

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ
13 FEBRUARIE 2025
CLASA a X-a

SECȚIUNEA B

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

I. Read the text below and complete the following tasks.

The Happiness Effect

Happiness may be the primary goal of human existence. Philosophers have wrestled with the concept of happiness. Legislators create laws to support citizens' rights to pursue happiness. Television, radio, and print advertisers assure consumers that various products will guarantee happiness. Interestingly, people have a tendency to believe they are happier than their neighbors, and they are optimistic about their happiness in the future. Most people assume that they will be happier a decade from now than they are today. Clearly, everyone from writers and philosophers to legislators and the average person on the street thinks a great deal about happiness. What makes happiness so important to human existence?

Why Be Happy?

Not only does happiness feel good, but it appears to provide a variety of psychological and physical benefits. Happiness plays a significant role in enhancing good health, strengthening the immune system, promoting longevity, improving productivity and performance, and increasing resilience. Happy people work hard, play hard, have an active social life (and a social conscience), experience good health, and live longer. A happy person lives an average of nine years longer than a miserable one.

The Opposite of Happiness

When studying happiness, it makes sense that its opposite condition would also be a topic of examination. Scientists have observed that there are two unfortunate life events that induce profound unhappiness, perhaps over the course of many years: the loss of a spouse and the loss of a job.

What Causes Happiness?

However, good news abounds in the study of happiness. Fortunately, humans experience happiness from a wide range of stimuli, from traveling to an exotic destination to redecorating one's home or from winning a game of soccer to eating a delicious meal. Simply watching a favorite television show or laughing at a funny joke can boost a depressed mood. While the happiness produced by such experiences tends to be short lived, certain conditions do promote a more long-lasting and durable state of happiness as a lifestyle: a wide social network, believing in a meaningful reason for one's existence, and establishing goals and working to achieve them.

With a Little Help from My Friends

Surprisingly, income is not a primary factor in determining a person's level of happiness once the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter have been met. More important is one's social network. Being socially active may be more effective in increasing one's immunity to illness than a vaccine. Misery may love company, but so does happiness, and having close friends and family is vital to one's overall level of happiness. (If friends and family are crucial, so is a loving partner. Research suggests that being married increases one's potential for happiness.) Even sharing one's home with an animal companion can make a person happier.

Why Am I Here?

Scientists report that believing in some kind of meaning for one's life is necessary to living a happy life. This may be a religion, a code of ethics, a particular value system, a philosophy, or any other reason for being that lifts people out of the mundane routine of daily existence and gives their life meaning beyond a weekly paycheck.

The Habit of Happiness

Happiness is not an innate characteristic but may actually be developed as a habit. Scientists suggest that incorporating new habits and practices can go a long way in increasing one's state of happiness. While people generally do not transform their basic temperaments, people can learn to become happier by participating in a variety of activities, including socializing, watching funny movies or reading funny books, keeping a gratitude journal (writing a daily list of three to five things for which one is grateful), involving oneself in pleasurable activities, such as sports, hobbies, or the arts, focusing on positive outcomes, and performing acts of kindness for others. Apparently, doing something to make someone else happy will make you happy, too.

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

8

1. In the section Why Be Happy?, why does the author include parentheses around "and a social conscience"?
2. In the section With a Little Help from My Friends, why does the author use the phrase "misery may love company"?
3. What is one assumption the author makes about attaining happiness?
4. Sum up the text in a sentence.

B. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meanings in the text.

6 points

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. resilience | a. recovery | b. concealment | c. development |
| 2. to boost | a. to forget | b. to bring | c. to improve |
| 3. mundane | a. transitory | b. eloquent | c. earthly |

C. Rephrase the following sentences, so as to preserve the meaning, using the word given: **6 points**

1. Most people assume that they will be happier a decade from now than they are today.
SUPPOSITION There today.

2. Happiness plays a significant role in enhancing good health.

IMPORTANT Happiness health.

4. Incorporating new habits and practices can go a long way in increasing one's state of happiness.

ENABLES Incorporating happiness

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

Since its adoption into the Western diet around a century ago, yoghurt has been offered in various forms to suit (1) (**CONSUME**) tastes. It's been dyed, (2)(**SWEET**), liquidised, mixed with fruit, honey and candy and even squeezed into portable plastic tubes. Greek yoghurt is the latest form. Sales of Greek yoghurt have seen astronomical (3)(**GROW**) in the last few years. Virtually (4) (**KNOW**) a few years ago, Greek yoghurt has become the snack of choice in the UK. And what does this fantastic rise say about modern (5)(**PREFER**) ? Greek yoghurt's basic appeal, for those who have tried it, seems fairly obvious: it's both tasty and (6) (**RELATE**) good for you, filling but not too (7) (**FAT**). Low and not-fat varieties keep the yoghurt's signature (8) (**THICK**), which results from the centuries-old technique of straining out the liquid content. Despite costing more than a cheaper brand on the market, its (9)(**POPULAR**) has soared with people – mainly women – choosing to pay little extra for a(n) (10)(**HEALTH**) treat.

III. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Se spune că scriitorul pierde cu fiecare vis povestit câte un cititor, că visele plictisesc într-o povestire, fiind doar o metodă învechită și comodă de punere în abis. Rareori, într-adevăr, un vis este semnificativ pentru celălalt. În plus, scriitorii construiesc câteodată visul la calibrul cerut care să reflecte și să ordoneze realitatea difuză a povestirii. Pentru că vreau să încep povestirea asta cu un vis, încerc să mă apăr cumva de acuzația de lene și naivitate care s-ar declanșa automat.

SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS

(60 points)

Read the following text and do the tasks:

Matching Stumpy pant for pant, Max chased his Mcloud-white dog through the upstairs hallway down the wooden stairs and into the cold open foyer. Max and Stumpy did this often, running and wrestling through the house, though Max's mother and sister, the two other occupants of the home, didn't appreciate the volume and violence of the game. Max's dad lived in the city and phoned on Wednesdays and Sundays. Max lunged towards Stumpy, missed, barrelled into the front door and knocked the door handle basket off.

The door handle basket was a small wicker basket that Max thought stupid but Max's mother insisted on having on the front door handle for good luck. The main thing the basket was good for was getting knocked off and landing on the floor, where it was often stepped on. So Max knocked the basket off, and then Stumpy stepped on it, putting his foot through the bottom with an awful tearing sound. Max was worried for a second, but then his worry was forgotten when he saw Stumpy trying to run round the house with a basket stuck to his foot. Max laughed and laughed. Any reasonable person would see the humour in it. "Are you going to be a freak all day?" Claire asked, suddenly standing over Max. "You've only been home for 10 minutes. His sister Claire was fourteen, almost fifteen, and was no longer interested in Max, not on a consistent basis least. Claire was in secondary school now and the things they had always liked to do together including Wolf and Master, a game Max still thought worthy - were no longer so appealing to her. She had adopted a tone of continual dissatisfaction and annoyance with everything Max did, and with most things that existed in the world. Max didn't answer Claire's question any response would be problematic. If he said "No", then it would imply he had been acting like a freak, and if he said "Yes", it would mean that not

only had he been a freak and he was admitting it, but that he intended to continue being a freak. "You had better make yourself scarce." (line 22) Claire said, repeating one of their dad's favourite expressions "I'm having people over." If Claire had been thinking clearly, she would have known that to tell Max to become scarce would only make him want to be more visible, and to tell him that she was having people over would only make him more committed to being present. "Is Meika coming?" he asked, Meika was his favourite among Claire's friends, the rest of whom were idiots. Meika paid attention to him, actually talked to him, asked him questions, had one time even come into his room to play Lego and admire the wolf suit he kept on his wardrobe door. She was still wired for fun. "None of your business," Claire said. "Just leave us alone, okay?" Max knew that watching and annoying Claire and her friends would be better with someone, so he went outside, got on his bike and rode down the street to Clay's. Clay was a new arrival; he lived in one of the Clay's just-built houses down the street. And though he was pale and his head too big, Max was giving him a chance. Making his way to Clay's, Max's head was full of possibilities for what he and Clay might do with or, perhaps better, to Claire's friends. It was December and the snow, dry and powdery just a few days earlier, was now melting, leaving slush on the roads and pavements, a patchy cover on the lawns.

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

1. In paragraph 1, we learn that

- A Max's mum and sister sometimes joined in these games.
- B Max did not live in the city centre.
- C Max's home is a flat. joined in these games.
- D Max was trying to hurt Stumpy.

2. According to the text, the purpose of the basket in the house is

- A to protect the door handle.
- B to provide something for Stumpy to play with.
- C to make the home a happier place.
- D to have something to put things in near the front door.

3. The writer says Max was worried about the basket because Stumpy had

- A made it dirty.
- B broken it.
- C damaged its contents.
- D run away with it.

4. Which best describes Max's attitude to Claire?

- A He admired her character.
- B He never knew how she would react.
- C He never understood her questions.
- D He felt she used to be more fun.

5. The phrase 'make yourself scarce' (line 22) means Claire wants Max to

- A go away.
- B look smart.
- C behave well.
- D keep quiet.

II. The sibling relationship is a natural laboratory for young children to learn about their world. An international youth organization is planning to publish a report on the role of siblings and their impact on one another's development. Suggestions regarding how positive attitude can be developed are welcome. Write your report starting from the text above. (220-250 words) **50 points**

TOTAL

100 POINTS

**NOTĂ: TOATE SUBIECTELE SUNT OBLIGATORII.
TIMPUL DE LUCRU ESTE DE 3h.
NU SE ACORDĂ PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.**



