

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ - ETAPA LOCALĂ

7 februarie 2026

Clasa a X-a - SECȚIUNEA A

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

SECTION A - USE OF ENGLISH

(40p)

I. For each space, think of ONE word which best completes the sentence and write it on your answer sheet. (10 x 1p = 10p)

Geologists believe that the earth's top layer is not solid (1) _____ is broken up into a number of large pieces called 'plates'. These plates are not fixed in one spot but are moving very slowly (about 1-10 cm a year) and independently of one (2) _____. That is, the plates are all moving (3) _____ different directions. Some plates are moving towards each other, some are moving away from each other, and (4) _____ are sliding past each other. As each plate moves, so (5) _____ the continents and oceans that lie above it. It is this movement of the earth's plates (called 'Plate Tectonics') that scientists believe explains geological phenomena (6) _____ as mountain formation, earthquakes, and the movement of continents (7) _____ time.

For example, when two plates (8) _____ are carrying continental crust above them crash into each other, the continents can 'buckle' and 'fold' to create mountain ranges. This is how the Himalayas formed. The plate which carries India above it crashed into the plate which carries Asia. In fact, the Himalayas are growing taller (9) _____ taller each year because these two plates are (10) _____ colliding.

II. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word in bold. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Write the answers on your answer sheet.

(5 x 2p = 10p)

- I think we should go home. It's really late. **HIGH**
It's _____ home.
- The insurance company asked me to describe the stolen painting in detail. **FULL**
The insurance company asked me to give _____ the stolen painting.
- They are building a new road through the town. **IS**
A new _____ through the town.
- "Of course I didn't give them your phone number," she said to me. **HAVING**
She _____ my phone number.
- She wouldn't have started singing if her parents hadn't persuaded her. **FOR**
Had it not _____, she wouldn't have started singing.

III. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap. Write your answers on your answer sheet.

(10 x 1p = 10p)

Today, you can see the colour purple (1) _____. But in ancient times, purple was a(n) (2) _____ difficult colour to produce in a dye. Cloth which was dyed purple was incredibly rare and very (3) _____. The only people who could afford to wear purple clothes were kings, or very wealthy or (4) _____ people. In fact, for many centuries, purple was the colour of (5) _____. Legend has it that purple was first discovered by the god Melkarth when his dog ate a sea snail. The snail left a (6) _____ purple colour around the dog's mouth. This snail (called Murex) became the first source of purple dye. The dye was called 'Tyrian Purple' after the place of its (7) _____: Tyre. The city of Tyre became rich and very (8) _____ in ancient times because its purple-dyed clothes were so (9) _____ prized. It took more than 12,000 Murex snails to produce enough dye to colour just one robe. Purple dye was so (10) _____ that in ancient Rome one gram of purple dye was worth more than twenty grams of gold!

- (1) EVERY
- (2) EXCEPTION
- (3) EXPENSE
- (4) POWER
- (5) ROYAL
- (6) BEAUTY
- (7) DISCOVER
- (8) FAME
- (9) HIGH
- (10) VALUE

IV. Translate the following text into English. Write your answer on your answer sheet.

(10p)

Ar fi putut prinde autobuzul de 8 dimineața, dar apropiindu-se de stație, zări o femeie tânără și i se păru că-l așteaptă pe el, așezată pe o bancă, prefăcându-se că citește. O văzu cum ridică mereu ochii din revistă și cercetează curios în jurul ei, întorcând uneori capul spre mesele de pe trotuar. Emanuel apucă pe prima străduță care-i ieși în cale, și pentru că foarte curând dădu cu ochii de o frizerie, intră înăuntru. Când reveni, pe la 8 jumătate, femeia era tot acolo pe bancă, răsfoind plictisită revista. Emanuel șovăi câteva clipe, apoi se reîntoarse și căută o cafea. Ceru un ceai și-l bău pe îndelete, gânditor. Cerul începea să se limpezească și se vestea o dimineață caldă. După vreo jumătate de ceas, se ridică și porni agale spre stația de autobuz.

I. Read the text below. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Complete the gaps (1-5) in the text with the sentences (A-E). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. Write your answers on your answer sheet. (5 x 2p = 10p)

Going Green in Hollywood

In recent years, more and more people have been working to help the environment. For Hollywood celebrities, being green and possessing environmentally friendly accessories is the latest trend. Famous actors like Cameron Diaz, George Clooney and Brad Pitt have all become green. 1 _____. However, it's actress Daryl Hannah who is probably the best-known environmentalist in Hollywood. She's been campaigning for environmental issues for years and has completely changed her way of life.

The accomplished actress, writer, director and producer has made more than 40 films, and has appeared with actors like Harrison Ford, Tom Hanks and John Malkovich. 2 _____. Although Daryl is a big Hollywood star, the usual luxuries are generally unimportant in her life. She's more interested in looking after the world around her. It may seem idealistic, but she wants to save the planet. This type of attitude is becoming more and more necessary for the future because of the environmental crisis which experts believe humans have created.

The demand for fossil fuels and other natural resources has led to climate change and the destruction of many natural habitats. It is estimated that over 150 species of animal become extinct every 24 hours. We've known about these issues for decades, but it often feels like there is little that we can do about it. As a result, Daryl has come up with a low impact way of living that is less harmful to the environment and sets an example of how individuals might really make a difference. She lives on a remote ranch in the Rocky Mountains, where she's been growing organic vegetables and looking after rescued animals since she moved there. The house is solar-powered and built from recycled stone and wood. It's built into the side of a mountain, so the Earth helps to heat and cool it down. 3 _____. In contrast to the huge mansions in the exclusive areas where her fellow actors live, Daryl's home has only got one bedroom.

Ironically, Daryl grew up in the city of Chicago, where her stepfather, Jerrold Wexler, was a very wealthy property developer. Despite this, Daryl was introduced to nature at an early age, when she was sent with her six sisters and one brother to take part in a nature survival camp in Colorado. 4 _____. Today, she spends as much time as she can outdoors. One of her favourite possessions is a type of tent called a tepee, which she often sleeps in during the summer months surrounded by deer, owls, eagles and coyotes.

Unlike other big celebrities, Daryl has lived a simple life for many years and she's cut back on any unnecessary luxuries. She doesn't own a private jet. She doesn't even like flying, preferring to take the train whenever she can. You might say that Daryl's weakness is her love of classic cars. She has an old '69 Buick Skylark and a Trans Am parked on her ranch. 5 _____. In the meantime, she's content to drive a truck that runs on biodiesel, and is planning to grow sunflowers on her farm so that she can make her own biodiesel from the oil the plants produce. She has the ambition of becoming totally self-sufficient, and it seems she's almost achieved her dream.

A She's also worked with top directors such as Oliver Stone and Quentin Tarantino.

B The experience, which was repeated every year between the ages of seven and 17, led to Daryl's interest in the environment.

C However, she has no intention of using them until they have been converted into environmentally friendly vehicles.

D Instead, she lives a more sustainable lifestyle.

E Perhaps one of the most surprising characteristics of the house is that it's very small.

F Leonardo DiCaprio has even given talks about the dangers of global warming and made a documentary called The 11th Hour.

II. The famous actress and environmentalist Daryl Hannah has recently opened a new restaurant called *"The Green Ranch Kitchen"* in your city. Following her philosophy of "low-impact living," the restaurant focuses on the Slow Food movement, using only organic vegetables grown on her ranch and serving meals in a solar-powered, recycled building.

Write a review of "The Green Ranch Kitchen" for a local lifestyle magazine.

In your review, you should: describe the unique atmosphere and the "eco-friendly" concept of the restaurant, evaluate the food and service, recommend who would enjoy this dining experience and if it is a sustainable model for the future of restaurants.

Write your REVIEW in 200–220 words. (40 points)