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Белорусский государственный университет иностранных языков

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**ИЗУЧАЕМ АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК  
ПО МАТЕРИАЛАМ ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЙ  
ПРЕЗИДЕНТА РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ  
А. Г. ЛУКАШЕНКО**

**LEARNING ENGLISH  
THROUGH THE OFFICIAL DISCOURSE  
OF THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
ALEKSANDR LUKASHENKO**

*Допущено Министерством образования Республики Беларусь  
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Учебное пособие включает 11 разделов, посвященных приоритетам современной Беларуси в экономической и социально-политической сферах жизни страны. Каждый раздел представлен комплексом лексических упражнений, заданий для развития умений чтения, говорения и письменной речи.

Учебное пособие предназначено для организации аудиторной и управляемой самостоятельной работы обучающихся учреждений высшего образования.

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‘Patriotism, confidence in their country’s future, and a genuine desire to make it a better place are the core principles for today’s youth to be guided by.’

*The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at All-Belarusian People’s Assembly, 6–7 December 2010*



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# BELARUS TODAY

## unit I

*Spirituality and morality are fundamental  
to a strong and independent state.*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

### STARTER

---

The Spiritual Revival Award ceremony, one of the key events of the year, is held in Belarus every year in January. It has become part and parcel of the life of Belarusians as a modern tradition that connects the past and the present of the native land, fills goals and aspirations of citizens with a special meaning.

*When and why was the Spiritual Revival Award established?*

The Spiritual Revival Award was established in Belarus in 1997. The President signed the Decree on January, 5. The award ceremony was held on the same day.

The main idea behind Spiritual Revival Award is preserving Belarus' traditional heritage. 'We pay tribute to the Orthodox Church, which for many centuries has been promoting the unity of the Belarusian people, peace and civil harmony in our land. In the days of Christmas, we strongly feel the peacemaking power and depth of the Gospel commandments, the moral code of humanity,' the Head of State said as he presented the Spiritual Revival Award in January 2008.

*Who is honored with the Spiritual Revival Award?*

Since the Spiritual Revival Award was established, it has been bestowed on people from all walks of life. These include clergy, employees of charitable organizations, doctors, teachers, creative intelligentsia. Those who set an example of true patriotism and inspire us with their talent and success get recognition and appreciation. The ceremony is held every year and is attended by the President. According to the Head of State, the event is a must to attend.

#### **Exchange your ideas on the issues reflected in the following questions:**

1. What associations come first to mind when you hear the expression *spiritual revival*?

2. Study the definition of the words *spiritual* and *revival* in an English-English dictionary. Discuss your understanding of the expression with your partner.

3. Give some background information on the Spiritual Revival Award in Belarus. Find additional information in the State media outlets.

You are going to read the speech given by the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at **the Ceremony to present the Spiritual Revival Award, special prizes for cultural and art luminaries, and the Belarusian Sports Olympus special prize**, January 8, 2025 (Text 1).

## VOCABULARY

Before reading, do some vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the information of the suggested text better.

### I. Match the words and expressions in Column A with the corresponding definitions in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. Spiritual revival	a. a person who is an expert or a great influence in a special area or activity
2. Luminary	b. to bring two or more people together again after they have been separated for a long time; to come together again
3. High-profile	c. very important and treated with great respect; that must not be changed or challenged
4. Awardees	d. the process of something becoming or being made popular or fashionable again
6. To reunite	e. in a brave, confident way; without being afraid to say what you feel or to take risks
7. Sacred	f. to keep an idea, a hope or a pleasant feeling in your mind for a long time
8. To cherish	g. people who are awarded something, such as a prize
	h. receiving or involving a lot of attention and discussion in the media

### II. Fill in the gaps with the right equivalent from the following prompts. Use prepositions and articles if necessary.

*ancestors to destabilize cornerstone unity sanctions new generation  
inherit beacon creative morality*

1. Do you think standards of ... are falling?
2. In most countries, the family is still ... of society.
3. Party ... is threatened when members do not compromise.
4. Twelve thousand years ago, our ... were primitive savages living in caves.
5. Future generations will ... pollution and destruction.
6. She's very ... – she writes poetry and paints.
7. The country's traditions are ... of hope for the younger generation.
8. Terrorist attacks threatened ... the government.

III. Find the word on the right, which should logically follow the word on the left, use the prepositions where necessary. Choose five matched collocations and use them in your own examples while discussing the issue of the national treasury of a strong state.

to honor	respect towards traditions
accomplishments	awardees
at the call	→ winners
to give	one's heart
to nurture	→ people
to enrich	the Belarusian nation
the soul	the national cultural treasury
prominent	a helping hand

## READING AND DISCUSSING

---

Study the speech given by Aleksandr Lukashenko at the Ceremony of Spiritual Revival Award and special prizes on January 8, 2025, and concentrate on the following aspects:

- the purpose of the event where the speech was given;
- fundamental principles of a strong and independent state;
- the concept of a strong and prosperous state.

Write down 3-5 keywords or phrases connected to the highlighted aspects and compare them with your partner.

### Text 1

#### THE CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE SPIRITUAL REVIVAL AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRIZES OF THE PRESIDENT

January 8, 2025

**D**ear friends! Dear awardees! Your Eminence!  
Christmas has a very special atmosphere, inspiring us to do good. So it has been since time immemorial, and it is still the way we see this wonderful holiday today. This is where our Ceremony to honor the winners of the Spiritual Revival award and special prizes of the President on the early days of the New Year takes its origin, the event that has long become a tradition of the sovereign Belarus. We can hardly imagine those magical days without this beautiful and solemn moment – the moment of glory, so well-deserved by our prominent people.

Our awardees genuinely support and create true art, they are the keepers of the soul of the Belarusian nation. Today, we are here to celebrate the achievements of cultural luminaries who preserve and enrich the national cultural treasury, raise people's interest in national arts and crafts and nurture respect towards our traditions. Among the awardees there are also clergymen, doctors, social workers – people who care and give a helping hand to those who have faced difficulties in life. People who take care of children in dire straits selflessly, at the call of their hearts. We are proud of the achievements of our high-profile athletes and coaches at the world's largest tournaments, and we honor them with *the Belarusian Sports Olympus award*.

All the deeds and accomplishments of our awardees are highly spiritual and patriotic. It is especially important now, when the country is preparing to celebrate a sacred date – the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. We cherish the memory of the past and move forward confidently, looking boldly into the future.

Thank you for your achievements and victories. Yet there is another thing that matters: your work means a lot more than you may realize. Your every success inspires the Belarusians to act, do the good and kind things that we all need so much. That is why, year after year, we gather here at this stage to reunite with the people driven by the purest of emotions – staying true to your calling and loving your motherland. It is thanks to you, dear awardees, thanks to you serving the high ideals that we can effectively address the challenges of time. In the time of chaos, wars, and depreciation of true values.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the Ceremony to present Spiritual Revival Award,  
special prizes of the President. 2025

But the truth is simple: any kind of human activity is based on spirituality and morality (justice, as I often say). They are the elixirs of life for the culture, strong generational continuity and tradition. They are the cornerstone of unity for a nation that knows its history, honors the legacy of its ancestors and takes care of its future. The cornerstone of what determines a national character. Spirituality and morality are fundamental to a strong and independent state. Dear friends! I hereby congratulate the winners of Spiritual Revival Award, special prizes for cultural and art luminaries, and the Belarusian Sports Olympus special prize. Thanks to the patriotic and creative people that you are, our beloved Belarus remains a beacon of peace, tranquility, humanity and compassion.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the Ceremony to present Spiritual Revival Award,  
special prizes of the President. 2025

Despite all the current attempts to destabilize us, nothing will come out of it. Nothing! We will keep our country safe. It belongs to our children and grandchildren. We must thus think about their future, and so we do. In the upcoming five-year period, we will do our best so our country no longer faces the challenge of preserving its statehood. Our country will always remain a state, in spite of any trends and developments in the international arena.

I would also like to wish all Belarusians a merry Christmas. Wish them happiness. Wish them joy. May you always keep smiling, may your children never upset you, may your nearest and dearest as well as your colleagues always make you happy.

I wish you peace and well-being. May success attend you at all times, and your nearest and dearest always stay close.

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/ceremonia-vrucenia-premii-za-duhovnoe-vozrozhdenie-i-special-nyh-premij-prezidenta>*

**IV. Study the text again in detail and match the beginning of ideas in Column A to their continuation in Column B according to the text. Use prepositions, pronouns or conjunctions if necessary. Compare your answers with your partner's.**

**Column A**

1. Christmas has a very special atmosphere
2. Any kind of human activity is based
3. Our beloved Belarus remains
4. We will do our best
5. We are proud of the achievements
6. Cultural luminaries
7. Our country will always remain
8. They are the cornerstone of unity for a nation

**Column B**

- a. our high-profile athletes and coaches.
- b. our country no longer faces the challenge of preserving its statehood.
- c. a state.
- d. inspiring us to do good.
- e. spirituality and morality.
- f. knows its history.
- g. a beacon of peace, tranquility, humanity and mercy.
- h. preserve and enrich the national cultural treasury.

V. Divide the text 'The Ceremony to Present the Spiritual Revival Award and Special Prizes of the President' into seven thematic parts and give the paragraphs headings reflecting the main idea. Use headings of paragraphs 3 and 5 as an example. Develop each idea using the information from the speech.

- Paragraph 1: ... ..
- Paragraph 2: ... ..
- Paragraph 3: the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War.
- Paragraph 4: ... ..
- Paragraph 5: spirituality and morality are the cornerstone of unity for a strong nation.
- Paragraph 6: ... ..
- Paragraphs 7-8: ... ..

Next comes the speech given by A. G. Lukashenko on December 31, 2024 (Text 2) where he congratulates all Belarusians on the upcoming year, summarizes positive results in different spheres of life achieved by our people and wishes everybody a new productive year.

## VOCABULARY

Before reading the text, do some tasks that will help you understand the information better.

### I. Match the word on the left with its corresponding definition on the right.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. To dedicate | a. to increase or further improve the good quality, value or status of somebody/something  |
| 2. Bountiful   | b. a calm and serious manner that deserves respect   |
| 3. Merit       | c. a very important stage or event in the development of something   |
| 4. Dignity     | d. to give a lot of your time and effort to a particular activity or purpose because you think it is important   |
| 5. Milestone   | e. worth remembering or easy to remember, especially because of being special or unusual   |
| 6. Memorable   | f. the process that takes place when somebody sees or hears something that causes them to have exciting new ideas or makes them want to create something, especially in art, music or literature |
| 7. Inspiration | g. generous  |
| 8. To enhance  | h. the quality of being good and of deserving praise or reward   |

### II. Substitute the words in bold in the sentences below with similar words from the box, change the word form if necessary.

*to advance*    *inspiration*    *heroic*    *to bequeath*    *to weave*  
*to mark*    *wealthy*    *to brim*

1. **Brave** people fought for our Motherland in the Great Patriotic War.
2. He **made a will** to leave everything to his children.
3. **It is made** from the memories of our ancestors.
4. What is the main **motivation** for our people to contribute to the development of our country?
5. **Affluent** nations continue to exploit developing nations.
6. He **was overwhelmed** with happiness.
7. Our country **is moving forward to** successful development of economy.
8. This year **Belarus was celebrating** the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War.

**III. a) Make new words from those given below with the help of the correct suffix. Use the following prompts -ly, -ness, -able, -ation, -hood, -tion, -ful, -ous, -ment.**

Parent, dear, clean, memory, to determine, to aspire, sorrow, to continue, to develop, to improve, prosperity, peace.

**b) Think of 6-8 possible collocations with the words you created. Write them down, compare your list with the partner's. Form the sentences using these collocations.**

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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As you read, identify the main issues that Aleksandr Lukashenko is focusing on.

Use the internet to search the names of Belarusian people who received awards for their contribution to the development of various spheres in Belarus in 2024/2025 (e.g. the Doctor of the Year, the Teacher of the Year, etc.) and share this information with your groupmates.

### Text 2

## THE NEW YEAR ADDRESS OF A. G. LUKASHENKO

December 31, 2024

**D**ear compatriots and guests of Belarus!  
Midnight is approaching. These are the moments when we watch the clock tick down with excitement and anticipation and it seems that time flies. We have so much to do: to thank the passing year for all the good things, to take a look into the future, to make wishes.

On New Year's Eve we gather around the table with our family, relatives and friends to say warm words to each other and thank each other for good deeds.

Just before midnight on the New Year's Eve this tradition makes its way into the Palace of Independence. I am very happy to congratulate you, dear Belarusians, on the New Year and to send my sincerest wishes to all corners of our country.

I thank you for the best moments of the past year. For the joy of seeing young people start families and become parents, grandparents welcome grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the little ones start school and graduates open the door to adulthood, continuing the history of the family and the country.

Of course, not everything and not always went as we dreamed. But life is like music. It has different notes, different tone ranges. We should always tune in for the best, helping each other.

I thank you for being there for those who needed support in their hour of need. For the New Year's holiday that you give to our children, lonely people and the elderly these days.

A low bow to all those who work with people: treating, teaching, taking care.

Our successes and achievements were for the benefit of the Motherland.

Belarusian farmers gathered a good harvest, enough to share with friends and neighbors. Domestic producers rolled out new products.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulating the Belarusian people on the New Year eve. 2023

Our dear Belarus has become even cozier and more comfortable. It was done by you - all those who design, build, make our life brighter with their art. The beauty and cleanliness admired by our guests who come to visit us are our brand image, our calling card. The credit for this goes to you.

We may not always appreciate what has become the norm, but we do know this: we choose our own path by ourselves.

I thank you for your political wisdom. We held the single voting day well. Just as calmly, without hints and tips, we conducted the Belarusian People's Congress. This is a historic step, the effect of which we are yet to see in action.

The flight of the first cosmonaut of the sovereign Belarus became another milestone in the country's history.

Such bright events made up the outgoing year which was creative and interesting. We were confidently moving toward our dreams and goals, but most importantly we did it under peaceful skies.

For peace and our security we thank the men in uniform and their families, who are our defenders' towers of strength.

Every year these words sound stronger and more relevant, and their meaning becomes weightier. So does the grateful memory about the heroic generation of the Great Patriotic War.

In the year of the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory, it is a matter of honor for us, the heirs of the victors, to preserve the peace bequeathed to us.

Dear Belarusians!

The year 2024 is becoming history. Our shared history. It is made of hundreds of thousands of memories, but the story line is always the same: sad events recede into the past, happy ones become the best road map to the future.

We know that everything we have achieved in the past year of 2024 will be continued in the coming year 2025.

Our way is continuity.

We will go through a generational change in the coming years. We are doing it our Belarusian wise way by relying on everything that we cherish and are proud of.

The next five-year period in our country will be the five-year period of quality, and we will devote each year to one important area.

Let us start with the Year of Improvement. The goal of the year will be to improve the quality of life of people.

Very soon we will be choosing the future of the state. We all want it to be successful and happy. And peaceful!

We want our families and friends to be healthy. We want to be surrounded by reliable friends, kind and caring people.

It is time to make wishes, and may all your wishes come true. May our dear Belarus, strong and independent, will always be a united family and home for everyone.

I am proud of you and happy to be an executor of your will! Happiness and good luck to you!

Happy New Year, Belarusians!

Happy New Year to our friends and all good people!

Wishing you peace and well-being!

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/novogodnee-obrasenie-prezidenta-belarusi-aleksandra-lukasenka-k-beloruskomu-narodu>*

**IV. Read the text again paying attention to different professions that were highlighted in it. Find the words used by the President to characterize these professions and fill in the following table.**

Profession	Characteristics
1. Teacher	Dedicated to working with people
2.	
3.	
4.	
5. Military	Giving us peace, safety, ...

**V. Comment on the President's words: 'May our dear Belarus, strong and independent, will always be a united family and home for everyone'. Discuss your ideas with your partners.**

**VI. What is our President's vision for the 'next five-year period'?**

## **SPEAKING AND WRITING**

---

Study both texts of this Unit once again and complete the following tasks:

**I. Prepare a report of about 3–5 minutes describing the Ceremony to present the Spiritual Revival Awards, special prizes for cultural and art luminaries, and the Belarusian Sports Olympus special prize using Text 1.**

**Your supposed audience are tourists from English-speaking countries. Think of the outline of the report and don't forget about linking words. You can use the following prompts.**

### **A list of linking words**

#### **Addition**

and, also, too, in addition, furthermore, moreover, besides, as well as, not only...but, also, what is more, indeed, in fact, to illustrate, for example, in other words, etc.

#### **Cause and Effect**

because, since, as, due to, owing to, therefore, thus, hence, consequently, as a result, accordingly, for this reason, so, etc.

#### **Comparison and Contrast**

similarly, likewise, in the same way, compared to, in comparison, however, nevertheless, despite, in spite of, although, though, while, on the other hand, unlike, etc.

#### **Sequence and Time**

first, second, third, firstly, secondly, thirdly, then, next, afterward, before, previously, finally, in conclusion, etc.

**II. Think about your personal contribution to the spiritual revival of our country (volunteering, working as a teacher with school children, upbringing the younger generation, etc.). Make a short presentation in PowerPoint using the information about your own achievements and the main ideas of A. Lukashenko on spirituality and morality as the main principles of a strong independent state.**

Some presentation tips:



- Decide what 5 or 7 key points you are going to deal with when describing....
- Prepare a draft script.
- Decide what information should be given in the text of your PowerPoint slides and what is better to say in your comments to slides.
- Design and prepare your visual aids.
- Rehearse your presentation at home.

And, finally, deliver your presentation!

Good Luck!

**III. Write an essay of 150–250 words ‘The main achievements of Belarus in 2024’ consolidating the information from the internet on the main results in different spheres of our country in 2024 and information from this Unit.**

# PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVES: LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP AND LIFE

## unit II

*The well-balanced perception of the world, confidence of Belarusians in themselves and their future stem from the inseparable connection with their native land. The village is not just a plot of land. It's an entire civilization. It is ours, Belarusian.*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

### STARTER

---

One's roots and place of birth play a profound role in shaping identity, values and perspective. They provide a cultural and emotional foundation, influencing language, traditions and the way individuals relate to the world. The environment where a person is born often influences their early experiences, relationships and sense of belonging, leaving a lasting imprint on their character and worldview. Understanding and honoring one's roots can foster a deeper connection to family history, resilience in the face of change and a stronger sense of purpose throughout life.

Are great leaders defined by their birthplace and household environment? Absolutely, but only to a certain extent. True leaders often seem to have a clear sense of direction and purpose notwithstanding the life circumstances. They are able to set bold goals, inspire others with their ideas and motivate people to work toward long-term success, even when the path is difficult. Their vision acts like a compass, guiding decisions and actions with confidence and purpose.

*the text generated by AI, adapted*

**How does the President's quote above resonate with you? Do you agree that the village is an entire civilization?**

**Answer the following questions and discuss your thoughts in pairs or as a group.**

1. How has your birthplace influenced your personality and values?
2. What traditions or customs from your birthplace are still important to you today?
3. How do people from your hometown typically view family, education or success?
4. Compare your hometown to a place you've visited or lived in. How do the differences affect people's lifestyle or beliefs?
5. Do you think your birthplace has more influence on you than your current environment? Why?
6. Is it important for people to stay connected to their roots? Why or why not?

You are going to read the text **Formative Years** (Text 1) about the President's youth and certain life-shaping events on his path to presidency. What are the President's life milestones that you are already aware of? What would you like to learn about his formative years?

## VOCABULARY

Before reading the text, complete some vocabulary tasks that will help you grasp its central idea.

### I. Match the words and phrases on the left with their definitions on the right.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Consciousness    | a) an experienced and trusted advisor                |
| 2. Numismatist      | b) extremely tiring and demanding                    |
| 3. Stomping grounds | c) an outstanding group of people                    |
| 4. Grueling         | d) a place that someone is familiar with             |
| 5. Rural            | e) a well-informed collector of coins                |
| 6. Pleiad           | f) countryside as opposed to densely populated areas |
| 7. Mentor           | g) a person's perception of something                |
| 8. Discerning       | h) a dignified manner of bearing                     |
| 9. Fierce           | i) having or showing good judgment                   |
| 10. Poise           | j) intense and ferocious                             |

### II. Choose the right synonym and antonym for each of the words.

Word	Synonym	Antonym
1. Heroic	a) stringent	a) mournful
2. Remarkable	b) disparate	b) tranquil
3. To admire	c) to acknowledge	c) to loath
4. To commemorate	d) to respect	d) to overlook
5. Joyful	e) valiant	e) sporadic
6. Strict	f) uptight	f) uniform
7. Diverse	g) recurrent	g) ordinary
8. Tense	h) full-grown	h) cowardly
9. Frequent	i) exceptional	i) juvenile
10. Mature	j) jubilant	j) lenient

### III. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box to complete the sentences.

*intuition      crossroads      prosperity      vector*  
*movements      development      devastation      policy*

1. A President who deeply cares for the country will lead the people to ... .
2. ... is the experience of ancestors accumulated over centuries, their warning against irreparable mistakes and their care for us.

3. Social ..., parties and fronts of the corresponding type were sprouting up like mushrooms.
4. In the conditions of ... and propagandist liberties in the country, the people were disoriented.
5. A. Lukashenko understood the peculiarities of the historical ... of Belarus.
6. The country found itself literally at a ... – linguistic, religious, even climatic.
7. Economic success and significant production achievements made it possible to create the most favorable ... of relations with the world.
8. It is the multi-vector ... that our President sees as the key to the success of the country's development.

**IV. The following statements are taken from the text you are going to read. Try to fill in the gaps with prepositions if necessary. After reading the text, check if you have done the task correctly.**

1. Orsha is an industrial town ... a famous linen mill and a major railway hub, one ... the biggest even ... a scale ... the former Soviet Union.
2. Aleksandr Lukashenko spent his ... childhood and youth ... Aleksandriya, a village ... the banks ... the Dnieper River.
3. Rural labor – ... the soil, ... the fields, ... a plow, a scythe, a saw and an axe – was especially hard.
4. ... Professor Melnik's supervision, he wrote a paper that was hailed as one ... the best ... the All-Union Competition ... Student Research – an achievement that could have set him ... the path ... a brilliant scholarly career.
5. Sending sons ... the family ... military service was a cause ... celebration, and when young men came back home ... leave or after demobilization, their poise, uniform and mature behavior invoked ... everyone's sincere respect.
6. When the veterans wore ... their numerous orders and medals ... all their glory ... the Victory Day, the boys watched them ... awe.
7. Everyone saw the service ... the Army as a natural stage ... life.
8. There are car rides ... bumpy roads and treks ... pathless swamps or windfall.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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While reading, try to identify the main ideas in each part of the text (1–3). Formulate these ideas, write them down if necessary and share your statements in small groups. After that discuss the ideas with all the groupmates.

### Text 1

#### FORMATIVE YEARS

##### (1) The President's Homeland.

**A** person is born in a particular place by the will of fate and their parents. The native land and small homeland initially shape a child's consciousness, character and future mindset. Orsha, Shklov, Kopys, Aleksandriya and the majestic Dnieper River are Aleksandr Lukashenko's stomping grounds. The future President of the Republic of Belarus spent his childhood and youth there. Orsha is an industrial town with a famous

linen mill and a major railway hub, one of the biggest even on a scale of the former Soviet Union. This town has always been admired for its huge and beautiful railway station and ring railway. Here, the partisan commander Konstantin Zaslouov waged his heroic resistance. The first volleys of the legendary Katyusha rocket launchers against the Nazis in July 1941 are also a historical memory of Orsha. Aleksandr Grigoryevich's mother Ekaterina Trofimovna worked at the huge linen mill in this town when she was young.

The old town of Kopys, where Aleksandr Lukashenko was born, is also quite remarkable for its history. Its citadel, known as Petrovsky Val, was given its name to commemorate the fact that Peter the Great stayed there once. Near Kopys, Mikhail Kutuzov made a forced crossing of the Dnieper, and Denis Davydov fought the French invaders. From the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Kopys has been well-known for its red-clay glazed tiles, or Kopys tiles. These glazed tiles were used to decorate stoves even in the royal chambers of the Moscow Kremlin.

Aleksandr Lukashenko spent his childhood and youth in Aleksandriya, a village on the banks of the Dnieper River. Ekaterina Trofimovna came there with her young son to live in her father's house. For people who survived the horrors of the war, the post-war years were joyful, but gruelling and hungry. The country, destroyed by the Nazis, had to be rebuilt and restored. People worked from early in the morning till late at night. Both children and adults. And rural labor – on the soil, in the fields, with a plow, a scythe, a saw and an axe – was especially hard. Aleksandriya was an ideal place for personal development and learning about life in all its forms: the rural lifestyle was complemented by real opportunities to see and experience the urban industrial culture. After all, Orsha, Shklov and Kopys were very close to the village.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at his small homeland in Aleksandriya

## **(2) Teachers, Mentors, Inspirers: People who shaped the leader's personality.**

The personality of a future leader is largely shaped by university teachers. At that time, a pleiad of highly qualified scientists and enthusiastic teachers worked at the Department. The dean of the Department, Gavriil Iosifovich Ione – a well-known archaeologist, numismatist, outwardly impressive and strict, but in fact the kindest person – shaped not only the corporate culture, but also the positive communication climate

for teachers and students. Irina Ivanovna Serova became the first woman in Belarus to earn a doctorate degree in philosophy. Professor Vasily Mikhailovich Melnik, Doctor of Historical Sciences, inspired talented students to research. As a student, Aleksandr Lukashenko couldn't help but dive into this whirlwind of research. Under Professor Melnik's supervision, he wrote a paper that was hailed as one of the best in the All-Union Competition of Student Research – an achievement that could have set him on the path to a brilliant scholarly career. Yet even then, Aleksandr Lukashenko understood that life – with all its complexity, people and society – was more interesting than any given field of study. This promising and diverse life attracted him. This idea was echoed by his mentor, Associate Professor Yakov Ivanovich Treshchenok, who for the rest of his life remained Lukashenko's wise adviser, even when Aleksandr Grigoryevich became President.

A personality shapes another personality. Yakov Ivanovich was a professional military man. He graduated from Kaliningrad Artillery School and served in different garrisons across the USSR including in Manchuria, and even acted as aide to Chief Marshal of the Artillery Mitrofan Ivanovich Nedelin. But after Khrushchev's reduction of military staff in 1956, he graduated from the Department of History of Minsk Pedagogical Institute and came to teach at Mogiliev Pedagogical Institute. He was knowledgeable, fierce in interpreting historical facts and events, open and honest – but uncompromising – in his communication with colleagues and students. Learning from him was no easy task. Even as President, Aleksandr Grigoryevich would say of Treshchenok: 'You couldn't sway him or make him bend to anyone's will'.

Student Lukashenko did not immediately fall under his mentor's influence, nor did he win Associate Professor Treshchenok's favour from the very first days of his studies. At one point, he even had to retake an exam with him. But the discerning lecturer saw that this student had the potential for self-improvement, persistence, determination and critical thinking. They became friends. For life.

### **(3) The President's Army Training.**

Military service in Soviet times was seen as a natural stage of a young man's adult life. Those who, for some reason, did not serve in the Army, became targets of jokes and teasing in the village or were even considered somewhat impaired. Sending sons of the family off to military service was a cause for celebration, and when young men came back home on leave or after demobilization, their poise, uniform and mature behavior invoked everyone's sincere respect.

For children born after the victorious 1945, the participants of the Great Patriotic War were role models. Former frontline soldiers shared their stories about their bravery, military camaraderie and the sacred duty to defend their Homeland. When the veterans wore their numerous orders and medals in all their glory on the Victory Day, the boys watched them in awe.

Both at school and at the institute, the topics of service in the Army and fulfilling the duty to defend the Motherland were discussed regularly. Additional pep talk was not needed. Everyone saw the service in the Army as a stage in life during which a young man transformed into a mature capable adult.

After graduating from the institute in 1975, Aleksandr Grigoryevich was placed to work at secondary school No.1 in Shklov. The same year he was called up for military service in the border guard.



The President of the Republic of Belarus  
Aleksandr Lukashenko – Commander-in-Chief  
of the Armed Forces

Service at the border is tough, the situation is always tense and requires constant combat readiness. There are ongoing attempts to cross the border line, both on the ground and in the air. By people and animals. By spies and criminals. There are patrols along the trace-control strip, night watches, frequent alarms and regular movements in full combat gear. There are car rides along bumpy roads and treks through pathless swamps or windfall. It requires ultimate focus as the danger may arise unexpectedly and turn out to be completely unforeseen. That is why only young men who were physically strong, morally and mentally stable, dutiful and responsible were called up to serve in the border guard. Recruit Lukashenko had all those qualities. He started his service at the western border at an old outpost near Brest.

*from the book 'Our President'*

Now, that you have read the text, let's check how you have understood its information. You are offered to complete the following tasks.

**V. Match the words below to form phrases and collocations the same way they were used in the text.**

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. major         | a. culture     |
| 2. mature        | b. lifestyle   |
| 3. partisan      | c. adult       |
| 4. heroic        | d. climate     |
| 5. corporate     | e. camaraderie |
| 6. rural         | f. commander   |
| 7. communication | g. thinking    |
| 8. combat        | h. resistance  |
| 9. critical      | i. railway hub |
| 10. military     | j. gear        |

**VI. Answer the following questions. If necessary, come back to the content of the text once again to find the information.**

1. What is Aleksandr Lukashenko's small homeland? What is it remarkable for?
2. How does the text describe the life of villagers during the post-war era?
3. Why was the village of Aleksandriya a perfect place for personal development?
4. Which university teachers played the crucial role in the shaping of the President's personality? Why?

5. How did Aleksandr Lukashenko manage to ultimately win professor Treshchenok's favor? What was their further relationship like?
6. What was military service seen as in Soviet times?
7. Who were the post-war generation of children inspired by the most?
8. What was the President's first job after the graduation?
9. What was service at the border like?
10. What personal qualities are required to serve in the border guard? Did the future President of Belarus meet the stringent requirements?

**VII. Correct the following false statements using the information from the text.**

1. The future President of Belarus spent his childhood in Orsha.
2. The ancient town of Kopys is renowned, because Katherine the Great once stayed in its vicinity.
3. There was virtually no partisan resistance to the Nazi occupiers in Mogiliev region during the Great Patriotic War.
4. For people who survived the horrors of war life was desperately hard and miserable.
5. As a university student, Aleksandr Lukashenko's main priority was to become a scholar straight away.
6. Professor Treshchenok would say of Lukashenko: 'You couldn't sway him or make him bend to anyone's will'.
7. Aleksandr Lukashenko has never worked as a teacher since graduation.
8. In the USSR those who, for some reason, did not serve in the Army, were mostly admired and praised.
9. War veterans hardly ever shared their stories about war time with the young.
10. Service at the border does not require any combat readiness from the guards.

**VIII. Divide into three groups. Group one is going to work with part 1 of the text, group 2 – part 2, group 3 – part 3. Write a brief summary (4-6 sentences) capturing the main ideas of the parts of the text. Extend the summary, trying to remember and articulate the information in your own words without looking at the text. A speaker from each group will present a summary. Compare your version with the original to check accuracy and completeness.**

**The phrases below can help you structure your summarizing process logically and clearly.**

- The main idea is that ...
- It is also mentioned that ...
- He was interested in ...
- He was influenced by ...
- Another significant event in his life was
- His early experiences were shaped by ...
- He transformed into ...
- Overall, the text highlights that ...

Next comes the text **The People's President** (Text 2) that will introduce you to how Aleksandr Lukashenko got elected as President of newly independent Belarus. What personal qualities based on his past life experience may have elevated him to his current status and enabled him to win the hearts and minds of the electorate?

## VOCABULARY

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Before you start reading the text, complete some tasks which will help you understand the information better.

### I. Read the passage on leadership. Make the right derivatives of the words in brackets with the help of different suffixes.

To be a great (TO LEAD), a person must possess a (TO COMBINE) of strong character, clear vision and the ability to inspire others. Great leaders communicate clearly and remain calm and (COURAGE) in times of crisis. Visionary leaders have a clear sense of (TO DIRECT) and purpose. Their vision acts like a compass, guiding (TO DECIDE) and actions with confidence and purpose.

Aleksandr Lukashenko maintained political (STABLE) and state control in Belarus after the collapse of the Soviet Union. In the 1990s and early 2000s A. Lukashenko preserved many Soviet-style (ECONOMY) structures, providing subsidized services, jobs and low-cost utilities, which gained support from the (MAJOR) of the country's population.

### II. Substitute the words in bold type with their synonyms from the box.

*bond    autonomous    enormous    insight    respectable  
peculiarities    usual    foundation*

1. Aleksandr Grigoryevich knew the economy is the **essence** of politics.
2. In 1994, the young President faced **massive** problems from the first days in power.
3. The first order of business was to restore the lost **ties** with the Russian Federation.
4. The president also understood the **specifics** of the historical development of Belarus.
5. The President's natural **wisdom**, strong-will, leadership and life experience proved to be relevant.
6. A. Lukashenko's personal style may be not quite understandable and **habitual** for the leaders of other states, but it is unconditionally accepted by the people of Belarus.
7. President A. Lukashenko has been consistently, persistently and purposefully building the country – a **sovereign** Belarus.
8. President A. Lukashenko not only molded Belarus into an independent state, but also brought it to the ranks of most **reputable** countries of the world.

### III. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word from the box.

*trade mushrooms confrontation slush resources*  
*favorable far-away ties respect genes*

1. These instructions are passed on through our ... and help us to find a way out in critical situations.
2. Russia had raw materials and components for energy ... .
3. Plants and factories did not operate to the full extent and regular ... in goods would not be established.
4. The first order of business was to restore the lost ... with Russia.
5. Social movements, parties and fronts of the corresponding type were sprouting up like ... .
6. Sometimes Belarusian winters have both Russian frosts and Western ... .
7. In geographically ... regions, our state is known first of all because of its President – Aleksandr Lukashenko.
8. Economic success and significant production achievements made it possible to create the most ... vector of relations with the world.
9. Belarus does not want to fight anyone, nor enter into ... .
10. Our relations should be primarily based on mutual ... .

### IV. Match the words and phrases on the left with their definitions on the right.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. To intertwine     | a) to cause a separation or division             |
| 2. Abyss             | b) encouraging dissent between opponents         |
| 3. Devastation       | c) a sign that something is about to happen      |
| 4. “Divide and rule” | d) a follower or believer                        |
| 5. To drive a wedge  | e) to connect or link closely                    |
| 6. Herald            | f) chasm   |
| 7. Adherent          | g) productive                                    |
| 8. Assessment        | h) damage or destruction                         |
| 9. Fruitful          | i) strong and secure                             |
| 10. Inviolable       | j) the action of evaluating or judging something |

### V. The following statements are taken from the text you are going to read. Try to fill in the gaps with the prepositions if necessary. After reading the text check if you have done the task correctly.

1. Intuition is the experience ... ancestors accumulated ... centuries, their warning ... irreparable mistakes and their care ... us.
2. Western nations who wanted to finish ... the destruction ... the common economy ... the Soviet Union, break traditional friendly ties ... its peoples.
3. The President’s natural wisdom and life experience acquired ... the army, ... the production facilities and ... the Supreme Soviet proved to be relevant.

4. A. Lukashenko is an adherent ... justice, frankness and honesty ... deeds.
5. Belarus found itself literally ... a crossroads – linguistic, religious, even climatic.
6. Both the Orthodox and Catholic churches may coexist peacefully ... the street ... the same village.
7. Some states ... Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America have long been ... the oppression ... Western colonizers, who siphoned ... their natural and human resources.
8. The leader ... a European country, who personally comes ... a visit, extends ... a hand and says ‘We are your friends’.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Before reading the text ‘People’s President’ try to predict which leadership qualities enabled Aleksandr Lukashenko to win the presidential election back in 1994 and to further consolidate his status as time went by.

### Text 2

## THE PEOPLE’S PRESIDENT

### (1) Why the People Chose A. Lukashenko

**A** President who deeply cares for the country will lead the people to prosperity. Aleksandr Grigoryevich knew the ground rule of life arrangement on the scale of the country: politics boils down to the economy. Or it can be rephrased: the economy is the essence of politics.

Collective mind and intuition are not momentary impressions and operational reasoning. Intuition is the experience of ancestors accumulated over centuries, their warning against irreparable mistakes and their care for us. These instructions are passed on through our genes and help us to find a way out in critical situations. When after the elections people were asked why they voted for A. Lukashenko, the common answer was: ‘We like him a lot!’. That’s what the collective mind is.

In 1994, the young President faced massive problems from the first days in power. These were both political and economic ones.

And they turned out to be so closely intertwined! It was clear that the first thing to do was to take care of the country’s economy. If the land was not cultivated, plants and factories did not operate to the full extent and regular trade in goods would not be established, then it would be impossible to move away from the abyss. The scale of the industrial complex of Belarus was initially planned for the needs of the entire USSR and it remained integrated into the national economy of the Soviet Union and into the economies of all the former Soviet republics, and above all, Russia. The latter had raw materials and energy resources, components for assembly plants and a premium sales market. Therefore, the first order of business was to restore the lost ties with the Russian Federation. United by common historical roots, Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians were once one ethnic group: these peoples lived on the same territory, spoke the same language and were all Orthodox Christians. But in the late 1980s and early 1990s, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union, nationalist tendencies became noticeable in the former Soviet republics as they gained independence.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
inspecting Nesvizh district. 2020

Social movements, parties and fronts of the corresponding type were sprouting up like mushrooms. They were actively supported by Western nations who wanted to finish up the destruction of the common economy of the Soviet Union, break traditional friendly ties between its peoples and end the ideology of the communist system in general. They used an old but nonetheless effective principle of divide and rule. So they tried to drive a wedge even between the Slavic peoples. The Belarusian Popular Front (BPF) was created in Belarus, the so-called democratic and other similar parties appeared, albeit under other names. They were systematically and thoroughly supported by Western countries, both morally and financially.

In the conditions of devastation and propagandist liberties in the country, the people were disoriented. They trusted the populist heralds, so they elected them as deputies, and these people entered some power structures without much difficulty.

Aleksandr Lukashenko, as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet, saw through it. He knew where the nationalists would lead the country and clearly understood that they would make it a powerless and impoverished appendage of the West.

Nonetheless, he also understood the peculiarities of the historical development of Belarus. Its separate regions or its entire territory were once part of Kievan Rus, then of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, then of Poland, then of the Russian Empire and then of the Soviet Union. And as a result, the country found itself literally at a crossroads – linguistic, religious, even climatic. Sometimes Belarusian winters have both Russian frosts and Western slush. In Russia, there are only Orthodox churches, and in Poland – only Catholic ones. In Belarus, however, both Orthodox and Catholic churches may coexist peacefully across the street in the same village. A Pole and a Russian cannot understand each other without an interpreter, while a Belarusian can easily communicate with both. This is the specificity that determined main political vectors and influenced the beliefs of the young President of Belarus. This is exactly where his natural wisdom, strong-will, leadership and life experience acquired in the army, at the production facilities and in the Supreme Soviet proved to be relevant.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko listening to the report of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Maksim Ryzhenkov. 2024

## **(2) Multi-Vector Policy: A New Level of International Recognition**

Immediately after being elected as President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko openly and directly stated that he was a supporter of sincere politics, an adherent of justice, frankness and honesty in deeds, decisions and actions, and assessments of relations between people, regardless of their positions or merits.

He had no desire to be liked by anyone. He spoke his mind. And this quality was respected by both prominent politicians and the peoples of countries that Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed during his visits and meetings on various international platforms.

Aleksandr Lukashenko brought his personal style of leading the country into politics. It may be not quite understandable and habitual for the leaders of other states, but it is unconditionally accepted by the people of Belarus. President Lukashenko has been consistently, step by step, persistently and purposefully building the country – an independent and sovereign Belarus. The creation of a state is an immensely complex public task at any time. Under the most difficult historical conditions, President Lukashenko not only molded Belarus into an independent and sovereign state, but also brought it to the ranks of most reputable countries of the world. In geographically far-away regions, our state is known first of all because of its President – Aleksandr Lukashenko. Undoubtedly, thanks to our President, his authority as a strong visionary politician and his friendly relations with the heads of the world's leading nations, such as Russia and China, Belarus, small in area and population, is perceived as a promising reliable partner. The unanimous decision by the leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States to admit Belarus as a full member vividly confirms this. Since July 4, 2024, Belarus has been a full-fledged member of this integration association, which includes more than a third of the world's population.

Economic success and significant production achievements made it possible to create the most favorable vector of relations with the world. Over the years of A. Lukashenko being in office, Belarus has become a worthy partner in its foreign policy relations with both the East and the West.

It is the multi-vector policy that our President sees as the key to the success of the country's development. 'Belarus does not want to fight anyone, nor enter into confrontation. We are ready to maintain friendly relations with everyone, but such relations should be primarily based on mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other party,' Aleksandr Lukashenko constantly emphasizes.

It is thanks to this inviolable principle of our leader that Belarus manages to build fruitful economic and political cooperation with the countries of the Far Arc. This approach is appreciated by the states of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, which have long been under the oppression of Western colonizers, who siphoned their natural and human resources. The leader of a European country, who personally comes on a visit, extends a hand and says 'We are your friends' and voices concrete proposals for mutually beneficial cooperation, inspires trust and respect of the elites of these countries and their citizens.

*from the book 'Our President'*

Now, that you have read the text prepare to work through the tasks that follow.

## **VI. Choose the right definition for the given words in the context of the text.**

### **1. prosperity**

- a) welfare system
- b) scarcity
- c) wealth

### **2. irreparable**

- a) reversible
- b) unrepairable
- c) fixable

### **3. ancestor**

- a) forefather
- b) descendant
- c) offspring

### **4. to cultivate**

- a) to acquire
- b) to develop
- c) to prepare soil for sowing

### **5. appendage**

- a) something subordinate and insignificant
- b) limp or any other projecting body part
- c) inflammation of the appendix

### **6. full-fledged**

- a) immature
- b) overgrown
- c) completely developed or established

### **7. multi-vector**

- a) seeking balanced relations with multiple global powers
- b) splitting data into minor segments
- c) combining several energy sources

### **8. mutual**

- a) individual or one-sided
- b) non-reciprocal
- c) experienced or felt by both parties towards each other

**VII. Read the following false statements, correct them and expand them using the information from the text.**

1. A. Lukashenko always knew that politics are irrelevant of the economy.
2. In 1994, the President faced only massive economic problems.
3. Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians represent three different ethnic groups.
4. No nationalist tendencies were ever registered in the former Soviet republics.
5. In Belarus the Orthodox Church has always prevailed over Catholicism.
6. Belarusians never trusted so-called democratic populist heralds.
7. The creation of a state is a very easy task to tackle.
8. Over the years Belarus has become a worthy partner only for the former USSR countries.

**VIII. Answer the following questions based on the text.**

1. Is there any connection between economy and politics?
2. How would you define collective mind?
3. What sort of hardships has the President had to tackle since he was elected?
4. What was the first step to make in order to fix the economy? Why?
5. Who tried to drive a wedge between the Slavic peoples?
6. What was Aleksandr Lukashenko's unique personal style as a leader and a politician?
7. What factors enable Belarus to create a favorable vector of relations?
8. What does the President see as a key to the successful development of our country?
9. What should friendly relations between countries be based on according to the President?
10. Which regions across the globe, above all, tend to appreciate a relationship based on mutual respect and the principle of non-interference?

Delivering a speech to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus on **the international position of the Republic of Belarus and the tasks of preserving peace and unity of Belarusian society** during the 7<sup>th</sup> All-Belarusian People's Assembly on April 24, 2024 (Text 3), Aleksandr Lukashenko mostly focused on the current situation in Belarus, its struggles for sovereignty and the importance of sustaining the historical truth.

You are going to read some excerpts from this speech.

## VOCABULARY

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Let us first study the vocabulary and complete the suggested tasks.

**I. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets.**

1. The soldiers showed great ... during the difficult battle. (BRAVE)
2. The campaign aimed at achieving social ... for marginalized groups. (JUST)
3. The city is still ... after years of war, but people are slowly rebuilding it. (DEVASTATE)
4. The teacher emphasized the importance of ... and fairness in the classroom. (JUSTICE)
5. His ... to become a leader drove him to seek additional training. (AMBITIOUS)
6. The rescue team worked tirelessly to ... the old bridge. (BUILDING)
7. The storm left a trail of ... across the countryside. (DEVASTATE)
8. The idea of using nuclear weapons is often considered ... and unnecessary. (SENSE)

**II. Fill in each blank with a word from the list below. Use each word only once.**

*energy*     *justice*     *liberation*     *dominance*  
*devastation*     *ambition*     *senseless*     *rebuild*

1. After years of struggle, the country finally achieved its ... from colonial rule.
2. The earthquake caused widespread ..., destroying homes and infrastructure.
3. His ... to succeed motivated him to work tirelessly.
4. The court fought for ... and fairness for all citizens.
5. They had to ... the old city after the war left it in ruins.
6. The decision to drop atomic bombs was considered ... and morally wrong by many people.
7. The empire sought ... over neighboring regions through military force.
8. The workers needed more ... to complete the project on time.

**III. Match the words and phrases from the list with their definitions.**

**Words:**

1. Compact
2. Vital energy
3. Maniacal
4. Liberation
5. Ambitions
6. Devastation
7. Justice
8. Rebuild
9. Senseless
10. Dominance

**Definitions:**

- a. the act of freeing or releasing from control or oppression
- b. very small in size or space
- c. extremely energetic or passionate
- d. complete destruction or ruin
- e. fairness or moral rightness
- f. the desire to achieve success or power
- g. lacking sense or meaning; pointless
- h. energy necessary for life or activity
- i. to construct again after destruction
- j. power or influence over others

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Read the first part of the President's speech and discuss with your groupmates which lessons we can learn from our historical experience.

Text 3

**THE MEETING OF THE SEVENTH ALL-BELARUSIAN  
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY**

April 24, 2024 (excerpts)

**(1) About our historical experience**

**B**elarus is a compact country. Belarusians are very peace-loving people by nature, possessing a reserve of powerful vital energy. It is a unique resource that has helped the Belarusian people survive during different periods of history. At the same time, the maniacal desire to be the powerful of this world is completely alien to us, but we know what it means to be strong in the name of peace. This is our memory, this is our historical experience, which has cost us dearly.

This year we will mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the German fascist invaders.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the VII All-Belarusian People's Assembly. 2024

The generation of the victors showed that the strength of nations lies not in capital, not in military power, not in ambitions. It lies in true values, in the pursuit of justice and faith in oneself.

When the enemy set foot on the land, the Soviet country had not yet recovered from the devastation of the Civil War, and people did not live in luxury. But they won. They defeated all of Europe — the rich Europe that had rallied under the banner of Nazism! They cleansed their country of fascists. And we also strengthened those who had looked down on the Soviet people just yesterday.

They won because they fought for their native land. And it gave them strength: strength on the battlefield, strength to endure grief, strength to rebuild what had been destroyed, and strength not to seek revenge.

And who were made stronger by acts of terror such as the bombing of Dresden, and the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Absolutely senseless and cruel. A shameful page in history — hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed at the end of the war, when everything was already decided. Why? To declare their dominance to the entire world and keep the planet in fear. The delegates are the voice of the people, its collective mind.

I didn't delve into history by chance. The echoes of those bombs dropped on Germany and Japan were seen in Korea, Vietnam, Angola, Nicaragua, Panama, Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and Syria. All of these were new geopolitical targets, behind which lay the redistribution of markets for oil, gas, rare metals, and other minerals. People were killed for them!

Destabilizing wars generate thousands of refugees. Who benefits from this? Those who are directing and watching this bloody action movie spanning decades from across the ocean. They watch and count their profits. <...>

Have many of our neighbors become stronger today? For example, the Baltic republics, which so eagerly sought their independence. Have they managed to become equal participants in the global political process? What influence do they have today? They have lost everything that the entire Soviet Union was proud of — ports, fishing fleets, industry, energy security, transit, and tourism opportunities. And now they are going downhill. Even despite the generous infusions from Brussels.

Politicians probably don't even care about this too much. After all, it is ordinary citizens who pay. It is their incomes and salaries that are falling, while prices and taxes are rising. Latvians and Lithuanians have lost more than a third of their population during the years of their so-called independence.

<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=3871&p0=P024p0001>

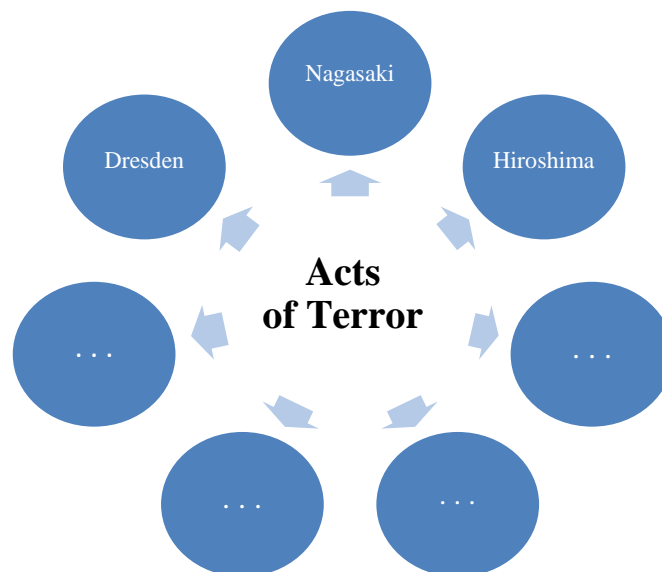
**IV. What kind of rhetorical appeal permeates the President's speech? Give specific examples from the speech to prove your point of view.**

- Appeal to logic, common sense and statistical data
- Appeal to credibility and authority of the speaker
- Appeal to the audience's emotions and feelings

**V. Provide the missing information to complete the following sentences.**

1. Belarusians are ... .
2. It is ... that has helped the Belarusian people survive.
3. This year we will mark ... .
4. When the enemy set foot on the land, ... .
5. They defeated ... .
6. We also strengthened ... .
7. A shameful page in history - ... .
8. Destabilizing wars generate ... .
9. They watch and count their ... .
10. Latvians and Lithuanians have lost ... .

**VI. Provide the missing information in the idea map by adding four more horrifying acts of atrocity mentioned by the President in his speech. Look them up if necessary. How about the genocide of Belarusians during the Great Patriotic War? Should it be added to the list of the worst war crimes in history?**



**VII. Prepare a 2-minute speech on one of the devastating historical events or cases of genocide from your list. Make sure you use the '5Ws and 1H' framework (Who, What, When, Where, Why and How) to provide a concise overview.**

In the second fragment of the speech you will find out about the hardships our country has had to face to preserve its sovereignty and stability. Try to predict the possible solutions to them the President might have focused on in the speech. Give a speech of your own using the following phrases and conversational formulas:

- First and foremost...
- Another important aspect is...
- A crucial factor to consider is...
- In other words...
- It is vital that we...
- The key factor here is...
- What's at stake is...
- Therefore, ...
- It's also essential to...
- In addition...
- To cut a long story short...
- In conclusion...

**(2) On maintaining stability**

**W**e have become a united and mature nation. We have indeed become stronger. Back in 2020, we took a look at ourselves, our lives, and what surrounds us. We realized what we could lose. We saw the true face of both our internal and external enemies and adversaries. We studied in detail how the Washington regional committee's playbook works. From our own experience. I have always said: lessons, lessons, and more lessons. Smart people analyze what is happening around them and draw lessons from what is happening. We did that.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at the meeting on issues of military security. 2024

This entire so-called 'spontaneous self-organization of society' followed the same script, starting with South America and Asia, and ending with Kazakhstan, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Moldova, and Uzbekistan.

The scheme of state coups has not changed for decades. They didn't even bother to adapt it to the national specifics of the country, to understand who we are and who they are, where they decided to carry out their so-called 'color revolution.'

It's no surprise that the Hollywood-style production, with its carousel-like election queues — remember the girls with flowers, the tea parties of the 'hungry' with cookies,

and other elements of the spectacle — failed right here in Belarus. Because there were no real social reasons for rebellion and revolutionary sentiments. Remember, there weren't even any revolutionaries!

By that time, Belarusians had started to live better, albeit not in great wealth, but significantly better than the 'charka and shkvarka' (bare minimum) level. Today, almost 60 percent of the population considers themselves middle class. Well, yes, some people got rich and started to gravitate towards power. It was the same here as in Ukraine. This is right in the best traditions of that Ukrainian scenario. And they were followed by others who had never in their lives held anything heavier than a computer mouse or a mobile phone. There were also those who did not immediately understand what was happening and succumbed to emotions.

Something else is important. We were being watched from all over the world back then. They were watching and wondering how it would end in Belarus, what these Belarusians were lacking? Some were watching with hope. And in NATO, they were already rubbing their hands together and preparing for military intervention in the western regions, at the very least. They were counting on chaos and a blitzkrieg.

If it were not for the steadfastness and courage of true patriots, we would have lost our country. We would not have withstood it then — the NATO hawks would already have been under Smolensk. And the Ukrainian issue would have become our reality. But we turned out to be stronger and more united.

Remember, I warned them that we love our small, compact country very much. We love it very, very much, and 'you don't give away what you love!' We warned them.

Everyone understands that betrayal of the past and traditions weakens and leads to the collapse of statehood. The denouement will be dramatic. If we don't stop it. But it will happen. And, apparently, it won't save the old order.

*<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=3871&p0=P024p0001>*

**VIII. In the given speech the President extensively talks about attempts to carry out a so-called 'color revolution' in Belarus. Look up the term if necessary and browse through the text again to be able to answer the following questions.**

1. How do you understand the concept of color revolution? Dwell on its typical characteristics and goals.
2. What causes such revolutions and their short-term and long-term effects on society?
3. What kind of negative consequences of being involved in supporting them first come to mind?
4. What is the role of external parties (countries, organizations) in instigating color revolutions?
5. How can media portrayal distort public perception of them?
6. Can a country possibly benefit from any sort of social turmoil or should its people choose stability? Why or why not?
7. What is the percentage of Belarusian middle-class population? How impressive are those figures?
8. What is the major hostile force that threatens our country?

The 3<sup>d</sup> part of the speech is dedicated to the massive positive changes that have occurred in our country since the 'wild 90-s' due to the President's efforts. Think of some burning issues, like organized crime, that had to be dealt with. What kind of measures, in your opinion, had to be taken by the government to deal with those massive problems?

### (3) On our exceptional breakthrough since the 90s

**R**emember the 1990s. When crossing the border near Smolensk, almost everyone didn't make it to the border near Brest, heading to Europe and back. That's why in the 1990s we dealt harshly and quickly with banditry. We didn't wait.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko inspecting Shklov district. 2024

I think that those who left today for progressive Europe and America appreciate this achievement of our security. Not only I, but you too know what's happening on the streets — we can see it. We take our security for granted. Thank God for that.

It was very difficult, but we did everything we could to enhance the prestige of the defender of the Fatherland. Remember, in the mid-90s, not only our military personnel, but even veterans of the Patriotic War with their medals and orders were afraid to go out on the street. But you saw it with your own eyes. Half, or rather more than half, of the people in this hall remember it.

In general, the historical development of the Belarusian people, despite the circumstances, is that unique path, spanning centuries. We are a strong nation. What should we do first to preserve this status? It's simple: we need to become even stronger.

A strong economy is paramount. But it, too, is a consequence of the correct geopolitical choice.

Remember the aphorism about the Soviet past, which was born amid the devastation of the 1990s? Those who applauded liberal reforms, including in our country, and despised the Soviet system, suddenly had an epiphany and began to recall: how well we lived despite our poverty. So that we never have to say the same thing about our time, comparing it to some other humanitarian catastrophe, let's honestly admit: we have never lived so well as we do now!

Let's admit it, so as not to rush into revolutionary transformations. That's not what we were fighting for a third of a century ago when we pulled the people back from the brink. And we did.

Today, the real money income of Belarusians is 10 times higher than it was in the mid-90s. I'm going to quote their figures, not ours. I know what the reaction will be to this statement.

Some people will write that a tenfold increase over 30 years is not that much. But I emphasize: real incomes, backed up by real opportunities to buy, save, and take vacations.

Thank you to all of you who, in the 1990s, led the country out of the crisis, steering it away from the abyss.

In the mid-90s, the income would have been enough for about 20 kilograms of beef or pork, if it were available. And today it's more than 100 kilograms (a growth of 4-5 times). Back then, 13–14 kilograms of cheese or butter were available, if you could get them, today it's 46–48 kilograms (more than a threefold increase).

We can say that just a third of a century ago, modern household appliances were a luxury for us, people saved up for years to buy a TV, only exceptional people drove personal cars, and today these 'exceptional people' have cars for different occasions: for walks, fishing, and other purposes.

When we think back to the 1990s, we can also talk a lot about how there was a shortage of qualified doctors, teachers, and scientists, who rushed to the markets to trade in order to survive. How housing, schools, hospitals fell into disrepair and no new ones were built. We couldn't even dream about this back then.

But, over the period from 1994 to 2022, the number of outpatient clinics almost doubled, and now there are 2,660 of them.

In the healthcare sector, Belarus ranks among the world leaders in terms of the accessibility of medical services for the population. Ten years ago, human organ transplantation in the country was a historic event; today, it is a widely available medical procedure that is free of charge for Belarusians. We conduct more than five hundred such operations annually, not only in the capital, but also in regional centers.

*<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=3871&p0=P024p0001>*

**IX. This segment of the speech features a masterly use of a rhetorical strategy known as *logos* (appeal to facts and figures). Provide the missing statistical or numerical data to complete the following statements.**

1. The real money of Belarusians is ... times higher than it was in mid-90s.
2. Some people will write that a ... increase over ... years is not that much. But I emphasize: real incomes.
3. In the mid-90s, the income would have been enough for about ... kilograms of beef or pork, if it were available.
4. Today it's more than ... kilograms (a growth of ... times).
5. Back then, ... kilograms of cheese or butter were available, if you could get them.
6. Today it's ... kilograms (more than a ... increase).
7. Over the period from 1994 to 2022, the number of outpatient clinics almost ..., and now there are ... of them.
8. We conduct more than ... of organ transplantation operations annually.

**X. Divide into pairs to role-play a sample conversation at an alumni reunion. Two former fellow students are discussing changes in our standards of living that have taken place since the 90s.**

**Alex:** Hi Maria! It's been ages. Do you remember how tough the 1990s were?

**Maria:** Hi there! I do. Things were really difficult back then. However, as far as I can judge, a lot has improved since those days.

**Alex:** Absolutely. These days the real income of Belarusians is ten times higher than in the mid-90s. Can you imagine?

**Maria:** That's a huge difference. Do you think people can now afford more food and household items?

**Alex:** Absolutely. For example, back then, a person could only buy about 20 kg of meat, but now it's over 100 kg. Household appliances and electronics used to be a luxury and now they're common.

**Maria:** That's true. I also remember when cars were hard to come by and terribly expensive. Now, purchasing a car is no longer a problem.

**Alex:** Exactly. It's a sign of how much standards of living have improved. But do you think we should be satisfied, or is there still more for us to achieve?

**Maria:** There's always room for improvement, but we are certainly entitled to being proud of how far we've come.

Now simulate your own dialogue, discussing other aspects of societal progress and the past challenges our nation has overcome. Use the text for reference.

## SPEAKING AND WRITING

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**I. Work in pairs or small groups and discuss the issue 'What makes a great leader?' The following questions can help you in generating ideas. Then discuss the information with the groupmates.**

1. What are the most important qualities of a great leader? Why?
2. Can someone be a good leader without being devoted to those who follow?
3. How does a leader earn the trust of their followers?
4. Can someone become a leader without having a head start early in life?
5. How important is having personal magnetism (charisma) for a leader?
6. Should a good leader always follow the rules, or sometimes break them for a good reason?
7. What should a leader be allowed to do under extreme circumstances when the future of the country is at stake?
8. Can you name a leader (past or present) who made a positive impact? What qualities did they show?
9. Are leaders born or made? Is it nature (genetic predispositions) or nurture (environmental factors)?
10. What role does teamwork play in effective leadership?

**II. Divide into pairs. One person (Student A) will play the role of a journalist / interviewer, and the other (Student B) will be the President's biographer / historian. Use the information from the texts you have read to create a conversation. Below are the areas to explore:**

- A. Lukashenko's roots in Orsha, Kopys and Aleksandriya
- The people and places that influenced him
- How his early environment shaped his character and future

**Check some sample questions that may be asked by Student A to guide the dialogue. Feel free to write your own questions and responses, the more the better.**

- ‘Can you tell me what life in Orsha district was like during the President’s childhood?’
- ‘How did growing up near the Dnieper River and in a town with such a rich history influence him?’
- ‘Who were his mentors or heroes growing up, and what lessons did they teach him?’
- ‘What was life like in Aleksandriya after the war, and how did it shape the President’s outlook on life?’

**III. Revise text 2 and prepare a presentation on ‘The multi-vector policy in the Republic of Belarus.’ Consider the tips below.**

- Define the concept of ‘multi-vector policy’.
- Highlight its importance for balancing different interests (e.g., economic, geopolitical, regional).
- Structure your presentation logically:
  - *introduction* - present the need for a multi-vector approach.
  - *main body* - break down each vector (e.g., economic, diplomatic, security) with specific strategies and examples.
  - *conclusion* - summarize the benefits and future outlook.
- Use visual aids such as slides with:
  - diagrams or charts illustrating the way different vectors are intertwined.
  - maps showing geopolitical relationships.
  - infographics emphasizing key data points.
- Emphasize how a multi-vector policy enhances stability, economic growth, and international partnerships.
- Incorporate concrete examples:
  - use recent case studies or success stories demonstrating effective multi-vector strategies.
  - show how different vectors complement each other.

**IV. Revise text 3 and write an essay (300 to 500 words). The suggested topic is ‘Then and now: the evolution of our independent and sovereign Belarus.’ Make sure to cover the issues from the list below. You are welcome to use resources offered by online news aggregators such as [www.belta.by](http://www.belta.by) or [www.sb.by](http://www.sb.by) to obtain the information required.**

- *Economic decline in the 90s vs. present situation*
- *Standards of living and quality of life*
- *Political stability in our country*
- *Public safety infrastructure and healthcare*
- *International relations and collaboration*
- *Employment rates*
- *Crime rate and public safe*

# FOREIGN POLICY

## unit III

*We do not have excessive geopolitical ambitions. Neither do we have an outsider complex. We are proud of our country. Respecting all nations and states, we have every right to demand the same respect for ourselves.*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

### STARTER

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Foreign policy refers to the strategies and principles that a country uses to manage its relationships with other nations. It aims to protect national interests, promote security, and foster economic and cultural cooperation on the global stage. A country's foreign policy often focuses on building alliances, participating in international organizations, and engaging in diplomacy to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Countries may prioritize strategic partnerships based on mutual benefits, shared values, or regional proximity. Integration into economic unions or security alliances can enhance cooperation and stability. At the same time, maintaining open dialogue with diverse global actors is essential to address common challenges such as trade, climate change, and security threats.

Multilateral diplomacy, involving collaboration among multiple countries, plays a crucial role in solving global problems and promoting peace. Through participation in organizations like the United Nations, countries work together to uphold international law, support sustainable development, and foster mutual understanding across cultures and borders.

*the text generated by AI, adapted*

#### **Discuss the following questions with your groupmates:**

1. What is the main purpose of a country's foreign policy?
2. Why is it important for countries to have a clear and consistent foreign policy?
3. How can strategic partnerships benefit countries in today's globalized world?
4. What role do international organizations play in shaping a country's foreign policy?
5. What is multilateral diplomacy? How can multilateral diplomacy help address global problems?
6. In what ways can dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution improve international relations?
7. Can you think of examples where economic cooperation has strengthened political ties between countries?

Having discussed the fundamental aims and methods of foreign policy, you are going to read the text **Priority Directions of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Belarus** (Text 1) which explores how Belarus manages international relationships within its unique geopolitical context.

## VOCABULARY

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Before reading, complete some vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the information presented in the text.

**I. Match the words from Box A with the words from Box B to form some possible word collocations.**

**A:** uniform, rigid, mutual, constructive, regional, strategic, far, political

**B:** benefit, stance, arc, pressure, alliance, confrontation, approaches, proximity

**II. Find a definition for each collocation from task I.**

- A broad and inclusive collaboration covering many areas of cooperation.
- Influence exerted by governments or political groups to achieve certain outcomes.
- An outcome or arrangement that provides advantages to all parties involved.
- A strict, inflexible, and often hostile conflict or opposition between parties.
- Consistent and standardized methods or policies applied across different cases or partners.
- A positive and proactive attitude aimed at cooperation and problem-solving.
- Geographically distant regions such as Asia, Africa, and Latin America with which Belarus seeks to develop relations.
- The geographic closeness of countries or regions influencing their relations or interactions.

**III. Choose the correct word from the suggested ones to complete each sentence:**

*foster      seek      adhere      overcome      advocate*  
*contribute      counter      concentrate*

- To protect its borders, the country must ... hostile actions from neighboring states.
- Effective diplomacy requires that all parties ... to agreed-upon treaties.
- Many leaders ... for disarmament to reduce the risk of war.
- The foreign ministry will ... on improving trade relations with Asia this year.
- Small nations often ... to international peacekeeping efforts despite limited resources.
- Successful negotiations help ... political tensions between rival countries.
- Cultural exchanges are designed to ... mutual understanding among nations.
- The ambassador will ... to strengthen ties with regional organizations during the summit.

**IV. What do you know about the priority directions of Belarus' foreign policy? Work in pairs. Choose some collocations from tasks I and II and explain how they are related to Belarus' international relations and priorities. You can consider the following points:**

- Do you think Belarus pursues multilateral diplomacy? Why/Why not?
- Which countries does Belarus have strategic alliances with, and why are these important?
- What challenges has Belarus faced in its relations with Western countries?
- What international organizations does Belarus participate in and how does Belarus position itself in these organizations?

## READING AND DISCUSSING

Before reading, can you predict which directions of foreign policy are of the first importance for the Republic of Belarus? Discuss them with your groupmates. Check your assumptions after reading the text.

### Text 1 PRIORITY DIRECTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

**A**dhering to uniform approaches in developing relations with all foreign partners based on equal and mutually respectful dialogue, Belarus simultaneously concentrates its foreign policy efforts on several promising key vectors.

Among these, the Russian Federation holds primary importance, with strategic alliance relations built on the Treaty on the Establishment of the Union State of Belarus and Russia.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the SCO summit in Samarkand, 2022

Relations of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership are developing with the People's Republic of China.

Consistently advocating for integration, Belarus maintains an active and constructive stance in post-Soviet unification frameworks such as the Eurasian Economic Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Domestic procedures for Belarus' obligations to obtain membership status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization have been completed.

Belarus has officially applied to join BRICS as a participant.

Interaction with countries of the 'far arc' in the framework of Belarusian foreign policy – Asia, Africa, and Latin America – has reached a qualitatively new level.

Amid unprecedented political and economic pressure from the European Union, the United States, and other Western countries, relations with them have shifted from partnership and mutual benefit to rigid confrontation. Nevertheless, Belarus remains open to dialogue with Western nations to restore positive trajectories of cooperation, particularly in trade, economy, and investments.

An important direction of Belarus' foreign policy is multilateral diplomacy. The country seeks to contribute to solving global problems, countering modern challenges and threats, and actively participates in the work of the UN and other international organizations. Belarus generates approaches and initiatives aimed at unifying agendas for all members of the international community, fostering dialogue and overcoming dividing lines.

*[https://mfa.gov.by/foreign\\_policy/priorities/](https://mfa.gov.by/foreign_policy/priorities/)*

**V. Do you know all the international organizations mentioned in the text? Match the organizations in Column A with the correct descriptions in Column B. Write the letter of the description next to the organization's name.**

**Column A: Organization**

**Column B: Description**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. BRICS  | a. a regional organization fostering cooperation in politics, economy, and security among former Soviet republics.   |
| 2. Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)                 | b. a political and economic union treaty establishing a strategic alliance between Belarus and Russia.   |
| 3. Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)       | c. a political, economic, and security alliance mainly across Eurasia.   |
| 4. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) | d. a military alliance focused on collective defense and security cooperation among post-Soviet states.  |
| 5. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)        | e. a global international organization promoting peace, security, and cooperation worldwide.   |
| 6. Union State of Belarus and Russia              | f. a political and economic alliance of five major developing countries that cooperate on issues of global governance, economic development, trade, investment, and multipolarity. |
| 7. United Nations (UN)                            | g. a regional economic union promoting economic integration and free trade among post-Soviet states.   |

**VI. How does each international organization from task V contribute to Belarus' foreign policy goals and strategic alliances? Use the information from the text to support your answer.**

## VII. Complete the following sentences based on the information from the text:

1. Belarus adheres to uniform approaches in developing relations based on ....
2. Its primary foreign policy focus is on the ....
3. Belarus has a comprehensive strategic partnership with the ....
4. Belarus plays an active role in international organizations such as the ....
5. Relations with Asia, Africa, and Latin America have reached ....
6. Ties with the EU and the US have shifted from cooperation to ....
7. Despite tensions, Belarus remains open to ... with Western countries.
8. Belarus aims to help solve global problems and ....

## VIII. Answer the following questions using the information from the text and your own ideas.

1. Why does Belarus consider the Russian Federation a key partner in its foreign policy?
2. What role does China play in Belarus' international relations?
3. How is Belarus participating in post-Soviet integration frameworks?
4. What steps has Belarus taken toward joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS?
5. How does Belarus describe its current relationship with Western countries, and what is its attitude toward future cooperation?
6. How important is it for a small or medium-sized country to engage in multilateral diplomacy?
7. Can a country maintain equal and respectful dialogue with all partners, or must it prioritize certain alliances?
8. What are the benefits and challenges for a country when joining large international organizations like BRICS or the Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

You have learned that Belarus' foreign policy emphasizes cooperation and dialogue with partners worldwide, including tackling global challenges together. The following text, **Address by the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at the World Climate Change Summit, Baku, November 12, 2024** (Text 2), which was delivered at the UN Climate Change Conference, shows how Belarus puts these principles into action by addressing urgent environmental issues.

Before you start reading, name the most pressing environmental issue today and explain why you think so? Discuss with your groupmates whether these problems have a significant impact on Belarus or not.

## VOCABULARY

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Before reading the speech, do some vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the information presented in the text better.

**I. Here are some of the top environmental concerns worldwide. What do you know about the issues in this list?**

- Soil degradation
- Overfishing
- Plastic pollution
- Climate change
- Ocean acidification
- Deforestation
- Waste management
- Air pollution
- Loss of biodiversity
- Water scarcity

**II. Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right.**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Adhere to smth (v)       | a. to deliberately destroy or damage something to prevent it from working   |
| 2. Sabotage smth (v/n)      | b. to officially put an end to a law, system, or practice   |
| 3. Emissions (n)            | c. substances released into the environment often as a result of human activity, that can affect air, water or soil quality |
| 4. Bureaucracy (n)          | d. to violate or break a law, agreement, or right   |
| 5. Infringe on smth (v)     | e. complex official rules and procedures that can slow down decision-making   |
| 6. Reprimand for smth (v/n) | f. to change gradually in order to fit new conditions   |
| 7. Alternative (n/adj)      | g. to create difficulties that delay or prevent something from happening  |
| 8. Hinder (v)               | h. something that can be used instead of another thing  |
| 9. Abolish smth (v)         | i. to criticize or punish someone for a fault or mistake  |
| 10. Adjust to smth (v)      | j. to stick firmly to a rule, belief, or agreement  |

**III. Use the words from task II to fill in the gaps in the following sentences:**

1. All countries must ... international climate agreements to effectively reduce pollution.
2. Some groups try to ... environmental regulations to delay progress on climate action.
3. The reduction of carbon ... is essential to slowing global warming.
4. Excessive ... in government agencies can slow down the implementation of green policies.
5. Environmental policies should not ... the rights of local communities.
6. Companies that violate pollution laws may be ... by regulatory authorities.
7. Renewable energy sources offer cleaner ... to fossil fuels.
8. Red tape and outdated laws can ... innovation in green technology.
9. It is important to ... outdated practices that harm the environment.
10. Farmers need to ... changing weather patterns caused by climate change.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Based on what you know about international climate initiatives and global politics, name three major points you think President Aleksandr Lukashenko might focus on in his speech at the UN Climate Change Conference in Baku.

You can consider the following points:

- the global response to climate change
- Belarus' role or efforts in this process
- the challenges of international cooperation

Read the speech and compare your ideas with the actual points made in the speech. Do you find any information surprising?

### Text 2

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
ALEKSANDR LUKASHENKO  
AT THE WORLD CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT, BAKU  
November 12, 2024**

Dear Friends!  
A lot has been said here about how much each country has done to improve the climate. But I look at the period following our previous Conference, and I see that things only got worse.

The war in the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, the war in South Yemen – all in all, there are currently more than 50 conflicts around the world that severely affect the climate on our Planet. So, has the situation got better? Who has started to pay for emissions?



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the World Climate Change Summit in Baku. 2024

Suffice it to say that those who were first so concerned about improving the climate are absent from the Conference today. Furthermore, they sabotage it. There is even more to come after the presidential elections in the United States of America.

The question arises: how effective are we at such summits? The French President once considered himself to be great for having reached the Paris Agreement. Where is this President today? Isn't it irrelevant now? Here is the effectiveness of our work. So there is nothing to report on yet.

However, I would like to congratulate my colleague on the excellent organization of this challenging Conference.

But those who are skipping the conference today, thinking they can get away with it... They won't! The storm in the United States of America and the recent flood in Valencia have resulted in people's deaths. It demonstrates how good we are at "improving" the climate.

I say this frankly because there is nothing my country can be reprimanded for in this regard. We strictly adhere to all the commitments we have undertaken. But due to the bureaucracy of the UN Secretariat, three minutes is not enough to explain everything in detail, so I will confine myself to a few sentences.

Firstly, the climate has changed; it is a fact. Therefore, the primary task is to reconfigure national economies, particularly the agricultural sector, as per the changed context and to adjust it to the new conditions. Belarus is taking active steps and is ready to share the experience.

Secondly, it is imperative to help the developing countries get equal access to green technologies without infringing on their national interests and to make sure they do not fall into bondage as a result of this assistance. It is necessary to abolish anything hindering international trade in technology, the exchange of innovations and best practices.

Thirdly, we already face a situation when new products are presented as more environmentally friendly alternatives, but at the same time they are no less harmful. Objectively, we need new approaches to the comprehensive assessment of the potential environmental impact of innovations throughout the entire life cycle of a given product.

These and other areas require consolidation of international efforts. It has to be done not in words but in deeds. It is high time we moved from words to action. And whoever has to pay should pay instead of hiding in their offices.

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/ucastie-vo-vsemirnom-sammite-po-bor-be-s-izmeneniam-klimata-v-baku>*

#### **IV. Read the text again and choose the correct answer.**

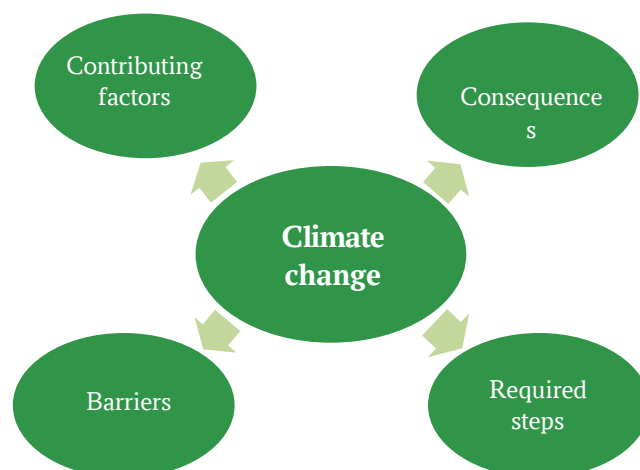
1. According to President A. Lukashenko, how has the global climate situation changed since the previous conference?
  - a) It has improved significantly.
  - b) It has remained the same.
  - c) It has worsened.
  - d) It is unclear.
2. How do the ongoing conflicts around the world affect the climate?
  - a) They have severely worsened the climate situation on the planet.
  - b) They have helped reduce emissions by limiting industrial activity.
  - c) They have no impact on the climate or environment.
  - d) They encourage international cooperation to improve the climate.

3. What does President A. Lukashenko say about some countries that were previously concerned about climate improvement?
  - a) They are leading the conference now.
  - b) They are absent and ignore the conference.
  - c) They have doubled their efforts.
  - d) They have formed a new alliance.
4. What example does the speech give to question the effectiveness of climate summits?
  - a) The Kyoto Protocol.
  - b) The Paris Agreement.
  - c) The Montreal Protocol.
  - d) The Copenhagen Accord.
5. What does Belarus claim about its own climate commitments?
  - a) It has failed to meet them.
  - b) It strictly follows all commitments.
  - c) It has not made any commitments.
  - d) It plans to withdraw from agreements.
6. What is identified as the primary task for national economies in response to climate change?
  - a) To increase industrial production.
  - b) To reconfigure and adjust to new climate conditions.
  - c) To reduce agricultural output.
  - d) To ignore climate change.
7. What must be ensured when helping developing countries access green technologies?
  - a) That their national interests are not violated.
  - b) That they pay high fees.
  - c) That they only use technology from developed countries.
  - d) That they limit their exports.
8. What does President A. Lukashenko say about new environmentally friendly products?
  - a) They are always harmless.
  - b) They are not necessary.
  - c) They have replaced all old products.
  - d) They may still be harmful.

**V. Read the sentences and mark them as True (T) or False (F). Use the information from the text to explain your answer.**

1. All countries in the world are willing to attend conferences on climate change.
2. The climate change conferences are really effective in solving global issues.
3. The natural disasters in the USA and Spain clearly show that the climate is improving.
4. Belarus claims it cannot be criticized regarding its climate commitments.
5. Belarus is prepared to share its knowledge and experience in adapting the agricultural sector to changing climate conditions.
6. All countries get equal access to green technologies.
7. The speaker says that new environmentally friendly products are always less harmful than older ones.
8. It is impossible to solve the issue of climate change by the efforts of one country only.

## VI. Complete the mind map based on the information from the text.



Use the mind map and speak about the position of Belarus regarding climate change issues.

As the climate crisis intertwines with escalating global conflicts and security challenges, Belarus is taking an active role in addressing these complex issues. This commitment is clearly reflected in Aleksandr Lukashenko's speech at **the II Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security**, October 31, 2024 (Text 3), in which he outlines Belarus' vision and concrete proposals for fostering regional stability through its foreign policy.

## VOCABULARY

Before reading the speech, complete some vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the information presented in the text better.

**I. Take one minute to write down as many words or ideas as possible you associate with the term *security*. Share your list with your partner, explain why you put these words and expressions on your list.**

**II. Fill in the blanks using the correct verb from the list. Use each verb only once.**

*encompass*    *erode*    *define*    *undermine*    *impose*    *establish*  
*chart*    *orchestrate*    *target*    *disarm*

1. The conflict threatened to ... the fragile peace agreements established years ago.
2. A comprehensive security strategy must ... economic stability, social cohesion, and environmental protection.
3. Hostile propaganda continues to ... public trust in state institutions.
4. The United Nations must ... new global standards to regulate cyberwarfare.
5. Countries often ... illegal sanctions without any international approval.
6. The foreign minister intends to ... the course for his country's diplomatic position on nuclear disarmament.
7. International law should ... the limits of acceptable interference in domestic affairs.

8. The conflicting parties agreed to ... as a first step toward peace negotiations.
9. Rebel forces attempted to ... a coup during the election transition.
10. Cyberattacks often ... critical infrastructure, posing significant risks to national security.

**III. Match the words on the right with the words on the left to make some possible word combinations.**

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Unlawful      | a. security     |
| 2. Lethal        | b. charges      |
| 3. Comprehensive | c. tools        |
| 4. Viable        | d. restrictions |
| 5. Oversight     | e. technologies |
| 6. Fabricated    | f. sanctions    |
| 7. Nuclear       | g. narrative    |
| 8. Illegitimate  | h. solution     |
| 9. Post-truth    | i. mechanism    |
| 10. Coercive     | j. weapons      |

**IV. Use the expressions from task III to complete the following sentences.**

1. The new policy framework aims to strengthen ... by integrating social, political, and technological dimensions of national defense.
2. The conflict resulted in numerous casualties due to the deployment of ....
3. Governments often use ... like economic sanctions and trade restrictions to influence the behavior of other countries.
4. Experts are searching for a ... to the ongoing diplomatic crisis.
5. The new law established an ... to monitor the use of public funds and prevent corruption.
6. The report was based on a ... that distorted the facts.
7. Many countries have signed treaties to prevent the spread of ... and promote disarmament.
8. The court dismissed the case due to ... lacking evidence.
9. Businesses faced severe losses due to ... on trade that were not approved by international law.
10. The foreign minister stated that the unlawful sanctions imposed on the country were a clear violation of international norms and aimed at exerting political pressure.

**V. a) Add the correct negative prefix or suffix to complete each word. Use the following prefixes and suffixes *un-*, *in-*, *il-*, *dis-*, *mis-*, *de-*, *-less*.**

Become ...deniable, ...legitimate, ...lawful, end..., ...information, ...appropriation of funds, ...legal, ...sufficient, ...escalate, ...capable.

**b) Think of 3 possible collocations with the words you created. Write them down, compare your list with your partner's.**

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Now you are going to read Aleksandr Lukashenko's speech at the II Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security. Write down 3 global security issues that you think will be addressed in his speech and some possible measures to tackle these issues. Check your assumptions after reading the text.

### Text 3

#### THE II MINSK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EURASIAN SECURITY October 31, 2024 (excerpts)

Dear Friends!

Allow me to warmly welcome you to the Belarusian capital.

I sincerely thank all who have accepted our invitation. This is a matter of our shared interests. Without exception. The number of participants has grown significantly, which is not surprising, as the situation is getting increasingly critical and tense.

I strongly hope that this distinguished gathering of authoritative experts will not only discuss the challenges at hand (which are well-known) but also propose viable solutions. In turn, I will outline my vision in concise terms. The vision of our Belarus.

We must begin by defining the term. Generally, 'security' implies guarantees against territorial encroachment. Yet comprehensive security, by definition, must extend beyond the military sphere to encompass political, economic, informational, and other dimensions. Viewed through this lens, the scale of the global crisis becomes undeniable. The absence of checks and balances has eroded security across all domains.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
inaugurating II Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security. 2024

First. Politics. The collapse of democratic principles is evident. There is democracy for themselves, and democracy for export. Various attacks target not only individual leaders but entire nations. In states daring to chart their own course, color revolutions are orchestrated, loyalist leaders and outright puppets are elected with funding from Western

‘soft power’ NGOs. Even within the EU, nationally oriented politicians advocating for their people’s interests face fabricated criminal charges, sham trials, and even assassination attempts.

Second. Military Security. States are increasingly being forced to use military means to defend their sovereignty, internal stability, or to prevent escalation, which is a critical imperative today.

Third. Economics. Half the world is shackled by unlawful sanctions. Entire industries are paralyzed by illegitimate restrictions. Private property rights once zealously preached to us by the collective West have been obliterated. Where are those principles now?

Fourth. Information Security. Media has become a weapon. Post-truth narratives, endless disinformation, manipulation of public opinion, misappropriation of funds, and the orchestration of coups operate transnationally, wielding power more dangerous than any military intervention.

Thus, today I deem it necessary to propose a range of urgent measures to de-escalate global tensions. The way we see it from here — from the heart of Europe.

First. Withdraw U.S. nuclear weapons from Eurasia to create conditions for genuine dialogue and détente.

Second. End the practice of illegal sanctions imposed without UN Security Council resolutions, and establish binding international legal guarantees against such coercive tools.

Third. Develop a new treaty framework to establish a transparent, universally understood verification regime over emerging lethal technologies (e.g., lasers, hypersonics, quantum and electromagnetic systems and other cutting-edge weaponry, which properties and capabilities have not been sufficiently studied to date) capable of destroying humanity – even without nuclear arms.

Fourth. Adopt an international legal instrument on cyberattacks, banning their use against sovereign states and creating oversight mechanisms for their development and deployment.

Distinguished Participants of the Conference!

Thank you once again for joining us in this conversation. I wish you fruitful work.

Thank you!

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/ii-minskaa-mezdunarodnaa-konferencia-po-evrazijskoj-bezopasnosti#block-after-media-scroll>*

## **VI. Read the text again and choose the correct answer.**

1. What is the speaker’s main reason for gathering the participants in the Belarusian capital?
  - a) To promote Belarusian culture
  - b) To negotiate trade deals
  - c) To discuss global security challenges and propose solutions
  - d) To celebrate a national holiday
2. According to the speech, what does comprehensive security include besides military aspects?
  - a) Only political and economic aspects
  - b) Media control and internet regulation
  - c) Political, economic, informational, and other spheres
  - d) Education and healthcare

3. What is said to have weakened security across all areas?
  - a) International treaties
  - b) Lack of a balanced system of controls
  - c) Increased funding
  - d) Technological advancements
4. What example does the speaker give to show the collapse of democratic principles?
  - a) Reduction in voter turnout
  - b) High military spending
  - c) Use of soft power and color revolutions
  - d) Economic sanctions on the EU
5. What does the speaker say about private property rights?
  - a) They are well-protected globally
  - b) They are being promoted by the West
  - c) They have been eliminated by illegitimate restrictions
  - d) They are no longer necessary
6. What does the text suggest is more dangerous than military intervention?
  - a) Economic sanctions
  - b) Disinformation and manipulation of public opinion
  - c) Cultural exchanges
  - d) Sports competitions
7. What is one of the proposed actions regarding U.S. nuclear weapons?
  - a) Remove them from Eurasia
  - b) Increase their number
  - c) Use them in military drills
  - d) Sell them to allies
8. What proposal does the speaker make regarding cyberattacks?
  - a) To use them as a tool of national defense
  - b) To develop private systems for cyber protection
  - c) To allow their use in war only
  - d) To create an international treaty banning them

**VII. a) Explain in your own words how you understand the following concepts mentioned in the text:**

sanctions, sovereignty, checks and balances, conflict escalation, territorial encroachment, misappropriation of funds, cyberattacks, verification regime, lethal technologies, 'soft power' NGO, disinformation, color revolutions, genuine dialogue, oversight mechanism.

**b) How might these concepts be connected with security? Use the text and your general knowledge to support your answer with examples.**

**VIII. Complete each sentence by filling in the blank with an appropriate word or phrase using the information and ideas from the speech.**

1. The growing number of participants of the conference highlights the increasing significance of ... .
2. It's important to not just recognize current issues but also recommend ... .
3. Genuine security involves more than just defense; it includes ... .
4. The worldwide condition clearly indicates that ... has undermined security everywhere.
5. Core democratic ideals are at risk as some countries face ... and ... .

6. Many states find it necessary to boost their defenses to preserve ... .
7. Illegitimate trade barriers have caused serious harm to ... .
8. Media now serves as a strong influence, often used to ... and ... people's views.
9. To ease global disputes, ... communication and removing certain ... is essential.
10. Establishing global ... to control new military technologies is vital for ... .

**IX. Make a list of current security issues and solutions suggested by the President to de-escalate global tensions. Which issues are easiest to tackle, and which are hardest to resolve? Which solutions do you consider to be the most viable and effective? Compare your ideas with a partner, explain your choice. Can you add any more security issues and possible solutions to your list?**

## SPEAKING AND WRITING

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**I. a) Imagine you are a representative of the Belarusian delegation speaking at an international summit. Your task is to deliver a short 2-minute speech on a global issue the world is confronted with today. First, choose one of the issues below:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate Change and Environmental Degradation           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Worsening global climate conditions</i></li> <li>• <i>Extreme weather events (storms, floods)</i></li> <li>• <i>Insufficient global climate action</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Global Military Conflicts           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Over 50 active armed conflicts affecting the planet</i></li> <li>• <i>The consequences of these conflicts</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Manipulation of Democratic Systems           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Export of biased “democracy” models</i></li> <li>• <i>Color revolutions and interference in sovereign political systems</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Sanctions and Economic Coercion           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Unilateral sanctions bypassing international law</i></li> <li>• <i>Suppression of national economies and industries</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Breakdown of International Legal Norms           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Violation of sovereignty</i></li> <li>• <i>Absence of binding global rules (e.g., for cyberattacks, sanctions)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Emerging and Unregulated Military Technologies           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lethal systems like hypersonics, quantum weapons, cyberweapons</i></li> <li>• <i>Lack of treaties and verification mechanisms</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Disinformation and Media Weaponization           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Post-truth narratives</i></li> <li>• <i>Media used for manipulation and political destabilization</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>8. Leadership Absence and Ineffective International Action           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Key nations avoiding global responsibility</i></li> <li>• <i>Political showmanship vs. real progress at summits</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol> |
|---|--|

**b) Now plan your speech. Include the following three parts:**

- Introduction: Greet your audience and introduce the topic (1–2 sentences). Example: *‘Distinguished delegates, it is an honor to address you today on the urgent matter of climate change.’*

- Main Message: Present 2–3 important points, such as:
  - ✓ What your country has done or believes
  - ✓ Criticisms of other countries or global inaction
  - ✓ Problems that must be solved
- Conclusion: Offer a clear solution or call to action.  
Example: *'It is time to move from words to action. The world is watching.'*

**c) Review the unit you have studied and add some appropriate expressions to your speech to enhance clarity and impact. Use formal language and persuasive techniques. Try to include:**

- Rhetorical questions: *'How long must we wait before real change begins?'*
- Strong verbs: *'We demand', 'We propose', 'We urge'*
- Repetition or parallel structure: *'We must act, we must cooperate, and we must commit.'*

**d) Deliver your speech at an international UN conference on global issues. Be ready to answer the questions from other participants of the conference.**

**II. Write an open letter to world leaders. a) Unscramble the words to make correct sentence starters from an open letter.**

### **Opening**

Leaders, / Dear / World / ...  
concern / writing / express / I / to / am / about / ...  
address / must / urgently / we / ...

### **Summarizing Problems**

worldwide / conflicts / cause / ...  
efforts / climate / despite / worsens / change / ...  
cooperation / lack / of / leads / to / ...

### **Call to Action**

promises / beyond / move / must / we / ...  
needed / immediate / to / action / is / ...  
crucial / accountability / is / because ...  
crisis / as / delays / worsen / the / ...

### **Suggestions for Cooperation**

transparency / trust / build / through / ...  
laws / international / strengthen / ...  
joint / initiatives / promote / ...

### **Closing**

unity / our / future / on / depends / ...  
action / words / into / let's / turn / ...  
attention / thank / your / for / ...

**b) Choose the most pressing issue humanity is facing today. Write an open letter to world leaders using the information from the texts, the structure of the letter in task II a) and your own ideas.**

# BELARUSIAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

## unit IV

*Russia and Belarus are sovereign and independent states...and as you can see, we have built the closest allied relations the world has ever known.*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

### STARTER

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The strategic partnership between Belarus and Russia is based on the geographic location, close historic and cultural links between both countries and peoples, economic ties and cooperation between the Belarusian and Russian businesses.

Signed by the Heads of States in 1999 the Agreement on Establishment of the Union State of Belarus and Russia sets up a legal basis for integration between the two countries.

According to the Agreement, Belarus and Russia defined a series of major goals: to ensure peaceful and democratic development, to establish a single economic and customs area and proper legal framework, to ensure sustainable economic development, to pursue the coordinated foreign, defense and social policies, to ensure security and fight against crime.

Both countries gradually move in all directions mentioned above gradually, taking into consideration the priority of social and economic matters. We develop our partnership under the unquestioned principles of state sovereignty and territorial integrity of both nations as well as due to the implementation of their international obligations.

On December 6, 2024 on the eve of the 25th Anniversary of the Treaty, a meeting of the Supreme State Council of the Union State was held in Minsk with the participation of the Heads of States.

Along with cooperation in the framework of the Union State both countries support the strengthening of multilateral cooperation and participate actively in other integration projects in the post-Soviet period.

<https://mfa.gov.by/en/bilateral/russia/>

**Exchange your ideas with the groupmates on the issues reflected in the following questions:**

1. What are the main achievements of the Belarus–Russia integration over the past 25 years? Which of them do you consider the most important and why?

2. Why do you think the Union State Treaty is called a ‘fundamental document’? What makes it different from regular bilateral agreements?

3. In your opinion, what are the advantages of equal rights for citizens of both countries in terms of work, education, and residence?

4. What additional steps do you think are necessary to complete the integration process between Belarus and Russia? Which areas still require significant development?

5. Do you think regional integration strengthens the sovereignty of the member states or makes them more dependent on each other? Explain your point of view.

You are going to read the text **Meeting with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin during his official visit to Belarus** (Text 1), which includes fragments from the meeting between the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin during his official visit to Belarus in May 2024. The conversation covers a range of topics, including diplomatic relations, security, and economic cooperation.

## VOCABULARY

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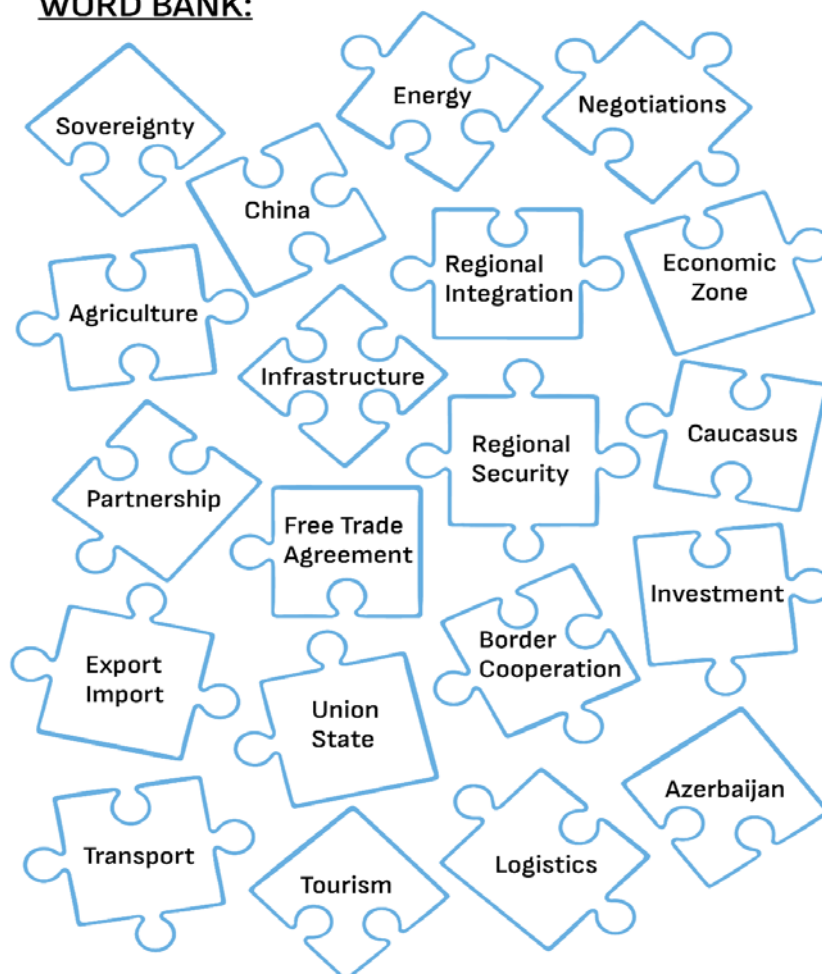
Before reading, complete some vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the information in the suggested text.

**I. Sort the keywords from the Word Bank into three categories:**

1. Politics & Diplomacy: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Economy & Trade: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Regional Relations: \_\_\_\_\_

Based on your sorting, predict the main topics of the meeting.

**WORD BANK:**



**II. Match the word on the right with its corresponding definition on the left:**

Word	Definition
1. Partnership	a. the act of putting money into something to make a profit or achieve growth
2. Union State	b. involving official communication and negotiation between countries
3. Infrastructure	c. cooperation between two or more parties
4. Energy	d. the process of combining or coordinating separate elements
5. Diplomatic	e. a political and economic alliance between Belarus and Russia
6. Integration	f. power sources such as oil, gas, or electricity
7. Trade	g. the basic physical systems and services needed for a country to operate
8. Investment	h. the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods and services

**III. Write the correct form of the word in parentheses to complete each sentence:**

- Belarus and Russia have a strong political ... (PARTNER).
- The two countries signed a new ... (AGREE) to improve cooperation.
- Energy ... (SUPPLY) is vital for Belarus's economy.
- Regional ... (SECURE) is a shared priority for both nations.
- Investments in ... (INFRASTRUCTURE) support development of transport and logistics.
- Diplomatic ... (RELATE) between the countries remain friendly and constructive.
- Trade ... (NEGOTIATE) often involves complex discussions.
- The economic ... (INTEGRATE) of the two countries benefits their industries.
- The governments encourage foreign ... (INVEST) to boost growth.
- Cooperation strengthens the ... (SOVEREIGN) of each country.

**IV. Choose the correct synonym for each word from the options provided:**

Word	Options (choose one or more)		
1. Partnership	a) cooperation	b) separation	c) division
2. Negotiations	a) talks	b) arguments	c) silence
3. Investment	a) spending	b) saving	c) borrowing
4. Infrastructure	a) facilities	b) barrier	c) destruction
5. Energy	a) power	b) weakness	c) fuel shortage
6. Trade	a) exchange	b) commerce	c) loss
7. Integration	a) separation	b) unification	c) isolation
8. Logistics	a) planning	b) disorder	c) coordination
9. Export	a) send out	b) receive	c) import

## READING AND DISCUSSING

While reading the text, explore how Belarus and Russia reaffirm their strategic partnership through high-level dialogue on security, economic ties, and regional cooperation.

Text 1

### MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION VLADIMIR PUTIN DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

May 23, 2024 (excerpts)

**P***resident of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:* On my way to our meeting I thought that traditionally we never have time to start our negotiations during the daytime. We always work until midnight. But I think that's all right. You have had a difficult day today. The negotiations with the King of Bahrain were not easy to hold.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko greeting the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin at the Independence Palace. 2024

***President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin:*** They were really good indeed.

***President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:*** Thank God. So, now we have got more friends. I welcome you to our Belarusian land that you have already become native to. Belarusian people will be happy to know that you have come to us. This is one of your first visits here after the [Russian presidential] elections. After the visit to the People's Republic of China, our friends.

I think we will again focus on security matters. And tomorrow we, together with our colleagues from the governments, will discuss economic matters.

I believe Xi Jinping will be glad that we are discussing these issues. I want to make very interesting proposals for our region and further there, to the Caucasus, which we had a very serious discussion about during our visit to Azerbaijan.

***President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin:*** After the negotiations with our Arab friends, I had a big meeting with members of the Russian government. We talked about my visit to you. We considered almost all areas, including industrial cooperation,

power engineering, agriculture, and security matters. Probably half of the government joined the discussion. Some of them will come tomorrow and will participate in our negotiations. Those who will not be present sent their regards and wished prosperity to Belarus. Our colleagues have recently done a lot of work. Again, with your direct participation and support. We will discuss all these issues today and tomorrow, including security matters, which you always pay great attention to. There's a lot to talk about. Everything is developing steadily and successfully.

We are certainly going to highlight the second phase of the exercises [to test the use of non-strategic nuclear weapons]. It is connected with the direct participation of our Belarusian friends and colleagues in the military sphere in these exercises.

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/peregovory-s-prezidentom-rossiyskoy-federacii-vladimirom-putinym-proydut-24-maya>*

**V. Look through the text once again and divide it into three thematic parts. Give a heading to each group of paragraphs that reflects the main idea:**

- Paragraphs 1–3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paragraphs 4–5: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paragraphs 6–7: \_\_\_\_\_

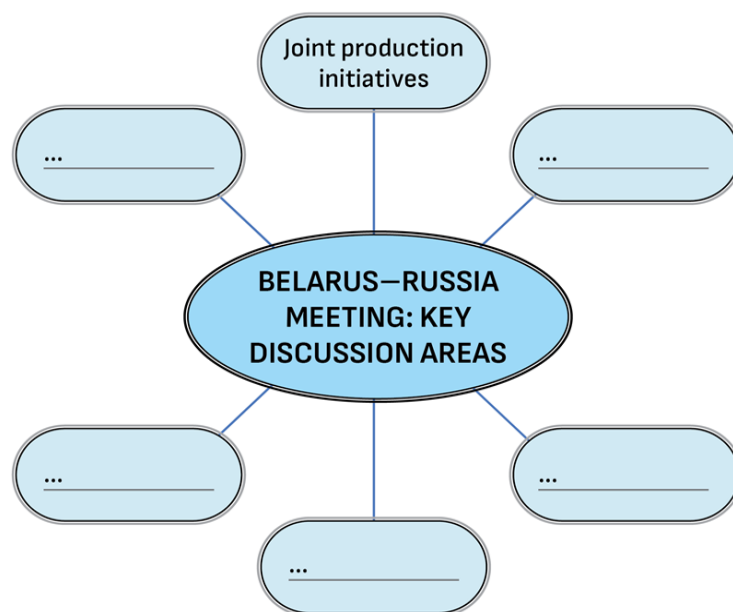
**VI. Complete the table below by filling in the missing details based on the text. In the last column, expand or interpret what each area of cooperation suggests about Belarus–Russia relations:**

Area of Cooperation	Details from the Text	Belarus–Russia Relations
1. Security		<i>Strengthens trust and alignment on regional defense.</i>
2. Economic Development		
3. Industrial & Agricultural Cooperation		<i>Indicates a shared interest in stabilizing domestic production.</i>
4. Regional Strategy		

**VII. Read the statements below about the meeting between President A. Lukashenko and President V. Putin. In pairs or small groups, decide which statements are *fact* and which are *fiction* (not true or not mentioned within the following text):**

1. The negotiations were postponed to a later date due to scheduling conflicts.
2. President V. Putin had earlier negotiations with the King of Bahrain on the same day.
3. The discussion will focus on power engineering and economic matters.
4. Only a few members of the Russian government were involved in preparing for the visit.
5. Industrial cooperation and agriculture are among the topics to be discussed.
6. The Caucasus region was not mentioned during the meeting.
7. The meeting took place before the Russian presidential elections.
8. President A. Lukashenko said they usually work until midnight during negotiations.
9. Tourism was mentioned as a potential area for future cooperation.

VIII. Create a mind map based on the conversation between President A. Lukashenko and President V. Putin. Use it to organize the potential topics of discussion for the next meeting.



Within the following text, **Negotiations between the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin**, May 24, 2024 (Text 2), examine how Belarus and Russia reinforce their long-standing alliance through strategic negotiations on security, economic policy, and regional integration.

Before you begin reading, take a moment to reflect on the following questions:

- How can joint decisions and coordinated policies between neighboring states enhance their regional influence?
- What role do trust and continuity play in the success of long-term diplomatic and economic partnerships?

## VOCABULARY

Complete vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the information of the suggested text.

I. Use the correct form of the words from the box to complete the sentences:

*expert    sanction    instruct    cooperate    legislation*  
*integrate    workload    resolve*

1. The governments are expected to follow the ... given by the Presidents.
2. Some of the most pressing matters have already been ... during recent negotiations.
3. One of the priorities is to increase the ... of each national airport.
4. Belarus and Russia remain committed to strengthening their ... .
5. The group of ... will report on the current situation.

6. New ... measures are being introduced to support economic unity.
7. The country's economy continues to face serious challenges due to international ....
8. Belarusian-Russian ... continues to be effective and productive.

**II. Match each verb on the left with the appropriate noun phrase on the right to form common collocations used in the text. Which of these verb–noun collocations do you consider most important in diplomatic negotiations, and why?**

Verbs	Noun Phrases
1. Make	a. joint projects and industrial policy
2. Finalize	b. security and economic matters
3. Pay	c. the media at the closing press conference
4. Strengthen	d. on the terms of oil and gas supplies
5. Develop	e. certain decisions
6. Rely	f. the development of a unified industrial policy
7. Hear	g. only on ourselves
8. Support	h. attention to some things
9. Agree	i. each other in all areas
10. Inform	j. agreements between governments
11. Discuss	k. reports from experts and group leaders
12. Complete	l. integration between Minsk and Moscow

**III. a) In each group below, one word does not belong semantically. Name the odd one out. Use your knowledge of diplomatic and negotiation language:**

**1. negotiate – report – discuss – build**

*Hint:* Which word is less about communication or dialogue in diplomacy?

**2. integrate – isolate – cooperate – unite**

*Hint:* Which word means the opposite of working together?

**3. implementation – evaluation – resistance – development**

*Hint:* Which word suggests opposition rather than progress or assessment?

**4. diplomat – envoy – delegate – consultant**

*Hint:* Which profession is less directly involved in diplomatic negotiations?

**5. protocol – treaty – agenda – briefing**

*Hint:* Which word is less formal or procedural in diplomacy?

**6. mediation – arbitration – negotiation – legislation**

*Hint:* Which word is a process of creating laws rather than resolving disputes?

**7. ratify – sign – draft – cancel**

*Hint:* Which word means to officially approve rather than prepare or stop?

**8. foreign – domestic – international – national**

*Hint:* Which word does not relate to international relations?

**9. construction – communiqué – declaration – statement**

*Hint:* Which word is unrelated to official diplomatic announcements?

**10. protocol – hierarchy – customs – etiquette**

*Hint:* Which word refers to an organizational structure rather than rules of behavior?

**b) Discuss with a partner:**

- Why is understanding precise diplomatic vocabulary important in negotiations?
- How can confusing these words affect international talks?

## READING AND DISCUSSING

Before you start reading the text, rank the following possible goals of Belarus–Russia talks from most to least important. Be prepared to adjust your list after reading. Compare your ranking with a partner.

- Strengthening airport and travel infrastructure
- Managing energy supplies
- Improving economic ties
- Ensuring technological sovereignty
- Responding to sanctions
- Promoting regional integration

### Text 2

#### NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS ALEKSANDR LUKASHENKO AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION VLADIMIR PUTIN May 24, 2024 (excerpts)

**P***resident of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:* I once again welcome you to the Belarusian land. I am happy to see that you like Minsk and our people. Having a profound experience, you have already paid attention to some things. It is very pleasant to see, especially in regard to the military. As we agreed yesterday, we are going to discuss two points: security matters and economic matters. We have always left economic matters for our Governments to consider them. Today is the right time to hear what has already been done according to our instructions. We have a couple of things that need to be dealt with, and we will also listen to the experts in these spheres, they will report to us. We will inform the media about it and will tell them everything at the closing press conference. We should listen to the group leaders, who are present here today. They are going to report to us on the problems if there are any. I think we can make certain decisions today. We will do it to prove that we can make decisions in the context of what people have been talking about recently. They appreciate that we are allies, that we are close and friendly states.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko negotiating with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin at the Independence Palace. 2024

**President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin:** Now we have an opportunity to assess what has been done, what is happening at the moment, what needs to be done in the near future. It is the right moment to outline concrete joint steps to move forward and to develop our states.

In general, I suppose we are working efficiently, if we talk about the economy. The results of economic development speak for themselves.

In my opinion, there are no issues that haven't been resolved. If something needs to be further agreed upon, we will certainly do it today during our negotiations.

**President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:** Despite everything, Minsk and Moscow remain committed to integration strengthening. We support each other and will continue doing it in all areas. Besides, our projects have already gone far beyond the earth's surface.

In other words, those are the areas that ensure the achievement of the goals of technological sovereignty and economic security of our states. Vladimir Vladimirovich, together we have made all the necessary decisions. Our governments are to implement them as soon as possible.

First of all, it is important to quickly complete the development of a unified industrial policy of the Union State. Both states will benefit from it.

At the legislative level, there should be no protective measures against partners. As we previously agreed, we need to protect ourselves from those who have imposed sanctions on us and from those who do not contribute to the development of the economies of the two states.

It is necessary to agree on the terms of oil and gas supplies to the Republic of Belarus. We have been discussing it for years, and today Vladimir Vladimirovich made the decision thereon. I believe the governments will finalize these agreements in the next few days. We have elaborated on all the details.

We need measures to increase the workload of Belarusian and Russian airports. We should develop joint projects that will make air travel between our regions easier and more accessible. Although a lot has been done recently.

I think you will agree that we should not limit ourselves in the Union State by isolating from each other in our common market. Moreover, we see that we can rely only on ourselves in terms of long-term cooperation.

I am convinced that we need to maintain continuity in terms of prioritizing the matters of Belarusian-Russian cooperation.

<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/vstrecha-s-prezidentom-rossii-vladimirom-putinyim-1716550347>

**IV. Study the text once again and divide it into three thematic parts. Assign a heading to each group of paragraphs that reflects the main idea, make a short summary of each part:**

- Paragraphs 1–5: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paragraphs 6–8: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paragraphs 9–13: \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Match each diplomatic phrase or expression (taken or paraphrased from the following fragments of negotiations) to the most relevant topic area:**

Phrase	Topic
1. 'Unified industrial policy'	a. Sanctions and external pressure
2. 'Terms of oil and gas supplies'	b. Regional cooperation
3. 'Support each other in all areas'	c. Transport and infrastructure
4. 'Increase the workload of airports'	d. Evidence-based policy
5. 'We need to rely only on ourselves'	e. Decision-making processes
6. 'Make certain decisions today'	f. Public diplomacy
7. 'Protect ourselves from those who imposed sanctions'	g. Trade liberalization
8. 'Inform the media at the press conference'	h. Economic sovereignty
9. 'Listen to group leaders and experts'	i. Strategic partnership
10. 'No protective measures against partners'	j. Economic integration
11. 'Strengthening of integration'	k. Energy cooperation

**VI. Find sentences or phrases in the text that support each of the statements below. For each statement, write out the exact sentence or a relevant part of the text as evidence and identify who said it – President A. Lukashenko or President V. Putin:**

- The importance of making decisions during the negotiation meeting.
- The goal of achieving technological sovereignty and economic security for both countries.
- The urgency of finalizing agreements related to oil and gas supplies.
- The emphasis on cooperation and mutual support between Belarus and Russia in all areas.
- The role of experts and group leaders in reporting issues during the negotiations.
- The intention to keep the media informed through a press conference after the meeting.
- The commitment to develop joint projects aimed at improving air travel infrastructure.
- The strategic view that Belarus and Russia should rely on themselves for long-term cooperation.
- The shared understanding that unresolved issues will be discussed and agreed upon during the meeting.

**VII. For each excerpt below, decide whether the speaker's tone is optimistic, determined, or neutral. Use the hint table to help you distinguish between the tones:**

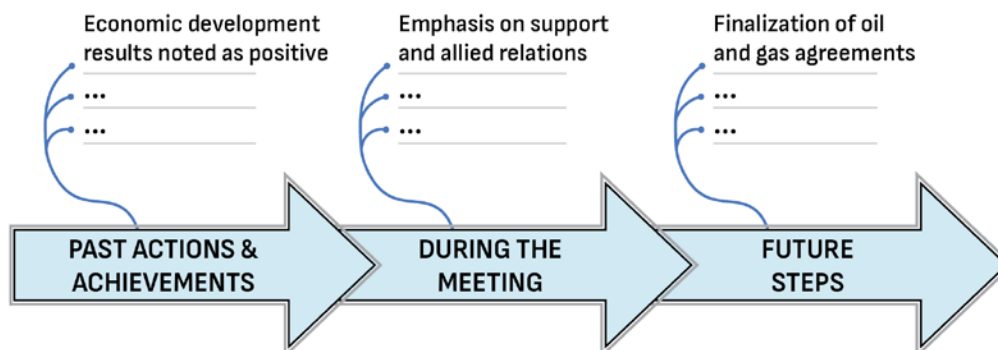
Tone	Explanation
<b>Optimistic</b>	Shows hopefulness and positive expectations about the future or outcomes. Often includes words like <i>'we believe,' 'it is good,'</i> or <i>'progress.'</i>
<b>Determined</b>	Expresses firm intention and confidence to act or solve problems. Often uses phrases like <i>'we will do,' 'must,'</i> or <i>'need to.'</i>
<b>Neutral</b>	Presents facts or statements without emotional emphasis or strong opinions. Often straightforward and objective.

### Examples:

1. 'We have a couple of things that need to be dealt with, and we will also listen to the experts...'
2. 'In my opinion, there are no issues that haven't been resolved.'
3. 'It is necessary to agree on the terms of oil and gas supplies...'
4. 'We should not limit ourselves in the Union State by isolating from each other in our common market.'
5. 'Our governments are to implement all the necessary decisions as soon as possible.'
6. 'The results of economic development speak for themselves.'
7. 'Despite everything, Minsk and Moscow remain committed to integration strengthening.'
8. 'We will do it to prove that we can make decisions in the context of what people have been talking about recently.'
9. 'We need measures to increase the workload of Belarusian and Russian airports.'

### VIII. Create a timeline outlining the key steps and decisions discussed during the negotiations between President A. Lukashenko and President V. Putin. Your timeline should include:

- Important past achievements mentioned by the leaders
- Key decisions or agreements made during the meeting
- Planned future actions and projects



As you explore the following excerpts from **the March 2025 negotiations between Presidents A. Lukashenko and V. Putin** (Text 3), consider how Belarus and Russia frame their partnership in political, economic, and historical terms. Before reading, consider these questions:

- In what ways do shared values and historical ties shape the political choices of allied nations like Belarus and Russia?
- How can coordinated efforts in trade, security, and technology strengthen the long-term stability and sovereignty of partner states?

## VOCABULARY

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Before you start reading the text, complete the tasks which will help you understand the information better.

### I. Write the correct form of the word in parentheses to complete each sentence:

1. The Union State is based on the principle of ... between independent countries. (SOVEREIGN)
2. The government worked out an effective response to new ... measures. (SANCTION)
3. Their long-standing ... to shared traditions strengthens the alliance. (COMMIT)
4. It takes a lot of ... to overcome global political pressure. (PERSIST)
5. The Union State promotes sustainable ... They share moral and ... values that go back centuries. (SPIRIT)
6. Belarus and Russia maintain strong ... that go beyond diplomacy. (RELATE)
7. A focus on digital technology will boost ... in high-tech sectors. (INNOVATE)

### II. Replace the underlined words with a synonym from the box:

*persistence   commitment   priority   issues   atmosphere   enhance  
re-election   strategy   region   principles   circumstances*

1. This is Aleksandr Lukashenko's first visit after his **victory in the elections**.
2. We have always followed the same foreign policy **approach**.
3. There are still some difficult **topics** we need to address.
4. We hope to **improve** cooperation in high-tech sectors.
5. Our Union State is based on shared values and **fundamental beliefs**.
6. **Loyalty** to integration goals is something we both share.
7. Our people clearly understand who our **main concern** is in terms of allies.
8. The **situation** outside our countries also affects the pace of integration.
9. This **zone** has fewer local problems than the global ones.
10. We need to show strong **determination** to move forward.
11. Our shared **plan** includes economic and digital cooperation.

### III. Remove the odd word or phrase in each line. Explain briefly why it does not belong with the rest.

**Example:** sovereignty – mutual respect – **digital ecosystems** – integration

**Explanation:** Other terms relate to political/diplomatic principles or values. 'Digital ecosystems' refers to a technological concept, not a diplomatic or political one.

1. negotiations – collapse – cooperation – partnership
2. trade – import substitution – defense – economic growth
3. fraternal – opposition – shared values – family ties
4. sanctions – persistence – cooperation – dialogue
5. artificial intelligence – economic growth – cloud computing – big data
6. sovereignty – partnership – rivalry – friendship
7. investment – trade – culture – legislation
8. export – import substitution – local production – cloud computing
9. goodwill – hostility – respect – partnership
10. innovation – tradition – modernization – progress

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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The text below covers topics such as bilateral relations, economic cooperation, and technological partnership. Before reading it, use your knowledge and ideas to complete the following sentences about the upcoming negotiations between Belarus and Russia:

- The main purpose of the meeting between the Presidents of Belarus and Russia was to discuss ... .
- A key topic likely covered during their talks is ... .
- They probably stressed the importance of ... in their relationship.
- Some challenges they might have mentioned include ..., along with possible solutions to address them.
- Looking ahead, their cooperation is expected to focus on ..., especially in areas like ....

### Text 3

#### NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION VLADIMIR PUTIN

March 13, 2025 (excerpts)

**P***resident of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:* I've been thinking a lot about what we can say about our relations. As you mentioned, they have definitely reached a very high level. We are developing our unique Union State, which has no examples in history. We are off the beaten track. This is a complicated process. But, as you said, we have a good mirror where we can see our progress. We can see it in the economy, trade and economic relations. And every year we build on our success, despite all the problems (it's not possible to get rid of them forever). It shows that we are moving in the right direction.

We had to vote: 'Are we with Russia, our eastern partner? Is our priority here or somewhere out there?' Well, that's the answer. This answer was given by our people. And we have always had this question as the main one on the agenda. We have not discussed it openly, but this question has been essential for us. This is a feature of all our elections. Therefore, you should not have any doubt. Not only me, but also my colleagues, members of the government, and members of the parliament are strong supporters of our closest relations. We have proven it in our united struggle today, with the conflict in Ukraine being its peak. We have always followed this policy. And it is vital that the people have demonstrated it. Our people perfectly understand who our friends and who our opponents, competitors, and enemies are.

We need this demonstration for Belarusian and Russian people to see that we stand together. To see that we are sovereign independent states, but at the same time we are closely related to each other. We will continue to promote this policy.

I found that there are far fewer problems between our states than there are problems that exist globally and even in our region. We are successfully working on it. Of course, there are certain issues. I think we will consider them during a meeting in a broader format when we will have experts therein. But we are aware of these issues.

I wish, maybe, that we could move faster in this direction. But it is not always possible. And it is not only you and me that it depends on. External circumstances should also be taken into consideration. We are well aware of this. We thoroughly perform anything that we undertake. For example, we can mention import substitution as a way of countering those sanctions. Everyone thought that we would collapse in a year. But we are safe and sound. I am convinced that we will live. We need just a little more time. And probably more persistence. But we have never lacked it, it's in our blood.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko negotiating with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin. 2025

**President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin:** Dear Aleksandr Grigorievich, I am happy to see you. I am very pleased that it is Russia that you decided to pay your first visit to after your re-election as President of Belarus.

We talk about it all the time, but given the official status of your visit, it would not be amiss to remember it again. We have historical ties, family ties between a large number of people. Today, our relations are developing in such a way that they could serve as an example for relations between many other states in economy and security matters. It is also exemplary in terms of our cooperation in the international arena, primarily in the UN, in the SCO, where Belarus has become a full member, and in BRICS, where Belarus also acquired the status of a partner.

I am convinced that today's visit will be held at a decent level and will be productive for us. This is Aleksandr Grigorievich's first official visit abroad after his re-election as President of Belarus. We highly appreciate this step. This highlights the special status of the relations between our two fraternal states.

Our cooperation is based on the solid principles of mutual respect and consideration of each other's interests, as well as a centuries-old common history, family ties that have developed between many Russians and Belarusians, and commitment to common moral and spiritual values. We have held today's negotiations in such a friendly, practical and constructive atmosphere.

Russia and Belarus will continue to work together to develop the Union State and deepen integration, contributing to sustainable economic growth, improving the standard of living and well-being of the citizens of our two states.

Over 90% of all payments in Russian-Belarusian commercial transactions are made in our national currencies. Thanks to this fact, our mutual trade and investment are protected from the influence of third countries and negative trends in global markets.

We see prospects for deepening partnership in other high-tech industries. In particular, we are talking about cooperation in the spheres of artificial intelligence development, big data processing, cloud computing, as well as full-fledged digital ecosystems creation.

<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/peregovory-s-prezidentom-rossii-vladimirom-putiny-m-1741867021>

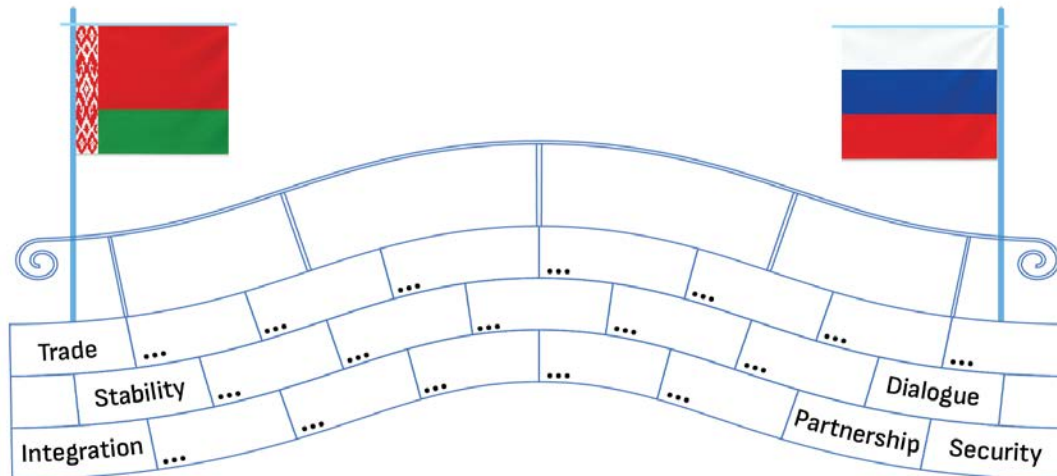
**IV. Skim the text quickly once again and divide it into three thematic parts. Assign a brief heading to each group of paragraphs that reflects the main idea and make a short summary of each part:**

Paragraphs 1–5: \_\_\_\_\_

Paragraphs 6–9: \_\_\_\_\_

Paragraphs 10–12: \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Together with your group, build a symbolic bridge of unity between Belarus and Russia. Each brick in the bridge represents an area of cooperation or shared value. What helps build strong, lasting relations between the two countries?**



**VI. Find and explain the meaning of these phrases as they are used in the negotiations text:**

Expression	Definition
1. Re-election	a. sectors of the economy that involve advanced technological innovation such as AI, data processing, and computing.
2. Broader format	b. firm, well-established values or rules guiding cooperation or relations.
3. Mutual trade and investment	c. countries that govern themselves without outside control.
4. Countering sanctions	d. a larger or more inclusive meeting involving additional participants or experts.
5. Sustainable economic growth	e. taking actions to resist or mitigate the effects of economic penalties imposed by other countries.
6. High-tech industries	f. economic development that can be maintained over the long term without causing harm to society or the environment.
7. Family ties	g. economic exchanges and financial involvement between two parties benefiting both sides.
8. Sovereign independent states	h. close personal or historical relationships between people of the two nations, often emphasizing shared heritage.
9. Constructive atmosphere	i. a positive, cooperative environment during discussions or negotiations.
10. Solid principles	j. the act of being elected again to the same political office.

**VII. Compare how the two leaders frame their countries' partnership. Fill in the table below. Which aspects of the partnership do you think are most important for maintaining a strong Belarus–Russia alliance, based on the leaders' statements?**

Focus	President A. Lukashenko	President V. Putin
1. Strategic Relationship	<i>1. Highlights the Union State as unique and central to the Belarusian path</i>	<i>1. Describes the partnership as a model for other countries</i>
2. Public Support & Unity		
3. Historical Ties		
4. Political Priorities		
5. Vision of Sovereignty		
6. Economic Cooperation		
7. Technological Development		
8. Global Positioning		
9. Role in International Organizations		
10. Future Integration Plans		

## **SPEAKING AND WRITING**

**I. Act out a dialogue between two students – one from Belarus and one from Russia. In your dialogue, discuss:**

- What the Union State means to you personally
- How it affects your daily life (e.g., education, travel, work opportunities)
- The benefits you see from the cooperation between the two countries
- Your hopes or ideas for the future of the Union State

**Useful phrases to include in your dialogue:**

To share your thoughts:

*'I believe that...'* / *'I think...'* / *'In my opinion...'*

To ask for the other person's view:

*'What do you think?'* / *'How about you?'*

To explain your experience or reasons:

*'From my experience...'* / *'It's important because...'*

To express hopes or expectations:

*'I hope that...'* / *'I'm looking forward to...'*

**II. Role-Play a Diplomatic Meeting.** You are official delegates representing Belarus and Russia at a high-level diplomatic meeting. Your goal is to discuss strategies for strengthening economic cooperation within the framework of the Union State.

**Roles:**

- Delegate from Belarus
- Delegate from Russia

**Task:**

- Begin with a formal greeting and brief introductions.
- Discuss the significance of mutual trade and investment between the two countries.
  - Propose at least one new area for collaboration, such as artificial intelligence, digital ecosystems, or other high-tech industries.
  - Address current challenges, including economic sanctions and import substitution measures, and suggest ways to overcome them.
  - Conclude with a positive statement expressing a shared commitment to deepening cooperation and fostering sustainable economic growth.

**III. Imagine you are members of a joint Belarus–Russia youth delegation tasked with preparing a roadmap for future cooperation:**

1. Choose one area of cooperation from the list below:

- Security
- Economic Development
- Industrial & Agricultural Cooperation
- Regional Strategy

2. Brainstorm a new initiative or project that Belarus and Russia could launch together in your chosen area.

3. Consider these questions to guide your idea:

- What is the main goal of your initiative?
- How will it benefit both countries?
- What practical steps are needed to implement it?

4. Present your idea briefly to your group or class.

**IV. Write a brief summary (100–150 words) of the main points discussed during the negotiations between President A. Lukashenko and President V. Putin. Focus on the key themes of security, economic cooperation, and integration.**

**Hints for Writing Your Summary:**

1. **Read Carefully:** Re-read the text or your notes to understand the main ideas and key points.

2. **Identify Main Themes:** Focus on the three central topics – security, economic cooperation, and integration. What did the leaders say about each?

3. **Use Your Own Words:** Paraphrase the original text instead of copying sentences directly.

4. **Be Concise:** A summary should be short and to the point. Include only the most important information.

5. **Avoid Details:** Leave out minor details, examples, or repetitions.

6. **Use Linking Words:** Connect your ideas clearly using phrases such as *firstly*, *in addition*, *furthermore*, *finally*.

7. **Check Tone:** Keep a formal and neutral tone appropriate for diplomatic content.

**V. Imagine you are a journalist attending the 2025 negotiations. Based on your knowledge about the Belarus–Russia relations:**

- Predict three key topics the two presidents might discuss.
- Write one possible quote that you think each leader could realistically say.

Tip: Think about trade, sanctions, security, or shared history.

# BELARUSIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS

## unit V

*Belarus has been, is, and will be a reliable partner for China.  
I don't think anyone in China needs to be convinced of this.*  
**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

### STARTER

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The high level of relations between Belarus and China is determined, among other things, by the fact that Belarus has proven itself to be a conscientious partner that honors all its obligations. The opinion was expressed by Aleksei Avdonin, an analyst with the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (BISR).

Aleksei Avdonin said: 'When we look at Belarusian-Chinese relations, it is necessary to emphasize that back in the 1990s our president saw the vector of China's development and clearly determined that our country had to intensively advance relations with China. Now we have the highest form of bilateral relations – the all-weather kind. And it is determined by the level of trust that has formed between our countries. After all, Belarus has fulfilled all its obligations. It is a guarantee of success and trust, which have resulted in such a high level of relations.'

The BISR analyst noted that not all countries in the post-Soviet space enjoy the same level of trust and relations with China. 'We know that China is actively advancing the Belt and Road initiative. And Belarus is one of the key countries along this route. We are in direct contact with the European Union. We know that China is interested in the intensive development of this project,' he emphasized.

According to Aleksei Avdonin, Belarus is an extremely reliable partner for China, including within the framework of the Belt and Road initiative. It is reflected in the relatively large staff of the Chinese embassy in Belarus, in the high level of relations between government agencies and enterprises, and in the implementation of a whole series of projects involving Chinese investments.

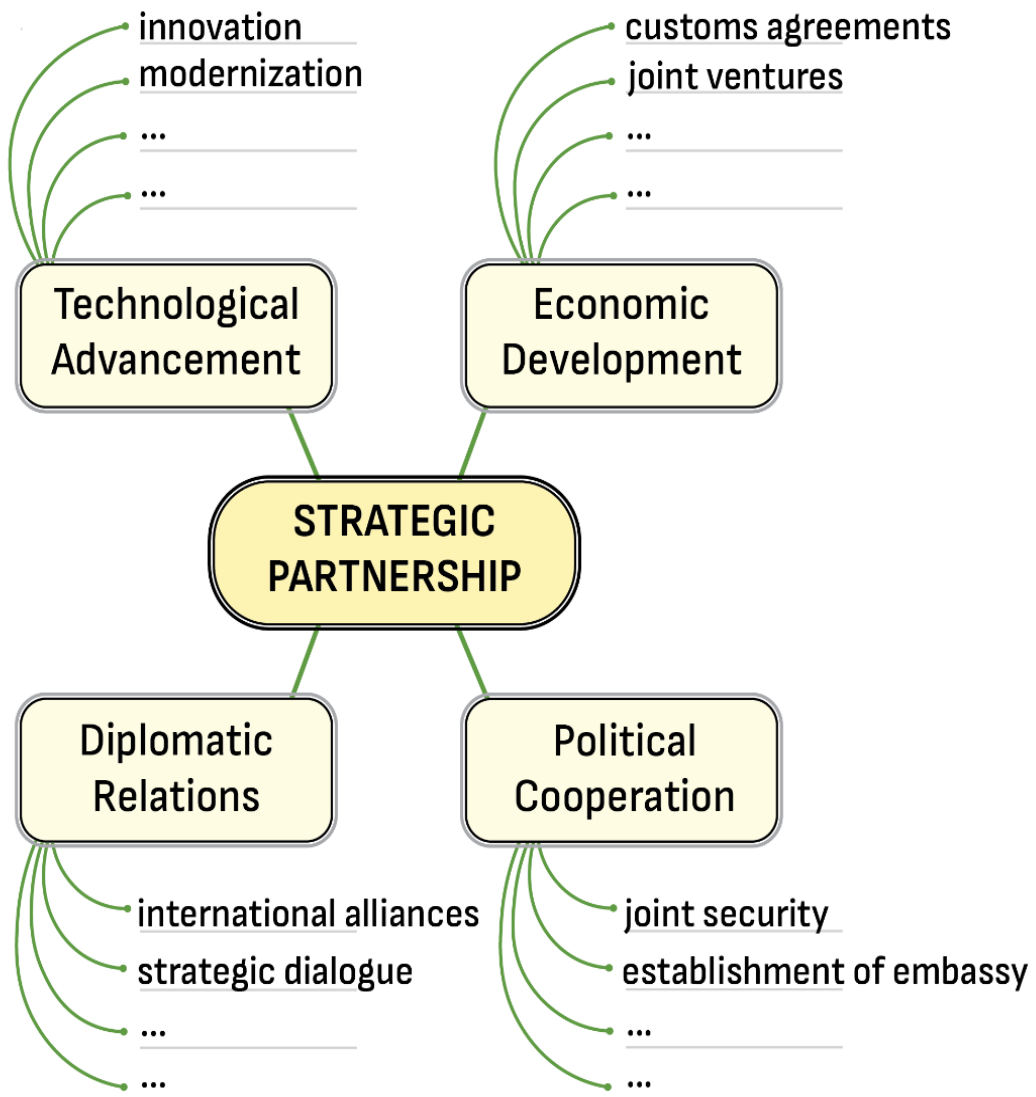
*<https://eng.belta.by/society/view/reasons-behind-success-of-belarus-china-relations-analyzed-168703-2025/>*

#### **In small groups discuss the following questions:**

1. What are the main reasons why countries form strategic partnerships?
2. What factors have contributed to the strong relationship between Belarus and China?
3. What is meant by the term *all-weather partnership*? Why might this be significant in diplomatic terms?
4. Why is Belarus strategically important to China's Belt and Road Initiative?
5. Which areas of cooperation between Belarus and China do you find most impactful – political, economic, or infrastructural? Why?

Complete the mind map 'Strategic Partnership' by adding your own ideas and associations for each branch. Think about what countries might cooperate on when they form a strategic partnership:

- Why do you think Belarus and China have such a strong partnership?
- What benefits do both countries gain from working together?



You are going to read some excerpts from the speeches of A. Lukashenko and Xi Jinping **Negotiations with Chinese President Xi Jinping**, March 1, 2023 (Text 1) which follow next. Both leaders reaffirmed the strength of their friendship and the depth of their strategic partnership. They also discussed plans to expand cooperation in technology, industry, and international peace efforts.

Before reading the speeches, look up the term *strategic partnership* in an English-English dictionary.

## VOCABULARY

The following vocabulary tasks will help you understand the information of the suggested text better.

### I. Match the word on the left with its corresponding definition on the right:

Term	Meaning
1. Modernization	a. a long-term alliance between countries for mutual benefit
2. Bilateral relations	b. the process of making something more current or up-to-date
3. Strategic partnership	c. the set of key parts required to assemble complex machinery
4. Component base	d. business arrangements where two parties share ownership and profits
5. Joint ventures	e. diplomatic or political interactions between two countries

### II. Complete the missing parts of the speech in the table. Some words are already filled in to guide you. Use a dictionary if needed.

Base Word	Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
cooperate	cooperation	_____	cooperative	_____
invest	_____	invest	investment-related	_____
strategy	strategy	_____	strategic	strategically
modernize	modernization	modernize	_____	_____
decide	_____	decide	decisive	_____
produce	production	_____	_____	productively
propose	_____	propose	_____	_____
support	support	_____	supportive	_____
promote	promotion	_____	promotional	_____
develop	development	_____	developmental	_____
implement	implementation	implement	_____	_____
prepare	preparation	_____	_____	_____

### III. Choose 3–4 words from the table above. Create short meaningful sentences. Try to relate your sentences to international cooperation, joint projects, or strategic development.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

While reading the text, highlight words and phrases about strategic partnership and cooperation between Belarus and China, focusing on:

- Trust and diplomacy
- Joint projects and investments
- Political and technological collaboration

Text 1  
**NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING**  
March 1, 2023 (excerpts)

**P***resident of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:* Dear Mr. President, dear friend of the Belarusian people. First of all, I want to congratulate you once again on the greatest trust shown by the Chinese people. In my message of congratulations that reflected the position of me as the President of Belarus and my family, I honestly admitted that we were really worried about the outcomes of the congress of the Chinese Communist Party. We were very nervous, though probably we should not have been. In fact, people always worry about their friends.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at the meeting  
with the Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, 2023

Today's meeting is taking place at a very difficult time that requires unconventional approaches and responsible political decisions. They should be aimed above all at preventing a descent into a global confrontation in which there will be no winners. You have stated this recently in a clear, unambiguous and timely manner when addressing the global community. That is why Belarus is actively making peace proposals and fully supports the international security initiative that you have put forward. We immediately joined the mechanisms that seek to promote it and are ready to prepare and implement joint projects in Belarus.

We are interested in more profound cooperation with China in the field of technological development, including joint production facilities, modernization of Belarusian enterprises through the introduction of modern Chinese technologies and promotion of goods and services to third-country markets.

Our manufacturers are interested in studying the competencies and technologies of Chinese companies regarding component base formation, manufacturing engines, transmissions, axles as well as other units and assemblies. I propose to set up joint ventures in the field of machine-tool construction, electric transport, production of parts for agricultural machinery both in Belarus and China. Cooperation will help increase the competitiveness of products.

**Chinese President Xi Jinping:** I warmly welcome you to China, Mr. President. A meeting between old friends is always a pleasure. We last met in Samarkand last September. We had quite a remarkable conversation, during which we announced

the elevation of China-Belarus relations to the level of all-weather and all-round strategic partnership, which served as a powerful impetus for full-scale cooperation between the two countries. The new status of bilateral relations should be filled with new content. Today, we have a good opportunity to develop a plan for the entire set of bilateral relations and adopt a joint statement.

Mr. President and I are united by a common desire to develop China-Belarus relations. We have been friends for many years. Our friendship is strong and unbreakable. Given the instability and turbulence of the international climate, China is determined to actively continue joint efforts with Belarus to strengthen political mutual trust and practical cooperation for the dynamic, healthy and sustainable development of bilateral relations.

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/peregovory-s-predsedatelya-kr-si-czinpinom>*

Now that you have read the text, you are invited to demonstrate your understanding by completing the tasks that follow.

**IV. Match each word or phrase from the text with its contextual meaning:**

<b>Word/Phrase</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
1. Unconventional approaches	a. shared industrial spaces for co-manufacturing goods
2. Full-scale cooperation	b. shared confidence in each other's decisions
3. Political mutual trust	c. an outcome where all parties suffer losses
4. Component base formation	d. upgrading national industries
5. 'No winners' (in confrontation)	e. official suggestions aimed at preventing or resolving conflict
6. Modernization of Belarusian enterprises	f. unusual or innovative political methods
7. Joint production facilities	g. broad, deep engagement across sectors
8. Peace proposals	h. development of parts for manufacturing

**V. Mark the sentences T (True) or F (False). Correct the false ones using the information from the text:**

1. ( ) President A. Lukashenko stated that he was confident about the outcome of the Chinese Communist Party Congress.
2. ( ) Belarus fully supports President Xi Jinping's international security initiative.
3. ( ) Belarus is not interested in technological cooperation with China.
4. ( ) President A. Lukashenko proposed creating joint ventures in areas such as electric transport and agricultural machinery.
5. ( ) President Xi Jinping and President A. Lukashenko most recently met in Minsk.
6. ( ) China and Belarus upgraded their relations to a strategic partnership during a meeting in Samarkand.
7. ( ) President Xi Jinping described the friendship between the two countries as strong and long-lasting.
8. ( ) China plans to reduce political cooperation with Belarus due to global instability.

**VI. Choose the best synonym for the underlined word(s) in each sentence:**

1. The two countries agreed to **elevate** their relationship to a strategic level.  
a) Promote b) Lift c) Improve d) Reduce
2. The President emphasized the need for **mutual trust** in international relations.  
a) Shared respect b) Common confidence c) Political support d) Open dialogue
3. The international climate remains **unstable** and unpredictable.  
a) Temporary b) Turbulent c) Political d) Strategic
4. Belarus supports the **modernization** of its enterprises.  
a) Renovation b) Upgrading c) Privatization d) Promotion
5. The sides discussed the **promotion** of goods to third-country markets.  
a) Sale b) Advertisement c) Distribution d) Expansion
6. China and Belarus signed a **joint statement** on cooperation.  
a) Shared declaration b) Financial agreement c) Press release d) Security pledge
7. Belarus **joined** the mechanisms that seek to promote global peace.  
a) Participate in b) Observe c) Create d) Supervise
8. The Belarusian side is interested in **component base formation**.  
a) Assembling final products b) Creating basic parts c) Building storage units  
d) Transporting machinery

**VII. Working with Text 1 ‘Negotiations with Chinese President Xi Jinping’, split into three groups. Each group reads a different part of the speech and answers guiding questions. Share your findings with the class to build a full picture of the Belarus–China relationship.**

**GROUP 1: Trust & Challenges**

**READ:** President A. Lukashenko’s opening remarks

**DISCUSS:**

- What global problems are mentioned?
- What role does Belarus aim to play in the world?
- What messages are sent to other countries?

**Focus On:** Global risks | Emotional tone | Security ideas

**GROUP 2: Economic Dialogue**

**READ:** The section on economic cooperation

**DISCUSS:**

- What are the main areas of cooperation between Belarus and China?
- What deals or proposals are mentioned?
- Why is Belarus interested in Chinese technology? What are the long-term goals of this cooperation?

**Focus On:** Joint ventures | Tech goals | Economic growth

**GROUP 3: Strategic Vision**

**READ:** President Xi Jinping’s remarks

**DISCUSS:**

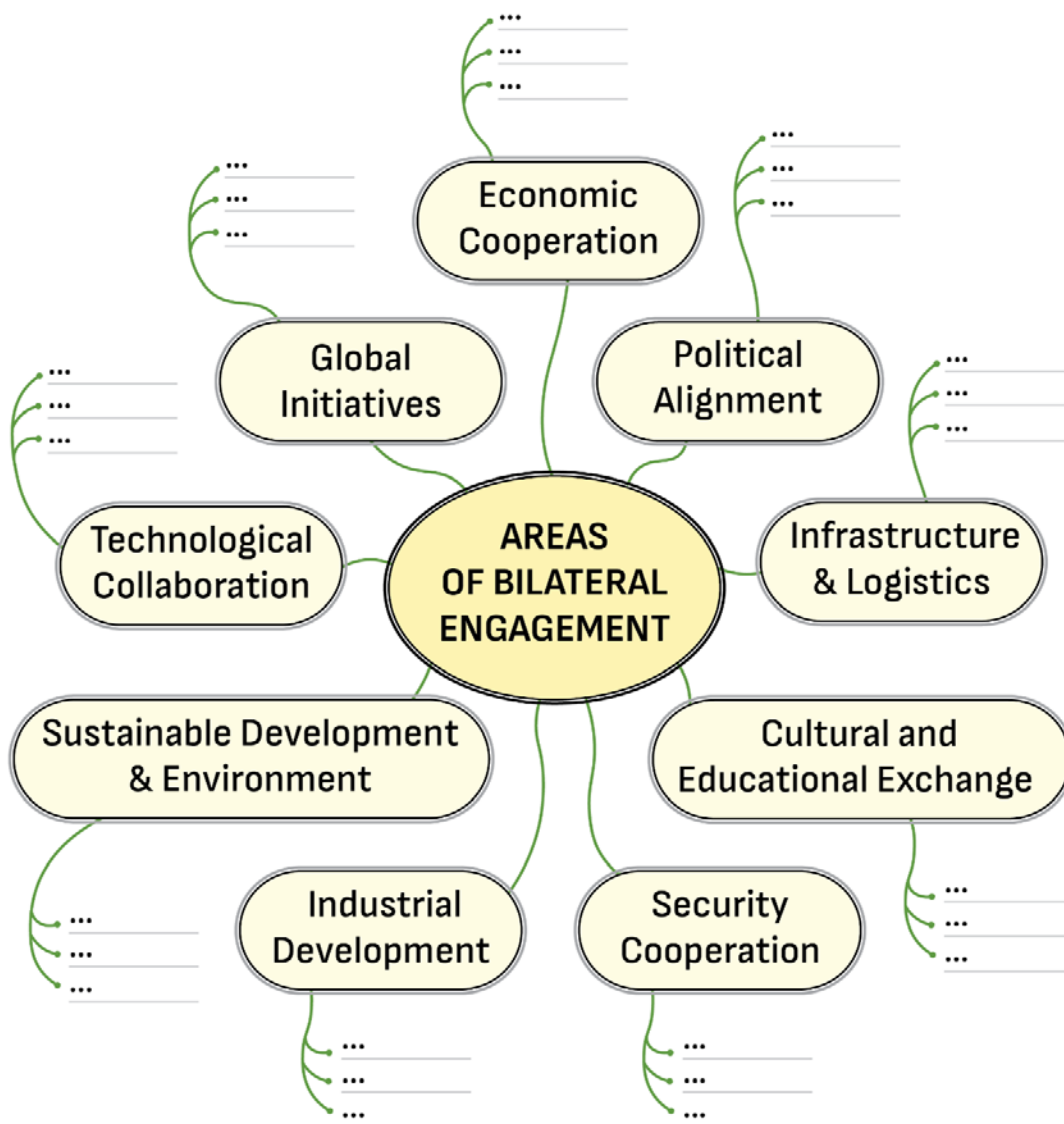
- How does Xi Jinping describe the partnership?
- How are long-standing friendship and mutual commitment emphasized?
- What future goals does China express in this relationship?

**Focus On:** Shared values | Stability & trust | Future plans

The following text **Talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping** (Text 2) highlights the ongoing evolution of the strategic dialogue between Belarus and China, underscoring their enduring political trust, ideological affinity, and time-tested partnership. Both leaders reaffirm their unwavering commitment to expanding multifaceted cooperation, while articulating a shared aspiration to foster global stability and advance a unified vision for a common future of humankind.

Complete the concept map 'Areas of Bilateral Engagement' below by adding your own ideas and associations for each branch. After that discuss with a partner or small group:

- Which areas do you think are the most important?
- How might these areas affect the relationship between Belarus and China?



## VOCABULARY

Before you start reading the text, complete some vocabulary tasks which will help you understand the information better.

**I. Substitute the words in bold in the sentences below with the correct words from the box:**

*community    visits    development    speed    partnership*  
*trust    stability    initiative*

1. The government launched a new **plan** to boost trade and cooperation among countries.
2. Over the past year, numerous **journeys** between the two nations have strengthened their relations.
3. Building **confidence** between countries is essential for successful diplomacy.
4. The strong **alliance** between Belarus and China has lasted for decades.
5. The challenge we face today is the **rate** at which global events are unfolding.
6. Ensuring political **consistency** is crucial for sustained economic progress.
7. Significant progress has been made in the **expansion** of bilateral economic ties.
8. Both countries aim to build a **society** united by shared goals and cooperation.

**II. Match each term related to the Belarus–China talks with its appropriate definition:**

Term	Definition
1. Belt and Road Initiative	a. rapid and active progress in cooperation and relations
2. Mutual visits	b. cooperation that covers many fields including politics, economy and culture
3. Political mutual trust	c. a large-scale international infrastructure and development strategy led by china
4. Comprehensive partnership	d. confidence and reliability between governments in their political relations
5. Community with a shared future for mankind	e. a sense of urgency due to limited time to achieve goals
6. Dynamic development	f. official trips exchanged between countries to strengthen relations
7. Stability and long-term development	g. maintaining steady growth and avoiding disruption in political and economic relations
8. Compressed time	h. a vision of global unity and common goals among nations

**III. Write the correct form of the word in parentheses to complete each sentence:**

1. Our March meeting was a ... (PIVOT) event that set the tone for the year.
2. Belarus has always been a ... (RELY) partner for China.
3. Over 120 mutual visits have been ... (CARRY) since March.
4. China plays a major role in shaping a shared future for ... (MAN).

5. The rapid pace of change requires ... (ADAPT) from all international partners.
6. Much of what is happening globally is ... (EXPECT).
7. China has made great ... (STRIDE) in ensuring long-term development.
8. China's ... (DETERMINE) in fostering global development has been widely acknowledged.
9. The two nations committed to further ... (DEEP) of technological exchange.
10. The Belt and Road Initiative has evolved from a concept into a globally recognized ... (OPERATE) framework.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Read the following excerpts from the talks between the Presidents of the Republic of Belarus and China in December 2023. The text highlights the history and current state of cooperation between the two countries, focusing on economic, political, and international issues.

a) Before reading, try to anticipate the content of the discussion by answering the following questions in pairs or small groups:

- What factors could encourage Belarus to strengthen its cooperation with China?
- In what ways does the sense of urgency or time pressure influence the decisions and dynamics in international relations?
- In what ways does China benefit politically and economically from cooperation with Belarus?

b) As you read, divide the text into **three** thematic parts. Assign a heading to each part.

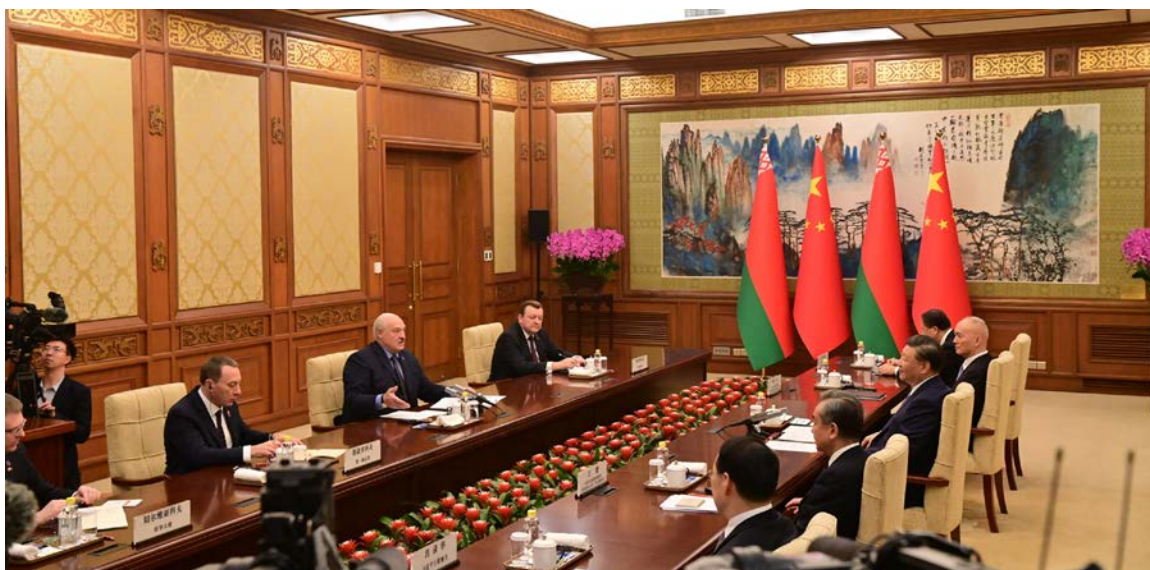
- Paragraphs 1–3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paragraphs 4–5: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paragraphs 6–end: \_\_\_\_\_

### Text 2

#### TALKS WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING

December 4, 2023 (excerpts)

**P***resident of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:* I am glad to have this opportunity and discuss topical issues of cooperation with you in a friendly atmosphere and express our points of view on various problems of international relations, as it has always been the case between us. The development of comprehensive and all-weather strategic cooperation between Belarus and China is determined by the similarity of our ideologies and the very logic of international events and processes that are taking place today. Our meeting on 1 March [2023] was in many ways pivotal and set the momentum for the whole year. Since March, more than 120 mutual visits have been carried out. Those are various visits. What is most pleasing is that the visits are related to cooperation in the manufacturing sector, trade and economy.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko negotiating with the Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. 2023

Belarus has been a reliable partner for China and will remain so. I don't think anyone in China needs to be convinced of this. All this has happened before my eyes for the last 30 years, and even way back. I came to China for the first time as a member of parliament.

We have a lot of experience. We know what our countries need. We have done a lot in this regard. We decided a long time ago that we would cooperate and live in friendship with China. As I said, this friendship is more than 30 years old. We have never turned from this path either to the left or to the right.

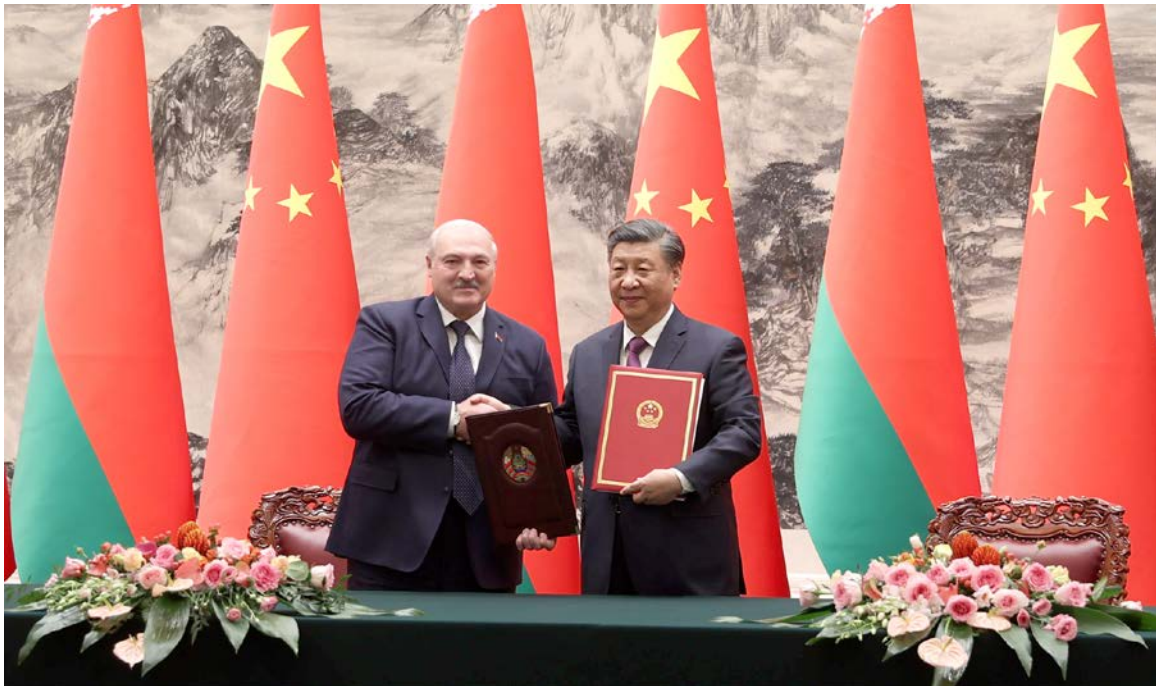
When I was preparing for this visit, I asked my colleagues [during a meeting with the senior officials of the government and the President Administration to discuss, among other things, the Belarusian-Chinese cooperation] about what more needs to be done, what things are not moving forward so that I could discuss these things in Beijing. We did not find a single issue. Progress has been made across the board. The only issue that I would like to discuss with you today is speed. Time is very compressed today. This does not depend on us (maybe, fortunately, maybe, unfortunately). It is so compressed that sometimes we fall behind. It's not just China, Belarus... This is happening around the world. The one who is the first to reach their goal will be at the top.

You just mentioned the Belt and Road. I came to the conclusion a long time ago that the Belt and Road Initiative is, as you said, no longer a concept today. It is already a practice. In progress. No one can argue with this today, and no one can find even a trifle to criticize. The most important thing is that you have defined the common destiny for humankind as the goal. Unlike Western countries that are trying to tear everything apart, you have set the single goal for all. Who can argue with that? No one. The world will be grateful to Great China for this. We would like to see China a powerful country. We would like to see it grow. This is not only our interest. It is in the interests of the whole planet, because a huge number of talented hardworking people live here [in China].

**Chinese President Xi Jinping:** My great friend, I am very glad to see you again. As part of your state visit to China in late February and early March of this year, we reached important agreements in favor of the dynamic development of Chinese-

Belarusian relations. At every stage, we reach new agreements. Over the course of the year, political mutual trust and international cooperation are strengthened. There are new results of cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

For China, maintaining stability and long-term development is very important. We have made great strides in this work. In today's world, titanic changes are taking place, new risks and challenges are emerging. Much of what is happening is unexpected for us. The Chinese side is ready, together with Belarusian partners, to strengthen strategic cooperation in the name of creating a community with a shared future for mankind.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko negotiating with the Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. 2023

<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/vstrecha-s-predsedatelem-knr-si-czinpinom>

**IV. Mark the sentences T (True) or F (False) correcting the false ones using arguments from the text:**

1. ( ) President A. Lukashenko highlighted that Belarus and China have been cooperating for over 30 years.
2. ( ) The Belt and Road Initiative is still only a concept and has not yet been put into practice.
3. ( ) According to the speech, time is compressed today, and sometimes countries fall behind in reaching their goals.
4. ( ) Belarus has never wavered in its friendship with China, staying consistent in its cooperation.
5. ( ) Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized that China is not interested in strengthening relations with Belarus.

6. ( ) More than 120 mutual visits between Belarus and China have been made since March 2023.
7. ( ) The speakers agree that shared goals and mutual trust are important for international relations.
8. ( ) China sees the Belt and Road Initiative as a divisive project that tears countries apart.

**V. Using the three thematic sections, you identified in the previous task, prepare a summary of each part. Your summary should:**

- Capture the central idea or main point of the section in 1–2 complete sentences.
- Reflect the key information and overall message conveyed by the speakers in that section.
- Avoid copying sentences directly from the text; instead, use your own words to demonstrate understanding.

**Example:**

If a section focuses on the history of Belarus-China relations, your summary might be: *‘This part describes the long-standing cooperation and friendship between Belarus and China, emphasizing mutual trust built over more than 30 years. It highlights the shared values and continuous efforts that have strengthened their partnership through numerous visits and collaborative projects.’*

## **SPEAKING AND WRITING**

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**I. Practice expressing *agreement*, *polite disagreement*, requests for *clarification*, and diplomatic *suggestions* through short dialogues. Work in pairs. One student reads a prompt based on an idea or statement from the speech. The other student responds using one of the four communication strategies. Continue the dialogue for 2–3 exchanges, and then switch roles. Be sure to use appropriate diplomatic vocabulary and tone throughout.**

**Dialogue Prompts:**

1. ‘Belarus is ready to share advanced technologies with China.’
2. ‘A museum of Belarusian history in Chinese style will be a new Minsk landmark.’
3. ‘We should involve more students in cultural exchanges.’
4. ‘Our cooperation is growing not just in education, but also in defense and security.’
5. ‘Belarus is ready to play a serious role in science and innovation.’

## Functional Phrases:

### Agreement

I fully agree with your point that...  
I share your view on...  
That aligns well with our priorities.

### Clarification

Could you elaborate on...?  
Would you mind explaining  
more about...?  
Could you clarify what  
you mean by...?

### Polite Disagreement

I see your point, but may I suggest...  
With due respect, I would offer  
a different perspective...  
I appreciate your perspective;  
however,...

### Suggestions

Perhaps we could consider...  
It might be beneficial to...  
I would suggest exploring...

**II. Imagine you are a negotiator or official participating in the Belarus–China talks. Write a brief paragraph (3–4 sentences) outlining your primary goals and what you aim to accomplish through this partnership. Use the example sentence starters and suggested words to help you.**

**Sentence 1: Who are you and why are you here?**

*‘As a representative/negotiator from [Belarus / China], my main goal in these talks is to...’*

**Useful words:** improve, build, develop, continue, support, discuss, agree on

**Sentence 2: What do your countries want to achieve together?**

*‘We want to strengthen our cooperation in areas such as [manufacturing, trade, transport, technology, friendship].’*

**Useful words:** work together, help each other, share ideas, invest, grow

**Sentence 3: Why is this partnership important?**

*‘This partnership is important because it helps us to [develop faster, solve problems together, support each other, stay strong in the world].’*

**Useful words:** important, useful, necessary, future, support, trust, peace

**Sentence 4: What are your hopes for the future?**

*‘I hope this partnership will lead to [better relations, more success, peace, long-term friendship, shared goals].’*

**Useful words:** future, continue, grow, benefit, respect, success

**III. Write a short opinion essay ‘Why Educational Diplomacy Matters’ (120–150 words) explaining why education is an important part of diplomacy.**

**Essay Structure:**

**1. Introduction (2–3 sentences)**

- Briefly introduce the topic of educational diplomacy
- Clearly state your opinion

**2. Body (5–6 sentences)**

- Present 1–2 key reasons why education is important in diplomacy
- Support each reason with a relevant example from the speech
- Explain how each example illustrates your point

**3. Conclusion (2–3 sentences)**

- Restate your main opinion
- Add a final thought about the future of international educational cooperation

**Useful Sentence Connectors:**

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Phrases</b>
Giving Opinion	I believe that..., In my view..., It is my opinion that...
Adding Points	Moreover..., In addition..., Furthermore...
Giving Examples	For example..., As mentioned in the speech..., One instance is...
Cause & Effect	As a result..., Therefore..., This leads to...
Concluding	In conclusion..., To sum up..., All in all...

# MEMBERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

## unit VI

*At the modern stage of development the Belarusian state needs to build its foreign policy and foreign trade in a new way - more extensively and aggressively. I believe that the time has come to assert ourselves on the world stage.*

*Aleksandr Lukashenko*

### STARTER

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Belarus is an active participant in various international organizations, which play a significant role in shaping its foreign policy and international relations. The country is a member of the United Nations (UN), where it engages in global efforts to promote peace, security and sustainable development. Additionally, Belarus is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), an alliance aimed at integrating economies and promoting trade and cooperation. It is a partner of BRICS and one of the most recent members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). It currently seeks full membership in BRICS. It is also part of the Union State of Russia and Belarus, which seeks to deepen political and economic integration between the two nations. Belarus' involvement in these organizations reflects its commitment to regional stability and international collaboration. Overall, membership in these international bodies helps Belarus strengthen its diplomatic ties and pursue its national interests on the global stage.

*the text generated by AI, adapted*

How do the President's words above resonate with you? What do you think he means by building foreign policy and trade more extensively and aggressively? By what other means can a country assert itself at a global scale?

**Answer the following questions and discuss the information in pairs or as a group.**

1. How does participation in global organizations help a country improve its diplomatic relations?
2. In what ways can international organizations assist a country in achieving economic development?
3. How does being part of international organizations influence a country's global reputation?
4. What role do such organizations play in helping countries address global challenges such as climate change or pandemics?
5. How can membership in international organizations support a country's security and defense strategies?
6. How does being part of international organizations benefit a country's access to international aid and resources?

You are going to read selected excerpts from the President's speech at the **Plenary session of the XVI BRICS Outreach/Plus Summit**, October 24, 2024 (Text 1). Decipher the acronym of BRICS. What countries is it currently composed of?

## VOCABULARY

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Before reading the speech, complete the following vocabulary tasks.

### I. Match the words and phrases on the left with their definitions on the right.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Potential     | a. engagement in fighting                           |
| 2. Boundary      | b. supply or commodity                              |
| 3. Warfare       | c. a dividing line marking the area or a border     |
| 4. To underpin   | d. to put (a plan or decision) into effect          |
| 5. Sustainable   | e. covering and involving much                      |
| 6. Comprehensive | f. keeping an eco-balance to conserve resources     |
| 7. Reserve       | g. claiming something back to cultivate it          |
| 8. Reclamation   | h. latent qualities that can lead to future success |
| 9. Specialty     | area of study or skill in which one is an expert    |
| 10. To implement | j. to support or justify                            |

### II. Choose the right synonym and antonym for each of the words.

Word	Synonym	Antonym
1. Dominance	a) accomplishment	a) exemption
2. Responsibility	b) adjustment	b) exclusive
3. Universal	c) self-reliant	c) dissociable
4. Self-sufficient	d) supremacy	d) disunion
5. Indivisible	e) widespread	e) dependent
6. Achievement	f) obligation	f) subservience
7. Adaptation	g) forefront	g) rigidity
8. Order	h) syndicate	h) defeat
9. Front	i) inseparable	i) disarray
10. Consortium	j) structure	j) rear

### III. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box to complete the sentences:

*civilized*      *participation*      *aligned*      *humankind*  
*expertise*      *food*      *security*      *center*

1. The collective West has failed to take responsibility for the ... development of international relations.
2. We are absolutely ... with the BRICS philosophy.
3. Our geographical location in the ... of Europe.
4. Belarus has ideas and projects that can help address common problems facing ...
5. Our country's ... expands the organization's boundaries, making it more universal and comprehensive.
6. Mutual respect, indivisible ..., development without confrontation and warfare – these are the principles that should underpin our new world order as we see it.
7. We are making our contribution to ensuring ... security in the world.
8. We will be happy to share our ... and knowledge and best practices.

### IV. The following statements are taken from the text you are going to read. Try to fill in the gaps with the prepositions or particles if necessary. After reading the text, check if you have done the task correctly.

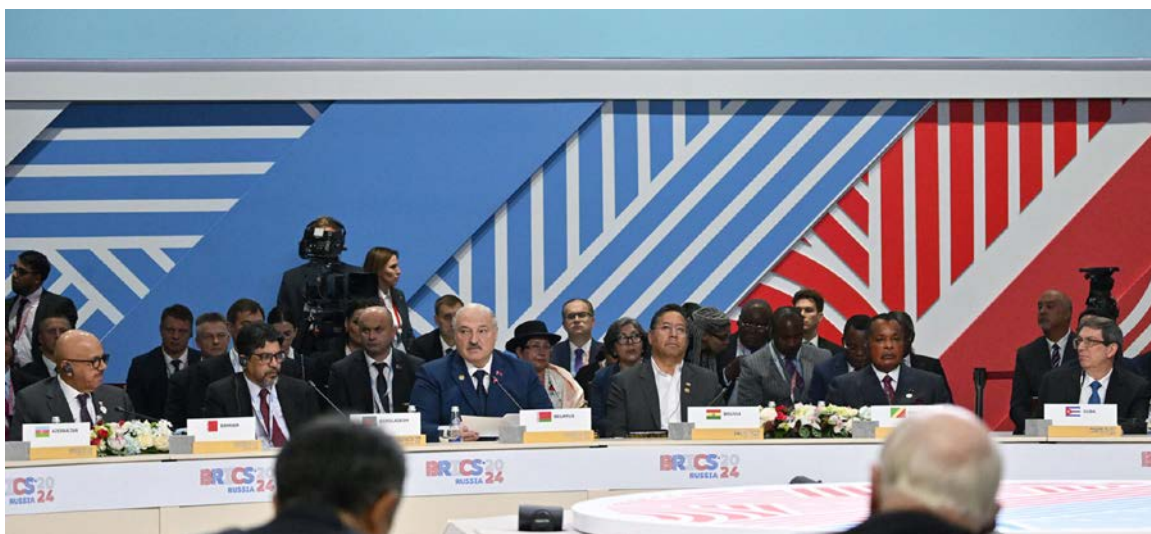
1. BRICS is a community ... the future.
2. The collective West has failed to take responsibility ... the civilized development of international relations.
3. Belarus is ready to become an active participant ... the BRICS organization.
4. Our geographical location ... the center ... Europe gives us grounds to believe in our role ... the organization.
5. Mutual respect, indivisible security, development ... confrontation and warfare are principles ... the new world order
6. Belarus is doing well ... building sustainable, self-sufficient economies ... the absence ... large reserves of natural resources.
7. Belarus contributes ... ensuring food security ... the world.
8. People from more than 110 countries come ... Belarus ... study modern specialties.
9. Belarus is ready ... help create BRICS satellite systems and a space research consortium.
10. We are happy ... share our expertise and best practices ... the BRICS community.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Try to predict the range of critical issues President A. Lukashenko chose to focus on and dwell upon. Explain your point of view. After reading, compare your assumptions with the information of the text.

Text 1  
**THE PLENARY SESSION  
OF THE XVI BRICS OUTREACH / PLUS SUMMIT**  
October 24, 2024 (excerpts)



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the Plenary Session of the XVI BRICS Outreach/Plus Summit. 2024

**B**RICS is a community of the future. Due to its potential, it can end the Western dominance. The collective West has failed to take responsibility for the civilized development of international relations. The BRICS member states are able to ensure that the true levers of influence pass into the hands of the world's progressive majority.

We are absolutely aligned with the BRICS philosophy. Belarus has ideas and projects that can help address common problems facing humankind. We are ready to become an active participant in the association.

Our geographical location in the center of Europe, our experience and achievements give us grounds to believe that Belarus will become another important element of our organization going forward. Belarus' participation expands the organization's boundaries, making it more universal and comprehensive.

(1) *On security.* Mutual respect, indivisible security, development without confrontation and warfare – these are the principles that should underpin our new world order as we see it.

(2) *On sustainable development.* For many countries of the world, including us, it is critically important to build sustainable, self-sufficient economies in the absence of large reserves of natural resources, geographical and climatic advantages. Belarus is doing pretty well on this front.

(3) *On the fight against hunger, poverty, climate change.* We are making our contribution to ensuring food security in the world. We are ready to cooperate in matters related to agricultural science, adaptation of crops to climate change, land reclamation.

(4) *On humanitarian matters.*

Belarusian education has earned a good reputation in the world: people from more than 110 countries come to us to study the most popular modern specialties. Strong scientific traditions are an important factor in the successful development of our sovereign state.



2. ( ) The BRICS member states have no potential to ensure that the true levers of influence pass into the hands of the world's progressive majority.
3. ( ) Belarus has ideas and projects that can help address common problems facing humankind.
4. ( ) Our geographical location in the center of Europe, our experience and achievements give us no reason to believe that Belarus will become another important element of BRICS going forward.
5. ( ) Belarus is doing well on the front of building a sustainable economy considering the scarcity of large deposits of natural resources as well as any geographical or climatic advantages.
6. ( ) Our country is making no considerable contribution to ensuring food security in the world.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko meeting with the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres at the XVI BRICS Outreach/Plus Summit. 2024

7. ( ) Belarus' scientific traditions is one of many crucial factors to guarantee the successful development of our sovereign state.
8. ( ) We are reluctant to share our expertise, knowledge and best practices.

**VIII. Answer the questions using the information from the text. You may discuss them in pairs at first and then exchange your ideas with the groupmates.**

1. Why is BRICS branded by the President as a community of the future?
2. How does the text describe the current role of the Western countries in international relations?
3. What does the President suggest about the potential role of Belarus in BRICS?
4. How does Belarus' geographical location and achievements contribute to our current involvement in BRICS?

5. What are the four principles outlined in the text that should underpin a new world order?
6. How does Belarus view its approach to sustainable development, especially given its resource and geographical situation?
7. What contributions does our country claim to make towards global issues like hunger, poverty and climate change?
8. How does our advanced education system contribute to its international reputation?
9. What future initiatives related to space exploration does Belarus express readiness to participate in within BRICS?
10. How does Belarus propose to share its expertise and knowledge with the BRICS community?

Next comes an excerpt from the President's speech at **SCO Plus Summit in Astana**, July 4, 2024 (Text 2). Look up SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization). How many countries is the organization currently composed of?

## VOCABULARY

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The suggested tasks will help you get better understanding of the text.

### I. Fill in the blanks with the correct derivative of the words in brackets.

1. Membership in global organizations encourages international (COOPERATE).
2. These organizations help promote peace and global (STABLE).
3. Countries work together to achieve sustainable (DEVELOP).
4. The success of cooperation depends on effective (COLLABORATE).
5. Protecting the environment is essential for long-term (SUSTAIN).
6. The (AUTHORIZE) of SCO is evident in global policies.
7. Countries must work together to ensure economic (GROW).
8. Environmental (PROTECT) measures are crucial for combating climate change.
9. The success of the project depends on effective (MANAGE).
10. The government's new policies aim to enhance national (SECURE).

### II. Match the following words and phrases with their definitions.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Succinct         | a) forming a united whole                             |
| 2. Hegemon          | b) involving two parties or sides                     |
| 3. Cohesion         | c) an initiative or grant outlining privileges/rights |
| 4. Bilateral        | d) essential, integral or fundamental                 |
| 5. To brace oneself | e) briefly and clearly expressed                      |
| 6. Charter          | f) to support or strengthen                           |
| 7. To weaponize     | g) to prepare for something hard and challenging      |
| 8. To wean off      | h) leading or major power                             |
| 9. Part and parcel  | i) exploit with the purpose of spreading discord      |
| 10. To bolster      | j) to gradually refuse or stop using                  |

**III. The following statements are taken from the text you are going to read. Try to fill in the gaps with the prepositions if necessary. After reading the text, check if you have done the task correctly.**

1. I assure you we will do everything ... our power so that the weight and authority ... our organization keeps increasing.

2. We see that every year the SCO is becoming a more powerful player ... global politics.
3. Here people listen ... and hear each other, no one dictates their will, although global movers and shakers are part ... the organization.
4. The West has built its wealth and established its political, economic and military superiority ... colonizing and mercilessly exploiting all other countries ... centuries.
5. The Washington-London hegemon is looking ... the world as its property.
6. This philosophy underpins the conflict ... Ukraine.
7. Invitations to attend the Minsk conference, which is due ... this autumn, have already been sent ... top officials ... your ministries of foreign affairs.
8. The SCO can do this, but it must be done quickly, because time is not ... our side.
9. Belarus is setting up a joint financial institution ... the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
10. Belarus will bolster ... the Shanghai spirit of the organization based ... principles of mutual respect, equality, and solidarity.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

Try to predict the sort of issues President A. Lukashenko expanded on in terms of Belarus' partnership potential. After reading, compare your assumptions with the information of the text.

### Text 2

## STRENGTHENING MULTILATERAL DIALOGUE - THE PURSUIT OF SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

July 4, 2024 (excerpts)

**F**or us, this is a serious and well-considered step. We see that every year the SCO is becoming a more powerful player in global politics.

Here people listen to and hear each other, no one dictates their will, although global movers and shakers are part of the organization. I assure you we will do everything in our power so that the weight and authority of our organization keeps increasing.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at SCO Plus Summit in Astana. 2024

There is a very succinct statement that accurately describes the essence of ongoing processes: ‘We have not seen such changes in a hundred years, and we are spearheading them together.’ Indeed, we are all taking part in fundamental transformations in global politics.

However, the ‘golden billion’ is not happy about it. The West has built its wealth and established its political, economic and military superiority by colonizing and mercilessly exploiting all other countries for centuries. The Washington-London hegemon is looking at the world as its property. It views the global population not as humans, but as an instrument for achieving its prosperity. This is the bottom line of political economy. This is the main source of numerous international security challenges.

This philosophy underpins the conflict in Ukraine. We know why it is still going on. As a result, the world today is in a deep crisis.

I strongly believe that our unity and cohesion will be the best response to challenges in global politics. To do this, we must join forces in the organization’s area of responsibility. For this, we need to create Greater Eurasia.

(1) *Adopting the Eurasian Charter.* Moreover, we see it as a kind of Eurasian alternative to the transatlantic Munich Conference. Invitations to attend the Minsk conference, which is due this autumn, have already been sent to top officials of your ministries of foreign affairs. I would very much like representatives of your countries to participate in discussions on the charter. We believe it should be passed at the level of heads of state.

(2) *Aligning integration processes.* Today people in the world are confused and in the dark. The UN secretary-general has just said that the world should be bracing for more conflicts. People need direction and certainty. The SCO can do this. Yet, this must be done quickly, because time is not on our side. Today’s situation is different from what we had after the Second World War and the Cold War. We are pressed for time; thus, we need to act now. If we do this, we will be ahead of the curve and the entire global community will thank us.

(3) *Reducing dependence on the U.S. dollar.* As a matter of priority Belarus suggests developing a mechanism for bilateral payments using national currencies and setting up a joint financial institution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Only our organization has two most powerful countries in its ranks – China and the Russian Federation. And we still have this awe for the U.S. dollar. Well, let’s finally take action to wean ourselves off the dollar. And you will see that those who have weaponized this currency will come to understand that things can no longer go on like this. We see this but we don’t mention some other burning issues that had to be dealt with. People are waiting.

(4) *Making digital technology more accessible.* Another proposal concerns closer cooperation in digital technologies that are becoming part and parcel of our life. Those digital technologies that benefit people and the economy, not the artificial intelligence that we are anxiously awaiting. Everyone should be able to benefit from technological progress, not just Western countries and transnational corporations.

(5) *Contributing to the common cause of the SCO countries.* We will be glad to see all the countries of the SCO family in Minsk, as well as the presentation of the SCO Demonstration Base for Agricultural Technology Exchange and Training.

Belarus is very proud of becoming a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. And we will bolster the Shanghai spirit of the organization based on principles of mutual respect, equality, and solidarity.

Allow me to assure you that Belarus will religiously stick to humane principles, which our organization advocates. I have absolutely no doubt that Minsk will occupy a worthy place among the capital cities, which are represented here. We have something to offer in concrete cooperation avenues. We have nearly ten years of observer state experience in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, stable political contacts and economic ties with all the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

We will be glad to welcome you in hospitable Belarus with open arms, dear friends!



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at SCO Plus Summit in Astana. 2024

<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/ucastie-vo-vstrece-v-formate-sos-plus>  
<https://president.gov.by/en/events/ucastie-vo-vstrece-v-formate-sos-plus-1720097200>

Now that you have read the text complete the following tasks.

**IV. Answer the questions based on the text and discuss the information in pairs or as a group.**

1. What is the main goal of the organization mentioned in the speech, according to the President?
2. How does he describe the 'golden billion' and its attitude towards global changes?
3. Which countries are highlighted as the most powerful members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?
4. What is the purpose of adopting the Eurasian Charter as mentioned in the speech?
5. How does the President emphasize the importance of aligning integration processes quickly?
6. What mechanism does Belarus suggest developing to reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar?
7. According to the President, what should digital technologies focus on in terms of benefits?
8. What event is mentioned as an upcoming opportunity for SCO countries to participate in discussions on cooperation? How does Belarus view its role within the SCO after becoming a full member?
10. What principles does the President say the SCO organization is based on, and how does Belarus intend to uphold these principles?

**V. Choose the right antonym from the box below for the words in italics as it is used in the text.**

*poverty*      *sovereignty*      *regression*      *inferiority*  
*division*      *support*      *stability*      *impulsive*

1. *considered* as in 'a serious and well-considered step'
2. *wealth* as in 'the West has built its wealth'
3. *superiority* as in 'political, economic and military superiority'
4. *exploit* as in 'mercilessly exploiting all other countries'
5. *crisis* as in 'the world today is in a deep crisis'
6. *unity* as in 'our unity and cohesion will be the best response'
7. *dependence* as in 'reducing dependence on the U.S. dollar'
8. *progress* as in 'benefit from technological progress'

**VI. Complete the sentences with the missing information from the text.**

1. Indeed, we are all taking part in ... .
2. The West has built ... and established its ... by colonizing and mercilessly exploiting all other countries for centuries.
3. The UN secretary-general has just said that the world should be bracing for ... .
4. Today's situation is different from what we had after ... .
5. Only our organization has two most powerful countries in its ranks - ... .
6. I would very much like ... to participate in discussions on the charter.
7. You will see that those who have weaponized this currency ... .
8. Allow me to assure you that Belarus will religiously stick to ..., which our organization advocates.

**VII. Mark the statements below as true or false. Correct the false ones.**

1. ( ) The President believes that current global changes are unprecedented in the last hundred years and that all countries are undergoing these transformations together.
2. ( ) The 'golden billion' refers to the wealthiest countries that have built their power through fair and equal global cooperation.
3. ( ) The collective West has historically used colonization and exploitation to establish its dominance, viewing the world as its property.
4. ( ) The ongoing conflict in Ukraine is unrelated to the West's political and economic strategies.
5. ( ) The President emphasizes that unity and cohesion among countries are the best responses to global challenges.
6. ( ) The creation of Greater Eurasia involves adopting the Eurasian Charter and passing it at the level of heads of state.
7. ( ) The President suggests that the world is well-informed and does not need clearer direction in international relations.
8. ( ) Belarus proposes to strengthen dependence on the US dollar by developing further mechanisms for dollar-based payments.
9. ( ) The President advocates for closer cooperation in the domain of digital technologies that benefit people and economies, excluding artificial intelligence.
10. ( ) In his speech he mentions his intention to host the SCO Demonstration Base for Agricultural Technology Exchange and Training in Minsk.

Delivering a speech to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus **on the international position of the Republic of Belarus and the tasks of preserving peace and unity of Belarusian society** on April 24, 2024 (Text 3), Aleksandr Lukashenko focused, among other things, on Belarus' perspectives of international cooperation. You are going to read some excerpts from this speech.

## VOCABULARY

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Let us study the vocabulary and complete the following tasks.

### I. Use the correct form of the words in brackets.

1. Despite the rejection of their model of political development, they remain (CALMNESS) about the situation.
2. International organizations like the UN and WHO have failed to prevent a single conflict, highlighting their (EFFECTIVE).
3. There is a need for (COLLABORATE) with international alliances that respect sovereignty and promote dialogue.
4. The President believes that (SECURE) should be (EQUALITY) and (COMMON) for all countries on the planet.
5. The alliance between Russia and Belarus has been (ANTICIPATION) because of today's global (SHIFT) in various spheres.
6. The goal is to achieve (TECHNOLOGY) sovereignty within the alliance while (PRESERVE) national interests.
7. The Eurasian Economic Union has significant (RESOURCEFUL), (ECONOMIZE), and (TRANSIT) potential.
8. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is gaining its (WEIGHTY) and Belarus' participation will be (FULL) this summer.
9. Countries tired of (HEGEMONIZE) look to organizations like SCO and BRICS with (RESPECTFUL).
10. Belarus sees its place (ALIGNMENT) with organizations that promote peace and respect cultural diversity.

### II. Match the words with their correct definitions.

#### Words:

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. effectiveness | 6. integration   |
| 2. alliance      | 7. respect       |
| 3. cooperation   | 8. collaboration |
| 4. influence     | 9. partnership   |
| 5. shift         | 10. strategy     |

#### Definitions:

- a) a formal agreement between two or more parties working together
- b) the ability to produce the desired effect or outcome
- c) working jointly with others towards a common goal
- d) the power to affect or change something
- e) a change in position or direction
- f) the process of combining parts into a whole
- g) admiring or valuing one's rights, feelings and traditions

- h) working together willingly for mutual benefit
- i) a planned approach towards achieving specific objectives
- j) an association of people or organizations working together for a common purpose

**III. Fill in the blanks with the suitable words from the list below.**

*effectiveness    resource    cooperation    agenda    framework    shifts*  
*alliances    progressive    common    rejection*

1. We are calm about the ... of our model of political development by Western liberals.
2. Despite this, we do not reject the ... forms of Western European democracy; instead, we incorporate it where it aligns with our principles.
3. International law, the OSCE, the United Nations, and the WHO have failed to prevent a single bloody conflict, which questions their overall ...
4. International agreements and ... are necessary, but they must respect national sovereignty and promote dialogue.
5. Security should be ... and shared equally among all countries on the planet.
6. Systems of ... and security can and should be built within the framework of Greater Eurasia.
7. Our alliance with Russia has allowed us to anticipate today's tectonic ... in various spheres.
8. We aim to achieve technological sovereignty within the ... of the alliance while preserving national interests.
9. The Eurasian Economic Union possesses significant economic, transit and ... potential.
10. Our long-standing alliance with Russia will serve as an example of a peaceful and constructive ... .

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Before reading the President's speech, think of a list of international organizations Aleksandr Lukashenko is going to mention. After reading the text, compare your assumptions with the information of the speech.

Text 3

**THE MEETING  
OF THE SEVENTH ALL-BELARUSIAN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY**  
April 24, 2024 (excerpts)

**W**e are calm about the rejection of our model of political development by Western liberals. Despite this, we ourselves do not reject the progressive forms of Western European democracy. We integrate them. Into our political system, our culture and our worldview, if they do not contradict our principles and values.

International law, the OSCE, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and others have failed to prevent a single bloody conflict. And this is their main task.

What real results have been achieved during major international forums: The Munich Security Conference, the G20 summit, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the UN Climate Conference? It would seem interesting to invite different points of view, as was boasted about at the Munich Conference.



The VII All-Belarusian People's Assembly. 2024

International agreements and integration alliances are needed. But ones that will respect national sovereignties, build interaction between participants through dialogue, consensus, and the search for compromises. Security should be equal and common for all countries on the planet.

I agree with experts who argue that systems of cooperation and security can and should be built within the framework of the continent — Greater Eurasia.

I am absolutely convinced that our long-standing alliance with Russia will serve as an example of a peaceful and constructive agenda. I would even say that the alliance between the Russian Federation and Belarus has managed to anticipate today's tectonic shifts in all spheres.

Strong sovereign states – a strong alliance. This is the formula for the success of any integration. Time has pushed us and the Russians to tackle a crucial task. We intend to achieve technological sovereignty within the framework of the alliance, while preserving national interests. And we are confidently doing this and moving towards the desired result.

Our alliance-building is a model of an alliance of sovereign peoples. And this model has the potential for success and expansion of its membership. I emphasize: no violence and no absorption!

The Eurasian Economic Union also possesses significant resource, economic, and transit potential. It could very well aspire to technological and intellectual leadership in the region.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is gaining weight, and this summer we will be participating as a full member.

To understand the prospects of this organization, it is enough to look at how much space the participating and observer countries occupy on the world map. With such a scope, it is not necessary to be a military bloc like NATO in order to be a deterrent against any aggression.

And it is not about the scale of power. The SCO is a conversation on equal terms. Everyone who is tired of American hegemony, including countries in Latin America and the Global South, look at this organization with respect. And BRICS represents a different geography and a different scale of influence on the global agenda.

There is no doubt: The SCO and BRICS are the progressive global majority. This is a challenge to the ideology of global unification. Belarus's place is precisely there, alongside peoples representing different cultures, but united by their aspiration for peace and development.

<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=3871&p0=P024p0001>

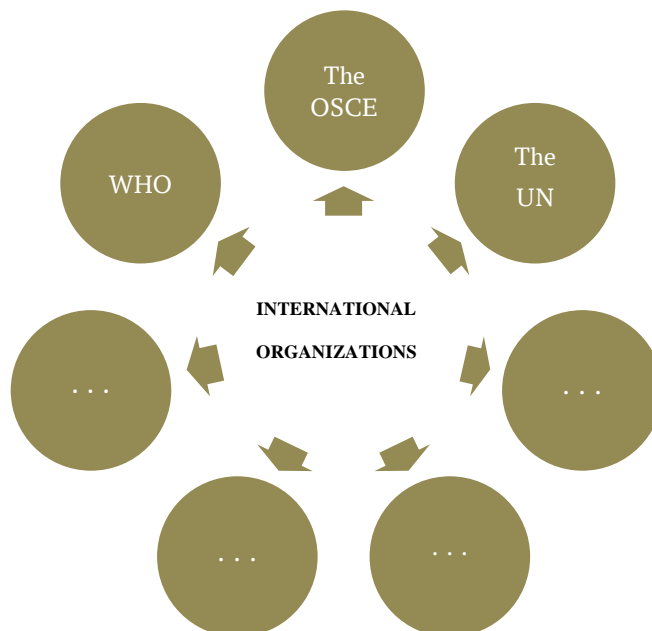
**IV. What kind of rhetorical appeal permeates the President’s speech? Give specific examples from the speech to prove your point of view.**

- Appeal to logic and common sense via the use of statistics
- Appeal to credibility and authority of people, organizations, etc.
- Appeal to the audience’s emotions and feelings

**V. Answer the following questions sharing your ideas with the groupmates.**

1. How does the President view Western liberal models of political development?
2. What is his stance regarding Western European democracy?
3. Which international organizations are mentioned as having failed to prevent conflicts?
4. According to the text, what is the main task of international forums like the Munich Security Conference and the UN Climate Conference?
5. What qualities does the President believe international agreements and alliances should have?
6. Which region should systems of cooperation and security be built within?
7. How does the President describe the alliance between Russia and Belarus?
8. What is the key goal of the alliance mentioned regarding technology?
9. How does the President characterize the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?
10. What do SCO and BRICS represent in the context of global influence, in his opinion?

**VI. Fill in the idea map with the missing names of organizations and forums mentioned in the speech. Look them up and make a fact file on each.**



**VII. Browse the President's speech again. Prepare a 1-minute speech of your own on the topic 'BRICS and SCO: the rising global powerhouse'. You can make use of the following linking phrases and conversational formulas:**

- First and foremost...
- Another important aspect is...
- A crucial factor to consider is...
- In other words...
- It is vital that we...
- The key factor here is...
- What's at stake is...
- Therefore, ...
- It's also essential to...
- In addition...
- To cut a long story short...
- In conclusion...

## **SPEAKING AND WRITING**

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**I. Revise text 1 and write its summary (50 words). Pay special attention to the crucial issues from the list below.**

- a) international security
- b) sustainable development
- c) fight against hunger, poverty, climate change.
- d) humanitarian matters

**II. Hold a debate on the motion: 'Joining BRICS will lead to greater national stability for Belarus.' You might want to check some tips for a successful debate below.**

- Familiarize yourself with the key arguments for and against Belarus joining BRICS.
- Be prepared to address counterarguments with evidence and reasoning.
- Structure your points logically, starting with the strongest or most relevant.
- Use clear topic sentences to guide the audience through your reasoning.
- Support your claims with facts, statistics or real-world examples.
- Reference recent geopolitical developments, economic data, or historical precedents.
- Speak confidently and clearly. Maintain eye contact and use appropriate gestures.
- Pay attention to opponents' arguments.
- Identify weaknesses or gaps in their reasoning to counter-argue effectively.
- Avoid personal attacks or dismissive language.
- Acknowledge good points made by the opposing team.
- Allocate time wisely for presenting your points, rebuttals, and summaries.
- Invite brief audience input if appropriate.
- Reinforce your main points in the closing statement.

**III. Revise text 2 and prepare a presentation on ‘Multiple benefits of Belarus’ SCO membership.’ Consider the tips below.**

- Introduce the organization.
- Highlight its importance for balancing different interests (e.g., economic, geopolitical, regional, etc).
- Structure your presentation logically:
  - *introduction* - present the need for international cooperation.
  - *main body* - break down each benefit (e.g., economic, diplomatic, security) with specific strategies and examples.
  - *conclusion* - summarize the benefits and future perspectives.
- Use visual aids such as slides with:
  - diagrams or charts
  - maps showing geopolitical relationships
  - infographics emphasizing key data points
- Emphasize how our membership in SCO enhances political stability, economic growth, technological progress, etc.
- Incorporate concrete examples:
  - use recent case studies or success stories demonstrating effective multi-vector strategies.
  - show how different vectors complement each other.

**IV. Revise text 3 and write an essay (300 to 500 words). The suggested topic is ‘Sovereignty and integration: a path toward peace and sustainable development’. Make sure to cover the issues from the list below. You are welcome to use resources offered by online news aggregators such as [www.belta.by](http://www.belta.by) or [www.sb.by](http://www.sb.by) to obtain the data required.**

- the concepts of sovereignty and integration in international relations
- the role of dialogue in fostering international cooperation
- challenges to respecting sovereignty
- global issues requiring cooperative solutions
- balancing sovereignty and global responsibility
- the impact of globalization on sovereignty
- future frameworks for international cooperation

# PATRIOTISM AND MORAL VALUES

## unit VII

*Life is not about lining up your pockets. We must understand that there are certain ethical foundations. First of all, these are patriotism and love for our land, in the name of which we must live and educate our children.*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

### STARTER

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The state's mission is to carefully nurture the awakened and vibrant energy of society. In a world that is not always friendly and marked by fierce competition, patriotism becomes one of the inner moral pillars of a person, shaping their worldview. At the same time, patriotism cannot be imposed by decrees or orders, nor can it be taught. It is cultivated through the meticulous, thoughtful, and coordinated efforts of society and the state, respect for history, and an understanding of Belarus's role in the modern world. Instilling a constructive love for one's homeland is the core purpose of education, ideological and informational policies. The depth of patriotism is rooted at the genetic level, primarily within the family, through traditions, holidays, and the transmission of wisdom from elders to younger generations. Memory of the past and creation of the present are the formula for the future. By responding to citizens' need for belonging, recognition, and self-realization, we embody the essence of patriotism — not in slogans or myths, but in active love for the homeland, starting with one's own family and home and extending to shaping a positive image of Belarus in the world.

<https://goo.su/N9fu6WM>

**Exchange your ideas with the groupmates on the issues reflected in the following questions:**

1. What does patriotism mean to you? Is it about loving your country, supporting the government, or something else?
2. How is patriotism different from nationalism?
3. Do you think young people today are more or less patriotic than previous generations? Why?
4. What are the most important moral values in your culture (e.g., honesty, respect, kindness)?
5. Do you think moral values are the same in every country, or do they change depending on culture?
6. Do you think it is important to remember historical wars? Why or why not?

You are going to examine the statement by the President of the Republic of Belarus A. Lukashenko at **the ceremony held to lay wreaths and flowers at the Victory Monument in Pobedy Square in Minsk as part of the patriotic campaign 'Belarus remembers!'** on May 9, 2024 (Text 1).

## VOCABULARY

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Before reading, let's consider some vocabulary and complete the suggested tasks. It will help you better comprehend the text.

### I. Match the words on the left with their meanings on the right.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Zest          | a) a formal agreement to stop fighting            |
| 2. Capitulation  | b) extreme bravery, especially in war             |
| 3. Unprecedented | c) the state of being the most powerful           |
| 4. Tenacity      | d) unity based on shared interests or support     |
| 5. Beacon        | e) determination to continue despite difficulties |
| 6. Valor         | f) a light or signal that guides people           |
| 7. Supremacy     | g) never done or known before                     |
| 8. Solidarity    | h) enthusiasm, eagerness, energy, and interest    |

### II. Explain the meaning of the words and collocations in bold.

1. Victory was **forged** on the frontlines and on the home front for four long years.
2. We **swear an oath** that we will do everything to remember them forever.
3. We urge our kids and grandkids **to hold sacred** the truth about that war as the greatest value.
4. The Great Victory they secured inspires us with the belief that Belarusians are capable of overcoming everything and **persevering**.
5. Eternal remembrance to those, who fell on battlefields and **perished** in fascist prisons and concentration camps.
6. Our memory and truth act as **a reliable shield** in the way of chaos and ideas of supremacy bent on world domination.
7. They immunize us against false ideas and **covert** manipulations.
8. For us it is a symbol of the unbreakable link between generations, one of the **foundations** of the spiritual unity and solidarity of the nation.
9. We didn't **bend the knee** before the enemy back then and have no intention **to bow to them** today.

### III. Complete the table by inserting the missing forms.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
		sacrificial
enslavement		
	immunize	
		reliable
	encounter	
manipulation		
		courageous
extinction		

## READING AND DISCUSSING

Divide into 3 groups. Each group researches briefly one aspect: a) World War II key events; b) Belarus' role in World War II; c) how Victory Day is celebrated today. Regroup into mixed ABC teams to share findings. Try to predict how the following statement reflects these historical and modern perspectives. After reading, review your predictions: what matched and what surprised you.

Text 1

### THE CEREMONY HELD TO LAY WREATHS AND FLOWERS AT THE VICTORY MONUMENT IN POBEDY SQUARE IN MINSK AS PART OF THE PATRIOTIC CAMPAIGN 'BELARUS REMEMBERS!'

May 9, 2024.

**M**y fellow Belarusians! Guests of Belarus! Dear veterans and courageous warriors! Less than eighty years ago the bloody tornado of the most terrible war in history was stopped by sacrificial deeds of Soviet people. This fact is forever secured in ruins of the Reichstag and the instrument of unconditional capitulation of fascist Germany. The German war machine fell apart after encountering the unprecedented heroism and valor of our fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers. The Great Victory was forged on the frontlines and on the home front for four long years. Both elderly people and kids rose up to fight the enemy. By spending millions of lives of its sons and daughters in exchange for freedom, our great Motherland – the Soviet Union – saved humanity from enslavement and some nations from full extinction back then.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko during 'Belarus Remembers!' campaign in Pobedy Square. 2024

Today we take pride in our forefathers and veterans, who won the war. We praise their heroic deeds. As we stand at the Eternal Flame, we swear an oath that we will do everything to remember them forever. Remember: we come here to prevent a repeat of the terrible past. If we forget this past, if we stop coming to monuments, the past will come to us. And remember one conclusion drawn by humanity: the way you treat the memory of your ancestors, particularly those, who gifted life and freedom to you, is the way the future generations will treat you. We cannot live forever. We are mortal. Remember, please: come to the monuments, come to the Eternal Flame. Calmly and quietly. Without any organization. Remember and bow to those, who gifted us freedom, if we don't want to fight a war.

We urge our kids and grandkids to hold sacred the truth about that war as the greatest value. For us it is a symbol of the unbreakable link between generations, one of the foundations of the spiritual unity and solidarity of the nation. The Great Victory is the central and key moment in the history of revival and establishment of the Belarusian nation. Today its lessons allow taking a glimpse of the future if one remembers and knows the past. While the zest for life and the creative energy of the generation of victors, who restored the country from ruins, set an example of how we should live and work.

Belarus needs peace. Tomorrow. In a year. Always. It is important for us to endure and stay out of conflicts. Time has chosen us. We have been chosen to preserve the independence of our land and everything created by many generations before us. Everything we jointly take pride in and admire. With this in mind we develop the economy, reinforce defense, and raise young citizens as patriots. We keep peace and wellbeing in the native land as the ancestors willed it.

The Great Victory they secured inspires us with the belief that Belarusians are capable of overcoming everything and persevering. Honor and glory to the victorious warriors! Honor and glory to our dear veterans! Eternal remembrance to those, who fell on battlefields and perished in fascist prisons and concentration camps.

(A minute of silence accompanied by metronome sounds is observed).

Our memory and truth act as a reliable shield in the way of chaos and ideas of supremacy bent on world domination. They immunize us against false ideas and covert manipulations. They represent a beacon in the sea of challenges and threats of modern age. We didn't bend the knee before the enemy back then and have no intention to bow to them today. The war taught Belarusians how to hold sacred the native land, protect it with their lives, and preserve memory about the heroic deeds of the ancestors. We will not allow a repeat of what they saw and lived through.

Today we use the example of war heroes to raise young Belarusians. Moreover, the practice plays the key role in preserving the memory about the heroic deeds of the fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers. We should preserve this memory primarily in families. Then no passing political considerations will be able to cancel out and weaken the spiritual unity of generations.

Dear friends!

With the deepest gratitude we bow to the courage and tenacity of all those, who paid with their lives for the freedom of future generations, for our freedom and yours. And at the same time we say an emphatic no to those, who try to cancel out the pages of history written in blood.

Dear veterans!



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko during 'Belarus Remembers!' campaign in Pobedy Square. 2024

You have taught an unforgettable lesson to all the consequent generations. A lesson of valor, patriotism, love of freedom, and the strength of spirit. I bow low to those of you, who live, and those, who are no longer with us, for this unprecedented heroic deed, valor, courage, and faithful service to the Fatherland. I wish strong health, long years, and prosperity to our esteemed veterans and happiness, peace, and wellbeing to every Belarusian family.

I congratulate everyone on the holiday! Happy Great Victory Day!

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/torzhestvennye-meropriyatiya-v-chest-dnya-pobedy-1715271127>*

Now, when you have read the statement, let's check how you understood its information. You are offered to complete the following tasks.

#### **IV. Choose the correct answer.**

1. The main purpose of this speech is
  - a) to announce a new national holiday
  - b) to honor veterans and remember WWII sacrifices
  - c) to criticize modern political leaders
  - d) to encourage economic development
  
2. The President says that during WWII the Soviet people
  - a) avoided fighting until the last moment
  - b) sacrificed greatly to defeat fascism
  - c) relied on other countries to win the war
  - d) were unprepared for the German invasion
  
3. If people forget the past
  - a) the economy will improve
  - b) the past will repeat itself
  - c) veterans will be forgotten forever
  - d) monuments will be destroyed
  
4. The Reichstag and Germany's capitulation are mentioned
  - a) to emphasize the Soviet victory in WWII
  - b) to prove that war is unnecessary
  - c) to show Germany's modern influence
  - d) to criticize modern Germany
  
5. The President believes that in future Belarus
  - a) must focus on military expansion
  - b) should rely on other countries for protection
  - c) needs to forget the past to move forward
  - d) should avoid conflicts and preserve peace
  
6. According to the speech patriotism
  - a) is outdated
  - b) causes wars
  - c) is strengthened by remembering history
  - d) is less important than economics

7. The President says that besides soldiers ... contributed to the victory.
  - a) only military leaders
  - b) elderly people and children
  - c) foreign volunteers
  - d) scientists and inventors
  
8. The Eternal Flame symbolizes
  - a) the eternal struggle between good and evil
  - b) undying memory of heroes
  - c) religious faith
  - d) the passage of time and inevitability of death

**V. Mark the following statements as *True* or *False*. Correct the false ones.**

1. The text describes the German war machine as weak from the beginning.
2. Veterans are described as teaching lessons about patriotism and courage.
3. The text claims the Soviet Union fought alone without any sacrifices.
4. The President says political trends should override historical memory.
5. Fascist prisons and concentration camps are mentioned to highlight Nazi crimes.
6. The speech emphasizes preserving war memories primarily in museums, not families.
7. The Great Victory is called a key moment in Belarusian national identity.

**VI. Answer the following questions. Discuss your ideas in pairs or groups.**

1. How did the Soviet people contribute to stopping the war?
2. What does the President mean by ‘the way you treat the memory of your ancestors... is the way future generations will treat you’?
3. Why is it important for people to visit monuments and the Eternal Flame?
4. What lessons does the Great Victory teach Belarusians today?
5. How does the President suggest young Belarusians should remember the war?
6. What is said about those who try to ‘cancel out the pages of history’?
7. What does ‘immunize us against false ideas’ suggest about historical memory?
8. What qualities did the veterans teach future generations?
9. Should veterans’ stories be taught in schools? If so, how?

You are going to read some excerpts from the statement by the President of the Republic of Belarus A.G. Lukashenko at **the ceremonial event for the National Unity Day**, September 17, 2024 (Text 2).

## VOCABULARY

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Before you start reading the text, complete some tasks which will help you understand the information better.

**I. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the list below.**

*lineage*    *cornerstone*    *heritage*    *legacy*    *descendant*  
*significance*    *ancestor*    *multipolarity*

1. The ancient castle has been preserved as part of our cultural ....
2. Education is often called the ... of a strong society.
3. She is a direct ... of the famous poet who lived 200 years ago.
4. The ... of this treaty lies in its role in preventing future wars.
5. His family can trace their ... back to medieval kings.
6. Modern world politics is moving toward ..., with multiple powerful nations influencing global decisions.
7. We must protect this forest, not just for ourselves but for future generations—it's our ....
8. My great-great-grandfather was an ... who immigrated here in 1890.

## II. Provide synonyms for the words in bold.

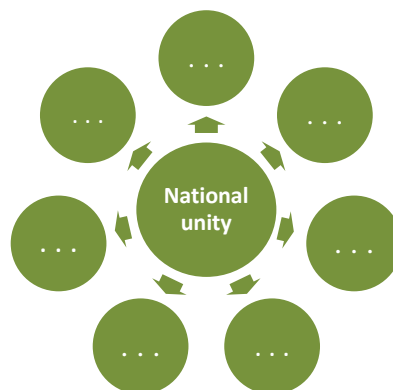
1. the **unbreakable** bond
2. **unwavering** determination
3. **harsh** trials
4. **profound** losses
5. **pivotal** event
6. our closest **allies**
7. **outstanding** sons and daughters of Belarus
8. **brilliant** achievements

## III. Insert the correct prepositions where necessary.

1. ... this backdrop, the voice of the newly established Belarusian Soviet Republic was barely audible.
2. Over 3,000 prisoners fell victim ... inhumane politically motivated repression.
3. On September 17, 1939, the shackles ... oppression fell ... the weight ... historical justice.
4. Belarusians did not sit idly ... their hands, passively waiting to be liberated.
5. Throughout the years, our ancestors held fast ... their roots and land, passing ... the memory and history of their ancient lineage ... generation ... generation.
6. We are united in our desire to live ... our native land ... our own wits and labor.
7. We will surely find a way ... ... the global security crisis.
8. By building ... the legacy of past generations, Belarus has moved ... ... confidence for 85 years along the path of peace and progress.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

What is the first word that comes to your mind when you think of *national unity*? Create a mind map. Compare your answers with your groupmates'.



When is the National Unity Day celebrated in Belarus? When was this holiday established and what does it symbolize? While reading the following speech, find additional information about this holiday you did not know and thus have not mentioned.

Text 2  
**PARTICIPATION IN THE CEREMONIAL EVENT  
FOR THE NATIONAL UNITY DAY**  
September 17, 2024 (excerpts)

**T**oday, Belarus celebrates the National Unity Day — a holiday that symbolizes the unbreakable bond between generations, the strength of the Belarusian spirit, and the unwavering determination to live in our sovereign state on our native land. It holds special significance for everyone who not only by birth but also in soul and heart feels Belarusian. Eighty-five years ago, a pivotal event took place, and the proud declaration, ‘We are Belarusians,’ resonated across the world from the very heart of Europe. It was the voice of people who had become one nation. Now and forever!



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the ceremonial event for the National Unity Day. 2024

The old interethnic disputes ended, territorial claims were abandoned, and on January 1, 1919, the Belarusian national state was born. Against this backdrop, the voice of the newly established Belarusian Soviet Republic was barely audible. Perhaps because there was no unity within it. Instead, there were those who thought only of personal gain, not the interests of the people.

The nation was being destroyed. Over 3,000 prisoners fell victim to inhumane politically motivated repression. Those who refused to be Polonized, who spoke, prayed, and sang lullabies to their children in their native Belarusian language, were tortured and imprisoned in concentration camps and jails. On September 17, 1939, the shackles of oppression fell under the weight of historical justice. The Red Army’s liberation campaign reunited families and territories forcibly torn apart. Yet, Belarusians did not sit idly on their hands, passively waiting to be liberated. Throughout the years, our ancestors held fast to their roots and land, passing down the memory and history of their ancient lineage from generation to generation. Our language, faith, and spiritual unity ensured we never forgot who we truly are. This made them stronger. Nothing could stop the Belarusians. Neither threats from oppressors, nor political borders.

Through harsh trials, profound losses, and by building on the legacy of past generations, Belarus has moved forward with confidence for 85 years along the path of peace and progress. Even now, as NATO weapons are aimed at us from the territories of our western and southern neighbors, as fences and minefields multiply along the borders, we respond simply and in the best traditions of the ‘last dictatorship of Europe’—we open our borders, requiring no permits or visas. And the people on the other side hear us. They come, they see, and they draw conclusions — conclusions that are far from favorable to those who banned them from visiting.

Belarus has been and remains a champion of peace. Our far-reaching peace initiatives are voiced at the United Nations podium and on the stages of international forums. We propose for discussion the Eurasian Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity in the 21st century. This multipolarity, as you know, is unwanted by some. But it is now inevitable. It is not merely knocking at the door — it is already here. We will surely find a way out of the global security crisis, for we stand with our closest allies — the many, many nations of our planet.

We are heard and supported even more often now across the world. I am absolutely convinced that soon, even Western elites will come to understand that the only way forward is through dialogue. This is what our peoples desire.

We Belarusians are a peaceful, hardworking people. We do not want war. We believe the day will come when peace prevails in neighboring states, and our blood brothers, close and distant friends, will live in harmony and friendship. Belarus is ready to contribute to building this peace and is doing everything to achieve it. As I have said before: Belarusian peacefulness must not be mistaken for weakness. When I speak of this, do not think I am bluffing or exaggerating. Far from it. We are more prepared than ever to respond. So in this regard, rest assured, live calmly, do your work, and raise your children.

We are united in our desire to live on our native land by our own wits and labor. Unity is the cornerstone of our nation’s development. The National Unity Day reminds us that no borders, no trials can break the spirit of the people when each of us carries Belarus in our hearts.

We have what unites us and makes us happy on our native land. The glorious heritage of our ancestors and the equally brilliant achievements of our contemporaries. Shaped by the talent and labor of countless outstanding sons and daughters of Belarus, our unique culture has long become an integral part of humanity’s shared legacy.

Let us love, befriend, dream, work, and rest the Belarusian way! Let us cherish and defend Belarus! This is the legacy of our ancestors, and this is what we tell our descendants. We do that because time has chosen us!

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/patrioticeskij-forum-esli-my-ediny-ko-dnu-narodnogo-edinstva>*

Now, let’s check how you understood the information of the text. You are offered to complete the following tasks.

**IV. Mark the sentences as *True* or *False*, correct the false ones using the information from the text.**

1. National Unity Day celebrates Belarus’s independence from the Soviet Union.
2. The Belarusian national state was officially established on January 1, 1919.

3. The Red Army's 1939 campaign divided Belarusian families further.
4. Belarus currently requires visas for visitors from neighboring countries.
5. The President describes Belarus as wanting to start wars with its neighbors.
6. The Eurasian Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity is mentioned as a Belarusian proposal.
7. The President claims Belarusian culture is unimportant to world heritage.
8. National Unity Day reminds Belarusians that political borders can break their spirit.

**V. Look through the text once again and write down its key ideas. Compare them with those of your groupmates' and discuss together.**

**VI. Answer the following questions.**

1. What challenges did Belarusians face before the liberation in 1939?
2. How did Belarusians preserve their identity during difficult times?
3. The President claims Belarus is peaceful but not weak. Do you think a country can maintain peace without military strength? Why or why not?
4. The President mentions 'multipolarity' as inevitable. What does this mean, and how might it change global politics?
5. Do you agree that Western elites will eventually support dialogue, or will tensions continue? Why?
6. Does unity make Belarusians strong? Do you think unity is the most important factor for a country's survival? Why or why not?
7. Belarusian culture is mentioned as part of humanity's shared legacy. What aspects of your country's culture should the world know about?
8. Do you think younger generations should learn about their country's difficult history? Why?

**VII. Imagine you have to explain National Unity Day to a foreigner in 3 sentences. What key aspects would you highlight?**

**VIII. Create an engaging Instagram or Telegram post promoting National Unity Day to young Belarusians. Follow the requirements:**

- quote the text ('We are Belarusians!')
- use a hashtag (e.g., #UnityInDiversity)
- include a call-to-action ('Share what unity means to you!')
- use national colors (red/green/white) and symbolic imagery (e.g., hands clasped, traditional patterns).

You are going to read the statement by the President of the Republic of Belarus A. Lukashenko at **the ceremony to honor the state symbols of the Republic of Belarus** on May 12, 2024 (Text 3).

## VOCABULARY

Before reading, let's work with some key vocabulary and complete the suggested tasks. This will help you comprehend the text and the meaning of the speech better.

### I. Match the words on the left with their meanings on the right.

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Genocide     | A. to represent or express something in a clear and visible way   |
| 2. Collaborator | B. a person who betrays their country, friends, or beliefs  |
| 3. Flinch       | C. having the highest power or being completely independent   |
| 4. Embody       | D. a person who works together with others for a special purpose  |
| 5. Ghetto       | E. to fail to resist pressure, temptation, or a negative force  |
| 6. Traitor      | F. a crowded poor part of a city lived in by a specific ethnic group                                    |
| 7. Succumb      | G. to make a quick, nervous movement due to fear or pain  |
| 8. Sovereign    | H. the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially of a particular nation or ethnic group |

### II. Match the two columns to make relevant collocations.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Concentration | a) alliance        |
| 2. Strategic     | b) the foundations |
| 3. Pursue        | c) dignity         |
| 4. Partisan      | d) camps           |
| 5. Lay           | e) democracy       |
| 6. National      | f) feat            |
| 7. Heroic        | g) the policy      |
| 8. Genuine       | h) units           |

### III. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the list below.

*sealed    heirs    unity    symbolism    misfortune*  
*preserve    inspired    faithful*

1. Today, ... not only unites. It is a source of confidence and inner strength.
2. People are proud to be Belarusians. This is the national ....
3. Both then and now, we have been ... to the traditions of the past.
4. The unity, which is ... by the strong memory of the heroic feat of our grandfathers and great-grandfathers in the Great Patriotic War.
5. Together we said 'no' to the symbols that became a real sign of ... for us.
6. The ... of the people who survived the genocide, survived concentration camps and ghettos, who stood up to fight the enemy in numerous partisan units, could not do otherwise.
7. We carefully ... the connection between generations, continue the traditions of our ancestors, and are proud of our history.
8. Our emblem, flag and anthem, as well as the policy are ... by the ideas of national dignity and genuine democracy.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Before reading the statement, try to answer the following questions expressing your opinion and views:

1. What are the main state symbols of Belarus? What do they symbolize?
2. How important is it for people to care about national symbols?
3. When do Belarusians celebrate the Day of the National Emblem and the National Flag of the Republic of Belarus?

As Aleksandr Lukashenko mentions in his statement, for him personally the Day of the State Flag, the State Emblem and the National Anthem of the Republic of Belarus is filled with special symbolism. Can you explain why? Read the text and find the answer.

### Text 3

## THE CEREMONY TO HONOR THE STATE SYMBOLS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

May 12, 2024

**F**or me personally, this day is filled with special symbolism. The first referendum in the history of sovereign Belarus was held almost 30 years ago, on 14 May 1995. Then our people determined their path of development and laid the foundations of the policy of the Belarusian state. They are a strong Presidential power, a strategic alliance with Russia, equal state status of the Belarusian and Russian languages.



The President of the Republic of Belarus  
Aleksandr Lukashenko inaugurating  
the State Flag Square. 2013

Not succumbing to the threats of modern collaborators, or rather, traitors from politics, remaining true to ourselves, our principles and ideals, and our history, we defended our true state symbols together. Together we said ‘no’ to the symbols that became a real sign of misfortune for us. The heirs of the people who survived the genocide, survived concentration camps and ghettos, who stood up to fight the enemy in numerous partisan units, could not do otherwise.

We carefully preserve the connection between generations, continue the traditions of our ancestors, and are proud of our history. It has many heroic pages in it. We have never flinched; we have never changed the policy that we are pursuing today. Both then and now, we have been faithful to the traditions of the past. We are especially

proud that the Belarusian state symbols embody the unparalleled strength of spirit and contribution of our people to the Great Victory over the Nazism. They also reflect the labor feat of our fathers and grandfathers, who rebuilt the country on the principles of social equality and justice.

The flag has been flown to space three times. First with Oleg Novitsky, a native of Belarus. And most recently – with the first Belarusian cosmonaut, Hero of Belarus Marina Vasilevskaya.

Today, symbolism not only unites. It is a source of confidence and inner strength. Our emblem, flag and anthem, as well as the policy are inspired by the ideas of national dignity and genuine democracy. People are proud to be Belarusians. This is the national unity. The unity, which is sealed by the strong memory of the heroic feat of our grandfathers and great-grandfathers in the Great Patriotic War, patriotism, creative work and the desire for peace. The unity, which is symbolized by the State Flag, the State Emblem and the National Anthem of the Republic of Belarus. The unity that we must keep in order to preserve our country. Because time has chosen us!

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/torzhestvennyy-ritual-chestvovaniya-gosudarstvennyh-simvolov-respubliki-belarus>*

#### **IV. Choose the correct answer.**

1. The foundations of the policy of the Belarusian state are
  - a) membership in NATO, free market economy, and cultural isolation
  - b) strong presidential power, alliance with Russia, and equal status of Belarusian and Russian languages
  - c) decentralized government, neutrality in foreign affairs, and promotion of English as a state language
  - d) religious rule, strict immigration controls, and rejection of all international alliances
2. The President describes politicians who opposed state symbols as
  - a) traitors
  - b) visionaries
  - c) innovators
  - d) diplomats
3. Belarusian state symbols do not represent
  - a) social equality
  - b) labor achievements
  - c) colonial expansion
  - d) national dignity
4. The Belarusian flag has been flown to space
  - a) once
  - b) twice
  - c) never
  - d) three times
5. The first cosmonaut in the history of sovereign Belarus is
  - a) Yuri Gagarin
  - b) Oleg Novitsky
  - c) Marina Vasilevskaya
  - d) Valentina Tereshkova

6. The President argues that Belarusian peacefulness should not be seen as
  - a) weakness
  - b) neutrality
  - c) isolation
  - d) indifference
  
7. What is the status of the Belarusian and Russian languages?
  - a) only Belarusian is official
  - b) equal state status
  - c) Russian is banned
  - d) neither is recognized
  
8. The phrase 'time has chosen us' suggests Belarusians have a
  - a) temporary opportunity
  - b) short-term crisis
  - c) random chance
  - d) historical responsibility

**V. Answer the following questions and share your ideas with the groupmates:**

1. When was the first referendum in sovereign Belarus held, and what did it establish?
2. Why does the President call some politicians 'traitors'?
3. What historical events do Belarusian state symbols honor?
4. Why was it important to reject certain symbols?
5. How does the President define 'national unity'?
6. The flag flown to space is mentioned as a point of pride. What modern achievements (sports, science, etc.) can Belarusians be proud of?
7. Do symbols like flags and anthems unite people, or are they just formalities? Share examples from your country.
8. Have you ever felt emotionally moved by a national symbol? Describe when/why.

**VI. Review the text and identify its key ideas. Compare them with your groupmates' and discuss together. Develop each idea using the information from the text.**

## **SPEAKING AND WRITING**

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**I. Poll your groupmates on which symbol (flag, anthem, emblem) they find most meaningful and why. Share your results.**

**II. Make a PowerPoint presentation on the national symbols and their role and present it to your groupmates. Use the tips given below.**

### Some presentation tips:

1. Decide what key points you are going to deal with when describing the national symbols and their role.
2. Prepare a draft script.
3. Decide what information should be given in the text of your PowerPoint slides and what is better to say in your comments to slides.
4. Design and prepare your visual aids.
5. Rehearse your presentation at home.
6. And, finally, make your presentation!

Good luck

**III. Role-play.** A cultural center in Minsk hosts an annual Youth Forum on National Identity, where experts and citizens debate how to strengthen Belarusian unity. Today's session focuses on 'Symbols, Values, and Patriotism in Modern Belarus.' Distribute the roles and role-play the situation in small discussion groups and summarize the outcome of the meeting.

The Historian

Task: Explain the origins of key Belarusian symbols (flag, coat of arms, anthem, emblem) and how they reflect national identity.

The Cultural Activist

Task: Argue for preserving Belarusian folk traditions (holidays, crafts, music) to unite people.

The Schoolteacher

Task: Propose ways to teach patriotism and moral values in classrooms.

The Young Artist

Task: Present ideas for new national symbols (art, music, digital content) to engage youth.

The Concerned Citizen

Task: Question whether national symbols truly unite everyone.

The Folk Ensemble Leader

Task: Argue that living traditions (dances, songs) unite better than static symbols.

**IV. Write an essay on one of the following topics:**

- The Role of Moral Values in Shaping Patriotism
- What Does It Mean to Be a True Patriot?
- The Significance of Historic Monuments to Belarusian Identity
- Respect for National Symbols: Unity, Pride, and Patriotism

# EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

## unit VIII

*Education is the foundation of society, a pass for the state  
and the entire nation to tomorrow.*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

### STARTER

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Education is the cornerstone of personal growth and societal progress. It equips people with the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities necessary to navigate the complexities of life. Beyond simply memorizing facts, education fosters intellectual curiosity, problem-solving, and effective communication.

For individuals, education unlocks opportunities. It expands career prospects, enabling them to pursue fulfilling and financially stable lives. Furthermore, it empowers people to make informed decisions about their health, finances, and civic responsibilities.

On a broader scale, education strengthens communities. It promotes social cohesion, encourages innovation, and fuels economic growth. An educated person is better equipped to address challenges, engage in meaningful dialogue, and contribute to a more just and equitable world. Education is not just a privilege, but a fundamental human right that empowers individuals and strengthens society as a whole.

*the text generated by AI, adapted*

**Exchange your ideas on the issues reflected in the following questions with the groupmates:**

1. How would you explain the role of education for an individual, on the one hand, and for the entire country and its citizens, on the other hand?
2. What challenges does education face today in your opinion?
3. What are the key skills or knowledge areas that you believe are essential for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and how well is your university addressing them?
4. What are your personal goals and aspirations after graduation? How do you see your education helping you achieve them?
5. Beyond career preparation, what do you believe is the value of a university education?
6. How can universities better prepare students for an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world?

What do you know about the education system in our country? Share your ideas with the groupmates. You can get some information from the text **Education in the Republic of Belarus** (Text 1) that follows. Read it and name the facts which you did not know or had not mentioned previously.

## VOCABULARY

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Before reading the text, complete some vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the information of the suggested text better.

### I. Match the word / phrase from Column A with its definition / synonym in column B:

Column A	Column B
1. Social state	a. education focused on practical skills for specific jobs
2. Effective strategy	b. a government system that actively promotes the well-being of its citizens
3. Macro-level indicators	c. widespread, applying to everyone
4. Adult literacy rate	d. a well-planned and successful approach
5. Coverage	e. statistics that measure broad aspects of a system
6. Vocational education	f. the percentage of adults who can read and write
7. Access	g. instruction beyond the basic curriculum, often focused on hobbies and interests
8. Additional education	h. the extent to which something is included or provided
9. Trainees	i. the ability to obtain or make use of something
10. Universal	j. people being trained for a particular job

### II. Choose the correct word from the suggested ones to complete each sentence:

*institutions*   *workforce*   *employees*   *enrollment*   *universal*  
*specialized*   *knowledge-intensive*   *graduate*   *arena*

1. The country has over 7,000 educational ....
2. The education system ensures access to primary, additional, and ... education.
3. The ... of the education system is over 400,000 employees.
4. The ... rate for children aged 1 to 6 in preschool is high.
5. Every second ... works in ... industries.
6. The Belarusian education system has every reason to succeed in the global educational ....
7. Education is considered a ... right for all children.
8. The factory has a large number of ... who work in various departments.

III. For each word choose a suitable *synonym* and *antonym* from the options given below:

Word	Synonym		Antonym	
1. To establish	a) to build	b) to neglect	c) to destroy	d) to maintain
2. Effective	a) inefficient	b) fruitful	c) useless	d) productive
3. Coverage (of)	a) exclusion	b) scope	c) inclusion	d) limitation
4. To ensure	a) to guarantee	b) to doubt	c) to neglect	d) to secure
5. Universal	a) limited	b) general	c) specific	d) widespread
6. Employees	a) staff	b) employer	c) employers	d) workforce
7. Trainee	a) apprentice	b) instructor	c) student	d) veteran
8. Evidenced	a) shown	b) confirmed	c) demonstrated	d) disproved

## READING AND DISCUSSING

Before reading the text, provide statistics related to the sphere of education in our country (e.g. the total number of higher educational establishments in Belarus, etc.). After reading the text, compare the statistics you provided with the data from the text.

### Text 1

#### EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

The choice to establish a social state has enabled the determination of an effective strategy for the functioning and development of the education system. This is evidenced by macro-level indicators such as the adult literacy rate (99.9%) and the coverage of basic, general secondary, and vocational education among the employed population (98%).

The education system in Belarus ensures access to primary, additional, and specialized education for students.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko giving the open lesson 'Historical memory - the road to the future'. 2022

The country has over 7,000 educational institutions across all levels, serving more than 2 million children, students, and trainees, with a workforce of over 400,000 employees, including approximately 200,000 teachers.

Belarus leads among CIS countries in preschool education coverage. The enrollment rate for children aged 1 to 6 in preschool institutions stands at 88.5 %, while preparation for school is universal (100 %).

Every second graduate of vocational and specialized secondary education institutions now works in high-tech and knowledge-intensive industries.

Belarus ranks among the leading European countries in the number of students per 10,000 inhabitants.

Half of all schoolchildren receive additional education.

The Belarusian education system has every reason to succeed in the global educational arena.

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/belarus/social/education>*

Now, let's check how you have understood the information of the text. You are offered to complete the following tasks.

#### **IV. Choose the correct answer for each question:**

1. According to the text, what is the adult literacy rate in Belarus?  
a) 98 %      b) 88.5 %      c) 99.9 %      d) 100 %
2. The Belarusian education system ensures access to which levels of education for students?  
a) Primary, secondary, and higher education.  
b) Basic, general secondary, and vocational education.  
c) Primary, additional, and specialized education.  
d) Preschool, primary, and secondary education.
3. Approximately how many educational institutions are there in Belarus?  
a) Over 200,000      b) Over 400,000      c) Over 7,000      d) Over 2 million
4. What is the enrollment rate for children aged 1 to 6 in preschool institutions in Belarus?  
a) 100 %      b) 98 %      c) 88.5 %      d) 99.9 %
5. According to the text, graduates of vocational and specialized secondary education institutions are mostly employed in:  
a) Agriculture  
b) Manufacturing  
c) High-tech and knowledge-intensive industries  
d) The service sector

#### **V. Mark the sentences T for *True* or F for *False*, explain your choice in case it is false:**

1. ( ) The text suggests that Belarus believes its education system is positioned for global success.
2. ( ) Belarus has the lowest preschool education coverage within the CIS countries.
3. ( ) Less than half of all schoolchildren in Belarus receive additional education.

4. ( ) Belarus has a low number of students per 10,000 inhabitants compared to other European countries.
5. ( ) The text mentions that the social state structure is a key factor in the effective functioning and development of the education system.
6. ( ) The adult literacy rate in Belarus is approximately 90%.
7. ( ) Belarus does not ensure access to primary education.
8. ( ) Belarus has more than 10,000 educational institutions.

**VI. Exchange your ideas on the issues reflected in the following questions with the groupmates:**

1. According to the text, what is the primary reason for the success of the Belarusian education system?
2. What two macro-level indicators are cited as evidence of the effectiveness of the Belarusian education system?
3. Besides primary education, what other types of education does the Belarusian system provide access to?
4. What is the approximate size of the teaching staff in Belarus?
5. How does Belarus compare to other CIS countries regarding preschool education coverage, and what is the enrollment rate for children aged 1 to 6?
6. What is significant about the employment of graduates from vocational and specialized secondary education institutions?
7. How does Belarus rank among European countries in terms of the number of students per 10,000 inhabitants?
8. What percentage of schoolchildren in Belarus receive additional education?

The text **Education Reform** (Text 2) that follows next contains the information about the situation in our country when Aleksandr Lukashenko became Head of the State.

## VOCABULARY

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Before you start reading the text, complete some tasks which will help you understand the information better.

**I. Use the word in parentheses to form a word that fits grammatically and contextually in the blank.**

1. The success of the program is ... dependent on funding. (CRITICAL)
2. The goal is to provide ... education for all children. (EQUALITY)
3. His teaching style was very ... and engaging. (EFFECT)
4. The government provided ... support to schools. (FINANCE)
5. The new curriculum aims to promote ... development. (PERSON)
6. The teacher spoke with ... about the importance of education. (AUTHORITATIVE)
7. Many teachers felt overworked and ... (APPRECIATE)
8. Belarus is recognized as an ... state. (INDUSTRY)

II. Substitute the words in bold type in the next sentences with the words from the box below:

*responsive*      *crucial*      *significant*      *economical*      *promoting obedience*  
*maintained*           *playful*      *demolished*

1. There was **an urgent** need to adapt the education system to new requirements.
2. The Soviet system had not been fully **dismantled**.
3. He grasped the **profound** importance of the education system.
4. He became deeply **attuned** to the challenges at hand.
5. The state-run preschool education system was **retained**.
6. Bright, **mischievous** and energetic sons required guidance.
7. The school's strict code of conduct was aimed at **instilling respect for authority** in its students, ensuring a well-ordered learning environment.
8. **Cost-effective** educational complexes were created.

III. Choose the suitable word or phrase from the list below to complete each sentence:

- a promising future
- the key priorities for advancing education
- upbringing and education of children
- a full-fledged university
- universal values
- advanced high-tech industries
- to preserve the vocational education system
- a regional pedagogical institute
- skills necessary for life
- financial support for schools

1. Investing in ... is crucial for a country's economic growth.
2. The government is working ..., so more students can obtain practical qualifications.
3. The proper ... within families helps to create successful, well-adjusted people.
4. Developing ... is vital for students to navigate modern challenges.
5. Our graduates leave ready to build ... .
6. This town is proud to host ..., preparing the next generation of teachers.
7. The goal is to develop this college into ... that offers a wide variety of courses.
8. Increased ... is essential for maintaining good educational resources.
9. Improving teacher training is considered one of ... .
10. Schools must promote ... such as respect and tolerance.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Before reading the text 'Education reform', predict *which issues* captured the President's attention as the main ones. After reading, compare your answers with the information in the text.

Text 2  
**EDUCATION REFORM**

**A**lthough the Soviet-era education system had not been fully dismantled, there was an urgent need to adapt it to new political and socio-economic reality. It was crucial to nurture our own national intellectual elite. Belarus is an industrial nation with advanced high-tech industries, and their development critically depends on scientists, top-tier designers, engineers and technologists. The Belarusians are globally recognized as intelligent, responsible and highly conscientious professionals. If we fail to nurture our talented youth, other countries will entice them. That is why new types of educational institutions were emerging across the country: gymnasiums, lyceums and colleges. Technical, agricultural and pedagogical institutes were aspiring to get university status. But how many gymnasiums were needed, and where should have they been established? What defines a modern lyceum? Was a regional pedagogical institute ready to become a full-fledged university? In addition to engineers, teachers, doctors, agronomists and officers, the country also needed skilled workers. It was essential to preserve the vocational education system at all costs. These were the very issues that captured the President's attention.

The people elected Aleksandr Lukashenko as Head of State, and naturally, sought his guidance on pressing issues. The most important among them was the upbringing and education of children in the newly independent Belarus.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko opening a secondary school in Bobruisk. 2021

Aleksandr Lukashenko had firsthand experience as he started his career as a history teacher. Later, as a leader of agricultural and industrial enterprises, he prioritized the well-being of his employees' children, knowing that good schools and proper upbringing would boost their parents' productivity and motivation. After all, he is a father himself. Bright, mischievous and energetic sons required guidance, education and a clear path toward a promising future. School is essential – it provides children with both knowledge and the social skills necessary for life.

When he was a member of parliament, Aleksandr Lukashenko grasped the profound importance of the education system on a national scale – its ideological influence, social significance and financial implications. By drafting education laws, meeting with

schoolteachers and university professors and carefully listening to the appeals and instructions of constituents, he became deeply attuned to the challenges at hand. This process allowed him to identify the key priorities for advancing education nationwide.

Building on the Soviet school system's traditions – its structure, core content and still relevant teaching resources – was vital. Contemporary trends in education for children and youth were just as important. One of the President's first actions was to ensure maximum financial support for schools. At the time, this primarily meant ensuring teachers received their salaries. Even if the amounts were small, the payments had to be regular. Aleksandr Grigoryevich recognized that instilling respect for authority and nurturing patriotism, upbringing in line with universal values and shaping individual's personality depended on the educators. He repeatedly emphasized, 'Teachers are my greatest allies!' And they never let him down.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at New Year charity campaign 'Our Children'. 2022

The state-run preschool education system in Belarus was retained, and now it is thriving. Designed for young children, the kindergartens have cozy interiors, lovely toys and the welcoming scent of freshly made milk porridge. New kindergartens are being constructed as key elements of new residential infrastructure, along with schools, clinics and playgrounds. In rural areas, cost-effective educational complexes that combine schools and kindergartens were created. This approach to early childhood education ensures that young children receive comprehensive healthcare from vaccinations and check-ups to recuperative and rehabilitation care.

*from the book 'Our President'*

#### **IV. Choose the corresponding definition for the word as it is used in the text.**

##### **1. Elite**

- a) A large group of people.
- b) A select group that is superior in terms of ability or qualities to the rest of a group or society.
- c) The average population.
- d) A group of people who are considered poor.

## 2. Constituents

- a) People who teach in a school.
- b) People who work for the government.
- c) People who are represented by an elected official.
- d) People who criticize the government.

## 3. Instilling

- a) Gradually but firmly establish (an idea or attitude) in a person's mind.
- b) Removing something from a person's mind.
- c) Ignoring a person's ideas.
- d) Forgetting a person's accomplishments.

## 4. Universal values

- a) Values that are only important to a specific group.
- b) Values that are considered important by everyone.
- c) Values that are constantly changing.
- d) Values that are not important.

## 5. Recuperative

- a) Tending to cause illness.
- b) Helping someone recover from illness or exertion.
- c) Causing stress.
- d) Making someone sicker.

## V. Choose the correct answer:

1. The text suggests that Belarus needs to nurture its talented youth because:
  - a) They are not intelligent enough.
  - b) Other countries might try to attract them.
  - c) Belarus doesn't need skilled workers.
  - d) They are not responsible.
2. What was one of A. Lukashenko's first actions to support schools?
  - a) Increasing the number of schools.
  - b) Ensuring teachers received their salaries.
  - c) Reducing the number of students.
  - d) Instilling respect for authority and nurturing patriotism.
3. According to the text, what is essential for children in addition to knowledge?
  - a) Social skills.
  - b) Emotional skills.
  - c) Strong character development.
  - d) Creative abilities.
4. The role of kindergartens mentioned in the text is:
  - a) designed only for play.
  - b) to provide a foundation for learning.
  - c) designed for young children with cozy interiors, lovely toys and the welcoming scent of freshly made milk porridge.
  - d) to bridge home and school life.

5. What type of educational complexes were created in rural areas?
  - a) cost-effective educational complexes that combine schools and kindergartens.
  - b) schools only.
  - c) kindergartens only.
  - d) no educational complexes were created in rural areas.

**VI. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words from the text:**

*knowledge      industrial      social skills      traditions      comprehensive*  
*vocational education system      allies      financial support      skilled*

1. Belarus is a/an ... nation with advanced high-tech industries.
2. Young children receive ... healthcare.
3. Building on the Soviet school system's ... was vital.
4. He repeatedly emphasized, 'Teachers are my greatest ...!'
5. The country also needed ... workers.
6. It was essential to preserve the ... at all costs.
7. School is essential – it provides children with both ... and the ... necessary for life.
8. One of the President's first actions was to ensure maximum ... for schools.

**VII. Look through the text once again and develop the following ideas using information from it and your background knowledge.**

1. Belarus needed to adapt its Soviet-era education system to meet the demands of a new political and socio-economic reality.
2. Nurturing a national intellectual elite and preserving the vocational education system were crucial for Belarus industrial future.
3. President A. Lukashenko prioritized education reform as a top priority for the newly independent Belarus.
4. A. Lukashenko's personal experiences as a teacher, enterprise leader, and parent shaped his understanding of education's importance.
5. Building on the positive aspects of the Soviet system while incorporating contemporary trends was seen as vital for educational advancement.
6. Ensuring financial support for teachers was one of A. Lukashenko's first priorities in education reform.
7. The state-run preschool system was retained and developed, with new kindergartens being constructed as part of residential infrastructure, and cost-effective educational complexes were created in rural areas.

The system of education has always been a priority for President A. Lukashenko. He recognizes its importance for each individual and the nation as a whole, and the necessity to develop and improve it.

In his address at **the Republican Pedagogical Council** on August 27, 2024 (Text 3), Aleksandr Lukashenko highlighted various aspects of this sphere. Now, you are going to read some fragments from this speech.

## VOCABULARY

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Before you start reading the text, complete some tasks that will help you understand the information better.

### I. Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Impeccable       | a) to include or contain something as a constituent part   |
| 2. Encompass        | b) having flaws or errors  |
| 3. Challenge        | c) perfectly flawless  |
| 4. Stringent demand | d) a situation presenting difficulty and requiring effort to overcome  |
| 5. Discrepancies    | e) a firm requirement that is hard to meet   |
| 6. A tough job      | f) deficiencies in something, usually referring to a lack of something expected or required                              |
| 7. Shortfalls       | g) to weaken or gradually erode the effectiveness, power, or stability of smth or smb, often in a subtle way             |
| 8. Undermine        | h) a task that is difficult, challenging, and requires significant effort, skill, or resilience to complete successfully |

### II. Choose the correct synonym for the words in bold in each sentence.

- This has been a very **rough** time for many families.  
a) pleasant    b) easy    c) difficult    d) relaxing
- The company plans to **headhunt** talented engineers from rival firms.  
a) fire    b) recruit    c) promote    d) dismiss
- The old structure **withstood** the earthquake.  
a) collapsed    b) survived    c) ignored    d) caused
- The project was **abandoned** due to lack of funding.  
a) continued    b) resumed    c) deserted    d) finished
- It's **smart** to drill into the details before making a decision.  
a) foolish    b) wise    c) dangerous    d) unnecessary
- The **overarching** idea that underlies all decisions made at such meetings is the development of breakthrough technologies and the creation of new sectors.  
a) significant    b) main    c) advanced    d) unimportant

### III. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words:

*breakthrough technologies    opinion polls    shortfalls    targeted placement*  
*to undermine    large-scale    successors    vulnerable children*

1. The latest ... show a decline in public trust.
2. The scandal threatens ... the company's reputation.
3. We experienced significant ... in revenue this quarter.
4. The company is focused on ... to find the right candidate for the job.
5. The development of ... could revolutionize the industry.
6. Protecting ... from harm is a societal imperative.
7. The government is implementing a ... infrastructure project to boost the economy.
8. Finding suitable ... to lead the company is crucial for long-term stability.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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In the 1<sup>st</sup> fragment of the President's speech you are going to read about his ideas on a teacher's role. Before reading this section, answer the following questions expressing your opinions and views:

1. What is the role of a teacher in shaping future generations and contributing to a more just and equitable society?
2. How can teachers prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world, including technological advancements and global issues?
3. What role do teachers have in combating misinformation and promoting media literacy?
4. What is the role of teachers in building strong relationships with the community and connecting students to real-world experiences?
5. Could you predict what President A. Lukashenko is going to say about the teachers and their role for the whole society?

### Text 3

#### **PARTICIPATION IN THE REPUBLICAN PEDAGOGICAL COUNCIL** August 27, 2024 (excerpts)

##### **(1) On a teacher's role**

**D**o you remember I said that school is a temple and you, and especially the students, have to keep this in mind when entering it?

Teachers, without you we will have nobody. And, most importantly, we are going to have no healthcare. If you don't teach children in school, we are going to have no doctors.

We live in challenging times. And I say nothing of the war raging to the south. Of the things these insane Westerners are plotting against us. We have to keep an eye on them. What we need in this situation is to reorient the country, this enormous mechanism, and small Belarus is not that small when you rule the whole of it, from the West to the East. It is necessary to ensure that the country is welcomed in the East. Thank God we are succeeding in this area, but it is a tough job. I want you to understand: the country is experiencing a very rough time, and the question we face is 'either... or'.

We are the owners of this country. We have withstood 2020. And it is we who have to be the owners; it is we who do not have to fear anyone. It is you who will inherit it [the country, Belarus] and govern it. You will have to deal with issues concerning borders, wars, peace, agriculture, and industry. I want you to take this seriously: you will have to deal with all these tasks. But if we do not take all the necessary actions, things will end up like in Ukraine. I do not try to scare you; I only warn you.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the Republican Pedagogical Council. 2024

I see what will be tomorrow, I see what may happen. We need not only to take all these factors into account but also to take up the education of the children so that they come to school as if it were a temple, so that they have shivers down the spine as it was in the post-war years. So that they appreciate this.

Our young people are smart enough to understand and grasp the things we are talking about. Just do not lie to them about being so perfect. It is imperative to drill into the heads of our young people the following idea so that they understand: nothing comes easily without hard work.

Therefore, we have come here today for a reason on the eve of the new academic year, following the established tradition and holding this large-scale Conference on Teaching. We openly discuss the problems and prospects of the national education system. This conversation is of utmost importance. Education is a fundamental sphere of our life, which permeates all sectors and, for the record, determines the development of the entire nation. And the people working in this field must be impeccable.

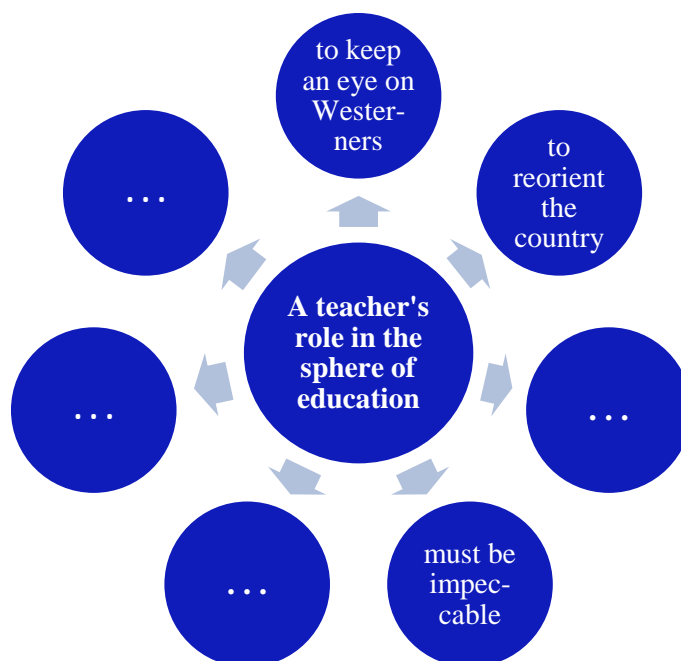
It is none other than you who have to shape the children's correct perception of the world and their understanding of all the processes going on in the society and the state. Any discrepancies, any shortfalls result in the country lacking stability, which affects everyone from small to large.

Education is a state-forming sector. Indeed, it requires major investments. And we are investing and will continue to invest in it. If today there are no educated young people brought up in their country, tomorrow there will be no country.

<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/ucastie-v-respublikanskom-pedagogiceskom-sovete>

**IV. Comment on the President's words from his speech: *If today there are no educated young people brought up in their country, tomorrow there will be no country.* Do you agree with this opinion? Substantiate your opinion.**

**V. Fill in the following scheme using the information from the text (part 1). Some examples are provided for you. Develop each idea using the information from the President's speech.**



**VI. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> fragment of the President's speech you are going to find out his opinion about the quality of education in our country, some problems in this sector and ways to cope with different situations, as well as what is necessary to pay attention to in future. Try to predict what topics A. Lukashenko is going to discuss to attract our attention to the sphere of education. Look through the following ideas from the speech, they will give you some prompts:**

'...a significant decrease in citizens' appeals on education issues...'

'...external pressure against us has been mounting...'

'...to undermine the Belarusian education system...'

'... they headhunt our graduates...'

'...the role of science will be strengthened and increased...'

'...the development of breakthrough technologies...'

'...need qualified employees...'

'...have to teach fresh graduates...'

'...the targeted admission...'

'...responsible for retaining young specialists...'

'...the college-university nexus...'

'...to strengthen the material and technical base...'

'...the topic of patriotic upbringing...'

'...the Internet...another serious challenge...'

'...to revive the school labor practice...'

'...physical education classes...'

## (2) ON THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

It is pleasing to see the way society's attitude towards the education system is changing. Opinion polls by the National Academy of Sciences show that more than 73 % of the respondents are positive about the work of the school. And the Administration of the President of Belarus records a significant decrease in citizens' appeals on education issues. Compared to the previous year, its number fell by 43 % (with only 278 complaints). In fact, the complainants did not raise any socially significant problems.

There is no surprise that the external pressure against us has been mounting. We see all the attempts to undermine the Belarusian education system. But I have only one question: if we are so bad at teaching, why should they headhunt our graduates, why should they lure them? The answer is obvious. Our young neighbors – Lithuanians, Latvians, Poles, and Estonians – have been seeking happiness in Europe and overseas for a long time. Now, these neighbors and other countries need our children.

We talk a lot about improving the quality of education. You see that this topic stays in my agenda, the President's agenda. We constantly discuss this item at the meeting devoted to economy, regional politics, and the development of education and agriculture. In fact, starting next year, the role of science will be strengthened and increased. The overarching idea that underlies all decisions made at such meetings is the development of breakthrough technologies and the creation of new sectors. To this end, we need qualified employees capable of thinking creatively, solving non-standard tasks, and embracing and adopting best practices in the actual production and social sector.

As for the role of university science, it should only increase. It is a key element of the country's scientific potential. That involves expanding opportunities for the young people capable of realizing their potential in a sector that is so important for us. And these opportunities should not be offered solely in the capital. I do hope you have heard me. Scientists need to prepare their successors, transfer their knowledge to our talented and gifted youth. This is my stringent demand.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the Republican Pedagogical Council. 2024

I do not understand why we still have to teach fresh graduates? Who is to blame for this? Is it a university that doesn't provide the necessary knowledge, or an employer that doesn't want to help the graduates adapt to their first job? What is going on?

On the other hand, the universities' administration and rectors in particular have to be more flexible, to understand what schools, programmes, and forms of education need to be introduced or abandoned.

As for the targeted admission, the things also have to be sorted out there. It seems like we have got a system, but it lacks proper transparency and efficiency.

In fact, if you take prospective students for future targeted placement, you have to mentor them throughout the entire period of study. This falls into your area of responsibility. And you are also responsible for retaining young specialists.

If universities, colleges, factories, and plants need people, we will support them in housing construction. They [institutions and enterprises] should have an opportunity to provide people striving to work for them with housing, among others.

We need to promote the college-university nexus more actively. We need to go further down this path.

I saw it myself when visiting such educational institutions. Sure, some of them have yet to strengthen the material and technical base and buy modern equipment.

It is also encouraging to see that the military and the representatives of internal affairs bodies have been recently actively involved in ideological and educational work, helping our schools. Finally, true men start to visit them. And that is the right thing to do. The topic of patriotic upbringing should be in safe hands.

But let us not forget about another 'educator' of our children, an aggressive and very dangerous one at times. This is the Internet. We are facing another serious challenge. We need to know if we are doing enough to develop in children the skills of safe online behavior and understanding of the basics of information hygiene. It is imperative to analyze and significantly boost this work.

If you do not pay attention to labor education and the upbringing of children in schools, the in-class teaching efficiency will be reduced by half. Think about the ways to revive the school labor practice. Let them see how much the sphere of actual production has advanced today. Let them look at and talk to the specialists working there. Let them have a closer look at the working conditions, modern machinery, and equipment they work on. This will be the best career guidance.

I am extremely outraged that physical education classes have become virtually optional in some schools. The same goes for universities. If you want, you may attend the class; if not, then you may not come. So what motivation will the young people have to do sports? It is necessary to sort the things out in this regard in the most serious manner since physical education and sports directly contribute to the health of our children. As well as that is done by self-discipline and character building that will always serve you well in life.

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/ucastie-v-respublikanskom-pedagogiceskom-sovete>*

## **VII. Look through part 2 'On the Quality of Education' once again and working alone or in pairs**

**a) think of the outline of this part, reflect the main topics in it, write down the key words for each item, then discuss your variants with other groupmates, introduce changes into the outline if necessary;**

**b) organize into 3-4 groups, prepare a short summary of this fragment of President A. Lukashenko's speech reflecting its main issues, choose one representative from each group and deliver your information to groupmates.**

The 3<sup>d</sup> part of the speech is dedicated to the future prospects of the Belarusian education. Get acquainted with this information.

### **(3) Reform and development of the education sector**

**T**eachers have been and still are a pillar of the state. You know how much I respect your hard work. Our policy priorities encompass the issues of teachers' social support and boosting the positive image of teachers and schools. We will continue the work in this area. By 2025, we will align the salaries of education professionals with the national average.

We have been reforming education for many years in a row. We have lost count of these reforms and confused the people. As I have already promised, no significant changes in education are envisaged. We cannot every year make a fuss and immerse the teaching community, the government, and ourselves in reforming, reconfiguring, demolishing, and building something new in the education system. We will not do it, because a lot has already been done. We need to stop, work, and draw appropriate conclusions from what we have created. We will polish the things up if necessary. Polishing will always be needed.

In school, a teacher should be more than a holy man! Therefore, we must do our best in this regard. First of all, it is you [teachers] who must want it, and we [the government] have to provide all possible support. The teacher is the President's man. Consequently, 50 % of your workload is my workload. As for the work with disadvantaged families, the monitoring of living conditions of socially vulnerable children, preventive and organizational work, we will not let anyone make the teachers face these issues on their own.

In terms of salaries, we have come closer to the national average for the first time in history. It is simple math: you teach competitive professionals, the economy grows, as well as your income does.

A lot has been done. We can provide examples of concrete outcomes: we witness high competition for military specialties, the growing interest among young people in scientific work and student team activist movement, as well as the drop in the number of school graduates leaving abroad to study. The work must continue. And we must remember: only a patriot can raise a patriot. The talents should stay in our country! It is essential to boost the work with gifted children in schools and universities. The goal is the same - they should live and work in their own country.

In the next five years, we will create in Belarus a world-class educational hub that would be no worse than Harvard University. For example, we will build the most modern campus based on one of the faculties of BSU and establish a high school for a certain speciality, in other areas, and so on, according to the full industrial cycle.

However, let us not forget that artificial intelligence will not replace you, a real teacher, especially when it comes to shaping the adaptability skills and the focus on the future.

The most important economic indicator for us is exports. This is a matter of life for our country. Export is the brand of Belarus as a country with an open economy. We do not use the potential of education export sufficiently. We almost do not train specialists skilled in external communication and able to act tough in fierce external markets. But we should do that straight from school.

I do count on you. Only a teacher can implement the policy at that level that I want to be implemented. That is why I have told you that you should fear no one. You are the

owners of this country. The day you flinch will be the end, and the next day you may say goodbye to the good life (they have already got the whip ready for us). Therefore, do not retreat under any circumstances and do not be afraid of anyone.

We will certainly support you. We must preserve these lands for our children. It is impossible without you.

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/ucastie-v-respublikanskom-pedagogiceskom-sovete>*

**VIII. Divide into 3-4 groups. Look through the 3<sup>d</sup> part of the President's speech, discuss information in it within your group and write down the main ideas. Discuss your variants with other groups and present the final variant of these ideas.**

**IX. On the basis of text 3 prepare at least 5-7 questions the answers to which you can find in this speech.**

## **SPEAKING AND WRITING**

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**I. Read the texts of this Unit once again and prepare a 3-5 minute report on education in our country. You can add additional information about the topic.**

Your supposed audience are the peers from an English-speaking country. At first, think of the outline for your report. Then choose the ideas which correspond to each item of your outline and organize this information in a logical and coherent text. Do not forget to choose linking words which will help you make the speech logical and easy for the audience's comprehension. You can see a list of linking words below. Use the diagram below as a prompt. You may suggest your own outline and ideas.

### **Linking words**

#### **Addition / Elaboration**

and, also, too, in addition, furthermore, moreover, besides, as well as, not only...but, also, what is more, indeed, in fact, to illustrate, for example, in other words, etc.

#### **Cause and Effect**

because, since, as, due to, owing to, therefore, thus, hence, consequently, as a result, accordingly, for this reason, so, etc.

#### **Comparison and Contrast**

similarly, likewise, in the same way, compared to, in comparison, however, nevertheless, despite, in spite of, although, though, while, on the other hand, unlike, etc.

### Sequence and Time

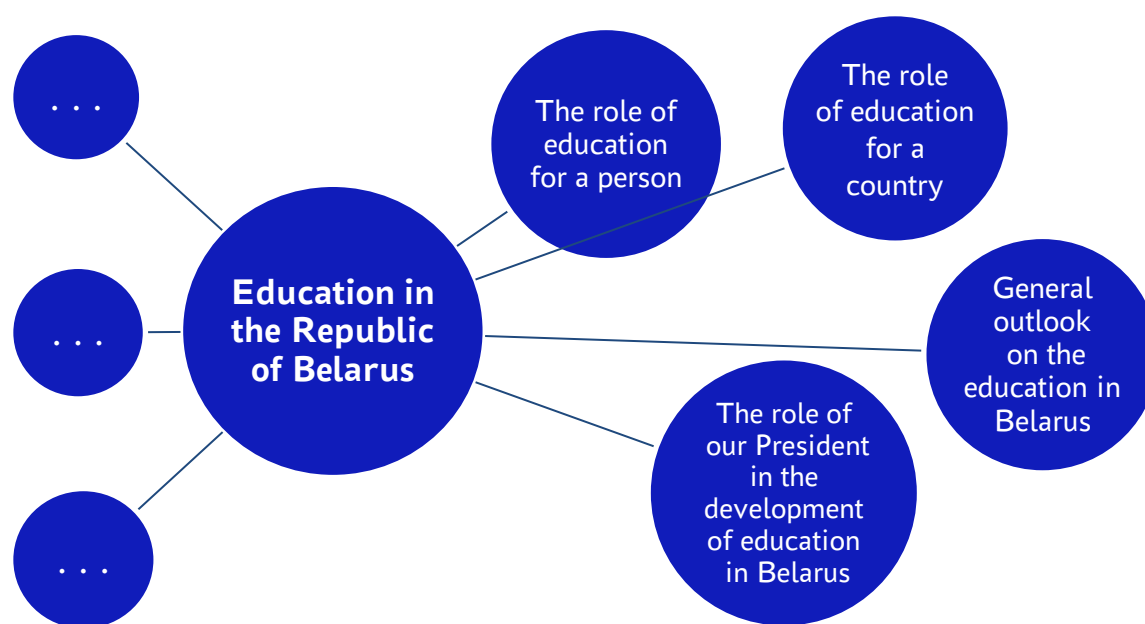
first, second, third, firstly, secondly, thirdly, then, next, afterward, before, previously, finally, in conclusion, etc.

### Emphasis

indeed, certainly, surely, undoubtedly, especially, particularly, significantly, notably, above all, in particular, etc.

### Condition

if, unless, provided that, as long as, on the condition that, in that case, summarizing, in conclusion, to conclude, in summary, in brief, overall, therefore, thus, consequently, as a result, ultimately, etc.



**II. Divide into two groups and imitate the real debates on the suggested topics below. You can use the ideas provided for you while defending your arguments *for* or *against*.**

#### 1. *The Role of Technology in Education*

**Debate Question:** *Online education will completely replace traditional classroom learning within the next 20 years.*

##### **Arguments for:**

- **Accessibility:** Online education removes geographical barriers and makes learning available to a wider audience.
- **Personalized Learning:** Technology allows for tailored learning experiences based on individual student needs and pace.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Online education can reduce costs associated with physical infrastructure and resources.
- **Development of Digital Skills:** Prepares students for a technologically driven workforce.
- **Flexibility:** Online learning allows students to study at their own pace and schedule, accommodating different learning styles and commitments.

**Arguments against:**

- **Lack of Social Interaction:** Absence of face-to-face interaction can hinder social development and teamwork skills.
- **Digital Divide:** Unequal access to technology and reliable internet connectivity creates disparities.
- **Need for Self-Discipline:** Online learning requires strong self-motivation and discipline, which some students may lack.
- **Quality Control Concerns:** Variable quality of online resources and courses can raise concerns about the effectiveness of learning.
- **Teacher-Student Relationship:** The lack of direct personal connection can hinder the development of strong student-teacher relationships.
- **Difficulty with Practical Subjects:** Online learning can be challenging for subjects requiring hands-on experience.

**2. The Purpose of Higher Education**

**Debate Question:** *A university education should primarily focus on preparing students for the workforce, rather than fostering critical thinking and personal development.*

**Arguments for:**

- **Economic Benefits:** Education should equip graduates with marketable skills that lead to employment and contribute to the economy.
- **Skills Gap:** Universities should address the skills gap identified by employers by focusing on vocational training and industry-relevant knowledge.
- **Return on Investment:** Students expect a financial return on their investment in higher education, making career preparation a priority.
- **Competition:** The global job market is increasingly competitive, and universities must prepare students to succeed.

**Arguments against:**

- **Holistic Development:** University should cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, which are valuable in all aspects of life.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Education should instill a love of learning and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances throughout life.
- **Civic Engagement:** Universities should promote informed citizenship and encourage students to engage with social issues.
- **Personal Growth:** The university experience should foster personal growth, self-discovery, and the development of values.
- **Over-Specialization:** A narrow focus on career preparation can limit students' horizons and prevent them from exploring other interests.

**III. Choose any topic below and write an essay. The questions provided on each topic may help you generate and develop some ideas.**

**1. The Purpose of Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

What is the primary purpose of education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Is it primarily to prepare students for the job market, or does it play a role in shaping individuals and society?

## **2. *The Value of a University Education.***

With the rising costs of tuition and the increasing availability of online learning resources, is a university education still worth the investment?

## **3. *The Impact of Technology on Education.***

How has technology changed education in the last 20 years, and is this change for the better or worse?

## **4. *The Future of Education: Personalized Learning.***

Personalized learning, where education is tailored to the individual needs and interests of each student, is often touted as the future of education. What are the potential benefits and challenges of this approach?

## **5. *My Ideal Education System.***

If you could design the perfect education system, what would it look like? What features would you include, and what problems would you try to solve?

### **Some tips for writing an essay:**

#### **Use a variety of vocabulary:**

Avoid using the same words repeatedly. Use a thesaurus to find synonyms.

#### **Use complex grammatical structures:**

Demonstrate your ability to use conditional sentences, relative clauses, passive voice, etc.

#### **Organize your essay logically:**

Use clear topic sentences and transitions to guide the reader. Have a clear introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.

#### **Provide specific examples and evidence:**

Support your arguments with concrete examples and evidence from your own experiences or from your reading.

#### **Proofread carefully:**

Check for errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

#### **Consider different points of view:**

Acknowledge and address counterarguments to strengthen your own position.

#### **Don't be afraid to express your own opinion:**

Even in an academic essay, it's important to show that you have thought critically about the topic and have your own perspective.

# CULTURE AND ART IN BELARUS

## unit IX

*Knowledge of our history and comprehension of  
the philosophy behind our native culture is a national treasure.*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

### STARTER

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Throughout history Belarus has been and continues to be renowned for its original architectural and artistic schools, unique works of music and literature.

Modern cultural life in Belarus is dynamic and diverse. It features numerous art exhibitions, music, theater, and film festivals. They all are accessible to both Belarusians and international guests. The cultural sector comprises approximately 5 000 state-run organizations: clubs (2 291), public libraries (2 214), museums (156), theaters (28), concert organizations (23), circuses (2), parks of culture and recreation (12), zoos (5), and methodological centers for folk art (12).

<https://president.gov.by/ru/belarus/social/culture>

**Study the following text and try to fill in the gaps with geographical and proper names.**

1 ... was a major center of culture and art, preserving unique monuments of ancient Belarusian ecclesiastical architecture and art. Among the weaving manufactories of the 17th–18th centuries the 2 ... and ... workshops stood out the most. The former for high-art tapestries, the latter for silk, gold, and silver-threaded belts. In the 20th century Belarus contributed to global art through the avant-garde group UNOVIS ('Champions of the New Art') and prominent artistic figures like 3 ..., ... , ... and .... In decorative and applied arts, tapestry took a leading position. 'The Tapestry of the Century' by 4 ..., ... is officially recognized as the world's largest and is listed in the Guinness World Records.

The largest collection of paintings and sculptures is held by the National Art Museum in 5 ...

<https://president.gov.by/ru/belarus/social/culture/izobrazitelnoe-iskusstvo>

**Exchange your ideas on the following issues with the groupmates:**

1. What Belarusian cultural traditions, symbols, sights of national value, in your opinion, can be interesting to foreign visitors?
2. What cultural objects, nature landmarks would you recommend to foreigners who visit our country for the first time?
3. How did Belarus contribute to global art in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

Now you are going to read the speech given by A. Lukashenko at **Kupala Holiday 'Aleksandriya Gathers Friends'**, July 6, 2024 (Text 1).

## VOCABULARY

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Before you start reading the text, complete some tasks that will help you understand the information better.

### I. Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right.

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. To foster    | a. making somebody/something look or feel younger   |
| 2. To nurture   | b. protecting something/somebody from loss, harm or damage; keeping something/somebody safe         |
| 3. Identity     | c. safety and protection, especially for people who are in danger of being attacked or captured     |
| 4. Sanctuary    | d. encouraging something to develop   |
| 5. Fern         | e. helping somebody/something to develop and be successful  |
| 6. Authentic    | f. the characteristics, feelings or beliefs that make people different from others                  |
| 7. Rejuvenating | g. a plant with large attractive leaves and no flowers that grows in wet areas or is grown in a pot |
| 8. To safeguard | h. known to be real and what somebody claims it is and not a copy                                   |

### II. Choose the right synonym for the underlined word(s) in each sentence.

- Likely, they **endured hardship** there.  
a) bore difficulties      b) experienced misfortune      c) had problems
- As many experts suggest – our **forebears** moved northwards.  
a) ancestors      b) forerunners      c) forefathers
- People came here **of their own accord**.  
a) with one accord      b) themselves      c) without being forced
- Our children must witness how we cherish what **has been crafted** over centuries.  
a) molded      b) handmade      c) created
- The world is changing **at breakneck speed**.  
a) extremely fast      b) hasty      c) rapidly
- We **pass on** these traditions to our children.  
a) transfer      b) give      c) instill

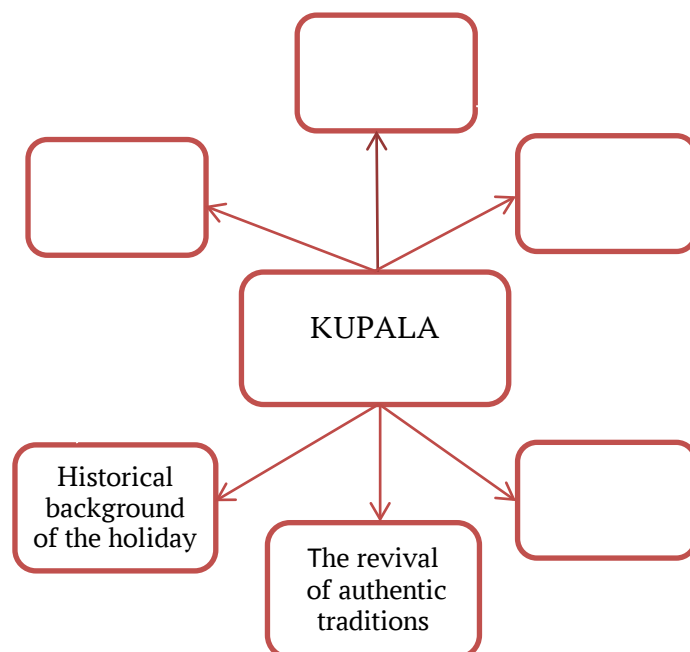
### III. a) Use the correct suffix to make a new word from the words below. Use the following prompts *-ly, -ity, -al, -less, -hood, -tion, -ful, -ous*.

True, creative, to revive, ancestor, inherent, time, state, to inspire, sincere, meaning, miracle, generous.

b) Think of 6-8 possible collocations with the words you have created. Write them down, compare your list with the partner's. Make sentences using these collocations.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

Study the chart below. While reading the text, fill in the missing information.



Text 1

### THE SPEECH OF A.G. LUKASHENKO AT KUPALA HOLIDAY (‘Aleksandriya Gathers Friends’) July 6, 2024 (excerpts)

For 15 years, we have gathered in this picturesque corner of Belarus to feel, if only briefly, the connection through time. In this relatively short span, we have built a festival that has grown from a modest celebration into a national and international event. Despite its growth, it has retained the spirit of a warm and welcoming holiday. The unique atmosphere remains, and we have preserved its comfort.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at Kupala holiday (‘Aleksandriya Gathers Friends’). 2024

We never intended it to reach such a scale – people came here of their own accord. It was a calling of the heart, a pursuit of genuine values: where guests are truly welcome, and where creativity thrives. The greatest achievement has been the revival of ancestral traditions. We are nurturing our national culture. As you’ll agree, it is not enough to know and remember traditions – they must be woven into contemporary life.

Our children must witness how we cherish what has been crafted over centuries. They should grow up with the understanding that handmade items – a woven basket, a clay jug, an embroidered towel – are inherently beautiful and timeless. And folk music is the voice of the Slavic soul. It is our song. This is how we preserve our identity – by continuing the thousand-year history of the East Slavic peoples. Knowledge of this history and comprehension of the philosophy behind our native culture is a national treasure. We must safeguard it if we are to remain a people, a nation. This is the foundation of Belarusian statehood.

Each of us has a personal sanctuary – a place of power, where we return to for strength and inspiration. I sincerely thank everyone who has contributed their talent to today’s celebration. My gratitude goes to all those who have fostered this authentic atmosphere throughout the years. This is especially meaningful now.

Look around. The world is changing at breakneck speed. We think we know everything and have conquered all. We create virtual worlds on social media and often live online, losing touch with reality. But thank God, there are still people like you – with pure intentions and kind hearts. People who believe in wonder return to Aleksandriya year after year to celebrate the night of Ivan Kupala – a holiday steeped in ancient myths and legends. May all your hopes and dreams come true, with God’s blessing. Trofim’s Spring offers its pure waters to all on this rejuvenating land. We, Aleksandrians, believe in its miraculous power.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at Kupala holiday (‘Aleksandriya Gathers Friends’). 2024

There is no greater protection than love for one’s homeland and faith in its strength. We pass on these traditions to our children and share them generously with our friends. We have found what our ancestors sought for centuries. We have come to understand life’s true meaning. Our love of peace, our desire for friendship, and our respect for cultural traditions – this is the fern flower, which, as legend has it, holds the secret to peace. Peace in every sense. And the strength of the generous land of Aleksandriya and the waters of Trofim’s Spring are abundant for all.

<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/prazdnik-kupal-e-aleksandria-sobiraet-druzej><https://president.gov.by/ru/events/prazdnik-kupale-aleksandriya-sobiraet-druzey-1688841823>

**IV. Write down all possible collocations with the following words as they were used in the text. Use these collocations in your own examples focusing on the main traditions of Kupala holiday celebration.**

*strength      to foster      to contribute      native      to cherish*  
*spirit      handmade      to remain      a holiday      soul      traditions      authentic*

**V. Mark the sentences T for *True* or F for *False*. Explain your choice in case it is false.**

1. ( ) Our children should grow up with the understanding that handmade items are not significant.
2. ( ) People come to participate in 'Aleksandriya' voluntarily.
3. ( ) The fern flower is a symbol of love.
4. ( ) We preserve our identity by knowing our history and saving our nation culture.
5. ( ) According to our President, nowadays there are no people in the digital world with pure hearts and good intentions.
6. ( ) Trofim's Spring is known for its water of good quality.
7. ( ) According to A. G. Lukashenko, we should all live in big cities.

**VI. Complete the following sentences based on the information from the text. Compare your answers with your partner's answers.**

1. For a short period of time we have created a festival that ... .
2. The biggest accomplishment of Aleksandriya festival has been....
3. National traditions should be ....
4. The Slavic soul is seen though....
5. Nowadays very often, we live online and ....
6. People who believe in magic come back to ... to ....
7. We preserve our identity by....

**VII. How do you understand the following President's quotes? Compare and discuss your ideas with your partners'.**

*'There is no greater protection than love for one's homeland and faith in its strength'.*

*'It is not enough to know and remember traditions – they must be woven into contemporary life'.*

Now, you are going to read the speech given by our President at **Slavyanskiy Bazaar in Vitebsk**, July 11, 2024 (Text 2), where he continues focusing on the ideas of Belarusian heritage, identity and traditions.

## **VOCABULARY**

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Before you start reading the text, complete the tasks which will help you understand the information better.

**I. Match the words below with their definitions.**

1. Avant-garde	a. to sing a tune with your lips closed
2. Landmark	b. a person who has been given an official honor or prize for something important they have achieved
3. Contemporary	c. new and very modern ideas in art, music or literature that are sometimes surprising or shock people
4. Laureate	d. a person who lives or lived at the same time as somebody else, especially somebody who is about the same age
5. Array	e. to take something into the mind and learn or understand it
6. Masterpiece	f. a group or collection of things or people, often one that is large or impressive
7. To hum	g. a building or a place that is very important because of its history, and that should be preserved
8. To absorb	h. work of art such as a painting, film, book, etc. that is an excellent, or the best, example of the artist's work

**II. Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits grammatically and contextually in the blank.**

1. His autobiography will be one of the most ... awaited books of the season. (EAGER)
2. The moral rhetoric of a world community and human ... was the expression of this feeling. (BROTHER)
3. The underlying message of the film is that love ... everything. (TRANSCEND)
4. Cultural heritage and national identity are ... issues which must be tackled together. (SEPARATE)
5. They ... an equal society, free of poverty and disease. (VISION)
6. Our town is a ... cultural center nowadays. (FLOURISH)
7. The book explores ... lives of well-known people. (INTERSECT)

**III. Match the words from Box A with words from Box B to form some possible collocations. Put in prepositions where necessary. Choose five matched collocations and use them in your own examples discussing the issue of Vitebsk art and cultural heritage.**

**A:** to envision, to hum, to transcend, to honour, to take pride, inseparable, Slavic, genuine, grounded

**B:** the melody of 'Roads to Berlin', Nobel laureate Zhores Alferov, the spirit of our festival, brotherhood, the memory of the talented military commander Ivan Lyudnikov, the monumental portraits and sculptures of Zair Azgur, the geographical boundaries; equality, respect and creativity; family celebration

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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After reading the text, find out information on the Internet about the famous people mentioned in the speech.

Text 2

### THE XXXIII INTERNATIONAL ART FESTIVAL 'SLAVYANSKIY BAZAAR IN VITEBSK'

July 11, 2024 (excerpts)

When we hear about Vitebsk, we envision the monumental portraits and sculptures of Zair Azgur, the vivid imagery of Ilya Repin, Judel Pen and Kazimir Malevich. We view the cityscape through the eyes of Mark Chagall, who continued to paint his beloved hometown throughout his life, even from thousands of kilometres away. We remember Lazar Lagin who gave Soviet children the fairy-tale figure of Old Man Hottabych, and we hum the melody of 'Roads to Berlin' – composed by Mark Fradkin a year before the Great Victory. We honour the memory of the talented military commander Ivan Lyudnikov, who led the liberation of the Vitebsk region during the Great Patriotic War. We take pride in Nobel laureate Zhores Alferov, born in the city on the Dvina, who became a legend in world science. And we remember our contemporaries – countless artists who are now inseparable from the spirit of our festival.

The Slavic soul is limitless in its openness to the world. That is why our festival has long transcended the geographical boundaries of the Slavic brotherhood.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
inaugurating 'Slavyanskiy Bazaar in Vitebsk'. 2024

Today, for the first time, we welcome Ministers of Culture and creative groups from the countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, now also our community. This is a landmark moment in the life of our country. We have joined a family of nations with whom we see our future. A future of human development grounded in equality, respect, and creativity. At least, that is the prevailing spirit within the SCO today.

May this festival symbolize the beginning of our joint journey towards common goals – goals that have united over half the world's population, people who share and appreciate the philosophy of our festival. It holds the key to peace and mutual understanding, as conveyed through the talent of artists.

Today, this festival brings together people of all ages, faiths, and cultures – true lovers of art with diverse tastes, from avant-garde to classical. Most importantly, it has become a genuine family celebration, a festival of traditional values. Here, both residents and guests can truly relax and feel at ease.

No matter how some may try to silence or diminish the significance of our festival, their efforts fall short. Its resonance continues to be felt across the globe.

I wish you happiness and good health. May you live long and in peace – all will be well!

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/otkrytie-xxxiii-mezhdunarodnogo-festivala-iskusstv-slavanskij-bazar-v-vitebske>*

**IV. Divide the text into three thematic parts. Give each section a heading and write a brief summary.**

Paragraph 1: ... ..

Paragraphs 2–4: ... ..

Paragraphs 5–end: ... ..

**V. Complete the following sentences based on the information from the text.**

1. When we hear about Vitebsk sculptures associated with ..., paintings remind us about ... .
2. ... who liberated the Vitebsk region during the Great Patriotic War.
3. Today, for the first time, we welcome ... .
4. The prevailing spirit within the SCO today is ... .
5. ... as conveyed through the talent of artists.
6. This festival brings together ... .
7. The festival has become ... .

**VI. Make up 5–7 questions to ask your partner about Slavyanskiy Bazaar and notable people from Vitebsk.**

**VII. Split into 3–4 groups, discuss the main information (using your questions from task VI) within your group and write down the main ideas. Discuss your variants with other groups and present the final variant of these ideas.**

## **SPEAKING AND WRITING**

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**I. Review all the texts of this Unit once again and prepare a 3–5 minute report about Belarusian culture and art. Use additional information on the topic.**

Your supposed audience are the tourists from an English-speaking country. You should focus on the most significant people of art (artists, writers, etc.) and cultural places (museums, exhibitions, etc.) of Belarus.

## **II. Split into groups of four or five students and make an academic poster focusing on Kupala celebrations or Vitebsk festival.**

Use the following project management steps.

1. Make a group decision on who will be a project manager.
2. Define the purpose of the project.
3. Design a plan for the project.
4. Create a schedule.
5. Decide on distributing responsibilities among the team members in:
  - collecting & systematizing verbal and visual information,
  - interpreting & presenting information in the poster,
  - designing the poster layout, choosing visual images and other graphics,
  - editing the poster texts and writing a reference list,
  - making a collage of verbal and visual project materials.
6. Monitor the progress of the project.
7. Present the poster and assess the project outcomes.

## **III. Choose any quote that follows below and write down an essay of 250 words minimum.**

- *The Slavic soul is limitless in its openness to the world. That is why our Vitebsk festival has long transcended the geographical boundaries of the Slavic brotherhood (A. Lukashenko).*

- *Art and culture are nonetheless vital, essential even, to what it means to be human, yet digital abundance has diminished our sense of their worth (Astra Taylor).*

- *Culture is the name for what people are interested in, their thoughts, their models, the books they read and the speeches they hear, their table-talk, gossip, controversies, historical sense and scientific training, the values they appreciate, the quality of life they admire. All communities have a culture. It is the climate of their civilization (Walter Lippmann).*

- *The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance (Aristotle).*

# ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

## unit X

*Total dependence on foreign markets is a threat to the economy and sovereignty of the country. The development of the domestic market, development of the service economy should become the cornerstone of our new economic policy.*  
**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

### STARTER

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The economy of a country consists of key sectors that contribute to its gross domestic product (GDP), which measures the total value of goods and services produced in a given period. These sectors include agriculture, industry, and services. Agriculture provides essential food and raw materials, supporting rural livelihoods and increasingly adopting technology for sustainable growth. The industrial sector, including manufacturing and construction, drives development by producing goods, building infrastructure, creating jobs, and supporting urbanization. The service sector, often the largest part of GDP, covers finance, healthcare, education, and tourism, reflecting the country's development level.

A diversified economy includes a variety of industries and sectors, reducing dependence on any single source of income. This diversity makes the economy more resilient to shocks and supports sustainable growth. Developing countries often rely more on agriculture, while advanced economies are dominated by services. Countries with diversified economies tend to perform better because they can adapt to global market changes and reduce risks linked to reliance on one sector.

Trade openness and foreign investment help integrate countries into the global economy, boosting competitiveness and job creation. However, challenges like income inequality, infrastructure gaps, foreign sanctions and environmental sustainability require balanced policies.

*the text created by AI, adapted*

#### **Discuss the following questions with your groupmates:**

1. What is Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and why is it important for understanding a country's economy?
2. Which sectors does the economy of a country include? What role does each particular sector play?
3. What are the risks of relying too heavily on a single sector, such as agriculture or oil?
4. What are some advantages of having a diversified economy?
5. Why is trade openness important for a country's economic competitiveness?
6. What are some potential downsides of increased foreign investment and global integration?

Now that you understand the main sectors of a country's economy, let's explore how they operate in Belarus. You will find this information in the text **Economy of the Republic of Belarus** (Text 1).

## VOCABULARY

Before reading the text, complete some vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the facts presented in the text.

### I. Match each word or phrase in Column A with the correct definition in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. Export-oriented	a. the total value of goods and services produced
2. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	b. focused on selling products abroad
3. Industrial production	c. jobs and businesses that focus on providing assistance, advice, or experiences to others
4. Construction complex	d. the sector involved in building and infrastructure
5. Service sector	e. manufacturing industry
6. Multi-vector policy	f. a strategy involving multiple directions or partners
7. Environmental burden	g. amount per person
8. Per capita	h. negative impact on the environment

### II. Use the words from task I to complete the sentences below.

- Belarus is a(n) ... country, relying heavily on foreign markets.
- Growth in the ... often reflects rising consumer demand for healthcare, education, and financial assistance.
- The ... includes over 10,000 companies working on urban planning and building.
- The government follows a ... economic policy developing various industries.
- The ... sector contributes nearly half of the GDP.
- ... means measuring something by dividing it by the population.
- Reducing the ... is a goal of the energy sector.
- In the first half, the country's ... grew by 15 %, with industry output rising by 22.5 %.

### III. a) Choose two synonyms from the box for each word below.

<i>productive</i>	<i>workable</i>	<i>raise</i>	<i>preserve</i>	<i>pressure</i>	<i>lasting</i>
<i>support</i>	<i>represent</i>	<i>top concern</i>	<i>boost</i>	<i>sustainable</i>	
<i>feasible</i>	<i>make up</i>	<i>effective</i>	<i>main focus</i>	<i>load</i>	

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. efficient        | 5. viable      |
| 2. burden (on smth) | 6. increase    |
| 3. priority         | 7. account for |
| 4. maintain         | 8. long-term   |

b) Which of these words collocate with all three synonyms: *system, stability, 50 %, productivity, infrastructure, solution, plan, area*?

## READING AND DISCUSSING

Before reading the text, write down 10 words or expressions that are connected with the economy of Belarus. Explain why you have selected these particular words.

While reading, check if your ideas are mentioned in the text.

### Text 1

## ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

**T**he Republic of Belarus is an export-oriented country with high-performing agriculture, industry and service sectors. Belarus follows the principles of the socially oriented market economy, which has proven its viability and effectiveness.

Industrial production accounts for more than a quarter of Belarus' gross domestic product (27.5 % in 2023). The most developed industries in the country are machine-building; food, beverages and tobacco manufacturing; petroleum refining; chemical and pharmaceutical industries; rubber, plastic and building materials production; woodworking; and light industry.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the IV Eurasian Economic Forum in Minsk. 2025

The long-term goal of the development of the Belarusian fuel and energy complex is to meet the needs of the economy and the population for energy resources based on their efficient use while reducing the environmental burden.

Agricultural production per capita in Belarus corresponds to the level of that in developed countries and in many aspects exceeds the levels achieved in the CIS countries.

The construction complex of the Republic of Belarus includes over 10,000 organizations of various ownership forms engaged in architectural, urban planning and construction activities.

The service sector accounts for almost half of Belarus' gross domestic product (47.8 % in 2023).

The Republic of Belarus pursues a multi-vector foreign economic policy and maintains trade relations with 200 countries around the world. Export is one of the priorities for the development of the Belarusian economy. About 64 % of manufactured products are exported to foreign markets, which is typical for countries with a high level of economic development and openness.

<https://president.gov.by/ru/belarus/economics/vneshnjaja-torgovlya/eksportnye-tovary-i-uslugi>

<https://president.gov.by/ru/belarus/economics/osnovnye-otrasli>

<https://president.gov.by/ru/belarus/economics>

**IV. Look at the numbers from the text: 27.5 %, 10 000, 47.8 %, 200, 64 %. Comment on what each number refers to. Explain why these numbers might be important for understanding Belarus' economy. Use your own words and refer back to the text if needed.**

**V. Read the sentences and mark them as True (T) or False (F). Use the information from the text to explain your answer.**

1. Belarus depends on selling its agricultural, industrial, and service-based products to foreign markets.

2. The Belarusian economy operates purely on free-market principles without considering social factors.

3. Manufacturing and industrial activities play a significant role in Belarus' economic structure.

4. The country aims to develop its energy sector while minimizing harm to the environment.

5. Belarus' agricultural production per capita equals or exceeds that of numerous developed countries.

6. Belarus' construction industry involves thousands of firms working in design, urban planning, and building projects.

7. The services sector makes up only a minor portion of Belarus' economic output.

8. Belarus actively engages in international trade with numerous countries and focuses on increasing its exports.

Now you are going to read a fragment from **the Meeting on the State and Challenges of Industrial Development**, April 9, 2024 (Text 2) in which Aleksandr Lukashenko talks about the current state of industrial development in Belarus and highlights both the achievements and challenges facing Belarus' industrial enterprises today.

## VOCABULARY

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Before reading the text, complete some vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the information presented in the text.

**I. Use your knowledge of similar words in other languages to guess the meaning of the highlighted words and word combinations in the following sentences. Then, check your guesses by using context clues or a dictionary.**

1. The government has **accelerated industrial development** to boost the country's economy and create more jobs.

2. Our company aims to increase the **production volume** by 20 % next year.
3. Companies must adapt quickly to changing **external factors** such as new regulations and market demands.
4. The **formation of technological potential** is essential for maintaining a competitive edge in high-tech industries.
5. Efficient **logistics** are crucial to ensure timely delivery of goods to customers worldwide.
6. It is important to raise **the prestige of engineering professions** to attract more young people into technical fields.
7. Improving **economic performance** depends on both **innovation** and smart policy decisions.
8. The country promotes **import substitution** to reduce reliance on foreign suppliers.
9. Strong emphasis on **personnel training** guarantees a skilled workforce for future challenges.
10. Achieving **manufacturing localization** helps decrease costs and strengthens the domestic supply chain.

## II. Complete the table by filling in the missing forms of the words.

Verb	Noun(s)	Adjective	Adverb
-----	characterization, characteristic	characteristic	characteristically
lose	-----	-----	X
-----	production, product, productivity	-----	productively
employ	-----, -----, -----	employable	X
grow	-----	growing/grown	X
perform	performance	X	X
-----	solution	-----	X
contribute	-----	-----	X
profit	-----, -----	-----	-----
-----	-----	destructive	destructively

## III. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words from task II:

1. The company continued to make financial ... throughout the entire year.
2. Thanks to better planning and innovation, the factory became highly ... last year.
3. This new machine has improved the ... of the factory.
4. Analysts closely monitor the ... of key sectors to predict future economic trends.
5. The engineers' ... helped finish the project under budget.
6. Tourism's ... to local economies has grown steadily, especially in rural regions.
7. If we continue with this level of pollution, environmental ... is inevitable.
8. Every ... should feel motivated to take initiative and suggest improvements.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

Below you can find 6 sentences that describe the economy of Belarus. Do you think these sentences are true or false? Explain your answers.

- The economy in Belarus has been shrinking over the past years.
- Logistics and the cost of imported materials are not a problem for Belarus.
- The government does not allocate money to improve technological self-sufficiency.
- Import substitution is considered unnecessary in Belarus at the current moment.
- One of the main concerns is the quality of goods being produced.
- There is no shortage of highly qualified personnel in Belarus.

Read text 2 and check your assumptions.

### Text 2

## ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT MEETING ON THE STATE AND CHALLENGES OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT April 9, 2024 (excerpts)

**T**oday we meet with you, the heads of large industrial core enterprises. The Government reports that the Ministry of Industry has overall been securing steady growth in production volumes over the past few years. The economy has grown by almost 40% over the last three years. We achieved some results last year as well. Industrial goods worth nearly 30 billion Belarusian roubles were produced, with a growth rate of almost 113%.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
at the meeting on the state and challenges of industrial development. 2024

It is not that hard to produce goods. We are able to do this somehow. We produce goods, be they high- or low-quality, expensive or cheap. But the main task is to sell the goods and get the money.

What is the overall outcome? First of all, it is the decline in the quality indicators of enterprise development. Profitability is falling below the level of 2022. The number of unprofitable organizations and the amount of losses are growing. We face complex

logistics and an increase in the cost of imported raw materials. The destruction of cooperation ties with Western suppliers has forced us to find alternative partners or to organize our production of components, including accelerating the development and implementation of new technical solutions. In general, it is clear what is yet to be done. Why are we falling behind? Why don't we do it?

It is imperative to take measures to ensure the highest possible technological self-sufficiency and to create an environment conducive to stable economic performance independent of any sanctions. This is a strategic task for our industrial complex.

Another of our objectives is to secure the industry from any external factors in the most effective way. That is why import substitution plays an essential role, and we must be persistent in ensuring it.

As for investors, we set the conditions to achieve a certain level of manufacturing localization. They accept them and fulfil them. As far as the traditional industries go, the share of imports in raw materials remains at a high level, with the indicators practically not decreasing from year to year.

It is high time we prepared the scientific-research base and trained engineering and technical personnel for the development of advanced technologies and the formation of a scientific and technological potential for the further development of the microelectronics industry. The funds have already been allocated. It is necessary not only to spend the money but also to create a product of long-term demand.

Projects to achieve technological self-sufficiency should become a driver for our industry upgrade and help the economy reach an advanced level in efficiency and competition.

As we mark the year of quality and look beyond, the goods being manufactured have to be of the highest quality. We have no other choice. This is not a whim, but a harsh vital necessity. That is a matter of the country's and people's future. Our products must be of high quality in all characteristics and parameters.

We need to get close to the Japanese level of quality. The goal is to gain a foothold and increase the market share. And if we recklessly pursue the lowest prices, we will not only lose the quality of the finished goods, but the manufacture of our own component base.

Everything matters – investments, technologies, discipline, and product quality. But what matters the most is human resources. A highly qualified specialist will solve any problem; a half-educated person will ruin things. However, today we are compelled to talk not about the quality of personnel training, but about their rampant shortage. Especially the labor shortage.

Probably, it is high time for the Government to think about attracting the resigned employees, the retirees, for example. There are many active people among them who want to work. It is perhaps unlikely to hire 30 thousand people, but we will definitely find a few thousand patriotically minded people we can invite to manufacture. They will be happy to come and work, and they will also make a major contribution as mentors. We need to decide how to make them interested, including financially.

Based on the experience of the Soviet Union, we must significantly raise the prestige of engineering professions, enhance the status of people whose hands and intellect create real material values. Otherwise, all our plans will remain worthless pieces of paper.

We should work following a common logic for a common result. The criterion for the efficiency of educational institutions should be the number of their graduates in demand and the increase in the salaries of young professionals.

We face the tough times that require from everyone the strictest discipline and the most active steps.

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/soveshchanie-na-temu-sostoyaniya-i-zadach-razvitiya-promyshlennosti>*

#### **IV. Read the text again and choose the correct answer.**

1. What has been the approximate growth rate of Belarus' economy over the last three years?
  - a) 20 %
  - b) 40 %
  - c) 60 %
  - d) 80 %
2. What is the main challenge after producing goods, according to the text?
  - a) Finding raw materials
  - b) Selling the goods and getting money
  - c) Training new personnel
  - d) Increasing production volume
3. How has enterprise profitability changed since 2022?
  - a) It has increased significantly.
  - b) It has remained the same.
  - c) It has fallen below the 2022 level.
  - d) It has fluctuated without a clear trend.
4. What problems have arisen due to the destruction of cooperation ties with Western suppliers?
  - a) Increased exports and profits
  - b) Need to find alternative partners or produce components locally
  - c) Decreased production costs
  - d) Easier access to imported raw materials
5. What strategic task is emphasized for Belarus' industrial complex?
  - a) Increasing exports to Western countries
  - b) Building an autonomous technological infrastructure
  - c) Reducing the number of enterprises
  - d) Lowering product prices
6. Why is import substitution important, according to the text?
  - a) To increase dependence on foreign suppliers
  - b) To protect the sector from foreign pressures and restrictions
  - c) To reduce the quality of products
  - d) To decrease investments in technology
7. What is considered the most important factor in solving industrial problems?
  - a) Investments
  - b) Technologies
  - c) Human resources (qualified specialists)
  - d) Product prices
8. What solution does the text propose to address the shortage of qualified labor?
  - a) Hiring only young graduates
  - b) Encouraging former employees and retirees to rejoin the workforce
  - c) Outsourcing labor abroad
  - d) Reducing production to match labor availability

#### **V. Explain in your own words how you understand the following phrases from the text:**

- to face complex logistics;
- manufacturing localization;

- a product of long-term demand;
- a driver for our industry upgrade;
- a half-educated person will ruin things;
- this is not a whim, but a harsh vital necessity;
- to gain a foothold and increase the market share;
- a half-educated person will ruin things;
- all our plans will remain worthless pieces of paper

**VI. Expand on the following statements using the information from the text.**

1. The Belarusian economy has shown growth.
2. Selling products is a key challenge.
3. Profitability is going down.
4. Import substitution is important.
5. Technological independence is a goal.
6. There is a shortage of workers.
7. Engineering professions need support.
8. Education must match job market needs.

**VII. Make a list of problems the Belarusian industry is currently facing and the solutions suggested in the text. Can you add any more effective ways to address these issues? Share your ideas with your groupmates.**

Belarus' economic progress and strategic priorities are strictly supervised by President A. Lukashenko, who advocates for a socially oriented market economy and multi-vector foreign policy. The text you are going to read **Meeting on Rural Development and Improving the Efficiency of the Agricultural Sector**, April 16, 2024 (Text 3), clearly demonstrates that President Aleksandr Lukashenko pays close attention to agricultural development, recognizing it as a cornerstone of Belarus' economy and social stability.

## VOCABULARY

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Before reading the text, complete some vocabulary tasks that will help you understand the information presented in the text.

**I. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions from the box to complete common collocations related to agriculture and development.**

1. Depend heavily ... the state of rural areas.
2. Contribute a lot ... food security.
3. Grow ... 1 %, decline ... 1 %.
4. Break ... new product and geographic markets.
5. Invest ... rural development.
6. Responsible ... delivering the sowing campaign.
7. Upgrade ... national fleet of tractors and agricultural machines.
8. Shortage ... leadership and skilled roles.

in, of, for, on, to, of, into, by, by
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**II. Match the first part of each phrase (Column A) with its correct ending (Column B). Explain what these collocations mean.**

Column A	Column B
1. Agricultural	a. digits
2. Crop	b. self-sufficiency
3. Precision	c. feed units
4. Balanced	d. equipment
5. Full range of	e. production
6. High capacity	f. diet
7. Animal	g. farming
8. Double	h. husbandry

**III. Group the words below into 3 categories:**



Feed mixers, loans, competitiveness, internet access, feed units, rural development, pelletised animal feed, youth retention, animal technicians, healthcare, sugar beet, processors, sowing campaign, rapeseed, tractors, agricultural machinery, poultry farming, pig farming, crop production, yield, remuneration, dilapidated facilities, profitability, staffing shortages, housing, targeted university places, subsidies, production targets, public services, high-margin segments, hatching egg stock, high value-added products, financial performance, export markets, precision farming, livestock, living standards.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Aleksandr Lukashenko believes that agriculture is vitally important for Belarus. What do you think makes this area so important for our country? What are the challenges this area is currently facing? What are some possible ways to boost the development of this sector? Share your ideas with the groupmates. While reading the text, check if your assumptions coincide with the opinion of President A. Lukashenko.

Text 3

**MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING  
THE EFFICIENCY OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

April 16, 2024 (excerpts)

**T**he welfare of our people, foreign currency earnings, food security, and ultimately the country's social and political stability depend heavily on the state of rural areas. First and foremost, people must be fed, clothed, and simply put, have a normal life. Only then can we speak of socio-economic stability. Agriculture contributes a lot in this regard. In general, agricultural workers have much to be proud of. Belarus is fully self-sufficient in key food products and significantly outperforms other CIS countries in terms of both production and per capita consumption.

Our task now is to move forward – to make the agricultural sector more resilient and its development more progressive. We have every opportunity to achieve this and we know how. We must expand the production and export of high value-added products, develop national brands ahead of our competitors, and break into new product and geographic markets. There is no alternative.

As for our current position: in 2023, agricultural production grew by just over 1 % overall (with crop production declining by over 1 %, and livestock production increasing by 4.5 %). Given the scale of investment in rural development, this performance is underwhelming.

The government, as usual, blames unfavorable weather, and governors echo this explanation. But let us be honest – the problem is not the weather alone.

### ***Crops Production***

It is high time to raise agriculture to a new technological level and implement precision farming across the board. This approach enables the creation of optimal conditions for any crop, reducing input costs and increasing both yield and quality. We already have the necessary components for such a system, and it must become our strategic priority. Smart farming is key to future competitiveness. We need a comprehensive programme, including staff training. Don't try to involve everyone at once – start with those ready and able. But start now. We must also revolutionize our agricultural machinery and engineering industries. However, before launching a full-scale transformation, we must first ensure that the quality of our current machinery meets basic operational standards.

The targets for 2024 are considerably more ambitious than last year's outcomes: approximately 10 million tonnes of grain, 5 million tonnes of sugar beet, and over 1 million tonnes of rapeseed must be produced per year. As the saying goes, "You reap what you sow." The government claims that all necessary decisions for the sowing campaign have been made. It now falls to those on the ground to deliver – clearly and responsibly.

### ***Agricultural Engineering***

We have set a clear requirement: by 25 March each year, ahead of the spring fieldwork, equipment must be at least 95 % ready. What is the reality this year? Inspectors have reported inadequate equipment readiness in nearly one-third of the farms inspected – 70 out of 225.

If any governors still hope to rely on imported machinery, they should abandon such illusions. Absolutely. We have discussed this extensively at recent meetings. Claims that foreign machinery is superior are no longer valid – especially today.

Belarusian manufacturers, particularly in cooperation with our Russian counterparts, are fully capable of meeting all domestic needs. Still, it is time to upgrade our national fleet of tractors and agricultural machines. Agricultural workers today require high-capacity equipment: powerful tractors, harvesters, feed mixers, and more.

### ***Animal Husbandry***

Cattle deserve better living conditions – "the cow should live in a palace." The sooner we move away from dilapidated facilities, the better. Keeping livestock in such conditions is detrimental. Adequate feed and a balanced diet are essential to profitable production. Scientists have developed around 100 technological standards and recommendations – use them.

We need a ten-year development strategy for advanced pig farming in Belarus. It must cover everything: improved genetics, efficient feed systems, and environmental sustainability. The goals are highly ambitious – greater processing depth and expansion into export markets.

In poultry farming, we remain dependent on imported breeding stock. Reducing this dependency is critical and must be addressed urgently. At present, there is no domestic alternative for sourcing hatching egg stock.

Every farm must have the full range of feeds required – at least 45–50 metric quintals of feed units per livestock unit. Despite our considerable experience in feed production, availability is declining. Why aren't we using our know-how? As far back as the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, the USSR produced pelletised animal feed from dried grass. With the right mix of herbs, such feed is rich in vitamins and minerals, and preserves well. The granulation process is technologically simple, and we already use it effectively in woodworking.

#### ***Key Issues for Resolution***

We must prioritise the in-depth processing of raw materials to create high added value. Everything should be processed – “even the pig's oink,” we may say. The market is offering processors the opportunity to expand product lines and export markets, and secure a foothold in high-margin segments.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at the meeting on rural development and improving the efficiency of the agricultural sector. 2024

We must also reconsider how agricultural managers are paid: remuneration should be based strictly on farm performance. No results? Then only the minimum wage.

It is a serious concern when processors take loans, thus advancing funds to villages for years – this is not business; it's a social programme. Under such conditions, rural profitability will never reach double digits, and decent wages will remain out of reach. Yet, inspectors repeatedly report that enterprises are underutilised due to a lack of domestic raw materials. This demand should bring a boom time for farms, but instead, they are requesting wage advances.

This must change. The land and assets of underperforming farms should be transferred entirely to more successful operations. These should function as consolidated agribusiness complexes. The newly formed enterprises must build modern, large-scale dairy and pig farming facilities.

Personnel shortages are perhaps the sector's biggest challenge. The deficit in both leadership and skilled roles is around 10 %, and 15 % for veterinarians and animal

technicians. While much is being done to attract young people to agriculture – including targeted college and university places, subsidised loans, bonuses, and affordable housing – it is not enough.

Solving the staffing issue is impossible without improving rural living standards. Access to healthcare, transport, retail and public services is essential. And for the younger generation – internet access and other modern amenities.

We must think carefully about how to attract and retain young professionals – from housing and exemplary working conditions to culture and rural healthcare. Without solving the personnel issue in agriculture, there will be no sustainable economy.

Our strategic objective is to build a high-tech, profitable agricultural sector. It is vital that we unlock the full potential of our agro-industrial complex, tackle today's problems, and plan for tomorrow – and beyond. You know what needs to be done – you have my instructions. The time is now. So, dress down – and down to work.

*<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/soveshchanie-o-razvittii-sela-i-povyshenii-effektivnosti-agrarnoy-otrasli>*

**IV. Agree or disagree with the following sentences. Use the information from the text to support your answers.**

1. Belarus is still reliant on importing breeding stock for its poultry sector.
2. The government requires all equipment to be 100% ready before spring planting.
3. The availability of animal feed is improving thanks to modern technology.
4. Farm managers' pay should depend on the success of their agricultural operations.
5. Combining weaker farms into larger, more efficient agricultural enterprises is one of the proposed solutions.
6. Belarus aims to increase the output of food products that bring higher profits.
7. The agricultural results of 2023 were seen as highly successful by the government.
8. There is a significant shortage of qualified agricultural workers, especially in veterinary and technical roles.
9. Belarus plans to continue depending on imported farm machinery.
10. Better living conditions in the countryside are crucial for keeping young professionals in agriculture.

**V. Answer the following questions based on the information implied but not directly stated in the text.**

1. Why might the government's explanation of weather as the main problem be considered insufficient?
2. What are the benefits of implementing precision farming across the board?
3. Why is it important to start with 'those ready and able' when introducing new agricultural technologies?
4. How does the shortage of veterinarians and animal technicians affect the agricultural sector?
5. Why is rural living standards improvement critical to solving the personnel shortage?

**VI. Using information from different parts of the text, summarize in 10 sentences the key challenges facing Belarusian agriculture and the proposed solutions.**

**VII. What can the government do to attract young people to the rural areas? Make a list of possible initiatives, discuss them with your groupmates.**

## **SPEAKING AND WRITING**

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**I. Role play a government meeting. Carry out some additional research into a specific industry sector in Belarus. Find information about its economic performance, profitability and the issues it currently faces. Present your finding to the group of other participants. Answer their questions and try to find the best solution to the problem your industry is facing. You can find some useful vocabulary below.**

**1. Identifying the problem:**

‘Let’s clearly define the problem we’re trying to solve’

‘What are the main challenges we’re facing here?’

**2. Analyzing the issue:**

‘Can we break this down into smaller parts to better understand it?’

‘What factors are contributing to this problem?’

**3. Suggesting solutions:**

‘One possible solution could be...’

‘Have we considered trying...?’

**4. Evaluating options:**

‘What are the pros and cons of each approach?’

‘Which solution seems the most feasible given our resources?’

**5. Seeking consensus:**

‘Do we all agree on this direction?’

‘Are there any concerns or alternative ideas we should discuss?’

**II. Deliver a motivational speech. Imagine you are the head of a major industrial enterprise. Write a short motivational speech to your team inspiring them to overcome the challenges mentioned in the text (like technological self-sufficiency, workforce shortage, and product quality). Use the key ideas from the text to encourage innovation and teamwork.**

**III. Design a poster: ‘Reviving a Nation’. Create a visual poster that captures the transformation of Belarus in the 1990s–2000s across the three sectors: agriculture, industry, and construction. You can include the following points:**

- Key facts and quotes from the texts
- The role of the President in reviving the economy
- Before-and-after visuals (real or imagined)
- A slogan that reflects national pride and progress

**IV. In small groups, draft a policy proposal to improve one specific aspect of rural or industrial development (e.g., personnel retention, machinery modernization, feed production). Include goals, strategies, and expected outcomes. Some useful expressions for writing policy proposals will help you.**

**Introducing the proposal:**

- This proposal aims to...
- The goal is to address...
- Our focus is on...

**Expected Outcomes:**

- This will lead to...
- Expected benefits include...
- The policy will contribute to...

**Stating goals**

- We aim to increase/reduce...
- The objective is to improve...
- Our target is to achieve...

**Concluding:**

- Support and resources are necessary.
- Regular evaluation is recommended.
- Collaboration among stakeholders is key as .....

**Suggesting strategies:**

- We propose to implement...
- Investing in... is essential.
- Providing incentives for...
- Enhancing access to...

**V. Write a short essay (200-300 words) imagining Belarusian agriculture 10 years from now if all proposed measures succeed. Describe technological advances, rural life, and economic development of the country.**

# STATE YOUTH POLICY

## unit XI

*Investment in youth is investment in our future.*

*Aleksandr Lukashenko*

### STARTER

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The aims of the state youth policy are to provide comprehensive education for young people; to promote their spiritual, moral, intellectual, professional and physical development; to create the necessary conditions for free and effective participation of young people in public life; to realize the potential of young people in the interests of the whole society; to ensure social, financial, legal and other support for young people; to expand the opportunities of young people in choosing their life paths.

State youth policy is based on the principles of protecting the rights and legitimate interests of young people; combining state and public interests, individual rights and freedoms in the formation and implementation of state youth policy. It is essential to provide young people with legal and socio-economic guarantees that compensate for age-related restrictions on their social status. These principles are based on scientific validity, comprehensiveness and transparency. It is crucial to ensure the participation of young people in the formation and implementation of state youth policy. The policy focuses on the priority of competitive mechanisms in the implementation of youth programmes. It provides for interdepartmental cooperation and interaction.

[http://world\\_of\\_law.pravo.by/text.asp?RN=H10900065](http://world_of_law.pravo.by/text.asp?RN=H10900065)

**Exchange your ideas with the groupmates on the issues highlighted in the following questions:**

1. Do you think the state youth policy in our country covers all the necessary areas for young people's development? Why or why not?
2. What kind of support does the state youth policy provide for young people in Belarus?
3. How can young people benefit from participating in public life?
4. What are some challenges young people might face when choosing their life paths? How can the government help?
5. What role do competitive mechanisms play in youth programme?
6. In your opinion, what is the most important principle of the state youth policy? Explain your choice.

What do you know about the 'Open Microphone with the President' campaign? Search online for information about it. Focus on: when and why it was launched, how it works (format, participants, topics discussed), its importance for Belarusian youth. Share your finding with the groupmates.

You are going to get acquainted with some excerpts from the speech of President A. Lukashenko delivered at the meeting with university students in the **Open Microphone with the President**, November 22, 2024 (Text 1).

## VOCABULARY

Before you start reading the text, complete some tasks which will help you understand the information better.

### I. Explain the meaning of the following words and collocations.

1. intercultural dialogue
2. information war
3. foundational education
4. practice-oriented education
5. the fourth estate
6. alternative viewpoints
7. artificial intelligence
8. world order
9. referendum

### II. Match the two columns to form phrases.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Implementing | a) your roots  |
| 2. Envision     | b) our country |
| 3. Voice        | c) our minds   |
| 4. Sever        | d) the message |
| 5. Support      | e) change      |
| 6. Dominate     | f) a talent    |
| 7. Cherish      | g) this stance |
| 8. Promote      | h) future      |
| 9. Nurture      | i) ideas       |

### III. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the list below.

*immerse      reiterate      discerning      escalation      endure*  
*confrontation      reorient      instill      strive*

1. Parents should ... good values in their children from a young age.
2. During the meeting, the speaker had to ... his main point to ensure everyone understood.
3. Both sides have agreed to talks to prevent a further ... of violence.
4. A good journalist must be ... to distinguish between facts and propaganda.
5. After losing his job, he had to ... himself and learn new skills.
6. To master a language, you need to ... yourself in its culture.
7. There are signs that the ... is beginning to de-escalate.
8. She decided to ... her fears and speak in public for the first time.
9. As students, we should ... for excellence in both academics and character.

### IV. Insert the correct prepositions where necessary.

1. The university takes pride ... its diverse student community and strong academic programme.
2. Many people fear that we are ... the brink ... war, but diplomacy can still prevent a disaster.
3. If tensions between the two countries continue, war might break ..., and the consequences would be devastating.
4. The new leader promised to steer the country ... the right direction by focusing on education and economic growth.
5. Teachers and mentors should develop creative approaches ... working ... young people to keep them engaged ... learning.

6. If, based ... your knowledge and personal experience, you see ways to improve the educational process – speak up.
7. Environmental groups advocate ... stricter laws to reduce plastic waste.
8. They plunged ... the project without hesitation.

## READING AND DISCUSSING

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Can you guess what important issues were discussed at the meeting? Formulate them. After reading the text, compare your assumptions. If you had an opportunity to meet the President, what questions would you ask?

Text 1

### MEETING WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN THE 'OPEN MICROPHONE WITH THE PRESIDENT'

November 22, 2024 (excerpts)

#### (1) President's advice to young people

I've already had the chance to look around here a bit and speak with the rector and the Minister of Education. As I expected, this university – and this hall in particular – has a unique atmosphere, one of intercultural dialogue. This is how it should be in a university that educates a large number of international students. We take pride in this.

By my first degree, I am also a humanities scholar. I feel and realize that I've come to speak with my peers and colleagues.

#### ***On Practice-Oriented Education***

I've always strived for this. No matter what I did, I aimed to be the best, to be strong. And everything depends on you. If you've ended up in the wrong place, reorient yourself quickly and start doing what you're meant to do. Strive to make the most of this time. There is so much each and every one of you is capable of. And God will see it. He will extend a hand to those who desire and can do the most. You can. You are young and talented. Take action! Every moment, every second, you must do your work. Everything must be done in its time. Because tomorrow, it may be too late.

Our people are naturally intelligent. Work hard, don't rush it. And be prepared that you might not succeed right away. In fact, you probably won't. You must endure. God will see and will help.

A birthplace determines a walk of life. This is a truth forged by our people. Reflect on this. I'm advocating for it. Today, our country offers vast opportunities. If you don't want to stay here, work in your field while aligning your knowledge and education with friendly nations.

So, try everything with your own hands, but I advise against trying in a way that makes it impossible to return to what you've lost. Don't rush. They say time flies – that is true, but life is long. Don't rush. Because if you leave and sever your roots, you'll always be second-class out there. Some may earn good money, but what kills them is knowing they're second-class.

Think, my friends. I've come to advocate and promote this message. But the decision is yours. As you can see, the country hasn't collapsed without those who left. It hasn't collapsed at all. And it never will.

#### ***On Artificial Intelligence***

I asked them: 'You've explained what will happen and how, but won't this artificial intelligence replace humans in the end? Could it turn out that we're simply unnecessary in this life?' They said, 'We don't know, maybe.' And that deeply concerned me.

I have great respect for talented people. It's not about artificial intelligence. It's about me valuing humans. Any artificial intelligence today is a human creation. We create it. And I'm sure that when AI and neural networks practically dominate our minds, humans will still remain at the center.

It's in the nature of humans to destroy themselves. Nuclear weapons and the like – why do we need them? Why? We should live, compete with our minds, and so on – but live. Why is this war being waged? That's why we need people – smart, capable, talented.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko meeting with university students at MSLU. 2024

### ***On Raising Children***

First, they (children) must play sports to avoid frequenting the pharmacy. Remember this. Second, they must know a foreign language. There's nothing to do in this world for those who don't know English today. If your child has a talent for something, nurture it. Especially music. Third – studies.

You must instill responsibility in a child. If it's lacking, it is the parents who have fallen short in this regard. Everything depends on the parents and how deeply they connect with their child.

### ***On Attitude Toward Sports***

I now spend more time on ice. But that doesn't mean I only love hockey. I'm open to all sports and have a good knowledge of many of them.

I follow closely and personally know many outstanding athletes who bring results and glory to our country. I help them. I try to help. The latest example, Ihar Boki – our swimmer. A 21-time Paralympic champion. I know him personally and asked him what he needs, where, and how.

I'm immersed in practically every sport. There isn't a sport I don't follow. And if our athletes perform well, I love that sport.

Two hours a day. No matter what – two hours a day. If you're exercising, doing sport, chopping wood... And the sauna – two hours a day. Everyone must find time. Even if it's late, even if someone is working incessantly (I usually finish around 9 or 10 p.m.), I still go and engage in some sport.

<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/vstreca-so-studentami-vuzov-v-formate-otkrytyj-mikrofon-s-prezidentom-v-mglu>

**V. Mark the sentences as *True* or *False*, correct them if necessary.**

1. The President believes success comes immediately if you work hard.
2. The President advises people to quickly change direction if they're in the wrong career.
3. The President claims people who leave their country will always be wealthy abroad.
4. The text suggests you should never return to your home country after leaving.
5. AI is described as purely a human creation.
6. The President prioritizes sports, languages, and studies for children.
7. According to the text, teachers are solely responsible for children's discipline.
8. The President recommends 30 minutes of daily exercise.

**VI. Answer the following questions. Discuss your ideas in pairs or groups.**

1. What valuable advice does the President give to young people on how to succeed in life?
2. How can one endure difficulties while pursuing goals?
3. Why does the development of AI concern Aleksandr Lukashenko?
4. Will AI dominate human decision-making in the future? Why/why not?
5. What does 'move quickly but don't rush' mean in personal growth?
6. Do you agree that it is the responsibility of parents to instill values in their children?
7. What kind of sport does the President follow? Do you do any sports? Do you agree that exercising and doing sport is important? Why?
8. How does sports participation help preserve cultural identity?

**VII. Agree or disagree with the following ideas from the text. In case you disagree, explain why.**

1. A birthplace determines a walk of life.
2. If you leave and sever your roots, you'll always be second-class out there.
3. When AI and neural networks practically dominate our minds, humans will still remain at the center.
4. There's nothing to do in this world for those who don't know English today.
5. You must instill responsibility in a child. If it's lacking, it is the parents who have fallen short in this regard.

Below you will find more excerpts on some other important issues discussed at the meeting. Read them carefully and complete the tasks that follow.

**(2) *On the Information War***

**L**ately, we've been talking a lot about how, God forbid, World War III might break out, that we are on the brink of this terrible event. But, thank God, humanity has somehow held back and not plunged into this third world war. However, what is undeniably happening is an information war — and it's been going on for a long time. This isn't just a confrontation; it's a real information war.

And this sphere of information is shaped by you, the humanities scholars. You will shape it even more after graduating. You — future philologists, educators, journalists, historians, and other specialists — will play the most active role in this. Tomorrow,

you will bring your ideas and thoughts into school classrooms or university lecture halls. Some of you will write books, scholarly or journalistic articles. Others may become public figures: experts, politicians. Our foundational education opens doors to many fields. And in this regard, we have much to discuss today.

Don't think your participation here goes unnoticed. You are the primary target of information propaganda. Propaganda of alien values, holidays, traditions, and historical narratives. Its goal is to sever your roots, to make you forget your history. It's important for me to see how you understand the essence of such information subversion.



The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko  
meeting with university students at MSLU. 2024

It's important for me to know how you envision Belarus's future in a changing world. After all, this is your future, the one you will build tomorrow. And your children too. And thirdly. I would encourage you not to hesitate in voicing your ideas. If, based on your knowledge and personal experience, you see ways to improve the educational process or approaches to working with young people — speak up. Let's discuss it. Your opinion matters greatly to me.

And don't forget, one of the topics for our conversation (my assistants didn't highlight it, but I will) is 'change.' Various changes. This is our shared topic, or rather, topics we should address openly today. 'If there are changes to happen, then of what kind?' So let's discuss: if we talk about changes, what changes do you want? Maybe I'll ask a question or two as well. Because demanding change is easy, but defining and implementing it is harder. Especially, when you are the ones to do that.

#### ***On the Media***

I want to reiterate: journalists must always remember — they are the fourth estate, not the first, second, or third. The fourth.

The role of mass media today is immense. You (journalists) are on the front lines. If you want the truth, read and watch state media. It wasn't like this before. People have seen where the truth lies. That's why they trust state media first and foremost. And I advise you to take this very seriously.

I'm not saying we shouldn't see alternative viewpoints. You must see them only if you can analyze and draw the right conclusions. In this information war, you must be very careful, cautious, and discerning. And in this regard, journalists must help society.

The role of the media is enormous today, highly significant. And, of course, the attitude toward journalists is now very serious. That's why I've always paid and continue to pay great attention to working with journalists, understanding how much depends on you now. You shape the image of not only present but also future of our society. Without overpraising you, but still.

### ***On Peaceful Coexistence***

I don't want war on our soil. But unfortunately, escalation continues. How should I act in this situation? Getting involved is absolutely out of the question. And if a clash between Russia and NATO begins, it won't be easy for us either. I don't want war on our territory, for others to settle their interests here at our expense.

We are three Slavic peoples. No Americans, no Europeans — no one will do anything good for us or help us. We must sit down and negotiate. Why in Belarus? Because it's at our fence, at our border. And our interests must be respected. <...>

### ***On the Future of Belarus***

You will decide whether to cherish and defend your country or not. This country is for our children, my grandchildren, your children. This is the future.

As for the world order, I could say something grand or lofty about how I see Belarus in it. But I'm a practical person. I want you to be in Belarus, to work and earn a living, and to control your destiny and your country. To put it simply. And for that, you must build its future, starting with electing the President and expressing your position in a civilized and intelligent way. You must voice your opinions and steer the country in the right direction.

This is the kind of democratic Belarus we should have. But a decent and disciplined one. Go, vote, elect. But once elected, be kind enough to let the President exercise his powers. If you don't like them, voice your opinion. We've had so many referendums. We'll hold another — and the people will decide.

I want us to have good relations with both Poles and Russians but to live in our own home. As of now the people support this stance — and I'm sure you (Note: the youth) can agree. We want to be friends with everyone", — highlights the Belarusian leader. This peaceful stance is welcomed by Belarusian citizens, who actively express it during the ongoing signature collection in support of presidential candidates." — People want peace. It's in our blood, our genetics. Because our grandparents had their fill of wars. And this has passed to us — we want things to be good. Because war is bad. Our world order is peace and tranquility. In the end, we'll all live the lives we earn. How we work is how we'll live.

I see my country as peaceful, a comfortable place for you, your children, and grandchildren to live. So they can be proud of their country and not think, 'I'll leave for Poland, where I'm expected, and where things will be better.' If someone wants to go — go ahead. But don't lose your roots, don't sever them. Always step forward with caution to see if you can return. If you leave and cut those ties, it's a tragedy. That's why I say: move quickly, but don't rush.

<https://president.gov.by/ru/events/vstreca-so-studentami-vuzov-v-formate-otkrytyj-mikrofon-s-prezidentom-v-mglu>

**VIII. These are some of the ideas expressed by the President. Fill in the gaps with appropriate words from the text. The first letter of each word is given.**

1. Our **f** ... education opens doors to many fields.
2. This sphere of information is shaped by you, the **h** ... scholars.
3. Some of you will write books, scholarly or journalistic articles. Others may become **p** ... figures: experts, politicians.
4. Propaganda of alien values, holidays, traditions, and **h** ... narratives severs your roots.
5. The role of mass media today is **i** ....
6. You must define its future, starting with electing the President and expressing your position in a **c** ... and **i** ... way.
7. We want things to be good. Because war is bad. Our world order is peace and **t** ....
8. I see my country as **p** ..., a **c** ... place for you, your children, and grandchildren to live.

**IX. Answer the questions below. Discuss your ideas in pairs or groups.**

1. What are the dangers of an 'information war' compared to traditional warfare?
2. How can students become more discerning about information they encounter?
3. Do you agree that journalists are the 'fourth estate'? Why is their role important?
4. You must see alternative viewpoints only if you can analyze and draw the right conclusions. Do you agree?
5. How can young people voice their ideas effectively in society?
6. Can someone fully integrate into a new culture without losing their roots?
7. Why does the President emphasize peaceful coexistence between nations?
8. How can young people influence their country's future direction?
9. What traditions do you personally cherish? Why are they important?

**X. Comment on the following idea from the text: *demanding change is easy, but defining and implementing it is harder*. What kind of changes would you like to see in your country's youth policy? Share your ideas with the groupmates.**

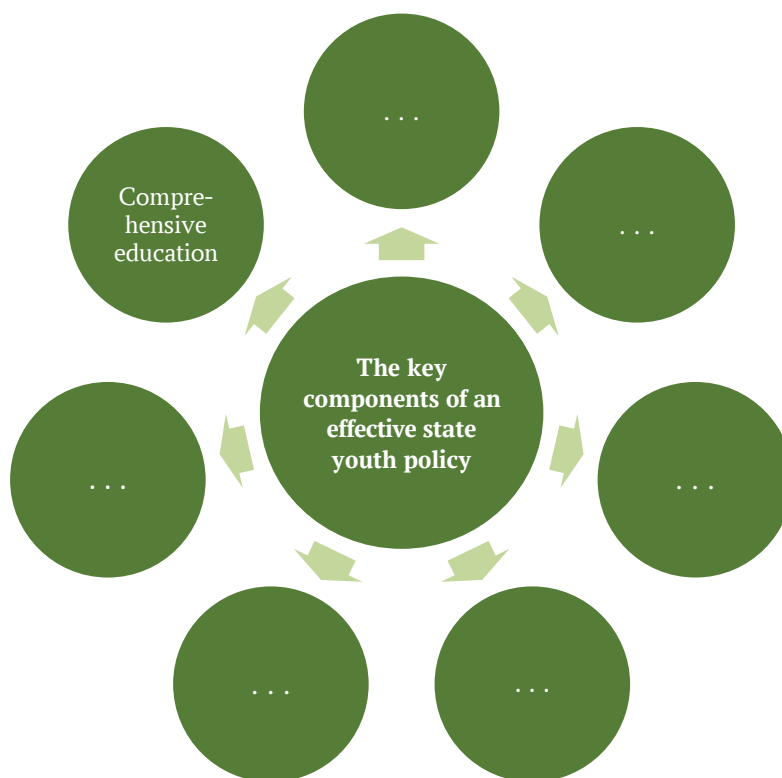
## **SPEAKING AND WRITING**

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**I. Imagine you attended the 'Open Microphone' event. Write a 150-word journal entry describing:**

- your experience (e.g. questions asked, atmosphere)
- the President's response (real or hypothetical)
- how it changed your perspective on youth participation.

**II. Work in pairs or groups. Discuss the key components of an effective state youth policy and complete the mind map below. Use the ideas from the texts and add your own thoughts and ideas. Share your ideas with the groupmates.**



**III. Comment on the President’s quote: ‘Investment in youth is investment in our future’. Do you agree with this opinion? Divide into two teams, prepare and stage a debate:**

- team A supports the idea that governments, businesses, and communities should allocate resources (education, jobs, mental health, etc.) on youth.

- team B supports the idea that other priorities (elderly care, infrastructure, defense, etc.) are equally or more important.

Prepare 2–3 arguments for your side.

**IV. Prepare and deliver a persuasive speech for an international youth conference on the topic ‘The Role of Youth in Shaping Belarus’ Future’. Your speech should discuss how young people can contribute to positive changes in society, including areas like education, technology, social activism, and cultural development.**

Steps to complete the task	
1. Brainstorming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think about key challenges and opportunities for young people in Belarus.</li> <li>• Consider:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How can youth influence politics, economy, or culture?</li> <li>✓ What skills do young people need to make a difference?</li> <li>✓ Are there successful examples of youth initiatives in Belarus or other countries?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>2. Structuring your speech</p>	<p>Organize your speech into three main parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Introduction</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Greet the audience.</li> <li>✓ Introduce the topic and say why it is important.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Example:</u> ‘<i>Good morning, everyone. Today, I want to talk about how young people like us can shape the future of Belarus...</i>’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Main Body</i></li> </ul> <p>Present 2-3 key ideas with explanations and examples.</p> <p><u>Possible points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Youth involvement in education and innovation</li> <li>✓ The power of social media and digital activism</li> <li>✓ Encouraging volunteer work and community projects</li> </ul> <p><u>Use linking words:</u> <i>Firstly, Moreover, For instance, As a result...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Conclusion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Summarize your main points.</li> <li>✓ End with a strong message or call to action.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Example:</u> ‘<i>In conclusion, young people are not just the future – we are the present. Let’s take action today!</i>’</p>
<p>3. Language tips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use <b>persuasive phrases:</b> ‘<i>We must...</i>’, ‘<i>It’s crucial to...</i>’, ‘<i>Let’s work together to...</i>’</li> <li>• Include <b>rhetorical questions:</b> ‘<i>What kind of future do we want to create?</i>’</li> <li>• Keep sentences clear but impactful.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Practice and delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehearse your speech with a partner (focus on fluency, pronunciation, and confidence).</li> <li>• Use <b>body language</b> (eye contact, gestures).</li> <li>• Be prepared to <b>answer 1-2 questions</b> from the ‘audience’ (classmates)</li> </ul>

# ANSWER KEYS

## UNIT I BELARUS TODAY

### Text 1

#### I.

1. d 2. a 3. h 4. g 5. e 6. b 7. c 8. f.

#### II.

1. morality 2. cornerstone 3. unity 4. ancestors 5. legacy 6. creative  
7. beacon 8. to destabilize.

#### III.

to honor the winners, accomplishments of our awardees, at the call of their hearts, to give a helping hand, to nurture respect towards our traditions, to enrich the national cultural treasury, the soul of the Belarusian nation, prominent people.

#### IV.

1. D 2. E (on) 3. G 4. B (so) 5. A (of) 6. H (who) 7. C 8. F (that).

### Text 2

#### I.

1. d 2. g 3. h 4. b 5. c 6. e 7. f 8. a.

#### II.

1. heroic 2. bequeathed 3. woven 4. inspiration 5. wealthy 6. to brim  
7. to advance 8. to mark.

#### III.

parenthood, dearly, cleanliness, memorable, determination, aspiration, sorrowful, continuation, development, improvement, prosperous, peaceful.

## UNIT II PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVES: LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP AND LIFE

### Text 1

#### I.

1. g 2. e 3. d 4. b 5. f 6. c 7. a 8. i 9. j 10. h

#### II.

1. e) h) 2. i) g) 3. d) c) 4. c) d) 5. j) a) 6. a) j) 7. b) f) 8. f) b) 9. g) e)  
10. h) i)

**III.**

1. prosperity 2. intuition 3. movements 4. devastation 5. development 6. crossroads  
7. vector 8. policy

**IV.**

1. with; of; on; of  
2. -; in; on; of  
3. on; in; with  
4. under; of; in; of; on; of  
5. of; off; to; for; on; -  
6. -; of; on; in  
7. in; in  
8. along; through

**V.**

1. i) 2. c) 3. h) 4. f) 5. a) 6. b) 7. d) 8. j) 9. g) 10. e)

**Text 2****I.**

leader, combination, courageous, direction, decisions, stability, economic,  
majority.

**II.**

1. foundation 2. enormous 3. bond 4. peculiarities 5. insight 6. usual  
7. autonomous, 8. respectable

**III.**

1. genes 2. resources 3. trade 4. ties 5. mushrooms 6. slush 7. far-away  
8. favorable 9. confrontation 10. respect

**IV.**

1. e) 2. f) 3. h) 4. b) 5. a) 6. c) 7. d) 8. j) 9. g) 10. i)

**V.**

1. of; over; against; for  
2. up; of; of; between  
3. in; in; in  
4. to; in  
5. at  
6. in; of  
7. of; under; of; -  
8. of; on;-

**VI.**

1. c) 2. b) 3. a) 4. c) 5. a) 6. c) 7. a) 8. c).

### Text 3

#### I.

1. bravery 2. justice 3. devastating 4. justice 5. ambition 6. rebuild  
7. devastation 8. senseless

#### II.

1. liberation 2. devastation 3. ambition 4. justice 5. rebuild 6. senseless  
7. dominance 8. energy

#### III.

1. b 2. h 3. c 4. a 5. f 6. d 7. e 8. i 9. g 10. j

## Unit III FOREIGN POLICY

### Text 1

#### I.

1. uniform approaches 2. rigid confrontation 3. mutual benefit 4. constructive stance  
5. regional proximity 6. strategic alliance 7. far arc 8. political pressure

#### II.

- a) strategic partnership b) political pressure c) mutual benefit d) rigid confrontation  
e) uniform approaches f) constructive stance g) far arc h) regional proximity.

#### III.

1. counter 2. adhere 3. advocate 4. concentrate 5. contribute 6. overcome  
7. foster 8. seek

#### V.

1. f 2. g 3. a 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. e

#### VII.

1. mutual respect 2. Russian Federation 3. People's Republic of China 4. UN  
5. a qualitatively new level 6. rigid confrontation 7. dialogue 8. counter challenges

### Text 2

#### II.

- 1-j 2-a 3-c 4-e 5-d 6-i 7-h 8-g 9-b 10-f

#### III.

1. adhere to 2. sabotage 3. emissions 4. bureaucracy 5. infringe on  
6. reprimanded 7. alternatives 8. hinder 9. abolish 10. adjust to

#### IV.

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. b 6. b 7.a 8. D

#### V.

1. F 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. F 7. F 8. T.

### Text 3

#### II.

1. undermine
2. encompass
3. erode
4. establish
5. impose
6. chart
7. define
8. disarm
9. orchestrate
10. target

#### III.

1. f
2. e
3. a
4. h
5. i
6. b
7. j
8. d
9. g
10. c

#### IV.

1. comprehensive security
2. lethal technologies
3. coercive tools
4. viable solution
5. oversight mechanism
6. post-truth narrative
7. nuclear weapons
8. fabricated charges
9. illegitimate restrictions
10. unlawful sanctions

#### V.

a) Undeniable, illegitimate, unlawful, endless, disinformation, misappropriation of funds, illegal, insufficient, de-escalate, incapable

- b) 1. **Undeniable:** evidence, fact, truth  
2. **Illegitimate:** claim, authority, child  
3. **Unlawful:** act, detention, entry  
4. **Endless:** possibilities, debate, supply  
5. **Disinformation:** campaign, spread, source  
6. **Misappropriation (of):** funds, scandal, investigation  
7. **Illegal:** activity, trade, immigration  
8. **Insufficient:** evidence, funds, data  
9. **De-escalate:** conflict, tensions, crisis  
10. **Incapable:** leader, organization, response

#### VI.

1. c
2. c
3. b
4. c
5. c
6. b
7. a
8. d

#### VII. a)

- Sanctions: penalties imposed by countries to influence behavior
- Cyberattacks: hostile actions using computer networks
- Sovereignty: a nation's independent authority over its territory
- Checks and balances: mechanisms to limit power and ensure accountability
- Conflict escalation: the intensification of a dispute or conflict
- Territorial encroachment: intrusion into another country's land
- Misappropriation of funds: illegal use of money
- Verification regime: system to monitor compliance with agreements
- Lethal technologies: weapons capable of causing death or destruction
- 'Soft power' NGO: non-governmental organizations influencing politics through non-coercive means
- Disinformation: false information spread to deceive
- Color revolutions: politically motivated movements aiming to change governments
- Genuine dialogue: sincere and honest communication
- Oversight mechanism: system to supervise and regulate actions

## VIII.

1. global security challenges
2. viable solutions
3. political, economic, informational, and other dimensions
4. the absence of checks and balances
5. attacks; color revolutions
6. sovereignty;
7. entire industries and economies
8. manipulate; influence
9. genuine; illegal sanctions
10. international legal frameworks; global stability

## UNIT IV BELARUSIAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

### Text 1

#### I.

<b>Politics &amp; Diplomacy</b>	<b>Economy &amp; Trade</b>	<b>Regional Relations</b>
Sovereignty Union State Negotiations Partnership	Agriculture Energy Infrastructure Investment Free Trade Agreement Export/Import Transport Tourism Logistics Economic Zone	Caucasus China Azerbaijan Regional Security Regional Integration Border Cooperation

#### II.

1-c 2-e 3-g 4-f 5-b 6-d 7-h 8-a

#### III.

1. partnership 2. agreement 3. supply 4. security 5. infrastructure  
6. relations 7. negotiations 8. integration 9. investment 10. sovereignty

#### IV.

1-a 2-a 3-a 4-a 5-a 6-a, b 7-b 8-a, c 9-a

## VI.

Area of Cooperation	Details from the Text	What It Implies for Belarus–Russia Relations
1. Security	e.g. Joint military exercises	Shows deepening military trust and alignment; may strengthen the Union State framework and regional security coordination.
2. Economic Development	e.g. Planned discussions with government officials on economy	Signals long-term economic integration and mutual support.
3. Industrial & Agricultural Cooperation	Mention of sectors like power engineering, industry, and agriculture	Indicates a shared interest in stabilizing domestic production and supply chains; enhances interdependence.
4. Regional Strategy	Reference to the Caucasus and Azerbaijan	Indicates cooperation on foreign policy and regional engagement aimed at strengthening influence beyond their own borders.

## VII.

1–Fiction (not mentioned)    2–Fact    3–Fact    4–Fiction (opposite stated: many members involved)    5–Fact    6–Fiction (Caucasus was mentioned)    7–Fiction (it was after the Russian presidential elections)    8–Fact    9–Fiction (not mentioned)

### Text 2

#### I.

1–instructions    2–resolved    3–workload    4–integration    5–experts  
6–legislative    7–sanctions    8–cooperation

#### II.

1. make — e. certain decisions
2. finalize — j. agreements between governments
3. pay — h. attention to some things
4. strengthen — l. integration between Minsk and Moscow
5. develop — a. joint projects and industrial policy
6. rely — g. only on ourselves
7. hear — k. reports from experts and group leaders
8. support — i. each other in all areas
9. agree — d. on the terms of oil and gas supplies
10. inform — c. the media at the closing press conference
11. discuss — b. security and economic matters
12. complete — f. the development of a unified industrial policy

#### III.

1–build    2–isolate    3–resistance    4–consultant    5–agenda (less formal or procedural compared to protocol, treaty, or briefing)    6–legislation    7–cancel  
8–domestic    9–construction    10– hierarchy

## V.

1 - j 2 - k 3 - i 4 - c 5 - h 6 - e 7 - a 8 - f 9 - d 10 - g 11 - b

## VI.

1. *'I think we can make certain decisions today.'* – **President A. Lukashenko**
2. *'Those are the areas that ensure the achievement of the goals of technological sovereignty and economic security of our states.'* – **President A. Lukashenko**
3. *'It is necessary to agree on the terms of oil and gas supplies to the Republic of Belarus... I believe the governments will finalize these agreements in the next few days.'* – **President A. Lukashenko**
4. *'We support each other and will continue doing it in all areas.'* – **President A. Lukashenko**
5. *'We should listen to the group leaders, who are present here today. They are going to report to us on the problems if there are any.'* – **President A. Lukashenko**
6. *'We will inform the media about it and will tell them everything at the closing press conference.'* – **President A. Lukashenko**
7. *'We need measures to increase the workload of Belarusian and Russian airports. We should develop joint projects that will make air travel between our regions easier and more accessible.'* – **President A. Lukashenko**
8. *'I think you will agree that we should not limit ourselves in the Union State by isolating from each other in our common market. Moreover, we see that we can rely only on ourselves in terms of long-term cooperation.'* – **President A. Lukashenko**
9. *'If something needs to be further agreed upon, we will certainly do it today during our negotiations.'* – **President V. Putin**

## VII.

1. Optimistic (Shows hope and openness to solutions).
2. Neutral (States a fact or viewpoint calmly without emotional emphasis).
3. Determined (Firmly points to the need for action).
4. Determined (Shows strong intent to maintain integration).
5. Determined (Expresses confident plans and urgency).
6. Neutral (Objective statement presenting facts).
7. Optimistic (Positive outlook and confidence in continued cooperation).
8. Determined (Shows resolve to act decisively).
9. Determined (Calls for concrete action).

### Text 3

## I.

1-sovereignty 2-sanctioning or sanctioned (context-dependent, 'sanctions' as a noun is also acceptable) 3-commitment 4-persistence 5-growth 6-spiritual 7-relations 8-innovation

## II.

1-re-election 2-strategy 3-issues 4-enhance 5-principles 6-commitment 7-priority 8-circumstances 9-region 10-persistence 11-strategy

### III.

1-collapse 2-defense 3-opposition 4-persistence 5-economic growth  
6-sovereignty 7-culture 8-cloud computing 9-hostility 10-tradition

### V.

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Union State           | 13. Cultural values           |
| 2. Sovereignty           | 14. Shared history            |
| 3. Integration           | 15. Dialogue                  |
| 4. Economic growth       | 16. Independence              |
| 5. Mutual respect        | 17. Common goals              |
| 6. Trust                 | 18. National currencies       |
| 7. Import substitution   | 19. Friendly relations        |
| 8. Family ties           | 20. Constructive atmosphere   |
| 9. Strategic partnership | 21. Long-term partnership     |
| 10. Joint decisions      | 22. International cooperation |
| 11. Digital cooperation  | 23. Education                 |
| 12. Security             | 24. Technological progress    |

### VI.

1 - j 2 - d 3 - g 4 - e 5 - f 6 - a 7 - h 8 - c 9 - i 10 - b

### VII.

Focus	President A. Lukashenko	President V. Putin
1. <b>Strategic Relationship</b>	Highlights the Union State as unique and central to Belarus's path	Describes the partnership as a model for other countries
2. <b>Public Support &amp; Unity</b>	Emphasizes national choice and loyalty to Russia, especially during crises	Not explicitly emphasized, but acknowledges the significance of A. Lukashenko's first visit post re-election
3. <b>Historical Ties</b>	Refers to close kinship and shared heritage	Emphasizes centuries-old history and family ties
4. <b>Political Priorities</b>	Aligning policies with Russia; reinforcing sovereignty while deepening integration	Advancing integration and upholding mutual interests
5. <b>Vision of Sovereignty</b>	Asserts Belarus is sovereign yet strongly allied with Russia	Acknowledges sovereignty of both states within a close partnership
6. <b>Economic Cooperation</b>	Cites positive outcomes in trade, economy, and union-based collaboration	Highlights 90% of payments in national currencies; trade resilience
7. <b>Technological Development</b>	Briefly touches on overcoming limitations through persistence	Lists specific tech sectors: AI, big data, digital ecosystems

<b>Focus</b>	<b>President A. Lukashenko</b>	<b>President V. Putin</b>
<b>8. Global Positioning</b>	Implies Belarus is choosing East over West, especially in current geopolitics	Positions Russia and Belarus as aligned globally through organizations like BRICS, UN, SCO
<b>9. Role in International Orgs</b>	Suggests Belarus gains strength through alignment	Praises Belarus's full membership in SCO and partner status in BRICS
<b>10. Future Integration Plans</b>	Advocates moving faster, though recognizing constraints	Stresses constructive progress and future-oriented cooperation

**UNIT V  
BELARUSIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS**

**Text 1**

**Mind Map “Strategic Partnership”**

<b>Technological Advancement</b>	<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>Diplomatic Relations</b>	<b>Political Cooperation</b>
1. Technological development	1. Promotion of goods and services	1. Long-standing friendship	1. Political mutual trust
2. Joint production facilities	2. Competitiveness of products	2. Mutual trust	2. Responsible decisions
3. Modernization of enterprises	3. Full-scale cooperation	3. Peace proposals	3. Global instability
4. Modern technologies	4. Joint projects	4. Global confrontation prevention	4. Sustainable development
5. Competencies and technologies	5. Investments	5. International security initiative	5. Dynamic relations
6. Machine-tool construction	6. Economic growth	6. Joint statement	6. Political alignment
7. Electric transport	7. Modernizing industries	7. Cooperation plan	7. Security proposals
8. Agricultural machinery parts			8. Coordinated efforts
9. Joint ventures			

**Text 1**

**I.**

1-b    2-e    3-a    4-c    5-d

## II.

Base Word	Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
cooperate	cooperation	cooperate	cooperative	cooperatively
invest	investment	invest	investment-related	investingly ( <i>rare; can omit</i> )
strategy	Strategy	strategize	strategic	strategically
modernize	modernization	modernize	modern	modernly ( <i>rare; can omit</i> )
decide	decision	decide	decisive	decisively
produce	production	produce	productive	productively
propose	proposal	propose	propositional ( <i>rare</i> )	— ( <i>not common</i> )
support	support	support	supportive	supportively
promote	promotion	promote	promotional	promotionally
develop	development	develop	developmental	developmentally
implement	implementation	implement	implementable ( <i>rare</i> )	— ( <i>not common</i> )
prepare	preparation	prepare	preparatory	preparatorily ( <i>rare</i> )

## IV.

1-f 2-g 3-b 4-h 5-c 6-d 7-a 8-e.

## V.

1-F 2-T 3-F 4-T 5-F 6-T 7-T 8-F.

## VI.

1-c 2-b 3-b 4-b 5-c 6-a 7-a 8-b.

### Text 2

#### Concept Map ‘Areas of Bilateral Engagement’:

- **Industrial Development**  
(e.g., joint manufacturing, modernization, technology transfer, production facilities, machine-tool construction)
- **Global Initiatives**  
(e.g., Belt and Road Initiative, peace proposals, international security, shared future for mankind, global stability)
- **Economic Cooperation**  
(e.g., trade agreements, investments, joint ventures, market expansion, export promotion, economic growth)
- **Political Alignment**  
(e.g., mutual trust, diplomatic relations, strategic partnership, political dialogue, policy coordination)
- **Infrastructure & Logistics**  
(e.g., transport development, railway connectivity, logistics hubs, electric transport, supply chain integration)

- **Cultural and Educational Exchange**  
(e.g., student exchanges, cultural programs, language learning, mutual understanding, people-to-people ties)
- **Technological Collaboration**  
(e.g., innovation, research and development, sharing competencies, component base formation, digital technologies)
- **Sustainable Development & Environment**  
(e.g., green technologies, environmental protection, renewable energy projects, ecological cooperation)
- **Security Cooperation**  
(e.g., international security initiatives, joint peacekeeping, cybersecurity, defense dialogue)

**I.**

1-initiative    2-visits    3-trust    4-partnership    5-speed    6-stability  
7-development    8-community

**II.**

1-c    2-f    3-d    4-b    5-h    6-a    7-g    8-e.

**III.**

1-pivotal    2-reliable    3-carried out    4-mankind    5-adaptability  
6-unexpected    7-strides    8-determination    9-deepening    10-operational

**IV.**

1-T    2-F    3-T    4-T    5-F    6-T    7-T    8-F

**UNIT VI**  
**MEMBERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**  
**IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Text 1**

**I.**

1. h    2. c    3. a    4. j    5. f    6. e    7. b    8. g    9. i    10. D

**II.**

1. d) f)    2. f) a)    3. e) b)    4. c) e)    5. i) c)    6. a) h)    7. b) g)    8. j) i)    9. g) j)  
10. h) d)

**III.**

1. civilized    2. aligned    3. center    4. humankind    5. participation    6. security  
7. food    8. expertise

**IV.**

1. of    2. for    3. in    4. in; of; in    5. without; of    6. in; in; of    7. to; in  
8. to; to    9. to    10. to; with

**V.**

1. h    2. f    3. a    4. c    5. j    6. b    7. i    8. d    9. e    10. g

**VI.**

1. heart    2. skyscraper    3. clock    4. puzzle piece    5. rock    6. oxygen  
7. steel    8. book    9. key    10. beacon

**VII.**

- 1.T    2.F    3.T    4.F    5.T    6.F    7.T    8.F

**Text 2**

**I.**

1. cooperation    2. stability    3. development    4. collaboration    5. sustainability  
6. authority    7. growth    8. protective    9. management    10. security

**II.**

1. e    2. h    3. a    4. b    5. g    6. c    7. i    8. j    9. d    10. f

**III.**

1. in, of    2. in    3. to, of    4. by, for    5. at    6. in    7. -, to, of    8. on    9. with  
10. -, on

**V.**

1. impulsive    2. poverty    3. inferiority    4. support    5. stability    6. division  
7. sovereignty    8. regression

**VI.**

- 1-T    2-F    3-T    4-F    5-T    6-F    7-F    8-F    9-F    10-T

**Text 3**

**I.**

1. calm    2. effectiveness    3. collaboration    4. security, equal, common  
5. anticipated, shift    6. technological, preserving    7. resources, economic,  
transitional    8. weight, fulfilled    9. hegemony, respect    10. aligned

**II.**

- 1.b    2.j    3.h    4.d    5.e    6.f    7.g    8.c    9.q    10.i

**III.**

1. rejection    2. progressive    3. effectiveness    4. alliances    5. common  
6. cooperation    7. shifts    8. framework    9. resource    10. agenda

**UNIT VII  
PATRIOTISM AND MORAL VALUES**

**Text 1**

**I.**

1. h    2. a    3. g    4. e    5. f    6. b    7. c    8. d

## II.

1. **Forge** - create (something) strong, enduring, or successful.
2. **Swear an oath** - give one's word of honor.
3. **To hold sacred** - to regard something with great respect, honor, or devotion.
4. **Persevering** - being determined to achieve a particular aim despite difficulties.
5. **Perish** - to pass away completely, become destroyed.
6. **A reliable shield** - something that effectively wards off danger or harm, a dependable means of defense or protection.
7. **Covert** - concealed or secret.
8. **Foundations** - the basis, the main principles.
9. **Bend the knee** - admit or demonstrate one's submission or subservience to someone in a position of power; **to bow to them** - show deep respect.

## III.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
sacrifice	sacrifice	sacrificial
enslavement	enslave	enslaved
immunity	immunize	immune
reliability	rely	reliable
encounter	encounter	encountered
manipulation	manipulate	manipulative
courage	encourage	courageous
extinction	extinct	become extinct

## IV.

1. B 2. B 3. B 4. A 5. D 6. C 7. B 8. B

## V.

- 1-F 2-T 3-F 4-F 5-T 6-F 7-T

### Text 2

## I.

1. heritage 2. cornersone 3. descendant 4. significance 5. lineage  
6. multipolarity 7. legacy 8. ancestor

## II.

1. the **unbreakable** bond - long-lasting, strong
2. **unwavering** determination - resolute, strong
3. **harsh** trials - severe, cruel
4. **profound** losses - significant, devastating
5. **pivotal** event - crucial, important
6. our closest **allies** - friends, supporters, partners, counterparts
7. **outstanding** sons and daughters of Belarus - remarkable, exceptional, prominent
8. **brilliant** achievements - glorious, notable

**III.**

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. against       | 5. to, down, from, to |
| 2. to            | 6. on, by             |
| 3. of, under, of | 7. out of             |
| 4. on            | 8. on, forward, with  |

**IV.**

1-F 2-T 3-F 4-F 5-F 6-T 7-F 8-F

**Text 3**

**I.**

1. H 2. D 3. G 4. A 5. F 6. B 7. E 8. C

**II.**

1. d 2. a 3. g 4. h 5. b 6. c 7. f 8. e

**III.**

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. symbolism | 5. misfortune |
| 2. unity     | 6. heirs      |
| 3. faithful  | 7. preserve   |
| 4. sealed    | 8. inspired   |

**IV.**

1. B 2. A 3. C 4. D 5. C 6. A 7. B 8. D

**UNIT VIII**  
**EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

**Text 1**

**I.**

1. b 2. d 3. e 4. f 5. h 6. a 7. i 8. g 9. j 10. c

**II.**

1. institutions
2. specialized
3. workforce
4. enrollment
5. graduate, knowledge-intensive
6. arena
7. universal
8. employees

### III.

Word	Synonym	Antonym
1. Establish	a) Build	c) Destroy
2. Effective	b) Fruitful	c) Useless
3. Coverage (of)	b) Scope	d) Limitation
4. Ensures	a) Guarantee	c) Neglect
5. Universal	b) General	c) Specific
6. Employees	a) Staff	c) Employers
7. Trainees	a) Apprentice	d) Veteran
8. Evidenced	b) Confirmed	d) Disproved

### IV.

1. c) 99.9%
2. c) Primary, additional, and specialized education.
3. c) Over 7,000
4. c) 88.5%
5. c) High-tech and knowledge-intensive industries

### V.

1-T 2-F 3-F 4-F 5-T 6-F 7-F 8-F

### Text 2

I. 1-critically 2-equal 3-effective 4-financial 5-personal 6-authority  
7-unappreciated 8-industrial

### II.

1. crucial 2. demolished 3. significant 4. responsive 5. maintained  
6. playful 7. promoting obedience 8. economical

### III.

1. b) advanced high-tech industries
2. d) to preserve the vocational education system
3. e) upbringing and education of children
4. h) skills necessary for life
5. a) a promising future
6. f) a regional pedagogical institute
7. g) a full-fledged university
8. j) financial support for schools
9. c) the key priorities for advancing education
10. i) universal values

### IV.

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. b

**V.**

1. b 2. b 3. a 4. c 5. a

**VI.**

1. industrial
2. comprehensive
3. traditions
4. allies
5. skilled
6. vocational educational system
7. knowledge, social skills
8. financial support

**Text 3****I.**

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. e 5. b 6. h 7. f 8. g

**II.**

1. c 2. b 3. b 4. c 5. b 6. b

**III.**

1. opinion polls 2. to undermine 3. shortfalls 4. targeted placement  
5. breakthrough technologies 6. vulnerable children 7. large-scale 8. successors

**UNIT IX  
CULTURE AND ART IN BELARUS****Starter**

1. Polotsk
2. Korelichi and Slutsk
3. Mark Chagall, Kazimir Malewicz, Yudel Pen and Chaim Soutine,
4. Aleksandr Kishchenko, Minsk.

**Text 1****I.**

1. d 2. e 3. f 4. c 5. g 6. H

**II.**

1. b 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a

**III.**

Truly, creativity, revival, ancestral, inherently, timeless, statehood, inspiration, sincerely, meaningful, miraculous, generously.

## Text 2

### I.

1. c    2. g    3. d    4. b    5. f    6. h    7. a    8. e

### II.

1. eagerly    2. brotherhood    3. transcends    4. inseparable    5. envision  
6. flourishing    7. intersecting

### III.

to envision the monumental portraits and sculptures of Zair Azgur;  
to hum the melody of 'Roads to Berlin';  
to transcend the geographical boundaries;  
to honour the memory of the talented military commander Ivan Lyudnikov;  
to take pride in Nobel laureate Zhores Alferov;  
inseparable from the spirit of our festival;  
the Slavic brotherhood;  
a genuine family celebration;  
grounded in equality, respect and creativity

## UNIT X ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

### Text 1

### I.

1. b    2. a    3. e    4. d    5. c    6. f    7. h    8. g

### II.

1. export-oriented    2. service sector    3. construction complex    4. multi-vector  
5. industrial production    6. per capita    7. environmental burden    8. gross domestic product

### III. a) Choose two synonyms for each word below:

1. Efficient, productive, effective
2. Burden, load, pressure on smth
3. Priority, top concern, main focus
4. Maintain, preserve, support
5. Viable, workable, feasible
6. Increase, raise, boost
7. Account for, make up, represent
8. Long-term, sustainable, lasting

**III. b) Find the words that collocate with all three synonyms:**

1. Efficient, productive, effective system
2. Burden, load, pressure on infrastructure
3. Priority, top concern, main focus area
4. Maintain, preserve, support stability
5. Viable, workable, feasible solution (plan)
6. Increase, raise, boost productivity
7. Account for, make up, represent 50%
8. Long-term, sustainable, lasting plan (solution)

**V.**

1-T 2-F 3-T 4-T 5-T 6-T 7-F 8-T

**Text 2**

**II.**

<b>Verb</b>	<b>Noun(s)</b>	<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Adverb</b>
characterize	characterization, characteristic	characteristic	characteristically
lose	loss	lost	—
produce	production, product, productivity	productive	productively
employ	employment, employer, employee	employable	—
grow	growth	growing / grown	—
perform	performance	—	—
solve	solution	solvable	—
contribute	contribution	contributive / contributing	—
profit	profit, profitability	profitable	profitably
destroy	destruction	destructive	destructively

**III.**

1. losses
2. profitable
3. productivity
4. performance
5. solution
6. contribution
7. destruction
8. employee

**Reading and discussing**

1-F 2-F 3-F 4-F 5-T 6-F

**IV.**

1. b)
2. b)
3. c)
4. b)
5. b)
6. b)
7. c)
8. b)

### Text 3

#### I.

1. on
2. to
3. by, by
4. into
5. in
6. for
7. of
8. of

#### II.

1. b
2. e
3. g
4. f
5. c
6. d
7. h
8. a

#### III.

##### **Agricultural production & farming practices:**

Feed mixers, pelletised animal feed, sugar beet, rapeseed, sowing campaign, tractors, agricultural machinery, poultry farming, pig farming, crop production, yield, precision farming, livestock, hatching egg stock

##### **Economic/financial terms & business aspects:**

Loans, competitiveness, profitability, remuneration, subsidies, production targets, high-margin segments, high value-added products, financial performance, export markets

##### **Social infrastructure & rural development:**

Internet access, youth retention, animal technicians, healthcare, processors, dilapidated facilities, staffing shortages, housing, targeted university places, public services, living standards

#### IV.

1. agree
2. disagree
3. disagree
4. agree
5. agree
6. agree
7. disagree
8. agree
9. disagree
10. agree

## UNIT XI STATE YOUTH POLICY

#### I.

1. **intercultural dialogue** – an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups belonging to different cultures that leads to a deeper understanding of the other's global perception
2. **information war** – a broad term that refers to the use of information and information systems to achieve a competitive advantage over an opponent, whether it's in a military, political, or economic context.
3. **foundational education** – the basic literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills that children need to develop to build a solid base for future learning.
4. **practice-oriented education** – an approach to learning that focuses on developing practical skills and competencies through hands-on activities and real-world scenarios, rather than solely relying on theoretical knowledge.
5. **the fourth estate** – (or fourth power) refers to the press and news media in their explicit capacity, beyond the reporting of news, of wielding influence in politics.
6. **alternative viewpoints** – represent different perspectives or ways of understanding a topic, situation, or issue

7. **artificial intelligence** – a set of technologies that enable computers to perform a variety of advanced functions, including the ability to see, understand and translate spoken and written language, analyze data, make recommendations, and more.
8. **world order** – a preferred arrangement of power and authority that is associated with the realization of such values as peace, economic growth and equity, human rights, and environmental quality and sustainability.
9. **referendum** – a general vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.

**II.**

1. e    2. h    3. i    4. a    5. g    6. c    7. b    8. d    9. f

**III.**

1. instill    2. reiterate    3. escalation    4. discerning    5. reorient    6. immerse  
7. endure    8. confrontation    9. strive

**IV.**

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. in     | 5. to, with, in |
| 2. on, of | 6. on           |
| 3. out    | 7. for          |
| 4. in     | 8. into         |

**V.**

- 1-F    2-T    3-F    4-F    5-T    6-T    7-F    8-F

**VIII.**

- |                 |                |           |               |            |               |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. foundational | 2. humanities  | 3. public | 4. historical | 5. immense | 6. civilized, |
| intelligent     | 7. tranquility |           | 8.            | peaceful,  | comfortable   |

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