



OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

8 februarie 2025

Etapa locală

CLASA a XII-a - SECȚIUNEA A

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. Complete the text with ONE word that best fits into each gap.

(10 points)

Alex Rawlings is twenty years old and he is a university student. But (1) _____ is something special about Alex; he can speak 11 languages. As a small child, Alex learnt Greek, English and French (2) _____ his parents, but the value of language really became clear to Alex (3) _____ the family moved to Japan for four years as a result of his father's job. Being in a place where you do not understand the language (4) _____ make you feel lonely and insecure and Alex always felt frustrated because he couldn't speak Japanese to the other children. After they moved back to England, Alex's family visited Holland (5) _____ a holiday. Alex decided that, unlike in Japan, next time they went to that country, he would be able to communicate (6) _____ people. He taught (7) _____ Dutch using books and CDs and when he returned to Holland, he could speak the language. German, Spanish, Afrikaans, Hebrew, Catalan and Italian followed, and Alex is now learning Russian. Learning languages makes Alex happy because, (8) _____ only is it an important skill, but it is also a hobby he enjoys, (9) _____ well as the subject he studies and it will eventually be part of (10) _____ job.

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

(10 points)

When people feel (1) _____ (MISERY), it's normally very hard for them to find the (2) _____ (MOTIVATE) to get out of the house and cheer themselves up. However, one of the most (3) _____ (EFFECT) ways to lift your spirits is to take part in a physical activity. Dance isn't simply one of the (4) _____ (PERFORM) arts, but it's also one of the most versatile forms of exercise you can imagine. Anyone and everyone can dance. It can be a (5) _____ (RECREATE) pastime which helps people feel better physically and (6) _____ (EMOTION) or it can be a (7) _____ (PROFESSION) pursuit for more serious athletes. Dance combines the benefits of exercise with a good mental workout. Dance can help you make new friends. It provides a platform for you to express yourself, boosts your (8) _____ (CONFIDENT) and self-esteem, and makes you feel happy. The magical world of dance can spark your imagination and make you think (9) _____ (POSITIVE). It will help you to set new goals. As well as making you fitter and feeling better, it will allow you to constantly challenge yourself by taking more difficult classes or even trying out different forms of dance. There's really no better way to find (10) _____ (HAPPY).

III. Choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D.

(10 points)

- The roof _____ for two weeks now; you _____ phone the building company.
A. had been leaking/ must
B. was dripping/ ought
C. is dripping/ have to
D. has been leaking/ should
- There was no _____ that he _____ his mind at the last minute.
A. evidence/ changes
B. rumour/ was changing
C. clue/ has been changing
D. doubt/ had changed
- _____ students had to hand in the projects so that they could _____.
A. Each/ promote
B. Every/ pass
C. All/ pass
D. Either/ promote
- It was high time we _____ and _____ the camp.
A. pack/ leave
B. packed/ leave
C. packed/ left
D. were packing/ leaving
- The couple was greeted _____ just as they _____ in.
A. friendly/ stepped
B. in a friendly way/ stepped
C. more friendly/ headed
D. in a friendly manner/ had stepped
- _____ had the bell rung when the students _____ on the corridors.
A. Hardly/ rushed
B. Only/ stepped
C. The minute/ invaded
D. No sooner/ invaded
- If I'd had a university diploma, _____ a lot of money now.
A. I'd be earned
B. I'd have earned
C. I would earn
D. I'll be earning
- Although she hasn't got _____ clothes, she dresses with _____ elegance. _____ man turns his head after her.
A. many/ much/ Every
B. lots of/ a little/ All
C. a lot of/ little/ Each
D. many/ a lot of/ Lots of
- John says he'd like to have studied something else.
A. John wishes he studied something else.
B. John wishes he would study something else.
C. John wishes he study something else.
D. John wishes he had studied something else.
- There are not many jokes _____ I can say I laugh at.
A. of which
B. that
C. about which
D. for which

IV. Translate the following text into English.

(10 points)

Un conac măreț răsări din întuneric la capătul aleii drepte; în ferestrele de la parter se zăreau licărind lumini. Undeva, în grădina cufundată în întuneric aflată de cealaltă parte a gardului viu, murmură o fântână arteziană. Pietrișul scrâșnea sub tălpile lor. Snape și Yaxley grăbiră pasul spre ușa de la intrare, care în momentul când se apropiară de ea se deschise spre interior, cu toate că nu se zărea nimeni care să o fi deschis. Holul era larg, abia luminat și decorat somptuos; un covor superb acoperea aproape în întregime pardoseala din piatră. Ochii portretelor cu chipuri palide de pe pereți îi urmăriră pe cei doi bărbați trecând pe lângă ele. Snape și Yaxley se opriă în fața unei uși masive din lemn care dădea spre următoarea încăpere, apoi Snape răsuci mânerul din bronz al ușii. Salonul era ticsit de vrăjitori care ședeau în liniște în jurul unei mese lungi, bogat ornamentate. Snape și Yaxley rămaseră o clipă în prag. Pe măsură ce ochii li se obișnuiau cu lumina puțină, privirea le fu atrasă în sus de cel mai ciudat element al acestui tablou: o siluetă umană, inconștientă din câte se părea, care atârna cu capul în jos deasupra mesei.

SUBIECTUL B-INTEGRATED SKILLS - (60 points)

I. Read the text below and for questions 1-5, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

(10 points)

I grew up with precious little choice about anything. You ate what you were given, went to school where you were told, wore your sister's hand-me-downs. And twice a year, birthday, Christmas - you got a present. We weren't poor at all but that was entirely normal and I remember not feeling even remotely deprived. Today, as we all around us, children seem to have everything - designer clothes, computer games, fussy eating habits the attention span of itchy gnats. A report yesterday from the Children's Society found that one in ten kids has mental illness diagnosed and it concluded that materialistic consumer pressure may be partly to blame, with children from poor backgrounds the main victims.

Where is it coming from, this consumer pressure? First, from television, and the false dreams on offer there (we didn't watch much telly either). Children from poor backgrounds, as well as having less money to buy the latest clothes or electronic games, are more likely to have parents without time to spend with them, and homes without access to outside space, so are far more likely to end up spending hours in front of the telly soaking up adverts alongside the easy gratification offered by cartoon, fantasy or drama.

You cannot just blame the parents for this; many will be working hard, with no choice, just to put food on the table (some will be cleaning your house or looking after our children); after all, how many can afford a house with a garden in a city or suburb these days? On the *Today* programme yesterday, the chief executive of the Advertising Association, Baroness Buscombe, argued that advertising to children could be a social good, among other things contributing to healthier lifestyles. I profoundly disagree, I think it is overwhelmingly damaging. It exists to sell things - toys, dreams, promises. That's all.

Of course, parents can correct bouts of consumerism in their children by teaching them what is and is not affordable, but why subject them to the clever traps of marketing people in the first place? Pressure is bad enough as it is, from schoolfriends and celebrity excess, without allowing some of the cleverest adult minds in the sharpest advertising agencies in the world to manipulate them as well. 'We want to turn this on its head in a sense and talk about how we can empower parents and children', Lady Buscombe added. 'I mean, have they asked parents, do they want children's programmes, because of course commercial broadcasters rely on advertising to fund children's programmes'. Well, do we want commercial children's television? Couldn't we live without it? Her comment betrayed an interesting assumption: that children have a right as consumers to as wide a choice of programmes as possible.

But why is it in a child's interests to be treated like a consumer? It has yet to be proven that giving even adults a wide range of choices improves their lives. In many instances, from too many yoghurts in the supermarket all the way up to a supposed choice of doctor or school, it is just confusing and stressful. I think the fewer, carefully selected, choices we can give young children, the more we help them. Watch the exhausted face of a six-year-old confronted by all this year's Christmas presents, without the time to play with any of them for more than a few minutes, and see what I mean.

1. What does the writer say about her early years?

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| A. She had to put up with a life of necessity. | C. She was used to her way of life. |
| B. She resented the way she was brought up. | D. She disliked having to share things with her sister. |

2. Why are children from poor backgrounds more likely to suffer from consumer pressure?

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| A. Their parents are victims themselves. | C. Their parents aren't doing enough to overcome poverty. |
| B. Their daily habits will differ from those of well-off children. | D. Marketing agencies target them specifically. |

3. How does the writer feel about Baroness Buscombe's argument that advertising to children can be a social good?

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| A. She agrees but under certain circumstances. | C. She feels it is somewhat misleading. |
| B. She is opposed but concedes that Buscombe has a point. | D. She is completely opposed to it. |

4. What point does the writer want to make about children and advertising in the 4th paragraph?

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| A. Children can do without it. | C. Children should not be exposed to celebrities so much. |
| B. Parents need to be more vigilant. | D. Peers don't influence children more than advertising |

5. In the 5th paragraph the writer argues that

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| A. having too much choice is more stressful for children than adults. | C. having fewer choices would be to everyone's benefit. |
| B. children shouldn't be given so many presents at Christmas. | D. children need to be given more time to enjoy their presents. |

II. Starting from the text above, write an ARTICLE on the paradox of choice: How too much choice contributes to stress. Make sure your article is engaging, with a clear structure and tone appropriate for a general audience. You may include real-life examples or studies to support your argument. (220-250 words)

(50 points)