Dear students,

**On 19th June**, Monday, we’re going to have an open lesson in the centre of Sofia. You’re going to be tour guides and each of you is going to talk about a place or a historic period.

We’re leaving school after the second lesson, **at 9.10 am**. I hope Mrs. Vassileva will be with us.

Please choose a place/period you want to talk about and prepare a text in **4-5 short sentences by 13th June**. You can send it to me as a message or hand it in one of the lessons. When approved, learn it by heart. Be ready to present it in front of the place on 18th June.

**That will be your last mark in English.**

Criteria:

* The student knows the text – 1 point
* The student speaks clearly and loudly – 1 point
* The other students listen carefully and like the talk – 1 point
* A test will be given to you about the sights. While your classmates are talking you will answer some questions – 1 point

Please choose the place/period you’d like to present in the attached file below. **Write your name in red**, then prepare your text and be sure you answer the helping questions.

**The history and geography of Sofia - Tsvetelena Taralova**

Sofia is located in the Middle of the Balkan Peninsula. It has an average altitude of 550 m. It is situated at in a valley, at the foot of Vitosha mountain. Two rivers cross the city - Perlovska and Vladayska. In the past the town was on a famous crossroads from two routes: one from Western Europe to Tsarigrad and the other - from The Black Sea to The Adriatic Sea.

**1. The History of Sofia 1 -**

Why did the Thracian tribes settle here? When were the first proved settlements? What were their names? 5th century BC – 1st century AD

**2. The History of Sofia 2 –**

The Roman period. Who were the important Roman Emperors? Where are the remains of that time? What was the name of the town at the time? Why? 1st -5th century AD

**3. The History of Sofia 3 -**

Who ruled the town after the Romans? What was the name he gave to our capital? Why? In what way was his reign important?

**4. The History of Sofia 4 -**

Who invaded the capital in the 11th century? What was the third name of the town? What happened in the 14th century? What was the fourth name of our place? What does it mean?

**5. The History of Sofia 5 -**

What happened in 1392 and in 1877? When was Sofia announced the capital of Bulgaria? When do we celebrate the day of Sofia? What is on the coat of arms of Sofia? What do different parts symbolize?

**6. Saint Nedelya Church -**

When was St Nedelya Church built? What is the name of the period? What happened in 1925?

**7. The statue of Saint Sofia -**

When was the statue built? How tall is it? What does it symbolize – the crown, the owl and the wreath?

**8. Saint Petka Samardjijksa Church -**

When was the church built? What is the name of the period? Why is part of it in the ground? Who is believed to have been buried in the church?

**9. Saint George's Church -**

When was the first church built? What was the name of the historic period? When did painters draw the medieval frescos in the central dome?

**10. The Roman Remains -**

Where are the Roman remains? Who was the Emperor? What was the city life like at that time? Did they have a pipe system?

**11. The presidency -**

Where is the presidency? Who is the president of Bulgaria now? What can tourists see in front of the Presidency? Where is The Council of Ministers? Where is the East gate of the ancient Serdica?

**12. The National Archaeological Museum -**

When was it founded? What was the place before they turned it into museum? What are the most famous exhibits now?

**13. The Bulgarian National Bank -**

What is the name of the square in front of the bank? When was the bank built? What is the style of the building? How many floors are there above the ground and below the ground? There is a small sculpture on the right corner of the building? Who is in the sculpture? Why is this saint there?

**14. The National Gallery -**

What did the building use to be a few centuries ago? What famous paintings are exhibited there? What is the name of the boulevard in front of the palace? What colour are the paves? What is behind the building?

**15. The Ivan Vazov National Theatre -**

When was it founded? What is the style of the building? Who were the architects? What happened in 1923 and in 1944? How many seats are there in the main stage?

**16. The National Museum of Natural History -**

What exhibits are there? Who used to work there just two months ago before he disappeared in the Himalayas?

**17. The Russian Church -**

Who is the patron of the church? When was the church built and why? What is in the crypt?

**18. The National Assembly -**

When was it built? Who was the architect and where did he get his education? How many MPs are there in Bulgaria? Which Bulgarian banknote has it on it?

**19. The Monument to the** [**Tsar**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsar) **Liberator -**

What is on the monument – who is on the horse? When was it built? What are the scenes on the three sides of the basis?

**20. Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral 1 -**

When was the cathedral built? Why? How high is the biggest gold dome? How high is the bell tower? How far is the sound heard?

**21. Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral 2 -**

Who was St. Alexander Nevski? Why was he proclaimed a saint? Where in the cathedral and on the façade can you see his image?

**22. The Monument to the Unknown Soldier -**

What is special about this place? Why is the turf from Stara Zagora and Shipka? Whose words are written on the special stone there? What are the words?

**23. IVAN VAZOV - Victoria**

Who is Ivan Vazov? When and where was he born? Why was he a prominent figure of the Bulgarian literature? How is he called?

**24. THE GRAVE OF IVAN VAZOV -**

Where is the grave? What is next to it? Why?

**25. SAINT SOFIA CHURCH -**

When was the first church built? Why was it named after St. Sofia? Is it the oldest church in Sofia?

**26. Sofia University -**

Who are the founders of the university? How many faculties are there? How many students study here? Please, check which of your teachers graduated from Sofia University.