



**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ  
ETAPA LOCALĂ  
13 FEBRUARIE 2025**

**CLASA a XI-a**

**SECȚIUNEA B**

**SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH**

**40 points**

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

Like many people acting on the desire to eat healthy and local, Acropolis resident Eduardo Jimenez decided to plant a garden in his backyard. He tilled the soil, he planted the seeds, and he even erected a fence to keep out the deer. Eduardo did everything right. Or so it seems. Harvest time has come, and he has not one tomato, bean, or leaf of lettuce to show for his hard work. How did this happen? The answer comes in the form of a small, brown, particularly smelly insect: the stink bug.

Unlike their fastidious cousins, stink bugs feed on some 300 species of plants, including figs, mulberries, corn, and citrus fruits as well as soybeans, legumes, and weeds. Although they do little damage to the plant itself, they make the fruits and vegetables unmarketable. For this reason, stink bugs pose the most serious threat to the big agriculturalists and macro farm operators. Macro farmers have more invested in their produce, and therefore have more to lose. While hobbyists like Eduardo are left to face the disappointment of an unsuccessful garden, macro farmers are forced to live with the loss of entire tracts of cash crops—a fact that has left many barely able to clothe their children or put food on the table. Last season alone, several New Jersey pepper farmers saw 75% of their crops damaged. Pennsylvania lost half of its peach population, and, according to the US Apple Association, apple farmers in the mid-Atlantic states lost \$37 million. This year could be worse.

As a result of this decline in the supply of fresh fruits and vegetables, shoppers have seen adjustments—sometimes quite dramatic—in prices at the grocery store. Prices of apples in Maryland are up 8%. In the north-Atlantic states, prices for peppers shot up an astounding 14%. Not only are these items becoming more expensive, but they are also getting harder to find. Last week, Marge Jenkins of Athens, Georgia reported having to check three different stores before stumbling upon a decent batch of peas. And this, she assures us, is a regular occurrence.

Accidentally brought from Asia, the stink bug has no natural predators in America, and thus its population is soaring. Reported sightings of stink bugs are becoming increasingly numerous, as the desiccated, brown, trapezoidal shells of the dead bugs are ubiquitous in some areas. This has farmers and scientists alike scratching their heads in search of a remedy. Hope, they believe, may lie with an Asian parasitic wasp, which helpfully lays its eggs inside stink bug eggs. The larvae of the wasp devour the stink bug from the inside. Implementation of such a solution is still several years away, as scientists must first determine if it is safe for the wasp to be introduced into America. Until then, some farmers are resorting to



home made traps. Others have even contemplated the use of peacocks and praying mantises, which, they hypothesize, will gulp down the little stinkers.

**A. Answer the following questions, according to the text.**

**8 points**

1. In paragraph 2, the author most likely refers to people like Eduardo as "hobbyists" in order to .....
2. According to the author, what is the biggest problem resulting from stink bugs?
3. Based on the information in paragraph 3, it can be inferred that a decrease in supply results in ....
4. As used in the final paragraph, which of the following describes something that is ubiquitous?

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

- |               |             |              |                        |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1. fastidious | a. pleasant | b. demanding | c. difficult to please |
| 2. decline    | a. decrease | b. improve   | c. control             |
| 3. batch      | a. lot      | b. pile      | c. pair                |

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

**6 points**

1. Although they do little damage to the plant itself, they make the fruits and vegetables unmarketable.

**HOW**

No ..... unmarketable.

2. Agriculturalists were shocked to hear that the stink bugs are becoming increasingly numerous.

**CAME**

It ..... to hear that the stink bugs are becoming increasingly numerous.

3. The government has tried to make the impact of stink bugs less serious.

**PLAY**

The government ..... the impact of stink bugs.

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

**10 points**

Watching a successful theatre production is an amazing experience. The performance looks effortless, and everything goes smoothly but this often (1) ..... (LIE) the amount of work that was actually involved. At the Palace Theatre, the average time from the first (2) ..... (REHEARSE) to opening night is just four weeks of intensive work. Everyone involved attends the first read-through by the cast, so this is an ideal opportunity to get an (3) ..... (SIGHT) into how a production germinates.

I took myself to the theatre on a (4) ..... (CHILL) October morning to attend the read-through of the theatre's new production - the British premiere of *Sive*, by the acclaimed Irish (5) ..... (PLAY) John B. Keane. It is about a young girl about to be married off for money to an old man, while her true love can only look on (6) ..... (HELP). It is a poignant portrayal of rural family life, rich in comedy and filled with (7) ..... (MEMORY) characters played by an Irish cast for linguistic (8) ..... (AUTHENTIC). 'It's important for people to have a sense of common purpose and (9) ..... (TEAM)' explains director Ben Barnes. 'The play has been in pre-production since June but this is the first reading and it will be (10) ..... (INDICATE) of how the actors work together. And it's for the theatre staff as much as the actors.'

**III. Translate the following text into English.**

**10 points**

După Valea Călugărească, una dintre mașini a avut o pană și ne-am oprit cu toții pentru ca stăpânii și conducătorii să repare răul în grabă. Am întârziat totuși aproape un ceas Nevastă-mea a vrut să aibă ramuri



dintr-un măr înflorit, puțin mai devală de unde eram noi, iar el s-a oferit să i le rupă. S-au dus amândoi și ea și-a umplut brațele cu ramuri, de părea, blondă și cu ochii albaștri, o icoană împodobită.

## **SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS**

**60 points**

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

Like many meticulous people, Cameron thought of himself as merely organized. He certainly did not consider that he took great pains over anything, he did just enough to get it right. Exactly right, of course, for as he was fond of telling his staff, "if it's not exactly right, it's wrong". Occasionally a worker might whimper faintly on hearing these words, because it meant another hour or so of going over the same bit of work, correcting the mistakes which Cameron had patiently pointed out. And doing the corrections exactly right of course. Oddly enough, his passion for precision did not make Cameron unpopular. His department had the reputation for performing the highest quality work in the company, and it was seen, and not only by those who worked in the department, as a sort of elite unit. Those programmes that had to work first time, straight out of the box, Cameron's men got those. "It's mission critical - give it to Cameron" was almost a catchphrase with his team. It helped that Cameron was not merely fussy. He wanted things done just so, not because of a personal idiosyncrasy, but because he had discovered through patient experimentation that this was the best way for it to be done. What drove his team to distraction, and occasionally to contemplating murder, or suicide, or both, is that he insisted it be done that way under all circumstances. Daughter's wedding? Oh, dear, well you can go as soon as you have finished the project. Take as long as you want.

That was another term that filled the programmers with horror. In Cameron's lexicon, "Take as long as you want" meant that you could work on your task not just in office hours, but that evening, and late into the wee hours of following morning if you really want it. But the project had to be in by its completion date, and yes, done exactly right. Or you did it again. There were those that refused to work under this regime. They told Cameron so, at length, and often with a selection of colourful adjectives. And Cameron would give them his saintly smile, call one of his colleagues, and the worker would find himself at another desk the next day, doing the same sort of work, for exactly the same pay. Then he could cut corners where he knew it didn't matter, use the occasional dodge if it worked, and be reasonably sure of getting home for matters like anniversary dinners. But he would always be regarded, and not least by himself, as someone who had failed to measure up, one of those who just couldn't cut it. You had to face it, if you were not working for Cameron, you were second best. So when word got out that Cameron had fouled up, big time, the news was greeted with a mixture of sympathy, and outright relief that this paragon too was human.

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

**10 points**

#### **1. What was Cameron's job?**

- A. software programmer
- B. quality controller
- C. head of department
- D. a chief scientist

#### **2. Why was "mission-critical" work given to Cameron?**

- A. because Cameron was critical
- B. because Cameron's work was error-free
- C. because he didn't mind working late
- D. because he had a good team

#### **3. Which word best describes Cameron?**

- A. uncompromising



- B. patient
- C. tyrannical
- D. unsympathetic

**4. How did people feel about working for Cameron?**

- A. that they were part of an elite
- B. that their mission was critical
- C. that Cameron was very fussy
- D. that Cameron was patient and saintly

**5. What is meant by someone who "can't cut it"?**

- A. he doesn't cut corners.
- B. he isn't good enough.
- C. he has the wrong measurements.
- D. he is a paragon

II..Starting from the text above, write an article with the title:”*WILL ROBOTS TAKE MY JOB?*”  
Imagine a future in which every company has intelligent robots to do most of the work tasks. Would there be any disadvantages? How would this change our lives? (220-250 words).

50 points

**TOTAL**

**100 POINTS**

**TOTAL**

**100 POINTS**

**NOTĂ: TOATE SUBIECTELE SUNT OBLIGATORII.**

**TIMPUL DE LUCRU ESTE DE 3h.**

**NU SE ACORDĂ PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.**



