

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ - ETAPA LOCALĂ

7 februarie – 2026

CLASA a X-a - SECȚIUNEA B

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

SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH

(40 points)

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

(10 points)

We were about halfway across when I first noticed the boy. At a distance, my initial reaction was one of mild confusion, as it was unusual to see someone walking along the Stand. People rarely walk there, partly because there is little reason to do so and partly because the landscape offers few clues that the area is anything out of the ordinary.

Most of the time, you would not even realise that we were on an island. The river mouth that separates us from the mainland looks **harmless** enough, appearing as nothing more than a vast stretch of tall grasses and brown mud. It blends so naturally into the surroundings that it is easy to forget its significance. However, when the tide comes in, everything changes. The water rises by half a metre or more, covering the road completely, and for several hours nothing can pass. At those moments, the island becomes **isolated**, separated from the rest of the world until the tide retreats again.

As we drew closer, the figure ahead of us became clearer. He was not a boy after all, but a young man. Although he was on the small side, he was not as **slight** as I had first assumed. There was a quiet sense of strength about him, not the kind that comes from size or muscle, but a more graceful strength. It showed in his balance, in the way he held himself, and in the calm confidence of his walk, as if he belonged entirely to that place.

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. (3 × 1p = 3p)

- | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. harmless | a) threatening | b) insignificant | c) inoffensive | d) deceptive |
| 2. isolated | a) abandoned | b) cut off | c) crowded | d) remote |
| 3. slight | a) fragile | b) negligible | c) thin | d) weak |

B. Rephrase the following sentences using the word given so as to preserve the meaning of the initial sentence.

Do not change the form of the word given. (3 × 1 point = 3 points)

- People rarely walk along the Stand. **HARDLY**
People _____ along the Stand.
- You would not realise we were on an island most of the time. **AWARE**
Most of the time, you would not _____ on an island.
- The water covers the road completely. **RESULTS**
The rise of the water _____ the road being completely covered.

C. Choose from the 8 words given below the 4 words that fit in the following summary of the text. (4 × 1p = 4p)

distance – isolated – observation – strength – flooded – appearance – confident – landscape

The narrator makes an initial (1) _____ from a distance and describes a place that becomes temporarily (2) _____ when the tide rises. As the figure approaches, the young man's (3) _____ changes, revealing a quiet sense of (4) _____ rather than physical power.

II. For questions 1–10, use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap.

(10 points)

I have often **0. WONDERED**, as I watch him go by with his huge arrogant nose: can someone be so gifted and yet so impervious to the (1) _____ of things? It seems one can. Some people are (2) _____ of perceiving in the object of their (3) _____, the very thing that gives it its intrinsic life and breath, and they spend their entire lives (4) _____ about mankind as if they were robots, and about things as though they have no soul and must be reduced to what can be said about them - all at the whim of their own (5) _____ inspiration. As if on cue, the (6) _____ suddenly grow louder and Arthens rings at my lodge. I stand up, (7) _____ to drag my feet: the slippers in which they are clad are so very (8) _____ that only the between a baguette and a beret could possibly contend in the domain of cliché. In doing this, I know I am exasperating the Maître, for he is a living ode to the (9) _____ of mighty predators, and this shall contribute to the (10) _____ with which I very slowly open the door a crack to reveal my wary nose, red and shiny.

0. WONDER
1. PRESENT
2. CAPABLE
3. CONTEMPLATE
4. CONVERSE
5. SUBJECT
6. STEP
7. CARE
8. TYPE
9. PATIENT
10. DILIGENT

III. Some of the lines in the text below are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. On your answer sheet, write the number of the line and the extra-word, or a tick (✓) each correct line. (10 points)

- 0 ✓ Students today are constantly surrounded by digital devices,
00 the and the technology influences the way they learn and communicate,
1 both inside the classroom and outside the our school environment.
2 Many teachers believe that technology it can support learning,
3 but only when it is used with clear purpose and control.
4 Without clear rules, devices may easily become distractions
5 and students often struggle to maintain theirs focus during lessons.
6 This affects their ability to process information efficiently
7 and to have remember important details over time.
8 However, when used to wisely, technology strongly supports learning
9 by allowing students to be access information more quickly
10 and to develop skills essential for no modern society.

IV. Translate the following text into English.

(10 points)

Tehnologia poate sprijini învățarea, dar doar atunci când este folosită cu măsură. Elevii sunt adesea tentați să facă mai multe lucruri în același timp, ceea ce le afectează concentrarea. Cei care învață să își gestioneze atenția și timpul devin mai eficienți, mai responsabili și mai încrezători. În timp, acest echilibru îi ajută să obțină rezultate mai bune și să își dezvolte gândirea critică într-un mod sănătos.

SUBIECTUL II – INTEGRATED SKILLS

(50 points)

I. Five sentences have been removed from the following article.

(5 x 2p = 10p)

Choose from sentences A–F the one which fits each gap (1–5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Why Some People Choose Difficult Careers

From the outside, successful careers often appear effortless. What we see are the results, not the years of preparation behind them. Many professions demand long periods of training before any recognition is achieved. (1)

_____. Athletes, dancers and musicians, for example, practise daily, repeating the same movements or exercises for hours. To an outsider, this routine may seem monotonous. (2) _____. Without repetition, improvement would be impossible.

Another challenge is the constant risk of failure. Even experienced professionals make mistakes, sometimes in public. (3) _____. The difference lies in how they respond to these moments.

Some people assume that talent alone guarantees success. (4) _____. In reality, perseverance is usually far more important than natural ability.

Recognising the value of effort can change how people approach work and ambition. (5) _____. When effort is understood as a choice, it becomes meaningful rather than exhausting.

A However, this repetition builds mastery and confidence.

B Failure is often an essential part of progress.

C This belief prevents many from trying at all.

D Few people consider the sacrifices involved.

E It helps individuals accept challenges more easily.

F As a result, many abandon their goals too soon.

II. Writing

(40 points)

Your English teacher has asked you to write a report on the role of perseverance in achieving success. You should:

- explain why sustained effort is often misunderstood
- describe how perseverance helps overcome failure
- make recommendations for students

Write your REPORT in 200–220 words.