

## INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR JUDEȚEAN PRAHOVA

### OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ – 2martie 2024 CLASA A VII-A

#### VARIANTA 1

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Timp de lucru: 2 ore. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.

#### SUBIECTUL I

*You are going to read a magazine article about students who travelled around Australia alone during their long summer vacation. For questions 1-5, choose from the students (A-C). The students may be chosen more than once.*

#### Which student mentions ...

- 1 a daily activity that was not enjoyable alone?
- 2 a good way of keeping travel plans flexible?
- 3 appreciating not having to waste time organising practical details?
- 4 feeling better after keeping in touch with others?
- 5 that he liked not having to agree an itinerary with others?

#### A Phil Morston

I remember sitting in the plane thinking to myself: 'What have I let myself in for?'. The first few days were scary: I was all on my own on the other side of the world with nothing planned. But I soon met up with people to travel with. Of course, some you get on with, others you don't. Some, for example, had every day planned out day in minute detail, when in practice things can change and it's great to have the freedom to go with the flow. And that's easy enough to do. You can take the Oz Experience bus down the west coast, jumping off whenever you want, then catching the next bus when you're ready to move on again. Being away for a year, you do occasionally get lonely. To cheer myself up, I'd sit down and write a fortnightly email home about everything I'd been up to.

#### B Leila Stuart

Without doubt, you meet all sorts of people when travelling alone. I even made a friend on the plane out there. Some people are keener to make friends than others, of course, but if someone's chosen to do the same type of trip as you, you've probably got lots of ideas in common. The advantages of a pre-planned tour are that you can get an agency to take care of all the arrangements, which can be time-consuming to do yourself – but it does mean that you're tied to a predetermined itinerary, which wouldn't suit everyone. There's also the safety aspect in terms of the places you visit often being very remote. If you go off trekking in the wilds of a foreign country alone, it could be difficult to get help if things went wrong.

#### C Danny Holt

Travelling solo creates opportunities to meet people. There's no substitute for sharing the experiences of the day with a companion and being alone forces you to seek someone out. I'd never have met so many people if I'd been travelling with friends. There's also the wonderful freedom to do what you like, when you like, without having to convince anybody that it's a good idea. However, there are downsides; meal times are something I've never really got to grips with in all the years I've travelled alone. But my advice would be to give solo travel a go – it can be very liberating. Maybe try a short trip to begin with, just in case it's not for you. Another thing is stay in the nicest places your budget permits. Miserable hostels can really spoil a trip. And if you really are happy being anti-social, a pair of headphones can ensure the person in the next seat doesn't bore you to death on the plane!

## SUBIECTUL II

Use the words in capitals at the end of the text to form words that fit in the numbered blank spaces:

An incredible vegetable

Garlic, a member of the Liliaceae family which also includes onions, is commonly used in 1...all around the world. China is currently the largest 2.... of garlic, which is particularly associated with the dishes of northern Africa and southern Europe. It is native to central Asia and has long had a history as a health-giving food, used both to prevent and cure 3 .... . In Ancient Egypt, workers building the pyramids were given garlic to keep them strong, while Olympic athletes in Greece ate it to increase their 4 .... to infection.

The forefather of antibiotic medicine, Louis Pasteur, claimed garlic was as 5 ..... as penicillin in treating infections. Modern-day 6.... have proved that garlic can indeed kill bacteria and even some viruses, so it can be very useful for people who have coughs and colds. In 7.... , some doctors believe that garlic can reduce blood 8.... .

The only 9... to this truly amazing food is its strong and rather 10.... smell.

1 COOK 2 PRODUCT 3 ILL 4 RESIST 5 EFFECT 6 SCIENCE 7 ADD 8 PRESS 9 ADVANTAGE 10 PLEASANT  
20 points

## SUBIECTUL III

Rephrase the following sentences using the word given, so that the meaning stays the same. Do not change the word given. You must use between two to five words, including the word given.

1.Their normal business was continued after a short break. ON

After a short break, they..... their normal business.

2. She may contact him by phone this afternoon. THAT

It..... she will contact him by phone this afternoon.

3.There is no chance that Peter was in the house at the time of the robbery. HAVE

Peter can't.....in the house at the time of the robbery.

4. When did you last hear from him? SINCE

How long ..... heard from him?

5. He said the accident was my fault. BLAMED

He ..... the accident.

6. Shall we spend the day on the beach? SPENDING

How..... the day on the beach?

7 I finished the book in two days. TOOK

It ..... to finish the book.

8. The film was so funny, that we laughed all the way through. SUCH

It..... that we laughed all the way through.

9.The doctors won't allow him to leave the hospital. LET

The doctors..... the hospital.

10.I have never met such a kind person. KINDEST

He is ..... ever met.

**30 points**

**IV. Write a story which begins with the following words:** "Have you ever made a fool of yourself in front of your family?This is what happened to me during a trip to London. ". **Write your story in about 150 words.**

**25 points**



## INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR JUDEȚEAN PRAHOVA

### OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ – 2 martie 2024 CLASA A VIII-A

#### VARIANTA 1

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Timp de lucru: 2 ore. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.

#### Subiectul I

For each question, choose the correct answer.

#### Artist Peter Fuller talks about his hobby

There's a popular idea that artists are not supposed to be into sport, but mountain biking is a huge part of my life. It gets me out of my studio, and into the countryside. But more importantly, racing along as fast as you can leaves you no time to worry about anything that's going on in your life. You're too busy concentrating on not crashing. The only things you pay attention to are the pain in your legs and the rocks on the path in front of you.

I'm in my sixties now, but I started cycling when I was a kid. In the summer my friends and I would ride our bikes into the woods and see who was brave enough to go down steep hills or do big jumps. The bikes we had then weren't built for that, and often broke, so I used to draw pictures of bikes with big thick tyres that would be strong enough for what we were doing. They looked just like modern mountain bikes. However, it wasn't until many years later that someone actually invented one. By the 1980s, they were everywhere.

At that time, I was into skateboarding. I did that for a decade until falling off onto hard surfaces started to hurt too much. Mountain biking seemed a fairly safe way to keep fit, so I took that up instead. I made a lot of friends, and got involved in racing, which gave me a reason to train hard. I wanted to find out just how fit and fast I could get, which turned out to be fairly quick. I even won a couple of local races.

In the end I stopped racing, mainly because I knew what it could mean to my career if I had a bad crash. But I still like to do a three-hour mountain bike ride every week. And if I'm out cycling in the hills and see a rider ahead, I have to beat them to the top. As I go past, I imagine how surprised they would be if they knew how old I am.

1 Peter enjoys mountain biking because

- A it gives him the opportunity to enjoy the views
- B he can use the time to plan his work.
- C he is able to stop thinking about his problems.
- D it helps him to concentrate better.

2 What does Peter say about cycling during his childhood?

- A He is sorry he didn't take more care of his bike.
- B His friends always had better quality bikes than he did.
- C His bike wasn't suitable for the activities he was doing.
- D He was more interested in designing bikes than riding them.

3 Peter says he returned to cycling after several years

- A because he had become unfit.
- B so that he could enter races.

C in order to meet new people.  
D to replace an activity he had given up.

4 How does Peter feel about cycling now?  
A He is proud that he is still so fast.  
B He is keen to do less now that he is older.  
C He regrets the fact that he can no longer compete.  
D He wishes more people were involved in the sport.

5 What would be a good introduction to this article?  
A For Peter Fuller, nothing matters more than mountain biking, not even his career. Here, in his own words, he tells us why.  
B Artist Peter Fuller takes mountain biking pretty seriously. Here he describes how it all began and what he gets out of it.  
C In this article, Peter Fuller explains how he became an artist only as a result of his interest in mountain biking.  
D After discovering mountain biking late in life, Peter Fuller gave up art for a while to concentrate on getting as good as possible.

**5x5 points=25 points**

**Subiectul II.** Choose the most suitable word for each space:

### ON YOUR BIKE!

If you are getting fed up with wasting your time for parking space, my ....1 to you is to consider the bicycle as an alternative.....  
2 of transport. Cycling is probably the cheapest and healthiest way of getting..... 3 in our congested city centres. ....4 it is  
convenient and environmentally desirable, it can be an unattractive .... 5 on a cold wintry morning. It is much easier to.... 6  
onto a nice warm bus or jump into your car, ....7 the sight of cyclists as they weave their way in and out of the traffic may fill  
you with ... 8 as you sit waiting in yet ... 9 traffic jam. In spite of the ...10 that worsening pollution is getting many people down,  
causing more and more health problems, it is hard to deny the danger cyclists face in sharing the road with cars.

1 A advice B warning C plan D solution  
2 A method B way C means D instrument  
3 A on B through C over D about  
4 A Despite B In spite of C Although D Even as  
5 A choice B advice C propose D transport  
6 A enter B be C travel D get  
7 A even B however C though D and  
8 A approval B envy C angry D criticism  
9 A other B more C another D longer  
10 A truth B reality C fact D event

**10x2points =20 points**

**Subiectul III**

Rewrite each sentence so that it means the same as the previous one. Use between three and five words, including the word given.

1 During dinner, the phone rang. I  
While..... the phone rang.

2 Do you know how to drive this kind of car? EVER

Have ..... this kind of car before?

3 We won't go out if the weather is bad. WON'T  
We ..... the weather is good.

4 'I wouldn't go swimming after dark if I were you, Tom.' ADVISED  
Brian ..... swimming after dark.

5 It looks as if this door is locked after all. APPEARS  
This door ..... locked after all.

6 They were building a new mall in the city when I was there last year. WAS  
A new mall ..... in the city when I was there last year.

7 I can't come at eleven on Saturday because I have an appointment with the hairdresser. HAVING  
I can't come at eleven on Saturday because..... hair cut.

8 We were not allowed to drink too much coke when we were children. LET  
Our parents ..... drink too much coke when we were children.

9 Basil's behaviour towards the guests was very impolite. RUDE  
Basil ..... the guests.

10 The weather was so bad that we couldn't leave the chalet. SUCH  
It was ..... that we couldn't leave the chalet.

**10x3points=30 points**

#### **Subiectul IV**

In about 180 words, write a story ending like this:

As the plane was preparing to land, Lou saw the golden beaches of the island which he loved so much. Now he knew his enemies were far away and understood what danger he had had to face.

**25 points**

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBĂ ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ 02.03.2024  
CLASA A IX-A, SECȚIUNEA A

VARIANTA 1

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

SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH 40 points

I Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense. (10x 1 p=10 points)

- About six o'clock in the evening we found ourselves at the foot of the Rosetta Pass. Earlier in the day we (1 see).....no reason why we shouldn't reach San Martino before dark, but some unlucky happening (2 delay).....us. The most difficult part of the journey (3 be).....still in front of us and the sinking sun (4 warn)..... us it (5 be)..... unwise to go on. Rather against our will, we (6 decide)..... to spend the night at the hut.
- I (7 not wash)..... the car yesterday if I (8 know)..... it was going to rain.
- I (9 give).....you my considered opinion as soon as I (10 read).....through all the information.

II Use the words given in capitals to form a word that fits in the spaces. (10 x 1 p= 10 points)

In mountainous areas, such as the Alps, electrical storms can be terrifying experiences both for (1)..... and local inhabitants. Climbers describe (2).....incidents in which their hair stands on end, they see flashes and feel (3).....in the face of powerful (4).....forces beyond their control. There is no (5)..... against lightning bolts, which nearly always cause death, usually from heart (6).....but precautions can be taken. Climbers who are (7)..... carry their ice-axes low down because if they are (8) .....high up they attract lightning. It is important to have a good (9).....of weather conditions. When anvil-shaped clouds are seen, it is an (10)..... that lightning may soon strike.

1 MOUNTAIN 2 FRIGHT 3 DEFENCE 4 NATURE 5 PROTECT 6 FAIL 7 CARE 8 HOLD 9 KNOW 10 INDICATE

III Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. (10 x 1 p=10 points)

Alan Bean was born in 1932 in Texas, USA. He developed (1).....early interest in aviation and spent a lot of time making model airplanes. At the age of eighteen, he won a US Navy scholarship (2).....enabled him to study aeronautical engineering at the University of Texas. When he graduated, he learned to fly and spent five years (3).....a Navy pilot. Later he became a test pilot and (4) ..... was at this time that he had a lucky escape. An aircraft he was flying (5).....struck by lightning but he managed to land it safely, (6)..... it was badly damaged.

In 1962, he applied for the NASA astronaut training programme and a year (7).....was selected as one of the fourteen astronauts who (8).....take part in the Apollo missions to the Moon. In 1969, he became the fourth man to set foot on the surface of the Moon, (9).....he spent 31 hours, collecting rock samples and carrying (10)..... scientific experiments.

IV Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the word given in brackets. You must use between two and five words. Do not change the word given.

- Do you think it would have been a good idea to buy tickets in advance? (should)  
Do you think we.....tickets in advance?
- It's true that Frank was once in prison, isn't it? (to)  
Frank....., hasn't he?
- I think the witness was mistaken about my client's identity. (for)  
In my opinion, the witness .....else.
- If only I had enough money to buy that ring. (afford)  
I .....that ring.
- It is rumoured that they are going to get married. (a)  
There ..... they are getting married.

(5 x 2 p= 10 points)

**SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS      60 points**

**I Read the text below. For questions 1 to 5, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.**

Airline pilots have high social status and earn a great deal of money. Flight attendants have an uncertain status and earn less, but there are always some who will describe them as “glorified waitresses in the sky”. This is little to balance against the possibility of a hijack or a disaster. So why do they do it?

I went to see Diane Humphreys, Senior Flight Attendant with Dan-Air at Manchester Airport, to try to find the answer to this question. Mrs. Humphreys is responsible for all Dan-Air’s cabin staff based at the airport and is also involved in their selection. She has had the job for 16 years.

One reason why flight attendants don’t get over-anxious about flying may be that they are so busy before, during and after a flight. I asked Mrs. Humphreys to tell me what a typical timetable for a flight attendant would be. Before the flight, flight attendants have to prepare the cabin and toilets and make sure that the food and drinks are aboard. They don’t do long-distance flights and so there are no overnight stopovers unless weather conditions prevent take-off or landing, or the plane develops technical problems. There’s a 45-minute turn-around interval, when the flight attendants have to prepare the plane for the return flight.

“During the flight you’ve got no time to relax-the safety instructions have to be demonstrated and the food and drinks served. You’re always busy. So one day you might have an early morning flight, the next an afternoon flight; the day after you might be on relief duty and have to be ready to work if someone else becomes ill or there is an emergency. This means that you have to watch your phone all the time and be no more than an hour and a half from the airport.”

1 In her job Diane Humphreys

- A is in charge of Dan-Air’s flight attendants worldwide.
- B supervises all Manchester Airport staff.
- C helps with the appointment of Manchester’s Dan-Air cabin staff.
- D looks after aircrews when they are in Manchester.

2 Dan- Air’s flight attendants usually work

- A completely variable hours each week.
- B alternate days on and off duty.
- C six days a week.
- D relief days after night flights.

3 When can flight attendants relax?

- A before a flight takes off
- B when the plane is in the air
- C when the plane has landed
- D never at all

4 What does being on relief duty involve?

- A staying at the airport for a day
- B paying attention to the phone all the time
- C telephoning the airport every one and a half hours?
- D preparing for a night flight

5 According to the passage, the job of a flight attendant is

- A well paid
- B glamorous
- C tiring
- D boring

**( 5 x 2 p= 10 points)**

II. You have just read the interview above in a popular magazine and, despite the disadvantages of the job presented here, you have decided to apply for a post of flight attendant which you saw advertised in a national newspaper.

**Write you letter of application. (120-180 words)**



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBĂ ENGLEZĂ

ETAPA LOCALĂ, 02.03.2024

CLASA a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA B

VARIANTA 1

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă 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. (20 points)

The little crutch was heard on the floor, and in came Tiny Tim, led by his brother and sister to his seat beside the fire, while Bob, Master Peter and the two young Cratchits went to get the goose, which they soon returned with in high **procession**. It seemed a goose was the greatest of all birds, a perfect **marvel**-and in truth it was something very like it in that house. At last the dishes were set. There was a breathless pause, as Mrs. Cratchit took the carving-knife, prepared to cut the goose. Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife.

Bob said he didn't believe there had ever been such a goose cooked. Its **tenderness** and flavour, size and cheapness were the themes of universal admiration. With apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was sufficient dinner for the whole family. But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs. Cratchit left the room alone-too nervous to wait- to take up the pudding and bring it in. What if there isn't enough! What if it breaks? What if somebody got over the wall of the back yard and stole it, while they were happy with the goose?

A. Answer the following questions (4 x 2p=8 points)

1. Why do you think the writer says *it seemed* the goose was the greatest bird?
2. What does the expression *high procession* tell us about how the goose was brought to the table?
3. What happens just before Mrs. Cratchit takes the carving-knife?
4. Why do you think Mrs. Cratchit is so worried about the pudding?

B. Choose the right contextual synonym. (3 x 2 p=6 points)

- |               |              |             |             |             |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. PROCESSION | a) process   | b) advance  | c) parade   | d) progress |
| 2. MARVEL     | a) surprise  | b) wonder   | c) delight  | d) pleasure |
| 3. TENDERNESS | a) fragility | b) soreness | c) softness | d) kindness |

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning of the sentences given.

(3x2p=6 points)

1. Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of the knife.  
If Tiny Tim.....with the handle of his knife.
2. It seemed the goose was the greatest of all birds.  
The goose.....the greatest of all birds.
3. Bob said he didn't believe there had ever been such a goose cooked.  
" I .....such a goose cooked," Bob said.

**II Use the word given in capitals to form a new word that fits in each gap. (10 x1p=10 points)**

Magical Gozo, one of the sunny Mediterranean's best-kept secrets, lies a mere stone's throw away from Malta. This (1).....island paradise is steeped in myth. Rumoured to be the (2).....Calypso isle of Homer's epic writings, Gozo's peace and (3).....make it an ideal place for the weary. Its rugged landscape and (4) ..... coastline must be explored. To spend a pleasant day snorkeling, diving or fishing, choose from the many inlets and (5).....red sand and beaches. For the (6)..... Gozo has much to offer from its wealth (7).....churches, renovated forts and interesting (8).....sites.

For more information or to make a hotel (9)....., contact your (10)..... travel agent.

- 1 PEACE 2 LEGEND 3 TRANQUIL 4 SPECTACLE 5 SPOIL 6 SIGHT 7 GRACE 8 HISTORY 9 RESERVE  
10 NEAR

**III Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap. (10x 1p=10 points)**

Online shopping is one of the fastest growing areas of the Net, offering users a large number of advantages (1).....conventional shopping. Customers have access (2).....a wider range of goods (3) .....in any shopping centre; (4).....are no queues or parking problems; shops are open 24 hours (5).....day and purchases (6).....delivered to your door. What's (7)....., prices are competitive and this enables you to find (8).....best bargains. These sites search the Net (9).....a product and then show you (10).....much different online stores are charging.

**SUBJECTUL B-INTEGRATED SKILLS 60 points**

**I Read the text below. For questions 1 to 5, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (5x2p=10 points)**

Alonzo was born in 1958. His mother recalls that he was a normal baby, although she considered him a precocious child because he seemed to learn so quickly. Even as a tiny toddler he showed remarkable interest in and ability with Play Doh (a type of plasticine), almost as if he were born to have something in his hands. A fall at age three caused brain injury that resulted in markedly slow development.

Sculpting, even before the injury, seemed for him almost obsessional. At one point, when he was twelve and at a special school, it appeared that his obsession was getting in the way of his other learning- so much so that the clay was taken away to be used only as a reward for other behaviour designed more for his overall growth, particularly in speech and academic subjects. Today that obsessive attachment is to wax, which he transforms into remarkable sculptures by the perpetual motion of his skilled hands and fingers. He remembers what he has seen only once and uses the picture in his mind as a model. He does not refer back to a photo and can sculpt in the dark.

He loves to work quietly, without conversation. He seems most at peace when he works silently, usually with a slight, very contented smile. He seems capable of tremendous concentration and exclusion of the persons around him, no matter how large the crowd.

Buyers of his work are astounded to find that the artist happens to be mentally disabled. He has earned enough for the purchase and renovation of a home next to his parents', which he uses as a full-time studio. As his art has enlivened, so has Alonzo. His vocabulary has expanded. He is less shy, more spontaneous and better able to adapt to new situations. His obsessive sculpting has not hindered him but has actualised him; rather than being an impediment to his other communication skills, it has enhanced them.

1 Alonzo had had artistic skills since

- A he was a baby.
- B his accident when he was three.
- C he went to a special school.
- D he was twelve.

2 His attitude to sculpture is that

- A it can be done without effort.
- B he can do it only in the right environment.
- C he will do it whatever the situation he is in.
- D he must have the necessary materials.

3 When he is sculpting, Alonzo

- A has a model in front of him.
- B works from pictures.
- C uses mental images.
- D requires good light.

4 When people watch Alonzo at work, they are impressed by

- A how happy he looks.
- B his intense concentration.
- C his ability to talk to those around him.
- D his pride in his work.

5 How has Alonzo used the money he has made?

- A He is able to support his parents.
- B He has been able to afford a new house.
- C He has created a practical working environment.
- D He has invested in further training.

**II Last week was a special week designed for extracurricular activities. Together with your class and teacher, you visited an art exhibition. Write the review. ( 200-220 words)**

**(50 points)**

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA LOCALĂ  
2 MARTIE 2024  
CLASA a X-a - SECȚIUNEA A

VARIANTA 1

**NOTĂ:**

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.

Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

**SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH**

**40 points**

**I. Read the following text and put the verbs in capitals into the correct tense:**

Jim **1**) \_\_\_\_\_ (**WALK**) along the High Street when he **2**) \_\_\_\_\_ (**NOTICE**) someone behind him. Actually, he **3**) \_\_\_\_\_ (**FOLLOW**) him since he **4**) \_\_\_\_\_ (**GET OFF**) the bus. Jim **5**) \_\_\_\_\_ (**STOP**) at the shop window. The man came closer to him. Jim **6**) \_\_\_\_\_ (**HAVE**) the feeling he **7**) \_\_\_\_\_ (**SEE**) him before, so he went up to him and **8**) \_\_\_\_\_ (**ASK**): **9**) “ \_\_\_\_\_ (**NOT/I/KNOW**) you? Why **10**) \_\_\_\_\_ (**YOU/FOLLOW**) me?” The man smiled and said, “Smile! You are on *Candid Camera!*”

**(10 points)**

**II. Use the word given in capital letters to form a word that fits in each space.**

Most animal lovers will tell you that there are many benefits to keeping a pet. As .....**(1)** have found, owning a pet can.....**(2)** improve your health, as pet owners are shown to have lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels than people who don't keep animals.

.....**(3)** in a recent survey admitted to being very.....**(4)** to their animals. Cats, dogs, in particular, are excellent.....**(5)**. Although the world can sometimes be an.....**(6)** place, your pet is usually your friend for life.

Additionally, dog owners are less likely to feel.....**(7)** when walking, as there is less.....**(8)** of them being attacked. Walking with your pet also provides a .....**(9)** form of physical exercise. Children, too, can learn how to be caring adults by keeping a pet, and pets can decrease feelings of.....**(10)** and isolation.

1. RESEARCH;

2. SIGNIFY;

3. PARTICIPATE;

4. ATTACH;

5. COMPANY;

6. FRIEND;

7. SECURE;

8. LIKELY;

9. VALUE;

10. LONELY.

**(10 points)**

**III. For questions 1–10 , read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.**

When summer comes and the sun appears, it's good to have a hat. Many people have traditionally .....(1) for the panama hat. Stylish, light and cool on the head, these palm leaf hats are flexible enough to roll up and put in a pocket or bag. Nowadays, panama hats can be found in fashionable shops all over the world, sometimes at exorbitant prices. However, the hat itself.....(2) in rather humble surroundings, in the jungles of South America. In a long tradition .....(3) down from generation to generation, the palm leaves are gathered by the men and the hats are woven by the women. It can.....(4) up to 12 palm leaves to make a .....(5) quality hat. Each leaf is split .....(6) to 25 times to obtain a straw that is fine .....(7) to be woven into a hat. The women's job is dictated by the weather and visibility: there must be enough light for them to see the fine straw, but the air must be moist enough for it to ..... (8) flexible. This means that the women can usually only work in the early morning. ....(9) panama hats are expensive, back in the villages the craftsmen and women are struggling to keep the tradition .....(10) and often receive only a fraction of the price you pay in the shops.

1	A. sought	B. got	C. gone	D. tried
2	A. born	B. came	C. originated	D. produced
3	A. handed	B. past	C. given	D. delivered
4	A. need	B. be	C. take	D. want
5	A. great	B. top	C. height	D. grade
6	A. back	B. up	C. at	D. through
7	A. too	B. only	C. enough	D. just
8	A. continue	B. endure	C. persist	D. remain
9	A. Although	B. Still	C. But	D. Even
10	A. live	B. existing	C. alive	D. lively

**(10 points)**

**IV. For questions 1–10, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.**

Illiteracy is the condition.....(1) being unable to read and write. Illiteracy is also used.....(2) describe the condition of being ignorant in a particular subject or field. Computer illiteracy is .....(3) we call the inability to use a computer programming language.

Most of us.....(4) use computers can send emails or know .....(5) to create a new folder. But we know almost .....(6) about programming languages, the artificial languages used to write instructions that can be executed by a computer. Only a very small percentage of computer users are able to read or write .....(7) kind of computer language. Should we make the effort to learn computer languages, especially when .....(8) are so complicated?

The answer is yes. Because of computer illiteracy, users are .....(9) the mercy of software manufacturers. Our society has become dependent .....(10) information technology and this will no doubt be a problem for us for years to come.

(10 points)

**SUBIECTUL B –INTEGRATED SKILLS**

**60 points**

**I. You are going to read an article about student life and technology. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. (10 points)**

Last Saturday, as my grandfather drove me and my sister home from a dinner to celebrate his birthday, he got frustrated at not being able to remember the name of the singer of a song he'd just heard on the radio. Without a second thought, I grabbed my smartphone, searched for the song and found the name, Bob Dylan. For me and my friends, this is a completely natural course of action, but it totally astonished my grandfather, who didn't understand how I had checked the information so quickly. My sister and I laughed and explained, but afterwards, it made me think about how much I depend on technology.

The list of the ways I use technology is endless: writing, planning, socialising, communicating and shopping, to name a few. When I reflected on its impact on my education, I saw that, for my fellow students and I, technology has been significant in many ways. Returning to the story of my grandfather and the smartphone, he had asked me more about how I used it and about university life. He said he thought we had an easy life compared to previous generations. My sister caught my eye and we exchanged a smile. But whereas she was thinking our grandfather was just being a typical 65-year-old, I could see his point.

Not only are we lucky enough to have the same educational benefits as those of previous generations, we have so many more as well. We still have walk-in libraries available to us, and I can see why some students choose to find and use resources in these distraction-free locations. However, the only option for studying used to be sitting in these libraries with as many books from your reading list as you could find, yet now a single search for your chosen study topic online can immediately provide access to a huge range of resources. At universities, interaction between students and university staff is another area that has changed considerably with developments in technology. We can have face-to-face time with our tutors when we need it, and also communicate using our electronic gadgets from the comfort of our houses or on the bus. The most popular means of doing this is via instant messaging or social media - email is often considered too slow, and it has become unacceptable for messages to be unanswered for any length of time. While this puts an extra strain on the university's academic support team, who usually have to answer the queries as they come in, we students are greatly benefitted.

It's important that we remember to appreciate how much the advances in technology have given us. Electronic devices such as tablets, smartphones, and laptops are now standard equipment in most classrooms and lecture halls, and why shouldn't they be? The replacement of textbooks with tablets allows students the luxury of having up-to-date, interactive and even personalised learning materials, with the added benefit of them not costing the earth.

When we compare the student life of the past and that of the present day, it is tempting to focus on the obvious differences when it comes to technology. In actual fact, students are doing what they've always done: embracing the resources available and adapting them in ways which allow them to work more

efficiently and to live more enjoyably. The pace of change in technology continuously gathers speed, so we have to value each innovation as it happens.

1. What does the writer illustrate by describing the incident in the car?
  - A. the older generation's frustration at people's dependence on technology
  - B. how unaware young people are of some effects of technology
  - C. the difference in attitudes to technology between two generations
  - D. how technology helps different generations communicate
  
2. What did the writer think of her grandfather's comment, mentioned in the second paragraph?
  - A. It showed how out-of-date he was.
  - B. It had an element of truth in it.
  - C. It was an annoying thing to say.
  - D. It made her feel sorry for him.
  
3. What does the writer say about getting study resources from libraries?
  - A. She considers libraries more preferable places for study than home.
  - B. She cannot understand why anyone chooses to go to a library now.
  - C. She appreciates the fact that people can still study in libraries if they want to.
  - D. She thinks libraries are limited by the quantity of resources they can store.
  
4. What disadvantage of new technology does the writer mention in the third paragraph?
  - A. Those who can afford the best gadgets gain an unfair advantage.
  - B. Sometimes slow internet connections make communication difficult.
  - C. A heavier workload is created for teaching staff at the university.
  - D. Students cannot escape from dealing with university issues.
  
5. What is the writer's conclusion about students today in the final paragraph?
  - A. They have such different lives to previous generations that it's unwise to compare them.
  - B. They deal better with change than previous generations did.
  - C. They take advantage of new resources more quickly than previous generations did.
  - D. They are behaving in a similar way to previous generations of students.

**II. Your school magazine is organising a competition. They have asked their readers to send in reviews of a digital resource (website, platform, blog, app, video, online forum) they have recently used and found very useful for their schoolwork. The best reviews will be published in the school magazine. You decide to enter the competition. Write your review in 180 - 200 words.**

**(50 points)**

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ, ETAPA LOCALĂ**  
**02 MARTIE, 2024**  
**CLASA a X-a, SECȚIUNEA B**

**Varianta 1**

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

**SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)**

**I Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow.**

**20 points**

Britain introduced the GCSE system in 1987, making, (in addition to traditional subjects) language and science compulsory until the age of sixteen. The syllabus was changed with the emphasis on continual assessment as opposed to just one day's performance. Certainly, the **abolition** of the "it'll be all right on the night" mentality is a step in the right direction, but how far does the education system educate?

There has always been an emphasis on academic success, especially in the wake of world-wide recession; students from all social and economic backgrounds are being encouraged to "stay on" after the legal school leaving age. Simple mathematics convey the inherent disadvantages of this strategy; too many graduates for too few jobs. But there are also other problems which are less apparent. In South Korea, the pressure to have a college education is so great that it has reached fatal proportions, putting students under enormous pressure

On the other side of the coin, what happens to the students who fall through the net? With growing competition for jobs and university places, the standard is constantly rising. So what happens to those members of society who simply are not academically bright? It is not a new or radical observation that notes how the classroom backbenchers are pushed further and further into a low achievement bracket. Despite the onslaught into the field of formal qualifications, several million people in Europe are reported to be illiterate.

Rote learning practices are quite **pervasive** in many schools. This information blast can result in the sponge syndrome whereby pupils soak up statistics and reproduce them without much, if any, individual thought or interpretation of the facts. There is more to learning than simply mimicking something that has been fed into you. Humans are not memory banks and this is something that the education system quite often seems to overlook.

There have been calls for more vocational training schemes with emphasis on technology and creativity. Without such a system, education will continue to function in society as a weeding-out process whereby those who are not capable of obtaining paper qualifications are branded as underachievers.

Educational **snobbery** is something that quite a few of us rely extensively on. It's time to learn the difference between being educated and being qualified. Education is certainly no burden on anyone's back.

**A. Answer the following questions:**

**8 points**

1. Why is the national curriculum constantly amended?
2. What problems have occurred as a result of encouraging students to continue their education?
3. What is the "sponge syndrome"?
4. In what way does education function as a "weeding-out process"?

**B. Choose the right synonym:**

**6 points**

- |                     |             |               |               |                 |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>abolition</b> | A enactment | B enforcement | C eradication | D enhancement   |
| 2. <b>pervasive</b> | A scarce    | B transient   | C elusive     | D prevalent     |
| 3. <b>snobbery</b>  | A passivity | B detachment  | C appraisal   | D condescension |

**C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning:**

**6 points**

1. The education system should begin to place more emphasis on education rather than on academic achievement.  
It is time.....on academic achievement.
2. Youngsters will only find a good job if they are lucky nowadays.



Only if.....a good job  
nowadays.

3. They changed the approach on the education in the UK for fear students might be put under enormous pressure.  
They changed the approach on education in the UK so .....put under enormous pressure.

**II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap.**

**10 points**

El Niño and La Niña are climate patterns that represent some of the most common (1. **OCCUR**) across the tropical Pacific Ocean approximately every five years. The two (2. **VARY**) work in tandem and are responsible for ocean warming and cooling (3. **RESPECT**). But it is the warming effect of El Niño that has the greatest impact around the world. El Niño is (4. **CHARACTER**) by prolonged differences in ocean temperatures in comparison to the average value. This (5. **NORMAL**) occurs at intervals of three to seven years. The (6. **RESULT**) climate changes can have a devastating effect on developing countries dependent on (7. **AGRICULTURE**) produce or fishing for their economies. It is probably the cause of higher degrees of rainfall in parts of Africa, Australia and Northern Europe, while causing (8. **CONSIDER**) colder winters in parts of North America. Because of the increased rainfall, El Niño is linked to increases in the (9. **TRANSMIT**) of diseases caused by mosquitoes. (10. **RESEARCH**) have also found a link between El Niño and an increased risk of conflict.

**III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap.**  
**points**

**10**

Planet Mars has been the subject of countless science-fiction films (1)\_\_\_\_\_ many years and now, with recent advances in technology, has come a better understanding of this planet. The planet does share many characteristics with our own planet. Its surface is rocky (2)\_\_\_\_\_ ours, days are almost the same length, and it has four distinct seasons. It also has winds, clouds and high mountains with volcanoes, one of (3)\_\_\_\_\_ is three times as high as Everest. However, there are some notable differences. Probably the most significant difference is that (4)\_\_\_\_\_ spacesuits it is impossible to breathe. Today, Mars appears to be a lifeless desert with nothing (5)\_\_\_\_\_ red sand, rock and rubble.

**SUBJECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS**

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

**BRINGING IN THE NEW BLOOD**

Cities around the world are often said to develop naturally and organically, adapting themselves to the constantly changing wishes of the people who live there. Or so the theory goes. While this romantic idea may have been true many centuries ago, many cities today have grown according to strict calculations and criteria. The requirements of their residents still feature on any list of planning specifications, but they are primarily redesigned and built with a singular aim in mind - profit. The result of this is that the main voices in the design process are always those of adults, for whom the city functions according to patterns of work and money-generating social interaction. Young people, however, are often left out of the planning process.

Urban design agency Shape Shifter is aiming to change this. Its CEO, Nicolas Jette, believes that modern cities must evolve with a more inclusive sense of social responsibility in mind. 'My parents travelled internationally a lot when I was growing up, so I spent my adolescence continually moving between many different cities around the world, he remembers. Frequently, if he went back to a city years after leaving it, he was frustrated at how any expansion failed to show concern for its younger residents. For example, there were often an increased number of pedestrianized areas, but who are these really for? Generally, they exist in areas where people go to work or to spend money, neither of which feature heavily in teenagers' lives.

Jette was determined to bring young people into the urban development process. Initially, he found inspiration in Blockbuilders, a not-for-profit organisation based in the UK that allows younger teenagers to engage with real-world city design through the online game Minecraft. He noticed the way in which children as young as eleven were able to analyse, re-imagine and transform

the layout of their own local areas, and could visualize their ideal result without being too concerned about how difficult it might prove to be in real life. This is in clear contrast to the way in which adults who design cities do so with a sense of caution- restricted by rules, budgets and anticipated objections.

Once Jette began interviewing teenagers of all ages, he realized how valuable their ideas could be - if anyone would listen. He asked them what issues there were in their cities and what changes they would like to see. Of course, there were some inevitable suggestions, such as increasing the number of skate parks available. But they also raised some valuable points that even he hadn't previously considered. For example, many cities have spent millions on establishing modern public transport links, but the aim is often to encourage people out of their cars and onto trams, trains and buses - and here lies the problem. As his interviewees explained, this often discourages city-dwellers from cycling, which, in their opinion, should actually be the main alternative to private car travel.

Jette also noted that the young people he spoke to all made it a priority to have greater access to green spaces wherever possible, providing him with numerous welcome suggestions about how he could create such facilities for them in densely populated cities. Sometimes, they might produce detailed descriptions of outdoor recreation zones in which to enjoy the natural environment. At other times, their innovative proposals would be based on project work done at school or college. They introduced him, for example, to Vincent Callebaut, the Belgian architect and designer of futuristic eco-districts, whose work many of the interviewees had researched or studied. After Jette went away to carry out his own research into the work of Callebaut, he found that this was all he needed to be convinced of the worth of his interviewees' ideas.

The top-down approach to urban planning is when political decision-makers take charge, whereas bottom-up requires the involvement of residents on street level. There is certainly powerful argument that, as Jette puts it, 'you have to go and knock on doors, find the information you need, and convince the people at the top to make those changes. 'While I feel it would be ill-advised to dismiss the expertise available in local and national governments, this type of enthusiasm and sense of purpose is an equally valuable resource. He is planning to take his research to the relevant authorities around the world, hoping to persuade them that his recommendations are the most important factor in the future mental health of the residents of any city.

**I. For each question choose the correct letter A, B, C or D (5 x 2p= 10p)**

**1. How did Jette feel on returning to cities where he had once lived?**

- A. dissatisfied with how their growth excluded certain groups.
- B. disappointed in how much bigger they had grown.
- C. confused about the popularity of car-free zones.
- D. concerned about how similar to each other they were becoming.

**2. In the third paragraph, what is Jette's main observation about young people, according to the writer?**

- A. how familiar they are with their neighbourhoods.
- B. how stimulated they are by playing online computer games.
- C. how willing they are to adapt to regulations.
- D. how free they are in their approach to problem-solving.

**3. In the fourth paragraph, the writer expresses how Jette**

- A. thought city planners often waste huge sums of money.
- B. thought young residents' suggestions are not given enough credit.
- C. tends not to consider his subject in enough depth.
- D. thought different age groups tend to have conflicting preferences.

**4. In the fifth paragraph, the writer shows how Jette felt**

- A. grateful to the teachers of the young people he talked to.
- B. in agreement with the young people's philosophy.
- C. shocked at how little he knew in comparison to the interviewees.
- D. amused by the young people's descriptions of what they had imagined.

**5. The writer makes the point that urban planning should**

- A. focus on the knowledge and experience of local authorities.
- B. consider the psychological aspects of new developments.
- C. encourage co-operation from international governments.
- D. invite contributions from people with different strengths.

**II. Starting from the text above which emphasises the valuable ideas and perspectives young people can offer in shaping cities, write a *report* on the following topic:**

You are part of a youth committee conducting a survey among youngsters on the issue of urban expansion and development process. Your report should address the following questions:

- What issues are there in the cities you live/ study?
- How do they impact the youngsters?
- What facilities could the authorities create for youngsters in densely populated cities?

Write your report in 200-220 words in an appropriate style.

**50 points**

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.

Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

### SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

#### I Put the verbs in brackets into a suitable tense/ form. 10x1p = 10p

Ever since Dolly the sheep 1.....(**clone**) in 1997, scientists, politicians and theologians

2. .... (**discuss**) the question of whether or not the cloning of human beings 3) .....(**should/allow**). If cloning 4..... (**become**) a reality one day, it 5. ....(**raise**) many questions. Many scientists want cloning 6.....(**be**) legalised. They believe that if it 7 ..... (**be**) legal to clone human beings, it 8.....(**be**) possible to create a superior race. Many childless couples also wish the government 9.....(**allow**) cloning. If this 10 .....(**be**) the only way for you to have a child, you might agree with them too.

#### II . Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. 10x1p=10p

##### Over the Top

I was puzzled by my sister's (1) \_\_\_(**BEHAVE**). She kept locking herself in her room and would spend hours in there all alone, sometimes crying (2) (**CONTROL**.) So one day, when she was out, I decided to do some detective work. I know I shouldn't have, and I did feel (3)\_\_\_(**COMFORT**) looking through her stuff, but my (4)\_\_\_ (**CURIOUS**) had got the better of me and I was (5)\_\_\_(**ANXIETY**) looking for some answers. To my (6) (**ASTONISH**), I came across a massive notebook filled with *I love Justin* line after line. That's it. Over and over again. 'That's (7)\_\_\_ (**EXCESS**),' I thought and wondered who this Justin could be. Whoever he was, I certainly (8)\_\_\_(**APPROVE**) of my sister wasting her time on him. As I stood there scratching my head, my gaze fell upon the various posters on her bedroom walls. Of course! Justin Adams! He was her favourite singer. But how could a skinny teen, whose only (9)\_\_\_(**ACCOMPLISH**) was a stupid hairstyle, turn my otherwise intelligent sister into a(n) (10) (**RATIONAL**) being who was constantly miserable? It was time for a serious talk.

#### III Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. 10x1p = 10p

- I don't want to argue \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ that matter at this time.  
A) at / over B) with / at C) with / about D) on / about
- You really shouldn't boast \_\_\_\_\_ your success \_\_\_\_\_ other people.  
A) with / to B) of / to C) about / at D) over / to
- \_\_\_\_\_ Swiss Alps are \_\_\_\_\_ good place to go if you like \_\_\_\_\_ skiing. There is usually plenty of \_\_\_\_\_ snow during \_\_\_\_\_ winter months.  
A) \_ / a / the / \_ / \_ B) the / \_ / \_ / the / \_ C) a / a / \_ / \_ / \_ D) the / a / \_ / \_ / the
- Last Sunday we \_\_\_\_\_ out of the house where we \_\_\_\_\_ for five years.  
A) had moved / lived B) have moved / had lived C) moved / had lived D) will move / have lived
- It was the first time she \_\_\_\_\_ ever \_\_\_\_\_ a prize.  
A) has / won B) had / won C) is / won D) would / win
- I will go home for vacation as soon as I \_\_\_\_\_ my exams.  
A) will finish B) finish C) am finishing D) finished
- Ever since I was a child, I \_\_\_\_\_ afraid of dogs.  
A) am B) was C) have been D) will be
- By the time I leave this city, I \_\_\_\_\_ here for ten years.  
A) have lived B) would have lived C) will live D) will have lived
- There is an interesting article \_\_\_\_\_ pensions \_\_\_\_\_ today's newspaper.  
A) of / in B) on / in C) on / at D) with / on
- The unknown substance was giving \_\_\_\_\_ an unpleasant smell.  
A) out B) up C) over D) off

**IV Read the text below and think of one word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap. 10x1p=10p**

**The Safe Way to Travel**

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

**SUBJECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)**

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

**I For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits according to the text. 5x2p = 10p**

**Dream Jobs**

By Giovanni Marks

During our teens, all the pupils at my school had to have a meeting with a 'careers advisor' who only seemed to know about jobs at the local ship-building works. That was fine for some, but many of us would have liked to hear about a wider range of opportunities at that time. If only she had known about the jobs I've been researching for this article! It seems there are positions out there that are almost too good to be true.

Take, for example, the job with the title 'Ice cream flavour advisor' for ice cream manufacturer Frederick's. Imagine making and tasting ice cream for a living! From the Fredrick's website I learned that the people who do this job are all chefs and food scientists, and often go on what they call 'taste hunts' where they travel to other countries, trying new foods to get inspiration for new products. The website's home page also states that 'every ingredient deserves consideration', meaning anything from peanuts to potatoes could make it into the next flavour advisor's invention. I guess the one downside of this job could be tasting failed creations. For those worried about the health implications of eating so much ice cream, then how about something more active? The perfect job for water sports lovers was advertised in 2015 by holiday company Travel Now. They needed a water slide tester! This involved getting into swimming gear and speeding down slides at various holiday centres around the world to check for any issues. The company was seeking applicants with strong written and verbal skills, experience in social media and a willingness to travel.

Another job that seems impossibly wonderful is one for those who dream of living on a remote island. As the caretaker of a private island in the Maldives, Simon Grainger gets to enjoy fabulous weather, fishing and boating as part of his job. However, he says that while it may sound more like an extended holiday than work, the responsibilities of the job can be very demanding. These include maintaining and repairing the island owners' property and cleaning up after storms. On top of that, being by yourself on an island means that your social life suffers. Seeing friends involves an hour's boat ride, which is never easy and sometimes impossible. Grainger warns anyone considering a job like his to be realistic about it. He explains you've got to be very practical with good physical fitness, and happy in your own company. If you are this type of person, you'll do the job well and never want to go back to life on the mainland.

A fortune cookie is a moon-shaped biscuit given away in Chinese restaurants that contains a little piece of paper with a message on it. Millions of these are read every day, but few realise that people actually get paid to write the words of wisdom you find when you crack your cookie open. Daisy Cheng, president of New Asian Food in Los Angeles, used to be one such person. It wasn't exactly her chosen career path, it was more of a role she fell into. When the company expanded and realized they needed to update their cookie messages, she was sked to do it because her English language skills were stronger than other employees'. She found it difficult to start with, but soon she was finding inspiration everywhere, from subway signs to newspapers. As a writer myself, I would love to create messages for fortune cookies, but I would be delighted to do any one of these amazing jobs. Listen up careers advisors!

1. How does the writer feel about the careers advisor he met when he was younger?

- A He regrets that she was unable to help any of the teenagers.
- B He found her guidance quite useful at the time.
- C He thought it was unnecessary to see her.
- D He wishes she had been aware of a greater variety of job options.

2. What is claimed on the website for Frederick's ice cream?

- A There is no food type that they will refuse to experiment with.
- B They are able to make most ingredients taste good in ice cream.
- C They trial every new flavour creation internationally before it goes on sale.
- D No other ice cream producer has greater expertise.

3. Applicants for the job of water slide tester were required by Travel Now to

- A be good at communicating with people.
- B have plenty of travel experience.
- C have good IT qualifications.
- D be very physically fit.

4. What does Grainger say about his role as caretaker on a private island?

- A He is considering giving it up so he can move back to the mainland.
- B The only thing that is hard about it is being alone on the island.
- C It might not be the right job for everyone.
- D The holiday lifestyle involved is not always enjoyable.

5. What does the fifth paragraph say about Daisy Cheng getting her job as fortune cookie writer?

- A She did not deliberately choose to do the job.
- B She got the job because none of her colleagues spoke any English.
- C She applied for it when the company grew and needed more people to do the job.
- D She tried to avoid doing the job at first.

**II As part of a class project about education and work, you have been asked to write a report on what young people in your city, region or country do after they leave school. Your report should include information about choices like further studies, types of jobs or other possible pursuits.**

**Write your report (220-250 words)**

**50 p**

## Varianta 1

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

**SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)****I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow.**

“ Now, I feel rather ashamed of myself because I haven't told you anything about who I was, or where I came from. I began in the middle by saying, “I want to go home,” but never told you anything about where my home was, nor what it was. Well, to tell you the truth, I did not know much about my family history in those early days. I knew that my name was Mary Emily Marshall, commonly called Sissy. I also knew that my father was “the gentleman that makes all the sick people well,”—“or tries to,” as Jane, who worked in our house, would add. Of course, I knew if my papa was determined to do anything, he did it. We lived in the countryside a long way from the city among the poor people, and we were not rich ourselves. My mother had been born in this beautiful house I was taken to and it's where I live now. I know now that there was a lot of trouble when she married the country doctor. He loved the poor people so much that he would not leave them. He could have moved away and grown rich and honoured as a London doctor. But now there was no grandfather left to be angry. But with grandmother, though we had never seen her, we loved her for the beautiful presents she sent us. There were only three of us at this time— myself, Bobbie, a boy of four years old, and Willie, the white-faced, delicate baby who was six months old. Oh, how well I remember the old house, with its great lamp **dangling** out over the lonely road, and shining among the trees, to show the villagers the way to their good, kind friend, the doctor. We were happy, Bobbie and I, in that old house at the top of the hill. I don't think any brothers and sisters were ever quite such good friends. There were three years between us, but I was little and he was big, so nobody ever thought who the elder was. The great treat of the day was the board game with papa in the evening, but that couldn't be counted upon. Very often he would have to leave the dinner-table suddenly, and when we heard the **peculiar** slam of the hall-door before the bell rang to **summon** us down, we knew that the game was over.”

(“My Young Days”,Anonymous)

**A. Answer the following questions. 8 points**

1. What do we learn about Sissy's grandparents?
2. Why do you think Sissy's father would sometimes leave the game they were playing?
3. Why do you think Sissy was taken to live with her grandmother?
4. What kind of relationship did Sissy have with her brother?

**B. Choose the right synonym. 6 points**

1. **dangling**: A. raising B. inflating C. hanging D. drooping
2. **peculiar**: A. unique B. strange C. ordinary D. typical
3. **summon** : A. bid B. hail C. call D. reunite

**C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. 6 points**

1. I haven't told you who I was or where I came from and I am sorry.  
.....who I was or where I came from.
2. He loved the poor people so much that he would not leave them.  
His ....., he would not leave them.
3. We heard the peculiar slam of the hall-door and we knew that the game was over.  
.....the peculiar slam of the hall-door when we knew that the game was over.

**II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. 10 points****David by Michelangelo**

On its (1)\_\_\_\_\_ (COMPLETE) in the autumn of 1504, Michelangelo's statue *David*, which had taken the (2)\_\_\_\_\_ (SCULPT) three years in its (3)\_\_\_\_\_ (CONSTRUCT), was finally taken to the Piazza della Signoria in Florence to be put on (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (EXHIBIT). It was immediately hailed as one of the greatest masterpieces of the Renaissance, and rightly so. Giorgio Vasari, a contemporary of Michelangelo's, who wrote a famous biography of the artist, declared *David* to be superior to any other work, ancient or modern. He claimed that its beauty and proportions were incomparable, and the graceful positioning of the subject was (5) (EQUAL), while the head and extremities were shining examples of (6)\_\_\_\_\_ (EXCEL) in art forms. Florence was the force behind the Renaissance art (7)\_\_\_\_\_ (MOVE). It had several exceptional artists, but it was Michelangelo who was seen as the incomparable (8)\_\_\_\_\_ (VISION) that best represented Florence, and whose

superb statue *David* has come to (9)\_\_\_\_(SYMBOL ) both the(10)\_\_\_\_(ART) and intellectual achievements of the Renaissance. Other well-known works include the *Pieta* statue, housed in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, and the frescoes in the Sistine Chapel.

### III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap. 10 points

#### We're all in this together

Have you, or has someone you know, come up with an original idea for a brilliant product or an original invention? But do you find (1) without sufficient cash to develop or promote it? Fear not. Help is close (2)\_\_\_\_\_ hand. You can crowdfund it! Crowdfunding is the practice of financing a project by raising money through contributions from individuals or groups of people with money to invest or the desire to (3)\_\_\_\_ good. It has emerged as an accessible option for entrepreneurs and creatives around the world. Usually collected via online platforms, the sum generated allows them to both put their ideas to the test and gain exposure and funds for their product or invention. You might well wonder if crowdfunding really is a modern-day practice. It would seem (4)\_\_\_\_\_. Although the term and its definition were only recently added to dictionaries, throughout history, landmark expeditions, epic voyages and even national monuments have been completed (5)\_\_\_\_\_ to the donations of ordinary people.

### SUBJECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

#### I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text. 10 points

#### Secret to Success

Most of us have been on the receiving end of an inspirational speech. Usually it is delivered by a former Olympian at a company conference and is all about the big M: motivation. It is sometimes eloquently delivered and often fun to listen to but most people leave the room wondering how thirty minutes of biographical information about a rowing champion is going to help them back in the office. Nobody would dispute that motivation is a key driver of performance but this knowledge does not help many of us understand where it comes from. Listening to a sportsman speaking about their own personal journey may be uplifting but how is it going to leave a lasting and usable legacy in terms of how you approach your job? It is almost insulting to think it could.

It is not anecdotes we need, so much as a science of performance, underlying principles that help unlock the question of why some people work hard and excel while others don't; why some are committed to what they are doing while others exist in a state of semi-detachment. It is a question with ramifications not just for business but for education. And, fortunately, the answers are beginning to emerge. To see how, we need to take a step back and ask a deeper question: where does excellence come from? For a long time, it was thought that the answer hinged, in large part, upon talent. Hard work may be

important but if you don't have the ability, you are never going to become top class. It is the notion that high-level performers have excellence encoded in their DNA. It turns out that this point of view is mistaken. Dozens of studies have found that high-flyers across all disciplines learn no faster than those who reach lower levels of attainment - hour after hour, they improve at almost identical rates. The difference is simply that high achievers practise for more hours. Further research has shown that when students seem to possess a particular gift, it is often because they have been given extra tuition at home.

The question of talent versus practice/experience would not matter much if it was merely theoretical. But it is much more than that. It influences the way we think and feel, and the way we engage with our world. And it determines our motivation. To see how, consider an employee who believes success is all about talent -this is known as the 'fixed mindset'. Why would they bother to work hard? If they have the right genes, won't they just cruise to the top? And if they lack talent, well, why bother at all? And who can blame someone for having this kind of attitude, given the underlying premise? If, on the other hand, they really believe that practice trumps talent — the 'growth mindset' — they will persevere. They will see failure as an opportunity to adapt and grow. And if they are right, they will eventually excel. What we decide about the nature of talent, then, could scarcely be more important.

So, how to create a growth mindset within an organisation? Interventions which have presented participants with the powerful evidence of how excellence derived from perseverance - which explains the possibility of personal transformation - have had a dramatic impact on motivation and performance. When this is allied with clearly identifiable pathways from shop floor to top floor, so that employees can see the route ahead, these results are strengthened further. Businesses that focus on recruiting external 'talent' with 'the right stuff' on the other hand, and who neglect the cultivation of existing personnel, foster the fixed mindset. A rank-and-yank appraisal system is also damaging because it suggests that the abilities of those ranked the lowest cannot be developed. In short, an ethos constructed upon the potential for personal transformation is the underlying psychological principle driving high performance. It is an insight that is not merely deeply relevant to business but to any organisation interested in unlocking human potential.



1. The writer is concerned that motivational speeches do not

- A carry conviction.
- B give useful advice.
- C interest the audience.
- D respect the listeners.

2. The writer believes we should learn more about

- A the factors behind motivation.
- B the ways people's commitment to tasks can be developed.
- C the importance of workers' different principles.
- D the similarities between practices in business and education.

3. Research suggests that successful people

- A do not need to work hard.
- B have an innate talent.
- C benefit from personal training.
- D can learn very quickly.

4. In paragraph 5, the writer poses several direct questions in order to

- A make readers consider their own experiences.
- B invite comment.
- C emphasise his point.
- D consider different situations.

5. According to the writer, employers need to

- A encourage ambition in their employees.
- B ensure employees know their place in a company.
- C record the development of each employee.
- D reward good performance of their employees.

**II. You have just read the text above and this announcement in a magazine:” We would like you, our readers, to give us your answers to these questions about students` motivation nowadays: Is students` motivation important for their academic achievement? What would motivate teens to work harder in school? We will publish the best articles in our next issue”**

**Write your article (220- 250 words)**

**50 points**

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA LOCALĂ  
2 MARTIE 2024  
CLASA a XII-a - SECȚIUNEA A

VARIANTA 1

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form. (10 p)

When I boarded the train I could not help (1) \_ (**NOTICE**) that many local people got on, as well. At the time, this 2 \_ (**NOT STRIKE**) me as odd. I reflected that there must be many local people besides myself who wished to take advantage of this excellent service. Neither 3 \_ (**I/BE**) surprised when the train stopped at Widley, a tiny station, a few miles along the line. Even a mighty express train can 4 \_ (**HOLD UP**) by signals. Then, it suddenly dawned on me that this express 5 \_ (**NOT ROAR**) down the line at ninety miles an hour, but barely chugging along at thirty. One hour and seventeen minutes passed and we 6 \_ (**NOT COVER**) even half the distance. I asked a passenger if this was the Western Express, but he 7 \_ (**NOT EVEN/HEAR**) of it. I determined to make a complaint as soon as we arrived. Two hours later, I was talking angrily to a bored station master. When he denied the train's existence, I showed him my copy of the timetable. 8 \_ (**GLANCE**) at it briefly, he told me to look again. A tiny asterisk conducted me to a footnote at the bottom of the page. It said : 'This service 9 \_ (**SUSPEND**).' Never 10 \_ (**I/EXPERIENCE**) such a frustrating thing before!

II. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (10 p)

1. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *If you ... a good manager, .... of your employees ... .*
  - A. had been/ no/ would resign
  - B. will be/ any/ would not have resigned
  - C. were/ none/ would have resigned
  - D. are/ some/ will resign
2. Which of the sentences best rephrases the following sentence? *He is certainly lying in bed.*
  - A. He must lie in bed.
  - B. He should lie in bed.
  - C. He must be lying in bed.
  - D. He might be lying in bed.
3. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *They came all ... way from ... Netherlands to attend ... ceremony.*
  - A. -/ the / a
  - B. the/ the/the
  - C. the/ -/ the
  - D. a / the/ -
4. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *Sarah and I always agree ... where to go .... holidays.*
  - A. with/ in
  - B. on/ for
  - C. by/ on
  - D. on/ at
5. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *How can I tell my housemate I'd rather he ... all the cooking to me? It's high time he ... to cook for himself!*
  - A. hadn't left/learnt

- B. didn't leave/ learned  
 C. doesn't leave/learns  
 D. wouldn't leave /learn
6. Choose the correct translation. *Dacă aş fi în locul tău, nu i-aş împrumuta maşina pentru nimic în lume.*  
 A. If I had been in your place, I wouldn't lend him the car for nothing in the world.  
 B. Had I been you, I wouldn't lend him the car no matter what.  
 C. Were I you, I wouldn't borrow him my car at all.  
 D. Were I you, I wouldn't lend him the car for anything in the world.
7. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *"What lovely weather!" Betty exclaimed ...*  
 A. what lovely weather  
 B. that the weather is lovely  
 C. what lovely weather it was  
 D. that the weather was lovely
8. Which of the sentences best rephrases the following sentence? *It was impossible for him to be running in the rain.*  
 A. He can't be running in the rain.  
 B. He was impossible to run.  
 C. He mustn't be running in the rain.  
 D. He can't have been running in the rain.
9. Choose the correct translation. *Nu văd ce te împiedică să adopți propunerea lui.*  
 A. Hardly I can see what prevents you from adopting his proposal.  
 B. I can hardly see what prevents you to adopt his proposal.  
 C. I can hardly see what prevents you adopt his proposal.  
 D. I can hardly see what prevents you from adopting his proposal.
10. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *This old man ... here for 40 years by the time he .... next year.*  
 A. will be working / retires  
 B. will have worked / retired  
 C. will work / retires  
 D. will have been working/ retires

**III. Write one word in each gap. (10 p)**

Newspapers accuse a well-known footballer (1) \_ anti-social behaviour in a night-club. His manager makes a public statement in (2) \_ he asserts that the young man is innocent. When asked (3) \_ makes him so sure, the manager says "he looked me straight in the eye when he told me."

Can we really know (4) \_ or not someone is telling the truth just by looking in their eyes? Psychologist Robert James is far from convinced. "(5) \_ and large, maintaining eye contact is something liars do because eye movements are fairly easy to control."

Communications expert Becky Rhodes shares his skepticism. "Body language clues are never precise (6) \_ to rely on with absolute confidence." she says. She illustrates this (7) \_ describing the 'Othello error', named (8) \_ Shakespeare's tragic character (9) \_ claims his wife has been deceiving him and then interprets her shocked reaction (10) \_ guilt. "Personally, the minute I see a security guard watching me in a shop, I start looking guilty, so my body language definitely doesn't reflect the truth about me."

**IV. Write the correct form of the word in CAPITALS to complete the gaps: (10 p)**

- He obeyed all your orders .... . **TRUTH**
- They have started a .... business. **WHOLE**

3. Our firm has more than two hundred .... **EMPLOY**
4. There are .... on all the hills surrounding the town. **VINE**
5. What a shock he had when he realized his .... were wearing masks. **PURSUE**
6. You'll have to do a lot of special exercise to .... your muscles. **STRONG**
7. .... has been the main characteristic of the recent election. **ABSENT**
8. I admired the wonderful .... of the countryside. **SCENE**
9. He provided a certain .... for him until he became of age. **ALLOW**
10. The first .... railroad in the United States was built in the 1860s and connected North America's east and west coasts. **CONTINENTAL**

## **SUBJECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)**

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

### **The Great Indoors: At Home in the Modern British House**

In 1910 the music hall comedian Billy Williams scored his biggest hit with the song *When Father Papered the Parlour*, mocking the incompetence of the amateur home decorator. Fifty years later, comedians Norman Wisdom and Bruce Forsyth were still entertaining millions on the TV show *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* with a similar routine, but the joke was starting to look dated. The success of magazines such as *The Practical Householder* was already proving that, as the 1957 Ideal Home Exhibition proclaimed, "Do-it-yourself is a home hobby that is here to stay."

By this stage, Britain had mostly completed its transition from primitive housing conditions, made bearable – for those who could afford it – by servants and handymen, into a world where families looked after themselves in highly serviced environments. Recognisably modern technology, in the form of telephones, televisions and electricity, had become ubiquitous and was to transform domestic living still further in the coming years. The makeover of British homes in the twentieth century is recounted in Ben Highmore's entertaining and informative new book. He takes us on a whirlwind tour of an everyday house, from entrance hall to garden shed, illuminated by extensive reference to oral histories, popular magazines and personal memoirs.

At its centre, though, is the way that our homes have reflected wider social changes. There is the decline of formality, so that living rooms once full of heavy furniture and Victorian knick-knacks are now dominated by television screens and littered with children's toys. There is a growing internationalism in taste. And there is the rise of domestic democracy, with the household radiogram and telephone (located in the hall) now replaced by iPads, laptops and mobiles in virtually every room. Key to that decentralisation of the home – and the implied shift of power within it – is the advent of central heating, which gets pride of place as the innovation that allowed the whole house to become accessible at all times of day and night. Telling an unruly child to 'go to your room' no longer seems much of a threat.

Highmore also documents, however, some less successful steps in the onward march of domestic machinery. Whatever happened to the gas-powered fridges we were promised in 1946? Or to the Dishmaster a decade later that promised to do "a whole day's washing up in just three minutes"? Rather more clear is the reason why a 1902 Teasmade failed to catch on: "when the alarm clock triggered the switch, a match was struck, lighting a spirit stove under the kettle". You don't have to be a health and safety fanatic to conclude that a bedroom isn't the ideal place for such a gadget. Equally disturbing to the modern reader is the prewar obsession with children getting fresh air. It was a belief so entrenched that even a voice of dissent merely argued that in winter, "The healthy child only needs about three hours a day in the open air, as long as the day and night nursery windows are always open." Nowadays, the fresh air obsession has been replaced by irrational fears of horrors outside the home. It's easier to laugh at the foibles of the past, and Highmore doesn't always resist a sense of modern superiority, though, for the most part, he's an engaging and quirky guide, dispensing sociological insights without jargon.

The message is that even the language of the home has changed irrevocably: airing cupboards are going the same way as drawing rooms. As for that Billy Williams song, "By the 1980s", Highmore writes, "it would be impossible for anyone to imagine their front room as a 'parlour' without seeming deeply old-fashioned." He's not entirely correct, for there was at least one person who was still employing such terminology. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sold her message with the use of what she called 'the parables of the parlour', which suggests she understood the truth that, despite the catalogue of changes, there is a core that seems consistent. A 1946 edition of *Housewife* magazine spelt it out: "men make houses, women make homes". When you watch a male comedian today doing a routine about his wife's attachment to scatter cushions, it seems worth asking: has the family dynamic really moved a great deal?

**I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text. (10 p)**

1. The reviewer's main topic in the first paragraph is
  - A. improvements in home decorating skills
  - B. how common it was for home decorating to be discussed
  - C. how unfair descriptions of home decorating used to be
  - D. a change in attitudes to home decorating
  
2. In the second paragraph, the reviewer says that the book includes evidence illustrating
  - A. that some British people's homes were transformed more than others
  - B. the widespread nature of changes that took place in British homes
  - C. the perceived disadvantages of certain developments in British homes
  - D. that the roles of certain people in British homes changed enormously
  
3. In the third paragraph, the reviewer points to a change in
  - A. the extent to which different parts of the house are occupied
  - B. ideas of which parts of a house should be furnished in a formal way
  - C. how much time children spend in their own rooms
  - D. beliefs about what the most pleasant aspect of home life is
  
4. The reviewer suggests in the fourth paragraph that
  - A. most unsuccessful inventions failed because they were dangerous
  - B. various unsuccessful inventions failed because they did not work properly
  - C. some unsuccessful inventions were not advertised appropriately
  - D. there were unsuccessful inventions which might have been good ideas
  
5. In the final paragraph, the reviewer suggests that Highmore may be wrong about
  - A. when certain modern attitudes to home life first developed
  - B. which changes in home life in Britain have been most widely welcomed
  - C. the extent to which home life in Britain has changed
  - D. how common terms such as 'airing cupboards' are in modern Britain

**II. Read the text again and write an article about the impact of modern living on family life. (250-280 words) (50 p)**

**Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.**

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ, ETAPA LOCALĂ  
02 MARTIE, 2024  
CLASA a XII-a, SECȚIUNEA B

**Varianta 1**

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

**SUBIECTUL A- USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)**

**I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (10 x2p=20 points).**

One of the more irritating conventional wisdoms of recent times is that adolescence is a horrendously traumatic and stressful phase of life characterized by rebellion and **dissent**. A somewhat unholy alliance of therapists, advertising moguls, pop pundits and preachers pontificates about the rupture that occurs with the entry into adolescent status, the special and separate culture, the bewildering biological and psychological changes. The expectation is of trouble. This is not to suggest that adolescence is a golden age, a wondrous period of growth, self-exploration, self-discovery. It can be these things but it is also a time of pain, embarrassment, self-doubt and loss.

As a developmental phenomenon, adolescence is indeed unique to man. The maturation of a human being takes many years. This delay in attainment of full growth and maturity is seen by many experts to be essential to man's longer and richer development. Seen from such a perspective, adolescence acquires a positive evolutionary value. Easing the child into adulthood is the primary task of adolescence. Delay is its essence. The major conflict is between the urges prompted by biological maturity and the slower, **stuttering** advances of psychological and social growth. We adults worry about our teenagers getting into trouble, becoming distracted by sexuality, damaged by drugs, scarred by risk-taking. In truth we are scared, and understandably so, by the fact that they are growing up. In the course of that maturation we see, as in a mirror, our hopes and fears and failures, achievements and inadequacies, as parents.

At one and the same time a teenager is pulled back towards their childhood, with **pangs** of dependence, and onward to adulthood, with a longing for independence from their parents and their history. So it's hardly surprising if their moods swing wildly from one extreme to another. The hallmarks of teenage moods are noisy exuberance or silence, with a face like thunder. When they're on an upward swing they burst with restless energy. They need to clatter and fidget around, they need their music to be on the loud side of loud, and they need to talk in a silly voice. Silly voices are a vital part of teenage culture. They may be caricatures of unfortunate schoolteachers, or they may be original creations. Either way, they are a very effective way of separating those in the know from the uninitiated. Whole mealtimes may pass without a single intelligible word being said.

**A. Answer the following questions: (4x2p=8 points)**

1. What point is the writer making by using the phrase 'a somewhat unholy alliance'?
2. What is the conflict teenagers go through during their adolescence period?
3. What, according to the writer, causes teenagers' mood swings?
4. What is said to be the role of silly voices in teenage culture?

**B. Choose the right synonym: (3x2p=6 points)**

1. **dissent**: a. indifference b. compliance c. demur d. demeanour
2. **stuttering**: a. seamless b. gripping c. worrying d. faltering
3. **pangs**: a. painful feelings b. feelings of relief c. mixed feelings d. vague feelings

**C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. (3x2p= 6 points)**

1. The youngsters never expressed regret for what they had done.  
At.....they had done.
2. Work for us for over a year and we'll consider promoting you.  
We'll only consider promoting you once.....
3. "Please, don't use Internet slang when you speak to me", said Mary's teacher.  
Mary's teacher said he would rather .....to him.

## II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. (10x1p = 10 points)

Scientists have long (1) \_\_\_ (**HYPOTHESIS**) about a link between exercise and psychological health. Physical (2) \_\_\_ (**ACTIVE**) and a lack of energy is widely understood to be linked to depression. However, the psychological benefits of exercise are often overlooked, leading to a (3) \_\_\_ (**SCARCE**) of information.

Now, (4) \_\_\_ (**ACADEMY**) are trying to identify ways in which exercise can help the mind and have made some (5) \_\_\_ (**REMARK**) discoveries – such as the fact that exercise can treat depression as effectively as medication! Some clinicians even believe it could be the most important (6) \_\_\_ (**CONSIDER**) for supporting mental health.

That isn't all. Exercise also gives our self-esteem a boost and helps our cognitive abilities. Regular participation in sport, for example, can be (7) \_\_\_ (**ADVANTAGE**) in treating anxiety, as well as (8) \_\_\_ (**PROVE**) confidence and positive self-perception. It has even been connected with enhanced memory and concentration. While these can get (9) \_\_\_ (**PROGRESS**) worse as we age, just a little exercise can protect you from cognitive decline. So, the next time you need a little pick-me-up, give a (10) \_\_\_ (**WORK**) a try!

## III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

(10x1=10 points)

Forget about the traditional process of going to job interviews and answering question after question with tired clichés and business buzzwords that reveal (1)\_\_\_\_\_ beneficial to an employer. There is now a fascinating new method designed to reveal deeper subtleties of character. This technique, known as psychometric testing, has been breaking (2)\_\_\_\_\_ ground in recruitment by using aptitude tests to examine candidates' fluid and crystallised intelligence. Aptitude tests enable employers to objectively evaluate candidates' fluid intelligence by assessing their ability to think abstractly and strategically. The aim here isn't to measure experience or qualifications, (3)\_\_\_\_\_ to provide a useful barometer of how someone can solve problems. In addition to this, the aspects of the tests that explore crystallised intelligence look at what a candidate has learnt from past experiences and their ability to apply this to a work context. There aren't necessarily right or wrong answers. These tests simply require candidates to respond to the questions to the (4)\_\_\_\_\_ of their ability and be as honest about them as possible. In this way, employers have a unique marker as to the (5)\_\_\_\_\_ to which a candidate can flourish within their business.

## SUBJECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

### INSPIRED YOUTH

When we think of inspirational young people, a few prominent ones immediately spring to mind. Among these, of course, are climate change activist Greta Thunberg and campaigner for girls' rights to education Malala Yousafzai. Undoubtedly, these two and others who have risen to the status of household name have done a huge amount to raise awareness of their respective issues. However, we may still believe that they are exceptions to the rule, and that there are few, if any, young people like them in our own towns and neighbourhoods. In this article, we try to convince you that this is not the case. We meet some unsung heroes who have used their teenage years to help others and make the world a better place. While few are widely known, all are a source of inspiration.

Helena Gualinga, a native of the Ecuadorian Amazon may be young but she has devoted her life to fighting against big oil companies that have damaged the rainforests or threaten to do so. Like many others born into the digital age, Gualinga finds that the major advantage her generation has is the internet, which has enabled anyone to get involved in promoting good causes. Influenced primarily by her aunts and uncles, who were criminalized for trying to prevent deforestation, she has undertaken to do the same. Gualinga's passion for protecting the rainforests increased when she spent periods of her childhood in Europe. Fearing she may return to find her home destroyed, she became an advocate for the rights of indigenous people, who, she says, have been protecting the rainforest for a very long time.

The Validation Project is an organisation which helps young people aged 13-25 to change the world one person at a time. Founder Valerie Weisler was just 14 when she took the initiative to help those who were vulnerable to bullying. According to Weisler, validating others should be as normal as brushing your teeth'. Her mission is to make all young people as self-assured as she now is, through the total eradication of bullying worldwide. Having been bullied herself, she understands the power of a compliment and a smile to help people through difficult times. She believes everyone can change their own corner of the world if they really want to. The Validation Project has involved over 5,000 teenagers in 12 countries. Not content just to change attitudes, Weisler's 'Teens for Clean' project has collected and donated 10,000 toiletry items to homeless shelters.

Another young person making a difference is Patricia Manubay, whose initiative, Dream Boxes, was inspired by her personal experiences of seeing poverty in her native Philippines and experiencing bullying at school in the United States. This resourceful and compassionate young woman understood that school supplies could be low down the list of priorities for families on low incomes. She

became a spokesperson for the underprivileged and encouraged people from all over the world to donate a box full of school supplies. More importantly though, the boxes also included a 'dream journal' and inspirational messages to a needy student. Manubay realised that if the resources weren't enough to motivate students, letters and words of encouragement might be.

A member of the National Youth Council, Veer Kumar Mattabadul is a voice for the young people of his home country, the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius. Mattabadul takes an uncompromising position against polluters, favouring strict laws to protect his beautiful country. He spends his free time involved in 'blue clean-ups', recruiting professional swimmers and divers to help clean up the sea, rivers and beaches. For Mattabadul, education is the key as people will continue to destroy the environment until they are fully aware of how their actions impact the natural world.

So, the next time someone makes a sweeping generalisation about young people, remember those who are trying to make a difference. Greta and Malala are not exceptions - they are just two young people who are committed to improving the world and happened to become well-known because of it. There are thousands more out there, each contributing in their own way to making Earth a happier, cleaner or more peaceful place to live.

**I. For each question choose the correct letter A, B, C or D (5x2p= 10p)**

**1. In the first paragraph, what does the writer suggest about well-known activists like Greta Thunberg and Malala Yousafzai?**

- A. They are not as influential as many people assume.
- B. They inspired the young people in the article.
- C. They have been changed by their experience of fame.
- D. They are actually representative of young people.

**2. What first inspired Helena Gualinga to get involved in campaigning against oil companies?**

- A. the dedication of her relatives to the cause
- B. reading online about how industrial development has affected the environment
- C. her concern about the rainforest while she was away from Ecuador
- D. meeting indigenous people affected by the destruction of rainforests

**3. What does the writer suggest about the activities Valerie Weisler has been involved in?**

- A. She has found them particularly challenging because of her age.
- B. Personal experiences have made her well suited to tackling them.
- C. They have only resulted in limited progress so far.
- D. Some elements of them are more valuable than others.

**4. What is the writer doing in the fourth paragraph?**

- A. raising awareness of poverty in affluent countries.
- B. emphasising the problem of families not valuing education.
- C. highlighting the value of seeing beyond people's material needs.
- D. encouraging readers to donate a box of chocolate supplies.

**5. The writer's overall purpose in writing this article is**

- A. to explain how the young people attracted publicity for their causes.
- B. to get more young people contributing to their communities.
- C. to remind people to judge others on their own merits.
- D. to encourage adults to be more interested in social causes.

**II. Starting from the text above which emphasises the efforts of youngsters who strive to make a difference, write a *proposal* on the following topic:**

The mayor of your city has asked youngsters in the Students' Council to develop a detailed action plan for implementing efficient strategies to involve young people in active roles within the community. Include specific steps and responsibilities, ensuring a comprehensive approach to fostering youth engagement. Additionally, outline methods for assessing the effectiveness of these initiatives based on feedback and evolving needs.

Write your proposal in 250-280 words in an appropriate style.

**50 points**