

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ
13 FEBRUARIE 2025**

CLASA a X-a

SECȚIUNEA A

SUBIECTUL A –USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the following text and put the verbs in brackets into the correct form. 10 points

Some sociologists (1) (to claim) that a society's attitude towards people who are physically or mentally handicapped (2) (to show) how advanced it (3) (to be). Throughout some periods in history these people (4) (to regard) as monsters, or as works of the devil; they (5) (to kill) or put into asylums like lunatics or dangerous criminals. A couple who (6) (to have) a disabled child (7) (to feel) that God (8) (to punish) them. It is only very recently that people (9) (to understand) that physical afflictions, even of the extreme sort suffered by some spastics, for example, (10) (not to necessarily mean) that the person is mentally abnormal.

II. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence printed before it: 10 points

1. The police allege that the incident took place in the car park at midnight.
The incident ...
2. I'm so glad you passed your test. Well done!" said Jimmy's father.
Jimmy's father congratulated ...
3. They told me at least four times how to observe the instructions, and I still didn't understand.
Not even after ...
4. We'll finish the rehearsal first, then we'll answer your questions.
Once ...
5. The terrorists demanded the release of two prisoners and a huge amount of money.
Not only ...
6. Please don't tell her what we have just discussed.
I'd rather ...
7. I certainly like going to the cinema, but a five-hour movie is a bit too long.
Much ...
8. The only things that helped us survive were the packets of canned food.
But for ...
9. She wouldn't resign, so she was sacked.
Her ...
10. His working extra hours yesterday evening turned out to be completely unnecessary.
He ...

III. Choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence: 10 points

1. The hotel room over a beautiful garden.
a. viewed out b. faced up c. opened up d. looked out
2. We didn't to the station in time to catch the train.
a. get b. reach c. arrive d. make
3. Jen lost her case because it did not have a/an with her name on.
a. ticket b. poster c. label d. identification
4. On the first day of our holiday we just
a. enjoyed b. calmed c. comforted d. relaxed
5. The wind was blowing so much that we couldn't our tent.
a. raise b. put up c. make up d. build
6. I fell over while skiing and my sister had to a doctor.
a. bring b. take c. fetch d. carry
7. The swimmers forward as they waited to begin the race.
a. fell b. crawled c. rolled d. leaned
8. David was trying to another cyclist when he crashed.
a. overpass b. overcome c. overtake d. overcharge
9. When I was hiking in the mountain I on a snake.
a. tripped d. stepped c. surprised d. carried
10. Those trousers are far too big. Why don't you have them
a. taken in b. let out c. taken up d. let in

IV. Translate into English:

10 points

Am fost scriitor profesionist aproape de-a lungul întregii mele perioade de maturitate și scriu romane științifico-fantastice de cel puțin douăzeci de ani. Numele meu adevărat este John Burke dar folosesc pseudonimul literar "Al Thor" deoarece consider că un romancier trebuie să aibă un nume mai interesant decât acela de Burke. Pe vremuri îmi venea greu să scriu manuscrise pentru editori. Mâzgăleam mai întâi câteva idei pe un caiet, apoi scriam o primă variantă la mașina de scris. Asta până de curând, când am descoperit calculatorul, ceea ce mi-a schimbat pentru totdeauna modul de a-mi scrie romanele.

Subiectul B INTEGRATED SKILLS

(60 points)

Read the following text and do the tasks.

A new study published in the journal Science shows definitive evidence of organic matter on the surface of Mars. The data was collected by NASA's nuclear-powered rover Curiosity. It confirms earlier findings that the Red Planet once contained carbon-based compounds. These compounds – also called organic molecules – are essential ingredients for life as scientists understand it. The organic molecules were found in Mars's Gale Crater, a large area that may have been a watery lake over three billion years ago. The rover encountered traces of the molecule in rocks extracted from the area. The rocks also contain sulfur, which

scientists speculate helped preserve the organics even when the rocks were exposed to the harsh radiation on the surface of the planet. Scientists are quick to state that the presence of these organic molecules is not sufficient evidence for ancient life on Mars, as the molecules could have been formed by non-living processes. But it's still one of the most astonishing discoveries, which could lead to future revelations. Especially when one considers the other startling find that Curiosity uncovered around five years ago. The rover analyses the air around it periodically, and in 2014 it found the air contained another of the most basic organic molecules and a key ingredient of natural gas: methane.

One of the characteristics of methane is that it only survives a few hundred years. This means that something, somewhere on Mars, is replenishing the supply. According to NASA, Mars emits thousands of tons of methane at a time. The level of methane rises and falls at seasonal intervals in the year, almost as if the planet is breathing it. NASA suspects the methane comes from deep under the surface of the planet. The variations in temperature on the surface of Mars cause the molecule to flow upwards at higher or lower levels. For example, in the Martian winter the gas could get trapped in underground icy crystals. These crystals, called clathrates, melt in the summer and release the gas. However, the source of the methane is still a complete mystery. The world of astrobiology considers both of these studies as historical milestones.

According to this information, Mars is not a dead planet. On the contrary, it is quite active and may be changing and becoming more habitable. Of course, this means further research is necessary. Scientists say they need to send new equipment to Mars, equipment that can measure the air and soil with more precision. There are already missions underway. The European Space Agency's ExoMars ship lands in 2020 and will be able to drill into the ground on Mars to analyse what it finds.

Additionally, © 2019 British Council www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish NASA is sending another Mars rover in the same year to collect samples of Martian soil and return them to Earth. The possibility of life on Mars has fascinated humans for generations. It has been the subject of endless science-fiction novels and films. Are we alone in the universe or have there been other life forms within our Solar System? If the current missions to the Red Planet continue, it looks as if we may discover the answer very soon.

I. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

10 points

1. The study in the journal Science was written by NASA scientists.
2. This is not the first study to suggest that life existed on Mars in the past.
3. A scientific vehicle found very small elements of an organic molecule within water extracted from the planet.
4. It is believed that this conclusively proves that there was once life on the planet.
5. Methane is a natural molecule that is a sign of life.
6. All organic molecules have a limited lifespan.
7. Mars can be said to have a winter and a summer.
8. There are at least two more scientific expeditions heading to Mars.
9. Mars is a dead planet.
10. There is life on other planets of our Solar System.

II. Have you seen a *science fiction* film recently that you loved or hated? Write a review mentioning specific elements of the film which caught your attention, like acting, visual effects or storyline. (200-220 words)

50 points

TOTAL

100 POINTS

**NOTĂ: TOATE SUBIECTELE SUNT OBLIGATORII.
TIMPUL DE LUCRU ESTE DE 3h.
NU SE ACORDĂ PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.**



