

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
CLASA a XII-a, Secțiunea A
Varianta 1
ETAPA LOCALĂ, 7 februarie 2026

- **Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.**
- **Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.**
- **Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 180 de minute**

SUBIECTUL A – Use of English

(40 puncte)

I. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits in each sentence. 10 points

INTERVIEW SMART

A job interview is not merely an opportunity to present qualifications, but a complex interaction that requires psychological awareness and strategic communication. Candidates often assume success will come **1. (IMMEDIATE)**, overlooking the importance of careful preparation. A strong performance depends on **2. (THINK)** planning, which allows applicants to anticipate questions and structure their answers coherently.

Equally essential is the ability to project confidence without behaving **3. (ARROGANT)**. Recruiters are quick to detect overconfidence, which may be interpreted as a lack of **4. (AUTHENTIC)**. Instead, interviewees should aim for a balanced self-presentation that reflects both competence and adaptability.

Non-verbal communication also plays a **5. (DECIDE)** role. Facial expressions, posture and eye contact contribute significantly to the interviewer's **6. (PERCEIVE)** of the candidate. A slight gesture or hesitation can unintentionally signal **7. (SECURE)**, even when verbal responses are well formulated.

Finally, candidates should avoid **8. (ESTIMATE)** their abilities when discussing achievements. Honest self-evaluation, combined with **9. (ADAPT)** to different interview styles, enhances credibility. Ultimately, interview success lies not only in professional expertise, but in the ability to communicate it with **10. (CONFIDENT)** and clarity.

II. 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. 14 points

1. People are becoming increasingly dependent on social media for validation.

RELIANCE

People are developing a growing _____ for validation.

2. It is unlikely that social media platforms will regulate content effectively.

LITTLE

There is _____ social media platforms will regulate content effectively.

3. She only realised the impact of social media on her self-esteem after she quit using it.

UNTIL

It was not _____ the impact of social media on her self-esteem.

4. Social media influences public opinion more than traditional news outlets do.

GREATER

Social media has _____ public opinion than traditional news outlets.

5. Many users share personal information without considering the consequences.

TEND

Many users _____ personal information without considering the consequences.

6. It is essential for users to be critical of what they read online.

IMPORTANCE

It is of _____ critical of what they read online.

7. Hardly anyone questions the authenticity of content on social media.

RARELY

The authenticity of social media content _____ .

III. Translate the following text into English. 16 points

O priveam fără să îndrăznesc să spun nimic, de parcă orice cuvânt ar fi stricat echilibrul fragil dintre noi. Tăcerea ei nu era rece, ci plină, ca o promisiune nespusă care mă neliniștea mai mult decât un refuz. În mine se adunau gânduri simple, dar grele, și simțeam cum inima mea, trădătoare, le rostea înaintea mea.

Nu știam dacă ceea ce simțeam era iubire sau doar teama de a rămâne singur cu propriile întrebări. Știam doar că, în prezența ei, lumea părea mai limpede și mai dureroasă în același timp. Aș fi vrut să-i spun că uneori oamenii se întâlnesc nu pentru a se ferici, ci pentru a se înțelege pe ei înșiși. Dar am tăcut. Și tăcerea aceea a fost, poate, cea mai sinceră mărturisire a mea.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS

(50 points)

I. Five paragraphs have been removed from the article below. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. 25 points

LOVE, TOLERANCE AND THE LIMITS OF UNDERSTANDING

Love is often celebrated as a universal value, capable of bridging differences and overcoming division. Across cultures and historical periods, it has been associated with empathy, compassion and the willingness to recognise the humanity of others. At its most idealised, love appears to promise harmony in a fragmented world.

(1)

Yet love alone does not guarantee tolerance. While affection may create emotional connection, tolerance requires a conscious acceptance of difference, particularly when beliefs, identities or values conflict with one's own. Without this effort, love risks remaining selective, extended only to those who resemble us.

(2)

Tolerance, by contrast, is not rooted primarily in emotion, but in ethical choice. It demands restraint, patience and the ability to coexist with views that challenge or even unsettle us. This makes tolerance less instinctive than love, yet potentially more durable in diverse societies.

(3)

The relationship between love and tolerance becomes especially complex in times of social tension. When fear or uncertainty intensifies, emotional bonds may narrow rather than expand, reinforcing divisions instead of dissolving them. In such contexts, tolerance must operate independently of personal attachment.

(4)

For this reason, many contemporary thinkers argue that tolerance should be understood not as passive acceptance, but as active engagement. It involves listening without immediate judgement and recognising that disagreement does not automatically imply hostility.

(5)

Ultimately, a society that values both love and tolerance acknowledges that harmony is not achieved through emotional unity alone. It is sustained through the ongoing effort to respect difference while preserving shared ethical principles.

PARAGRAPHS A–F

A. This idealised vision, however, often overlooks the fact that love is deeply shaped by familiarity and shared experience, making it vulnerable to exclusion rather than openness.

B.In this sense, tolerance functions as a social discipline, enabling cooperation even in the absence of mutual affection or emotional closeness.

C.Historically, appeals to love have frequently been used to promote unity within groups, while simultaneously justifying suspicion or rejection of those outside them.

D.As a result, tolerance becomes most meaningful precisely when love is absent, allowing individuals to respect one another without requiring emotional agreement.

E.Some critics argue that tolerance risks encouraging indifference, suggesting that accepting difference may weaken moral conviction rather than strengthen it.

F.This perspective has influenced educational approaches that emphasise dialogue and critical thinking as foundations for peaceful coexistence.

II. WRITING – ARTICLE (25 points)

Write an article for your school magazine (240–300 words) on the following topic:

Is tolerance possible without affection?

In your article:

- refer to ideas from the reading text
- discuss the relationship between love and tolerance
- express and justify your own opinion
- use an appropriate semi-formal register

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BAREM DE EVALUARE ȘI DE NOTARE

- Se punctează oricare alte modalități de rezolvare corectă a cerințelor.
- Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL I – Use of English (40 puncte)

I. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits in each sentence. 10 points

1. immediately 2. thoughtful 3. arrogantly 4. authenticity 5. decisive 6. perception 7. insecurity 8. underestimating 9. adaptability 10. confidence

II. 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. 14 points

1. reliance on social media
2. little chance that
3. until she quit that she realised
4. a greater influence on
5. tend to share
6. great importance to be
7. is rarely questioned

III. Translate the following text into English. 16 points

I. Accuracy of Meaning – 7 points

- Faithful rendering of all main ideas and relationships: **4 pts**
- Accurate transfer of abstract concepts and nuances (e.g. *inner honesty, fragility, lucidity*): **3 pts**

II. Grammatical and Lexical Accuracy – 4 points

- Correct use of verb tenses, agreement, and syntax: **2 pts**
- Appropriate lexical choices at C1+ level: **2 pts**

III. Register and Style – 3 points

- Consistent literary / reflective register throughout the text: **2 pts**
- Natural flow and sentence rhythm: **1 pt**

IV. Subtlety and Expressive Elegance – 2 points

- Idiomatic and natural phrasing: **1 pt**
- Avoidance of literal, word-for-word translation: **1 pt**

MODEL ANSWER

I watched her without daring to say a word, as though any sound might shatter the fragile balance between us. Her silence was not cold, but full, like an unspoken promise that unsettled me more than a refusal ever could. Simple yet heavy thoughts gathered inside me, and I felt my treacherous heart utter them before I could.

I did not know whether what I felt was love or merely the fear of being left alone with my own questions. I only knew that, in her presence, the world seemed clearer and more painful at the same time. I wished to tell her that sometimes people meet not in order to make each other happy, but to come to understand themselves. Yet I remained silent. And that silence was, perhaps, my most sincere confession.

SUBIECTUL B – Integrated Skills

50 points

I. Five sentences have been removed from the following text. Choose from the sentences A- F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. 25 points (5x5=25points)

1. A 2. C 3. B 4. D 5. F

II. Write an article in your school magazine (240–300 words) on the following topic:

Is tolerance possible without affection?