Тема 2.1. Достижения и инновации в области науки и техники

Задание 1 Ответьте на вопросы.

 Do you use modern inventions in everyday life?

- What electrical or electronic goods would you/ would you never like to have at home?

- What inventions have become commonplace nowadays?

- Do you know anything about great inventions and great inventors?

- What inventions have been made by Russian scientists and inventors?

- What are pros and cons of high-tech devices?

- What would you like to invent?

Задание 2 Прочитайте тексты и составьте план для пересказа

#### The Greatest Inventions of the Past

Since the early days people have been inventing new things to make the life easier. Inventions have changed the world immensely.A lot of people travel by planes. But it would be impossible without the Wright brothers who made the first flight in 1903.

The Englishman Alexander Graham Bell patented his invention of the telephone in 1876. Very soon in the 20th century the telephone was already in every office and almost every house.

Nowadays the car is probably the most widely used and most useful of all the inventions. The German engineer Karl Benz produced the first petrol driven car in 1885.

#### Some Famous Inventors

At the beginning of every invention there is its author with his desire to change, create and improve. I would like to say a few words about some of the famous inventors.

Alexander Popov was a Russian physicist who first demonstrated the practical application of radio waves. In 1894 he built his first radio.

Konstantin Tsiolkovsky was the founder of cosmonautics. Initially, he was a Mathematics and Physics teacher. But he never gave up the idea about space travel. His drawings and calculations became the basis of practical space flights.

#### Modern Inventions

The progress never stops even for a minute. Modern inventors introduce more complex and more amazing ideas.

Nowadays we widely use computers and cell phones which were invented not so long ago. Another wonderful example is laser with different technologies in medicine, industry and electronics.

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Firstly, they do all kinds of dirty and hard work, as cleaning. Secondly, devices can save a lot of time as well as storage space. For instance, a computer disk can contain the same amount of information as several thick books.So, machines help people in different spheres.  
  
However, opponents of this point of view are definitely sure that gadgets affect people negatively. People are reluctant to work due to the influence of machines. People become lazy and disorganized. They just expect their latest gadgets to do everything instead of them. Moreover, according to scientists, a great number of widespread devices produce radiation that can cause serious health problems. Furthermore, more and more people are becoming addicted to their modern gadgets, for instance computers, TVs or mobile phones. So, they neglect their home obligations, work or school and spend all their spare time in front of a laptop screen or a TV-set.  
  
In conclusion, I firmly believe that in spite of all drawbacks, gadgets have, their benefits are much more considerable, as they save people`s time and let them enjoy life.

Задание 3 Прочитайте текст и составьте план пересказа текста. Озаглавьте текст.

People in contemporary world can hardly imagine their lives without machines. Every day either a new gadget is invented or an old one is improved. Different people appreciate new inventions differently. Some suppose that sophisticated gadgets are really useful and necessary, while others find them absolutely awful asthey influence people badly. As for me, I am pretty sure that gadgets make people`s lives easier.  
  
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Задание 4 Прочитайте текст и составьте краткий пересказ

From space shuttles to eye-glasses, from air-conditioning to the Internet – inventions of the last centuries have completely transformed our lives and our world. The era of fascinating discoveries has changed the way we communicate, the way we spend our free time. The machine gun has made our world more dangerous, the parking meter – more expensive and refrigerators have changed our eating habits. We can’t imagine our life without electricity and domestic electric appliances today such as microwave ovens, toasters, washing-machines, dish-washers, vacuum cleaners, irons and many others. Our world is also impossible without modern means of transport: cars, trains, ships or airplanes.

I am really amazed by the greatest medical inventions of penicillin, anaesthetic, contact lenses, X-rays and many others.  Penicillin is the name of an antibiotic that is used to kill dangerous bacteria in our bodies. This medicine was discovered in 1928 by Alexander Fleming. Many people worldwide stopped dying when their wounds had got infected. Of course, it is impossible to count how many lives have been saved by penicillin, but some estimate that it is about 200 million.  As for X-rays, they were discovered by Wilhelm Rontgen in 1895 by accident. X-ray machines produced images of different parts in the human body. And since then they have been widely used for analyzing problems with bones, teeth and organs. Today they are also used at airports for luggage inspection.

I must say that some inventions are quite strange and funny. Among them are food fans (for making your hot food cool enough to eat), heated toilet seats or devices that translate dog barking. As for weapons, cigarettes and fast food, I believe they are the worst mankindinventions. Modern inventions should make our life easier and better, but they must not cause health problems or destroy our planet.

Задание 5 Прочитайте текст и задайте к нему 5 вопросов

Computer games are gaining more and more popularity nowadays. Some people claim that teenagers get a lot of benefits while playing them. But other people argue that young people should spend their free time going in for sport. Let's look upon this problem objectively and try to understand it.

To begin with, computer games develop memory, because when you play it you try to remember all details. Moreover, it develops logical thinking, language and basic computer skills. Apart from that, you can make virtual friends. So it is a way of communication. And if you like each other, you can meet in the future and become close friends. In addition, playing computer games is a good way of entertainment.

At the same time, computer games have a harmful effect on health. First of all, you can spoil your eye sight. Besides, you sit in the same place and don't move so you can gain weight. Another point to be made is that a lot of games have aggressive moments and this makes teenagers cruel and causes violent behavior. Furthermore, young people spend too much time on this and it can ruin relationships with people.

To sum up, I would like to stress that the problem has as many strong points as weak points. As for me, I prefer to spend my free time with my parents and friends. Besides, I enjoy going in for sports more than playing computer games.

Задание 6

Напишите как можно больше слов по теме «Достижения и инновации в области науки и техники»

Подготовьте краткое описания самого востребованного в вашей жизни технического бытового прибора.