museums c. can be exhibited from a vehicle
- 4. Open-air museums d. offer visitors a wide variety of information

on many themes

- 5. Mobile museums e. are for exhibiting outdoors
- 6. Art museums f. immerse a viewer and show how certain

events looked like

- 7. Military and war museums g. display maritime history and culture
- 8. Living history museums h. are spaces for showing art objects
- 5. What types of museums are there in Nizhny Novgorod? Discuss in the group.
- 6. Make a presentation about one museum located in Russia or abroad.
- 7. Read the text and answer questions after it.

The Terracotta Army

(https://en.islcollective.com/english-esl-worksheets/vocabulary/traditions-and-national-customs/terracotta-army/106932)

You have probably heard of the so-called "terracotta army", the amazing collection of Chinese figures made from clay. The statues are of soldiers, artists and other workers, and are the size of real people. Their chance discovery, over thirty years ago by a farmer digging a well in Xi'an in north-west China, has been described as one of the greatest historical discoveries of the twentieth century.

The terracotta army dates from the time of the First Emperor of China, over two thousand years ago. Emperor Zhen of Qin became the ruler when he was just thirteen. He was a remarkable man. He unified China, and gave the country common weights, measures and currency. He started the Great Wall of China as a defense against attack. He created the terracotta army, which included soldiers horses and chariots, as well as other clay people and animals, because he believed in life after death and he wanted to continue to be an emperor after he died. It is said that he recreated his whole empire under the ground, with rivers made of mercury and a roof filled with drawings of stars.

The area where the terracotta army was found, outside the First Emperor's tomb, is said to contain at least seven thousands of these clay statues, but so far, only about one thousand of these fragile figures have been excavated. It still offers archeologists buried treasures such as two recently discovered clay musicians. Originally, all of the Emperor's terracotta people were painted in bright colors, but over time most of the paint has gone from the soldiers. Today the figures are mainly gray.

The clay figures of the terracotta army are very popular. Last year, seventeen of the terracotta figures – the largest group ever to leave China – were sent to the British Museum in London. They were flown in four separate planes and were part of an exhibition called "The First Emperor". Replicas of the terracotta soldiers can even be seen in the entrance to an office building in New York.

When was the terracotta army first found?

- a. 10 years ago
- b. 30 years ago
- c. 50 years ago



	d.	100 years ago			
2.	In paragraph	h 2 the word stars" means			
	a.	Famous people			
	b.	A filled roof			
	c.	Objects in the sky			
	d.	Acts in a film			
3.	Archeologis	sts in Xi'an have found			
	a.	Some clay musicians			
	b.	The first emperor of china			
	c.	A whole empire			
	d.	A mercury river			
4.	The clay statues are				
	a.	Small			
	b.	Colorful			
	c.	Grey			
	d.	Musical			
5.	What is the	topic of paragraph 3?			
	a.	Zhen of Qin			
	b.	The first Emperor's tomb			
	c.	The great wall of china			
	d.	The terracotta soldiers			
6.	The word "excavated" in paragraph 3 means				
	a.	Broken			
	b.	Sold			
	c.	Made			
	d.	Dug up			
7.	The Chinese government probably sent only a small number of clay figures to				
	the British Museum because they				
	a.	Break easily			
	b.	Are not interesting			
	c.	Explain Chinese history			
	d.	Are all the same			
8.	According t	o the text, this is the first time the Chinese government has			
		••••••			
	a.	Given so many figures to a foreign museum			
	b.	Allowed foreign archeologists into China			
	c.	Used planes to transport the figures			
	d.	Advertised their findings in China			

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8. Make a report about an interesting collection or exhibition.

Appendix

The 10 best Universities in the world

(https://www.careeraddict.com/best-universities)

Choosing a university is a difficult process. Aside from the short-term factors that you need to take into account, such as the reputation of the faculty, the quality of the course and the location of the campus, there's also the long game to consider. After all, where you decide to study after leaving school can end up having a significant impact on your career prospects.

Therefore, it's important to do your research. Uni and college tables can often give you a clear indication of which institutions are the best (although, of course, it's worth remembering that this isn't the only indication of suitability). To help you out, we've compiled a list from the latest QS World University Rankings in order to give you a definitive idea of the top 10.

So, if you're looking to kick off your education – and your career – in the best possible way, why not think big and aim high? These are the 10 best universities in the world.

10. University College London (UCL)

Location: London, England

UCL was founded in 1826 and is marked as the first university in England to welcome women to university education. It was also the only university to accept students of all religions and social backgrounds before all other institutions in the country. UCL currently has over 18,000 students from around the world and it boasts 29 Nobel Prize winners in every decade since the Prize was launched.

UCL is highly reputable for its excellence in research – it was rated the top UK university for research strength in the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) and it is there where a professor by the name of Sir William Ramsay won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1904 for his discovery of noble gases. UCL has 11 academic divisions with several of them positioned in the QS World University Rankings by Subject, including the UCL Institute of Education (1st) and archaeology (3rd).

9. University of Chicago

Location: Chicago, Illinois, US

A private research university founded in 1890, the University of Chicago has long maintained a reputation for academic excellence across a variety of disciplines, with 100 Nobel laureates, 27 Pulitzer Prize winners and countless domestic and international state officials among its alumni.

The Booth School of Business – one of the top business schools in the world – is part of the University of Chicago, while the University's internal publishing house is the largest university press in the US. The Barack Obama Presidential Center, which will house several libraries, will also become a part of the college upon its completion in 2021.

8. Imperial College London

Location: London, UK

With a sole focus on science, engineering, medicine and business, Imperial College London is one of the most unique institutions in the country. Students at this university are dubbed 'world-class researcher'" who focus on addressing global challenges through practical research. Hundreds of students receive hands-on research opportunities at the university's many research centres as well as in different countries during the summer break at global universities like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US and Seoul National University in South Korea.

Since its establishment in 1907, Imperial College London has bragged more than 12 Nobel Prize winners, including Scottish scientist Sir Alexander Fleming, who famously discovered penicillin. The university also has numerous prestigious fellowships with the likes of the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Academy of Medical Sciences.

7. University of Cambridge

Location: Cambridge, England

Although it doesn't boast as much influence politically as its great rival, the University of Oxford (just the 15 Prime Ministers, in comparison), Cambridge graduates have been responsible for an incredible 120 Nobel Prizes, while its

scientific alumni include such important figures as Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Stephen Hawking.

The university was founded by Oxford academics in the early 13th Century. It hosts a number of separate colleges (31 in all), while the university's Footlights group is well known, too, having launched the careers of many British comedy actors such as Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie and John Cleese.

6. ETH Zurich

Location: Zurich, Switzerland

The only top 10 entry outside of Britain or the US, the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich – otherwise known as the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich or, more simply, ETH Zurich – is a STEM-focused institution noted particularly for its contributions to physics and chemistry. Indeed, since its founding in 1855, 21 Nobel laureates – including none other than Albert Einstein himself – have spent time at ETH.

Undergraduate courses are taught in German (although English-taught postgraduate opportunities are available), while a second more rural campus – Science City – was constructed to celebrate the university's 150th anniversary in 2005. The school is also known for the prestigious Polyball event, a traditional ball dating back to the 1880s in which over 10,000 people annually take part.

5. University of Oxford

Location: Oxford, England

As the oldest university in the English-speaking world (there is evidence of teaching as far back as the 11th Century), the University of Oxford boasts a history and influence in the UK that is quite remarkable. This includes 71 Nobel Prizes, 160 Olympic medals and 6 Turing Awards, while 27 British Prime Ministers (as well as numerous international heads of state) have received their education there.

Split into 38 member-colleges, each of which maintains its own unique traditions and culture, Oxford is known for its small teaching groups and tutorial-style of learning. It also features several prominent clubs and societies, including the Oxford Union (which regularly features world-famous speakers) and the notorious Bullingdon Club,

a society similar in structure and influence to the Skull and Bones at the US's Yale University. In addition, the university also boasts the world's largest university press, as well as the world's oldest university museum.

4. California Institute of Technology

Location: Pasadena, California, US

Founded in 1891, the California Institute of Technology – or Caltech, as it is often known – is a small but hugely influential research university, particularly within the fields of engineering and natural science. Indeed, the school currently boasts 74 Nobel laureates, while alumni have also contributed heavily to NASA missions and defence research projects. An unusually large amount of Caltech graduates also go on to earn PhDs.

The school shares a famous rivalry with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology while, in recent years, has enjoyed a boost in profile through the television sitcom The Big Bang Theory, where many of the show's main characters are fictionally employed.

3. Harvard University

Location: Cambridge, Massachusetts, US

The oldest educational institution in the US (the college was founded in 1636), Harvard is a byword for academic excellence and remains one of the most influential universities in the world. Alongside 8 former US Presidents, Harvard has also graduated a world-record 160 Nobel laureates, 14 Turing Award winners and 50 Pulitzer Prize recipients, as well as collectively amassing 10 Academy Awards and 108 Olympic medals. It's also helped make a lot of people rich, too, with 188 living billionaires among its alumni.

It's not just its students that set Harvard apart, either. While the school has pioneered numerous educational methods and processes that have been adopted or imitated by thousands of universities across the globe, its wider cultural influence has also been felt elsewhere. Many of the fundamental rule changes in American Football were made at Harvard, for example, while Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg – two former attendees – have revolutionised the technological world.

2. Stanford University

Location: Palo Alto, California, US

Established in 1891, Leland Stanford Junior University – or simply Stanford, as it is much more commonly known – is one of the wealthiest research universities in the world and, given its close proximity to and links with Silicon Valley, one of the most influential. To date, its alumni has amassed 83 Nobel Prizes, 28 Turing Awards (a record) and 270 Olympic medals, as well as produced 17 astronauts and 30 living billionaires.

Companies that have close links with Stanford include Google (which started life as a research project for PhD students Larry Page and Sergey Brin), Cisco (whose founders Leonard Bosack and Sandy Lerner were employed by Stanford while developing the company's hardware), and Hewlett-Packard (whose founders, Bill Hewlett and David Packard, met while at the university). The school has also been responsible for some of the most ground-breaking discoveries in computer science history, as well as produced important research in the natural sciences.

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Location: Cambridge, Massachusetts, US

Founded in 1861 and located just across town from Harvard, MIT is a hugely important research university that has contributed heavily to some of the most important scientific achievements of the last 100 years. Its alumni contain 97 Nobel laureates, 26 Turing Award winners and 41 astronauts, while the university's strong entrepreneurial culture has also resulted in the formation of some of the world's best companies.

Unlike many other institutions, MIT does not award honorary degrees or athletic scholarships, while students are renowned for their elaborate pranks and 'hacks', many of which are the result of the aforementioned rivalry with Caltech. There are also numerous clubs, societies and traditions within the university, some of which host high-profile programming and robotics competitions.

Top 10 Museums and Galleries

Experience fine art at one of the top ten museums and galleries in the world.

(https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/museum-galleries)

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

The Smithsonian is the world's largest research and museum complex, with 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and various research stations. More than 137 million objects detailing America's story are housed here, so you'd better prepare for a long week of walking. There's so much to see that, if you spent one minute day and night looking at each object on exhibit, in ten years you'd see only ten percent of the whole. Therefore, it's wise to head out with a plan. Focus on only one or two exhibits at two or three different museums.

Main attractions: Dorothy's ruby red slippers, the dresses of the First Ladies, and the original Star-Spangled Banner at the National Museum of American History; the Gem Hall (including the Hope Diamond) at the National Museum of Natural History; and the Wright brothers' 1903 Flyer, the Spirit of St. Louis, and the Apollo 11 command module at the National Air and Space Museum.

Le Louvre, Paris, France

The Louvre was a medieval fortress and the palace of the kings of France before becoming a museum two centuries ago. The addition of I. M. Pei's pyramid shocked many when it was unveiled in 1989 as the new main entrance, yet it somehow works, integrating the palace's disparate elements. The museum's collections, which range from antiquity to the first half of the 19th century, are among the most important in the world. A good place to start is the Sully Wing, at the foundations of Philippe-Auguste's medieval keep—it's in the heart of the Louvre, kids love it, and it leads straight to the Egyptian rooms.

Main attractions: "Venus de Milo," "Winged Victory of Samothrace," and Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa."

The Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece

The stunning ground floor gallery houses finds from the slopes of the Acropolis. Its amazing transparent glass floor provides a walk over history, with a view of the

archaeological excavation, while sloping upward to the Acropolis with sanctuaries of the Athenians from each historic period nearby. Smaller settlements have been excavated, yielding glimpses of Athenian life. For the first time, the exhibits in the Archaic Gallery allow visitors to take in all sides of the objects, which are displayed in open spaces characterized by changing natural light.

Main attractions: The frieze of the Parthenon is mounted on a structure with exactly the same dimensions as the cella of the Parthenon, giving comprehensive viewing of every detail.

State Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia

Russia may be isolated from the artistic centers of Paris, Rome, and London, but the Hermitage has managed to acquire a spectacular collection of world art—more than three million items—spanning the years from the Stone Age to the early 20th century. The museum occupies six buildings along the Neva River, the leading structure being the confection-like Winter Palace. This gloriously baroque, blue-and-white structure was finished in 1764 and over the next several centuries was the main residence of the czars. Catherine the Great founded the museum that same year when she purchased 255 paintings from Berlin. The museum's focal point is Western European art—120 rooms in four buildings ranging from the Middle Ages to the present day. Rembrandt, Rubens, Tiepolo, Titian, da Vinci, Picasso, Gauguin, Cézanne, van Gogh, and Goya are all represented here. For in-depth tours, contact Glories of the Hermitage.

Main attractions: The Treasure Gallery's Gold Rooms showcase golden masterpieces from Eurasia, the Black Sea Littoral in antiquity, and the Orient. The museum also houses pieces from Nicholas II's private collection, including paintings, drawings, and medals created to commemorate his coronation.

The British Museum, London, England

Britain's largest museum looks after the national collection of archaeology and ethnography—more than eight million objects ranging from prehistoric bones to chunks of Athens' Parthenon, from whole Assyrian palace rooms to exquisite gold jewels.

Main attractions: The Egyptian gallery boasts the world's second finest collection of Egyptian antiquities outside Egypt, including the Rosetta Stone, carved in 196 B.C. *The Prado, Madrid, Spain*

The Spanish royal family is responsible for the Prado's bounty of classical masterpieces. Over centuries, kings and queens collected and commissioned art with passion and good taste. In addition to stars of Spanish painting such as Velázquez, Goya, Ribera, and Zurbarán, the Prado has big collections of Italian (including Titian and Raphael) and Flemish artists. Fernando VII opened the collection to the public in 1819, in the same neoclassic building it's housed in today, designed by Juan de Villanueva.

Main attraction: "The Three Graces" by Rubens.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, New York

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is the largest museum in the Western Hemisphere. Its collection of more than two million items is not only broad—covering the entire world, from antiquity to the present—but deep, with holdings so large in a number of areas that some might be considered museums unto themselves. Its European paintings are stunning: works by Botticelli, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Degas, Rodin, and other luminaries. The Egyptian Collection showcases the tomb of Perneb (circa 2440 B.C.) and the exquisite Temple of Dendur (circa 23-10 B.C.). The American Wing contains American arts and crafts, including a room from a Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie House. And the list goes on and on.

Main attractions: "Adam and Eve," the well-known engraving by Albrecht Dürer, is only one of the many impressive pieces you will discover at the Met.

The Vatican Museums, Vatican City, Italy

Twenty-two separate collections comprise the Musei Vaticani, each one more spectacular than the next. The most famous are probably the Museo Pio-Clementino, with its splendid classical sculpture; the Raphael Rooms, entire rooms painted by Raphael; the Pinacoteca (picture gallery), which contains the cream of the Vatican's collection of medieval and Renaissance paintings; and, of course, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. But there is also the ancient Egyptian exhibits of the Museo

Gregoriano Egizio, as well as the Etruscan offerings of the Museo Gregoriano Etrusco. And that's just a start.

Main attractions: The renowned Sistine Chapel and the Raphael Rooms are not to be missed.

The Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy

"Great" is an overworked adjective in Italy, where so many of the country's monuments and works of art command the highest praise. In the case of the Galleria degli Uffizi, it barely does justice to a gallery that holds the world's finest collection of Renaissance paintings. All the famous names of Italian art are here—not only the Renaissance masters, but also painters from the early medieval, baroque, and Mannerist heydays.

Main attraction: "The Birth of Venus" by Botticelli is one.

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

About 900,000 objects fill the Rijksmuseum, the largest collection of art and history in the Netherlands. It is most famous for its paintings by 17th-century Dutch masters, including Ruysdael, Frans Hals, Johannes Vermeer, and Rembrandt van Rijn. Established in 1800 to exhibit the collections of the Dutch stadtholders, the Rijksmuseum also displays art from the Middle Ages. The main building is closed for renovation until 2013; collection highlights are displayed in the Philips Wing and at Rijksmuseum Schiphol.

Main attraction: "The Night Watch" by Rembrandt.

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