

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ
7 februarie 2026
CLASA A IX-A – SECȚIUNEA A

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Timpul de lucru este 3 ore.
- 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the following text and put the verbs in the brackets into the correct tense. (10 points)

Last autumn, while I (1) _____ (walk) through the historic district, I unexpectedly (2) _____ (run) into an old friend whom I (3) _____ (not see) for over a decade. At first, I (4) _____ (barely / recognise) him, as he (5) _____ (change) so much since we last met. Over coffee, he said, “I (6) _____ (try) to find a better balance between work and life lately,” and added that if he (7) _____ (have) more opportunities, he (8) _____ (start) his own business. He also explained that he once believed he (9) _____ (become) a successful entrepreneur by the age of thirty, and return home once he (10) _____ (achieve) his goals.

II. Use the word given to form a word that fits in each sentence. (10 points)

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 There's no _____ of life on other planets yet, but I'm sure it's out there. | PROVE |
| 2 I find that _____ helps me remember new vocabulary. | REPEAT |
| 3 We didn't mean to _____ you. I'm so sorry if we upset you. | EXCLUSIVE |
| 4 These noodles are _____ eaten at Chinese New Year. | TRADITION |
| 5 I'm afraid I don't know very much about _____ | POLITICAL |
| 6 They _____ the evidence from crime scenes in this laboratory. | ANALYSIS |
| 7 What _____ of hair do you think looks best on me? | LONG |
| 8 White is not a _____ colour for a carpet. It gets so dirty! | SENSE |
| 9 I prefer to wear simple _____ like silver hoops or a wooden bracelet. | JEWEL |
| 10 Strong colours can make you feel more _____ | ENERGY |

III. 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 two and five words, including the word given (10 points)

1. She managed to finish the project on time. **SUCCEEDED**
She _____ project on time.
2. People think that the painting is over 300 years old. **TO**
The painting _____ 300 years old.
3. “Don't forget to lock the door,” he told me. **FORGET**

He told me _____ the door.

4. It wasn't necessary for you to bring your laptop. NEEDN'T
You _____ your laptop.

5. As soon as he arrived, the meeting started. HAD
No sooner _____ the meeting started.

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Am scris destulă literatură, vreme de vreo șaizeci de ani nu am făcut decât asta, dar să-mi îngădui acum, la sfârșitul sfârșitului, un moment de luciditate: tot ce am scris după vârsta de treizeci de ani nu a fost decât o penibilă impostura. Sunt sătul să mai scriu fără speranța că mă voi putea vreodată depăși, că voi putea să-mi sar peste umbră. E drept, până la un punct am fost cinstit cu mine, în singurul fel posibil pentru un artist, adică am vrut să spun despre mine totul, absolut totul. Dar cu atât mai amară a fost iluzia, căci literatura nu e mijlocul potrivit prin care poți spune ceva cât de cât real despre tine.

(adaptat după *Solenoid*, Mircea Cărtărescu)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS

(50 points)

I. Five sentences have been removed from the following text. Choose from the sentences AF the one which fits each gap 1 – 5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. Write your answers on your answer sheet. (10 points)

Amelia Edwards (1831–1892) is sometimes called ‘the godmother of Egyptology’. Her work helped preserve the artefacts of ancient Egypt for the world to see today.

Edwards didn't grow up with dreams of becoming an archaeologist. As a child she loved to write, paint, draw and make music. She had had a poem published by the age of seven and her first story at the age of twelve. A famous artist of the day, George Cruikshank, offered to train her as an artist, but Edward's mother and father felt it was a poor career choice. The family didn't have enough money and so until the age of thirty, when her parents died, Amelia worked as a writer of novels, articles, history books and poetry in order to help them.**1[...]**

At thirty, Edwards was unmarried and alone. She had a love of travel and she was free to explore the world.**2[...]** Back then, even people with a university education had not heard of the Dolomites, but Edwards had seen some Italian paintings of the area and was determined to go there. Edwards enjoyed the challenging journey and wrote a book about it, Untrodden Peaks and Infrequent Valleys. When they came down from the mountains, Edwards was unhappy about her return to civilisation and the end of their trip. The friends set off on a walking tour of France, but heavy rain stopped them and instead, they decided to travel to Egypt.

Edwards and Renshaw were soon on a boat sailing down the Nile – the only way to explore the region in those days.**3[...]** She fell in love with Egypt's rich archaeology, which was just beginning to be discovered.

She spent six weeks digging at the Temple of Rameses II as well as writing a book about her journey. The book, *A Thousand Miles up the Nile*, set the world on fire and is still in print today.

However, other things that Edwards saw in Egypt made her worried and angry. Tourists and collectors were destroying the historical sites. People carved their names into the ancient monuments. Everyone who visited stole artefacts and sold them illegally. She became determined to protect Egypt's archaeological history from people who just wanted to make money and the growing tourism industry.. **4.[...]** The fund allowed young archaeologists to travel to Egypt and help to preserve the valuable artefacts. Edwards spent the rest of her life raising money for it through articles, letters, books and talks.

When Edwards died in 1892, she left her collection of Egyptian artefacts, her library and £5,000 to University College London.**5.[...]** It is named after Flinders Petrie who was one of the archaeologists Edwards helped to go to Egypt and who collected most of the artefacts there. However, without the work of Amelia Edwards it would not have existed, and neither would many of the amazing historical artefacts from ancient Egypt that the world knows of today.

A When Edwards first saw the Great Pyramid, it made a huge impression on her.

B Back in London, Edwards set up the Egypt Exploration Fund in 1882.

C However, she often wondered if she should have become an artist.

D Her collection was the beginning of the world-famous Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology.

E Edwards often said that travelling helped her understand herself better.

F On 27 June 1872, she set off on a trip through the Dolomite mountains with her friend Lucy Renshaw.

II. Your name is Emma/Lucas Parker and you have recently found an announcement for an international summer camp organized in the United Kingdom. The camp is looking for motivated teenagers to join a two-week programme focused on leadership, teamwork, and cultural exchange. Write a letter of application (180–200 words) in which you:

- explain why you are interested in participating;
- describe your relevant skills, qualities, and previous experience;
- mention how you could contribute to the camp activities;
- request further information about accommodation and daily schedule.

(40 points)

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

7 februarie 2026

CLASA a IX-a - SECȚIUNEA A

BAREM DE EVALUARE ȘI DE NOTARE

- Se punctează oricare alte modalități de rezolvare corectă a cerințelor.
- Nu se acordă punctaje intermediare, altele decât cele precizate explicit prin barem.
- Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Put the verbs in the brackets into the correct tense. (10 points)

10x 1p = 10 points

1. was walking 2. ran 3. had not seen / hadn't seen 4. barely recognized 5. had changed 6. have been trying 7. had 8. would start 9. would become 10. had achieved

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each sentence. (10 points)

10 x 1p = 10 points

1. PROOF 2. REPETITION 3. EXCLUDE 4. TRADITIONALLY 5. POLITICS
6. ANALYSE/ANALYSED 7. LENGTH 8. SENSIBLE 9. JEWELLERY/ JEWELRY 10. ENERGETIC

III. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. (10 points)

5 x 2p=10 points

1. succeeded in finishing
2. is thought to be over
3. not to forget to lock
4. needn't have brought
5. had he arrived than

IV. Translate into English. (10 points)

grammar structures 4points

vocabulary 4points

fluency 2 points

SUGGESTED ANSWER

I've written quite a lot of literature— *for some sixty years/ for sixty years or so* I did nothing but that— but let me now allow myself, at the very end of the end, a moment of lucidity: everything I wrote after the age of thirty was nothing more than/ *other than* a pathetic imposture. I'm *fed up with/*

sick and tired of writing without the hope that I might ever surpass myself, that I might be able to leap over my own shadow. It's true, up to a point I was honest with myself, in the only way possible for an artist, that is, I wanted to say everything about myself, absolutely everything. But all the more bitter was the illusion, for literature is not the right means through which you can say anything even remotely real about yourself.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)**I 1.C 2.F 3.A 4.B 5.D 10 points****5x2points=10 points****II Writing Letter of application-40 points****MARKING SCHEME - FORMAL LETTER**

OLIMPIADA 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 3 ore.

SUBIECTULA - Use of English / (40 points)**I. Read the following text and complete each gap with the right word. 10p**

Teenagers today have more ways than ever to spend their free time. While technology provides endless entertainment, it also _____ (1) challenges when it comes to relaxation and balance. Many young people choose to spend hours online, _____ (2) playing games or using social media, instead of engaging in physical or creative activities. This lifestyle can affect both physical and mental health. _____ (3) some teenagers are aware of these risks, they still find it difficult to reduce screen time. For example, they may continue scrolling on their phones simply _____ (4) they do not want to miss out on updates from friends. On the other hand, free time can be used in more meaningful ways. Sports, reading and volunteering can _____ (5) young people develop confidence and social skills. Parents and teachers often encourage such activities, _____ (6) teenagers sometimes resist these suggestions. Learning to manage free time responsibly is _____ (7) important step towards independence. Experts believe that teenagers should be guided, not controlled. Giving them the freedom to choose, _____ (8) setting clear limits, can lead to better decisions. It is also essential to explain _____ (9) balance is necessary for a healthy lifestyle. In the end, how teenagers use their free time will _____ (10) a strong influence on their future habits.

II. Use the word in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap. 10p

Social media plays a significant role in shaping teenage identity. While it allows young people to express themselves more freely, it can also have a powerful _____ (1) INFLUENTIAL on how they see themselves. Teenagers are often exposed to carefully edited images that promote _____ (2) REAL standards of beauty and success. As a result, many young users experience feelings of _____ (3) SECURE, particularly when they compare themselves to others online. Another issue is the constant need for _____ (4) APPROVE through likes and comments. This can lead to _____ (5) DEPEND on external validation, which may affect emotional development. Over time, this reliance can reduce _____ (6) CONFIDENT, making it harder for teenagers to develop a stable sense of self. However, social media is not entirely negative. It can encourage _____ (7) CREATE and allow teenagers to connect with people who share similar interests. The key lies in developing digital _____ (8) LITERATE, so users can understand how content is produced and promoted. Without this awareness, teenagers may become _____ (9) CRITIC consumers of online information. Ultimately, helping young people use social media responsibly requires both education and _____ (10) GUIDE from adults who understand the challenges of growing up in a digital world.



III. Complete the second sentences with three to eight words so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. 10p

1. The moment I shouted he ran away. SOONER
No _____ he ran away.
2. I'm sure that it was the sound of the rain that disturbed me. MUST
It _____ of the rain that disturbed me.
3. I managed to finish all the homework before the deadline. SUCCEEDED
I _____ the homework before the deadline.
4. I took the only course open to me and changed my job. DID
What I _____, which was the only course open to me.
5. They don't allow people who arrive late at the opera house to enter until the interval. ARE
People who arrive late at the opera house _____ until the interval.

IV. Translate the following text into English 10p

Am petrecut o foarte agreabilă seară împreună, pe terasă, dar cu toate eforturile mele nu i-am putut spune prea mare lucru, căci nici eu nu cunoșteam îndeaproape viața interioară a indienelor și nu le văzusem, până atunci, decât la cinematograful și la recepții. M-am gândit însă că l-aș putea ruga pe Narendra Sen să-l invite o dată la ceai și să-l lămurească. Poate m-am gândit că, cu acest prilej, voi putea și eu privi mai îndeaproape pe Maitrayi, pe care nu o mai văzusem de-atunci, deoarece excelentele mele raporturi cu Sen se reduceau la munca noastră în comun la birou și conversațiile în mașină. Mă invitase până acum de două ori să iau ceaiul cu el, dar, cum îmi prețuiam mult timpul liber, dedicându-l în întregime fizicii matematice, îl refuzasem.

(M. Eliade, *Maitreyi*)

B. Integrated Skills /50 points

I. Five sentences have been removed from the following article. 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. 10p

Binge-Watching in the Family

Binge-watching has become a widespread way of consuming television and film content, as streaming platforms allow viewers to watch entire seasons or film series without interruption. The rapid expansion of original content, combined with the convenience of on-demand viewing, has significantly altered viewing habits and made binge-watching a defining feature of contemporary popular culture. This week, we explored a range of attitudes towards binge-watching within a single household. Different members of the family described how this habit influences their daily routines, priorities and relationships. One of the younger members of the family openly admits to spending much of her free time watching series. *"It's important for me not to feel excluded,"* she explains. *"When everyone at school talks about the same shows, not watching them can make you feel invisible."*

(1) _____

As a result, a close friend who is more restricted at home often joins her to watch episodes together. She also acknowledges that her involvement in other activities has gradually declined. Although she once devoted several evenings a week to a hobby, she eventually abandoned it and has yet to replace it with another interest. Even so, she is aware that maintaining acceptable grades remains a condition

for continuing this lifestyle. Her parent recognises the risks associated with these habits but admits to a certain level of inconsistency when it comes to setting limits. *"If I were stricter, I would have to change my own behaviour as well,"* she confesses. (2) _____ *"After a long day, it's hard to argue against something that helps everyone relax."*

Another family member, slightly older, usually keeps a video playing in the background while spending time alone. He resists the label of binge-watcher, insisting that his viewing is largely incidental. *"I don't sit down with the intention of watching an entire series,"* he says. (3) _____ This passive approach has exposed him to unexpected content, some of which he finds surprisingly engaging.

From a more pragmatic standpoint, a different adult evaluates binge-watching primarily in terms of cost and convenience. While acknowledging that subscription fees are not insignificant, he believes the _____ return _____ on _____ investment _____ is _____ considerable. (4) _____ In his view, the flexibility offered by streaming services outweighs their financial drawbacks.

An older relative offers a more reflective perspective. Although she once relied on watching several episodes in a row during a period of illness, she now views the practice with a sense of loss. *"Waiting for the next episode used to be part of the experience,"* she remarks. (5) _____ *"Instant access may be convenient, but it also removes the pleasure of anticipation."*

Meanwhile, another family member focuses on the technological mechanisms behind streaming platforms, suggesting that recommendation algorithms may encourage viewers to explore content beyond their usual preferences.

- A. She believes that sharing the same viewing experiences helps preserve social connections within her peer group.
- B. He argues that the sheer amount of content consumed makes the expense more justifiable than traditional forms of entertainment.
- C. She feels that this waiting period strengthened emotional involvement with the story.
- D. Instead, he allows episodes to continue playing while his attention is divided between different activities.
- E. She admits that her reluctance to impose restrictions is influenced by her own reliance on television as a way to unwind.
- F. He claims that constant access to content has significantly improved viewers' concentration skills.

II. Your teacher has asked you to write a **review of a TV series, film series or streaming platform** that _____ is _____ popular _____ among _____ teenagers _____ and _____ encourages _____ binge-watching. In your review, you should include: a brief description of the series or platform, why it is (or it is not) suitable for binge-watching and whether you would recommend it to people your age. Write your review in **200–220 words**.

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7 februarie 2026
CLASA A X-A SECȚIUNEA A

BAREM DE EVALUARE ȘI NOTARE

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- Se acordă 10 p din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A - Use of English / 40p

I. Read the following text and complete each gap with the right word. 10p (10x1p)

1. Creates/poses
2. either
3. Although/while/whilst
4. because
5. help
6. but
7. an
8. while
9. why/that
10. have

II. Use the word in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap. 10p (10x1p)

1. influence
2. unrealistic/unreal
3. insecurity
4. approval
5. dependence
6. confidence
7. creativity
8. literacy
9. uncritical
10. guidance

III. Complete the second sentences with three to eight words so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. 10 p (5x2p)

1. sooner had I shouted than
2. must have been the sound
3. succeeded in finishing all
4. did was change my job
5. are not allowed to enter

IV. Translate the following text into English. 10p

We spent a very pleasant/agreeable evening together on the terrace, but despite all my efforts, I could not tell them very much, since I, myself, was not familiar with the inner life of Indian women and had only seen them, until then, at the cinema and at receptions. However, I thought I might ask Narendra Sen to invite him over for tea one day and explain things to him. Perhaps I thought that on this occasion I would also be able to observe Maitrayi more closely, whom I had not seen since then, because my excellent relations with Sen were limited to our shared work/common work at the office and our conversations in the car/while driving. He had invited me twice so far to have tea with him, but as I valued my free/leisure time greatly, devoting it entirely to mathematical physics, I had refused him/turned him down/declined his invitatio.

SUBIECTUL B – Integrated Skills / (50 points)

I. Five sentences have been removed from the following article. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap. 10p (5x 2p)

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

II. Marking scheme- review(40 p)



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- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
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- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A - Use of English (40 points)

I. Read the following text and complete each gap with the right word.

10p

Everyone knows that the key (1)_____ a healthy long life is to exercise and eat well. But what (2)_____ you simply don't have the time to slog it out at the gym, or chalk up 10,000 steps a day? The good news is that doing everyday activities with more rigour and energy can achieve huge benefits. Think running up the stairs, power walking (3)_____ the house, or playing with your children or pets. If you've followed exercise science in the last three years, you (4)_____ have encountered a new term: vigorous intermittent lifestyle physical activity or VILPA. Also described through the various monikers of "exercise snacking," "snackivity," (5)_____ "activity microbursts," it's the latest solution to a long-term problem – how best to coax the most reluctant of exercisers to sit less and move (6)_____?

In the past decade, high-intensity interval training (HIIT) – which involves pushing the body to (7)_____ limits through brief explosive bursts of running, cycling and bodyweight exercises – has become a popular workout for more time-pressed gym goers.

(8)_____ to Mark Hamer, professor of sport and exercise medicine at University College London, VILPA is a scaled down form of HIIT. It simply means doing everyday activities with slightly more gusto (9)_____ the aim of raising your heart rate for one or two minutes at (10)_____ time.

II. Read the following text and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits in each gap. 10p

1. I wish the teacher ... him so that he ... a better student.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. punished/might have become | b. had punished/became |
| c. has punished/to become | d. had punished/might have become |

2. People say that music is an important new export of Irish culture.

- Music is said to be an important new export of Irish culture.
- It's said the music to be an important new export of Irish culture.
- Music is an important new export of Irish culture.
- It's said the music has been an important new export of Irish culture.

3. Hardly ... my car repaired when it ... again.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. I had/ broke down | b. I had had/ had broken down |
| c. had I had/ broke down | d. did I have/ broke down |

4. ... in a louder voice I ... him, but as it ... , I ... absolutely nothing.

- He has spoken/ could follow/ was/ understood
- Had he been speaking/ could have followed/ had been/ had understood
- Had he spoken/ could have followed/ was/ understood
- He had spoken / might have followed / had been / had understood

5. Nearly ... in the village seems to be ... Evans or Jones or Smith.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| a. all/ neither | b. every/ both |
| c. everyone/ either | d. someone/ all |

6. It's time you ... this winter coat. Can't you see spring ... in?

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. leave off to wear/ set | b. had left wearing/ is setting |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|



c. would leave off on wearing/ has been setting

d. left off wearing/ has set

7. She ought to go to ... dances and ... English lessons.

a. lesser/ more

c. little/ many

b. fewer/ more

d. a fewest/ most

8. Under no circumstances ... the scissors on the table. The children ... themselves if they play with them.

a. you must leave/ can hurt

b. you shall leave/ might hurt

c. should you leave/ may hurt

d. would you leave/ may be hurting

9. "When we had finished reading the newspaper's account of the murders ... Dupin ... myself said anything for a while."

a. both/ and

b. either/ or

c. neither/ nor

d. either/ nor

10. But for that old beggar who ... to help him, the child ... his life in the accident.

a. came/ would have lost

b. has come/ wouldn't lose

c. had come/ would have lost

d. was coming/ must have lost

III. Complete the second sentences with three to eight words so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. 10 p

1. I feel that you have really let me down this time, I can't help it.

AVOID I can't _____ you this time.

2. There was a long journey ahead of us, so we agreed upon an early departure.

OFF We decided _____ there was a long journey ahead of us.

3. It is an unlikely scenario that we will both end up studying at the same university, as I don't want to.

RELUCTANT I _____ same university as you, so it is very improbable.

4. The bully wasn't just teasing his classmate. He was being violent too.

ONLY Not _____ fun of his classmate but he was violent too.

5. I will pay you for the meal next week unless you have any objections.

OBJECT If you _____ for the meal next week, I will leave it until then.

IV. Translate the following text into English

10p

Moromete luase în glumă nu numai temerea Catrinei în privința casei, dar și visurile ei înspăimântătoare. „Măcar să avem noi atâția porci câți visezi tu”, spusese el, dar în curând pricepu și el că a face și a crește copii mulți poate fi adesea pentru o mamă ceva într-adevăr înspăimântător. Întâmplările care avură loc după aceea în familie nu-l turburară însă pe Moromete în aceeași măsură. Numai una dintre ele, care avu loc într-o iarnă puțin timp după ce familia scăpă de datorii prin legea conversiunii, îl făcu să înțeleagă că e totuși primejdios și pentru el să nu ia seama la copii. În anul acela recolta fusese bogată și toată lumea făcea comerț cu cereale la munte. Gospodăriile se refăceau din anii grei prin care trecuseră între 1929 și 1933. Prosperitatea bătea la ușa multora din sat, vitele se înmulțeau, prețurile cerealelor erau ridicate, bumbacul și uneltele mai ieftine, iar prețul pământului mai ridicat decât oricând.

(Text adaptat după *Moromeții*-Marin Preda)

SUBIECTUL B. Integrated Skills (50 points)

I. You are going to read a magazine article about a woman who makes mirrors decorated with seashells. Five sentences have been removed from the article. 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. 10p

MAKING MIRRORS

Viv Thomas used her exotic shell collection to embark on a new career making the decorated mirrors which she now sells all over the world.

Viv Thomas, together with her husband Clive, returned to Britain after nearly 30 years of living abroad with wonderful memories. She also brought back a huge collection of seashells collected from beaches around the Indian Ocean.

Determined to use them rather than just keep them in a box or throw them out, Viv made a shell mirror for her bathroom. This was very much admired by friends and neighbours who came to visit her. (1) ____

That was two years ago. Viv now runs her own small mirror-making business. She buys shells from all over the world through a wholesale company and has converted a spare bedroom in her house into an office-cum-studio. (2) ____

A local carpenter makes frames for her and a glazier then fits the glass inside. Viv does everything else herself: the design, the initial painting of the frame and then the final making up. (3) ____

Clive is a banker and was able to advise Viv on deciding how much money should be invested when she decided to set up the business. Around £3000 was spent on shells alone. (4) ____ Viv's main problem was knowing how to market her work more widely.

Local shops could only sell a small number because once they had added their profit margin, the mirrors became rather expensive. However, Viv has now made contact with another company that makes and sells mirrors of a different type. Together they can afford to take stands at specialist exhibitions and craft fairs. At such events, the right sort of people get to see the mirrors and can order them directly.

Venturing into other areas, Viv plans to approach restaurants and hotels directly as she thinks her mirrors might be attractive to them. She has also taken a website on the Internet. This is a very economical way of selling. It means Viv doesn't have the expense of travelling around with her range of mirrors in the back of the car.

Viv reckons it will take another year before her business starts to make money. (5) ____ She would like to employ someone to help her with the administration and preparation of the frames, for example, which would allow her to devote more time to the artistic side.

- A. This represents about one week's work and each mirror brings in anything between £100 and £400 for the business.
- B. As Viv discovered, it's a good idea to find a company willing to sell goods on your behalf.
- C. Before long, she was being asked to make mirrors for other people.
- D. But it didn't end there, Viv also had to think about equipment such as the heavy-duty boxes needed to send the mirrors abroad.
- E. She works there, surrounded by shells of every shape and colour and the other materials needed to make the mirrors.
- F. Once this happens, she feels she will be able to concentrate on the side of the business she enjoys.

II. Your school is organizing a project inspired by real-life examples of people who have turned personal passions into successful businesses. Your teacher has asked you to write a report inspired by the story of Viv Thomas, who turned her hobby into a small business.

In your report, present young people's opinions in your country about: **opportunities for turning creative skills or hobbies into a career, the main difficulties of starting a small business and the importance of financial stability when choosing a career path.**

Write your report in **220–250 words**.

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BAREM DE EVALUARE ȘI DE NOTARE**

- Se punctează oricare alte modalități de rezolvare corectă a cerințelor.
- Nu se acordă punctaje intermediare, altele decât cele precizate explicit prin barem.
- Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A - Use of English / 40 points**I. Read the following text and complete each gap with the right word.****(10 x 1p = 10p)**

1. to
2. if
- 3 around
- 4 might/ must/ may
- 5 or
- 6 more
- 7 its
- 8 According
- 9 with
- 10 a

II. Read the following sentences and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits in each gap.**(10 x 1p = 10p)**

1d, 2a, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6d, 7b, 8c, 9c, 10c

III. Complete the second sentences with three to eight words so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given.**(5 x 2p = 10p)**

1. avoid feeling let down by
2. to set off early as/because
3. am reluctant to study at the
4. only did the bully make
5. do not object to me paying

IV. Translate the following text into English.**(10p)****SUGGESTED ANSWER**

Moromete had taken as a joke not only Catrina's anxiety about the house but also her frightening nightmares. "If only we had as many pigs as you're dreaming of," he said, but he soon realized that having and raising a lot of children may often be an overwhelming task for a mother. The events that later occurred in the family disturbed Moromete to a lesser degree. Only one of them, which took place one winter, shortly after the family had got rid of their debts thanks to the conversion law, helped him understand that even for him it was dangerous not to pay attention to the children. That year the crop had been *rich/ plentiful/abundant*, and everybody was trading their cereals in the mountains. The households were recovering from the terrible crisis they **had lived through/ had experienced** between 1929 and 1933. Prosperity was knocking at the door of many of the villagers, the cattle increased in number, the market prices of cereals were high, cotton and tools were cheaper, and the price of land higher than ever before.

SUBIECTUL B – Integrated Skills / 50 points**I. Five sentences have been removed from the following interview. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap.****(5 x 2p = 10p)**

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

II. Writing: Report– according to the Marking Scheme**(40p)**

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ**7 februarie 2026****CLASA A XII-A – SECȚIUNEA A**

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Timpul de lucru este 3 ore.
- 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTULA – USE OF ENGLISH / (40 points)

I. Read the text. Think of the word which best fits each gap. Write the correct word in each gap. 10 p

In today's highly interconnected world, individuals are constantly exposed to new ideas, technologies, and cultural influences. While this process has undoubtedly contributed to social and economic development, it has also created a number of challenges that must be carefully _____ (1).

One of the most significant issues is the growing dependence _____ (2) digital technology. Many people find it difficult to function effectively _____ (3) access to the internet or smart devices. As a result, traditional forms of communication are gradually being replaced _____ (4) virtual interactions, which may weaken genuine human relationships.

Moreover, the rapid pace of technological innovation often leaves individuals struggling to keep _____ (5) with constant change. Those who fail to adapt may find themselves increasingly marginalized in modern society, especially when their skills become outdated. In extreme cases, this sense of exclusion can lead to frustration and diminished self-confidence.

Education plays a crucial role _____ (6) helping young people develop the skills needed to navigate this complex environment. Schools should _____ (7) only focus on academic achievement, but also encourage students to think freely and make responsible decisions.

Another important factor is environmental responsibility. As natural resources continue to be exploited _____ (8) an alarming rate, governments and citizens alike must accept full _____ (9) for protecting the planet. Failure to act promptly could result in irreversible damage for future generations.

In conclusion, _____ (10) modern society offers countless opportunities, it also requires individuals to be highly adaptable, well-informed.

II. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. 10 p

1. It's impossible for anyone to complete the task in such a short time. out

No one _____ the task in such a short time..

2. Despite his efforts, he still doesn't understand the instructions. head

He can't _____ the instructions, no matter how hard he tries.

3. People believe he was stabbed by a tramp. to

He _____ stabbed by a tramp.

4. The president is just going to sign the treaty. verge

The president _____ signing the treaty.

5. Although she is a diligent pupil, she doesn't get high marks. though

Diligent _____, she doesn't get high marks.

III. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D

10 p

1. They eventually confessed _____, the young woman a year before.

- A) having killed
- B) to having killed
- C) killing
- D) killed.

2. His innocence didn't fool her.

- A) She was not taken into by his innocence.
- B) She was not taken in by his innocence.
- C) She was not taken off by his innocence.
- D) She was not taken aback by his innocence.

3. _____ did they realise the seriousness of the situation.

- A) Only then
- B) Then only
- C) Only
- D) Only after

4. Fie ce-o fi, tot plec de acasă!

- A) Be it like that, I'm still going from home!
- B) Come what can, I'm still going home!
- C) Be it as it is, I'm still leaving my home!
- D) Come what may, I'm still leaving home!

5. It is essential that every student _____ their homework before the deadline.



- A) completes
- B) complete
- C) completed
- D) will complete

6. The ancient castle, perched _____ a cliff and surrounded _____ dense woods, had been constructed _____ withstand attacks from rival lords, and its walls were gradually eroded _____ centuries of wind, rain, and frost.

- A) on/by/to/over
- B) on/by/to/through
- C) on/with/to/through
- D) in/with/for/on

7. Try as I _____, the door _____ unlock.

- A) might/couldn't
- B) may/wouldn't
- C) can/won't
- D) might/wouldn't

8. It had rained all the time, that's why he didn't enjoy his holidays.

- A) But for the rain, he would have enjoyed his holidays.
- B) But for the rain, he wouldn't have enjoyed his holidays.
- C) But for the rain, he didn't enjoy his holidays.
- D) But for the fact that it had rained, he would have enjoyed his holidays.

9. Soldiers who refuse to _____ with military regulations will be severely punished.

- A) conceal
- B) comply
- C) obey
- D) consent

10. Suppose you _____ supernatural powers, _____ your life?

- A) will be given/ will you change
- B) would be given /did you change
- C) had been given /should you have changed
- D) were given / would you change

IV. Translate the following text into English.**10p**

Că scrisorile acestea nu trebuie să mai rămâie în mâna Emiliei, pentru., mine e o poruncă [...] ... Dacă m-aș găsi într-o expediție periculoasă și un camarad al meu ar cădea [...], aș căuta cel puțin să-l îngrop [...] Mi se pare de prisos orice negociere cu ea. Cred că ar deveni cu atât mai calculată, cu atât mai prudentă, cu cât aș oferi mai mult. Aș vrea să-i cer scrisorile sub pretextul că doresc să le copiez și eu. Și pe urmă să nu i le mai înapoiez. Dar chiar faptul că aș manifesta intenția de a le avea în copie, i-ar sugera ei bănuiala că e cine știe ce valoare la mijloc... Mai mult, aș face-o foarte circumspectă și n-aș izbuti să le fur. Căci astă seară, le voi fura. Am căutat a doua zi toate ziarele și revistele din săptămâna morții lui Ladima. Nu mi-era greu, căci faptul intra chiar în colecțiile din anul acesta... Gândul acesta singur și îmi da o tristețe grea ca un doliu.

(Patul lui Procust - Camil Petrescu)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. Read the following text. Five paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A-F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra paragraph that you do not need to use.

10 p**How Cities are Adapting to Climate Change**

Cities are on the front lines of the growing physical risks associated with climate change. They are home to more than half of the world's people, and by 2050, that figure is projected to rise to 68 percent. Urban areas are often located in places of particular climate risk, such as on coastlines, floodplains, and islands. Moreover, modern urban infrastructure and its operating systems are closely connected. A failure in one part of a network can affect another, multiplying the damage. (1)_____

Given existing greenhouse-gas emissions, some climate change is already locked in, making such risks unavoidable. To protect the lives and livelihoods of urban residents, the imperative is to adapt—and to start now. Climate change could increase the severity and frequency of extreme heat, flooding, drought, and wildfires—the specific hazards addressed in this report (2)_____

Because different cities face different climate risks and have varying levels of vulnerability, adaptation options that are effective in most may not be feasible in others. To manage that complexity, cities can concentrate on actions that play to their strengths (in resources, physical features and assets, and jurisdictional control) and offer a high return in risk reduction. (3)_____

There are two parts to the report. The first sets out the 15 actions. Four of them build systemic resilience, meaning they strengthen all kinds of cities. The other 11 are hazard specific, meaning they target particular physical climate risks. Some of the 15 actions, such as building barriers to protect coastal areas and retrofitting infrastructure, are complex and expensive. Others, such as planting trees

next to streets and initiating behavioral-change programs to conserve water, aren't. Examples from all over the world, in both advanced and developing economies, demonstrate what's possible. (4)_____

Climate risk directly affects people (health, livability, and workability), assets (businesses, homes, and hospitals), and services (energy and food supply). This report can serve as a starting point to help cities develop their agendas for adaptation. Leaders will need to go deeper as they work out their strategies. Local knowledge is critical to success. At the same time, climate adaptation is one of many competing priorities, and urban resources are limited. By identifying the most effective and feasible actions, cities can focus on executing them well and build momentum to do more (5)_____

A. Equally important is the role of technological innovation, which can help monitor climate hazards in real time and improve emergency response through data-driven systems.

B Identifying such high-impact adaptations can be daunting, given the steadily developing nature of the climate threat and the dizzying array of adaptation options available.

C. This report is a call to action—focused action. We hope that it will help cities play an important role in making swifter, surer progress toward a healthy and sustainable future.

D. Flooded roads, for example, can damage links to public transport. Storm surges and extreme heat can lead to power outages that knock out the technology systems critical to homes, hospitals, and industries.

E. The second part of the report describes, in broad terms, how cities can implement the actions. We suggest that they begin by defining the most relevant hazards and by understanding the risks those hazards pose to their communities. On that basis, cities can then conduct detailed analyses of the risk-reduction impact, costs, and feasibility of different actions.

F. More than 90 percent of all urban areas are coastal; by 2050, more than 800 million urban residents could be affected by sea-level rise and coastal flooding. In addition, 1.6 billion people could be vulnerable to chronic extreme heat (up from 200 million today), and 650 million could face water scarcity.

II. Starting from the text above, write an article of 250–280 words to be published in an online magazine for young people interested in environmental issues and urban development. 40 p

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ**7 februarie 2026****CLASA A XII-A – SECȚIUNEA A****BAREM DE EVALUARE ȘI DE NOTARE**

- Se punctează oricare alte modalități de rezolvare corectă a cerințelor.
- Nu se acordă punctaje intermediare, altele decât cele precizate explicit prin barem.
- Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH/40p**I. Read the text. Think of the word which best fits each gap. Write the correct word in each gap.****10 p (10 x 1p = 10p)**

1. Considered. 2. On. 3. Without. 4. By. 5. Up. 6. in. 7. Not. 8. at. 9. Responsibility. 10. Although/ while/ whilst

II. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.**10 p 5x2p=10**

1. can/ could carry out

2. get/ wrap his head (a)round/ make head or tail of

3. is believed to have been

4. is on the verge of

5. a pupil though she is/ though the pupil may be/ is

III. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D 10 p.**10 x 1p = 10p**

1. B 2. B 3. A 4. D 5. B 6. B 7. D 8. A 9. B 10. D

IV. 10p

It is an order for me not to leave these letters in Emilia's hands [...]... If I were/Were I on a dangerous expedition and one of my companions fell/were to fall [...], I would at least try to bury him [...] ... Any negotiation with her seems useless to me. I think the more I would offer, the more careful and cautious she would become. I would like to ask her for the letters using the pretext that/ on the grounds that I want to copy them, too. And then I would not return them. But even if I showed the intention of having copies of them, that would make her suspect they were who knows how valuable/that some unknown value is at stake... All the more, I would cause her to be on her guard/alert/ on her toes and I would never manage to steal them. For tonight I shall steal them.

The next day I read all the newspapers and magazines issued during the week Ladima died. It was not difficult, because the fact was included in this year's collections. This thought alone made me experience a sadness/ sorrow/ misery as heavy as mourning.

1. Accuracy – 2p
2. Appropriateness – 2p
3. Naturalness – 2p
4. Cohesion – 2p
5. Style of discourse – 2p

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS/50p

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10 p

5 x 2p= 10p

1. D, 2 F, 3.B,4. E, 5.C

II Article -40 points - Marking Scheme