

Olimpiada de Limba Engleză LICEU– Etapa locală  
An școlar 2023-2024  
Clasa a XI-a, SECȚIUNEA A

## SECTION A - USE OF ENGLISH

(40p)

I. Read the following text and fill in the gaps using ONE word only. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (10x1p=10p)

## VARIATION IN ENGLISH

When foreign learners of English first come to the British Isles, they are usually surprised, and often dismayed, to discover (1) .... little they understand of the English they hear. For (2) ... thing, people seem to speak faster (3) ... expected. Also, the English that most British or Irish people speak seems to be different in (4) ... ways from the English the visitor has learnt. While it is probably differences of pronunciation that (5) ... immediately strike them, learners may also notice differences of grammar and vocabulary. Their reactions (6) ... this experience will vary. They may conclude that most of the English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish people that they hear (7) ... not – or even cannot – speak English correctly. In this, they would find that many native speakers agree (8) ... them. They might even be told that, since learners of English (9) ... a foreign or second language have usually studied English in a formal way, they should know (10) ... than would native speakers what is 'correct'.

II. Choose the best variant to complete all gaps in the sentences. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (10 x 1p = 10p)

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ to Australia two years ago. He \_\_\_\_\_ there for a while and then he \_\_\_\_\_ to New Zealand.  
A. went/ has worked/ went B. went/ worked/ went C. went/ had been working/ went D. went/ had worked/ went
2. They are not sure if he \_\_\_\_\_, but if he \_\_\_\_\_, they \_\_\_\_\_ him the truth.  
A. will come/does/will tell B. came/had/would tell C. has come/would/would tell D. comes/will/will tell
3. The fire, which \_\_\_\_\_ in a restaurant \_\_\_\_\_ many historical buildings and \_\_\_\_\_ millions of pounds worth of damage.  
A. said to have started/ have destroyed/ have caused B. is said to have started/destroyed/ caused  
C. was said to start/ was destroying/ was causing D. has been said to start/ had been destroyed/ had caused
4. No sooner \_\_\_\_\_ in New York \_\_\_\_\_ it started raining so heavily that they \_\_\_\_\_ take a cab. As they \_\_\_\_\_ in New York before, they \_\_\_\_\_ anything about the Big Apple.  
A. did they arrive/than/must/have never been/ knew hardly  
B. had they arrived/when/had to/had never been/didn't hardly know  
C. had they arrived/than/had to/had never been/hardly knew  
D. did they arrive/when/ needn't have to/never were/didn't know hardly
5. As if someone \_\_\_\_\_ orders, painters, photographers and all kinds of people \_\_\_\_\_ the largest contemporary art exhibition which \_\_\_\_\_ in London.  
A. gave / invade / was just opened B. has given / invaded / had just opened  
C. had given /are invading / has just opened D. would have given / have been invading / just opened
6. The prosecutor decided that the accused \_\_\_\_\_ imprisoned.  
A. to be B. might be C. would be D. be
7. Not only \_\_\_\_\_ statistics blind, but \_\_\_\_\_ a false impression when it comes to the current \_\_\_\_\_ situation!  
A. is/it also creates/economic B. is/they also create/economic  
C. are/they also create/economical D. is/they also create/economical
8. Which of the following series contains an incorrect plural form?  
A. cacti, diagnoses, bacilli, sheep; B. roundabouts, deer, criteria, axes;  
C. data, goods, aircraft, peoples; D. phenomena, genii, thesis, knives;
9. Tomorrow will be \_\_\_\_\_, so hold onto your hats!  
A. overcast B. blustery C. sweltering D. misty
10. They have managed to save enough money to \_\_\_\_\_ a deposit on their first apartment.  
A. put down B. put up C. put aside D. put away

III. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. You must use between two and five words. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (5x2p = 10p)

1. Locals believe that 2,000 kilos of food were consumed at the last feast. **HAVE**  
2,000 kilos of food \_\_\_\_\_ consumed at the feast.
2. Nearly all the shops in this town are expensive. **HARDLY**  
There \_\_\_\_\_ shops in this town.
3. I think I forgot to lock the door. **REMEMBER**  
I \_\_\_\_\_ the door.
4. "I'm really sorry I broke your camera, Mum," Ellie said. **APOLOGISED**  
Ellie \_\_\_\_\_ mum's camera.

5. My parents would prefer me not to travel alone. **RATHER**

My parents \_\_\_\_\_ travel alone.

**IV. Translate into English. Write your answer on your answer sheet.**

**(10p)**

Lipsea o treaptă de la scară, de ani de zile, dar el mergea perfect. N-a observat lipsa treptei decât la-nceput. Peste câteva luni, când treapta ar fi fost pusă la loc, i s-ar fi părut la fel de nelalocul ei, ca și-un mort care s-ar apuca să-nvie după două-trei luni și s-ar întoarce printre-ai lui acasă, tocmai când bieții oameni gustă dulcea convalescență a uitării și când își fac socotelile cu un tacâm mai puțin. Și mergea de ani pe scara cu-o treaptă lipsă, lipsa devenind măsură și element al variației în monotonie. Scara cu toate treptele ar fi devenit o scară banală. I-ar fi trebuit iar o perioadă de acomodare, ar fi avut anxietăți, ceva s-ar fi tulburat în echilibrul vieții lui. Într-o zi, cineva a mai scos o treaptă, de pe undeva, din scară. Din curiozitate: "Așa, ca să vedem ce face". Și el s-a-mpiedicat, a căzut și-a murit. Curiosul a zis: "Cine s-ar fi gândit?! Ceasul rău!". Toată lumea zicea: "De, ceasul rău". Nimănui nu i-a trecut prin minte că două trepte erau prea mult. (Ileana Vulpescu, *Treptele*)

**SECTION B INTEGRATED SKILLS**

**(60p)**

**I. Read the text below. Five sentences have been removed from the text. Complete the gaps (1-5) in the text with the sentences (A-F). There is an extra sentence which you do not need to use. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (5x2p=10p)**

How to write a good blog

Joey Benson started writing a blog at the age of thirteen. Here, he tells us about his own experiences of blog writing and offers tips for other young bloggers starting out.

'I never expected to get many followers when I started writing my blog,' says Joey Benson, now 15. 'I just wrote down my thoughts about films I'd seen at the cinema. I didn't think anyone would take my opinions seriously or even be particularly interested in them.'

Since he started blogging two years ago, however, Joey's attracted tens of thousands of readers, some of them professional film critics, who are interested in his fresh approach to reviewing films. (1) ..... This attention has led to him tripling the number of hits his blog receives, and he now gets sent free tickets for screenings of new films for his age group.

Joey's style is informal and chatty, and he presents an interesting angle on the films he sees. Instead of simply commenting on how amazing the special effects are, or how effective the soundtrack is, Joey delves into psychological subject matters like what it was that made the bad guy turn bad or whether the heroes of the story have hidden motives. (2) ..... Why did they choose that camera angle to shoot that scene from? Why was that particular animation process selected?

Joey has certainly made an impact on the teenage and film critic blogging scenes. His ideas are far from predictable, and he never fails to surprise readers with a new take on old themes. (3) ..... It's definitely something he manages, though.

With so many talented bloggers out there, how does Joey stand out from the crowd? He says it's crucial to either find something no one's written about before or a new way of approaching a subject as he does. You don't have to present a balanced opinion of an issue. (4) ..... They probably won't come back again, either.

If you're hoping to reach a wide range of readers with your blog, following advice from experienced bloggers like Joey is a wise move. You may be truly passionate about a subject close to your heart and may even consider yourself a bit of an expert on it. This makes it tempting to use jargon and technical words that people familiar with the field will know. (5) ..... This means you automatically limit the number of hits you receive on your blog.

'Remember the expression "first impressions count"?' asks Joey. 'Well, that doesn't just stand for meeting people but when aiming to make an impact with your blog-writing too. Draw the reader in by writing a funny or surprising title. Then keep their interest by addressing them personally, asking questions, and making them think.'

One last word from Joey: 'Don't try too hard to use big fancy words or get too hung up on things like grammar. It's important to check your work afterward for things like spelling errors, though, and make sure it flows well and is relevant to your target readers. Oh, and make sure you check your facts! You don't want to get into trouble with what you've written. Good luck!'

**A** *He makes it seem easy, but not all young, or indeed older, bloggers hit the right tone.*

**B** *A national newspaper recently picked up on his unique style and he's since appeared in an article about teenage bloggers.*

**C** *Age doesn't matter when you're writing about something you feel strongly about.*

**D** *He isn't only interested in considering this kind of thing, but in the technicalities of film-making, too.*

**E** *However, simply repeating the same thing over again without backing up your ideas with actual examples is unlikely to make readers stick around for long.*

**F** *Be aware, though, that a general audience may not, and you may put them off by doing so.*

**II. You work at a teenage online magazine and your editor-in-chief has asked you to write a report on the popularity of film blogs among teenagers. In your report you should evaluate the features and types of films tackled that make blogs popular and suggest changes you would recommend for future blogs to become more popular.**

**Write your report in 220-250 words.**

**(50p)**