

Olimpiada de Limba Engleză LICEU– Etapa locală

An școlar 2023-2024

Clasa a XII-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)

More than one billion have been sold (1) her first appearance at the New York Toy Fair in 1959. Originally known (2) the 'Teenage Fashion Model', she was a perky blue-eyed blonde with a ponytail in a swimsuit. It was while she was watching her daughter Barbara playing with cut-outs of adult women (3) ... creator Ruth Handler first came up (4) the idea. At the time, dolls in America always took the form of babies so when she first proposed a prototype to executives at the toy company, Mattel, she (5) turned down. But, eventually, Handler won over the all-male management, and the first toy doll in the USA with breasts went (6) production. Fame was not long in coming, and as her world expanded, so (7) the profits for Mattel. She took (8) numerous different identities, (9) as astronaut, vet or surgeon and she acquired many friends, notably Ken, (10) name came from Handler's son.

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

- If she _____ a reliable person, she _____ you _____ last week.
A) is/wouldn't have let/out B) has been/wouldn't have left C) were/wouldn't let/down D) were/wouldn't have let/down
- _____ the dean _____ her speech _____ the earthquake occurred.
A) Hardly had/started/than B) No sooner had/started/than C) No sooner had/began/when D) Hardly did/begin/when
- He _____, so speak in a whisper, _____ you?
A) may be listening/shall B) might be eavesdropping/will C) might hear/do D) may have listened/did
- '_____ I make an appointment _____ Mrs Loyd, please?'
'_____ first thing tomorrow be all right for you?'
A) could/with/will B) would/for/would C) shall/on/can D) could/on /would
- You _____ an excuse _____ that.
A) won't get off with/as B) hadn't get away by/ like C) won't do away with /like D) won't get away with /like
- All the money I have _____ in this wallet; _____ not _____, but _____ might come in useful to you.
A) is/it is/much/it B) are/it is/ much/they C) is/they are/many/they D) are/ they are much/it
- There _____ according to which this painter _____ classics.
A) is no criteria/ranked among B) are no criterions/ranks under C) is not such criteria/ falls with D) are no criteria/falls under
- She _____ her husband that they _____ the electricity bill.
A) remembered/hadn't paid B) reminded/hadn't paid C) reminded/hadn't payed D) explained/haven't paid
- She's young _____ heart _____ her age.
A) at/despite B) by/however C) in/although D) of/in spite
- They are talking as if they _____ each other for ages, and this _____ not the first time they _____.
A) had known/were/have met B) knew/were/meet C) have known/is/met D) know/is/are meeting

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)

- The government should have carefully considered the issue of global warming a long time ago. **ATTENTION**
The government should _____ the issue of global warming a long time ago.
- There's a chance that you might find some interesting wildlife, so take a camera with you. **HAPPEN**
You should take a camera with you in _____ across some interesting wildlife.
- It could be a long time before the dolphins swim past, so while we're waiting I suggest you relax. **MEANTIME**
We could be waiting for a long time for the dolphins to swim past, so _____ to relax.
- Because that store sells clothes made by child labour in foreign factories, he doesn't shop there anymore. **ACCOUNT**
He doesn't buy clothes from that store anymore, _____ they sell clothes made by child labour in foreign factories.
- It was a waste of time attending the protest march this afternoon, as the council had already made its decision. **PART**
We needn't _____ the protest march this afternoon, as the council had already made its decision.

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

Era, cred, 4 dimineața și ziua care se năștea, amestecată încă nesigur cu noaptea, avea un aer posomorât și confuz. Sub cerul de un gri limpede, fără cute, în văzduhul parcă fluorescent, răspândind o lumină perlată, tulbure și strălucitoare în același timp, peisajul se lărgise considerabil, fluvial își depărtase malurile și în fund de tot, acolo unde între apă și graniță nu mai există nicio graniță despărțitoare, respiră ca un animal pe care nu-l bine să îl trezești, marea. Acolo unde priveliștea se termina ca să înceapă visarea, se desena pe cer și pe apă o biserică. Conturul ei îmi era atât de cunoscut, încât în prima clipă nu m-am mirat și nu m-am speriat, ci, înconștientă, am trecut cu ochii mai departe, căutând. Abia în secunda următoare mi-a trecut prin cap că biserica aceea din Munții Apuseni, cu pridvor și turlă nesfârșit de subțire nu avea ce căuta acolo, la gurile Dunării, clătinată de briza dimineții pe mare. Și, în clipa în care am înțeles, mi-am adus aminte. Nu știu dacă soarele care răsărea îi aprinsese ferestrele sau lumina lor venea dinlăuntru, de la flăcările lumânărilor, poate, dar în cenușiul zorilor silueta neagră a bisericii clătinătoare pe valuri ardea din interior, ca la marile sărbători, de un foc bucuros care nu reușea s-o consume și care părea să fie chiar trecerea în imagine

a horei, horă ce se revărsa peste noi, cu atât mai neliniștitoare cu cât oamenii nu se vedeau și biserica părea pustie. (Ana Blandiana, *Proiecte de trecut*)

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-E). Write the answers on your answer sheet. (5x2p=10p)

THE TROUBLE WITH MODERN AUDIENCES

Stephen Pollard believes that many of us need to be educated in the norms of social conduct – in particular, concert etiquette. According to the reviews, the performance of Mahler's Sixth Symphony that I went to last week was 'transcendent', 'emotionally perfect', and 'violently good'. A friend called me the following morning and told me that it was one of the most powerful experiences of her life. I wouldn't know. My body was in the concert hall, and my ears were in full working order. But neither was any use to me. The London Symphony Orchestra might as well have been playing Chopsticks for all the impact the Mahler had on me.

Sitting in the row in front of me, you see, was the family from hell. I don't know their names, but let's call them the Fidget-Bottoms. Mr and Mrs Fidget-Bottom spent the entire time stroking and kissing their kids, stretching out their arms across the backs of seats as if they were on the sofa at home and just for good measure, bobbing their heads up and down in time with the music.

1

I planted a well-aimed kick in the back of the seat but to no avail. A killer combination of the family's total self-absorption, and the seat's wooden solidity, meant that the only effect was a painful toe. So, I resorted to another equally fruitless tactic; that of seething with righteous indignation.

2

Now there is more of a laissez-faire attitude, which, whilst opening up cultural institutions to millions, has its own set of drawbacks. Today, you come as you please, and behave as you please. It's your right. If you want to flick through your programme, fine. If you want to use it as a fan, go ahead. If you want to cough, feel free.

3

But we are not at home. The very point of the theatre is to be out of the house, and part of a crowd. And being part of a crowd has its obligations – not shouting 'fire' out of mischief, for example in a crowded room. When travelling by bus, I do not suddenly begin to indulge myself by singing arias from Hadel's Messiah. Nor do I whistle along to the music at weddings at which I am a guest. I behave as is expected of me.

4

As a result, we have forgotten – or more truthfully, never learnt – how to listen. When the St Matthew Passion was written, it was heard at Easter, once every very few years. A performance was an event, an event which we had no way of even attempting to recreate. Today, we can record the performance and then listen to it at our leisure in the bath. We can have its choruses playing as background music while we eat or converse with those around us.

5

It's hardly surprising that we take that behaviour, and that attitude, into the concert hall with us. Mr and Mrs Fidget-Bottom, and the little Fidget-Bottoms, certainly ruined my concert last week, and I am fairly sure they are going to ruin quite a few others as they get older.

A. This particular family may have been especially horrific, but they are merely grotesque extensions of the downside of the increasing accessibility of culture. Admittedly, the old formal rules of behaviour at the theatre, concerts and opera – dressing up in black tie and all that, and the feeling that unless you were part of a closed circle then on no account could you attend – were for to stifling.

B. Rarely, if ever, do we sit down in our own home to listen to a full performance of a piece of music, with no other distractions. And if we do make an attempt, then no sooner have we settled into our armchair than we think of something else we could be doing – and we do it.

C. Which is more than can be said for the Fidget-Bottoms of the world, who seem oblivious to the norms of social conduct. The problem stems from the fact that culture is now too readily accessible. We simply don't need to make an effort with it. You want to hear Beethoven's Ninth? Just go online. Fancy Vivaldi's Four Seasons? Which version?

D. I felt then, as now, that my outburst of temper was justified. What these people, and people like them clearly need, is an education in how to behave in public, beginning with a basic introduction to concert etiquette. On no account should you kiss your children once the concert has started. Indeed, save that for when you get home.

E. Unwrapping sweets, fidgeting, wandering off to the toilet and chatting are also on the list of things you can do during a performance. When going out is as easy, and as normal, as staying in, then we behave the same in the theatre, or the concert hall, as we do in the living room. And so we don't have a thought for those around us.

F. They were cocooned in their own world, with not the slightest concern for anyone around. I doubt that it even crossed their mind that they were doing anything wrong, so unabashed was their behaviour. The situation called for action.

II. Entertainment Weekly, a magazine for young people, has invited young people to send in **articles** on how members of an audience are expected to behave during a performance and what type of behaviour other members of the audience might find annoying. Write your **article** in **250-280** words.

(50p)