



**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZA - ETAPA LOCALĂ,
 14 FEBRUARIE 2026
 CLASA A VII-A**

Nota: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru: 2 ore

Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (40 p)

I.1 Read the following text and fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms. (10 items × 2p = 20 points)

Liam (1) _____ (be) passionate about video game design since he was in middle school. Over the past two years, he (2) _____ (teach) himself how to code by watching tutorials and practicing every day. At the moment, he (3) _____ (work) on an indie game that combines storytelling with puzzle-solving. He (4) _____ (spend) long hours testing different game mechanics, and the project is slowly taking shape. Last month, while he (5) _____ (stream) his progress online, several viewers (6) _____ (give) him useful feedback. Liam believes that video games (7) _____ (be) more than just entertainment and can help players develop creativity and problem-solving skills. However, he also knows that many teenagers (8) _____ (waste) time on games without learning anything new. If schools encouraged creative use of technology, students (9) _____ (become) more motivated to learn. In the future, Liam hopes he (10) _____ (turn) his passion into a real career.

I.2 Read the text and look carefully at each line. Each line contains one unnecessary word. Write the word. (5 items × 2p = 10 points)

1.	Online games are becoming more and more popular among of teenagers.	
2.	Many players enjoy to spending time creating virtual worlds with friends.	
3.	These games allow teenagers to develop their creativity and also problem-solving skills.	
4.	Parents often worry about how much time do their children spend gaming.	
5.	Finding a balance between schoolwork and gaming it is important for students.	

I.3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in capital letters. (5 items x2p = 10 points)

Teenagers spend a lot of time online, where unrealistic images can create a feeling of (1) _____.	1. SECURE
This pressure may affect emotional (2) _____,	2. STABLE
especially when teenagers fail to communicate (3) _____ online.	3. RESPECT
Therefore, schools encourage personal (4) _____ when using social media.	4. RESPONSIBLE
Although social media is very (5) _____, young people should be aware of its effects.	5. ATTRACT

SUBIECTUL al II-lea - READING (25 p)

Read the following text. It has five paragraphs.

a) Choose the best title for each paragraph from A to F. Write the letter on the line next to the number of the paragraph. There is one title you don't need. (5 items x 2p = 10 points)

You are going to read a text about the life of a horse in nineteenth century England. Choose the most suitable heading from the list A – F, for each part 1 -5. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

SHADOW ON THE COBBLESTONES

1. _____

Born in the quiet countryside of northern England, Shadow spent his early years roaming wide pastures beneath open skies. His days were shaped by freedom, steady companionship, and the gentle guidance of his mother. From her, he learned patience and awareness, skills that would later prove essential. When the time came for him to be trained, his first master believed that trust, rather than force, was the key to obedience. Shadow was introduced slowly to harnesses and human expectations, developing confidence without fear.

2. _____

This peaceful existence ended when Shadow's owner faced serious financial difficulties and was forced to sell his horses. Shadow passed into the care of several different men, each with conflicting views on animal treatment. While some lacked outright cruelty, their indifference allowed harsh grooms to dominate daily routines. As a result, Shadow experienced hunger, confusion, and exhaustion. Though not deliberately abused, he suffered from neglect disguised as efficiency.

3. _____

Eventually, Shadow found himself working for a delivery company in the city, pulling heavy carts through crowded streets. The work demanded strength, endurance, and constant alertness amid noise and chaos. Although physically draining, Shadow found some comfort in routine and fairness, as his driver valued discipline and consistency. Regular meals and shelter provided stability, even if affection was rare. The labor was relentless, yet not without dignity.

4. _____

Misfortune struck when Shadow was sold to a man whose ambition far exceeded his compassion. This owner demanded longer hours and ignored signs of fatigue and illness. Whips replaced words, and rest became a luxury Shadow could no longer afford. His health deteriorated rapidly, yet his suffering was dismissed as laziness. Only when he collapsed in the street did outside intervention prevent a tragic end.

5. _____

Shadow's final home contrasted sharply with his past hardships. Taken in by a retired schoolmaster living on the outskirts of the city, he was treated with respect and understanding. The quiet fields, combined with light duties, allowed Shadow to regain strength. More importantly, he was no longer valued for labor alone. In his later years, Shadow experienced peace not as a reward, but as a right.

- A. Brutality masked as ambition
- B. A peaceful beginning
- C. Work without mercy
- D. Stability through discipline
- E. Rescue and renewal
- F. Lost among strangers

b) Answer questions 1–5 by choosing the option a, b, c, or d that best fits the information given in the text. (5 items x 3p = 15 points)

- 1. What best describes Shadow's early training?**
 - a. It relied on punishment
 - b. It was rushed and demanding
 - c. It focused on trust
 - d. It was completely unstructured
- 2. Why did Shadow suffer after being sold the first time?**
 - a. His new owners were openly violent
 - b. He was ignored rather than cared for
 - c. He was unfit for work
 - d. He refused to obey humans
- 3. What made Shadow's city work tolerable?**
 - a. The light workload
 - b. The kindness of other horses
 - c. Predictability and fairness
 - d. Frequent rest days
- 4. What caused Shadow's collapse?**
 - a. A sudden accident
 - b. Old age
 - c. Continuous overwork
 - d. Poor city conditions
- 5. What is suggested about Shadow's final years?**
 - a. They were boring but safe
 - b. They restored his dignity
 - c. They were physically demanding
 - d. They isolated him from humans

SUBIECTUL al III-lea - WRITING (25 points)

Write a story beginning like this:

“My phone vibrated at midnight, and the message on the screen made my heart stop.”

Write your story in 120-150 words and give it an appropriate title. Pay attention to the following:

- ❖ You don't need to write long descriptions;
- ❖ Use dialogues only if they are relevant to your characters or events;
- ❖ You should use this plan:
 1. **Introduction** (paragraph 1 – set the scene)
 2. **Main body** (paragraphs 2 and 3 – develop the story)
 3. **Conclusion** (paragraph 4 – end the story)

DO NOT COUNT THE WORDS IN THE GIVEN BEGINNING.



**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZA - ETAPA LOCALĂ,
14 FEBRUARIE 2026
CLASA A VIII-A**

Nota: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru: 2 ore

Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (40 p)

I.1 Read the following text and fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms. (10 items × 2p = 20 points)

Daniel usually (1) _____ (spend) his evenings online, but last Friday he (2) _____ (decide) to focus on his school project instead. At the moment, he (3) _____ (work) on a presentation, and he (4) _____ (already/finish) most of the slides. For the past two weeks, he (5) _____ (prepare) for this task by researching every day. Yesterday, while he (6) _____ (check) his notes, he realised that if he (7) _____ (start) earlier, the work (8) _____ (be) much easier. By tomorrow evening, he (9) _____ (submit) the project, and by the end of the week, he (10) _____ (complete) all his assignments.

I.2 (5 items x 2p =10 points)

Read the text and look carefully at each line. If a line is correct, put a tick (v). If it has a word that should not be there, write the word.

1.	Although my father is not conventionally successful, he is a man that to be admired.	
2.	As being a shy child, he spent most of his free time reading and playing music.	
3.	Despite of having little encouragement from his parents, he practised hard every day.	
4.	His teachers recognised his talent and encouraged him to study music at university.	
5.	By the age of eighteen, he did nothing but to play the piano.	

I.3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in capital letters (5 items x2p = 10 points)

Teenagers today are constantly exposed to online content, which strongly influences their (1) _____ of the world.	1. PERCEIVE
While social media can be a source of inspiration, it may also create (2) _____ expectations and pressure.	2. REAL
For this reason, developing (3) _____ thinking skills is essential.	3. CRITIC
Students should learn to evaluate information (4) _____ rather than accept it without question.	4. CARE
In the long run, this ability can help them make decisions with greater (5) _____ in both their personal and academic lives.	5. RESPONSIBLE

SUBIECTUL al II-lea (25 p)

Read the following text. It has five paragraphs.

a) Choose the best title for each paragraph from A to F. Write the letter on the line next to the number of the paragraph. There is one title you don't need. (5 items x 2p = 10 points)

You are going to read a text about the impact of technology on everyday life.

Choose the most suitable heading from the list **A–F** for each part **(1–5)**.

There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

The Impact of Technology on Daily Life

1. _____

The way people interact has changed dramatically over the past few decades. Social media platforms, instant messaging, and video calls have replaced traditional face-to-face communication in many situations. While these tools make it easier to stay in touch, they also raise concerns about the quality of personal relationships.

2. _____

In the workplace, automation and artificial intelligence have transformed entire industries. Many tasks that once required human effort are now performed by machines, increasing efficiency but also leading to job displacement. This shift demands that workers constantly upgrade their skills to remain competitive.

3. _____

Education has been revolutionized by technology. Online courses, interactive learning platforms, and digital resources provide students with more flexibility than ever before. However, excessive screen time and reduced in-person interaction can negatively affect cognitive development and social skills.

4. _____

Despite the advantages of modern technology, it has contributed to a more sedentary lifestyle. People spend hours in front of screens, leading to health problems such as obesity, poor posture, and eye strain. As a result, many experts advocate for a balance between digital activities and physical exercise.

5. _____

Looking ahead, the future of technology is both exciting and uncertain. Advancements in artificial intelligence, space exploration, and biotechnology promise to reshape society. However, ethical concerns about privacy, security, and the influence of big tech companies remain at the center of global debates.

A. The Health Consequences of Technology

B. The Future of Technological Progress

C. The Environmental Impact of Innovation

D. The Digital Age and Human Connections

E. The Evolution of Work and Automation

F. The Changing Nature of Learning

II.2 For questions 1-5, choose the answer A, B, C or D which you think fits best according to the text. (5 items x 3p = 15 points)

1. What is the main issue raised about social media in paragraph 1?

- A. It makes communication more convenient.
 - B. It replaces traditional communication entirely.
 - C. It affects the depth of personal relationships.
 - D. It is the only way to maintain long-distance friendships.
- 2. Why is constant learning necessary in today's job market?**

- A. Because machines can replace many traditional jobs.
- B. Because people change careers more often than before.
- C. Because education is now completely online.
- D. Because work is becoming easier due to automation.

3. What is one negative effect of technology on students?

- A. It limits their access to information.
- B. It reduces opportunities for independent thinking.
- C. It may weaken their social skills.
- D. It makes learning too structured.

4. What is a major concern about future technological advancements?

- A. The role of technology in space exploration.
- B. The rapid growth of digital platforms.
- C. The ethical implications of artificial intelligence.
- D. The decrease in demand for digital products.

5. What does the author suggest about balancing technology and health?

- A. People should stop using digital devices completely.
- B. Screen time should be replaced with physical activities.
- C. It is impossible to avoid technology in everyday life.
- D. A balanced approach is necessary to maintain well-being.

SUBIECTUL al III-lea - WRITING (25 points)

Write a story ending like this:

"The sound of waves crashing against the rocks woke me up. I opened my eyes to find myself on an unfamiliar beach, with no memory of how I got there."

Write your story in 150-180 words and give it an appropriate title. Pay attention to the following:

- ❖ You don't need to write long descriptions;
- ❖ Use dialogues only if they are relevant to your characters or events;
- ❖ You should use this plan:
 1. **Introduction** (paragraph 1 – set the scene)
 2. **Main body** (paragraphs 2 and 3 – develop the story)
 3. **Conclusion** (paragraph 4 – end the story)

DO NOT COUNT THE WORDS IN THE GIVEN ENDING.



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ- ETAPA LOCALĂ

CLASA a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA A

14 februarie 2026

Nota: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru: 3 ore

Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet. (10 points)

Many people have tried (1) smoking at some point in their lives, and these days many of us (2) ...
.....to stop taking (3)..... substance which is not cigarettes, but which (4)..... be killing the same
number of people (5)..... tobacco, or even more. I am talking about sugar.

When I went to the doctor five years ago, he told me that sugar (6)..... kill me one day if I didn't avoid
(7)....it. My only chance of long-term survival, said the doctor, was (8).... all sugar from my diet. Before
that day, I (9)..... to quit anything; (10)....., I didn't think it would be too difficult. "I have achieved
difficult things in my life, much more difficult than that," I thought. It wasn't true.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. A. to give up | B. to put down | C. giving up | D. putting down |
| 2. A. attempt | B. had attempted to | C. attempted | D. are attempting |
| 3. A. another | B. other | C. others | D. the other |
| 4. A. can | B. is able | C. might | D. should |
| 5. A. as | B. that | C. so | D. than |
| 6. A. shall | B. was | C. would | D. will |
| 7. A. to eating | B. eating | C. to eat | D. eat |
| 8. A. cutting down | B. putting out | C. cutting out | D. setting down |
| 9. A. have never tried | B. had never tried | C. was never trying | D. would never try |
| 10. A. so | B. although | C. however | D. even though |

II. Fill in each gap in the following text with only ONE word which fits the meaning of the text. (10 points)

I work for an exciting music magazine and I can't believe that I (1) _____ have been working there for a year, by the end of this month. I (2) _____ going to celebrate the anniversary with my colleagues but my boss has other ideas. He's decided to send me to Spain that week, to do an article on a new band. (3) _____, I don't know any more details about it and I am very upset about missing the planned celebrations. The party was to have been at a special music venue, (4) _____ was very difficult to book because it's so popular. I only got it because I have written many positive articles about the venue and the bands that play there, so the owner did it as a favour to me. And now, (5) _____ to cancel it is going to be very embarrassing and I will also be liable for heavy cancellation fees.

The relationship I have with the owner does not stretch to him giving me the venue (6) _____ free. My boss hasn't told me how long I (7) _____ be staying in Spain, which is very annoying and, in fact, I am beginning to find it all very suspicious. When I told him about the cost of cancelling the venue, he smiled mysteriously and told me not to worry, as he (8) _____ pay. This behaviour is extremely unnerving as the boss is not usually so generous, so I'm now questioning why he's being so nice. As (9) _____ as he is not going to sack me, it'll be fine, but now I'm not so sure. (10) _____ he might say to me, I can't get the idea of losing my job out of my head!

III. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits the gap in the same line. (10 points)

1. Musicals are _____ with singing, dancing and acting at the same time. (PERFORM)

2. A lot of hard work goes into the _____ of a musical. (PRODUCE)

3. First, someone must write the script and then decide what music is most _____ to help tell the story. (SUIT)

4. Then, the right _____ must be found. (ACT)

5. If you want to work in a musical, you have to be very _____. (TALENT)

6. You may have to wear an _____ costume or learn lots of difficult songs. (COMFORT)

7. Despite the _____, hundreds of young actors go for the auditions when a hit musical such as *Annie* is looking for people. (ADVANTAGE)

8. You can imagine the sad look of _____ on a young actor's face. (BELIEVE)

9. Artists are chosen to bring _____ to hundreds of people. (ENJOY)

10. Musicals can be a great way to spend a very _____ evening. (ENTERTAIN)

IV. Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. You must use between Two to Five words, including the word given. (5 x 2p=10 points)

1. Do you think it would have been a good idea to buy tickets in advance? (**should**)

Do you think we.....tickets in advance?

2. It's true that Frank was once in prison, isn't it? (**to**)

Frank....., didn't he?

3. I think the witness was mistaken about my client's identity. (**for**)

In my opinion, the witnesselse.

4. If only I had enough money to buy that ring. (**afford**)

Ithat ring.

5. It is rumoured that they are going to get married. (**a**)

There they are getting married.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS.....(50 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the right answer for each question. (5x2p = 10p)

“How did I ever manage to get myself into this?” Sandy wondered aloud and then groaned, although no one was there to hear her. She looked down again from the top of the slope and quickly shut her eyes to block out the sight.

“Help!” she said pleadingly in barely more than a whisper with her eyes still closed. “Michael? Anyone? Please, oh please, somebody help me out of this mess!” She was louder the second time, but without anyone nearby to respond- not even Michael, her best friend- it did little to resolve her present dilemma.

At thirteen, short- haired Sandy was quite tall for her age, but thin, which only gave her an appearance of greater height. At the moment, she was dressed in a colourful, thick winter jacket that had a bold bright pink and white design sweeping across a purple background. Her smooth water-repellent pants were the same purple colour as her jacket- it was obviously a fashionable, co-ordinated outfit. Warm dark purple gloves covered her hands, and her attire was topped off, literally, with a purple ski hat, scarf and stylish ski goggles. If anyone had been around to see her, dressed the way she was, she would have been clearly visible from a long distance away against the almost solid white backdrop of snow surrounding her.

Sandy opened her eyes and glanced again at the sign posted near her at the top of the slope: it was a triple diamond slope, an expert-level ski run. How had she ended up there? She reproached herself that Michael had at least shown enough sense to get off the ski lift at an earlier opportunity to go down a more moderate slope. Absorbed by the view from near the top of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range in the Lake Tahoe area, she had foolishly decided to ride the lift up a little further and had found herself facing this ski slope, one that was well above her slightly more than beginner-level skier abilities.

Sandy sighed deeply, tightly gripped her ski poles in her gloved hands, pointed her skis straight, and pushed back on the poles in her hands enough to cause herself to inch forward as all other avenues seemed to be closed to her. Once more than half of the length of her skis was sticking out into the air- only their back ends were still making contact with the snow at the slope's top- her balance began

shifting forward, her skis followed, and she found herself rapidly picking up speed as she headed straight down the excessively challenging slope.

“How am I supposed to slow down?” Sandy shouted, but with the wind whipping by and the trees rushing past on either side of her, she could hardly hear herself. Everything she had learned about skiing in the previous two days seemed to have faded from her mind. Concentrating only on maintaining her balance, she kept her skis pointed straight downhill, which unfortunately only made her pick up more speed on the steep, icy slope.

“Simone would know how to ski expertly down this slippery slope,” Sandy thought as she tried to imagine herself as Simone, international spy and heroine of the *Simone LeClerc* adventure series that Sandy loved to read. Coming up ahead of her, Sandy saw the ski lift which Michael had gotten off earlier. She desperately hoped she would find her friend among the skiers and snowboarders waiting there and she would be able to stop.

Questions:

1 What is the writer’s purpose in the first paragraph?

- A to explain why Sandy was in this difficult situation
- B to give relevant details of Sandy’s character
- C to introduce the fact that Sandy was facing a challenge
- D to describe how Sandy was planning to solve a problem

2 What does the writer suggest about Sandy’s clothes?

- A They made it unlikely that she would be spotted.
- B She was wearing them because she belonged to a skiing team.
- C They were too heavy for the conditions.
- D She had chosen them with care.

3 Why did Sandy start skiing down the slope?

- A She began moving by accident.
- B She thought it was the only option she had.
- C She didn’t realise how fast she would have to go.
- D She didn’t want to admit it was too difficult for her.

4 How did Sandy try to cope as she skied down the slope?

- A She focused on staying upright.
- B She asked if anyone could help her.
- C She did her best to reach the bottom quickly.
- D She remembered advice from her skiing lessons.

5. What do we learn about Sandy in the final paragraph?

- A She is an adventurous person.
- B She prefers books to sport.
- C She admires a character from fiction.
- D She wishes she skied better than Simone.

II. Writing (40 points)

Based on the reading text about Sandy’s skiing trip, imagine that you are a young person applying for a vacancy as a ski instructor at a mountain resort.

Write a **letter of application** to the manager in which you:

- express your enthusiasm for the position,
- explain why you would be a suitable candidate
- outline how this experience could positively influence your life.

Your answer should be between **180 and 200 words**.



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ- ETAPA LOCALĂ
CLASA a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA B
14 februarie, 2026

NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru - 3 ore

10 puncte din oficiu

SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet. (10 points)

What Makes Someone Intelligent?

Some people claim that only humans are truly intelligent. Are animals intelligent too? They can certainly learn and remember. However, many of their actions are instinctive, even 1) ... they may look intentional. Generally, animals cannot 2) ... one crucial test of self-awareness: they are unable to identify themselves in a mirror.

In fact, we are not really sure what intelligence is or how to measure it. How are education, intelligence and success 3) ... ? It is generally agreed that intelligence is all about the ability to learn, 4) ... problems and succeed in life. But is there more 5) ... it than that? What about the 6) _____ of emotions?

Successful people often show a 7) ... level of emotional intelligence. This 8) ... as self-awareness, which means that they can understand their feelings, organise and 9) ... them. Above all, this understanding means that they can motivate themselves, which seems to be the 10) ... to success.

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 A since | B though | C but | D that |
| 2 A get | B succeed | C win | D pass |
| 3 A connected | B joined | C united | D tied |
| 4 A answer | B decide | C open | D solve |
| 5 A for | B to | C at | D with |
| 6 A role | B part | C situation | D work |
| 7 A vast | B high | C tall | D wide |
| 8 A describes | B is described | C considers | D is considered |
| 9 A manage | B deal | C administer | D command |
| 10 A lock | B handle | C key | D door |

II. Fill in each gap in the following text with only ONE word which fits the meaning of the text. (10 points)

Recycling

Recycling involves taking used materials and turning them into new products. It is not a new concept: people (1) ... been recycling for hundreds of years but (2) ... the 1970s it has become more (3) ... a necessity and is now common practice. The idea of recycling is (4) ... prevent waste and reduce the consumption of new fresh raw materials.

The (5) ... common materials which are recycled are paper and glass. Some plastics, metals and textiles (6) ... also be recycled as well as some electronic equipment. It is now typical to separate household waste into materials (7) ... can and can't be recycled. Recycling points (8) ... glass, paper etc. can be taken to are now common sights in (9) ... major towns and cities.

In theory recycling seems obvious. In practice, however, it is (10) ... always cost-effective. Often the cost of collection and transportation is greater than the cost of the energy saved.

III. Read the sentences and use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in the gap. (10 points)

Teen Life in the Digital Age

Being a teenager today is different from what it was twenty years ago. One major issue is disconnection. Teens often spend hours online, yet they may feel (1) ____ or misunderstood in real life. Another concern is the (2) ____ pressure to look perfect on social media, which can have a (3) ____ effect on self-confidence. Constant comparison with others can easily lead to (4) ____ and stress. On the positive side, the internet gives teenagers (5) ____ access to information and learning opportunities.

Many students use online platforms to improve their (6) ____ or discover new interests. Creative teens can also express themselves through videos, music or writing, gaining (7) ____ along the way.

The key to a healthy digital life is (8) _____. Parents and teachers can help by encouraging open (9) ____ about online habits. With the right guidance, technology can become a (10) ____ tool for personal growth rather than a source of anxiety.

- (1) LONE
- (2) GROW
- (3) HARM
- (4) HAPPY
- (5) LIMIT

- (6) KNOW
- (7) CONFIDENT
- (8) MODERATE
- (9) DISCUSS
- (10) POWER

IV. Complete the second sentence with TWO to FIVE words using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (5x2=10 points)

1. I don't know the answer to that question, but I wish I did. **ONLY**
..... the answer to that question!
2. We haven't been to the cinema for months. **SINCE**
It's been months to the cinema.
3. I wonder who this bag belongs to. **WHOSE**
I don't is.
4. How often does someone repaint your house? **HAVE**
How often do?
5. I always trust Carla's advice. **SOMEBODY**
Carla always trust.

SUBJECTUL II – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. Read the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D (5 x 2p = 10 points)

The low black clouds had been threatening rain all morning but, when the downpour finally arrived, Martin simply pulled up his hood, leant into the wind and kept on trudging up the hill.

It was early on a freezing Saturday morning in February. Martin was cold and wet, and didn't really know where he was. Nevertheless, he felt happier than he had all week. He smiled when he thought about his friends. They would all still be sleeping soundly in their warm beds, and if they knew where Martin was, they would definitely decide he was crazy. 'They don't know what they're missing,' Martin thought to himself.

It was wonderful to be out of the city. The day before, at this time, Martin had been on his way to work. He never expected to find a seat on the morning bus, but that day it had been particularly overcrowded. He had been squashed between a group of noisy schoolchildren and a businessman with a heavy cold, whose coughing and sneezing seemed certain to infect the rest of the passengers. For once, it had been a relief to arrive at the stop outside the offices of Wilton Ltd, the small insurance company where Martin worked as an accountant.

It had been a typical day at the office. Martin had spent the entire morning trying to sort out the mess his boss, Mr Wilkins, had made of the Peterson file. The problem would never have arisen if Wilkins had done things the way that Martin had suggested – a fact that both men were well aware of, but that neither wanted to comment on.

In the afternoon, Martin had finally been able to get on with his own work, only to be regularly interrupted. Mrs Hargreaves had yet another seemingly endless and pointless story about her grandchildren, which Martin politely smiled through, and then he spent half an hour helping Jenny look for a file they were both working on. Martin got on very well with Jenny, the company's youngest member of staff. She was friendly, easy-going and very good at her job. As she would be the first to admit, though, organization was not her strong point. By the time they finally found the file (tucked inside a newspaper underneath a pile of papers on Jenny's desk), it was almost time to go home.

Jenny was very excited about the coming weekend. She had moved from a small town a couple of years before, and she was still in love with everything the city had to offer. Her social life was a whirlwind that revolved around restaurants, theatres and clubs that Martin had never even heard of. He had felt exactly the same way about the bright lights of the city when he had first arrived to start college. That was a long time ago, though. These days the city depressed him. The huge buildings blocked out the sun and seemed to weigh him down as he fought his way through the faceless crowds. Feelings like these had forced Martin out of his bed early that Saturday morning. Maybe he was tied to the city during the week, but now he was free. As soon as he had finished breakfast, Martin jumped into his car and set about putting the city far behind him. He had no fixed destination in mind, and simply turned off the motorway after an hour or so and gradually made his way onto quieter and quieter roads.

Eventually, on a narrow winding lane, he saw the small deserted car park and a sign pointing out the public footpath which gradually climbed to the peak of a distant hill. Now, at the top of that hill, Martin paused to enjoy the view.

1. On his walk, Martin

- A. doesn't let the bad weather stop him.
- B. thinks he should have stayed in bed.
- C. wishes his friends had come with him.
- D. knows he should have told someone where he was going.

2. Why was Martin happy to arrive at work the previous morning?

- A. He hadn't been sure that he was on the right bus.
- B. The journey had been particularly bad.
- C. He knew it wasn't going to be a normal day.
- D. He always enjoyed his work.

3. Why was there a problem with the Peterson file?

- A. Mr Wilkins didn't want Martin to work on it.
- B. Mr Wilkins had made some mistakes.
- C. Martin and Mr Wilkins hadn't discussed it before that day.
- D. Martin didn't know what Mr Wilkins wanted.

4. What is true about Martin and Jenny?

- A. He doesn't like her because she is disorganised.
- B. They probably spend a lot of time together outside work.
- C. They have very different attitudes to life in the city.
- D. They both moved to the city at about the same time

5. Since Martin started college,

- A. he has always disliked city life.
- B. he has dreamt of living in the countryside.
- C. the city has changed in ways he doesn't like.
- D. his view of the city has changed.

II. Writing (40 points)

A local magazine is collecting reviews of places near your town where people can go to **switch off from busy routines** (parks, hiking areas, small villages, lakes, etc.). You decide to write about a place that reminds you of the countryside walk in the text.

Write a **review** for the magazine. In your review you should:

- describe the place and what you can do there
- explain why it is a good escape from stress and technology
- recommend it (or not) and give practical advice for visitors

Write **180–200 words**.



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ- ETAPA LOCALĂ

CLASA a X-a, SECȚIUNEA A

14 februarie 2026

Nota: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru: 3 ore

Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet. (10 points)

Raising Awareness

In cities around the world a wide scale of schemes is being instigated to promote environmental awareness. ‘It’s just as easy to (1) of litter properly as it is to drop it on the streets,’ says city councillor Mike Edwards, who has (2) on the government to mount a concerted campaign to deal with the problem of litter. ‘It’s just a matter of encouraging people to do so as a (3) of course. Once the habit is ingrained, they won’t even (4) they are doing it. After all, think what we have achieved with recyclable waste in the home. Sorting paper, glass, aluminium and plastic waste and then depositing it in the appropriate container outside is (5) a great chore any more. People have become accustomed to doing this, so it doesn’t (6) to them that they are spending any additional time in the process. Only if they have to carry this waste for some appreciable distance to find a suitable container, do they feel they are (7) Most people know they should behave in a responsible way and just need (8) to do so. So a quirky, (9) gimmick might be enough to change behaviour. With this in (10) , the city of Berlin is introducing rubbish bins that say “danke”, “thank you” and “merci” - Berlin is a cosmopolitan city when someone drops an item of rubbish into them. It might just play the trick in this city, too.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 A dispose | B discard | C jettison | D throw |
| 2 A appealed | B called | C approached | D urged |
| 3 A principle | B system | C matter | D duty |
| 4 A notice | B remark | C comprehend | D appreciate |
| 5 A almost | B barely | C virtually | D hardly |
| 6 A concern | B occur | C impress | D strike |
| 7 A inconvenienced | B sacrificed | C complicated | D imposed |
| 8 A ordering | B prompting | C forcing | D obliging |
| 9 A light-hearted | B mundane | C subjective | D intense |
| 10 A context | B thought | C spirit | D mind |

II. Fill in each gap in the following text with only ONE word which fits the meaning of the text. (10 points)

The Crystal Palace dinosaurs are (1) collection of over 30 statues. They stand proudly overlooking a park in the London suburb of the same name. The park and dinosaur displays are open to the public and are free to visit. School groups frequently go and look (2).....the dinosaurs, but (3) help preserve them, the statues are viewed from a distance and cannot (4) climbed. Created in around 1854, they were the first ever attempt anywhere in the world to represent dinosaurs as full-scale, three-dimensional, active creatures.

Some of the statues are dramatically different when (5) comes to comparing them with modern interpretations of dinosaurs. Which experts in the 1850s decided what the statues should look (6) is a subject of historical debate. However, research clearly shows that experts at the time (7) different interpretations of the dinosaurs, and these differences of opinion (8) reflected in the statues currently (9) display at Crystal Palace. The way in (10) these various interpretations have evolved demonstrates how scientific ideas often develop.

III. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits the gap in the same line. (10 points)

1. By the 1960s, this sport had gained an _____ following, in the USA. (**IMPRESS**)
2. However, by 1965, concerns about _____ resulted in regulations introduced to ban skateboarding in most public places in the USA. (**SAFE**)
3. This _____ killed the sport there for the next decade. (**EFFECT**)
4. There have been suddenly faced huge _____ and many went out of business. (**LOSE**)
5. Over the next eight years a few (6) _____ continued practising extreme sports. (**ENTHUSIASM**)
6. Unfortunately, they were (7)..... in their efforts. (**SUCCESS**)
7. The invention of new materials meant that manufacturers could _____ the boards. (**STRONG**)
8. Such _____ also made the competitions less dangerous. (**IMPROVE**)
9. An _____ number of users led to the installation of special skateboarding parks. (**INCREASE**)
10. Despite the _____ setbacks it has suffered over the years, this sport is now stronger than ever. (**VARY**)

IV. Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. You must use between Two to Five words, including the word given. (5 x 2p = 10 points)

1. I regret selling my car. **wish**
Imy car.
2. It was the best meal I had ever eaten. **never**
Ia good meal before.

3. A friend is looking after my cat while I'm away. **care**
A friendmy cat while I'm away.
4. The last time I saw Melanie was before she got her new job. **since**
Ishe got her new job.
5. "You stole the money, Joe, didn't you!" said the inspector. **accused**
The inspector the money.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS.....(50 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the right answer for each question. (5x2p = 10p)

Even though Nick knew he hadn't forgotten anything, he had to check and double check he had his passport, tickets and wallet in his bag, before he left the house. He had flown plenty of times before so this wasn't the first time but he still felt nervous. Then, this was no ordinary trip; this time he wasn't just travelling abroad for a few weeks; he was about to start a whole new life on the other side of the world. He had spent months planning for it and couldn't believe the day had finally arrived when he was heading for the airport about to get on a plane to India. He had never been there before but felt prepared as he had read so much about the place and watched various documentaries. They had also told him a lot about what to expect on the training course he had been on for his new job. There was no denying though that it was going to be very different from the life he was used to.

His brother had offered to drive him to the airport, which he was very grateful for. His brother arrived exactly on time, as always and together they carried his bags down to the car. It felt strange locking the door behind him, not knowing when he would see the place again. A friend of his was going to move in and rent it from him while he was away so he didn't have to worry about it being empty. However, it still made him sad to lock the door and leave. In the car driving to the airport his brother's son kept them entertained talking about a party he had been to the day before and explaining in great detail what he could now do on his new bike. It was perfect; Nick didn't want to think too much about where he was going and it was much better to be distracted by his six-year-old nephew. They arrived at the airport and Nick's brother and nephew came in with him to check in his bags. Then they walked together to the security check. Nick had been dreading this moment, he had said goodbye to so many people recently and even cried at the end of his leaving party but this was the final goodbye; from this moment he was on his own. His nephew suddenly wanted a drink and so they said a quick goodbye and before they could get too emotional, his nephew had dragged his brother away to the shop and he was standing on his own. He got ready to go through security, took off his jacket, took his laptop out of his bag and took his mobile and keys out of his pocket. This was it, as he was really leaving.

He walked around the shops for a while and bought some newspapers and books. He had been told his new colleagues would be grateful for these. He wasn't planning to read them himself, his only plan for the flight was to sleep and maybe watch a film if they were showing something good. He walked to the gate and, in no time at all, he was sitting on the plane listening to the safety announcements. As the plane taxied down the runway he thought about how he had ended up where he was. It hadn't been simple fate or destiny; he had gone looking for this opportunity. No one had asked him to do it. He had made the effort to find this job; he had applied for it and out of over 20 candidates, they had decided to give it to him. In a way, he had fought for this seat on the plane and he had won. He deserved to be here and he was excited. He was going to miss all his friends and family but what he was going to do was amazing. It was the job he had always dreamed of, it was what he had spent years studying for. It wasn't going to be easy but he felt very ready for the challenge. He felt with absolute certainty that he had made the right decision. He smiled to himself and as the plane left the ground he looked out of the window and said a silent goodbye to all the people he was leaving behind.

Questions:

1. Why did he feel nervous before he left the house?
A He had never flown on his own before.
B He thought he had forgotten something.
C He was about to go on holiday with someone he didn't know.
D He was about to make a big change in his life.

2. How much did he know about the place he was going to?
A nothing
B a lot; he had been there before
C quite a lot; he had tried to learn about it
D hardly anything; only what friends had told him

3. Why did he feel strange locking the door?
A He didn't want his friend to live there.
B He was going to miss all the things he had left behind.
C He was worried about it being empty.
D He was unsure when he would come back.

4. How did he feel about his nephew being in the car to the airport?
A pleased
B annoyed
C amused
D disappointed

5. Why did he buy newspapers and magazines at the airport?
A He had forgotten to buy them before.
B Other people had asked him to buy them.
C He wanted something to read on the plane.
D He knew the people he was going to be working with would like them.

II. Writing..... (40 points)

Your teacher has asked you to write a **review** about a movie you have seen in which someone's life takes a turn for the better either in career or personal life. Would you recommend the movie to others?
(200-220 words)



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ- ETAPA LOCALĂ
CLASA a X-a, SECȚIUNEA B
14 februarie, 2026

NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru - 3 ore

10 puncte din oficiu

SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet. (10 points)

FUTURE IN THE DARK

For many of us, we are working, travelling and shopping in hours that used to be reserved for relaxation and sleep. But, according to the results of tests being (1)..... by scientists, we are no longer getting enough darkness in our lives. In fact, (2)..... shows that a growing number of health and environmental problems are (3)..... a loss of darkness.

Life has evolved with a day/night cycle. People who go (4)..... this day/night rhythm will notice an adverse impact on their immune systems, and that's not a good sign. We are (5)..... a conflict between what our mind wants, and what our internal body clock prepares us for. Some experts (6)..... that our biological clock is similar to the conductor of an orchestra, with the multiple rhythms of the body (7)..... the various orchestra sections.

The body clock is (8)..... on the light/dark cycle and it governs us for every (9)..... of activity and rest in our lives. It ensures that all our various internal systems are working together – this is its sole purpose. By moving to 24-hour living, and not taking into account the dark side, we will effectively be throwing away the advantages of evolution, (10)..... we care to admit it or not.

- | | | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | A. carried out | B. carried through | C. worked up | D. worked off |
| 2 | A. demonstration | B. display | C. research | D. confirmation |
| 3 | A. prone to | B. open to | C. due to | D. next to |
| 4 | A. down with | B. without | C. over | D. behind |
| 5 | A. creating | B. contributing | C. giving | D. increasing |
| 6 | A. explain | B. discuss | C. enquire | D. debate |
| 7 | A. describing | B. corresponding | C. expressing | D. representing |
| 8 | A. done | B. based | C. decided | D. established |
| 9 | A. prospect | B. attitude | C. position | D. type |
| 10 | A. so that | B. whether | C. unless | D. in case |

II. Fill in each gap in the following text with only ONE word which fits the meaning of the text. (10 points)

BACK TO THE HIGH STREET

(1) _____ several years now, the big supermarket chains (2) _____ competed with (3) _____ other throughout the country by following the (4) _____ policy. They have all moved their stores (5) _____ of the High Street and built new ones outside. But (6) _____ now most people in Britain live near a supermarket so there is no more room for expansion (7) _____ that direction. Consequently, the chains have been looking

(8) _____ different ways of attracting customers. One has just opened a store in the centre of London (9) _____ you can buy a bottle of good wine and a packet of smoked salmon (10) _____ the way home from work.

III. Read the sentences and use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in the gap. (10 points)

THE FUTURE OF URBAN LIVING

The rapid (1) _____ of our cities has led to a range of environmental challenges that require (2) _____ solutions. Architects are now looking toward "biophilic design", a concept that emphasizes the (3) _____ of nature into the built environment. This isn't just about aesthetics; it's about the (4) _____ benefits of greenery on the human mind.

Studies have shown that living in close (5) _____ to parks and vertical gardens can lead to a (6) _____ reduction in stress levels. However, many urbanites remain (7) _____ of these new developments, fearing that high-tech "green" buildings will be (8) _____ for the average citizen.

To address this, city planners are working to ensure that sustainable housing is not only (9) _____ pleasing but also financially accessible. Only through such (10) _____ efforts can we hope to create cities that truly thrive in the 21st century.

1. GROW
2. INVENT
3. CORPORATE
4. PSYCHOLOGY
5. PROXIMATE
6. SUBSTANCE
7. SCEPTIC
8. AFFORD
9. ART
10. COLLABORATE

IV. Complete the second sentence with TWO to FIVE words using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (5x2=10 points)

1. I've never seen such a boring film. **INTERESTING**
This _____ film I have ever seen.
2. It wasn't right that you didn't come to practice today. **TO**
You to practice today.
3. "It wasn't me who finished the cake!" Naomi said. **EATEN**
Naomi denied _____ last piece of cake.
4. Apart from Jones, everyone had bought a coat. **ONE**
James _____ hadn't bought a coat.
5. Why don't we throw that old ball away? **RID**
How _____ that old ball?

SUBJECTUL II – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. Read the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D (5 x 2p = 10 points)

HIGH FLYING

Six years ago Susie O'Hara was a high flying Sales and Marketing Director when she treated herself to a trial flying lesson. She took to it instantly. Since then Susie has spent £40,000 on her habit. Eight months ago she gave up her job to become a professional flying instructor at the EFG Flying School. She has had to let her home and is staying with her mother. Her salary last year before stoppages was around £6,000. 'I could earn more doing any other job, like cleaning...,' Susie shrugs. 'It turned my lifestyle upside down. All my friends thought I was mad. But I just wanted to fly the whole time. I figured I had to do it now or I would be too old.'

So how good can flying be to possess someone to give up everything? To get your basic licence you are looking at spending £4,000 plus. Besides the time actually spent flying, there is a lot of homework and you must pass written exams on every aspect of flying from law and meteorology to technical papers on the aeroplanes and the limits of the human body. Susie has so far sat 31 professional exams.

'Part of the appeal is the different view it gives you of life,' she says. 'Sometimes when you're up there and you can see everything so tiny below, you realise everyone has their problems and that so many problems are so small. It's not like that all the time but sometimes that hits you.'

Another aspect may be the glamorous lifestyle. France is only half an hour from the airfield and southern Spain is also a popular destination. To collect enough hours to get her commercial licence, Susie used to stay out in the US after business trips, where flying is very cheap, and has flown from Long Beach to Las Vegas and from Florida across the Bahamas. Flying in the US is so cheap that a lot of people go there to collect their air miles.

It's a beautiful day when I try it. Once you're off the ground you can see for miles – only the horizon is lost in a white haze. You're aware that the ground is way down there, and there's that feeling in your stomach and your ears are popping. A great deal of the appeal is the amazing acrobatics you can do. One minute you weigh several times your normal weight, the next you are seemingly weightless. The earth spins confusingly somewhere over your shoulder as you do sudden 180 degree turns. 'It's a pity this is not really an acrobatic plane,' says Susie, 'because that is what I really love.'

As well as acrobatics Susie pretends the engine has stalled and goes through the process of a crash landing. She also gives me a chance to handle the plane. It's amazing how responsive it is. By the way, before you take off in a lesson, you go through a lot of the theory on the ground, as I had.

When we land I feel a little sick. But I asked for it – the acrobatics are optional. 'You have to know the other person can deal with it before you do acrobatics,' says Susie. More than anything I'm disappointed the whole episode is over so quickly.'

1. What do we learn about Susie in the first paragraph?

- A. She regrets the financial disadvantages of becoming a flying instructor.
- B. She was upset by criticism of her decision to become a flying instructor.
- C. She felt she could not put off the decision to become a flying instructor.
- D. She had always been planning to become a flying instructor eventually.

2. What does the writer emphasize about becoming a flying instructor in the second paragraph?

- A. that it is more difficult than some people think it is
- B. that few people are able to make the necessary sacrifices
- C. that being able to fly is only one of the many things involved
- D. that few people are capable of achieving what is required

3. One reason why Susie enjoys flying is that

- A. it makes her feel more important.
- B. it helps her solve her problems.
- C. it has increased her self-confidence.
- D. it gives her a realistic view of life.

4. Why did Susie fly in the US?

- A. It was a good way of making progress towards qualifying.
- B. She met a lot of other people like herself there.
- C. She liked the places that she could fly to there.
- D. It gave her practice at flying in a different country.

5. What was the main thing the writer noticed during his flight with Susie?

- A. how much skill Susie had at doing acrobatics
- B. the number of physical sensations he experienced
- C. how much it differed from what he had expected
- D. the variety of skills involved in flying a plane

II. Writing (40 points)

Your English teacher has asked you to write a report about how students in your school relax after a stressful week.

Write a report discussing:

- the most popular stress-relief activities among students
- why these activities are effective
- which activity would you recommend most and why

Write 200–220 words.



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ- ETAPA LOCALĂ

CLASA a XI-a, SECȚIUNEA A

14 februarie 2026

Nota: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru: 3 ore

Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet. (10 points)

‘Let them be free’ is the (0)A.....rule for child- rearing in the Netherlands. No wonder Dutch kids have been (1).....Europe’s most fortunate by a recent UNICEF survey. From a tender age, their opinions are (2).....their wishes respected, and there is no homework until their last year in preparatory school. Some would (3).....that the tendency of Dutch society to encourage infants to experience whatever they please has (4).....a whole generation into spoilt, undisciplined brats. Others say family members are remarkably (5).....with one another, feeling free to say anything, and that the way parents (6).....with their children’s anxieties means that the children are well-adjusted, which is (7).....up by the results of the survey.

Dr Gerrit Breeusma, head of development psychology at the University of Groningen says the survey’s results came as no (8)‘Children have always played a very important role in Holland but there were (9).....within families during the Sixties, usually over matters of discipline and conformity. As a result, the generation growing up at that time have made sure they get on better with their kids,’ he added.

However, in several Dutch police precincts, such liberalism is not viewed positively. In an attempt to (10).....underage heavy drinking, police have taken to bringing home teenagers and threatening parents with obligatory attendance at courses on excessive alcohol problems or hefty fines unless they keep their children under control.

0	A) <i>golden</i>	B) iron	C) solid	D) fixed
1	A) compared	B) put	C) rated	D) assessed
2	A) regarded	B) valued	C) recognized	D) measured
3	A) argue	B) criticize	C) defend	D) judge
4	A) resulted	B) created	C) brought	D) turned
5	A) alike	B) open	C) true	D) careful
6	A) empathize	B) understand	C) analyse	D) handle
7	A) shown	B) held	C) made	D) backed
8	A) doubt	B) difference	C) consequence	D) surprise
9	A) beliefs	B) conflicts	C) decisions	D) contradictions
10	A) tackle	B) supervise	C) extinguish	D) dispose

II. Fill in each gap in the following text with only ONE word which fits the meaning of the text. (10 points)

The Enigma of Memory

Memory is often compared to a filing cabinet, but research suggests it is far (1) ____ complex than that. Rather than being a static record of the past, memory is a dynamic process (2) ____ which we

constantly reconstruct events. Every time we recall an experience, we are not just playing back a video; instead, we are essentially rewriting the story, often (3) _____ the expense of total accuracy. This fluidity is precisely (4) _____ eyewitness testimony can be notoriously unreliable. Subtle suggestions or leading questions can plant "false memories" in a person's mind, leading them to believe they saw something that never actually (5) _____ place. Furthermore, our current emotional state plays a significant role in (6) _____ we remember. If we are feeling down, we are more (7) _____ to dwell on negative experiences, a phenomenon known as mood-congruent memory. Interestingly, forgetting is just as essential (8) _____ remembering. Without the ability to filter out irrelevant data, a "clutter" of useless information would overwhelm our brains. Evolution has therefore ensured that we retain only (9) _____ which is most useful for our survival. Ultimately, memory is less about keeping a perfect diary and more about helping us (10) _____ sense of an unpredictable world.

III. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits the gap in the same line. (10 points)

The Evolution of Urban Architecture

In recent decades, the (1) _____ of our cities has undergone a radical transformation. What was once a skyline dominated by industrial chimneys is now a glass-and-steel testament to modern engineering. This change is not merely aesthetic; it reflects a growing (2) _____ of the need for sustainable living. Architects are increasingly tasked with creating buildings that are not only visually (3) _____ but also environmentally responsible. However, the (4) _____ of these high-tech structures often comes at a significant financial cost. Critics argue that the focus on "green" luxury housing ignores the (5) _____ of affordable homes in many metropolitan areas. This has led to a sense of (6) _____ among lower-income residents who feel pushed to the periphery. Urban planners are now looking for (7) _____ solutions that balance innovation with inclusivity. One such approach involves the (8) _____ of old warehouses into community hubs. These projects are gaining (9) _____ worldwide as they preserve a city's heritage while providing much-needed social spaces. If successful, this trend could lead to a more (10) _____ and harmonious urban future for everyone.

- 1. APPEAR
- 2. AWARE
- 3. STRIKE
- 4 MAINTAIN
- 5 SCARCE
- 6 CONTENT
- 7 IMAGINE
- 8 CONVERT
- 9 RECOGNIZE
- 10 RELY

IV.Rephrase the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given. (5x 2p = 10 points)

- 1.My grandmother is extremely proud that she can remember all her grandchildren's birthdays. **PRIDES**
My grandmotherremember all her grandchildren's birthdays.
2. Global temperatures are higher now than ever before. **SO**
Never before.....as they are now.
3. They cancelled the order because the goods were faulty. **GROUND**
The order.....the goods were faulty.
4. She never gave me the impression that she was generous. **ACROSS**
She never.....generous.
- 5.If the bank refuses to lend us the money, we might have to ask your parents instead. **REQUEST**
If the bank turns.....a loan, we might have to ask your parents instead.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS.....(50 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the right answer for each question. (5x2p = 10p)

Museums of fine art and their public

The fact that people go to the Louvre museum in Paris to see the original painting Mona Lisa when they can see a reproduction anywhere leads us to question some assumptions about the role of museums of fine art in today's world.

One of the most famous works of art in the world is Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa. Nearly everyone who goes to see the original will already be familiar with it from reproductions, but they accept that fine art is more rewardingly viewed in its original form.

However, if Mona Lisa was a famous novel, few people would bother to go to a museum to read the writer's actual manuscript rather than a printed reproduction. This might be explained by the fact that the novel has evolved precisely because of technological developments that made it possible to print out huge numbers of texts, whereas oil paintings have always been produced as unique objects. But despite an implicit recognition that the spread of good reproductions can be culturally valuable, museums continue to promote the special status of original work. Unfortunately, this seems to place severe limitations on the kind of experience offered to visitors.

One limitation is related to the way the museum presents its exhibits. As repositories of unique historical objects, art museums are often called 'treasure houses'. We are reminded of this even before we view a collection by the presence of security guards, attendants, ropes and display cases to keep us away from the exhibits. In many cases, the architectural style of the building further reinforces that notion. In addition, a major collection like that of London's National Gallery is housed in numerous rooms, each with dozens of works, any one of which is likely to be worth more than all the average visitor possesses. In a society that judges the personal status of the individual so much by their material worth, it is therefore difficult not to be impressed by one's own relative 'worthlessness' in such an environment.

Furthermore, consideration of the 'value' of the original work in its treasure house setting impresses upon the viewer that, since these works were originally produced, they have been assigned a huge monetary value by some person or institution more powerful than themselves. Evidently, nothing the viewer thinks about the work is going to alter that value, and so today's viewer is deterred from trying to extend that spontaneous, immediate, self-reliant kind of reading which would originally have met the work.

The visitor may then be struck by the strangeness of seeing such diverse paintings, drawings and sculptures brought together in an environment for which they were not originally created. This 'displacement effect' is further heightened by the sheer volume of exhibits. In the case of a major collection, there are probably more works on display than we could realistically view in weeks or even months.

This is particularly distressing because time seems to be a vital factor in the appreciation of all art forms. A fundamental difference between paintings and other art forms is that there is no prescribed time over which a painting is viewed. By contrast, the audience encourage an opera or a play over a specific time, which is the duration of the performance. Similarly, novels and poems are read in a prescribed temporal sequence, whereas a picture has no clear place at which to start viewing, or at which to finish. Thus, art works themselves encourage us to view them superficially, without appreciating the richness of detail and labour that is involved.

Consequently, the dominant critical approach becomes that of the art historian, a specialised academic approach devoted to 'discovering the meaning' of art within the cultural context of its time. This is in perfect harmony with the museum's function, since the approach is dedicated to seeking out and conserving 'authentic', 'original' readings of the exhibits. Again, this seems to put paid to that spontaneous, participatory criticism which can be found in abundance in criticism of classic works of literature, but is absent from most art history.

The displays of art museums serve as a warning of what critical practices can emerge when spontaneous criticism is suppressed. The museum public, like any other audience, experience art more

rewardingly when given the confidence to express their views. If appropriate works of fine art could be rendered permanently accessible to the public by means of high fidelity reproductions, as literature and music already are, the public may feel somewhat less in awe of them. Unfortunately, that may be too much to ask from those who seek to maintain and control the art establishment.

1. The writer mentions London's National Gallery to illustrate

- A. The undesirable cost to a nation of maintaining a huge collection of art.
- B. The conflict that may arise in society between financial and artistic values.
- C. The negative effect a museum can have on visitors' opinions of themselves.
- D. The need to put individual well-being above large-scale artistic schemes.

2. The writer says that today, viewers may be unwilling to criticise a work because

- A. They lack the knowledge needed to support an opinion.
- B. They fear it may have financial implications.
- C. They have no real concept of the work's value.
- D. They feel their personal reaction is of no significance.

3. According to the writer, the 'displacement effect' on the visitor is caused by

- A. The variety of works on display and the way they are arranged.
- B. The impossibility of viewing particular works of art over a long period.
- C. The similar nature of the paintings and the lack of great works.
- D. The inappropriate nature of the individual works selected for exhibition.

4. The writer says that unlike other forms of art, a painting does not

- A. Involve direct contact with an audience.
- B. Require a specific location for a performance.
- C. Need the involvement of other professionals.
- D. Have a specific beginning or end.

5. Preserving the art historian's original interpretation of the exhibits in museums

- A. Makes the public admire them.
- B. Destroys spontaneous criticism.
- C. Encourages spontaneous criticism.
- D. Can be found in abundance in works of literature.

II. WRITING..... (40 points)

You recently visited a museum with your class. Your teacher has asked you to write a **report** on the museum assessing the positive and the negative aspects of it and making recommendations for any improvements. Write your **report** commenting on the facilities, the staff and the exhibits. **(220-250 words)**

10 points granted



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ- ETAPA LOCALĂ
CLASA a XI-a, SECȚIUNEA B
14 februarie, 2026

NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru - 3 ore

10 puncte din oficiu

SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet. (10 points)

A guidebook writer

He is five thousand metres up in the Peruvian Andes, with a view of magnificent scenery all around. Looking down at the snow-capped mountains (1) out below, Peter Hutchison can be (2) for thinking that he has the best job in the world. But the (3) required to keep it sometimes (4) him out. Some days his head (5), not from lack of oxygen but from the (6) of checking rooms in fifty different hotels. Peter is in charge of a team of writers working on a series of travel guidebooks. 'Each guidebook contains hundreds of thousands of facts,' he says. 'When I am on a research trip, I sometimes note down eighty points of (7) in one day. (8) to popular belief, being a travel writer is no holiday! So that others can get the most out of their trips, I have to (9)..... long hours.' After driving himself hard for a week, Peter rewards himself by taking a few days off to (10).....his own favourite leisure activities, which include scuba-diving and jungle treks. He has an amazingly comprehensive knowledge of South America. 'I'd love to live here permanently,' he says, 'but I have to return to London to chase up the other contributors and make sure the latest book doesn't fall behind schedule. It's due out in October and mustn't be late.'

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | A expanding | B spreading | C broadening | D lying |
| 2. | A mistaken | B tolerated | C spared | D forgiven |
| 3. | A force | B power | C effort | D attempt |
| 4. | A wears | B brings | C works | D bears |
| 5. | A turns | B spins | C winds | D twists |
| 6. | A strain | B affliction | C suffering | D distress |
| 7. | A interest | B attention | C value | D attraction |
| 8. | A Opposite | B Contrary | C Alternative | D Distinct |
| 9. | A put in | B take up | C make over | D get into |
| 10. | A perform | B pursue | C maintain | D attend |

II. Fill in each gap in the following text with only ONE word which fits the meaning of the text. (10 points)

The History of Money

There is no doubt that money, in the form that we know it today, (1) what keeps modern economic life functioning. Yet, throughout history, money, in whatever form, has provided people (2) the ability to buy and sell goods. Thousands of years ago, civilisations (3) to rely on the barter system as a way of exchanging goods. Within this system, a person had to exchange one thing for (4)..... . This meant that the two parties involved had to (5) an agreement as to what they thought their products were (6) Items such as wheat, tobacco and salt have all been used as money at one time or another. It was not (7) much later that humans came up with the idea of money in the

form of metal coins. So why did the barter system (8) to an end? The answer is simple. Coins were much easier to handle and carry around. (9) then, the use of coins has become widespread. It has made business simpler and has given countries an opportunity for development by (10) business with other countries further afield.

II. Read the sentences and use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in the gap. (10 points)

Recent (0)**discoveries** show that wine and beer drinking go back a long way. According to (1)....., the first people to make wine were Persians, at least 7,000 years ago. There is scientific (2)....., too, that the ancient Egyptians were drinking both wine and beer around 5000 BC.

Meanwhile, in more northerly parts of the world, where the (3)..... of grapes was impossible the favorite (4)..... drinks were either beer or kind of wine made from fruits such as cranberries. The first to mix cocktails, it would seem, were the Bronze Age (5)..... of Crete and mainland Greece. Studies of Minoan jars dating back to about 4000 BC clearly indicate that their (6)..... once included wine and in some cases the (7)..... of pine resin was detected. That is the ingredient which to this day is used to give Retsina wine its (8)..... flavor.

The ancient Greek were also, as (9)..... of cups and pots now show, adding fruit to their wine and drinking a (10)..... of wine and mead, which is made from honey.

- 0. DISCOVER
- 1. ARCHAEOLOGY
- 2. PROVE
- 3. CULTIVATE
- 4. ALCOHOL
- 5. INHABIT
- 6. CONTAIN
- 7. PRESENT
- 8. DISTINCT
- 9. ANALYSE
- 10. MIX

III. Complete the second sentence with THREE to SIX words using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (5x2=10 points)

1. It is widely believed that the company deliberately concealed the truth from the public.
AVOIDED
The company is widely believed the truth to the public.
2. It won't hurt to tell your boss how you feel.
LOSE
You have your boss how you feel.
3. There is little chance that the effects of the decision can be undone.
UNLIKELY
The effects of the decision undone.
4. Hardly had the new policy been introduced when strong opposition emerged.
HAD
No the new policy than strong opposition emerged.
5. Experts warn that ignoring the issue will only worsen the situation in the long run.
SERVE
Ignoring the issue will the situation worse in the long run, experts warn.

SUBIECTUL II – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. Read the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D (5 x 2p = 10 points)

Revolution in Time

Clocks and the making of the modern world

'I know what time is,' said Augustine in the sixth century, 'but if someone asks me, I cannot tell him.' Things have not changed very much since then. The learned man, physicist or philosopher, is not so sure he knows, but is ready to write volumes on the subject of his conjectures. The ordinary man couldn't care less. What matters to him is that he can measure time. If, like the vast majority of the world's people, he lives in a rural society, his time is measured for him by natural events: sunrise, high noon, sunset. He needs no more accurate division, for these are the events that demarcate his round of waking, working, sleeping. City dwellers measure time by the clock. Animals do not wake them; an alarm does. Their activities are punctuated by points on an abstract continuum, points designated as hours and minutes. If they have a job or class that starts, say, at nine o'clock, they try to get there *on time*. They have *appointments*, and these are fixed by points on the time scale. The world of social and personal interaction works only because the member units have learnt a common language of time measurement. Without this language and without general access to instruments accurate enough to provide uniform indications of location in time, urban life and civilisation, as we know it, would be impossible. Just about everything we do depends in some way on going and coming, meeting and parting.

Indications, of course, are not enough. Knowledge of the time must be combined with obedience – what social scientists like to call 'time discipline'. The indications are in effect commands, for responsiveness to these cues is imprinted on us and we ignore them at our peril. Punctuality is a virtue, lateness a sin, and repeated lateness may be grounds for dismissal. The sense of punctuality is inculcated very early, indeed from infancy. Parents may feed their babies on demand, but their own schedules inevitably impinge on the consciousness of their children. As soon as children understand language, they pick up such notions as mealtime and bedtime. A child whose parents live and work by the clock soon learns that time is the most inexorable of disciplinarians. It passes slowly for children; but it waits for no one. It compels the laggard to hurry, for what one member of the family does with time affects the others. One of the most powerful notions to shape a child's consciousness is that of being late or of missing – missing a party or missing a plane.

Most people operate within a margin of plus or minus several minutes. If they have a train to catch, they arrive a few minutes early; likewise for appointments. For this range of tolerance, it is sufficient to check one's timepiece by radio and television announcements given to the nearest minute. Only the most precise people will want to know the time to the nearest ten-second interval as given by the telephone or internet. For some, however, hours and minutes are not enough. Astronomers were the first to want to measure time in seconds and fractions of a second, well before instruments existed that could do so. It was not until the 1970s that timers calibrated in hundredths of seconds were used by officials at the Olympic Games. But the demands of sport are as nothing compared to those of some branches of science. When one enters the world of the physicist assigning times to subatomic events, one leaves hundredths and thousandths of seconds far behind. This is the world of microseconds and nanoseconds – units invented for scientific analysis.

The invention of the mechanical clock in medieval Europe was one of the great inventions in the history of humankind – not in the same class as fire and the wheel, but comparable to the advent of typesetting in its revolutionary implications for cultural values, technological change, social and political organisation, and personality. Why so important? After all, man had long known and used other kinds of timekeepers – sundials, water clocks, sand clocks – some of which were at least as

accurate as the early mechanical clocks. Wherein lay the novelty, and why was this device so much more influential than its predecessors?

The answer, briefly put, lay in its enormous technological potential. The mechanical clock was self-contained, and once horologists learned to drive it by means of a coiled spring, it could be miniaturised so as to be portable, whether in the household or on the person. It was this possibility of widespread private use that laid the basis for *time discipline*, as against *time obedience*. One can use public clocks to summon people for one purpose or another, but that is not punctuality. Punctuality comes from within, not from without. It is the mechanical clock that has made possible, for better or worse, a civilisation attentive to the passage of time, hence to productivity and performance.

1. What does the writer say about attempts to define the meaning of time?

- A. They have led to a strong sense of conviction in many people.
- B. It would require an educated person to do this successfully.
- C. There has been considerable progress made in this area.
- D. It is a matter of speculation with little relevance to most people.

2. In the second paragraph, the writer says that people respond to time pressures because

- A. it enables them to lead less complicated lives.
- B. failure to do so can have severe consequences.
- C. they enjoy the sense they get of being organised.
- D. it is part of human nature to obey commands.

3. The writer believes it is inevitable that young people

- A. resent the consequences of being late.
- B. try to alter the schedules forced on them.
- C. become conditioned in their attitude towards time.
- D. have a different approach to timekeeping from adults.

4. What overall point does the writer make about time measurement in the third paragraph?

- A. The majority of people trust the accuracy of their watches.
- B. The purpose of the measurement determines the scale used.
- C. Some instruments that measure time are of no practical use.
- D. Constantly checking the time is a compulsive form of behaviour.

5. What does the writer say about the invention of the mechanical clock?

- A. It was of equal significance to that of the printing press.
- B. It had an immediate and extensive impact on other inventions.
- C. It provided people with their first reliable means of telling the time.
- D. It led to greater technological change than the creation of the wheel.

IV. Writing (40 points)

You have been invited to contribute to a debate section in a student journal.

The topic is: “We Never Have Enough Time – Or Do We?”

Write an article:

- analysing why people often feel short of time,
- examining the role of choice and priorities,
- expressing your opinion on whether time pressure is real or imagined.

Write **220–250 words**.



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ- ETAPA LOCALĂ

CLASA a XII-a, SECȚIUNEA A

14 februarie 2026

NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru: 3 ore

Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet. (10 points)

You could be forgiven for (0).....D.....the Royal Opera House (ROH) more with the over-50s than with the under-15s. But if you did, then you might be surprised to learn that the ROH's education department reaches out every year to (1).....the young generation with opera. It is, however, safe to assume that opera can be an unfamiliar (2).....to most schoolchildren, and the first reaction (3).....by the ROH in the classroom is often bemusement. 'Children (4)..... positively as long as you introduce them to opera in the right way', explains Paul Reeve, the ROH's director of education. 'The older students can initially have an extreme negative reaction, but that (5)..... is a great challenge. We give those (6).....kids the opportunity to experience what it's like to be, say, a composer or a choreographer, and that shows them the skill that is (7)..... in the art forms.' One popular programme the ROH (8).....annually is *Write an Opera* and this year children from 28 UK schools will perform their work on stage in July. Teachers have found that while such a programme gives their pupils a greater (9).....of the arts, they have a broader effect, too. 'I don't think arts participation has an actual (10).....on developing people's creativity and self-esteem,' says Reeve, 'but the feedback we get is that participation in an opera project can have a hugely positive effect on children who have previously struggled elsewhere in their school life.'

0	A tying	B relating	C joining	D associating
1	A reveal	B keep	C engage	D maintain
2	A way	B medium	C channel	D means
3	A developed	B projected	C provided	D encountered
4	A respond	B manage	C answer	D learn
5	A refusal	B resistance	C indifference	D disillusionment
6	A ironic	B doubtful	C sceptical	D improbable
7	A requested	B contained	C involved	D included
8	A sets up	B runs out	C comes up	D takes up
9	A fascination	B impression	C information	D awareness
10	A restriction	B monopoly	C control	D design

II. Fill in each gap in the following text with only ONE word which fits the meaning of the text. (10 points)

Me and my brain

It is 1) ___ knowledge that significant changes occur in our bodies during adolescence; still, it goes without saying that the major ones involve our brains.

To paint a clearer picture, we should first get familiar with the different parts of the brain. Did you know, for instance, that our brains are made 2) _____ of around 100 billion nerve cells called neurons? And stemming 3) _____ these neurons there are several branch-like structures for sending and receiving electrical signals. Whenever we do or think anything, a signal is transmitted. The signal travels down a long structure called the axon and, at the end, it passes across tiny gaps called synapses to the dendrites of another neuron, which receive the signal. 4) _____ this way are messages sent across our neural network. Only when we grow up 5) _____ our brain structures change dramatically. 6) _____ newborn babies have almost all their neurons, they can't do very much because 7) _____ are thought to be few connections among the nerve cells. After a few months, 8) _____, the number of connections explodes, which in turn helps tiny tots master a whole range of new skills such as walking and talking. 9) _____ earlier myths that most brain development is completed in the first few years, we now know that our brains continue to develop throughout our lives and perhaps 10) _____ is during puberty the most dramatic change and development takes place.

III. Read the sentences and use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in the gap. (10 points)

Travel Delays

At one time, for the (0) majority of people needing to make the journey, the only way to travel from Europe to America was by ship, but the days of a leisurely 5-day (1) crossing in a large liner have long gone.	MAJOR
Today, everything is about speed, and long distance travel has become almost (2)..... the business of the airlines.	ATLANTIC
Although air travel is (3) fast, passengers are still subject to the (4)hold-ups which seem to be inherent in any form of travel, but people's reactions to such delays seem to be far more (5)..... than in the days of the great liners. Then, passengers might have shrugged their shoulders (6)..... and relaxed with a book in their cabins, knowing that little could be done about the situation, but today's traveller is more likely to make his (7)..... known forcibly to any official who is (8)enough to appear on the horizon.	EXCLUDE ADMIT EXPECT PREDICT
It is easy to see why this might be the case since airport lounges are clearly (9)equipped to cope with large numbers of stranded passengers. Small wonder that people's tempers begin to fray when faced with the prospect of a sleepless (10)stay in what is, after all, no more than a vast public hall.	RESIGN SATISFY FORTUNE ADEQUATE NIGHT

IV. Complete the second sentence with THREE to SIX words using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (10 points) –

1. What the lecturer said was not clear at times. **LACK**
Therein what the lecturer said at times.
2. The company avoids employing unqualified staff, unless there is no alternative. **RESORT**
Only as..... employ unqualified staff.
3. We have taken to going to the cinema on Fridays. **HABIT**
Wegoing to the cinema on Fridays.
4. Greg took a photography class because he wanted to become a photographer. **VIEW**
Greg took a photography class..... a photographer.
5. Don't let Sara's carefree attitude deceive you; she's an extremely conscientious worker. **TAKEN**
Don't let Sara's carefree attitude; she's an extremely conscientious worker.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS.....(50 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the right answer for each question. (5x2p = 10p)

Learning to LIVE

Where brainpower is concerned, the old edict of ‘use it or lose it’ holds true from the start. Babies who receive love and encouragement from their parents develop the neural connections they need to get on in life. But what happens to those who fail to get this support? Do they grow up to be less bright than their nurtured peers? It would be comforting to believe that deprived children escape long-term damage by being too young to speak, or know any different, but the evidence suggests otherwise.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Society of Medicine, medics were shown slides taken with a powerful scanner comparing the brains of ‘normal’ three-year-olds with those who had been raised in deprivation or in orphanages. The work was done by Dr Bruce Perry of the Child Trauma Academy in Houston, Texas. The scans showed that the frontal-temporal areas of the brain, those responsible for personality and enabling a person to display and regulate emotions, showed little activity.

For years scientists have known that animals reared in enriched environments have larger and more complex brains than animals that grow up in deprivation, so experts like Perry anticipated the same would hold true for humans. However, it is only now, thanks to powerful scanners that allow this theory to be put to the test, that the damage is clearly visible. Perry explains the reason for the abnormality is that the brain develops in a ‘use-dependent’ way, growing, organising and working according to experience. With the right stimulation, the brain makes the connections it needs. Without it, the synapses, junctions between the neurons used to transport the brain’s messages, literally dissolve.

‘Adverse experiences play a vital role in organising the neural system in the developing brain,’ says Perry; in other words, ill-treatment in infancy leads to faulty wiring in the brain. Significantly, the rate at which new synapses form is greatest in the first eight months of life.

Fortunately, different parts of the brain develop at varying pace, so damage may be confined to the parts that were actively organising at the time of stress or neglect. Perry describes these times as ‘windows of opportunity’ that exist for different brain functions. If the connections between neurons are not developed at the critical period, they may not develop at all. Synapses associated with vision are most active when a child is two to eight months old. A baby born with cataracts, removed at the age of two, will remain blind, as the window of opportunity has passed.

The frontal cortex, the part that deals with personality and emotions, organises itself at around eight months. With correct nurturing, the child learns to regulate emotions and becomes empathetic, recognising that other people are also thinking and feeling beings. But, because complex functions such as abstract thought are wired in the brain later in childhood, between the ages of 11 and 13, emotionally deprived children still score normally on IQ tests. ‘Children who do not get consistently attentive, loving care in the first year may still receive appropriate cognitive stimulation as they grow. Although these children have profound attachment problems, they are often very bright,’ says Perry.

Interaction between the child and its carers is vital to teach the brain to function normally. By playing with and talking to the child, the mother distracts the infant from a bombardment of competing noises. This communication trains a section of the brain to regulate emotions so the child is able to function day-to-day without being a hostage to impulses and feelings.

Just as the sections of the brain associated with ‘normal’ emotional regulation are under-stimulated in the deprived child, the areas linked to stress are often over-stimulated. ‘The result is a child who is hypersensitive to stress whose flight or fight mechanism is constantly active. This low-level but constant state of fear can lead to increased muscle tone, profound sleep disturbances and abnormalities in cardiovascular regulation,’ warns Perry.

Yet, despite the damage caused by stress and trauma in childhood, Perry, like most clinicians, is optimistic that intervention can help, as the cortex, the grey matter responsible for high level brain function, is malleable and capable of changing. He is supported in this belief by child psychiatrist Dr Dora Black,

founder of the Traumatic Stress Clinic in London, who works with severely traumatised children. She claims neurological evidence is available that shows that, although trauma can affect the speech area in the brain, this function can return if the child receives help early enough. 'Unfortunately,' admits Perry, 'what we do not know is how much deprivation is needed to prevent the recovery of normal expression of various emotional, cognitive or social skills.'

1 According to the report, recent evidence suggests that

- A babies do not respond to verbal communication.
- B babies who are orphaned will grow up to be less bright than those with parents.
- C babies' brains are not fully developed at birth.
- D babies deprived of love and care do not suffer any long term emotional damage.

2 Scientists were only recently able to prove the effects of emotional deprivation on children's brains with the aid of

- A research conducted on animals.
- B funding from the US government.
- C recently developed technology.
- D the Royal Society of Medicine.

3 The part of the brain that deals with vision

- A might never function properly if not activated before the age of eight months.
- B cannot be stimulated in a child born with cataracts.
- C relies on the number of synapses already developed.
- D depends on which other parts of the brain are already active.

4 Why can emotionally deprived children still score highly on IQ tests?

- A Because intelligence is genetic.
- B Because the part of the brain that deals with intelligence develops later in childhood.
- C Because they are more friendly than 'normal' children.
- D Because they are less emotional than 'normal' children.

5 Why is it important to interact with very young children?

- A To form a bond between the mother and child.
- B To teach the child to be competitive.
- C To teach the brain how to shut out unnecessary information.
- D To prevent the child from becoming over-sensitive.

II. WRITING..... (40 points)

You have read an article about how early emotional experiences influence brain development and long-term emotional, cognitive, and social functioning.

Write **an article** for a science or education magazine in which you explain how early emotional deprivation affects brain development; discuss why some abilities may be permanently affected while others can recover; and comment on the importance of early intervention and supportive environments for children. **(220-250 words)**

10 points granted



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ- ETAPA LOCALĂ
CLASA a XII-a, SECȚIUNEA B
14 februarie, 2026

NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru - 3 ore

10 puncte din oficiu

SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet. (10 points)

Exercise and Weight Loss

There are a number of myths about exercise and weight loss which should be 1) _____. One prevalent theory—that exercise inevitably leads to weight gain via increased caloric intake—is largely 2) _____ by recent findings. In 3) _____ fact, regular exercise helps to re-set the feeding control mechanism. Those who exercise regularly have a greater ability to accurately 4) _____ the amount of food they desire with the amount their body needs.

A second myth concerns the ability of exercise to 5) _____ excess food. Many mistakenly believe that you would have to work out all day to get rid of the pounds you need to lose. However, this argument fails to take into 6) _____ the regularity of exercise. Although only a small number of calories are used up with each 7) _____ of exercise, the cumulative effect is great because exercise speeds up the metabolic 8) _____ so that even when exercise 9) _____, energy will continue to be consumed.

Ultimately, the idea that physical activity is ineffective for weight management proves to be incorrect 10) _____ all counts, as it ignores both the psychological benefits of appetite control and the physiological advantages of an elevated metabolism.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 A removed | B dispelled | C discharged | D deleted |
| 2 A refuted | B blocked | C hindered | D withheld |
| 3 A actual | B real | C true | D current |
| 4 A check | B pair | C contrast | D match |
| 5 A wipe out | B root out | C burn off | D give up |
| 6 A consideration | B stock | C significance | D importance |
| 7 A match | B scheme | C bout | D game |
| 8 A gait | B tempo | C pace | D rate |
| 9 A will finish | B has finished | C was finished | D will have finished |
| 10 A for | B on | C with | D to |

II. Fill in each gap in the following text with only ONE word which fits the meaning of the text. (10 points)

Doing a gap year

Gap year is the (1)..... used to describe the year that some students take off before (2)..... to university. There are a variety of options (3)..... for people who are thinking of taking a gap year. One is to (4)..... the year travelling around the world. (5)..... possibility is to spend the year at home getting work experience. A third option is to do volunteer work, (6)..... at home or abroad. In 2003, Sam Cooke chose this option and travelled to Ecuador to provide tuition in basic literacy for underprivileged children. "It was a wonderful experience and it really helped me (7)..... mature". However, Sam warns (8)..... it's not for everyone. "Voluntary work is certainly not an easy option and before you go you should make (9)..... you are properly informed about the living conditions you will find there. Young people need to ask themselves if they'll be able to put (10)..... with these conditions for a whole year."

II. Read the sentences and use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in the gap. (10 points)

Innovation and its Discontents

The rapid advancement of technology has undeniably reshaped contemporary society, offering unprecedented opportunities for growth and connectivity. Nevertheless, this progress has fostered a heightened sense of (1) **(DEPEND)** _____, as individuals increasingly rely on digital tools to perform even the most basic tasks. Such reliance raises concerns about the long-term implications for human autonomy.

Equally troubling is the way information circulates in the digital age. False narratives spread with disturbing (2) **(EASY)** _____, exploiting the emotional reactions of users. Institutions tasked with ensuring accuracy often face serious (3) **(LIMIT)** _____, particularly when attempting to regulate content on a global scale. As a result, public discourse becomes fragmented and polarised.

In the professional sphere, employees are expected to demonstrate remarkable (4) **(FLEXIBLE)** _____ in response to ever-changing demands. While adaptability is valued, the absence of stability can generate profound (5) **(SECURE)** _____, affecting both productivity and mental well-being. This environment frequently leads to chronic stress rather than innovation.

Attempts to counteract these issues are not always successful. Policies that appear progressive on the surface often lack substance and fail to tackle (6) **(LIE)** _____ problems. Without meaningful reform, such initiatives remain largely (7) **(SYMBOL)** _____, serving more as public relations tools than genuine solutions.

Ultimately, the challenge lies in establishing a sustainable framework that reconciles technological ambition with ethical responsibility. Failure to do so may result in consequences that are both socially and morally (8) **(JUSTIFY)** _____. A more (9) **(THINK)** _____ approach to progress is therefore essential if society is to avoid outcomes that could prove permanently (10) **(DAMAGE)** _____.

IV. Complete the second sentence with THREE to SIX words using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (5x2=10 points)

1. The politician's speech failed to convince voters, despite its emotional appeal.

SHORT

The politician's speech voters, despite its emotional appeal.

2. James would only speak to the head of the department alone.

ON

James..... to the head of the department alone.

3. She was concentrating so hard on her work that she didn't notice when I came in.

WRAPPED

She was that she didn't notice when I came in.

4. I promised him that the situation would not be repeated in the future.

WORD

I be no repetition of the situation in the future.

5. I had to go to an expert and ask her to advise me.

SEEK

I was forced expert.

SUBIECTUL II – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

- I. Read the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D (5 x 2p = 10 points)**

Blacksmiths

Throughout the ages, iron has exerted a powerful pull on the human imagination, and the men who work it have often been regarded as much more than simple craftsmen. Before the Industrial Revolution, blacksmiths enjoyed the same status as doctors and astrologers, because they were the sole providers of weapons, armour and farming tools.

They have also been fêted as artists. Eighteenth-century smiths produced the wonderfully baroque ironwork for St Paul's Cathedral. The sinuous metal-work of French and Belgian Art Nouveau architecture was always the work of a talented blacksmith.

But practitioners of these ancient skills had become almost extinct in Britain by the late 1960s, for heavy industry had ceased to have any use for them, and tower-block architects rarely used anything as graceful and pleasing as a wrought-iron handrail.

Over the past 10 years, however, there has been something of a revival – thanks to greater interest in decorative architecture and a less conservative approach to interior design. Even so, much of the work looks surprisingly clichéd: manufacturers of gates and balconies still advertise their wares as 'classical' or 'Victorian-style'. You can't walk into a trendy design store without being assailed by rusty candlesticks with dangly bits.

Thankfully, alternatives exist and a series of events over the next few weeks aims to promote the blacksmith's craft. The first of these, an exhibition of forged ironwork by members of the British Artist Blacksmiths Association (BABA), opened last week at the Fire & Iron gallery in Leatherhead, Surrey.

Alan Dawson, the secretary of BABA, says: 'We could be at the start of a new Iron Age, because, in a sense, both the general public and blacksmiths have had their blinkers removed.' Power tools have liberated smiths from all that labouring over a hot anvil, and they can now bend, split, twist and spot-weld the metal with relative ease. 'In short,' says Dawson, 'these artists now have a material which allows them to express themselves.'

About 250 pieces have been produced for the show, ranging from bookends to a spiral staircase. Reserve prices start at £90 and climb well into four figures. Most of the money raised will go to individual makers, 'but a percentage of every sale will be retained by the Association for the promotion of good ironwork,' says Dawson.

His own contributions consist of an eight-foot gate, and a standard lamp topped with a mouth-blown glass shade.

'My style results from just allowing steel to bend and flow into shape when it's hot. It's a bit like drawing with metal in space,' he says.

Many of the artists admit to being fascinated by iron. Unlike most metals, which are relatively malleable when cold, iron and steel are a tougher, more demanding medium. Susan May, a jeweller by training, says, 'It's quite magical, because it's incredibly soft when it's hot, but as soon as it cools down, it becomes really rigid and immovable again.'

Ann Catrin Evans' mild steel door-knockers and handles seem to have been inspired by those bleak castles that are a stock feature of horror films. One of her designs is shaped like a ball and chain,

another like a Celtic cross. 'I love the fact that steel is cold and hard,' she says. 'And the way it feels as though it's there forever.'

No other base metal has given man as much visual pleasure, or a greater feeling of security. The chances of iron being used decoratively for the next thousand years are good, to say the least – as long as we don't have to look at any more rusty candlesticks, that is.

1 Interest in blacksmiths' work has revived because

- A they have developed a number of new skills.
- B people have started to want variety in design.
- C gates and balconies have come back into fashion.
- D they now produce better-quality products.

2 What is the aim of the BABA exhibition?

- A To demonstrate the modern blacksmith at work.
- B To encourage people to become blacksmiths.
- C To promote the tools available to blacksmiths.
- D To show what modern blacksmiths can produce.

3 Some of the profits from the show will be used

- A to start an association of blacksmiths.
- B to purchase good materials for blacksmiths to use.
- C to publicise high-quality goods made by blacksmiths.
- D to run training courses for blacksmiths.

4 Susan May likes using iron because

- A it is perfect for making jewellery.
- B it can easily be shaped when cold.
- C it is challenging to work with.
- D it becomes cool very quickly.

5 Which of the following statements best expresses the writer's view?

- A The art of decorative ironwork is likely to survive.
- B The revival of interest in blacksmiths will be short-lived.
- C Old-fashioned ironwork will come back into fashion.
- D Blacksmiths are unfortunately a thing of the past.

II. Writing (40 points)

Your local council plans to open a "Skills Hub" for the community. They are asking for proposals from residents.

Write a proposal in which you:

- suggest which practical skills should be taught (e.g. digital literacy, DIY, cooking, first aid)
- describe how courses should be organised
- explain how the project would benefit different age groups

Write **250–280 words**.