**Вариант 3.**

**CONSTRUCTION**

Man has always been a builder. The kind of house he built in the beginning depended on the climate, on his enemies and on the building material at hand. The first houses in many parts of the world were made of wood, for in those days the greater part of the earth was covered with forests. In other regions the most convenient building material was stone.

Although houses were built without cement, the remains of a few of them still exist.

The ancient Egyptians built very simple houses by present standards. Having dried the bricks in the sun they put up four walls and above these they placed a flat roof. The roof was flat because there was very little rain in Egypt. Although their buildings were simple in construction, the Egyptian art of building was very beautiful. Their pyramids and monuments, sphinxes and palaces arouse our wonder to this day.

The first lessons in the art of making columns were given to the world in ancient Egypt.

In our country architecture flourished for the first time in Kiev Russ. Unfortunately, only a few of the church buildings of that period have remained. The churches of the time were strong buildings with thick walls and small windows. They often had to serve as fortresses during enemy invasions. Tourists from all over the world come to see the famous Cathedral of St. Sophia in Polotsk the cornerstone of which was laid in 1037 to commemorate the victory over the Pechenegs.

Since then the architecture and structural materials have been greatly changed. A very advanced construction technique today is the use of precast concrete. According to this method the reinforced concrete units are manufactured at a factory and are then simply assembled at the construction site. This method helped our country to restore its economy after the Second World War, when many residential as well as industrial buildings were destroyed.

The first blocks made of prefabricated units appeared in the villages in the Volgograd and Moscow regions.

At present, the building industry is the largest in Belarus and it holds an important place in the National Economy of our country. Many highly educated civil engineers, who are trained at Belarusian universities, skilled and unskilled workers are engaged in construction. Builders use many new materials such as reinforced concrete, precast concrete, light weight concrete, gas concrete, many decorative materials, oil paints, wall paper. Synthetics are among them. Such traditional materials as stone, brick, wood are in great use as well. Various elements and components are assembled on the site.

Now everywhere vibro-rolled panels are being widely used in construction. The assembly method is developing into the main method of apartment and industrial construction.

All the working processes are mechanized. Modern construction can’t be imagined without building machinery. Lorries, cranes, bulldozers, excavators are available at all construction sites of Belarus. Prefabricated structures are transported by lorries and immediately hoisted into position. Finished blocks of prefabricated flats with interior decoration are assembled on many construction sites. Transport brings a complete flat to the prepared foundations of a building. A powerful gantry-crane lifts the 18 – 20 ton flat and carefully sets it on the foundation. After the final inspection, electricians, plumbers and gas-men can begin their work.

1. **Answer the following questions:**
2. What did the kind of house depend on?
3. What materials were the first houses made of?
4. Were they strong?
5. What country was the first to use brick to build houses?
6. What houses were built in ancient Egypt?
7. Why did Egyptians use a flat roof?
8. The Egyptian art of building was very beautiful, wasn’t it?
9. What arouse our wonder to this day?
10. Where were given the first lessons in the art of marking columns?
11. Where did architecture flourish for the first time in our country?
12. In what way can you describe the churches of the old time?
13. What purposes did they often serve?
14. What do tourists come to see usually?
15. What new materials help to speed up the rate of building?
16. What method helped our country to restore its economy after the Second World War?
17. Who are engaged in construction nowadays?
18. What new materials are used by our builders?
19. Do they use any traditional materials?
20. What sort of panels is being widely used in construction?
21. What is the main method of apartment and industrial construction?
22. What machines are used at all construction sites?
23. Where are the finished blocks of prefabricated flats with interior decoration assembled?
24. With the help of what a complete flat brings to the prepared foundations of a building?
25. What is the role of a powerful gantry-crane?
26. Who begins to work after the last inspection?
27. **Complete the sentences according to the text:**
28. The kind of house a man built in the beginning depended on the climate ... .
29. The first houses in many parts of the world were made of wood because ... .
30. ... the remains of a few of them still exist.
31. Egyptians dried the bricks in the sun and … .
32. The roof in Egypt was flat because ... .
33. Egyptian pyramids and monuments, sphinxes and palaces arouse our wonder to this day because ... .
34. In our country architecture flourished … .
35. Tourists from all over the world come to see ... .
36. A very advanced construction technique today is ... .
37. According to the new method the reinforced concrete units ... and are then simply assembled … .
38. The building industry holds an important place in ... .
39. Builders use many new materials such as ... .
40. ... are in great use as well.
41. Now everywhere... are being widely used in construction.
42. ... are available at all construction sites of Belarus.
43. Finished blocks of prefabricated flats with interior decoration ... .
44. ... the 18 – 20 ton flat and carefully sets it on the foundation.
45. Thanks to special government’s programmes …….
46. **Choose a word to put into each gap:**

*Stone, prefabricated structures, fortresses, columns, the bricks, the building industry, precast concrete, wood, flat, unskilled, thick, the site, plumbers, cement, civil, building material, synthetics, architecture, machinery.*

1. The first houses in many parts of the world were made of ... .
2. In some regions the most convenient ... was ... .
3. Although houses were built without ..., the remains of a few of them still exist.
4. Having dried ... in the sun Egyptians put up four walls, and above these they placed a ... roof.
5. The first lessons in the art of marking ... were given to the world in ancient Egypt.
6. In our country ... flourished for the first time in Kiev Russ.
7. The churches of the time were strong buildings with ... walls and small windows.
8. They often had to serve as . during enemy invasions.
9. A very advanced construction technique today is the use of ... .
10. Many highly-educated ... engineers, skilled and ... workers are engaged in construction.
11. ... are among the new building materials.
12. Various elements and components are assembled on ... .
13. ... are transported by lorries and immediately hoisted into position.
14. Modern construction can’t be imagined without building ... .
15. After the final inspection, electricians, ... and gas-men can begin their work.
16. ... is paid much attention in our country as it affects greatly the general level of living.
17. **Comprehensive check. Choose the best alternative according to the text:**

1. The kind of house a man built many years ago depended on ....

a) the climate, on his enemies and on the building material at hand;

b) the weather, on his family and on the building material at hand;

c) the climate, on the surroundings and on the money he had.

2. The greater part of the earth was covered with forests that’s why ...

a) the first houses in many parts of the world were made of wood;

b) all the houses in many parts of the world were built in the forests;

c) the first houses were built near these forests.

3. The ancient Egyptians put up four walls and ... .

a) above these they placed a decorative roof;

b) above these they placed a straight roof;

c) above these they placed a flat roof.

4. The roof was flat because ... .

a) there was very little rain in Egypt;

b) it looked very nice;

c) it was very hot in Egypt.

5. The first lessons in the art of marking columns ... .

a) were given to the world in ancient Greece;

b) were given to the world in ancient Egypt;

c) were given to the world in ancient Russia.

6 . In our country architecture ... .

a) became to know for everybody in Kiev Russ;

b) flourished for the first time in Kiev Russ;

c) flourished for the first time in Belarus.

7. The churches of that time were ... .

a) small buildings with thin walls and round windows.

b) strong buildings with high walls and big windows;

c) strong buildings with thick walls and small windows.

8. The churches often had to ... .

a) serve as fortresses during enemy invasions;

b) serve as dwellings to poor people;

c) serve a place for meetings.

9. The famous Cathedral of St. Sophia ... .

a) was famous for its architecture;

b) was built by slaves;

c) was built in Polotsk.

10. A very advanced construction technique today is ... .

a) the use of prefabricated units;

b) the use of precast concrete;

c) the use of а reinforced concrete and wood.

11. According to the modern method the reinforced concrete units ... .

a) are assembled at a building plant;

b) are manufactured at a factory;

c) are produced at a construction site.

12. The first blocks made of prefabricated units ... .

a) appeared in the villages near the Polotsk and Mogilev regions;

b) were very expensive for building houses;

c) appeared in the villages in the Volgograd and Moscow regions.

13. Such traditional materials as stone, brick, wood are ... .

a) in great use nowadays;

b) used only to build small houses;

c) used as secondary materials.

14. The assembly method is developing into … .

a) the progressive method in our country;

b) the main method of scientific investigation;

c) the main method of apartment and industrial construction.