

Olimpiada națională de limba engleză**8 februarie 2025 Etapa locală****CLASA a XII-a - SECȚIUNEA B****Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.****SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points) Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow.**

In recent years, the concept of a staycation has emerged as a novel alternative to the traditional holiday away from home. Conjuring up a vacation within the comforting embrace of one's own residence or nearby surroundings, individuals are now exploring creative ways to unwind and rejuvenate without venturing too far. Tapping into local attractions can unearth hidden gems and provide day-trips full of discovery, avoiding the often **tedious** airport traipses. Visits to nearby museums, galleries, or historical sites can offer a taste of culture and education, without the burden of packing suitcases. For the more active soul, a staycation presents the perfect opportunity for embracing local trails for hiking or cycling. **Immersing** oneself in the serenity of nature on these outings can offer a sense of escape, promoting physical and mental well-being. Local parks also afford a host of recreational activities, from improvised picnics to casual sports encounters with friends. Moreover, staycationers can cultivate the art of leisure right at home, with garden projects or the comfort of a good book in a cozy backyard hammock. The culinary enthusiast can delight in the kitchen with time to embark on the savory journey of a 'restaurant at home' night. With no concern for restaurant reservations, one can host intimate dinner gatherings, or simply enjoy the pleasure of unhurried meals with loved ones. The home entertainer might even transform the living space into a personal cinema, theater or concert hall, **showcasing** a selection of films, plays, or music to enjoy with family. For those who seek relaxation, a home spa day could be the perfect antidote to stress, equipped with aromatic oils, soothing music, and homemade beauty treatments. Crafting, from knitting to painting, allows for creative expression and the satisfaction of producing something tangible with one's own hands. As a boundary between home life and a holiday blurs, the crucial element is the intentionality behind every activity, infusing each moment with a sense of occasion and novelty.

A. Answer the following questions, according to the text.**(4 x 2p = 8 points)**

1. What is the main appeal of a staycation?
2. What types of activities can promote physical and mental well-being during a staycation?
3. How can someone enjoy a culinary experience during a staycation?
4. What is an example of an activity that can provide relaxation during a staycation?

B. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. (3 x 2p = 6 points)

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|----------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. tedious | a. crazy | b. interesting | c. cunning | d. monotonous |
| 2. immersing | a. scouting | b. plunging | c. ravaging | d. sleeping |
| 3. showcasing | a. presenting | b. deleting | c. encasing | d. uploading |

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning.**(3 x 2p = 6p)**

- a. In recent years, the concept of a staycation has emerged as a novel alternative to the traditional holiday away from home. Recently, people have _____ concept of staycation.
- b. Visits to nearby museums, galleries, or historical sites can offer a taste of culture and education, without the burden of packing. Exploring local _____ the burden of packing.
- c. The culinary enthusiast can delight in the kitchen with time to embark on the savory journey of a 'restaurant at home' night. Those who enjoy cooking _____ at home' experience.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap.**(10 x 1p = 10 p)**

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, known as "Mahatma" (Great Soul), was the leader of the Indian nationalist (1) _____ (MOVE) against British rule. Gandhi is well-known for his doctrine of nonviolent (2) _____ (RESIST) and civil (3) _____ (OBEDIENT) in order to reach political and social progress. Loved and respected by the whole world as one of the great human rights (4) _____ (ACTIVE), he did not really match the hero cliché, because he was thin and poor-looking in his simple white robes. After growing up in western India, 13-year-old Mohandas was married to a 14-year-old girl, Kasturbai Makhanji, in an (5) _____ (ARRANGE) child marriage. After university, he went to London to train as a barrister. In 1893, he accepted a job at an Indian law firm in Durban, South Africa, where he stayed for 20 years. Gandhi was shocked by the treatment of Indian (6) _____ (MIGRATE) there. He joined the struggle for basic rights and was (7) _____ (PRISON) several times. After his return to India in 1915, he became an (8) _____ (INFLUENCE) figure in Indian politics. His program of peaceful non-cooperation with the British included boycotts of British goods and institutions, (9) _____ (LEAD) to the arrests of himself and thousands of co-protesters. In 1931, Gandhi attended the Round Table Conference in London, as the only (10) _____ (REPRESENT) of the Indian National Congress.

III. Translate the following text into English.**(10 points)**

Deci și ea era o cetate care trebuia cucerită, am gândit, dar una mai grea, căci îmi sugera legătura ei strânsă cu moartea. Atât, alte ziduri nu avea, dar ăsta, singurul cum să-l escaladezi? Am început să ieșim, să ne plimbăm împreună prin oraș. Nineta era bine îmbrăcată, chiar elegantă și strada o schimba, devenea gravă, aproape străină, tăcută și veselie îi pierdea de pe chip. Avea chiar un ochi cercetător imobil când se uita la ceva. Se uita cu o lăcomie pe care n-o descifram, oricum strada o schimba, aveam chiar impresia că nu mai era cu mine și nu știam încotro îi zburau gândurile și ce fel de gânduri. Apoi acasă la ea devenea altă ființă... Aceste plimbări au adus ruptura, neașteptată pentru mine, incredibilă.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points) Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

The conversion of unused city spaces into productive growing areas marks one of the most significant shifts in modern urban planning. Whilst growing food in cities is hardly new - with historical examples ranging from the ancient gardens of Babylon to wartime victory gardens - today's urban gardening movement is remarkably different in both its methods and its aims. Rather than simply transferring traditional farming techniques into city settings, contemporary urban growing programmes combine innovative technologies with environmental awareness to create efficient food production systems that challenge our usual views about the divide between city and countryside. These systems range from sophisticated hydroponic installations in converted warehouses to community-managed rooftop gardens that employ smart irrigation systems and vertical growing techniques. The rise in urban growing schemes has been driven by several factors, both practical and ideological. Whilst concerns about food security and the carbon footprint of transporting food have played a major role, this explanation fails to capture the full picture. Urban growing projects often become focal points for community involvement, learning opportunities, and local economic growth in unexpected ways. What starts as a neighbourhood vegetable plot frequently develops into a sophisticated community enterprise tackling various urban issues at once. These initiatives have proven particularly valuable in areas traditionally classified as 'food deserts', where access to fresh produce has historically been limited, and in communities seeking to rebuild social connections in an increasingly digitalised world. Despite its potential, urban growing faces considerable challenges that go beyond mere teething problems. The core issue centres on the economics of land use in cities. In most urban areas, land prices make traditional growing methods financially impossible when compared to building homes or offices. This has prompted creative solutions, such as the development of vertical growing systems and the transformation of disused industrial buildings, though these approaches create fresh problems. The power needed for artificial lighting in vertical gardens, for example, might actually work against their environmental benefits. Moreover, the initial investment required for these technological solutions often puts them beyond the reach of the community groups who might benefit most from them.

The practical difficulties extend beyond the cost of land. Urban gardeners must deal with contaminated soil, limited access to water, and the unusual growing conditions created by surrounding buildings. Some councils have introduced new planning rules, but progress is patchy, leaving many urban growers unclear about what they can and cannot do. The resulting regulatory grey areas have led to situations where successful projects have been forced to close or relocate, despite demonstrating clear community benefits. Perhaps the most fascinating discussions about urban growing relate to its core purpose and possibilities. Supporters make bold claims about its ability to improve food security, lower carbon emissions, and generate employment. Those who question the movement argue that whilst urban growing schemes offer valuable benefits to communities, they can only ever produce a tiny proportion of a city's food requirements. This debate highlights a deeper question about whether we should judge urban growing mainly on its food output or on its wider social and educational impact. The evidence suggests that successful projects often achieve multiple objectives simultaneously, making it difficult to evaluate them on any single criterion. The movement's future will likely depend on finding ways to balance these different views and expectations. As cities continue to grow and evolve, the lessons learned from urban growing projects - about community engagement, sustainable resource use, and adaptive space utilisation - may prove valuable far beyond the realm of food production itself.

I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text. (5 x 2p =10 points)**1. What marks a significant shift in modern urban planning?**

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|---|--|
| A) The rise of new building designs | C) The increase in urban sprawl |
| B) The conversion of unused city spaces into productive growing areas | D) The development of high-tech office buildings |

2. What distinguishes contemporary urban gardening from traditional farming?

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|--|--|
| A) The combination of innovative technologies with environmental awareness | C) The emphasis on monoculture crops |
| B) The use of only organic methods | D) A focus on large-scale industrial farming methods |

3. What is a key challenge that urban growing initiatives face?

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A) Lack of community interest | C) A shortage of crops to grow |
| B) Excessive government support | D) Limited space and high land prices |

4. Why are urban growing schemes considered valuable in 'food deserts'?

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|---|--|
| A) They provide a variety of luxury foods | C) They reduce the need for transportation |
| B) They focus on increasing local tourism | D) They help improve access to fresh produce |

5. What is a common debate regarding the purpose of urban growing projects?

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|---|---|
| A) Whether they should be used for entertainment or food production | C) Whether their success should be measured by food output or social and educational impact |
| B) Whether they should be restricted to wealthy neighborhoods | D) Whether they should use only natural farming methods |

II. Starting from the text above, write a PROPOSAL for the city council regarding building new areas in the town where people could go and relax. You should refer to parks, but also to sports and arts facilities affordable for anybody. (250-280 words)