

OUTSTANDING BELARUSIANS

1. Read the text and fill in the gaps with missing prepositions.

Belarus is a talented nation. It has given birth ____ many outstanding people ____ different spheres of life. When discussing outstanding people we can't but mention the names of such thinkers ____ Efrosinya Polotskaya and Kirill Turovsky. Efrosinya Polotskaya, a princess, a nun and later Mother Superior of the Convent was one of the first women **enlighteners** ____ the 12th century. She translated **spiritual** and religious books ____ Greek and Latin ____ the Belarussian language and copied them ____ hand. The age of Renaissance enriched our culture ____ new names ____ great Belarussian statesmen, writers and printers: ____ example, Lev Sapega, Mikola Gusovsky and many others. The name ____ the first printer Fr. Scarina and his followers Symon Budny and Vasily Tyapinsky are well-known throughout the world. Fr. Scarina was a **prominent** scholar and humanist whose intellectual interests **embraced** theology, literature, law, medicine and printing. The most significant of these achievements was the translation and publication of the Bible ____ Belarussian. He even founded the first printing workshop ____ Vilnya. His activities gave a powerful impulse ____ the development of all the Slavonic states, he greatly contributed ____ our Belarussian language, culture and art, showed the variety ____ human nature.

It goes ____ saying that Belarussian literature has made a great contribution ____ world literature. The prominent names of Y. Kupala, Y. Kolas are world famous. It's also a pleasure to mention such Belarussian composers as Churkin, Luchenok, Aladov. Our vocal groups "Pesnyary", "Verasy", "Syabry" and dance group "Khoroshky" have been a great success ____ Europe. Through the creative process musicians, artists, actors, scientists try to express their personal **philosophy**. Our professional theatres **embody** the



bright image and events of Belarusian history in drama, music and ballet.

Many natives of Belarus, because _____ numerous political and economic difficulties that haunted Belarus were to seek better life abroad. For example, world famous M.Chagal, born in 1887 in Belarus had to immigrate to France in 1922. Artist and Graphic, he created a new trend _____ painting with a number of fantastic, irrational works, often on folklore or divine themes. We also know well and admire the other Belarusian artist, K. Malevich with his "Black Square".

Many prominent names in the history of our country are connected _____ two main events, the Second World War and space exploration. All Belarusians fought heroically defending their Motherland, but we are especially proud _____ K.Zaslonov, N.Gastello, the defenders of Brest fortress and many others. Among cosmonauts you can also find our natives: A.Kovalyonok and P.Klimuk.

No doubt, the **prestige** of the country depends greatly _____ sport achievements of its athletes. Belarus has always been known as a sporty nation.

Many Belarusian sportsmen have brought **glory** _____ their native land winning in the greatest sport events including the Olympic Games and the world championships and tournaments. I can't help admiring Y.Nesterenko, O.Ryzhenkov, A.Medved, O.Korbut, V.Scherbo, E.Karston, Ya.Korolchik, A.Rybakov.

The ambassador of goodwill D.Domracheva is my favourite biathlete. She is good _____ skiing and ranks among the best biathletes _____ the world. I think her example should **inspire** many young Belarusians _____ take up biathlon. She is the first Belarusian athlete who managed to **defeat** the strongest foreign sportsmen.

_____ present time, it's hard to find heroes. However, one thing is obvious: great times are created _____ great men. Everything depends _____ the residents of Belarus to enlarge the **wealth** of their state.

2. Match the words printed in bold with their synonyms.

spiritual	grasp
prominent	honor
embrace	symbolize
philosophy	importance
embody	influence
prestige	richness
glory	sacred
inspire	beat
defeat	attitude
enlightener	educator
wealth	outstanding

3. Read the text and mark the sentences as True (T) or False (F), Not Stated (NS)

1. Efrosinya Polotskaya was the first woman enlightener in the world.
2. Symon Budny followed the ideas of Fr. Scarina.
3. Mikola Gusovsky founded the first printing workshop in Belarus.
4. World literature influenced greatly Belarusian poetry.
5. Some people left Belarus because they had some hardships there.
6. M. Chagall and K. Malevich were born in Vitebsk.
7. P. Klimuk was one of the defenders of Brest fortress who died heroically during the war.
8. D. Domracheva helps children in need all over the world.