

Olimpiada de Limba Engleză LICEU – Etapa locală

An școlar 2023-2024

Clasa a XII-a, SECȚIUNEA B

SECTION A - USE OF ENGLISH

(40p)

I. Read the following text and do the tasks that follow. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (10p)

One of the more irritating **conventional wisdoms** of recent times is that adolescence is a horrendously traumatic and stressful phase of life characterised 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 the man. The maturation of a human being takes many years. This delay in attainment of full growth and sexual 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, lured by ideological charlatanry, scarred by risk-taking, maimed by accidents. 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. The task of parents is to let go, of adolescents it is to cast off. For parents it is a time of loss, for the growing adult it is a time of challenge.

A. Choose the right answer, a, b, c, or d.

(3x1p=3p)

1. What are **conventional wisdoms**?

- a. outdated ideas
- b. theories that have been proved
- c. generally accepted views
- d. beliefs copied from others

2. What are **pundits**?

- a. people who express views which they think other people want to hear
- b. people who give their opinions in public and considered experts by some but not by others
- c. people who say things in public which are intended to be controversial
- d. people who are aware of the fact that the views they express have some influence on the thinking of other people

3. If someone **pontificates**, they

- a. say things which are consistent with things they previously said.
- b. make statements which a number of other people do not take seriously.
- c. speak in a way which is less impressive than they believe to be.
- d. give opinions confidently but without the expertise to support them.

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning of the first sentence.

(3x1p=3p)

1. We adults worry about our teenagers getting into trouble.

WHAT

_____ our teenagers getting into trouble.

2. The task of parents is to let go of their children.

MEANS

Being a parent _____ their children.

3. People have wrongly believed that adolescence is a horrendously stressful phase of life.

BEEN

Adolescence _____ horrendously stressful phase of life.

C. Choose from the 8 words given below the 4 words that fit in the following summary of the text. (4x1p=4p)

EVOLUTION

MATURATION

ADVANCES

LOSS

TROUBLE

REBELLION

PONTIFICATES

URGES

Adolescence challenges conventional notions of trauma and (1) _____. Despite popular portrayals, it is not solely a phase of pain and dissent but a unique developmental phenomenon essential for prolonged human growth. The delay in full (2) _____, balancing biological (3) _____ with psychological and social growth, contributes positively to overall evolution. While adults fear potential pitfalls like drugs and risky behaviour, this

anxiety stems from their own reflections and insecurities. Adolescence is a time for parents to let go and for the growing adult to embrace challenges, symbolizing both (4) ____ and opportunity in the journey toward maturity.

II. Think about one word which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Write only the missing word on your answer sheet. (5x2p=10p)

1. Tony is rather lacking in _____ graces, but when he unwinds he can be quite interesting to talk to.
Elephants are _____ animals and tend to congregate in groups.
Increased _____ mobility has blurred the lines between the middle and upper classes in Britain.
2. We decided to settle out of _____ to avoid the publicity and expense of a trial.
Famous artists used to hold _____ in this café, and students, models and admirers would come to share a beer and listen to them talk about art.
The ball hit the back of the _____ and bounced back over the net.
3. The way she said that to me, it sounded more like a _____ of abuse than an endearment.
At the end of the autumn _____ the junior class will be putting on a pantomime.
The prospects of employment in the long _____ are uncertain, but we can offer a range of temporary jobs.
4. Taking lots of vitamin C is believed to increase your _____ to colds and flu.
Her uncle was a famous member of the _____ during the war.
The government's proposals for cutting back on social spending have met with a lot of _____ from both politicians and charities.
5. The government today announced a new _____ to encourage reading among young people.
I'm not very satisfied with my new secretary as she refuses to use her own _____ and is always asking me to give her instructions.
The home team took the _____ early in the match, forcing the other side to play a defensive game.

III. Some of the lines in the text below are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. On your answer sheet write the number of the line and the extra word, or a tick for each correct line. (10x1p=10p)

The 'Credit Card Schools'

- | | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 0 | ✓ | Enforcing rules is a problem in many educational institutions, as students often perceive |
| 00 | BE | them as be dull and negative in tone. One school claims to have a solution, however. |
| 1 | ..... | Primary school pupils at the village of Steeple Morden are been given credit-card sized |
| 2 | ..... | copies of the school's new code of behaviour. They are encouraged to carry with them |
| 3 | ..... | at all times. Pupils have to follow nine basic rules ranging from 'Don't run in the corridor' |
| 4 | ..... | to 'Work hard'. They cover essential social skills which there need to be learnt at an early |
| 5 | ..... | age, but they also enable to the school to indicate something if the children do something |
| 6 | ..... | is wrong. The rules were agreed in consultation with the children, who therefore |
| 7 | ..... | understand exactly what they mean. The idea which appeals to the children, who love |
| 8 | ..... | the responsibility of keeping the cards and see that the whole idea as very grown-up and |
| 9 | ..... | business-like. Parents are encouraged to get talk to their children about |
| 10 | ..... | the rules and for why they are needed. |

IV. Translate into English. Write your answers on your answer sheet. (10p)

Cel de-al doilea mare proiect de pe agenda omenirii va fi probabil găsirea cheii fericirii. De-a lungul istoriei, numeroși gânditori, profeți și oameni obișnuiți au definit mai curând fericirea decât viața însăși ca fiind binele suprem. În Grecia antică, filosoful Epicur arăta că venerarea zeilor este o pierdere de vreme, că nu există viață după moarte și că fericirea este singurul scop al vieții. Majoritatea oamenilor din Antichitate au respins epicurismul, dar astăzi acesta a devenit viziunea standard. Scepticismul în privința vieții de apoi determină omenirea să caute nu numai nemurirea, ci și fericirea pe pământ. Cine ar vrea să trăiască nefericit o veșnicie?

Pentru Epicur, căutarea fericirii era o misiune personală. Dimpotrivă, gânditorii moderni tind să o considere un proiect colectiv. Fără planificare guvernamentală, resurse economice și cercetare științifică, indivizii nu vor ajunge departe în căutarea fericirii. Dacă țara ta este răvășită de război, dacă economia trece printr-o criză, iar sistemul de sănătate e inexistent, cel mai probabil vei fi nefericit. La sfârșitul secolului al XVII-lea, filosoful britanic Jeremy Bentham declara că binele suprem este „cea mai mare fericire pentru cei mai mulți” și conchidea că singurul obiectiv de valoare al statului, pieței și comunității științifice este acela de a spori fericirea la nivel global.

(Yuval Noah Harari, *Homo deus – Scurta istorie a viitorului*)

SECTION B – INTEGRATED SKILLS**(60p)****Read the following text and do the tasks:**

I. You are going to read a newspaper article. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose the most suitable sentence from the list A-F on the right for each part (1-5) of the article. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. Write your answers on your answer sheet. (10p)

Before breakfast, two young people head down to the woods, struggling a little with the heavy bag of food for the pigs. 'Scatter them in different piles,' says the farm staff member. 'If you put them in one place, the smaller pigs won't be able to get anything.' The pigs, which are enormous, surge towards us, and their new feeders step backwards. 'I'm not doing that,' says 15-year-old Daniel firmly.

1

The teenagers are part of a group from a London secondary school who are staying at Jamie Fielden's farm, one of a number of 'care farms' providing a type of eco-therapy. The pupils brought here have been chosen by their teachers: 14-year-old Sofia, for example, has a difficult home life, Georgia, 14, is extremely quiet, and Sam, 13, has challenging behaviour.

2

Besides farmwork, the young people have group sessions with the farm psychotherapist who teaches them techniques for calming down, or for dealing with difficult situations. They can do 'horse-whispering' with her, one-to-one therapy making use of one of the farm horses. Phones and sweets are banned, as part of the focus on creating a calm, supportive atmosphere and reducing over-stimulation.

3

And the young people seem to be thriving. Aaron, a 12-year-old with serious attendance issues, is clearly taken with the horse whispering. 'I feel as though the horse is calm and I'm calm. I had to work out how to speak calmly to make her do what I wanted.'

4

And this is what Fielden aims to provide. Trained as a teacher, he wants to 'give young people a chance to have the experiences that I had as a kid growing up on a farm.' He set up the farm with a couple of other teachers and his mother, a psychotherapist, a few years ago. The farm's main source of income is the fees schools pay to send pupils there, and since opening, more than 700 children have attended.

5

A week after the pupils arrive back at school in west London from Jamie's Farm, teachers report on a difference in behaviour. Georgia gave a talk to her class about her experience, Sofia's participation in class is better than it has ever been, and Sam says he wants to go back to the farm next year. There is no doubt amongst the teachers that they will continue to send troubled pupils to the farm in years to come.

- A** A classmate, Hasan, describes a similar sense of tranquillity. 'I expected to be really annoyed and bored here, but as soon as we arrived it was fantastic. There's so much space. You don't get stressed out. There's time to think.' Like his peers, he has a complicated home life and needs support.
- B** Along with this, the teachers accompanying them are encouraged to form closer bonds with their charges and to observe the way that farm staff interact with the young people, and the methods they use to get the behaviour they want.
- C** Before coming here he was sceptical, but no longer. 'There's something about coming here, from very chaotic environments, as most of these young people do, that does them good. You have to work hard, take responsibility, and you're a valued member of the community.'
- D** Sofia, however, who is a good head shorter than her fellow pupil, moves forward, methodically pouring out a dozen small heaps under the trees. 'She's a natural,' says her supervisor admiringly. Sofia does not look up, but a little smile flickers across her young face.
- E** An impressive figure, but isn't it an expensive option for schools? Fielden believes the results justify the cost. Eight out of ten children who stay at the farm show a persistent improvement in behaviour. 'Head teachers tell me they're rebooking because they're no longer seeing those children in trouble. That's what we want.'
- F** Most of them, they soon tell me, have never been to the countryside before. For five days, they get up early, eat wholesome food and do various chores dependent on the season. It is summer and they are pulling up coriander from the vegetable beds, feeding animals and helping with the harvest.

II. Considering the ideas you came across in the text above, write a proposal to the headmaster, suggesting ways and reasons to create tranquil learning environments in your school. Write your **proposal in **280-300 words**.**