

## OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ - ETAPA LOCALĂ

8 februarie – 2025

CLASA a IX-a - SECȚIUNEA A

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

## SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH

(40 points)

## I. Read the following text and put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense.

(10 points)

“There were four of us – George, and William Samuel, and myself, and Montmorency. We (1) \_\_\_\_ (sit) in my room, smoking, and talking about how bad we (2) \_\_\_\_ (be) lately – bad from a medical point of view I mean, of course. With me, it was my liver that was out of order. I knew it because I (3) \_\_\_\_ (just/read) a patent liver-pill circular, in which (4) \_\_\_\_ (detail) various symptoms by which a man could tell when his liver was out of order. I had them all. I had all the symptoms, the chief among them being “a general disinclination for work of any kind”. What I suffer in that way no tongue can tell. From my earliest infancy I (5) \_\_\_\_ (be) a martyr to it. As a boy, the disease hardly ever (6) \_\_\_\_ (leave) me for a day. People (7) \_\_\_\_ (not know), then, that it was my liver. Medical science was in a far less advanced state than now, and they put it down to laziness. “Why, you skulking little devil, you, can’t you get up and do something for your living?” – they (8) \_\_\_\_ (say). And never (9) \_\_\_\_ (they/give) me pills; they gave me clumps on the side of the head. And, strange as it (10) \_\_\_\_ (appear), those clumps on the head often cured me – for the time being.”

## II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each sentence.

(10 points)

*A trip to southwestern Germany*

The \_\_\_\_\_ (1) (FAME) Black Forest and the picturesque town of Baden Baden are in south-western Germany. I went there recently in search of a \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (PEACE), relaxing holiday and I \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (CERTAIN) wasn't disappointed.

The town is surrounded by \_\_\_\_\_ (4) (MARVEL) scenery, clear lakes and tall mountains. The weather during my visit was so cool and \_\_\_\_\_ (5) (MIST) that it created a wonderfully \_\_\_\_\_ (6) (MYSTERY) atmosphere.

There are plenty of interesting places to visit including the town's delightful 15th-century palace and the Roman baths. I also explored the \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (SHADE) Black Forest where all I could hear was the gentle sound of \_\_\_\_\_ (8) (FLOW) streams.

The food was excellent. I tried several \_\_\_\_\_ (9) (TASTE) local dishes. I also bought some cuckoo clocks as souvenirs.

I had the holiday of a lifetime in Baden Baden. With its friendly people and \_\_\_\_\_ (10) (FANTASY) natural surroundings, I would certainly recommend it to anyone who wants to go on holiday in the near future.

## III. Complete the second sentence using the word in bold. Use two to five words including the word given. Do not change the word given.

(10 points)

1. The hairdresser at the corner cuts my sister's hair. **has**  
My sister ..... the hairdresser at the corner.
2. She couldn't decide what to study at university. **make**  
She was unable to ..... about what to study at university.
3. Take your ID because they might ask you for it. **case**  
Take your ID ..... you for it.
4. In my opinion, a dog is more intelligent than a cat. **as**  
In my opinion, a cat ..... a dog.
5. It was a mistake of mine to sit the exam without having studied for it. **should**  
I ..... the exam before sitting it.
6. Despite having played in many films, that actress is not well-known. **although**  
She is not a well-known actress ..... in many films.
7. Visitors without a pass aren't allowed to enter the building. **forbidden**  
Entrance to the building ..... don't have a pass.
8. Everyone thinks that the famous couple is married. **thought**  
The famous couple ..... married.
9. “Do you know where they sell newspapers?” he asked me. **knew**  
He asked me if ..... newspapers.
10. “Please don't do that again,” said the teacher to the student. **do**  
The teacher asked the student ..... again.

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

Ar fi putut prinde autobuzul de 8 dimineața, dar apropiindu-se de stație, zări o femeie tânără și i se păru că-l așteaptă pe el, așezată pe o bancă, prefăcându-se că citește. O văzu cum ridică mereu ochii din revistă și cercetează curios în jurul ei, întorcând uneori capul spre mesele de pe trotuar. Emanuel apucă pe prima străduță care-l ieși în cale, și pentru că foarte curând dădu cu ochii de o frizerie, intră înăuntru. Când reveni, pe la 8 jumătate, femeia era tot acolo pe bancă, răsfoind plictisită revista. Emanuel șovăi câteva clipe, apoi se reîntoarse și căută o cafea. Ceru un ceai și-l bău pe îndelete, gânditor.

**SUBIECTUL II – INTEGRATED SKILLS****(60p)**

**I. Five sentences have been removed from the following text. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap 1 –**

**5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. Write your answers on your answer sheet. (10 points)**

**Try the "Coolest" Holiday on the Planet. How about spending a weekend in the world's largest igloo?**

If you're looking for a completely different "getaway", you should visit the world's only hotel built entirely of ice. Located 125 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle at Jukkasjarvi, deep in the heart of Swedish Lapland, the Ice Hotel is an unlikely success story.

In a frozen landscape, far from civilisation, the hotel stands in one of Europe's last great wildernesses - a vast, glittering expanse of crystal clear lakes, ice and snow, towering mountains, glaciers, waterfalls and extensive green forests. My first view of the place left me speechless. **(1)** ..... But the hotel bore no resemblance whatsoever to a small dome of ice with a door you crawl through. It was enormous! Later, I learned that it occupies 3,500 square metres of floor space.

So what is it that attracts over 20,000 visitors and 3,000 guests a year to this hotel? The answer lies in the concept. **(2)** ..... This appeals to the curious among us, and those with a sense of adventure, who want to know what it's like to spend the night in this pristine wilderness surrounded by ice.

I arrived in the high season, mid-January, having booked well in advance via the Net. Open only from December to April, there are no off-season specials or cheap weekends in the spring. By then, the hotel starts to melt and is demolished.

Built on the banks of the Torne river, construction begins when the water freezes in mid-October. Since the hotel is rebuilt every year, the architects can indulge their fantasies. Their designs become more and more elaborate. Sculptors are invited to carve works of art in ice for display in the hotel art gallery. **(3)** ..... And in the spring, the ice hotel melts and flows back into the river, completing a natural ecological cycle without polluting the environment, yet providing much-needed employment in this remote area.

As for leisure, adventurous outdoor types will find a host of activities available, from snowmobiling to dogsledding and skiing. **(4)** ..... For the romantic guest, there's no better place to propose than under the magnificent Northern Lights in the deep blue skies over the Arctic Circle. The marriage ceremony can be held in the hotel's Ice Chapel - a white wedding of course!

So if you're considering a visit, don't pack your bathing costume or your Gucci loafers. **(5)** ..... At night, your block of ice bed awaits, but as long as you do some exercises to warm up before jumping into your sleeping bag, you should sleep soundly, despite the chilling -3 to -8 degrees inside the hotel.

Snug under reindeer skins for insulation, I found it eerily quiet at night. And as I tried to sleep, I heard a sound I'd never heard before - but I wasn't afraid - it was just my own heart beating!

**A.** But, being more laid-back myself, I settled for an orange juice in the Icebar and - yes you've guessed it - it was served in a glass made of ice.

**B.** Sleeping bags on the floor are not exactly my idea of a hotel bed.

**C.** You're far better off with thermal underwear and hiking boots.

**D.** It has all the trademarks of an ordinary hotel: lobby, reception rooms, bar and bedrooms, but the amazing fact is that everything is made of ice.

**E.** The exhibitions have become quite a tourist attraction.

**F.** When you think of accommodation made of ice, the image of an igloo springs to mind.

**II. WRITING. You have seen the following advertisement in your college newspaper and have decided to apply.**

**Tour Guides Wanted**

We're looking for enthusiastic young people to show tourists around our town. Summer months only.

The job requires preparation skills, to identify the most interesting cultural and historical information as well as the ability to present information in an engaging way.

If you can speak English, enjoy working with people and are interested in local culture and history, we would like to hear from you.

**Starting from the text above, write your letter to the travel agency manager, applying for the position of summer tour guide advertised on the website, saying why you are suitable for the job. (180-200 words)**

**50 points**