

Olimpiada de Limba Engleză LICEU – Etapa locală

An școlar 2023-2024

Clasa a XI-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)

The language of tears

The ability to weep is a uniquely human form of emotional response. Some scientists have suggested that human tears are evidence of an aquatic past – but this does not seem very likely. We cry from the moment we enter this world, for a number of reasons. Helpless babies cry to persuade their parents that they are ill, hungry or uncomfortable. As they develop, they will also cry just to attract parental attention and will often stop when they get it.

The idea that having a good cry can do you good is a very old one and now it has scientific validity since recent research into tears has shown that they contain a natural **painkiller** called enkaphalin. By fighting sorrow and pain, this chemical helps you to feel better. Weeping can increase the quantities of enkaphalin you produce.

Unfortunately, in our society we impose restrictions upon this naturally healing activity. Because some people still regard it as a sign of weakness in men, boys in particular are **admonished** when they cry. This kind of **repression** can only increase stress, both emotionally and physically. Tears of emotion also help the body rid itself of toxic chemical waste, for there is more protein in them than in tears resulting from cold winds or other irritants. Crying comforts, calms and can be very enjoyable – consider the popularity of highly emotional films which are commonly called ‘weepies’. It seems that people enjoy crying together almost as much as laughing together.

A. Choose the right synonym.

(3x1p=3p)

- |                       |                  |               |               |               |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>painkiller:</b> | a) tranquilliser | b) ointment   | c) analgesic  | d) antibiotic |
| 2. <b>admonished:</b> | a) reprimanded   | b) lauded     | c) approved   | d) laughed at |
| 3. <b>repression:</b> | a) complication  | b) expression | c) permission | d) restraint  |

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning.

(3x1p=3p)

- Children will cry just to attract parental attention and will stop when they get it.  
Children will cry just to attract parental attention and \_\_\_\_\_ got it.
- There is more protein in tears of emotion than in tears resulting from cold winds or other irritants. **CONTAIN**  
Tears resulting from cold winds or other irritants \_\_\_\_\_ of emotion.
- People enjoy crying together almost as much as laughing together. **IS**  
Crying together \_\_\_\_\_ laughing together.

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

PAINKILLER	EMOTIONAL	SCIENTIFIC	TEARS	STRESS	REPRESSION	AQUATIC
			<b>SORROW</b>			

The ability to cry is a unique human emotional response, often misunderstood and suppressed in society. Despite suggestions of a(n) **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ past, the origins of crying remain unclear. From infancy, crying serves as a communication tool for babies, evolving to attract attention. Recent **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ studies reveal tears contain a natural **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_, providing a basis for the long-held belief in the therapeutic benefits of a good cry. Societal restrictions, especially on men, may contribute to increased **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_. Emotional tears help eliminate toxic waste. Crying, a shared experience, is akin to laughter's communal joy.

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)

- The boys all did well in the concert – you couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ anyone out as being better than the others.  
The hotel doesn't have any \_\_\_\_\_ rooms available for tonight.  
The form asks club members to say whether they are \_\_\_\_\_ or married.
- You've been working very hard, so let's take a short \_\_\_\_\_ now.  
The actor's big \_\_\_\_\_ came when he was offered a part in a popular soap.  
Jack's decision to study law rather than medicine represented a \_\_\_\_\_ with family tradition.
- It's a \_\_\_\_\_ or two cooler today, I think.  
Next year, Bea will complete her maths \_\_\_\_\_ and her parents are looking forward to her graduation.  
The job requires a high \_\_\_\_\_ of skill.
- Formal letters usually follow a specific \_\_\_\_\_ format.  
You'd better \_\_\_\_\_ your alarm clock for 5.30 to make sure you get to the airport on time.  
Pat \_\_\_\_\_ the table for dinner.
- I love your \_\_\_\_\_ - it looks really nice with that skirt.  
I can't get the \_\_\_\_\_ off this jar.  
Claudia was very pleased to get \_\_\_\_\_ marks for her essay.

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. (10 x 1p = 10p)

- 0 HAS A two-year-old girl has taken to hospital with a broken right leg had her leg put in plaster.  
 00 ✓ Alexandra Dignum was taken to Medway Maritime Hospital after her mother, Louise,  
 1 ..... noticed her own right leg was swollen. Alexandra's father said that the mistake was  
 2 ..... discovered only when the family returned home. 'Louise and I have looked at each other  
 3 ..... in disbelief when we realized they had plastered the wrong leg. We would like complain  
 4 ..... officially, but they are so disorganized they would probably file the complaint in the wrong  
 5 ..... tray.' Ms Dignum said that she regretted not noticing the mistake at once, but 'you have  
 6 ..... to have had some faith that the professionals know what they are doing.' A spokesman  
 7 ..... for the hospital explained that the note was given to Alexandra's mother to take to the  
 8 ..... plaster room was not only legible. He said, 'This led to the plaster technician questioning  
 9 ..... the mother as to which leg was most affected. The mother indicated it was the left leg  
 10 ..... and this was also plastered. She was later brought back and the correct plaster was applied.'

IV. Translate into English:

(10p)

—Coiot nebun, am mormăit eu. Dar, când să pun piciorul pe piatra pe care o foloseam pe post de treaptă și să mă sprijin de platformă ca să mă ridic cu tot corpul, în minte mi-a răsărit cuvântul „avertisment”.

E un avertisment, m-am gândit și, chiar dacă în continuare îmi mișcam piciorul ca să pășesc pe piatră, mi-am aruncat privirea spre platformă. Chiar la nivelul feței mele, la nici o jumătate de metru, un șarpe cu clopoței stătea cu burta la soare pe podeaua studioului meu. Am înlemnit cu piciorul în aer, dar asta m-a dezechilibrat. M-am poticnit și am căzut pe spate, ca o plească, pe potecă, trezind șarpele.

În mod clar, șerpilor cu clopoței nu sunt persoane matinale. Țsta a sâsăit la mine și imediat s-a întors, fără niciun efort. Chestia asta m-a lăsat fără suflu. Eu eram pe spate, încercând să mă dau înapoi ajutându-mă de mâini și de picioare, ca un crab peste măsură de neîndemânatic, când șarpele și-a ridicat capul și coada și a început să zornăie amenințător spre mine.

(Mimi Thebo, *Vara coiotului*)

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)

Is honesty the best policy?

'Does my bum look big in this?' asked my friend. It had to happen. The question I had been dreading for the past few hours needed an answer. As she looked at me inquiringly, turning this way and that in a pink micro-mini at least one size too small for her, I mentally steeled myself before replying in a whisper. 'Yes, I'm afraid it does.' Hopes for a jolly afternoon's shopping fell, along with her face. So much for telling the truth.

1

'We all lie. It wears us out. It is the major source of all human stress,' says Brad Blanton, psychotherapist and founder of the Centre for Radical Honesty. The best-selling author of *Practising Radical Honesty: How to Complete the Past, Live in the Present and Build the Future with a Little Help from Your Friends* has become a household name in the States, where he spreads his message via day-time television talk shows.

2

Well, fibbing may be murderous, but honesty started becoming inconvenient for me just after breakfast, when I needed change for a parking meter. The cashier in the local shop looked at my \$10 note wearily. Did I really want the newspaper, or was I after change for the parking, he wondered. If so, the shop always had the policy of refusal. On a normal day, I would have lied. Traffic wardens in these parts show no mercy. Instead, I admitted everything and was shown the door, change-less.

3

The alternative, he believes, is the stress of living 'in the prison of the mind,' which results in depression and ill health. 'Your body stays tied up in knots and is susceptible to illness,' he says. Allergies, high blood pressure and insomnia are all exacerbated by lying. Good relationship skills, parenting skills and management skills are also dependent on telling the truth.

4

'I have always believed that honesty is the best policy. Obviously, there are moral and ethical values in business. If you want to make deals, you have to have trust.'

On the other hand, Anne McKeivitt, an interior designer and television presenter, is happy to admit to frequent fibbing. She points out that the truth can sometimes be too painful. 'I think white lies are good,' she says. 'I tell them all the time.'

Richard Wiseman, a psychologist at the University of Hertfordshire, says that lies can protect people as well as harm them. He is also certain that people will continue to tell them because human beings follow the law of survival of the fittest. 'I suspect Dr Blanton has devised an unstable strategy. If we all told the truth all the time, it would be fine, but the advantage would then go to the few who were prepared to lie.'

5	
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- A** Dr Blanton, who lives in Virginia with his wife and two children, is adamant that minor inconveniences are nothing compared with the huge benefits of truth telling. 'Telling the truth, after hiding it for a long time, reopens old wounds that didn't heal properly. It hurts a lot. It takes guts. It isn't easy. But it is better than the alternative.'
- B** Radical honesty therapy, as it is known in the US, is the latest thing to be held up as the key to happiness and success. It involves telling the truth all the time, with no exceptions for hurt feelings. But, as I found out, this is not as easy as it might sound. Little white lies, rather than the conniving, self-aggrandising variety, are an essential part of polite society.
- C** People who tell lies get so confused about what they have said to whom, they can sometimes get to the point where they no longer know what the truth is. This is very bad for their physical as well as their mental health and is one reason for the stomach complaint and headaches frequently reported by frequent liars.
- D** By the end of my day of telling nothing but the truth, I definitely regretted my honest approach. Forget personal gain. My big-bottomed ex-friend decided to tell some home truths of her own. I still haven't quite recovered.
- E** Honesty, according to Dr Blanton, brings many rewards, not least in business – and perhaps he is right. Gifi Fields, chief executive of Coppernob Communications, who has made tens of millions of pounds in a long career, insists that his own integrity has helped him succeed.
- F** He certainly has his work cut out for him. In a recent survey of Americans, 93 per cent admitted to lying 'regularly and habitually' in the workplace. Dr Blanton is typically blunt about the consequences of being deceitful. 'Lying kills people,' he says.

II. Considering the ideas you came across in the text above, write an article on the following topic: ***Honesty in the digital age: navigating truth in the world of filters.*** Write your article in **250-280 words. (50 points)**