

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA LOCALĂ
IAȘI, 10 FEBRUARIE 2026
LIMBA ENGLEZĂ, CLASA A VIII-A

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 2 ore.

SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (25 points)

I.1 Read the following text and fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms. 10 points

I (1) _____ (**check**) my social media posts yesterday when I realised just how much sponsored content exists now. It (2) _____ (**seem**) like every other post was an advertisement. I usually scroll through my feed for hours every day, but lately, I (4) _____ (**feel**) that these marketing tricks (5) _____ (**become**) too aggressive.

If social media were less cluttered with ads, I (5) _____ (**enjoy**) using it much more. However, while I was looking at my phone, something (6) _____ (**catch**) my eye. It was a post from a small business that I (7) _____ (**never/ hear**) of before. It hadn't received many likes, but right now, the owner (8) _____ (**gain**) a lot of new followers because the products are so unique. I (9) _____ (**already/ click**) on their profile and I think I (10) _____ (**buy**) something from them again next week.

I.2 Read the text below and look carefully at each line. If the line is correct, write a tick (✓). If it has a word that should not be there, write the word. 10 points

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 00. In 1907, very valuable jewels were stolen from Dublin Castle in Ireland. They | ... ✓..... |
| 0. belonged within to a special group called the Order of St. Patrick. King William IV | ..within. |
| 1. had given for them to the group in 1831 for important ceremonies. When Sir Arthur | |
| 2. Vicars discovered they were missing, nobody could believe it. At first, even the | |
| 3. Scotland Yard thought the jewels were just "misplaced". | |
| 4. What that made the theft so extraordinary was the thieves' audacity in staging a | |
| 5. heist at Dublin Castle, one of the best guarded corners of the city. To steal the | |
| 6. jewels, the thieves had to walk past many of police officers without being seen. | |
| 7. Once inside the office, they found the jewels in a locked safe. Interestingly, the safe | |
| 8. was not been broken. This means they must have used a stolen or copied key to | |
| 9. unlock it easily. The thieves' ability to slip past security and unlock the safe raised | |
| 10. an important question: Was it possible that it had been an inside job? | |

I.3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in capital letters. 5 points

1. I didn't enjoy the live _____ as much as I expected. (**PERFORM**)
2. The _____ of the school play surprised everyone. (**LONG**)
3. The experiment is _____ if we follow the rules. (**HARM**)
4. Don't _____ her ability to solve difficult problems quickly. (**ESTIMATE**)
5. His comments were _____ to the main topic of the discussion.
(**RELEVANT**)

SUBIECTUL al II-lea – READING COMPREHENSION (25 points)

Read the text below and complete the tasks that follow

The "Digital Detox" Camp

Paragraph 1

Today, many teenagers spend a lot of time on their phones and computers. Some of them use screens for more than six hours a day. A new idea called the *Digital Detox camp* is becoming popular. At this camp, teenagers must leave their phones and tablets at the entrance. At first, many students are unhappy about this rule. The camp leaders say that being offline helps teenagers relax and feel better.

Paragraph 2

Without phones, students must find other things to do. At the camp, they take part in many outdoor activities like hiking, climbing, and playing team games. In the beginning, some teenagers feel bored. After a few days, most of them start to enjoy the activities. They feel proud when they learn something new and spend time outside.

Paragraph 3

Life at the camp changes the way teenagers talk to each other. At home, many young people sit together but look at their phones. At the camp, they must speak face to face. They play games, talk, and solve problems together. Many campers say they make real friends and feel closer to each other.

Paragraph 4

Experts say that too much screen time can be bad for teenagers. Phones and computers can make it hard to sleep and can cause stress. After one week at the camp, students sleep better and feel more relaxed. They can also pay more attention during activities.

Paragraph 5

When the camp ends, students go back home. The camp does not want teenagers to stop using technology completely. It teaches them how to use it in a healthy way. They learn simple rules, like not using phones before sleep. The aim is to help them have a better balance between online and real life.

II.1. Choose the most suitable heading from the list (A-G) for each part (1-5). There are two extra headings which you do not need to use. 10 points

- A. Strengthening human connections
- B. The physical and mental recovery
- C. Why technology is essential for learning
- D. Introduction to a phone-free lifestyle
- E. Finding fun in the great outdoors
- F. The difficulty of making new friends
- G. Preparing for life after camp

II.2. For questions 1-5, choose the answer A, B, C, or D which you think fits best according to the text. 15 points

1. What is the primary goal of the Digital Detox camps mentioned in Paragraph 1?

- A. To teach teenagers how to use the latest apps.
- B. To help young people reconnect with reality and improve health.

- C. To punish students for spending too much time on TikTok.
- D. To provide a cheap alternative to traditional summer camps.

2. How do campers typically react at the beginning of the program?

- A. They are immediately excited about the activities.
- B. They find it easy to forget about their phones.
- C. They feel bored and unhappy for the first few days.
- D. They spend their time trying to find hidden Wi Fi signals.

3. According to Paragraph 3, what is different about friendships at the camp?

- A. They are based on how many photos they take together.
- B. They are formed through face-to-face communication.
- C. They are harder to maintain than online friendships.
- D. They only last for the duration of the two-week camp.

4. What biological change is observed in the students after one week?

- A. They become more anxious without their notifications.
- B. They require less sleep because they are more active.
- C. Their ability to focus and their sleep quality improve.
- D. They lose interest in physical exercise.

5. What does the author suggest is the "true success" of the camp?

- A. Deleting all social media accounts forever.
- B. Learning how to manage technology use in everyday life.
- C. Winning the competitions during the rock climbing sessions.
- D. Convincing parents to buy them better camping gear.

SUBIECTUL al III-lea – WRITING (40 points)

Write a narrative essay ending like this:

"I stood there in silence for a moment, realizing that this was a lesson I would never find in a textbook."

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** (paragraph(s) 2/3 – develop the story)
 3. **Conclusion** (paragraph 4 – end the story).

Do not count the words given.