**Text 1**. The Russian Federation (Russia) (текст переводить не нужно, только ответить на вопросы ниже по этому тексту.)

The Russian Federation is one of the largest countries in the world. It occupies about one seventh part of dry land. It is situated in Europe and Asia. The total area is over 17 million square kilometers. The country is washed by 12 seas and 3 oceans: the Pacific, the Arctic and the Atlantic.

Russia borders on many countries such as China, Mongolia, Korea, Kasakhstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Norway, Finland, the Baltic States.

The country has steppes, plains, forests, tundra, taiga, highlands and deserts. The Urals, a mountain chain, separates Europe from Asia.

There are over two million rivers in Russia, the biggest rivers are the Volga, the Yenisei, the Ob, the Lena and the Amur. Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world.

The Russian Federation is very rich in mineral resources, such as ой, natural gas, coal, iron, copper, gold and others.

Russia is a Presidential republic. The legislative powers are exer­ased by the Duma.

The population of Russia is about 150 million people. The capital of the Russian Federation is Moscow. It is the largest political, adminis­trative, scientific, economic, educational and cultural center of the country.

The place where we live is Zabaikalye or Zabaikal region. It is situ­ated in Eastern Siberia and is the link between Siberia and the Rus­sian Far East. The climate of our region is sharp-continental with sunny and hot summers and severe, snowless winters. The fauna of Zabaikalye is very rich. We can find the bear, the wolf, the deer, the fox, the sable and other mammals of the taiga. There are several min­eral springs In our region, such as the Kuka, the Molokovka and the Darasun. They are very curative.

The principal industries in the Chita region are mining, timber and wood-processing, machine building, engineering, food and light indus­tries. The region is very rich in deposits of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, gold, molybdenum, beryllium, polymetallic ore, coal, graphite, magnetic ores, uranium and radon springs.

Ore deposits are found in the Chara Zone, the Chinei Zone and the Kruchininskoye. Other mineral reserves include gold (Taseevskoye, Baleiskoye), lead-zinc (Klichka), copper (Udokan, Gereken), tin (Sher- lovaya Gora and Khapcheranga).

The largest enterprises of Zabaikalye are the machine-building plant and the locomotive-repair plant in Chita and the Petrovsk metal­lurgical plant. We can find many small and large timber enterprises in our region, because woodlands cover almost half of the total territory.

Agriculture is an important part of our region’s economy. Wheat, barley, rye, potatoes, cucumbers, carrots and cabbages are grown here. The main branches of agriculture are dairy, pig farming, sheep- breeding. There are big cattle-breeding farms producing pork, fowl and eggs.

Nowadays the cultural life of the region is also many-sided and rich. There are many professional and amateur cultural associations, librar­ies, museums, cinemas, theatres and clubs in the region. The citizens are proud of their artists, sculptors, actors, singers and musicians.

The region is international, and its inhabitants face neither national, nor ethnic and religious conflicts.

The centre of Zabaikalye is Chita. At the end of the nineteenth cen­tury the Trans-Siberian railway was constructed, and thus Chita be­came an important transportation centre. Now its population is about 450 000 people.

There are some enterprises in the town: the locomotive repair plant, the foot-wear factory, the fur-and-leather processing factory, the wood-working factory and others.

The town has several higher educational institutions: Zabaikal State Humanitarian Pedagogical University, the Medical Academy, the Rail­way Transport Institute, the Classical University, the Economic Acad­emy and others.

There are many cultural establishments in Chita, including cinema halls, clubs, two theatres (drama and puppet-show), dancing halls for young people, 11 museums. Concerts are held in the Palace of Youth. The Memorial Complex is one of the places of interest in Chita.

**Exercise 1**. Answer the following questions.

1. Is the Russian Federation one of the largest countries in the world?

2. Where does the territory of Russia lie?

3. What countries does it border on?

4. How many rivers are there in Russia?

5. What mineral resources is the country rich in?

6. What's the population of Russia?

7. What is the capital of the Russian Federation?

8. Where is Zabaikalye situated?

9. What climate do we have in our region?

10. What can you say about the fauna of Zabaikalye?

11. What mineral springs are there in our region?

12. What are the principal industries in our region?

13. Can you name the largest industrial enterprises in Zabaikalye?

14. Agriculture is an important part of the economy, isn't it?

15. What’s the population of Chita?

16. What industrial enterprises are there in Chita?

17. What places of interest in Chita do you know?

18. How many higher educational institutions are there in Chita?

19. What can you say about theatres in Chita?

**Exercise 2**. Put disjunctive, general, alternative and special questions to the following

sentences.

Model: Chita got the status of a town in 1870.

1. Chita got the status of a town only in 1870, didn't it?

2. Did Chita get the status of a town in 1870?

3. Did Chita get the status of a town in 1870 or 1900?

4. What town got the status of a town in 1870?

5. What did Chita get in 1870?

6. When did Chita get the status of a town?

a) The construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway brought new life to our territory.

b) The scientists of Zabaikalye will contribute to the development of science and economy in the region.

c) Moscow is the capital of Russia.

d) There are many lakes and rivers rich in fish in our country.

e) Chita consists of 5 administrative districts.

**Text 2**. Russian railways (текст переводить не нужно, только ответить на вопросы ниже по этому тексту.)

Railway transport plays a very important role in the national economy of Russia.

The first railway used steam traction and was built at Nizhni Tagil Metallurgical works in the Urals in 1834. The Cherepanovs (father and son) constructed the first two locomotives for this industrial railway.

The first public railway was Petersburg-Pavlovsk railway. It was built on the 6 feet gauge and opened in 1836.

The first important railway construction was 400-mile Moscow-Petersburg railway.

It was opened to public traffic in 1851 and the standard gauge of 5 feet was adopted.

The locomotive building plant was established in Petersburg to produce locomotives, goods and passenger rolling stock.

The greatest increase in railway construction began in the eighties of the last century. In the ten years from 1890 to 1900 more than 13,000 miles of railway were built. The construction of the Trans-Siberian railway began in 1891 and it was put into operation in 1905. Eighty-three per cent of all the railways were in the European part of the country and 17 per cent of them were in the Asian part. The densest network was around Moscow, Petersburg, in the Donbass and in the Western territories.

The First World War caused great damage to the Russian Railways. After the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917 the railway system was nationalized, new railways were built, the wagon fleet was fitted with modem brakes, the use of diesel traction and automatic block signalling was begun.

The attack by Germany in 1941 made heavy demand on railway transport and the war caused great damage. The reconstruction of railways began even during the war.

In the fifties a large part of railways was electrified, mainly in Siberia, the Urals and around Moscow, Petersburg, Kiev, Tallin and Baku.

In Russia there is the longest electrified main line in the world from Moscow to Vladivostok. Now Railway Transport in Russia is a great transport system in the world. Russian Railways reach the highest annual volume of traffic - over 4,000 million tons of freight and passenger transportation. Railway transport carries 35 per cent of freight traffic and 18 per cent of passenger traffic in the world.

Automation and computers are introduced into many branches of railway engineering. Much attention is paid to high-speed traffic. Railway Transport is the most highly developed means of transport in Russia and its development is going on and on.

**Exercise 1**. Answer the following questions.

1. When was the first railway constructed in Russia?

2.Who built the first steam locomotive in Russia?

3.What is the standard gauge on Russian railways?

4.When was the first public railway opened and where?

5.When did the construction of the Trans-Siberian railway begin?

6.When was the Trans-Siberian Railway put into operation?

7.What did the First World War cause to Russian railways?

8.What is the longest electrified railway in the world?

9.How many per cent of freight traffic does the railway transport carry?

10.What is paid much attention to?

К\р.

1. Перепишите и переведите следующие предложения, обращая вни­мание на конструкцию there + to be:

1.There are many various raw materials in Siberia.

2.There will be a large number of workers at the meeting tomorrow.

3. There were large deposits of oil and gas in the Far East.

2. Перепишите и переведите следующие предложения, подчеркните в каждом-из них модальный глагол или его эквивалент:

1.At the exhibition we could see the latest track-laying machine.

2.The sleepers for high-speed railways have to be made of concrete.

3.Some trains are to make stops at all railway stations.

4.They will be able to create the necessary conditions in the laboratory.

3.Перепишите следующие предложения; подчеркните в каждом из них глагол-сказуемое и определите его видо-временную форму и залог. Переведите предложения на русский язык:

1.The metro has become the most convenient and speediest means of transport today.

2.He will explain the use of new materials tomorrow.

3.This engine is used in a new turbotrain.

4.We did not find anything in your compartment.

5.The motor will be stopped for repair.

6.The students were asked many theoretical questions.

4.Переведите следующие предложения. Поставьте их в вопроси­тельную и отрицательную формы:

1.The engineers carry out the experiments with new building materials.

2.The electronic computer will make our travel in high speed train safer

3.At present chemists are developing new materials.

4.The first railway in our country was electrified In 1926.

5.Перепишите и переведите письменно следующий текст.

Пояснения к тексту:

1) to be well-known - быть хорошо известным.

PULLMAN CARS

One of the most important railroad inventions is a sleeping car. The earli­est trains had no sleeping cars. There was no need for them for the early rail­roads were short, no journey lasted more than a few hours. As railroads in­creased in number and better cars were built, the passengers could make longer journeys, and night travel became possible.

George Pullman of Chicago invented a sleeping car. He built his first car in 1859. This car was much simpler in design than the sleeping cars of today, but it was much more suitable for long-distance travel than any other kind of cars in use at that time. This car was a great success and a few years later George Pullman built a much larger car which was a great improvement over his first car. The car was named the “Pioneer\*. The American railwaymen were so pleased with this car that George Pullman began to receive many or­ders for sleeping cars. In 1979 he bought a large tract of land near Chicago. On this territory the city of Pullman was built

Practically, all sleeping cars on American railroads were produces and operated by the Pullman Company. American-styte Pullman cars are well- known all over the world.

6. Из предложенных вариантов ответов укажите номер предложе­ния, содержащего наиболее правильный ответ на поставленный вопрос:

Why was there no need for sleeping cars in the earliest trains?

1. The railroads increased in number.

2. The earliest trains were more suitable for long-distance travel.

3. The journey was short.