

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALA- 8 FEBRUARIE 2025
CLASA A VII A

VARIANTA 1

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Timp de lucru : 2 ore . Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL I *Read the text and choose the correct answer: (25 points)*

I never expected to spend some of my first year at university filming *The Finnegans*. I'd only ever acted at school, but I'd loved the book since I was eleven. My grandmother used to say I was just like Polly Finnegan and I always imagined myself playing her.

I'd taken a year off to go travelling before university. While I was in Chile, my mother emailed me to say there were plans to turn the book into a TV drama. I knew I had to go for the part. She was surprised at first but sent my photograph to the director and persuaded him to meet me. I flew back and got the part.

The outdoor filming started a week into term, so I got permission from the university to be away for three weeks. Once I was back at university, I got up at 6.00 am to write the essays I'd missed. I didn't tell my university friends, but they found out and thought it was great.

It was an amazing experience - I'm so lucky. After university, I definitely want to make acting my career. I'm not from an acting family, though my grandfather was an opera singer. I've tried for other TV parts but haven't received any offers yet.

I don't know how I managed it all, because I had a full social life too. When filming finished, I hardly knew what to do. I've since appeared in two college plays. Unfortunately, I haven't been home much and now my first year at university is over, I'm off to Greece for the summer with friends.

1. In this text, Caroline Benson is

- A. advising students to finish studying before taking up acting.
- B. describing how pleased she was about this opportunity to act.
- C. warning other young people that acting is a difficult career.
- D. explaining why she has always wanted to be an actor.

2. Why did Caroline decide to try for a part in *The Finnegans*?

- A. She thought the book would make a great TV drama.
- B. She agreed with her grandmother that she should apply.
- C. She felt she was perfect for the part of Polly.
- D. She was anxious about starting university.

3. What does Caroline say about her mother?

- A. She encouraged Caroline to keep travelling.
- B. She felt Caroline would be a good actor.
- C. She was sorry she had emailed Caroline.
- D. She helped Caroline to get the part.

4 How did Caroline manage to find time to do the filming?

- A. She missed lectures and hoped nobody would notice.
- B. She delayed going to university until filming was over.
- C. She took time off and did her college work later.
- D. She asked her friends to help with her essays.

5. Which of the following would Caroline write to a pen friend?

- A. I'm going to continue with my studies, but hope to have the opportunity to do another TV programme soon.
- B. Now I've finished both the filming and my first year at university, I plan to spend more time with my family.
- C. I enjoyed filming the TV drama but I've missed having a social life-I don't know what to do at weekends.
- D. Acting is more difficult than I'd expected, but I've learned a lot from other members of my family who work in the business.

SUBIECTUL II Use the words in capitals to form words that fit in the blank spaces: (20 points)

Doctors say a glass of warm milk before bedtime can result in a more.....night's sleep. REST
Tomtold us he wasn't coming, then he turns up with two guests! I'm furious with him. INITIAL
Teaching and medicine are more than....., they are professions. OCCUPY
I was surprised at histo give up. REFUSE
Extraterrestrial life has not beenproved yet. SCIENCE
We need yourat the bottom of the page. SIGN
The fans wavedat the film star as she stepped out of the limousine. EXCITE
Matt is very..... He wants to be number one at everything. COMPETE
You can relax in the comfortableof the hotel. SURROUND
It'sarguing with them. They are not going to change their mind. POINT

SUBIECTUL III Put the verbs in brackets in the right tense. (10 points)

- 1 I really (enjoy) myself at the moment.
- 2 I (clean) all morning. I'm fed up.
- 3 Jane (already type) 10 pages when her computer crashed.
- 4 This time next month I (travel) to London.
- 5 I (buy) that shirt in Malaga.
- 6 How long ago (be) it that you lived in Inverness?
- 7 Mary (work) as an accountant for three years, between 2021 and 2024.
- 8 I'll give you a call after I (arrive) at the office.
- 9 When he (not arrive) by 6 o'clock, I knew he had lost the bus.
- 10 It's the first time I (eat) Chinese food.

SUBIECTUL IV Read the text below and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each space. 20 points

Tom Cruise is one of the most successful actors in cinema history. However, life hasn't always been that easy for him. As a young boy, Tom was shy and had (1)in finding friends, although he really enjoyed (2)part in school plays. (3)he had finished High School, Tom went to New York to look for work. He found employment as a porter, and at the same time he (4)drama classes. In 1980, the film director Franco Zeffirelli (5)Tom his first part in a film. Ten years later, he had become (6)successful that he was one of the highest-paid actors in Hollywood, (7)millions of dollars for (8).....film. Today, Tom (9)appears in films and is as (10)as ever with his thousands of fans from all around the world.

1. A worry B problem C fear D difficulty
2. A making B holding C taking D finding
3. A While B During C After D Until
4. A prepared B waited C attended D happened
5. A suggested B offered C tried D advised
6. A so B such C too D very
7. A paying B earning C winning D reaching
8. A another B all C each D some
9. A yet B ever C already D still
10. A popular B favourite C preferred D approved

SUBIECTUL V Write a story which begins with the following words: "As our eyes met across the busy café tables, I was struck with the feeling that I already knew her...." Write your story in about 150 words. Give your story a suitable title. (25 points)

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ- 8 FEBRUARIE 2025
CLASA A VIII A

VARIANTA 1

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Timp de lucru: 2 ore. Nu se acorda puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL I *Read the text and choose the correct answer: (25 points)*

Gareth Ellis, 13, is the youngest son of Alan, an engineer, and Kath, a nursery teacher. His older brothers work in banking and computers, but Gareth's dream was always to become a clown. Three years ago, Alan, Kath and Gareth joined the circus. 'People laugh when we tell them,' says Kath. 'But it's true. Gareth has wanted to be a clown since we took him to the circus when he was three.'

When Alan lost his job, he and Kath decided to see if they could find full-time circus jobs. They both got jobs with a famous circus and Gareth began training to become a clown. He calls himself Bippo. They travel with the circus during the summer and return home for the winter. Gareth's brothers are old enough to look after the house while they are away.

'I can't say it was easy,' says Kath. 'There was a lot to think about and organize. We only had a car and a very small caravan to sleep in, and we were leaving behind our lovely house. The only thing Gareth missed was his long, hot baths.'

'People ask about my education,' says Gareth, but from the beginning, wherever we go, someone has always come to teach me. I follow the same books as everyone back at school and I've got a computer. I've never fallen behind my classmates.'

And the future? 'It was a difficult decision,' says Kath, 'but there was no other way to teach Gareth about being a clown. I'm happy to say it's working, and we're enjoying it.' And Gareth? 'I'm going to be the main clown in a circus one day', he says, 'perhaps Bippo's circus.'

1. What is the writer trying to do in the text?

- A. describe how one family changed their lives
- B. give details about how to join the circus
- C. talk about the best way to educate a child
- D. advise what to do when you lose your job

2. What would a reader learn about Gareth from the text?

- A. He does not enjoy school work.
- B. He has a definite aim in life.
- C. He would like to be at home with his brothers.
- D. He wants to be the same as other boys.

3. Alan and Kath joined the circus because

- A. they wanted to spend time travelling in the summer.
- B. they needed money in order to buy a bigger car.
- C. their older sons needed their house for themselves.
- D. their youngest son wanted to train as a performer.

4. When they first joined the circus, Kath

- A. wanted to go back home.
- B. did not have enough to do.
- C. found things difficult.
- D. was not able to sleep properly.

5. Which postcard did Gareth write just after he joined the circus?

- A. We've just arrived and I love it already. There's lots of space for our things and I've even got my own computer.
- B. I don't miss much from home. I'm managing to do all my school work. See you in the winter.
- C. I really enjoyed meeting Bippo the Clown today, but I'm missing my school friends, and I'd love a nice hot bath.
- D. I'm learning all about the circus and how to entertain people. I also have a new school to go to.

SUBIECTUL II Fill in the correct words from the list below the text. (20 points)

Tourism in Wales

It is estimated that in north Wales 30 per cent of all jobs can be directly attributed to tourism, but the fact visitors spend their money in a (1) of ways has a beneficial effect on other things too. Many village shops would have to close if they were not supported by (2) from tourists, and the money spent on local souvenirs can (3) local industries from going out of business.

(4), tourism also has disadvantages. For example, many of the roads in the Snowdonia area are extremely (5) and tourist cars cause traffic jams. Some farmers and local merchants (6) that they make it difficult for them to do their work as car parks full up during (7) periods and many visitors cause obstructions by parking across gateways. In addition, in the summer, thousands of people use the (8) of footpaths across Snowdon and its foothills. Often the grassy (9) is worn away, leaving rough stone or mud. This makes the path hard to see, and it can be dangerous to walk on. Repairing the paths can be very expensive, particularly higher up where (10) is difficult.

1. a selection b choice c variety d difference
2. a fortune b income c wages d wealth
3. a prevent b damage c avoid d hurt
4. a luckily b finally c generally d unfortunately
5. a thin b narrow c slim d slender
6. a decide b explain c complain d choose
7. a busy b important c economic d tiring
8. a connection b organization c union d network
9. a level b surface c height d exterior
10. a admission b entry c permission d access

SUBIECTUL III Put the verbs in brackets in the right tense. (10 points)

- 1 I never use my mobile phone if I (drive).
- 2 I applied but they (not send) me a reply yet.
- 3 I glanced quickly at the letter while I (wait) for my boss's return.
- 4 I (see never) such a good film before.
- 5 He will give you a helping hand if you (ask) him nicely.
- 6 By August, I (live) in this house for 20 years.
- 7 This time next week I (lie) on the beach enjoying the sun.
- 8 Lately your work (improve).
- 9 This is the second time in my life I (visit) Hungary.
- 10 What's the matter? (you hurt) your ankle? How did you do it?

SUBIECTUL IV Find and correct the mistakes in the following sentences. Rewrite the sentences correctly. (20 points)

1. If I would have known you would be upset, I wouldn't have told you.
2. Supposing your father will find out – what on earth will you do?
3. Even I'm too busy now, perhaps we could meet soon.
4. Are you hearing the same hollow sound now?
5. I am holy on your side.
6. He raised from his armchair with difficulty.
7. I think I need to wear glasses; I must test my eyes.
8. We were flying highly above the clouds.
9. Unfortunately, the money he had in his wallet were not enough to pay for the bus fare.
10. We won't worry as far as we know where you are.

SUBIECTUL V. In about 180 words, write a story ending like this: "Had I known, I wouldn't have believed him." (25 points)

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ - ETAPA LOCALĂ

08.02.2025

CLASA a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA A

VARIANTA 1

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH

40 points

I. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form:

(10x 1 p=10 points)

I went to the doctor's yesterday. I (1)..... (have to) wait for an hour before he (2) (can) see me. "I (3) (go) abroad next week. But I (4)..... (have) a pain for two days. (5) (you/think) I'll be well enough to go?" " After I (6) (examine) you, I'll be able to tell you," the doctor said. "I (7) (work) in the garden when I suddenly felt the pain," I told the doctor. "If I (8) (stop) immediately, it would have been all right, I suppose. But I hardly ever (9)(get) any exercise in my job so I went on (10) (work)." After examining me carefully, the doctor said: "You must have hurt a bone in your back."

II. Use the word given in capital letters to form a word that fits in each space:
(points)

(10 x 1 p= 10 points)

Robin Hood: fact or fiction?

The (1) of a secret tunnel beneath a Nottingham museum could prove that one of history's most famous legends was a flesh-and-blood (2) The tunnel may have been used by Robin Hood to escape from the Sheriff of Nottingham to the (3) of Sherwood Forest. For centuries, (4) have questioned the (5) of Robin, dismissing him as a romanticized figure who (6) the hopes of the poor in their struggle against the rich. The (7) unearthing of the passageway by archaeologists excavating some man-made caves may cause them to (8) their views. The tunnel is blocked, so its exact length is (9), though it could stretch for three miles, from St Mary's Church to the city's outskirts. According to medieval documents, Robin and his men (10) disappeared from the church after being surrounded there by the Sheriff's soldiers.

1. DISCOVER 2. REAL 3. SAFE 4. HISTORY 5. EXIST 6. SYMBOL 7. ACCIDENT 8. THINK 9. KNOW
10. MYSTERY

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only *one word* in each space. (10 x 1 p=10 points)

Do you know when and (1) the next Olympic Games will be held? The Olympic Games (2) place (3) fourth year. Amateur athletes and sportsmen and women (4) more than sixty different nations gather at these Games to compete against each (5) for the honour of their country. The Games are named after the town of Olympia in Greece where they were(6) held long ago before Christ was born, and the Greeks have a story (7) how the Games began. In those far off days, the tribes of Greece used to spend much of their time fighting one another. This continual quarrelling between men of different villages and cities worried those (8) loved peace, among whom was a man called Iphitos. Now Iphitos was (9) concerned about this wasteful strife that he went to the gods and asked them what he could do to keep his friends and neighbours (10) making war on one another.

IV. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the word given in brackets.

You must use between two and five words. Do not change the word given.

(5 x 2 p= 10 points)

- It's such a pity I didn't see that film on television last night. (seen)
I that film on television last night.
- I am sure Chris has forgotten about the meeting. (have)

- Chris about the meeting.
3. It was so hot that she fainted. (**if**)
She..... it hadn't been so hot.
 4. Either Henry or John could win the race. (**likely**)
I think Henry to win the race.
 5. We are really happy that we will see Martha at the weekend. (**forward**)
We are really..... Martha at the weekend.

SUBJECTUL B - INTEGRATED SKILLS 60 points

I. Read the text below. For questions 1 to 5, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

(5 x 2 p= 10 points)

A varied career

Chloe Kelling, a successful model and singer-songwriter, now has a new venture.

I arrive for my interview with Chloe Kelling and I'm asked to wait in the garden. I hardly have time to start looking round at the carefully tended flowerbeds when Chloe appears. Every bit as tall and striking as I'd expected. Chloe emerges from the house wearing an oversized man's jacket, a delicately patterned top and jeans. Chloe is known for her slightly quirky sense of fashion and, of course, she looks great as she makes her way towards me through the flowerbeds.

'Let's talk in my office,' she says, leading the way not back to the house, but instead to an ancient caravan parked up next to it. As we climb inside the compact little van, the smell of fresh baking greets us. A tiny table is piled high with cupcakes, each iced in a different colour. Chloe's been busy, and there's a real sense of playing tea parties in a secret den! But what else should I have expected from a woman with such a varied and interesting career?

Chloe originally trained as a make-up artist, having left her home in the country at nineteen to try and make her name as a model in London, and soon got work in adverts and the fashion business. 'I went to Japan to work for a short period, but felt very homesick at first,' she recalls. 'It was very demanding work and, though I met loads of nice people, it was too much to take in at nineteen. If I'd stayed longer, I might have settled in better.'

Alongside the modelling, Chloe was also beginning to make contacts in the music business. 'I'd been the typical kid, singing with a hairbrush in front of the mirror, dreaming of being a star one day,' she laughs. She joined a girl band which 'broke up before we got anywhere', before becoming the lead singer with the band Whoosh, which features on a best-selling clubbing album. Unusually though, Chloe also sings with two other bands, one based in Sweden and another in London, and each of these has a distinct style.

It was her work with Whoosh that originally led to Chloe's link with Sweden. She was offered a song-writing job there with a team that was responsible for songs for some major stars, but gradually became more involved in writing music for her own band.

Although she now divides her time between London and Sweden, her first stay there turned out to be much longer than she'd bargained for. 'The rooms are very tall over there and so people have these rather high beds that you climb up to,' she explains. 'I fell as I climbed up the ladder and cracked three ribs. Although the people at the hospital were very kind, I was stuck there for a while, which was very frustrating. Sneezing and laughing were so painful at first, let alone singing!'

It was while recovering from her injuries that Chloe hit upon the idea of staging what she calls vintage fairs. 'It was snowing in Sweden and I wanted something nice to look forward to.' Chloe had always loved vintage clothes, particularly from the 1950s, and decided to stage an event for others who shared her passion. The first fair was held in her home village and featured stalls selling all sorts of clothes and crafts dating back to the 1950s. It was a huge hit, with 300 people turning up.

'When I had the idea of the first fair, it was only meant to be a one-off, but we had so many compliments, I decided to go ahead with more,' says Chloe. 'There's something for all ages and people find old things have more character than stuff you buy in modern shops. It also fits perfectly with the idea of recycling.' Looking round Chloe's caravan, I can see what she means.

1. In the first paragraph, the writer suggests that Chloe
 - A. usually keeps people waiting.
 - B. is much taller than he expected.
 - C. lives up to her stylish reputation.
 - D. is surprisingly interested in flowers.
2. What does Chloe say about her trip to Japan?
 - A. She soon got used to her life there.
 - B. She felt lonely most of the time there.
 - C. She wishes she'd done the work better.
 - D. She wasn't old enough to appreciate it fully.
3. In the fourth paragraph, we find out that Chloe
 - A. gave up modelling to become a singer.
 - B. had always had ambitions to be a singer.
 - C. has now left the first successful band she joined.
 - D. sings in three bands that have a very similar sound.
4. Chloe ended up in hospital in Sweden after
 - A. breaking a rib whilst trying to move her bed.
 - B. hurting her leg in a fall from her bed.
 - C. falling off a ladder in her bedroom.
 - D. tripping over in her room at night.
5. What does Chloe say about her 'vintage fairs'?
 - A. Her main aim is to raise awareness of environmental issues.
 - B. She has responded to positive feedback from customers.
 - C. Certain shops are now showing interest in the idea.
 - D. They are mostly popular with older people.

- II. You have just read the interview and you are impressed by Chloe's career. Now she is organising a new vintage fair in your town and has placed this advertisement in a local newspaper:

Volunteers needed

We are looking for volunteers to help out at a famous international vintage fair. We're looking for self-starters, friendly, respectful students, with good language skills, team skills and a "can-do attitude". We need students to welcome guests, provide customer service and solve problems.

If you are interested, apply now!

Write your letter of application. (120-180 words)

50 points

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBĂ ENGLEZĂ

ETAPA LOCALĂ, 08.02.2025

CLASA a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA B

VARIANTA 1

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A

USE OF ENGLISH

40 points

I Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (20 points)

The Wonders of Science

Since 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope has been orbiting Earth and providing scientists with unique views of the Universe. In that time, it **has beamed** hundreds of thousands of images back to Earth and has revolutionized astronomy by helping researchers to make important discoveries about deep space and the Universe. Thanks to Hubble, we now know that the Universe is about 13 to 14 billion years old.

The idea of an orbiting telescope was first put forward by astronomer Lyman Spitzer in 1946. Spitzer pointed out that the Earth's atmosphere **distorts** light coming from stars, making it difficult for even the most precise telescopes on the ground to receive clear images. However, a telescope in orbit above the Earth's atmosphere would not be faced with the same problem. NASA agreed and, in the 1960s, with the help of rocket scientists, astrophysicists, and millions of dollars, the project to build a space telescope **took off** in earnest. Though the initial idea was Spitzer's, the telescope was actually named after Edwin P. Hubble, the astronomer who, in the 1920s, proved that our galaxy, the Milky Way, was not the only one in the Universe.

The telescope orbits the Earth every 96 minutes. It travels at a speed of 8 km per second, 569 km above the Earth's surface. It is fast enough to travel across the United States in about 10 minutes. Although it is regularly serviced, some time after 2013, Hubble will eventually degrade, stop working, and crash back to Earth. Its successor, the James Webb Space Telescope, has already been developed.

A. Answer the following questions (4 x 2p=8 points)

1. How has the Hubble Space Telescope contributed to our understanding of the Universe?
2. Who first proposed the idea of an orbiting telescope and in what year?
3. Why was an orbiting telescope considered a better option compared to ground-based telescopes?
4. What will probably happen in a few years?

B. Choose the right contextual synonym. (3 x 2 p=6 points)

1. **HAS BEAMED** a) has thrown b) has shone c) has transmitted d) has scattered
2. **DISTORTS** a) clarifies b) twists c) strengthens d) maintains
3. **TOOK OFF** a) landed b) became successful c) remained d) rose

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning of the sentences given.

(3x2p=6 points)

1. Thanks to Hubble we now know that the Universe is about 13 to 14 billion years old.
If it hadn't been for Hubble that the Universe is about 13 to 14 billion years old.
2. The idea of an orbiting telescope was first put forward by astronomer Lyman Spitzer in 1946.
..... who first put forward the idea of an orbiting telescope in 1946.
3. Its successor, The James Webb Space Telescope, has already been developed.
They its successor, The James Webb Space Telescope.

II Use the word given in capitals to form a new word that fits in each gap. (10 x1p=10 points)

A Book of World Records

One of the most fascinating (1) ____ (REFER) books you can read is *Guinness World Records*. It contains a (2) ____ (COLLECT) of facts and figures about incredible human achievement. It is also full of statistics concerning (3) ____ (IMPRESS) natural features such as the world's highest mountains. But it is more than just a (4) ____ (RELY) source of amazing facts. The organization that produces the book is also now responsible for checking the (5) ____ (TRUE) and (6) ____ (ACCURATE) of every new world record.

It all started in 1951 when Hugh Beaver, the managing director of a large British company, got into an (7) ____ (ARGUE) about which bird was the fastest in the world, and found that none of the books in his library were (8) ____ (HELP) in giving him the answer. He hired researchers to produce a book that could answer such questions. It sold quickly and became a huge (9) ____ (COMMERCE) success.

In recent years, the book has increasingly focused on records set during (10) ____ (CONVENTIONAL) competitions, such as sword swallowing.

III Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap. (10x 1p=10 points)

Holidays with Friends

I always (1) ____ to go to Porchester (2) ____ my summer holidays. It is a quiet little town, full of old and interesting buildings. Very (3) ____ visitors ever go there, so there are no crowds. I enjoyed its sleepy atmosphere. I work in a big city, so a holiday in Porchester was a complete change (4) ____ my usual life. Besides, I found (5) ____ about the history of the place. I wanted to learn how life used to be in Porchester – the stories of its people and buildings. I made notes on all these things during my holidays and I soon knew (6) ____ about the history of Porchester than most of the people (7) ____ lived there. I am not a rich man and I cannot afford to stay in hotels. (8) ____ Jack Thompson heard that I wanted to spend my holidays in Porchester again all these years later, he invited me to stay with (9) ____ . Jack and I were in the army (10) ____ during the war and we were good friends.

SUBIECTUL B-INTEGRATED SKILLS

60 points

I Read the text below. For questions 1 to 5, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (5x2p=10 points)

Land of Fire and Ice

Iceland is Europe's most westerly country, with the most northerly capital city in the world. It is my first trip to this land of fire and ice and it is with great excitement that I board the plane in London for my trip out to the wilds of the North Atlantic Ocean. In fact, I do rather feel like a modern Viking explorer following in the footsteps of those who migrated there from northern Europe more than a thousand years before me. However, it isn't long before this link with the past is cruelly cut as I am told to safely store my rucksack in the overhead compartment and instructed to buckle up with the hundred other obedient passengers who have been herded into the familiar metal tube along with me.

Iceland, of course, is no longer just the mythical land of fire and ice that we imagine it to be. Those early settlers quickly established the foundations of a civilised society by creating the world's first parliament. Today, the country with its population of just over 310,000 people spread over 100,000 square kilometres, has suffered a banking and financial crisis along with the rest of us. The capital, Reykjavik, is a small clean city known for its colourful and stylish architecture. The city centre is full of shops, art galleries, cafes, and bookshops. In 2000, Reykjavik was very deservedly awarded the title of Europe's city of Culture, thanks to its impressive art collections and museums, and lively nightlife.

However leaving the hustle and bustle of the city behind me following my arrival, and travelling out towards the volcanoes and lava fields, Iceland's legendary landscape begins to emerge and visions of those early settlers return. Perhaps it is the long winter nights often spectacularly lit up by the Northern Lights, or the extraordinary long summer days with up to 22 hours of daylight that bring a magical, almost spiritual quality to this land and its people.

The country is one of the most volcanically active nations in the world, and there are a number of hot springs around the island. All are heated naturally by underground volcanic activity. In fact, energy produced by these springs is converted into electricity which provides power and heat for people's homes and businesses. As a result, Iceland burns very little fossil fuel, such as oil and gas, and has some of the cleanest air in the world.

So I finally reach Iceland's most famous hot spring, the huge lake of bright blue seawater known as the Blue Lagoon , I lie back just like the other 300,000 visitors a year who come to relax in its steaming hot water. Submerged in its skin-improving, curing waters I find it hard to think of a country of greater contrast.

1 What stops the writer feeling like an early explorer?

- A) how to get a summer job in Utah
- B) a passenger on the plane
- C) preparations for take off
- D) footsteps behind him

2 What significant historical achievement is noted about the early settlers of Iceland?

- A) They discovered the Northern Lights
- B) They established the world's first parliament
- C) They created a banking system
- D) They built the Blue Lagoon

3 What is Reykjavik known for?

- A) Its colourful and stylish architecture
- B) Its vast wilderness
- C) Its volcanic activity
- D) Its role in ancient Viking culture

4 What natural feature is highlighted as a significant part of Iceland's landscape?

- A) The Blue Lagoon
- B) The Northern Lights
- C) The Golden Circle
- D) The land of fire and ice

5 How does Iceland generate energy for its homes and businesses?

- A) Through fossil fuels
- B) By using wind turbines
- C) By using geothermal energy from hot springs
- D) By importing electricity

II You are asked to contribute to the school brochure with a review of a captivating holiday destination for students. Refer to a place that you have visited or would like to visit. Your review should cover various aspects of the destination, including its attractions, experiences, accommodation, food, and overall atmosphere. Try to provide potential travellers with valuable insights and personal opinions that will help them decide whether to visit the location.

Write the review. (200-220 words)

(50 points)

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA LOCALĂ
8 FEBRUARIE 2025
CLASA a X-a - SECȚIUNEA A

VARIANTA 1

NOTĂ:

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.

Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH

40 points

- 1. Complete 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. (10 p)**

1.1 We had hardly got into shelter of the wood when the rain started pouring down.

GOT

Hardly of the wood when the rain started pouring down.

1.2 If he hadn't been driving so fast, he could have avoided the crash.

SO

Had , he could have avoided the crash.

1.3 Why didn't you keep the receipt? Now you can't change the item.

ONLY

If the receipt; you would have been able to change the item.

1.4 He was convicted because an eye-witness remembered his distinctive scar.

BY

He was convicted because his an eye-witness.

1.5 "I can't come with you to the briefing meeting," she said to me.

SAID

She me to the briefing meeting.

- 2. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (10 p)**

What a waste!

Research has shown that one in ten (1) bought in the sales will never be used. This has always been the (2) and everything points to this year being no (3); if anything, it will be worse. People become a little bit crazy during the sales (4), which, these days, lasts from November through to the New Year. Huge (5) on the high street and online will lead to a mountain of waste being sent to landfill sites or the incinerator as bargain (6) buy tons of goods they don't really need.

There is a (7) between consumption and waste, so when people buy more things in the sales there will be a(n) (8) in how much gets thrown away. Environmental groups are asking consumers to think before they buy. The temptation to splash out when (9) are slashed by up to 75% is difficult to resist, but (10) twice before you buy something that's just going to end up on the rubbish tip.

1	A items	B objects	C stuff	D produce
2	A point	B case	C purpose	D matter
3	A contrast	B alternative	C trouble	D different
4	A period	B term	C duration	D interval
5	A deductions	B discounts	C rebates	D offers
6	A searchers	B hunters	C consumers	D watchers
7	A link	B contact	C union	D bond
8	A raise	B addition	C increase	D gain
9	A fares	B prices	C fees	D rates
10	A believe	B consider	C think	D notice

3. Write one word in each gap. (10 p)

The Brain

It wasn't so long (1) that scientist thought the adult brain was unable to change and all we could (2) forward to was a slow decline. This is not completely true, however. Although the brain does indeed slow (3) with age, it remains remarkably adaptable. The brain loses volume from about the age (4) forty, but it will improve as long as you exercise and challenge it. Research has shown that, not (5) can we change the way we think and feel, but (6) those thoughts and feelings can change the physical workings of the brain. What you need to do is take (7) a new and challenging activity, such as learning a new language, playing chess, learning to draw or learning to play a musical instrument. The more mentally active you stay the (8) Of course, exercise and diet (9) their part too, as does a good night's sleep. In fact, sleep improves memory (10) you sleep within a few hours of learning something new.

4. Write the correct form of the word in CAPITALS to complete the gaps: (10 p)

You have probably seen photographs of those (1) paintings found on the walls of caves across Europe. Less familiar are the (2) markings also found there. It is not as if they had been lying there (3) for all this time, just that they had been largely ignored as (4) doodles. Now, however, (5) are suggesting that they may represent the first step on the path to modern writing. Archaeologists have found a (6) of strange symbols in the caves, including geometric figures such as triangles, arrangements of dots and lines, and something that looks very much like the modern hashtag. Naturally, the (7) drawings and paintings of bison and horses and hunting scenes caused the most excitement and interest when they were discovered, but the attention now being paid to these symbols is forcing a re-examination of cave art and the (8) made about the people who created it. Our (9) of early human development is (10) changing with such new discoveries.

1	WONDER	6	VARY
2	MYSTERY	7	SPECTACLE
3	DISCOVER	8	ASSUME
4	MEAN	9	UNDERSTAND
5	SCIENCE	10	CONSTANT

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (10 points)

Hotels of the future- *Our Travel correspondent Joana Richards reports about a new trend in hotels.*

I recently visited a hotel in France which has no visible human staff. This is just one of several hotels in Europe and Asia which runs with apparently no human contact. Most of the services are provided by robots and machines. The concept is to provide an environmentally friendly hotel where staff and running costs kept to a minimum. Personally, I've spent my life away from robots and machines, and so kept having to remind myself that in many parts of the world, it is not unusual for jobs and household tasks to be automated these days.

So I lost no time in booking myself a room at one of these hotels and going to see it for myself. And sure enough, there at the reception desk, instead of a friendly receptionist wearing a uniform, was a machine. 'I'd like to check in please', I shouted, wondering if the machine would respond to my voice, and feeling thrilled that I was about to have my first ever conversation with a check-in machine. Nothing. I said it again but there was silence. I was hoping the machine would say something like 'If you want to check in, press 1'. But then I noticed a written message in the machine's screen. 'Please insert your credit card and key in your booking reference, then follow the instructions.' No conversation. How disappointing.

Staying at the hotel costs from €35 (more if you want a bigger room). That's a bargain for Paris, where a stay in a more conventional hotel can easily cost two or three times that much. And if you did stay there, it wouldn't necessarily be any nicer, and certainly wouldn't be any more memorable. The hotel is located near to the amusement park, Disneyland Paris, which was created as a visitor attraction on the east of the city with lots of amusement rides. In fact, many of the guests book the hotel purely in order to be close to the park.

Back in the hotel, as well as machines to check in, there are vending machines to serve drinks and snacks and vacuum cleaners that work without a human, using sensors to navigate around the rooms. According to the owners, the laundry has robots which do all the washing unaided. Another innovation is the use of face recognition instead of keys to get into your room. A photograph of the guest's face is taken at the reception desk by the check in machines.

With 60 rooms in the building, there is a lot of coming and going. Guests are actively encouraged to stop and get a coffee from one of the machines in the guest lounge with other guests, so there is at least some social interaction. One area where humans are absolutely essential for the hotel is security. There are scanners and CCTV cameras everywhere, and the footage from these is watched by human security guards, no matter whether or not the hotel is full. It is their job to make sure that the guests are safe – and that no-one causes any damage to hotel property, including of course making off with a costly robot.

Critics say that businesses like these automated hotels will mean that people lose their jobs, as more and more roles can be performed by robots and machines. But there are many who see them as a vision of the future and argue that robots can make our lives easier. But this can only happen if higher manufacturing and operating standards are achieved, and if guests are prepared to put their trust in machines and don't mind the lack of personal contact. Only then will this type of hotel be a success. Time will tell if this is the case.

- 1 The aim of this hotel is to be very
 - A efficient.
 - B friendly.
 - C famous.
 - D unusual.
- 2 What aspect of the writer's experience at reception was 'disappointing'?
 - A the appearance of the reception
 - B the time she wasted checking in
 - C the lack of verbal interaction with the machine
 - D the rudeness of the other guests

- 3 What does the writer say about the price of the rooms in the hotel?
- A The hotel is good value.
 - B The prices are likely to rise.
 - C Other hotels provide better accommodation.
 - D It is not always clear how much a room will cost.
- 4 What is the writer's main point in the fourth paragraph?
- A There are limits to what robots and machines can do.
 - B Robots and machines can learn a wide range of skills.
 - C Different robots and machines are used for different tasks.
 - D Humans make mistakes that robots and machines do not make.
- 5 What does 'this' in the last paragraph refer to?
- A more roles being performed by robots and machines
 - B many seeing the hotel as a vision of the future
 - C robots and machines make our lives easier
 - D reduction in social human contact

II. Your school magazine is organizing a competition. They have asked their readers to send in reviews of an AI-Powered Device or robot that is used in daily life. Examples include a smart speaker (e.g. Amazon Echo), a robot vacuum (e.g. Roomba), or a wearable fitness tracker (e.g. Fitbit). Write a detailed review of the device. The best reviews will be published in the school magazine. You decide to enter the competition. Write your review in 180 - 200 words.

(50 points)

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ, ETAPA LOCALĂ
08 FEBRUARIE, 2025
CLASA a X-a, SECȚIUNEA B

Varianta 1

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow.

20 points

A friend of mine was a penniless student at university in 1985 when she started to go out with a man who lived in an oil-rich eastern state. He gave her a mobile phone so that he could contact her at any point of her day directly from his home country. Although none of us had seen a mobile phone before, the **overriding** reaction was, "What a waste of money ringing all that way" as opposed to, "Wow that's brilliant". These telephones have never had the capacity to thrill us in the way that other bits of technology can. Sighs of contempt, rather than envy, would be breathed in all the first-class carriages where mobiles started ringing in the late 1980s.

By the mid 1990s, the mobile was no longer the **preserve** of image-conscious businessmen. Suddenly, it seemed every petty criminal could be seen organizing their dodgy deals as they shouted into stolen ones in the street. It was at this point that I bought a mobile phone. I had been **sneering** for years, but I reasoned that as everyone now had one, surely no one would be offended or irritated by mine.

But I grew to depend on it and constantly checked that I had it, in the way some say habitual smokers keep checking for their cigarettes. And it affected my behaviour. Without the means of ringing before to say that I was going to be late, for example, Would I have set off for my business with so little time to spare? I began to understand how those inexperienced walkers come to call out The Mountain Rescue Team from the top of some perilous peak. Without the false sense of security, the phone in their pocket provided, they wouldn't have gone up there in the first place.

What's more, after a while, I realized that once it has got hold on you, all telephone calls are urgent in exact proportion to the availability of a mobile to announce them. Because our modern lives have so much capacity for urgency, the mobile is turning into an enemy rather than a helpmate. It is enabling us to dash from one activity to another in the mistaken belief that we can still be in touch – with work, with other family members. Yet, although we are constantly on standby, we are not in a position to be fully engaged with anything else. No mental commitment to the task in hand is possible when the mobile can ring at any moment with another demand for our attention. In this way I began to feel persecuted rather than liberated.

A. Answer the following questions:

8 points

1. According to the writer how did people react when the first telephones were introduced in 1980s?
2. Why did the writer eventually decide to buy a mobile phone?
3. What immediate change did the mobile phone make to her life?
4. Why did she eventually come to resent her mobile phone?

B. Choose the right synonym:

6 points

1. overriding: a. sanctioning b. predominant c. slight d. paranoid
2. preserve: a. power b. consent c. entitlement d. prerogative
3. sneer: a. smile contemptuously b. gossip c. hiss d. smile enviously

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning:

6 points

1. Some say habitual smokers keep checking for their cigarettes.

Habitual smokers.....for their cigarettes.

2. He gave her a mobile phone so that he could contact her at any point of her day directly from his home country.

If he contacted her at any point of her day directly from his home country.

3. These telephones have never had the capacity to thrill us in the way that other bits of technology can.

Never.....thrill us in the way that other bits of technology can.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap.

10 points

An unusual hobby for some, mudlarking – looking for rare objects next to a tidal river – is becoming (1)....**INCREASE** popular. The number of people requesting (2)....**PERMIT** from the Port Authority of London to do this reached new highs last year. A recent survey has shown that (3)....**ENTHUSE** are seeing their hobby as a way to (4)....**USE** and recycle old treasures, but, recently, many mudlarkers have seen a (5)...**WORRY** great number of plastic bottles, wet wipes, and plastic bags on the river banks; the (6)... **MISTAKE** signature of today's throwaway society. When the tide goes out, the top layer of shingle appears through a patch of mud. Often, a (7)...**VARY** of washed-up artefacts are revealed. Some may be of historical (8).....**SIGNIFY** but most are simply bits of (9) ...**USE** old junk. However, some of the more valuable items recently discovered on the banks of the River Thames include Victorian china, 16th century clay pipe bowls, Medieval pots and Roman roof tiles. From these items, mudlarkers believe they can find out more about their city and raise (10).... **AWARE** of the issues that many of our rivers are facing – waste and plastic pollution.

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

10 points

Carol La Plant is a San Francisco lawyer. She has suffered stress fractures in both legs and ruptured discs in her lower back which (1.)..... her in bed for two months. She says, "I'm a real kamikaze and run (2.)..... the pain. One doctor told me I have the nervous system of a slug." In (3.)..... to the physical challenge, Mrs La Plant has problems with her legal colleagues who figure she should be in legal briefs rather than running briefs. Ultrarunners form a closed society. (4.)..... the society there is an elite club called the Flatlanders with a membership of about 80 from half-a-dozen different countries. Flatlanders (5.)..... to run 100 miles in less than 24 hours and re-qualify every year for membership.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS

(60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

(10 points)

I have been asked what I think about the idea of 'Investing in People'. The best answer I can give is that I think that what it tries to achieve – basically making the link between business improvement and focusing on the needs of the people who work for an organisation – is great. My problem is with organisations who subscribe to it as a way to help them 'get better', when they don't bother to understand where they went wrong in the first place. They need to ask what explicit and implicit policies and procedures they have in place that prevent their people from being able to do the right thing for the right reasons.

I am sure that there are managers out there who don't know any better, and assume that to manage they simply need to put pressure on their people to perform. But people don't demonstrate high performance because they are told to. They do it because they see the need to do it, and make the choice to do so. They do it because they are connected to the business goals and they see how their contributions can help achieve them. Such managers may tell themselves they can put a 'tick' in the 'we care about people' box. But simply putting ticks in boxes is no good if it doesn't reflect reality.

I know of a company that was so concerned that its people were doing the 'right thing' that it put in place a series of metrics to measure their effectiveness. So far, so good. But one of the objectives – making successful sales calls – manifested itself in the metric 'Number of potential customers seen in one day'. The sales people obviously focused their efforts on going from one customer's office to another, and not on closing deals. Instead of the employees becoming more effective, they focused on getting the boxes ticked. Good intent; poor thinking.

Another company wanted to improve the speed with which it was able to introduce new products. Competition was beating it to the market place, and consequently the company was losing market share. Senior management sent out the message to reduce the time spent in getting products into customers' hands, with the explanation that they couldn't afford delays. This was a relatively easy task, especially since the time spent testing the products was cut in half to accomplish the time reduction. The result was new products were introduced in less time than those of the competition – but soon rejected by customers for poor quality. Good intent; reckless implementation.

A third company I know is trying hard to help employees see that they have some control over their future. The company instituted a programme with a title like 'Creating our own future' or something like that. A good idea; get the people involved in the future of the company. But instead of the employees becoming motivated to contribute, they saw it as a hollow exercise on the part of

senior management who, in the past, had paid little attention to anything other than getting the job done so they could report great earnings. Yes, the programme was a big 'tick the box' effort, but that was all it was in the minds of the people that it was designed for.

A final example is of a company that brought in one of these 'Investing in People' programmes to change the way the company was run. Assessors were running around like crazy, helping managers examine how they managed. They told managers how they could manage better. And when the programme was over, the company was able to say they had done it – it had invested in its people and life was now good. But the managers simply went back to business as usual. After all, the assessors were gone, and they had targets to hit.

All these examples are representative of senior management who see the need to improve things in their organisation, but don't see how to do it. For a start, a programme targeted at improving things is only as good as management's ability to motivate their people. And when the employees simply see the programme as a box-ticking exercise, then it's hopeless.

1 The writer thinks that putting the concept of 'Investing in People' into practice

- A. frequently results in confusion among the people it is supposed to help.
- B. involves more effort than some organisations are prepared to make.
- C. may create problems where previously there had not been any problems.
- D. is something that some organisations should not attempt to do.

2 The writer's main point in the second paragraph is that the performance of employees

- A. may be very good even if management is poor.
- B. cannot be accurately measured by any box-ticking exercise.
- C. is related to their knowledge of the organisation as a whole.
- D. is not as unpredictable as some managers believe it to be.

3 What point does the writer make about the first company he describes?

- A. It was not really interested in measuring the effectiveness of employees.
- B. The targets that it set for staff were unrealistic.
- C. It failed to understand the real needs of its employees.
- D. The data that it collected did not measure what it was supposed to measure.

4 What point does the writer make about the second company he describes?

- A. It made what should have been an easy task into a complicated one.
- B. It failed to foresee the consequences of an instruction.
- C. It misunderstood why a new approach was required.
- D. It refused to take into account the views of employees.

5 What does the writer say about the programme introduced by the third company he mentions?

- A. Employees did not believe that it had been introduced for their benefit.
- B. Employees felt that it was in fact a way of making their jobs even
- C. The reason given for introducing it was not the real reason why it was introduced.
- D. It was an inappropriate kind of programme for this particular organisation.

II You are part of a youth committee discussing facilities available for students in your school.

Your report should address the following questions:

- What issues are there in your school regarding classrooms?
- What places for spending school breaks do students have?
- How do these facilities impact the students?

Write your report in 200-220 words in an appropriate style.

50 points

VARIANTA 1

SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Put the verbs in brackets into a suitable tense/ form:

10x1p = 10p

My father had described over and over again what we (1) (see) at every milestone, after leaving the nearest town, so that I was positive I would recognize it as familiar territory. Well, I (2) (be) wrong, for I was now lost. I looked at the map then at the milometer. I (3) (come) ten miles since leaving the town, and at this point, according to my father, I should be looking at farms and cottages in a valley with the spire of the church of our village (4) (show) in the distance. I could see no valley, no farms, no cottages and no church - only a lake. I decided that I (5) (take) a wrong turning somewhere. So I drove back to the town and began to retrace the route, taking frequent glances at the map. I landed up at the same corner. The curious thing was that the lake was not marked on the map. I felt as if I (6) (stumble) into a nightmare country, as you sometimes do in dreams. Fortunately for me, as I (7) (wonder) what to do next, there (8) (appear) on the horizon a man on horseback. I waited till he came near and I asked him the way to our village. He said there was no village. I thought he (9) (misunderstand) me, so I repeated its name. This time he pointed to the lake. The village no longer existed because it (10) (submerge), and all the valley, too.

II. Use the word given in capital letters to form a word that fits in each space:

10x1p=10p

The Martian: a review

Just when everyone thought that Matt Damon couldn't get any better, he did. In fact, Damon's latest film performance is (1) out of this world. Literally! The film is (2) *The Martian* and it's about a team of astronauts whose job is to live on the (3) planet of Mars and conduct tests to find out if it has, or ever had, an ecosystem of any sort. (4), they are forced to abandon their project and their space lab when a (5) storm takes them by surprise. The main protagonist Mark Watney, played by Damon, is struck with flying debris as he makes his way to the rocket which will take them off the planet and his crew members (6) leave him for dead.

What follows is two hours of Mark's fighting for his very survival, making the best of what is available to him in his very barren surroundings. Mark's biggest problem is food. He has enough rations to last him for a short time, but knows they are not sufficient. Suddenly, it hits him! As a botanist, as well as an astronaut, Mark comes up with the (7) idea of using his fresh potato rations as seedlings to produce a (8) food source. Using human waste -yuck – as (9), he manages to grow a crop which will hopefully supplement his (10) needs. Don't be lulled into believing that this is the end of Mark's problems, though. This is, after all, a Hollywood blockbuster, so rest assured that there is much more to come for the Martian!

1. DENY 2. TITLE 3. FAR 4. FORTUNE 5. TERROR 6. TRAGEDY 7. INNOVATE 8. SUSTAIN 9. FERTILE 10. NUTRITION

III. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D:

10x1p = 10p

- She works as _____ teacher in _____ school for _____ blind in Ireland. _____ school has over _____ thousand pupils.
A) a/the/the/The/a; B) -/the/-/The/-; C) a/a/the/The/a; D) the/a/the/A/a
- Caroline _____ in Italy for two years when she _____ going out with Paolo. At that time he _____ to become a teacher and she _____ him at a college disco.
A) has been living/had started/was training/met; B) lived/had started/trained/met; C) had been living/started/was training/met; D) was living/started/trained/met
- When I _____ about the accident on the news, I immediately _____ my daughter to check that she _____ back safe and sound. She _____ me she _____ a different way home.
A) heard/had phoned/got/had told/took; B) had heard/phoned/had got/told/took; C) was hearing/was phoning/ had got/told/had taken; D) heard/phoned/had got/told/had taken
- I wonder where she can be. She _____ here by now. She _____ her bus.
A) should have got/must have missed B) should get/must have missed C) should have got/must miss D) should get/must miss
- "Would you like to join me to my sister's anniversary this evening?" Mike said.
A) Mike asked me if I can join him to his sister's anniversary this evening. B) Mike invited me last week to join him to his sister's

anniversary this evening. C) Mike invited me to join him to his sister's anniversary that evening. D) Mike has invited me to join him to his sister's anniversary that evening.

6. When he _____ you again, he will be impressed with how much you _____.
A) will see/have grown B) sees/grew C) sees/have grown D) will see/grew
7. Martha ar fi pus masa dacă ar fi știut că o să vin acasă mai devreme decât de obicei.
A) Had she known I would come home earlier than usual, Martha would have laid the table. B) Martha would have lain the table if she had known I would come home earlier than usual. C) Martha would have laid the table if she knew I will come home earlier than usual. D) Had she known I would come earlier than usual, Martha would have lain the table
8. I've never got ... well with my ... brothers.
A) down/ older B) on/ elder C) up/ eldest D) in/ oldest
9. _____ of the two sisters do you like _____? The _____ or the _____?
A) What/ best/ first/ second B) Which/ better/ former/ latter C) Who/ most/ former/ letter D) Whichever/ more/ former/ later
10. _____ had they reached the top of the mountain ... a thunderstorm started.
A) Hardly/ then B) No sooner/ when C) No sooner/ than D) As soon as/ when

IV. Read the text below and think of one word which best fits in each gap. Use only *one word* in each gap: 10x1p=10p

Our family was a very democratic assembly: we were not a family in which (1) was a father who did a job, a mother who did a job, and the kids who did what they were told. As each one of (2) came to the use of reason, as it were, we were included in the family decisions. Once we knew (3) to count, we were involved in the family expenditure. We never had regular pocket-money as children, but if we needed money for something, we got (4). As long as the money (5) there, we could have some, even for frivolous and unnecessary purchases. But we were brought (6) to reflect that since we could get what we asked for, we (7) to be pretty responsible about asking. (8) you wanted something only because someone else had it, you were forced to think, "Well, that's not much of a reason. I don't really need it", and reconcile (9) to doing (10) it.

SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits according to the text:

5x2p = 10p

The Future of Newspapers

Anybody who says they can reliably forecast the future of newspapers is either a liar or a fool. Look at the raw figures, and newspapers seem doomed. Since 2000, the circulation of most UK national dailies has fallen by between a third and a half. The authoritative Pew Research Centre in the USA reports that newspapers are now the main source of news for only 26 percent of US citizens as against 45 percent in 2001. There is no shortage of prophets who confidently predict that the last printed newspaper will be safely buried within 15 years at most.

Yet one of the few reliable facts of history is that old media have a habit of surviving. An over-exuberant New York journalist announced in 1835 that books and theatre 'have had their day' and the daily newspaper would become 'the greatest organ of social life'. Theatre duly withstood not only the newspaper, but also cinema and then television. Radio has flourished in the TV age; cinema, in turn, has held its own against videos and DVDs. Even vinyl records have made a comeback, with online sales up 745 percent since 2008.

Newspapers themselves were once new media, although it took several centuries before they became the dominant medium for news. This was not solely because producing up-to-date news for a large readership over a wide area became practicable and economic only in the mid-19th century, with the steam press, the railway and the telegraph. Equally important was the emergence of the idea that everything around us is in constant movement and we need to be updated on its condition at regular intervals – a concept quite alien in medieval times and probably also to most people in the early modern era. Now, we expect change. To our medieval ancestors, however, the only realities were the passing of the seasons, punctuated by catastrophes such as famine, flood or disease that they had no reliable means of anticipating. Life, as the writer Alain de Botton puts it, was 'ineluctably cyclical' and 'the most important truths were recurring'.

Journalism as a full-time trade from which you could hope to make a living hardly existed before the 19th century. Even then, there was no obvious reason why most people needed news on a regular basis, whether daily or weekly. In some respects, regularity of newspaper publication and rigidity of format was, and remains, a burden. Online news readers can dip in and out according to how

they perceive the urgency of events. Increasingly sophisticated search engines and algorithms allow us to personalise the news to our own priorities and interests. When important stories break, internet news providers can post minute-by-minute updates. Error, misconception and foolish speculation can be corrected or modified almost instantly. There are no space restrictions to prevent narrative or analysis, and documents or events cited in news stories can often be accessed in full. All this is a world away from the straitjacket of newspaper publication. Yet few if any providers seem alive to the new medium's capacity for spreading understanding and enlightenment.

Instead, the anxiety is always to be first with the news, to maximise reader comments, to create heat, sound and fury and thus add to the sense of confusion. In the medieval world, what news there was was usually exchanged amid the babble of the marketplace or the tavern, where truth competed with rumour, mishearing and misunderstanding. In some respects, it is to that world that we seem to be returning. Newspapers have never been very good – or not as good as they ought to be – at telling us how the world works. Perhaps they now face extinction. Or perhaps, as the internet merely adds to what de Botton describes as our sense that we live in 'an unimprovable and fundamentally chaotic universe', they will discover that they and they alone can guide us to wisdom and understanding.

1. In the first paragraph, the writer is presenting
 - A. his interpretation of a current trend.
 - B. evidence that supports a widespread view.
 - C. his prediction on the future of print journalism.
 - D. reasons for the decline in newspaper readership.
2. What point is the writer making in the second paragraph?
 - A. Existing media are not necessarily replaced by new ones.
 - B. The best media technologies tend to be the most long-lasting.
 - C. Public enthusiasm for new types of media is often unpredictable.
 - D. It is inevitable that most media technologies will have a limited life.
3. In the third paragraph, the writer stresses the significance of
 - A. a shift in people's attitudes towards the outside world.
 - B. certain key 19th-century advances in mechanisation.
 - C. the challenges of news distribution in the pre-industrial era.
 - D. the competition between newspapers and more established media.
4. What does the writer suggest is the main advantage of online news sites?
 - A. The ease of access for their users
 - B. The accuracy of the reporting
 - C. The flexibility of the médium
 - D. The breadth of their potential readership
5. What does the writer suggest about newspapers in the final paragraph?
 - A. They still have an important role to play.
 - B. They can no longer compete with the internet.
 - C. They will have to change to keep up with the digital age.
 - D. They will retain a level of popularity among certain types of readers.

- II. **The public library in your town is carrying out an investigation into changing trends in people's reading habits. As a member of the reading club in your school, you have been asked to write a report about the situation in your area. You should:**
- Describe the changes that have taken place over the last years;
 - Say whether these changes have been for the better or worse;
 - Say how you think the situation might develop in the future.

Write your report. (220-250 words)

Varianta 1

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)**I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow.**

Mandy Price, aged nineteen years two months, and the acknowledged star of Mrs. Creasley's Nonesuch Secretarial Agency, set out on the morning of Tuesday, 14 September for her interview at the Peverell Press with no more **apprehension** than she usually felt at the start of a new job, an apprehension which was never acute and was rooted less in an anxiety as to whether she would satisfy the expectations of the **prospective** employer than in whether the employer would satisfy hers. She had learned of the job the previous Friday when she called in at the agency at six o'clock to collect her pay after a boring two-week stint with a director who regarded a secretary as a status symbol but had no idea how to use her skills, and she was ready for something new and preferably exciting although perhaps not as exciting as it was subsequently to prove.

Mrs. Creasley, for whom Mandy had worked for the past three years, conducted her agency from a couple of rooms above a newsagent and tobacconist's shop off the Whitechapel Road, a situation which she was fond of pointing out to her girls and clients, was convenient both for the City and the towering offices of Docklands. Neither had so far produced much in the way of business, but while other agencies **founded** in the waves of recession, Mrs. Creasley's small and underprovisioned ship was still afloat, if precariously. Except for the help of one of her girls when no outside work was available, she ran the agency single-handed.

A. Answer the following questions. 8 points

1. Why was Mandy Price usually slightly apprehensive when going to a new job?
2. What was the main reason the director had hired Mandy?
3. Why did Mrs. Creasley consider the agency's position in relation to the city and Docklands to be advantageous?
4. In what way could Mrs. Creasley be considered a more successful businesswoman than others?

B. Choose the right synonym. 6 points

1. **apprehension** A. comprehension B. worry C. appreciation D. content
2. **prospective** A. previous B. foreign C. potential C. promising
3. **founded** A. failed B. struggled C. thrived D. invested

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. 6 points

1. She had learned of the job the previous Friday when she called in at the agency at six o'clock to collect her pay.
If she hadn't called in the previous Friday, sheof the job.
2. She called in at the agency at six o'clock to collect her pay.
She called in at the agency to collecting her pay.
3. The location was convenient both for the City and the towering offices of Docklands.
.....convenient for the city but also for the towering offices of Docklands.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. 10 points

The importance of symbols

A symbol is a word or even a picture that may be familiar in daily life, but possesses specific connotations over and above its standard and obvious meaning. It points to something vague or (1) ____ (MYSTERY), something which is normally hidden from us or may even be quite (2) ____ (COMPREHEND). On Cretan monuments, for instance, (3) ____ (ENGRAVE) in the form of a double-headed axe are often found. We know what this object is, but we do not know what it symbolises or what its (4) ____ (IMPLY) were for the people who used it. Since there are (5) ____ (NUMBER) things beyond the range of human understanding, we use symbolic terms all the time to represent concepts that are shrouded in (6) ____ (OBSCURE) or what we cannot fully understand. This is one reason why religions (7) ____ (WORLD) employ symbolic language or images. Man also produces symbols spontaneously in the (8) ____ (DEEP) of the unconscious mind, in the form of dreams. Our (9) ____ (PERCEIVE) of reality is enormously complex, and it is not (10) ____ (WHOLE) clear how events in our lives are recorded by our minds. What is clear, however, is that the unconscious aspect of any event is revealed to us in dreams – not as a rational thought but as a symbol.

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap. 10 points

The New Magus5 Mini Tablet

I couldn't wait to get my hands on a new Magus5 when it came onto the market last year. If (1) _____ I could afford one! Of course I (2) _____, so I decided I would save up and try to get one (3) _____ the end of the summer. As I'd been working every Saturday morning in a café round the corner, I (4) _____ the manager if he'd increase my hours. Luckily, he said yes (5) _____. I started working full days on Saturdays, and occasionally on Sunday mornings. I also did loads of babysitting after school and saved not (6) _____ what I earned, but also the pocket money my parents gave me every week. Then, I (7) _____ a windfall. Both my parents and grandparents gave me some money for my birthday, so at (8) _____ I was able to buy my Magus5 mini tablet. You can imagine my excitement when we ordered it online. I chose the white one because it looked (9) _____ sleeker than the black one. It has all the qualities of a larger tablet, but it is small enough to fit (10) _____ a handbag or even a large pocket.

SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text. 10 points

According to Childwise, a leading specialist market research group for children and young people, children of all ages are spending an average of six-and-a-half hours a day in front of a screen, with teenage boys spending up to eight hours a day. Kids are watching TV shows and films, playing video games, using social media, texting, surfing the web, and so on. But is spending so much time in front of tablets, smartphones or TVs such a bad thing? Surely TV programmes and educational apps can help children sharpen their developing brains and improve their communication skills. Used in moderation, might they not even be advantageous? They are certainly a welcome break for parents wanting a bit of peace and quiet. However, there have been a number of worrying studies connecting delayed cognitive development in children with prolonged exposure to electronic media, especially when this starts at a very young age.

As psychologist Dr. Aric Sigman explains, allowing very young children to spend an excessive amount of time in front of a screen can cause permanent damage to their still developing brains. This, says Dr. Sigman, 'is the very thing impeding the development of the abilities that parents are so eager to foster through the tablets. The ability to focus, to concentrate, to lend attention, to sense other people's attitudes and communicate with them, to build a large vocabulary – all those abilities are harmed'. In other words, parents who are trying to give their children an advantage by letting them use an educational app, for example, might in fact unknowingly be stunting the development of their children's brains, unless they significantly limit the amount of screen time, relative to the age of the child. Sigman believes that the younger the child, the fewer hours they should spend at a screen. This is especially true for children up to the age of three, which is when the brain is developing at its quickest and is at its most sensitive. It is crucial, therefore, that during this critical period in a child's development, the stimuli they are getting is from the real world and not from a screen. Children who follow a story on a smartphone, for example, will have images and words readily available to them. They will not have to make an effort in the way they would if they were being told a story by a parent, when they not only have to work hard to follow the storyline, but they have to use their imagination to visualise it as well: when having to think for themselves, their cognitive abilities grow. In front of a screen, however, being spoon-fed information, their cognitive muscles aren't developing and can remain stunted.

This is even more alarming when you realise that, according to recent surveys, over 90 per cent of one-year-olds have already used a mobile device. Not only can this inhibit a baby's development, it can also cause difficulties with sleep and concentration. And as children grow up, things can only get worse. As Oxford-based child psychiatrist, Dr. Hayley van Zwanenberg, explains: 'There is ample evidence to demonstrate the negative effects of screen time on older children, particularly on those using screens for more than three hours a day; these include structural and functional brain imaging changes, increases in emotional distress and higher rates of anxiety and depressive symptoms, as well as lack of sleep. The pre-school years are particularly vital for developing non-verbal skills that young people miss completely when using screens.'

Overuse of screens has also been found to lead to problems making friends. Children need the stimulus of real interaction with others in order to learn how to communicate. The only way to learn how to read facial expressions, understand tone of voice, and empathise with others, for example, is by practising in the real world with other children and adults. No amount of screen time can teach this. Furthermore, it is just as easy for very young children to become addicted to their screens, as it is for older children and adults. The instant gratification of a swipe on a screen causes the brain to release dopamine, the pleasure hormone. This chemical is what causes addiction and can lead children to prefer their gadgets to real-world, complicated interactions, which are not so easily

controlled and require harder work to navigate. So should parents ban all screen time? Experts don't all agree, but the US Department of Health recommends that children under two should not be exposed to any screens at all, not even the TV. After that screens should be limited to a maximum of two hours a day. The French government has gone further by banning all digital terrestrial TV aimed at children under the age of three. There are similar guidelines in Australia and Canada. The UK has yet to follow suit, but a recent government press release has warned that too much screen time for young children is linked to sedentary lifestyles, and lower levels of self-esteem. The bottom line: moderation is key, make sure you limit the hours spent.

1 In the introductory paragraph, the author's main aim is to

- a shock the reader with the amount of time children spend in front of a screen.
- b convey some facts about children's use of screens and question their advantages.
- c prove that time in front of screens can be beneficial.
- d question whether screen time is so bad for children.

2 What do both Dr. Aric Sigman and Dr. Hayley van Zwanenberg believe?

- a There should be little or no screen time for children under three.
- b Brain development suffers if a child spends too much time in front of a screen.
- c Too much screen time can cause depression.
- d Children's sleep patterns can be disrupted by too much screen time.

3 What, according to the text, can be damaged in children by overuse of screens?

- a Language development, friendships, cognitive skills, sleep and relationships, mood, obesity.
- b Addictive behaviours, obesity, verbal skills, making friends and getting enough sleep.
- c Cognitive skills, verbal and non-verbal skills, sleep patterns, the ability to make friends and empathise, emotional states.
- d Learning how to empathise, language development, building relationships, muscle development.

4 According to the text, addiction to screens

- a is less prevalent in young children. .
- b increases dopamine levels.
- c is more dangerous for younger children.
- d can happen at all ages equally

5 The US, France and Canada

- a have made recommendations to limit screen time for very young children.
- b have banned all screens for children under two.
- c have banned TV for toddlers and babies.
- d recommend only educational TV programmes aimed at the under-tuos.

II. Starting from the text above write an article on the following topic: "Digital Footprints: Understanding the Effects of Screen Time on Children". You should include in your essay both positive and negative effects of screen time on children, physical and mental health concerns and future considerations.

The best articles will be published in your school magazine.

Write your article (220- 250 words)

50 points

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA LOCALĂ
8 FEBRUARIE 2025
CLASA a XII-a - SECȚIUNEA A

VARIANTA 1

NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH **40 points**

- I. Complete 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. (10 p)**

1. I don't agree with your planting those flowers over there.

SOONER

I those flowers over there.

2. I would rather watch tennis than play it.

PREFER

I playing it.

3. The police say that Clare was seen at the scene of the crime.

BEEN

Clare seen at the scene of the crime.

4. "You act as if you were the boss !"

IF

I said she acts as the boss.

5. All his ideas were a dismal failure.

ONE

Every a dismal failure.

- II. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (10 p)**

Yellow fever used to be one of the most feared (1)..... of the Western hemisphere, ranked with smallpox and the plague as a deadly epidemic. Its most horrible (2)..... included black vomit and intense jaundice. When an epidemic (3)..... out in Cuba in 1900, Major Walter Reed of the US Army Medical Corps went to (4)..... He had one vital (5)..... to follow. A local doctor had suggested at the time of the (6) outbreak that the female of a particular mosquito, *Stegomyia fasciata*, called 'steg' for short, was responsible for transmitting the disease. Reed was determined to (7) that yellow fever could not be transmitted from a(n) (8) person to a healthy one. He then conducted a gruesome experiment, which involved volunteers sleeping in beds covered with the black vomit and other discharges of fever victims. Many were sickened by the experience, but (9) caught yellow fever; clear evidence that sufferers posed no (10) to the healthy.

1	A disorders	B infections	C bugs	D diseases
2	A attributes	B symptoms	C signs	D evidence
3	A started	B happened	C broke	D emerged
4	A investigate	B study	C check	D research
5	A lead	B hunch	C key	D guide
6	A former	B precedent	C early	D previous
7	A reveal	B uncover	C prove	D expose
8	A well	B infected	C weak	D deceased
9	A all	B none	C each	D neither
10	A gamble	B chance	C risk	D peril

III. Write one word in each gap. (10 p)

Acing an interview

Whilst talking to a new acquaintance recently, Damian Wright, I mentioned that I had an interview the (1) day. (2) my surprise, he told me that he advises people on how to get through the interview process. Damian promised that he (3) help me in any way he could. First of all, he recommended that I (4) extremely well-prepared, I should find out as much information about the company as I could before the big day. If (5) be, I should be able to provide the interviewer with a brief history of the firm. Although I'm not very good at selling myself, Damian (6) on my making a list of my strengths, which I duly did. He added that an interviewer might well ask about my weaknesses, too, and he said that although it was important to mention one, he (7) me against going into too much detail about this. He also said it was important that a candidate have an idea of the salary he or she should expect, so I was urged to take this (8) consideration. (9) it to say that I took Damian's advice and... guess what? I've just had a call from the head of the personnel department, who cordially congratulated me (10) my new appointment. Thanks, Damian!

IV. Write the correct form of the word in CAPITALS to complete the gaps: (10 p)

Whilst all children progress at their own pace, parents should always have an (1) of any significant delays in their child's progress. 'Global (2) Delay' is a disability (3) by below average (4) functioning, with substantial limitations in at least two other areas of development. These may range from children being visually (5) to delayed achievement of certain milestones such as sitting up, crawling or walking.

Children may also be (6) disabled; they could demonstrate difficulties in communication and may behave (7) in a classroom setting.

At school, (8) should identify the learning (9) of the child's delay; in other words, the extent to which a student is affected (10) , linguistically or in terms of attention span.

1	AWARE	6	CONCEPT
2	DEVELOP	7	DISRUPT
3	CHARACTER	8	TEACH
4	INTELLECT	9	IMPLY
5	IMPAIR	10	COGNITION

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (10p)

Less Television, Less Violence and Aggression

Cutting back on television, videos, and video games reduces acts of aggression among schoolchildren, according to a study by Dr. Thomas Robinson and others from the Stanford University School of Medicine. The study, published in the January 2001 issue of the Archives of Paediatric and Adolescent Medicine, found that third- and fourth-grade students who took part in a curriculum to reduce their TV, video, and video game use engaged in fewer acts of verbal and physical aggression than their peers. The study took place in two similar San Jose, California, elementary schools. Students in one school underwent an 18-lesson, 6-month program designed to limit their media usage, while the others did not. Both groups of students had similar reports of aggressive behaviour at the beginning of the study. After the six-month program, however, the two groups had very real differences. The students who cut back on their TV time engaged in six fewer acts of verbal aggression per hour and rated 2.4 percent fewer of their classmates as aggressive after the program. Physical acts of violence, parental reports of aggressive behaviour, and perceptions of a mean and scary world also decreased, but the authors suggest further study to solidify these results.

Although many studies have shown that children who watch a lot of TV are more likely to act violently, this report further verifies that television, videos, and video games actually cause the violent behaviour, and it is among the first to evaluate a solution to the problem. Teachers at the intervention school included the program in their existing curriculum. Early lessons encouraged students to keep track of and report on the time they spent watching TV or videos, or playing video games, to motivate them to limit those activities on their own. The initial lessons were followed by TV-Turnoff, an organisation that encourages less TV viewing. For ten days, students were challenged to go without television, videos, or video games. After that, teachers encouraged the students to stay within a media allowance of seven hours per week. Almost all students participated in the Turnoff, and most stayed under their budget for the following weeks. Additional

lessons encouraged children to use their time more selectively, and many of the final lessons had students themselves advocate reducing screen activities.

This study is by no means the first to find a link between television and violence. Virtually all of 3,500 research studies on the subject in the past 40 years have shown the same relationship, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Among the most noteworthy studies is Dr. Leonard D. Eron's, which found that exposure to television violence in childhood is the strongest predictor of aggressive behaviour later in life—stronger even than violent behaviour as children. The more violent television the subjects watched at age eight, the more serious was their aggressive behaviour even 22 years later. Another study by Dr. Brandon S. Centerwall found that murder rates climb after the introduction of television. In the United States and Canada, murder rates doubled 10 to 15 years after the introduction of television, after the first TV generation grew up.

Centerwall tested this pattern in South Africa, where television broadcasts were banned until 1975. Murder rates in South Africa remained relatively steady from the mid-1940s through the mid-1970s. By 1987, however, the murder rate had increased 130 percent from its 1974 level. The murder rates in the United States and Canada had levelled off in the meantime. Centerwall's study implies that the medium of television, not just the content, promotes violence and the current study by Dr. Robinson supports that conclusion. The Turnoff did not specifically target violent television, nor did the following allowance period. Reducing television in general reduces aggressive behaviour. Even television that is not "violent" is more violent than real life and may lead viewers to believe that violence is funny, inconsequential, and a viable solution to problems. Also, watching television of any content robs us of the time to interact with real people. Watching too much TV may inhibit the skills and patience we need to get along with others without resorting to aggression. TV, as a medium, promotes aggression and violence. The best solution is to turn it off.

Questions 1-3:

Read the text. Are the sentences 1-3 **TRUE** (if the statement is true according to the passage), **FALSE** (if the statement contradicts the passage) or **NOT GIVEN** (if there is no information about this in the passage)?

1. Only one study has found a connection between TV and violent behaviour.
2. There were more murders in Canada after people began watching TV.
3. The United States has more violence on TV than other countries.

Questions 4 and 5

For each question, choose the correct letter **A-D**:

4. According to the passage,
 - A. only children are affected by violence on TV.
 - B. only violent TV programs cause violent behaviour.
 - C. children who watch too much TV get poor grades in school.
 - D. watching a lot of TV may keep us from learning important social skills.
5. The authors of this passage believe that
 - A. some violent TV programs are funny.
 - B. the best plan is to stop watching TV completely.
 - C. it's better to watch TV with other people than on your own.
 - D. seven hours a week of TV watching is acceptable.

- II. **Writing Task: The Influence of Mass Media on Modern Society.** Write a thought-provoking article that delves into the multifaceted impact of mass media on various aspects of contemporary society. Your article should be informative, insightful and engaging, encouraging readers to reflect on the role of mass media in their lives. Write your article in about 280 words. (50p)

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ, ETAPA LOCALĂ
8 FEBRUARIE, 2025
CLASA a XII-a, SECȚIUNEA B

Varianta 1

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A- USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (10 x2p=20 points).

This book is about the **angst** of normal people, of people like us. It offers an explanation of why we are so much more likely to be miserable than our grandparents, why we are so discontented and self-attacking, why the moments of emotional richness and freedom of our childhood are less frequent, why so many of us feel there is something missing from life. It establishes that, compared with 1950, the general rise in aspirations has **spawned** depression and an epidemic of compulsions like drug abuse, gambling and eating disorders. We compare ourselves obsessively and enviously, corrupting the quality of our inner lives. No sooner do we achieve a goal than we move the goalposts to create a new one, leaving ourselves permanently **depleted**. There is an outbreak of living in the future and a pathological reenactment of the past.

Advanced capitalism makes money out of misery and dissatisfaction, as if it were encouraging us to fill the psychic void with material goods. It can also profit from fostering spurious individualism by encouraging us to define ourselves through our purchases, with ever more precisely marketed products that create a fetishistic concern to have 'this' rather than 'that', even though there is often no significant practical or aesthetic difference. It can even make money from restoring the chemical imbalance in our brains which results from these false ambitions and identities, by selling pills and therapeutic services.

Increased prosperity is the cornerstone of all major political parties' manifestos and yet, if studies of national well-being are to be believed, voters are mistaken in supposing that greater national wealth will be accompanied by greater happiness. Once a society passes beyond a basic level of wealth, anything beyond that makes no difference to overall contentment. Advanced capitalism has made most of us physically better off by meeting biological needs with unprecedented efficiency, but it has actually made us more prone to low-serotonin problems such as depression and aggression.

New disciplines of evolutionary psychology and psychiatry suggest that advanced capitalism does not meet our primordial needs, evolved over millions of years, for status and emotional attachment. Our genes were developed to cope with completely different psychological and technological circumstances than the ones facing us today. For example, most of our adult lives we fight against the problem of being overweight. This a wholly new problem in the history of the world, caused in the first instance by technology creating diverse and abundant foods. Unfortunately, like all animals, humans were designed to assume that food would be scarce and not on the premise that there would be unlimited supplies of highly calorific food available at all times.

A. Answer the following questions: (4x2p=8 points)

1. Why do people feel there is something missing in life?
2. How does capitalism draw on people's misery?
3. In the writer's view, how do political parties aggravate the problem?
4. What does the writer suggest is the defining characteristic of our times regarding people's basic needs?

B. Choose the right synonym: (3x2p=6 points)

1. **angst**: a. anger; b. spitefulness; c. anguish; d. parsimony
2. **spawn**: a. increased; b. inspired; c. bred; d. spread
3. **depleted**: a. sad; b. worn-out; c. reduced; d. angry

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. (3x2p= 6 points)

1.Thanks to Bob, we won the match.

If it.....lost the match.

2.It began to rain almost immediately after our arrival at the resort.

Scarcely.....it began to rain.

3.It appears that they sent us the wrong information.

They.....the wrong information

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. (10x1p = 10 points)

For many people, the London Underground is a grim necessity to get from A to B. But for (1)____(**BUD**) author Preethi Nair, it is a source of inspiration. She just published her first novel, *Gypsy Masala* - a tale she dreamt up whilst commuting on the Metropolitan Line. 'Have you observed people on the tube?' she asks (2)____(**ENTHUSE**). 'Everyone is in their own little world. I just used to sit there and imagine what kind of lives they led.' *Gypsy Masala* charts the adventures and (3)____(**INNER**) thoughts of three members of an Indian family living in London, as they search for happiness. 'It is a story about following your dreams,' says Preethi, who gave up her high-pressure job as a (4)____(**CONSULT**) in order to go in (5)____(**PURSUE**) of her ambition of becoming a writer. 'It was a big risk but it was definitely the right decision in terms of peace of mind and (6)____(**CONTENT**) " she explains. Preethi was born in a small village in the Indian state of Kerala and moved to London with her parents at the age of three. She says the striking contrast in cultures made a (7)____(**LAST**) impression and is reflected in her story, which flits between the suburbs of London and (28)____(**FAR**) India. Many of the scenes in the book are based on the place where she was born and spent long summer holidays. 'It is a tiny village that is lost in time. There is still no (9)____(**RUN**) water and it is quite difficult to get to. It is completely (30)____(**TOUCH**) , and so beautiful,' she says.

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

(5x2=10 points)

The SS *Great Britain*, designed by the engineer Isambard Brunnel, revolutionised ship design when it was launched in 1843. It was of 1.____ an innovative design that only 50 passengers were courageous enough to buy tickets for the first journey to New York. The ship had a long 2.____ star-crossed working life. In 1846 it ran aground in Northern Ireland. 3.____ of the 180 passengers was injured, and a group of clergymen conducted a service to 4.____ their nerves. The ship lay on the beach for a year until Brunnel 5.____ devised a rescue which proved to be so expensive that it bankrupted the vessel's operators.

SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

I Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

Newspapers have dominated sports writing in Britain for years, and have produced their own totem figures and doyens. But ten years ago, a new player entered the game. This was the phenomenon of men's magazines; monthly magazines for men that had actual words in them - words for actually reading. GQ was the pioneer and, in my totally unbiased opinion as the long-term author of the magazine's sports column, it leads the way still, leaving the rest panting distantly in its wake.

Sport, is of course, a blindingly obvious subject for a men's magazine - but it could not be tackled in a blindingly obvious way. Certainly, one of the first things GQ was able to offer was a new way of writing about sport, but this was not so much a cunning plan as a necessity. The magazine was doomed, as it were, to offer a whole new range of freedoms to its sportswriters. Heady and rather alarming freedoms. Freedom of vocabulary was simply the most obvious one and, inevitably, it appealed to the schoolboy within us. But space and time were the others, and these possibilities meant that the craft of sportswriting had to be reinvented.

Unlike newspapers, a magazine can offer a decent length of time to research and to write. These are, you would think, luxuries - especially to those of us who are often required to read an 800-word match report over the telephone the instant the final whistle has gone. Such a discipline is nerve-racking, but as long as you can get it done at all, you have done a good job. No one expects a masterpiece under such circumstances. In some ways the

ferocious restrictions make the job easier. But a long magazine deadline gives you the disconcerting and agoraphobic freedom to research, to write, to think.

To write a piece for a newspaper, at about a quarter of the massive GQ length, you require a single thought. The best method is to find a really good idea, and then to pursue it remorselessly to the end, where ideally you make a nice joke and bale out stylishly. If it is an interview piece, you look for a few good quotes, and if you get them, that's your piece written for you. For a longer piece, you must seek the non-obvious. This is a good quality in the best of newspaper writing, but an absolute essential for any writer who hopes to complete the terrifying amount of words that GQ requires. If you write for GQ you are condemned to try and join the best. There is no other way.

GQ is not restricted by the same conventions of reader expectation as a newspaper. You need not worry about offending people or alienating them; the whole ethos of the magazine is that readers are there to be challenged. There will be readers who would find some of its pieces offensive or even impossible in a newspaper, or even in a different magazine. But the same readers will read the piece in GQ and find it enthralling.

- 1) What does the writer imply in the second paragraph?
 - A. GQ magazine contains articles that are well worth reading.
 - B. Some of the more recent men's magazines are unlikely to survive.
 - C. The standard of sportswriting in newspapers has improved in recent times.
 - D. He is in a position to give an objective view of sportswriting in magazines.
- 2) Why were sportswriters for GQ given new freedoms?
 - A. Some restrictions of newspaper writing do not apply to writing for GQ.
 - B. The magazine's initial plans for its sports articles proved unrealistic.
 - C. Notions about what made good sports journalism were changing.
 - D. The writers that it wanted to employ demanded greater freedom.
- 3) What does the writer say about the amount of time allowed for producing articles?
 - A. The best articles are often produced under great pressure of time.
 - B. Having a long time to produce an article encourages laziness.
 - C. Writers are seldom satisfied by articles produced in a hurry.
 - D. Having very little time to produce an article can be an advantage.
- 4) Why can't writers for GQ use the same methods as writers for newspapers?
 - A. Articles in GQ are not allowed to consist mainly of interviews.
 - B. They want to be considered better than writers for newspapers.
 - C. Writers for newspapers do not have so much space to fill.
 - D. They've been told to avoid the conventions of newspaper writing.
- 5) What does the writer say in the last paragraph about certain pieces in GQ?
 - A. They will create enormous controversy.
 - B. They unintentionally upset some of its readers.
 - C. They are a response to demand from readers.
 - D. They are a good fit for the GQ reader.

(5x2=10 points)

II. Starting from the text above which emphasises the efforts of youngsters who strive to make a difference, write a *proposal* on the following topic:

You would like to start a fitness programme at the college where you are a student. You have decided to send a proposal to the principal, asking for permission and practical assistance. Include the following: why it would be beneficial, what sort of programme you would like to begin with and what support, practical and financial, you would need.

Write your proposal in 250-280 words in an appropriate style.

50 points