

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ - ETAPA LOCALĂ

7 februarie 2026

Clasa a XII-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)

Britain has many haunted theatres. The Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, London, prides (1) _____ on being regarded as the most haunted theatre (2) _____ the showbiz. The most legendary ghostly inhabitant is an 18th-century gentleman known (3) _____ the 'Man in Grey'. Spotted by dozens of cleaners over the years, a sighting of him is usually considered to be good luck and indicates the show will go (4) _____ a hitch. It is thought that he is associated with a skeleton uncovered by workmen in the theatre in 1843. The skeleton was found with a knife in (5) _____ ribs.

There is also the ghost of an Irish man Charles Macklin, an actor (6) _____ profession. He stabbed a fellow actor, Thomas Hallam, in 1735. Macklin's ghost has (7) _____ seen in a backstage corridor. Joseph Grimaldi was a famous clown who performed at the Theatre Royal for many years. When he died in 1837, he left a request that he be buried near the theatre. Since then, his ghost appears during shows (8) _____ occasion, sometimes sitting in the audience, smiling encouragement up at performers on the stage. Every once in a while, performers (9) _____ felt his presence on stage with them. Some have spoken of feeling his hands guiding them to a better spot on stage, or even kicking them in the rear if they weren't (10) _____ their best!

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

- The tragic accident is still _____.
A. being talked about B. been talked about C. being talked D. talking about
- If you _____ these pills yesterday you _____ well now.
A. had taken / would be B. took / would be C. had taken / had been D. took / will be
- The _____ you start, the _____ you'll finish.
A. soon / more quickly B. sooner / more quickly C. sooner / quickly D. soon / quickly
- Julia has overslept again. She is going _____ late to her work. "I had better _____ a taxi" she thinks.
A. being/take B. be/to take C. to be/ take D. to be/to take
- You won't find _____ restaurant than this. They'll all be _____ expensive _____ this one.
A. the cheapest / as / as B. a cheaper / as / as C. a cheaper / as / more D. the cheapest / most / than
- I must feed my _____ cats today.
A. friend's mother's B. friend's mothers' C. friend's mother D. friends mother's
- Today _____ and _____ people come to understand that learning English is _____.
A. many / more / more useful B. little / less / useful C. most / less / less useful D. more / more / useful
- Mr Jones hates people _____ him waiting.
A. to keep B. been kept C. keeping D. being kept
- Why _____ you come home yesterday? We _____ a good time.
A. don't/ can have B. didn't/could have had C. will/might have D. doesn't/will have
- Ronald Reagan _____ president for 8 years before he _____.
A. had been/has retired B. had been/had retired C. was/ had retired D. had been/retired

III. 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 your answers on your answer sheet.

(5 x 2p = 10p)

- They had to postpone the match until Friday. **OFF**
The match _____ until Friday.
- Most of the people in the computing department of Currys PC World were teenagers. **MAJORITY**
There were many people in the computing department of Currys PC World, _____ were teenagers.
- I would rather watch tennis than play it. **PLAYING**
I prefer _____ it.
- The moment I shouted, he ran away. **SOONER**
No _____ he ran away.
- You should learn how to operate the washing machine. **ABOUT**
It's _____ how to operate the washing machine.

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

(10p)

M-am trezit târziu, după-amiaza. Pentru o clipă n-am știut unde mă aflu. Știi cum e când te trezești într-un loc străin și te întrebi unde în lume ești, până când amintirile năvălesc peste tine ca un val. M-am convins pe jumătate că visasem tot ce se întâmplase în noaptea dinainte. Sunt acasă, în pat, mi-am spus. E târziu și atât Darry, cât și Sodapop sunt treji. Darry gătește micul dejun și, într-un minut, el și Soda vor intra și mă vor da jos din pat, mă vor trânti la pământ și mă vor gâdila până când voi crede că mor dacă nu se opresc. După ce mâncăm, eu și Soda trebuie să spălăm vasele, apoi vom ieși cu toții afară să jucăm fotbal. Johnny, Two-Bit și cu mine îl vom avea pe Darry în echipa noastră, fiindcă eu și Johnny suntem atât de mici, iar Darry e cel mai bun jucător. Totul va fi ca într-o dimineață obișnuită de weekend.

Am încercat să-mi spun toate astea în timp ce zăceam pe podeaua rece de piatră, înfășurat în geaca lui Dally și ascultând vântul care vuia prin frunzele uscate ale copacilor de afară. În cele din urmă am renunțat să mai pretind și m-am ridicat. Eram înțepenit și mă durea tot corpul după ce dormisem pe podeaua aceea tare, dar nu dormisem niciodată atât de adânc.

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)

The Airport Photographer

I'm a photographer based at Heathrow Airport in London. Airlines often commission me to take photos of aircraft or their staff. But mostly I concentrate on getting shots of celebrities as they come through the arrivals hall. I sell some photos direct to the daily newspapers and celebrity magazines, and the rest go to a picture agency.

On a typical day I look out for the flights arriving from Los Angeles on the major airlines. **1** _____. Most of them fly either with British Airways because it's such an established company, or with Virgin Atlantic because the owner, Richard Branson, moves in those celebrity circles.

You've got to cover all the incoming flights though – Victoria Beckham took to flying with Air New Zealand at one time. I know the ground and security staff here very well. **2** _____. That can really make all the difference to being in the right place at the right time. I've been working here for many years now, so I've seen thousands of celebrities throughout the decades. In my experience, the old stars are the best. Joan Collins is my favourite — she sends me a Christmas card every year. Mick Jagger also knows me and always says hello. People like Paul McCartney and Rod Stewart are lots of fun, too. You get the impression that they enjoy the attention. I guess that's because they can see the value of it.

Today's big stars are generally okay and give you a polite smile. I won't mention names, but there are some who wave me away rudely, whilst others even have their managers popping up from nowhere, saying 'no pictures' to the waiting photographers. **3** _____. You've probably seen photographers leaping around in this manner on TV footage of celebrities arriving at airports and wondered why they do it – well often that's why.

4 _____. One time, Naomi Campbell refused to come out from behind a pillar. She called up for a buggy and hopped on the back, so there I was chasing it, trying to get a shot of her. But the next time I saw her she'd just got engaged and came up to me to show me the ring.

But if today's stars don't make my job as easy as it was, today's technology more than makes up for it. When I started out it was much less sophisticated. I remember when the British queen's granddaughters, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, were just babies. I heard that their mother, the Duchess of York, was coming through Heathrow with them. She was carrying both babies in her arms. **5** _____. I realised I had a good chance of getting one of them onto the front page of the newspaper, which is always the photographer's aim.

So I called my editor to warn him, took the shots, then rolled up the film, labelled it, put it in an envelope and organised for a motorbike dispatch rider to pick it up, take it back to the newspaper offices and have it developed. It had taken three hours. Today, using digital cameras and a laptop, the office gets images in three minutes.

A I was lucky enough to get some lovely shots of them.

B Often it's one of them who tips me off that a big star has just come through passport control.

C That's where you generally find the celebrities.

D They could be appearing in the arrivals hall at any time, night or day, of course.

E When that happens, they have to do what we call 'duck and dive' to get a shot.

F With some stars, however, you're never quite sure what you're going to get

II. Photographing celebrities in public places such as airports has become a routine part of modern media culture. While some people see this as harmless and even beneficial to celebrities, others argue that it is intrusive and ethically questionable.

Starting from the text *The Airport Photographer*, write an article in which you discuss whether celebrity photography in public spaces is justified and how the relationship between celebrities, photographers, and the media has changed over time.

Write your ARTICLE in 250-280 words. (40 points)