

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

8 februarie 2025

Etapă locală

CLASA a X-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)

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow:

Martin Symington went on a camping safari holiday with his wife and three teenagers.

We stood silently under the stars, just metres from our tent, hardly daring to breathe. Adam, one of the camp staff, swept a torch beam across a clearing where four antelopes stood, panicky on their nimble legs. Could they sense the danger they were in? Did they know, as we did, that a female leopard lay under a thorn bush?

She sprang. Four shadowy shapes bounced into the woods. Had the leopard made a successful kill? We all had our theories, but in truth the whole scene had taken place too quickly, and in insufficient light, for any of us to be sure. Now we understood why we had been warned not to go out of our tent after dark, except when accompanied by a staff member. If fact, we had been on our way from the tent to the supper-time camp-fire when Adam's torch had unexpectedly caught the leopard's glinting green eyes. Half an hour later we had a tale to outdo most told around the fire. 'This has got to be the best nightlife in the world,' replied Toby, when some middle-aged fellow safari enthusiast asked him how he was enjoying his holiday.

So much for the assortment of self-appointed experts who doubted that safaris and teenagers would be a workable mix. True, this is a difficult age, with adolescents beginning to sense that they are too old for family holidays. But they did not want to return to beach resorts to the kind of 'teen clubs' they wouldn't be seen dead in. So, my wife Hennie and I reckoned, if we were going to have one really good family holiday, why not Africa?

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. (3 X 1p = 3 points)

- | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. nimble | a) agile | b) prompt | c) proficient | d) clever |
| 2. glinting | a) radiant | b) glowing | c) glorious | d) gleaming |
| 3. assortment | a) suit | b) sort | c) production | d) combination |

B. Rephrase the following sentences using the word given so as to preserve the meaning of the initial sentence. DO NOT CHANGE the form of the word given. (3X1p = 3 points)

- The whole scene had taken place too quickly, and in insufficient light, for any of us to be sure. **WE**
The whole scene had taken place so quickly and in such insufficient light _____ sure of anything.
- This has got to be the best nightlife in the world,' replied Toby. **HAD**
Toby said _____ the best nightlife in the world.
- Now we understood why we had been warned not to go out of our tent after dark. **UNDERSTAND**
Only then _____ we had been warned not to go out of our tent after dark.

C. Choose from the 8 words given below the 4 words that fit in the following summary of the text:

ACCOMMODATED, APPOINTMENT, PROVIDED, ALTERNATIVE, CHOICE, ENCOUNTER, VERIFIED, WITNESSED (4x1p=4p)

Martin Symington and his family went on a camping safari holiday in Africa. One night, while walking to the campfire, they (1) _____ a dramatic scene where a female leopard attempted to hunt four antelopes. The (2) _____, though brief, underscored the importance of being cautious after dark. Despite initial doubts about the suitability of safaris for teenagers, Martin's family found the experience thrilling and memorable. The safari (3) _____ an exciting (4) _____ to typical beach holidays, creating unforgettable moments and bringing the family closer together.

II. For questions 1-10, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap: (10x1p=10p)

MOVING HOUSE

Moving house can be one of the most stressful times of your life. It can sometimes seem as if the (1) _____ (**CHOOSE**) is never going to be made. There are so many things to be considered. There will be (2) _____ (**COUNT**) discussions about what is and isn't (3) _____ (**PRACTICE**). Sometimes you will feel like the rest of the family are being totally (4) _____ (**REASON**). You have to remind yourself that they are feeling as much (5) _____ (**ANXIOUS**) about the move as you. First, make a list of your basic (6) _____ (**REQUIRE**). This might include things like parking, being close to an underground station, or other (7) _____ (**DESIRE**) qualities you want your new (8) _____ (**NEIGHBOUR**) to have. Then it's time to search the newspapers for a home that is (9) _____ (**SUIT**). This can seem like a huge task, and you can (10) _____ (**EASY**) get discouraged, but stick with it and you'll soon be looking forward to starting your new life.

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. (10x1p=10p)

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00	the	
1		

Our class recently went on a trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon, the birthplace of the William Shakespeare. It was a very interesting day out. The town itself is too beautiful, as it's on a river and

2	_____	there are a lots of Elizabethan buildings still standing. Some of
3	_____	them are over five hundred years old. We looked round two
4	_____	buildings: the house where Shakespeare was being born, and
5	_____	Anne Hathaways's Cottage. Hathaway was Shakespeare's wife,
6	_____	but she often stayed in Stratford while he was doing working
7	_____	in London. In the same evening, we saw a production of
8	_____	Shakespeare's comedy 'All's Well That Ends Well' at the Royal
9	_____	Shakespeare Theatre. It was so a great performance, and it wasn't
10	_____	as difficult to understand as I had though it would have be.

III. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Sunt seri când tot cerul mi se pare pustiu, cu stele reci, moarte, într-un univers absurd, în care numai noi, în marea noastră singurătate, ne zbatem pe o planetă de provincie, ca într-un târg în care nu curge apa, nu arde lumina și unde nu opresc trenurile rapide... Dar sunt seri când tot cerul foșnește de viață...când pe ultima stea, dacă ascuți bine, auzi cum freacă păduri, seri în care tot cerul e plin de semne și de chemări, ca și cum, de pe o planetă pe alta, de pe o stea pe alta, ființe care nu s-au văzut niciodată se caută, se presimt, se cheamă.....

(Mihail Sebastian- *Steaua fără nume*)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS – 60 points

I. Five sentences have been removed from the following interview. 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.

DO NEWSPAPERS HAVE A FUTURE?

Experts have been predicting the death of newspapers for over 50 years. Television was supposed to kill them off, and it did have some small effect. The sales of some papers began to decline from the middle 1950s, when commercial television started, and a few went out of business. But other papers prospered and new ones were launched, some thriving so much that they sold several million copies a day.

So, those who thought television would finish off the Press were wrong. **1)** _____ Almost every daily and Sunday national newspaper in this country is selling fewer copies than it was five years ago. In some cases, the decline has been dramatic. The Internet, of course, is not the only factor. The natural markets for some papers, those aimed at industrial workers for instance, was already shrinking in the late 20th century. What has been happening since then is that the Internet has further reduced the circulation of those papers that were already struggling, and it has hurt even the healthy ones. The consequence has been a general attempt to make big savings by cutting costs wherever possible.

A disaster, then? Some people argue that the decline in readership of newspapers does not matter because many of us, and perhaps a majority of those under 30, are reading them online. **2)** _____ So, if one adds all the readers of newspapers on the Internet to those who prefer a newsprint version, there may be as many, if not more, people looking at the national Press as there were ten or fifteen years ago.

There will, they say, still be lots of publications offering a wide variety of views and articles, as well as plenty of opportunities for writers. Indeed, one of the world's most successful media bosses recently predicted that newspapers would reach new heights in the 21st century. **3)** _____

This sounds sensible, and I hope it is right, but I find it difficult to be quite so optimistic. The problem is that no one has yet figured out a way to make much money out of the Internet. A regular reader of an online version of a newspaper is worth 10p a month to the publisher. Someone who buys his paper at the newsagent's every day, however, generates 30 or 40 times as much income as that. Also, the hard copy that he reads attracts much more advertising than the Internet version.

Most newspapers obtain over half their income from copies sold. And, so far at least, advertising rates on the Internet are comparatively low for newspapers. **4)** _____ Up to 70% of the readers of many online papers are abroad, usually dotted around several countries, and there are huge problems in persuading advertisers to pay to reach such widely-scattered markets. In other words, online papers are living off their newsprint parents. Newsprint is where the money is. It follows that, as increasing numbers of readers swap their daily paper for a few minutes online, the breadth and quality of what they read will gradually go down. **5)** _____ When I buy a newspaper, I support expensive and ambitious journalism; if I read it online, I do not.

A All national newspapers are reporting greatly increased web traffic, and some claim to have between 25 and 30 million 'unique users' a month, many of this age group.

B One reason they are cheap is the way the readership is so spread out geographically.

C I doubt, given the competitive and global nature of the Internet, that these will include charging people to read articles online.

D It is difficult, though, to be so sure the same will be true of the Internet.

E He added that the form of delivery may change, but the potential audience would multiply many times over.

F For example, newspapers are having to cut back on foreign correspondents and reporters.

II. Writing Your English teacher has asked you to write a **REPORT** on the potential future of newspapers, considering technological advancements and changing reader preferences. Explore the potential rise of digital newspapers and the decline of print newspapers and use some recommendations. Write your report in about 200-220 words.