



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

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SECȚIUNEA A

SUBIECTUL A - Use of English**40 puncte****I. Read the following text and put the verbs in brackets into the correct form. 10 points**

Margaret was ten years old and (1) (**to live**) in eight different places. She (2) (**to know**) what place (3) (**to be**) like. It would be no different from all the others. The lady would be nice while Mrs. Gibbons (4) (**to be**) there, but afterward she'd be mean, and Margaret (5) (**not to like**) that, and soon Mrs. Gibbons (6) (**to come**) and take her away again.

Margaret (7) (**to stare**) at the road ahead. Her legs (8) (**to get**) stiff from being in the same position so long, and her back (9) (**to ache**) from sitting up straight. Besides, it was an old car, and the seats (10) (**to be**) hard. But she was going to tell Mrs. Gibbons she was tired.

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

Since the earliest times, civilisations have understood the 1.(IMPORTANT)..... of time. If you want to plan your future, or simply know how long things take to do, then the precise 2. (MEASURE)..... of time is a necessity. That's why ancient cultures put such effort into the development of 3. (RELY)..... calendars and clocks.

At first, people used the 4.(OBSERVE)..... of movements in the night sky as a way of predicting annual events. The Ancient Egyptians realised that it would be 5.(USE)..... to divide days up into smaller units of time. They were responsible for the 6.(INVENT)..... of the system of twenty-four hours in a day that we still use today.

The first clocks were sundials using the 7.(LONG)..... of the Sun's shadow to mark the passing of the day. This worked well in sunny countries but was 8.(APPROPRIATE)..... for places where the sky was often cloudy. People living there had to wait for the 9.(DEVELOP)..... of the mechanical clock before they could tell the time with any degree of 10.(ACCURATE)..... .

III. Read the following text and decide which answer (A,B,C or D) best fits in each gap.**(10 points)***At the dentist's*

I was on time for my dentist's appointment, but the dentist was still busy with another patient, so I (1) in the waiting room and (2) some of the old magazines lying there. While I (3) whether to



live and come back another day, I (4) a magazine article about teeth. It (5) : “How long is it since you last (6) to the dentist? Do you go regularly every six month? Or have you been putting off your visit for the last six years?” Next to the article was a cartoon of a man in a dentist’s chair.

The dentist (7) : “I am afraid this (8) “ I suddenly realised that my tooth had stopped aching. But just as I was opening the door to leave, the dentist’s door opened. “Next please”, he called, as the previous patient pushed past me. “Actually I am not here to see you, I (9) for my friend, “ I (10) , leaving as rapidly as I could.

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|-----|-------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | A. had sat | B.would sit | C.sat | D. sitting |
| 2. | A. will read | B.had read | C.was reading | D.read |
| 3. | A. were wondering | B. was wondering | C. will wonder | D. should wonder |
| 4. | A. noticed | B. was noticing | C. will notice | D. would notice |
| 5. | A. begin | B. began | C. had begun | D. would begin |
| 6. | A. went | B. going | C. had gone | D. go |
| 7. | A. was saying | B. were saying | C.said | D. is saying |
| 8. | A. hurt | B. will hurt | C. hurts | D.was hurting |
| 9. | A.wait | B.was waiting | C.waited | D.would wait |
| 10. | A.shouting | B.shout | C.shouted | D.was shouting |

IV. Translate the following text into English:

10 points

Felix se ridică să plece, și atunci își aduse aminte de romanul lui Stendhal, pe care-l lăsase pe colțul mesei. I-l întinsese lui Titi, întrebându-l dacă l-a citit. Acesta negă cu capul, luând cartea ca pe un album de preț și răsfoind-o cu degetele ușor apropiate de muchia filelor. Privea mai cu seamă desenele. Trecură câteva zile în care Felix se sfiu să se ducă la Aglae nechemat. În acest timp ieșise de câteva ori în oraș, luase informații cu privire la universitate și colindase anticariile așezate pe cheiul Dâmboviței. (George Călinescu, *Enigma Otiliei*)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS

60 points

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

The four of us, my best friend Ruth, my parents and me, were walking over a piece of damp moorland in Scotland. It was cold, in spite of the spring sunshine, and rather bleak. I have to say, I'd been quite anxious about Ruth when we set out. I wasn't sure how a New Yorker would react to all this empty scenery. Although she's lived in London for years, this was the first time she'd ever been to Scotland, which was surprising. It was also the first time she'd been on a trip with my family, which was not so surprising. My parents almost never go away.

My family runs a travel agency, so a holiday's just like work for them - or so they say. Just occasionally, though, something gets them moving. This time it was a small advert in the newspaper. My father saw it in the travel section, which normally he only reads for research purposes. It was a special offer - a long weekend in a farmhouse at a really good price. What was crucial, though, was that it ended with the magic words 'excellent bird-watching country'.

Suddenly, we were in the car heading north for Scotland.

'I think I've just seen a sparrow-harrier,' said Ruth, 'but no', all I'm getting is sky.'

'Binoculars can be very tricky if you're not used to them,' said my mother.



'So can bird names,' I said. 'You've just invented the sparrow-harrier. It must've been either a sparrowhawk or a hen harrier.'

My father was struggling with one foot deep in a wet patch of mud. He heaved it free; it gave out a loud squeal. 'In actual fact,' he said, 'it was a buzzard.'

I think Dad likes bird-watching the way some people like fishing. It gives him an excuse to go somewhere lonely and stare into space. To be fair, though, he can get quite animated; when he thought he'd spotted a firecrest up an oak tree, he brought the binoculars up so fast he blacked both his eyes. I remember trying not to laugh. Somehow, though, I hadn't expected Ruth to find it appealing. Here she was staring at a disappearing dot in the sky and saying, 'Okay. So can I claim to have seen a buzzard? Even though I didn't know what it was?' My father bent down and pointed to a small, boring plant, half-hidden in the grass. 'What's that?' he said.

Ruth examined it carefully. 'I have absolutely no idea,' she said.

'Neither have I,' said my father, 'but whatever it is, we've definitely both seen it.'

'I think that was a "yes" to your buzzard question,' said my mother.

We only had one more day away. Then it was back to reality for all of us. Ruth and I are both taking a 'year out' between school and college. I have to admit things weren't turning out exactly as we expected - though bits have been really good. The idea was to work and save, then travel and party. I got a job at once, as an assistant at the agency. I would like to point out, here, that this only sounds like an easy option to people who have never worked for my parents. It's been hard for Ruth to find jobs though, so she never has much money. It's a pity because, wherever you want to travel, you have to pay - unless you're my parents, of course. It was on the walk back to the farm that they began to discuss all the free holidays they'd had over the years. Which I have to say I thought was very tactless of them.

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

10 points

1. What worried the narrator about the trip before they left?

- A whether Ruth would get on with her parents
- B whether her parents would enjoy themselves
- C whether Ruth would appreciate the landscape
- D whether low temperatures would spoil their fun

2. According to the narrator, what had attracted her father to the trip?

- A the place where he saw it advertised
- B the relatively low cost it involved
- C the chance to practice his hobby
- D the opportunities for research

3. The narrator mentions the incident with the firecrest to show

- A how unlucky her father tended to be.
- B how keen on bird-watching her father was.
- C how amusing her father could be at times.
- D how knowledgeable about birds her father was.

4. How does the narrator feel about her 'year out' so far?

- A Most of it has been enjoyable.
- B She is thoroughly disappointed by it.
- C It has not been going according to plan.
- D This holiday is the best part of it to date.



5. What does the narrator suggest about her job?

- A** It isn't very well paid.
- B** It doesn't really interest her.
- C** It's fun working with her parents.
- D** It's much harder than people imagine.

II. You have seen this advertisement placed by the Tourist Information Office

Summer tourist guides in Scotland required

- Do you like meeting people?
- Do you know Scotland well?
- Do you have enough experience?

If you can answer “yes” to all these questions apply to the manager, Ms. Evans, explaining why you think you would be a good tourist guide.

Write your letter of application in 120 -180 words in an appropriate style.

50 points

TOTAL

100 POINTS

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