

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ, ETAPA LOCALĂ
02 MARTIE, 2024
CLASA a XII-a, SECȚIUNEA B

Varianta 1

- 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 paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (10 x2p=20 points).

One of the more irritating conventional wisdoms of recent times is that adolescence is a horrendously traumatic and stressful phase of life characterized by rebellion and **dissent**. A somewhat unholy alliance of therapists, advertising moguls, pop pundits and preachers pontificates about the rupture that occurs with the entry into adolescent status, the special and separate culture, the bewildering biological and psychological changes. The expectation is of trouble. This is not to suggest that adolescence is a golden age, a wondrous period of growth, self-exploration, self-discovery. It can be these things but it is also a time of pain, embarrassment, self-doubt and loss.

As a developmental phenomenon, adolescence is indeed unique to man. The maturation of a human being takes many years. This delay in attainment of full growth and maturity is seen by many experts to be essential to man's longer and richer development. Seen from such a perspective, adolescence acquires a positive evolutionary value. Easing the child into adulthood is the primary task of adolescence. Delay is its essence. The major conflict is between the urges prompted by biological maturity and the slower, **stuttering** advances of psychological and social growth. We adults worry about our teenagers getting into trouble, becoming distracted by sexuality, damaged by drugs, scarred by risk-taking. In truth we are scared, and understandably so, by the fact that they are growing up. In the course of that maturation we see, as in a mirror, our hopes and fears and failures, achievements and inadequacies, as parents.

At one and the same time a teenager is pulled back towards their childhood, with **pangs** of dependence, and onward to adulthood, with a longing for independence from their parents and their history. So it's hardly surprising if their moods swing wildly from one extreme to another. The hallmarks of teenage moods are noisy exuberance or silence, with a face like thunder. When they're on an upward swing they burst with restless energy. They need to clatter and fidget around, they need their music to be on the loud side of loud, and they need to talk in a silly voice. Silly voices are a vital part of teenage culture. They may be caricatures of unfortunate schoolteachers, or they may be original creations. Either way, they are a very effective way of separating those in the know from the uninitiated. Whole mealtimes may pass without a single intelligible word being said.

A. Answer the following questions: (4x2p=8 points)

1. What point is the writer making by using the phrase 'a somewhat unholy alliance'?
2. What is the conflict teenagers go through during their adolescence period?
3. What, according to the writer, causes teenagers' mood swings?
4. What is said to be the role of silly voices in teenage culture?

B. Choose the right synonym: (3x2p=6 points)

1. **dissent**: a. indifference b. compliance c. demur d. demeanour
2. **stuttering**: a. seamless b. gripping c. worrying d. faltering
3. **pangs**: a. painful feelings b. feelings of relief c. mixed feelings d. vague feelings

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. (3x2p= 6 points)

1. The youngsters never expressed regret for what they had done.
At.....they had done.
2. Work for us for over a year and we'll consider promoting you.
We'll only consider promoting you once.....
3. "Please, don't use Internet slang when you speak to me", said Mary's teacher.
Mary's teacher said he would ratherto him.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. (10x1p = 10 points)

Scientists have long (1) ____ (**HYPOTHESIS**) about a link between exercise and psychological health. Physical (2) ____ (**ACTIVE**) and a lack of energy is widely understood to be linked to depression. However, the psychological benefits of exercise are often overlooked, leading to a (3) ____ (**SCARCE**) of information.

Now, (4) ____ (**ACADEMY**) are trying to identify ways in which exercise can help the mind and have made some (5) ____ (**REMARK**) discoveries – such as the fact that exercise can treat depression as effectively as medication! Some clinicians even believe it could be the most important (6) ____ (**CONSIDER**) for supporting mental health.

That isn't all. Exercise also gives our self-esteem a boost and helps our cognitive abilities. Regular participation in sport, for example, can be (7) ____ (**ADVANTAGE**) in treating anxiety, as well as (8) ____ (**PROVE**) confidence and positive self-perception. It has even been connected with enhanced memory and concentration. While these can get (9) ____ (**PROGRESS**) worse as we age, just a little exercise can protect you from cognitive decline. So, the next time you need a little pick-me-up, give a (10) ____ (**WORK**) a try!

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

(10x1=10 points)

Forget about the traditional process of going to job interviews and answering question after question with tired clichés and business buzzwords that reveal (1)_____ beneficial to an employer. There is now a fascinating new method designed to reveal deeper subtleties of character. This technique, known as psychometric testing, has been breaking (2)_____ ground in recruitment by using aptitude tests to examine candidates' fluid and crystallised intelligence. Aptitude tests enable employers to objectively evaluate candidates' fluid intelligence by assessing their ability to think abstractly and strategically. The aim here isn't to measure experience or qualifications, (3)_____ to provide a useful barometer of how someone can solve problems. In addition to this, the aspects of the tests that explore crystallised intelligence look at what a candidate has learnt from past experiences and their ability to apply this to a work context. There aren't necessarily right or wrong answers. These tests simply require candidates to respond to the questions to the (4)_____ of their ability and be as honest about them as possible. In this way, employers have a unique marker as to the (5)_____ to which a candidate can flourish within their business.

SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

INSPIRED YOUTH

When we think of inspirational young people, a few prominent ones immediately spring to mind. Among these, of course, are climate change activist Greta Thunberg and campaigner for girls' rights to education Malala Yousafzai. Undoubtedly, these two and others who have risen to the status of household name have done a huge amount to raise awareness of their respective issues. However, we may still believe that they are exceptions to the rule, and that there are few, if any, young people like them in our own towns and neighbourhoods. In this article, we try to convince you that this is not the case. We meet some unsung heroes who have used their teenage years to help others and make the world a better place. While few are widely known, all are a source of inspiration.

Helena Gualinga, a native of the Ecuadorian Amazon may be young but she has devoted her life to fighting against big oil companies that have damaged the rainforests or threaten to do so. Like many others born into the digital age, Gualinga finds that the major advantage her generation has is the internet, which has enabled anyone to get involved in promoting good causes. Influenced primarily by her aunts and uncles, who were criminalized for trying to prevent deforestation, she has undertaken to do the same. Gualinga's passion for protecting the rainforests increased when she spent periods of her childhood in Europe. Fearing she may return to find her home destroyed, she became an advocate for the rights of indigenous people, who, she says, have been protecting the rainforest for a very long time.

The Validation Project is an organisation which helps young people aged 13-25 to change the world one person at a time. Founder Valerie Weisler was just 14 when she took the initiative to help those who were vulnerable to bullying. According to Weisler, validating others should be as normal as brushing your teeth'. Her mission is to make all young people as self-assured as she now is, through the total eradication of bullying worldwide. Having been bullied herself, she understands the power of a compliment and a smile to help people through difficult times. She believes everyone can change their own corner of the world if they really want to. The Validation Project has involved over 5,000 teenagers in 12 countries. Not content just to change attitudes, Weisler's 'Teens for Clean' project has collected and donated 10,000 toiletry items to homeless shelters.

Another young person making a difference is Patricia Manubay, whose initiative, Dream Boxes, was inspired by her personal experiences of seeing poverty in her native Philippines and experiencing bullying at school in the United States. This resourceful and compassionate young woman understood that school supplies could be low down the list of priorities for families on low incomes. She

became a spokesperson for the underprivileged and encouraged people from all over the world to donate a box full of school supplies. More importantly though, the boxes also included a 'dream journal' and inspirational messages to a needy student. Manubay realised that if the resources weren't enough to motivate students, letters and words of encouragement might be.

A member of the National Youth Council, Veer Kumar Mattabadul is a voice for the young people of his home country, the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius. Mattabadul takes an uncompromising position against polluters, favouring strict laws to protect his beautiful country. He spends his free time involved in 'blue clean-ups', recruiting professional swimmers and divers to help clean up the sea, rivers and beaches. For Mattabadul, education is the key as people will continue to destroy the environment until they are fully aware of how their actions impact the natural world.

So, the next time someone makes a sweeping generalisation about young people, remember those who are trying to make a difference. Greta and Malala are not exceptions - they are just two young people who are committed to improving the world and happened to become well-known because of it. There are thousands more out there, each contributing in their own way to making Earth a happier, cleaner or more peaceful place to live.

I. For each question choose the correct letter A, B, C or D (5x2p= 10p)

1. In the first paragraph, what does the writer suggest about well-known activists like Greta Thunberg and Malala Yousafzai?

- A. They are not as influential as many people assume.
- B. They inspired the young people in the article.
- C. They have been changed by their experience of fame.
- D. They are actually representative of young people.

2. What first inspired Helena Gualinga to get involved in campaigning against oil companies?

- A. the dedication of her relatives to the cause
- B. reading online about how industrial development has affected the environment
- C. her concern about the rainforest while she was away from Ecuador
- D. meeting indigenous people affected by the destruction of rainforests

3. What does the writer suggest about the activities Valerie Weisler has been involved in?

- A. She has found them particularly challenging because of her age.
- B. Personal experiences have made her well suited to tackling them.
- C. They have only resulted in limited progress so far.
- D. Some elements of them are more valuable than others.

4. What is the writer doing in the fourth paragraph?

- A. raising awareness of poverty in affluent countries.
- B. emphasising the problem of families not valuing education.
- C. highlighting the value of seeing beyond people's material needs.
- D. encouraging readers to donate a box of chocolate supplies.

5. The writer's overall purpose in writing this article is

- A. to explain how the young people attracted publicity for their causes.
- B. to get more young people contributing to their communities.
- C. to remind people to judge others on their own merits.
- D. to encourage adults to be more interested in social causes.

II. Starting from the text above which emphasises the efforts of youngsters who strive to make a difference, write a *proposal* on the following topic:

The mayor of your city has asked youngsters in the Students' Council to develop a detailed action plan for implementing efficient strategies to involve young people in active roles within the community. Include specific steps and responsibilities, ensuring a comprehensive approach to fostering youth engagement. Additionally, outline methods for assessing the effectiveness of these initiatives based on feedback and evolving needs.

Write your proposal in 250-280 words in an appropriate style.

50 points