

All competition tasks are for schoolchildren of any age: everyone can pick and choose what they like or know.

Task 1.

Memphis, Thebes, Per Ramsesu, Ahetanon, Avaris, Alexandria. All these capitals of old Egypt have their analogues in russian history. Compare their political roles — and give your short explanation for at least 2 correspondences among russian and egyptian capitals.

Task 2.

There is a novel about celtic warriors having come to China across Eurasia. What century was a possible time for such a voyage? What politic events could cause this voyage? Which persons mentioned in school textbooks did participate or cause these events?

Task 3.

Some russian dukes of XI century married girls from Poland, Byzance and Germany. And daughters of Yaroslav the Wise became queens of Norway, France and Hungary. In XII century the situation changed drastically: kinsmen of Yaroslav married only russian (or qipchak) princesses. What could be the reason of such change?

Task 4.

Long before Giordano Bruno another german scientist had invented a picture of Universe uniformly filled with stars, and planets already around them; some of them supporting Life and even Intellect of non-human beings. What was the name of this scientist? How did he evade any kind of repressions which later killed Bruno?

Task 5.

Spain, France, USA, Germany, Great Britain. One of these countries has never been a direct neighbour of Russia. Which of them? When and where did other countries get intervals of common border with Russia? What events did cause appearance or disappearance of these borders?

Task 6.

What rulers of England have been contemporaries of Louis XIV in France? Which dynasties did they found — or belong? Who of them did act as ally or enemy of France?

Task 7.

Could tsar Nicolas I get a photo portrait of his own? Could tsar Alexandre III move across Petersburg in a tram? Could tsar Nicolas II send a telegram to his cousin? If these events could take place, give their possible data and explain, why they were possible or not?

Task 8.

Vassily Yan, Leonid Soloviev, Lev Gumilev. All these writers did study peoples of central Asia, living among this folk in a certain (short) epoch. What was the data if this period? What external factors did produce this effect? What books appeared as fruits of such work? Compare the scientific content of these books.

Locate the historical errors in the following texts in tasks 9 and 10. Make a list of events (facts) that actually took place in OTHER time, place or in the way that is different from what is written in the text, and explain how and where they took place and who was involved (or why they cannot have happened at all)

Task 9.

At the end of our Troubles (AD 1616)

The first day of March Philaret Romanov made his return to Moscow — back from long exile in Poland. The new king Vladislav Yagello set him free — taking the mitropolit's promise to acknowledge Kiev and Smolensk as legal possessions of Poland. The old russian leader agreed, muttering bad curses on both oprichny tsars of Russia — Ivan the Terrible and Theodor the Weak. Their crazy drive towards autocracy and unwillingness to give free play to duke Godunov and bishop Philaret had spoilt the russian state, sending a big part of russian people under catholic or lutheran domination! Surely, sacrificing Latvia and Estonia would be a far better tactics! Let the swedish crone rule over both baltic peoples — or let swedish soldiers fight for the Baltic against polish and lithuanian forces!

This last move becomes actual now — after the sudden death of kaiser Rudolph in Vienna. He had a great liking for artist and astronomer wizards and sorcerers of any kind. Now the unruly germans are once more ready to fight each other for the sake of state and faith — as was the cause two centuries ago, in Luther's time, But all swedish people are ardent lutherans; so king Harald Vasa will help his Eidgenossen against Rome. His great dream is to become another lutheran kaiser — like his grandfather has been. Surely, the House of Vasa is not inferior to the house Luxembourg which had generated great Karl V? On the contrary: Harald is more lucky than Karl, for French huguenots are his firm allies. And Russia is his reliable partner in trade. Philaret is ready to help his northern neighbour — so winning back all the lands being lost by his stupid predecessor Vassily Shuisky. This old fool could not and would not make friends with Sweden so he died in polish captivity, giving free play to Philaret.

Now the time is ripe to differentiate all the promises given by Philaret to Vladislav. Poland has plunged into war against Sweden. So Vladislav will be unable to held Smolensk in his power — after the heroic defense of this city against king Yan Sobeski. Of course, swedish military help must be payed! But not with blood of russian soldiers — neithers with silver from russian temples! Cheap russian grain will be good enough. Let Harald Vasa use it as he likes: in feeding his army or selling the grain at a triple price in the markets of Amsterdam or Antwerp, bartering russian wheat for german gunpowder. If more money becomes necessary — it will come from the french purse, now ruled by cardinal Mazarini, Philaret's equal in mind and political control over state and church. It's high time to renovate the age-long political alliance between France and Russia. Such is the best way to stop any german or polish aggression!

Such daring plans do not become real facts in a short time. The brave king Harald Vasa was killed by a chance bullet at Breitenfeld. So Poland was not crushed in Philaret's time

of life. The moscovite rulers had to wait for a next civil war in Poland — when the kazak rose in Mutiny under hetman Zenoby Khmelnytsky. Then an alliance was formed — of Sech and Moscow against Poznan. In this way Kiev and Smolensk were once more incorporated in Russia — after being first regained by Iwan III and lost by his crazy grandson 50 years ago.

Task 10.

THE BIRTH OF CINEMA

On September 30, 1895, extraordinary news spread all over Paris. In the cinema on the Boulevard des Capucines the Pathé brothers are showing moving pictures. You pay a pound and a white screen comes to life. The public is thrilled! There is a boy, Charlie, in the crowd of onlookers. 15 years later he will be the first movie star — people all over the world will know Charlie Chaplin. The girls all around the globe will be in love with his characters — brave cowboys and fervent lovers. The best actresses of the century, Marilyn Monroe, Greta Garbo, Elizabeth Taylor, will be in his movies.

Within less than a year after that memorable night on the Boulevard des Capucines the Pathés got their competitors. An artful German circus actor, Friedrich Daguerre, dared to show his films in Paris. And Daguerre has something to surprise the public, because it was him who invented the special effects for the movies. They say he also discovered the secret the color film. Who is now going to watch the Pathés' films?

Then it's time for the Pathé brothers to move somewhere where nobody has heard of movies yet. To Russia, for example. Thankfully, it is now ruled by Tsar Nicholay, the cousin of the French king Louis XIX. The tsar's heir has been born recently. The happy father wants his son's first steps to be filmed. But while in Moscow, the important thing is to stay out of sight of Patriarch Tikhon. Ambassador Guchkov says that the patriarch doesn't like cinema. What if he will try to banish French operators from Russia?

Fortunately, in Moscow, the Pathés already have enough admirers. The all-mighty Rasputin loves cinema. If anything happens, he will be able to intercede for the Pathés. The cinema wanders in the minds of theatre directors: Shepkin and Stasov hound the Pathés and beg them to sell one of their film projectors. They both are well aware that the theater is far behind and all their audiences will leave for the cinema tomorrow. Klyuev and Sologub are abandoning their dime novels and are already writing movie scripts. They are finally going to become famous!

The brothers' business in Russia is going great. But they get bad news from Paris. The German Kaiser Bismarck is gathering forces to attack France. If the war begins, the Pathés will be stuck in Russia for a long time. All they can hope for is Pope Innocent, because Bismarck is a fervent Catholic. If the Pope tells him to make peace with Louis XIX, he will do it. But if the Kaiser and the King will not negotiate a settlement, then there will be a war in Europe. So the Pathés will have to film a military chronicle.

Don't forget to **sign** your work (please, write the card number, your last name, school and grade) before **submitting** the work. You do not have to submit the sheet with the tasks. The tasks, their solutions and the results of the competition will be published at <http://turlom.olimpiada.ru> after November 20.