

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

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

SUBIECTUL A - Use of English (40 points)

I. Read the paragraphs below and do the tasks that follow:

(10 points)

Being a teenager is all about figuring out who you are, dealing with ego, understanding respect, and living through experiences that leave a mark. My dad says it was harder in his time, but honestly, 2024 has its own challenges. Maybe different, but not easier. [...]

In a world where every moment is **instant** and busy, I wonder if we've lost the depth and warmth that once came with truly connecting, when words carried weight, and conversations were more than just exchanging replies like *idk* and *tyl*. Being a 15-year-old in 2024, I'm still figuring out the complexity of this global village, the place where I grew and the people, human beings also called homo sapiens.... I know that the chaos of teenage years will eventually move away and turn into something greater where there are no limits to cross.

For now, I am **embracing** the madness, joy, recklessness, magic, and some sort of drama of the process of discovering who I truly am, what I want to be and give to this world. It's about learning, making mistakes, dreaming big, and having high expectations. Sometimes not working hard because we get **distracted** or lazy. I once heard a quote: "If you cannot be a poet, become the poem." Life is about making your experiences a reflection of the things you value, just as a poem is a reflection of a poet's soul.

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text.

(3 points)

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. instant | a. contemporary | b. tiresome | c. fast | d. exigent |
| 2. embracing | a. hugging | b. grabbing | c. containing | d. experiencing |
| 3. distracted | a. sidetracked | b. panicked | c. playful | d. lucid |

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it.

(3 points)

1. My dad says it was harder in his time. **ACCORDING**
_____ easier in his time.

2. I'm still figuring out the complexity of this global village. **YET**
I _____ complex this global village is.

3. I know that the chaos of teenage years will eventually move away. **DOUBT**
I _____ of teenage years will eventually move away.

C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use. (4 points)

affect, tougher, responsible, basis, crazier, joys, improve, pressures

Teenage years are a time of self-discovery—testing identity, managing pride, learning respect, and collecting life-changing moments. While older generations say it was (1) _____ before, being 15 in 2024 brings its own (2) _____: speed, distraction, and less meaningful conversations that can (3) _____ real connection. Still, I accept the chaos and thrill—mistakes, big dreams, messy growth—and hope these years will become the (4) _____ of something larger.

II. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the numbered space. (10 points)

Online learning has become (1) _____ (INCREASE) popular in recent years. It offers great (2) _____ (FLEXIBLE) for students who cannot attend classes regularly. However, success depends on strong (3) _____ (MOTIVATE) and good time (4) _____ (MANAGE). Without these skills, learners may feel (5) _____ (OVERWHELM). Teachers also need to adapt their teaching methods in order to (6) _____ (DEEP) their students' knowledge; equally important, educators must maintain regular communication with students. Group projects and live sessions help combat isolation and build (7) _____ (DISPENSABLE) skills. When done (8) _____ (EFFECT), online education can be just as (9) _____ (VALUE) as traditional learning and can (10) _____ (COURAGE) lifelong education.

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. On your answer sheet, if a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet. (10 points)

| | |
|---|----|
| On lovely sunny days in the summer, many of people in London | 1 |
| go to one of the beautiful parks. Most of them go there | 2 |
| just to sit around and relax themselves with friends, but I prefer | 3 |
| something such more active. For me, one of the most exciting | 4 |
| things to do is flying a kite. It's amazing how much fun you | 5 |
| can have with a small and piece of material on a long piece of | 6 |
| cord. The best thing about kites is that, unless you will want | 7 |
| one that can do lots of fancy tricks to impress your friends, | 8 |
| they don't cost a very lot of money. You need a day when | 9 |
| there's a good strong breeze. To get it the kite flying, you have | 10 |
| to unwind a few metres of the cord and then get a friend to hold the kite up. | |

IV. Translate the following text into English. (10 points)

E inutil să reproduc aici conversația. Într-o jumătate de ceas, gheața se rupsese. Ne-am distanțat, perechi, perechi. Eu rămăsesem cu sora fetei care îi plăcuse lui Robert. O brună, cu obrajii roșii și ochii negri. De câte ori o priveam, mă tulbura gândul că am mai văzut-o în toate grupurile de fete, în toate liceele, la toate serbările. Era cea mai mică din grup și, poate, cea mai cuminte.

Eu am vrut să-mi dovedesc că am curaj. Îmi spuneam: „Sunt laș dacă până ce număr zece nu îi trec brațul sub brațul meu.“ Fata s-a înroșit mult, mult. Eu eram palid, întunecat. Vorbeam, vorbeam. Îmi ajungeau pe buze toate anecdotele erotice, toate cuvintele cu două înțelesuri.

(Mircea Eliade- *Jurnalul adolescentului miop*)

SUBIECTUL B - Integrated skills (50 points)

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

For many years, career success was traditionally associated with long working hours, relentless dedication, and consistently putting personal life second. In recent times, however, a growing number of employees are questioning this model and seeking a more sustainable approach that balances professional ambition with personal wellbeing. Companies have begun to notice that employees who are chronically fatigued or emotionally drained tend to be less productive, more prone to errors, and less innovative. As a result, flexible schedules, remote work options, and alternative arrangements are becoming increasingly common. (1) _____

Research indicates that when employees perceive that their contributions are valued, and when they are treated with respect and granted a meaningful degree of autonomy, their intrinsic motivation rises significantly. (2) _____ Thus, in order to create a positive atmosphere many organizations prioritize comprehensive wellbeing programs, encompassing not only physical and mental health support but also opportunities for career growth, mentorship, and the cultivation of a positive organizational culture.

Nevertheless, some organizations remain hesitant to embrace such changes. Concerns often revolve around the fear that increased flexibility might erode discipline, reduce oversight, or create inconsistencies in performance. (3) _____ In practice, however, establishing clear objectives, maintaining transparent communication, and implementing robust accountability structures can effectively mitigate these concerns while preserving the benefits of a more adaptable work environment.

Many companies are also rethinking traditional hierarchies and management practices to create more collaborative, inclusive workplaces. (4) _____ Managers increasingly act as facilitators and coaches, focusing on removing obstacles, enabling skill growth, and creating space for diverse perspectives.

Ultimately, long-term organizational success hinges upon achieving a delicate balance. Companies that emphasize both performance and the holistic wellbeing of their employees are better positioned not only to retain talented individuals but also to foster innovation, resilience, and sustainable growth. (5) _____

Sentences A–F

- A. Rather than top-down decision making, many organizations now favour flatter structures and cross-functional teams where employees have clearer ownership and more voice in projects.
- B. Such concerns are often based on fear rather than facts.
- C. Employees also tend to stay longer in supportive environments.
- D. Without rules, productivity will completely disappear.

- E. Finding this balance is essential for a sustainable future.
F. These changes benefit both employers and workers.

II.

Reviews wanted – A workplace experience you can learn from

Have you ever participated in a team project, internship, or any activity that taught you about cooperation, responsibility, or balancing tasks? Write a review of the experience, including:

- a brief description of the activity
- what you learned about teamwork, responsibility, or time management
- whether you would recommend this experience to people your age and why

We'll post the best reviews on the website next month.

Write your answer in 220-250 words.

(40 points)

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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 paragraphs below and do the tasks that follow: (10 points)

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. (3x1p=3p)

1.c 2.d 3.a

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it. (3x1p=3p)

1. According to my dad, it wasn't...
2.haven't (have not) figured it out yet how...
3. ... have no doubt that the chaos...

C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill- in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use. (4x1p=4p)

1. tougher 2. pressures 3. affect 4. basis

II. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the numbered space. (10x1p=10p)

1.increasingly 2. flexibility 3. motivation 4. management 5. overwhelmed 6. deepen
7. indispensable 8. effectively 9. valuable 10. encourage

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. On your answer sheet, if a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet.

(10x1p=10p)

1. of 2. ✓ 3. themselves 4. such 5. ✓ 6. and 7. will 8. ✓ 9. very 10. it

IV. Translate the following text into English. (10 points)

It is useless to reproduce the conversation here. Within half an hour, the ice had been broken. We drifted apart, in pairs. I had remained with the girl's sister—the one Robert had liked. A dark-haired girl, with red cheeks and black eyes. Every time I looked at her, I was disturbed by the thought that I had seen her before in all groups of girls, in all high schools, at all school celebrations. She was

the youngest in the group and, perhaps, the most well-behaved. I wanted to prove to myself that I am courageous. I kept telling myself: “I am a coward if, before I count to ten, I do not take her arm under mine.” The girl blushed deeply, deeply. I was pale, darkened. I talked and talked. All the erotic anecdotes, all the double-meaning words reached my lips.

(Mircea Eliade- *Jurnalul adolescentului miop*)

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 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. (5x2p=10 points)

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

II. Read the task. Write your answer in 200-220 words. - according to the Marking Scheme (40 points)

OLIMPIADA 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 de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A - Use of English (40 points)

I. Read the paragraphs below and do the tasks that follow: (10 points)

In recent decades, technology has profoundly transformed the way people communicate with each other. The widespread availability of the internet and the rapid development of smartphones have enabled individuals to remain connected almost continuously. Social media platforms facilitate the instant exchange of ideas, images and opinions, irrespective of geographical distance and time difference. Consequently, communication has become not only faster but also increasingly accessible to a global audience.

Nevertheless, this active state of connectivity has significantly **altered** patterns of social behaviour. A considerable number of teenagers devote extensive amounts of time to online activities, frequently at the expense of face-to-face interaction. Although digital communication can reinforce relationships across long distances, it may simultaneously **undermine** the development of essential interpersonal skills, especially at a young age. Parents and educators have therefore voiced growing concern regarding the effects of excessive screen time on young people's concentration, emotional balance and ability to engage effectively in real-world communication.

In response to these emerging challenges, certain educational institutions have introduced digital literacy programmes. These initiatives are designed to promote responsible technology use and to foster sustainable online habits. By encouraging critical thinking, self-regulation and balanced media consumption, educators aim **to equip** young people with the skills necessary to navigate a future in which technology will remain central to both personal and professional areas.

(Adapted text from articles published by Linkedin on best practices for responsible technology use)

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

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. altered | a) reduced | b) cancelled | c) spoiled | d) modified |
| 2. undermine | a) support | b) replace | c) weaken | d) erase |
| 3. to equip | a) to add | b) to provide | c) to reward | d) to encourage |

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it. (3 points)

1. Teenagers who spend less time online, develop better social skills. DOWN
If teenagersonline, they would develop better social skills.
2. Schools have introduced programmes to teach responsible use of technology. BEEN
Programmes to teach responsible technology use

3. If students practice speaking more with others, they will become more confident. **UNLESS** Students won't become more confident.....with others.

C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill- in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use. (4 points)

interaction • connectivity • literacy • initiatives • relationships • underline • facilitate • consequences

In recent decades, advances in technology have dramatically changed communication methods. The internet and smartphones improve constant (1) _____ between people, allowing information exchange across great distances. However, this has also affected social (2) _____, especially among teenagers, who may neglect face-to-face communication. To address these challenges, schools have introduced digital (3) _____ designed to promote responsible use of modern technology. These programmes aim to (4) _____ balanced habits and critical thinking about media consumption.

II. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the numbered space. (10 points)

Technology has brought many changes to our daily lives. The rapid (1) _____ (DEVELOP) of smartphones and the internet has made communication much easier. However, this trend has led to a (2) _____ (LOSE) of active face-to-face (3) _____ (ACT). Schools aim to increase students' (4) _____ (AWARE) of the possible risks online, such as cyberbullying or data (5) _____ (THIEF). The widespread (6) _____ (USE) of technology also raises questions about its impact on privacy. Who should take (7) _____ (RESPONSE) for the things people post on social media platforms? There should be (8) _____ (REGULATE) on the use of autonomous systems as well. Despite the challenges, technology offers great opportunities for individuals, using personal data to create personalized outcomes. With continued innovation, we can expect further (9) _____ (ADVANCE) in encrypting data for (10) _____ (SECURE) reasons.

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. On your answer sheet, if a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet. (10 points)

| | |
|--|----|
| The young woman was short, with a figure of perfect the elegance | 1 |
| She had dark and an abundant hair, so glossy that it reflected the sunlight | 2 |
| and a round face, which, that besides tracing beautiful features and a | 3 |
| smooth complexion, was lively because of her deep brown eyes. She was | 4 |
| characterized by a certain status and grace so when I approached her | 5 |
| she rose on from the armchair she had been sitting in and took a step | 6 |
| towards me. I grew myself nervous and smiled shyly but I tried to hide my | 7 |
| emotions. The time stood still and I suddenly found myself at a loss | 8 |
| for the words. "It took you such a long time to come back here, Mr. Winter", | 9 |
| she said in a soft voice. Her gaze became so piercing that I felt helpless | 10 |

IV. Translate the following text into English.

(10 points)

După câteva săptămâni, m-am oprit cu fiul meu într-o cafenea locală și m-am întâlnit din întâmplare cu prietenul meu din copilărie, John, care lucra pentru banca NNS. Era sâmbătă dimineața, purta

haine obișnuite și era evident că voia să fie lăsat în pace. Dar nu a fost să fie așa. Trebuia să îi spun povestea mea și necazurile pe care le avusesem cu cei de la NNS. John a încercat să se îndrepte spre ușă, dar m-am așezat în calea lui. Fiul meu m-a tras de braț, zicându-mi “Hai, tată”, dar era deja prea târziu.

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 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. (10 points)

In recent years, environmental issues have become one of the most popular topics worldwide. Important issues such as climate change, air pollution, and the decrease in natural resources affect both developed and developing countries. 1) _____. As a result, public opinion is clearly divided between those who demand immediate action and those who remain sceptical about the seriousness of the problem.

Climate action supporters argue that climate change is mainly caused by human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels and large-scale deforestation. Supporters use as references scientific studies concerning rising global temperatures, melting glaciers, and an increase in extreme weather events. According to them, urgent actions are necessary to limit long-term damage. 2) _____ Although these measures might prove to be challenging for economies and individuals, supporters believe they will be able to create a more sustainable and healthier future for everyone involved.

On the other hand, climate change sceptics question both the speed and the causes of climate change. They believe that environmental changes have always occurred naturally throughout history. 3) _____ Another serious concern is the possible economic impact of restrictive environmental policies, which they fear could lead to unemployment and higher living costs. 4) _____ Instead of urgent actions, sceptics would rather wait for the development of future technological solutions.

As in many global debates, both sides hold valid points of view. The real challenge is finding a balanced approach that protects the environment while also supporting economic stability. 5) _____ In addition, education and access to trustworthy information are essential so that people can understand environmental issues and make responsible choices for a green future.

(Adapted text from articles published by National Geographic on climate change and public debate)

Sentences A–F

- A. This situation has created intense debates among scientists, politicians, and the general public;
- B. Some also question the reliability of climate data and scientific predictions;
- C. So they encourage the use of renewable energy, recycling, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- D. They argue that environmental protection should not seriously harm economic growth;
- E. To reach this goal, cooperation between governments, businesses, and citizens is essential;
- F. Climate change only affects future generations, not people today.

II. You are the representative of the City Students’ Council and you have been asked by the Mayor to evaluate how sustainable your city is. Write a **report in which you assess the current situation, addressing the following issues:**

- **transport and green spaces**
- **quality of life for young people**
- **suggestions for improvement.**

Write your answer in 220-250 words.

(40 points)

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ
7 februarie 2026
CLASA A X-A - SECȚIUNEA B**

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 paragraphs below and do the tasks that follow: (10 points)

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. (3x1p=3p)

1. d 2. c 3. b

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it. (3x1p=3p)

1. If teenagers *cut down on their time* online, they would develop better social skills.
2. Programmes to teach responsible technology use *have been introduced by schools*.
3. Students won't become more confident *unless they practice speaking more* with others.

C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill- in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use. (4x1p=4p)

1. connectivity 2. interaction 3. initiatives 4. facilitate

II. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the numbered space. (10x1p=10p)

1. development
2. loss
3. interaction
4. awareness
5. theft
6. usage
7. responsibility
8. regulations
9. advancement
10. security

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. On your answer sheet, if a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet. (10x1p=10p)

1. the 2. an 3. that 4. ✓ 5. ✓ 6. on 7. myself 8. ✓ 9. the 10. ✓

IV. Translate the following text into English. (10 points)



A couple of weeks later/after a couple of weeks, I stopped by at a local coffee shop with my son and I ran into my childhood friend, John, who was working for the NNS bank. It was Saturday morning, he was wearing casual clothes and it was obvious that he wanted to be left alone. But it was not to be so. I had to tell him my story and about all the troubles I had had with the NNS. John tried to move toward/towards the door but I stood in his way. My son tugged at my arm, saying “Come on, dad”/”Let’s go, dad”, but it was already too late.

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 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. (5x2p=10 points)

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

II. Read the task. Write your answer in 220-250 words. - according to the Marking Scheme (40 points)

OOLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ
7 februarie 2026
CLASA A XI-A – SECȚIUNEA B

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu
Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

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

10 points

It's **tempting** to believe that success comes from rare moments of inspiration, but research suggests otherwise. According to behavioural scientists, progress is usually the result of small, **consistent** actions. Imagine wanting to improve your English: you might wait for the perfect moment to study, but that moment rarely comes. Instead, experts recommend creating routines that make learning automatic. For instance, listening to a short podcast while getting ready in the morning can gradually build your vocabulary without feeling like extra work.

Another important factor is your environment. If your phone constantly distracts you, it becomes harder to stay focused. Changing your surroundings—even slightly—can make a big difference. Place your textbook on your desk instead of in your bag, or keep a notebook next to your bed for quick revision.

Finally, don't underestimate the power of reflection. Tracking your progress helps you notice what works and what doesn't. When **setbacks** occur, treat them as information, not failure. Sustainable improvement is less about perfection and more about persistence.

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text.

**3
points**

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. tempting | a. discouraging | b. appealing | c. confusing | d. predictable |
| 2. consistent | a. irregular | b. steady | c. accidental | d. temporary |
| 3. setbacks | a. obstacles | b. achievements | c. predictions | d. excuses |

B. Rephrase the sentences using the word given, without changing it.
3 points

- Progress is usually the result of small, consistent actions. **LIKELY**
Small consistent actions _____ progress.
- Don't underestimate the power of reflection. **WERE**
If _____ the power of reflection.
- If your phone constantly distracts you, it becomes harder to stay focused. **LESS**
The _____ it becomes to stay focused.

C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill-in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use
4 points

practice irrelevant unlikely progress environment observation occasional regular

People often wait for the perfect moment to study, but this is (1) _____ to happen. Instead, small and (2) _____ actions help build strong habits. Adjusting your (3) _____ can make learning feel more natural, while regular (4) _____ helps you understand what works best.

II. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Write only the missing word on your answer sheet.

10 points

1. I'm driving into town and can _____ you off at the station if you need a lift.
Can we just _____ the subject and talk about something else, please.
Gardeners be warned that temperatures are likely to _____ to below freezing tonight..
2. Although it was a warm day, she was wearing a ___ winter coat.
He wasn't used to doing such _____ physical work and got blisters on his hand.
I have a _____ schedule next week, do I won't be able to join you on the trip.
3. Which _____ are you interested in test-driving, Sir?
Rhiana has made a beautiful _____ of a Spitfire fighter plane.
Ronaldo is a role _____ for many young footballers.
4. The crime _____ has risen alarmingly in the last 10 years.
What's today's exchange ___ between the pound and the euro?
We're stuck in traffic, and at this _____, we'll miss the beginning of the conference.
5. Children who are _____ to their devices get up to all kinds of mischief.
After the party, I was _____ with all the tidying up to do.
My sister felt _____ out when we all started playing a game without her.

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet.

10 points

1. Travelling alone can be both exciting and challenging for many people.
2. While exploring new places, you may discover about things you never expected.
3. Many travellers say that solo trips help them gain in confidence.
4. However, it is important to stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

1.

2.

3

4.

5.

5. Some people prefer planning every detail, while others enjoy the spontaneity.
6. What matters is finding a balance between that works well for you personally.
7. In recent years, more young adults have been choosing to travel independently.
8. They appreciate the freedom to decide what they want to do it each day.
9. Solo travel can also teach valuable lessons for about responsibility and resilience
10. Ultimately, the journey becomes not only about places, but also about yourself.

IV. Translate the following text into English:**10 points**

În Istanbulul acela forfotind de străini, era un medic care studiasse medicina la Roma și petrecuse apoi câțiva ani la curtea lui Brâncoveanu, în București. Chemat într-o zi la casa unui turc bolnav, pe când se afla acolo, sosi în vizită un prieten de-al acestuia. Începu vorba de sănătatea turcului și apoi de noutățile zilei. Musafirul destăinuie turcului, între altele, că Brâncoveanu a fost declarat rebel și că, după ce i se vor confisca toate averile, va fi adus la Istanbul cu toată familia sa. Doctorul, care se făcea că nu înțelege turcește, trăgea cu urechea cât putea. Ieșit din casa bolnavului, alergă la prietenul său grec, pe care-l știa bine cu Brâncoveanu, și îi spuse tot ce auzise, rugându-l să dea de știre lui Vodă de soarta care-l așteaptă însă fără a-i descoperi numele. Când primi Brâncoveanu scrisoarea grecului, rămase foarte nedumerit. Nici nu o citi bine în gura mare sfetnicilor săi, că o și rupse mânios.

(Trecute vieți de doamne și domnițe - C.Gane - text adaptat)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

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

10 points

A new study published in the journal Science shows definitive evidence of organic matter on the surface of Mars. (1)____. It confirms earlier findings that the Red Planet once contained carbon-based compounds. These compounds – also called organic molecules – are essential ingredients for life as scientists understand it.

(2)____. The rover encountered traces of the molecule in rocks extracted from the area. The rocks also contain sulfur, which scientists speculate helped preserve the organics even when the rocks were exposed to the harsh radiation on the surface of the planet.

Scientists are quick to state that the presence of these organic molecules is not sufficient evidence for ancient life on Mars, as the molecules could have been formed by non-living processes. (3)____ Especially when one considers the other startling find that Curiosity uncovered around five years ago.

The rover analyses the air around it periodically, and in 2014 it found the air contained another of the most basic organic molecules and a key ingredient of natural gas: methane. (4)____ According

to NASA, Mars emits thousands of tons of methane at a time. The level of methane rises and falls at seasonal intervals in the year, almost as if the planet is breathing it.

The world of astrobiology considers these studies as historical milestones. According to this information, Mars is not a dead planet. (5)_____ Of course, this means further research is necessary. Scientists say they need to send new equipment to Mars, equipment that can measure the air and soil with more precision.

The possibility of life on Mars has fascinated humans for generations. It has been the subject of endless science-fiction novels and films. Are we alone in the universe or have there been other life forms within our Solar System? If the current missions to the Red Planet continue, it looks as if we may discover the answer very soon.

Paragraphs A-F

- A. One of the characteristics of methane is that it only survives a few hundred years. This means that something, somewhere on Mars, is replenishing the supply.
- B. The organic molecules were found in Mars's Gale Crater, a large area that may have been a watery lake over three billion years ago.
- C. Never before had a human being set foot on Mars.
- D. The data was collected by NASA's nuclear-powered rover Curiosity.
- E. On the contrary, it is quite active and may be changing and becoming more habitable.
- F. But it's still one of the most astonishing discoveries, which could lead to future revelations.

II. Starting from the text above, ***write an article of 250–280 words*** exploring the possibility of life on a different planet. Focus on why people might want to live elsewhere, what new opportunities could arise and what challenges they might have to deal with.

40 points

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ

7 februarie 2026

CLASA A XI-A – SECȚIUNEA B

BAREM DE EVALUARE ȘI 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. A. Synonyms (3 x 1p = 3p)

1. b. 2. b. 3 d.

B. Rephrase the following sentences (3 X 1p = 3p)

1.are likely to result in . / will likely result in .
2. I were you, I wouldn't underestimate...
3. less distracted you are by your phone, the easier....

C. Choose the right words to fill in the text. (4 X 1p = 4p)

1. unlikely; 2. regular; 3. environment; 4. observation

II. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Write only the missing word on your answer sheet. (5 x2p = 10p)

1. drop; 2. heavy; 3. model; 4. rate; 5. left

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. (10 x1p=10 p)

1. ✓; 2. about; 3. in; 4. ✓; 5. ✓; 6. between; 7. ✓; 8. it; 9. for; 10. ✓

IV. Translate into English (10 p)

In that bustling Istanbul packed with foreigners, there was a doctor who had studied medicine in Rome and had then spent a few years at Brâncoveanu's court, in Bucharest. Called one day to the house of a sick Turk, while he was there, a friend of the Turk's arrived for a visit. They began talking about the Turk's health and then about the news of the day. The guest confided to the Turk, among other things, that Brâncoveanu had been declared a rebel and that, after all his assets were confiscated, he would be brought to Istanbul with his entire family. The doctor, pretending not to understand Turkish, listened/was listening as closely as he could. Upon leaving the sick man's house, he ran to his Greek friend, who he knew was on very good terms with Brâncoveanu and told him everything he had heard, asking him to inform the Prince about the fate awaiting him, but without

revealing his name. When Brâncoveanu received the letter from the Greek, he was (very) puzzled. Hardly/Barely/Scarcely/No sooner had he read the letter to his counsellors/advisers in a loud voice when/than he tore it with/in terrible anger.

SUBIECTUL B - Integrated skills - 50 points

I. Choose the right answer to the questions below. 5 x2p = 10p

1-D, 2-B, 3-F, 4-A, 5-E

II. 40 points – according to the Marking Scheme - ARTICLE

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

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

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

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

10 points

It's day one of a healthier, smarter, better you. You're full of **zest** and good intentions. You woke up at 5am to run before work, you read a book in your lunchbreak, and you listened to an English podcast on your commute. Now, fast forward three months. Life is getting in the way and you've slipped into old habits... snoozing your alarm and eating chocolate for breakfast. Sound familiar? Don't be hard on yourself. It's unrealistic to rely on willpower alone. As James Clear, author of the bestselling book 'Atomic Habits', writes, "The problem isn't you. The problem is your system." Our habits come from goals, so start by getting really clear. Goals, according to George T Doran, should be SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. A SMART goal would be "I'm going to walk for 20 minutes in the evenings on weekdays." Now you have a clear action that you can stick to. Once you're clear on your goals, you need to make the associated habits as automatic as possible. Try 'habit stacking', a technique popularised in the book 'Atomic Habits', which involves attaching a new habit onto something you already do regularly. For example, if you already make coffee every morning, use that moment to read your book for 20 minutes. That way, your new reading habit is now **intertwined** with something you're going to do anyway. Another key strategy is to reward yourself, to transform the habit from a chore into something pleasurable. If it's hard to get yourself to the gym, promise yourself that after each visit, you'll allow yourself a treat – a takeaway meal or an episode of your favourite TV show.

Even with our best intentions, stress and interruptions to your routine can still make keeping habits difficult. If or when you have **setbacks**, accept it as part of the process.

C. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. 3 points

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. zest | a. hope | b. confidence | c. lethargy | d. alacrity |
| 2. intertwined | a. inextricable | b. inexplicable | c. independent | d. insoluble |
| 3. setbacks | a. hindrances | b. remorse | c. doubts | d. feats |

D. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it.

3 points

1. Life is getting in the way and you've slipped into old habits. **BUT**
Not _____ you've also slipped into old habits.
2. The problem isn't you. The problem is your system. **WHO**
It is _____ rather your system.

3. Even with our best intentions, stress and interruptions to your routine can still make keeping habits difficult. **MAY**
Good _____ and interruptions to your routine can still make keeping habits difficult.

**E. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill-in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use.
4 points**

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| <i>achievable</i> | <i>resilient</i> | <i>easy</i> | <i>impossible</i> | <i>determination</i> | <i>stamina</i> | <i>trial</i> | <i>process</i> |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|

People often begin new habits with enthusiasm, but everyday life can make it (1)..... to fall back into old routines. Relying on (2)..... alone is unrealistic, as lasting change depends more on having the right systems in place. Setting clear SMART goals helps turn good intentions into specific, (3)..... actions. Habits become easier to maintain when they are made automatic through techniques like habit stacking and self-reward. Even with good intentions, stress and setbacks are part of the (4).... and should be accepted rather than discouraged.

**II. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Write only the missing word on your answer sheet.
10 points**

1. She tried to _____ along the ledge without being noticed.
Don't let the _____ out of the bag about the surprise party.
He took a quick _____ nap after lunch.
2. The hunter's rifle fired with a loud _____.
The officer filed a _____ on the crime scene.
The news _____ said the storm was approaching.
3. The hotel room has a beautiful _____ of the mountains.
In _____ of the fact that the roads are icy, the school has decided to cancel classes today.
She helped me with a _____ to improving my chances of passing the exam.
4. She has to wear _____ for two years to straighten her teeth.
In JavaScript, functions are enclosed in _____.
He _____ himself for impact whenever the plane is likely to crash.
5. He needed to _____ his grievances to feel better.
He exuded an _____ of confidence that everybody could notice.
The hikers struggled to breathe at high altitude because the _____ was thin.

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet.

10 points

What do rubber tyres have to do with delicious food? The answer lies both in the story of the Michelin brothers. French inventors Edouard and André Michelin created the Michelin tyre company in 1889 and transformed the travel in industry. A few decades later, they began publishing a guide to highlight food in restaurants worth travelling for it, which, of course, they'd need strong Michelin tyres to reach. Nowadays, the coveted Michelin star – an award given to only the world's most finest restaurants – is one of the culinary world's highest accolades. But the rating system is somewhat shrouded in the mystery. The Michelin Guide itself says their real inspectors take into account five criteria: the quality of the ingredients, the harmony of flavours, the mastery of techniques, the personality of the chef and consistency both across the entire menu and over time.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

IV. Translate the following text into English:
10 points

Ar fi trebuit să chiar notez lucrurile astea, dar sunt prea obosit și prea mi-e greață. O să le-nvârt doar așa în minte, să se clarifice-fixeze, iar dac-o să găsesc într-o zi putere, oi și scrie. N-ar fi trebuit să beau. Bun, multe n-ar fi trebuit să fac, iar în acele momente asta nu părea important; dimpotrivă, prima oară când mi-au dat cafea mi s-a părut un gest așa de uman, în mijlocul apăsării imense, așa de eliberator de frică și îndoială. Un lucru de oameni mari, cafeaua- ca și când n-aș mai fi fost copil; o acceptare, am crezut, ca partener de dialog. O ceașcă de care m-am agățat ca de un colac în mijlocul mării, cafea proastă, falsă. Nici azi gustul nu-mi place deloc, dar nu mai contează nimic. Scrisesem lucruri ca „vrem hrană”, „vrem libertate”. Atât de simplu. Ca și când aș fi spus cu glas tare ceea ce chiar știau toți. Mi-au spus că sunt naivități, că adevărul e mult mai complex, că nici măcar nu au fost gândurile mele, ci idei auzite la radio. Cine eram eu, un amețit de adolescent, confruntat cu atâția adulți și deștepți, și cu experiență de viață? Toți, dar absolut toți, mi-au spus că am greșit.

(adaptat după Dumitru Cornel Vilcu- *Zaț*)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

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

10 points

When your emotions cause you to fly off the handle, sob uncontrollably or seethe with envy, it can be hard to see the good in them. It's a common belief that there are 'good' and 'bad' emotions, and that for successful emotion regulation, we must live a life free of the bad ones. (1)_____ We can't control the thoughts and feelings that automatically pop up, but we can choose how to engage with them.

Vicki Botnick, a therapist in Tanzana, California, agrees. She says we should aim for regulation, not repression. Instead of sweeping feelings under the rug, we should practise accepting them. Reframe them, not as 'good' or 'bad', but as messengers, giving you important information that you can use. This may sound easier said than done, so when intense feelings make you feel overwhelmed, try the old classic: deep breathing. (2)_____

So, chronically avoiding your problems and negative feelings is not recommended, but that doesn't mean distraction is all bad. "We can be flexible and do both" says Ethan Kross. (3)_____ This may lead to a new perspective and a diminished temper.

Another way to distract yourself is to change your environment. (4)_____ If you're unable to get away, try exploring locally. A 2024 review of research called 'The role of nature in emotion regulation processes' found all 27 of the reviewed studies reported positive impacts of nature on emotion regulation. If green spaces are hard to reach in your neighbourhood, try curating your home environment. (5)_____

Learning to accept, reframe and regulate your emotions puts you back in the driver's seat of your life. But if this feels hard, remember: no feeling lasts forever.

- A. Breathe in slowly, hold the breath for three seconds, then breathe out slowly. For some, it may help to repeat a mantra, such as "I am calm."
- B. Anyone that's been on holiday will know that being in new surroundings, free of associations of work and usual routines, can help us de-stress and recharge.
- C. But common as it may be, this is a misconception, according to Ethan Kross, world expert in the psychology of emotions. "In the right proportions" he says, "all emotions are useful."
- D. Add house plants, pictures of landscapes, photos of loved ones, or any objects that bring you joy.
- E. You may not control the emotion that shows up, but you can control the action that follows. With awareness and practice, calm becomes a choice.
- F. He uses the example of heightened emotions after a heated argument. It can be beneficial to sort it out in the moment, but it can also help to immerse oneself in something totally unrelated and return to the problem later.

II. You have participated in a classroom discussion about the role of emotional well-being in student performance. Following this discussion, your English teacher has asked you to write a proposal for the school head teacher suggesting three initiatives to help students cope with stress and intense emotions in different situations, either during lessons or at home, mentioning in each case the benefits for the students. (250-280 words)

40 points

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ

7 februarie 2026

CLASA A XII-A – SECȚIUNEA B

BAREM DE EVALUARE ȘI 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 do the tasks below – 10p

A. Choose the right synonym for the following words from the text. (3X 1p = 3p)

1) d 2) a 3) a

B. Rephrase the following sentences (3 X 1p = 3p)

- 1) ...only is life getting in the way, but...
- 2) ...not you who is the problem, but...
- 3) ...as/though our intentions may be, stress...

C. Choose the right words to fill in the text. (4 X 1p = 4p)

1) easy 2) determination 3) achievable 4) process

II. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Write only the missing word on your answer sheet. (5 x2p = 10p)

1. cat 2. report 3. view 4. braces 5. air

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. (10 x1=10 p)

1. both 2. √ 3. in 4. √ 5. it 6. √ 7. most 8. the 9. real 10. √

IV. Translate into English (10 p)

I should have written these things down, truly, but I am too *exhausted/ dead beat/ worn out/weary* and too nauseous. I will only turn them over in my mind, let them settle and take shape, and *if one day I (should) find the strength/ Should I find the strength one day*, I may *write them/ put them down in writing* after all. I should not have drunk. Then again, there are many things I should not have done, and in those moments none of it seemed to matter; on the contrary, the first time they *gave/ had given* me coffee it *struck / had struck* me as such a human gesture, amid that immense pressure, so strangely liberating from fear and doubt. A thing for grown people, coffee—as if I were no longer a child; a *token/ sign* of acceptance, I thought, as *an interlocutor/ a partner in dialogue*.

A cup I clung to like a life buoy in the middle of the sea, bad coffee, counterfeit coffee. *To this day/Even today* I cannot stand the taste, but nothing matters anymore. I had written things like “we want food,” “we want freedom.” So simple. As though I had merely *spoken aloud/ voiced* what everyone already knew. They told me these were *illusions/ half-truths/naïvetés*, that the truth was far more complex, that they were not even my own thoughts, but rather ideas *picked up from/ heard on* the radio. Who was I, a dizzy-headed/ an inexperienced/ adolescent(*or who was wet behind the ears*), standing before so many adults—so clever, so seasoned by life? Each and every one of them told me I was wrong.

SUBIECTUL B - Integrated skills - 50 points

I. Choose the right answer to the questions below. (5 x2p = 10p)

1C 2A 3F 4B 5D

II. 40 points – according to the Marking Scheme - PROPOSAL