

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ - ETAPA LOCALĂ

7 februarie 2026

Clasa a XI-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)

The Safe Way to Travel

Being smart can make the difference between a great holiday and a disaster. (1) _____ of all, watch your stuff. You are responsible for your possessions, so keep them in a place (2) _____ is safe. Valuables such as passports (3) _____ never be left out in the open or back in your hotel (4) _____ they're locked in the safe. Use cash machines wisely – do it in groups and during the day (5) _____ possible. If your phone is lost or (6) _____, report it straightaway to your network provider so they can block calls on it. If you lose your wallet or cards, call your bank immediately (7) _____ deactivate the cards. If you have travel insurance, you will be covered for lost luggage and theft, but you will (8) _____ to have a police report to accompany your insurance claim. Finally, when it comes to staying safe, never, ever (9) _____ the law in a foreign country! Another thing to remember is hotel etiquette. Be considerate of other guests and keep the noise down, especially at night. Also, remember that charges for phone calls and anything consumed from the mini-fridge must (10) _____ paid when you check out of the hotel. Be smart and respectful in order to be safe and have fun.

II. Choose the best variant to complete all gaps in the sentences. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (10 x 1p = 10p)

- Many telephones in Warsaw have been _____ for months.
A. out of order B. out of line C. out of touch D. out of place
- I phoned him this morning, but when I said who I was he _____.
A. shut up B. rang up C. hung up D. shut down
- _____ Swiss Alps are _____ good place to go if you like _____ skiing. There is usually plenty of _____ snow during _____ winter months.
A. _ / a / the / _ / _ B. The / _ / _ / the / _ C. a / a / _ / _ / _ D. The / a / _ / _ / the
- She turned _____ to be a very intelligent girl although no one had expected it.
A. on B. into C. about D. out
- Alison _____ her studies because of her father's financial support.
A. could complete B. could have completed C. was able to complete D. enabled to complete
- There is no need to worry, I _____ the picture by the time you come to collect it.
A. will paint B. will have painted C. have painted D. would paint
- The train will be leaving in five minutes so you _____ better hurry up.
A. have B. would C. had D. should
- Will you lend me the book as soon as you _____ it?
A. are reading B. have read C. will read D. will have read
- He couldn't have known what was in the letter _____ he had written it himself.
A. unless B. if C. until D. if only
- It was the first time she _____ ever _____ a prize.
A. has / won B. had / won C. is / won D. would / win

III. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. You must use between two and five words. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (5x2p = 10p)

- Tom didn't feel like dancing that night.
Tom _____ dancing that night. **MOOD**
- Everybody says Tom's father was an extremely skilful chess player.
Tom's father _____ an extremely skilful chess player. **SUPPOSED**
- David praised her exceptionally good choice of venue for the party.
David _____ a good venue for the party. **CONGRATULATED**
- "If you stay a bit longer, you'll enjoy yourself even more," said our host.
Our host said that the _____ we would enjoy ourselves. **MORE**
- It's important to consider everyone's opinion before a final decision is made.
Everyone's opinion _____ before a final decision is made. **ACCOUNT**

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

(10p)

După ce mi s-a publicat cartea, redactorul, care-mi este, întâmplător, un bun prieten, mi-a spus că regretă foarte mult că nu a ținut un jurnal, în care să se fi consemnat munca noastră de zi cu zi. Nu știu de ce, dar considera că experiența

fusea cea mai interesantă din câte avusese el vreodată. N-aş putea explica nimănui cum se scriu cărţile, cu atât mai puţin să dau sfaturi despre ce e bine şi ce nu e bine să faci. Dacă aş face una ca asta, m-aş ruşina, pentru că eu însumi nu sunt decât un scriitor începător, care abia învaţă meserie şi descoperă, una câte una, vastele posibilităţi ale limbii în care creează. Chiar dacă nu mă pricep prea bine la scris povestiri, cel puţin am învăţat ceva despre viaţă, observându-mi semenii. Am mai învăţat câte ceva şi despre mine şi despre arta scrisului. Dacă nu m-aş fi bucurat de încurajarea celor ce mi-au citit nuvelele apărute în diferite reviste, n-aş fi avut tăria să continui să-mi scriu romanul. E important ca cel ce doreşte celebritatea să se bazeze pe puterile proprii, dar ştiu din experienţă că nu poţi ajunge prea departe fără ajutorul semenilor.

SECTION B - INTEGRATED SKILLS

(50p)

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)

No Longer Blowing in the Wind

Plastic bags disfigured South Africa's landscape until a small town decided to act.

They have been called the national flower of South Africa. Outside every city, town and village, hundreds of them flutter and rustle in the thorn bushes with the evening breeze. They come in red, green, blue and black, and even in multi-coloured stripes. Plastic bags. Lots of them. For South Africa consumes eight billion per year, or nearly two hundred for every man, woman and child in the country. But the country is not uniquely cursed. From the deserts of Yemen to the mangrove swamps of Thailand, the discarded plastic supermarket bag disfigures the landscape of much of the developing world. (1)

'Our town was filthy', says Sheila Joseph whose family has run the local general store for ninety years. 'Our park looked as though there had been a snowstorm every weekend. It was littered with plastic bags and rubbish. We had lots of clean-up campaigns, but they didn't work. After two or three weeks, the town was filthy again'. (2)

There are so many plastic bags blowing around the Northern Cape that a job-creation project in the provincial capital employs 38 people to wash discarded bags, cut them into strips and knit them together into brightly-coloured hats, carpets, doormats, bags and even picture frames for sale. (3)

'The biggest businesses have been with us from the start, and haven't given a plastic bag out since', says the polite but steely Joseph, whose advice is now eagerly sought by other litter-strewn towns across South Africa. 'Within two weeks, our park was clean. It's definitely brought the community of Douglas together'. (4)

As a representative explained: 'We all want Douglas clean, but I will give a plastic bag instead of talking about it for ten minutes if a customer moans'. But if the government has its way, the store and others like it across the country may soon be banned from handing out the bags. (5)

Plastic manufacturers and retailers have reacted to the plans with predictable outrage. They warn that thousands of people would lose their jobs and that the new rules are likely to be unenforceable as importers would almost certainly ignore them. They pointed out that old-fashioned heavy-duty bags use more plastic, not less. Consumers, they insisted, would be greatly inconvenienced. "It won't work", said a spokesperson. "The problem is not the plastic bags, the problem is litter, it's a question of attitude!"

- A. She blamed the mess on the thin bags handed out free to shoppers. Douglas's 15,000 residents did not like the litter. Nor did the tourists who came to see the confluence of the Vaal and Orange, two of southern Africa's greatest rivers. Farmers were unhappy too. Livestock sometimes ate the bags and died.
- B. Someone, of course, had to spoil the party. At the small Orange Vall store down the road from Joseph's, they're still giving out free plastic bags to customers who want them, although demand has halved since the campaign began.
- C. First inspired by the people of Douglas, they are equally passionate in their hatred of the bags. They nonetheless remain somewhat sceptical about the practicalities of such a solution.
- D. South Africans, however, have decided to do something. And it was the hitherto unremarkable town of Douglas in the arid Northern Cape region that took the lead.
- E. The argument put forward by the authorities is that thicker bags would not only be used again and again, but would also be easier to collect and recycle. Supply of bags with a thickness of less than 80 microns (a micron is a millionth of a meter) is therefore likely to be outlawed.
- F. So it was that the people of Douglas, rejoicing in the slogan 'Fantastic-no plastic' came to ceremonially execute an effigy made up from old plastic bags by the project staff. Since then, shoppers bring their own, reusable baskets and bags, including those made from locally recycled plastic.

II. As representative of the students' council in your school, the principal has asked you to write a report to assess young people's awareness of the importance of recycling and to make suggestions of environmental activities schools can organise to involve students.

Write your **REPORT** in 220-250 words, starting from the text above. (40 points)