

**INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR JUDEȚEAN GALAȚI**  
**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ- ETAPA LOCALĂ**

**CLASA a XII-a, SECȚIUNEA A**

**2 martie 2024**

NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru - 3 ore

**SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)**

**I.** Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet. **(10 points)**

The ‘safety bicycle’ of the late 19th century (1) ..... a much closer resemblance to a modern bike than its predecessors. The ‘Penny Farthing’, which gained its name due to its giant front wheel, its rather tiny rear wheel, and their comparative sizes being similar to the penny and farthing coins in the UK at the time, was for all (2) ..... and purposes a vehicle designed for racing. A brave rider would (3) ..... at the top of the 150cm-high front wheel. This device had in turn (4)..... Pierre Lallemont’s ‘Velocipede’, a vehicle that featured a rotary crank mechanism to turn the wheels, according to his American patent in 1866. (5) ....., it still lacked a chain drive and a ‘true’ gearing system, and, rather worryingly, any kind of brake.

(6) ..... the Penny Farthing had been ridden almost exclusively by daring young men, the safety bike could be used by anyone and quite a scandal was (7) ..... up by one newspaper around the time of the bike’s commercial launch when it reported on young women riding the bikes, unchaperoned, around the city of New York. What is more – these trailblazing ladies had also dared to wear trousers – a (8).....outrage in some parts of society. In fact, Susan B. Antony, a 19th-century women’s activist, claimed that bicycling had done more to emancipate women than any one thing in the world.

The bicycle has continued (9) ..... an understated symbol of innovation and evolution, if nothing else (10)..... the way to ease of movement for many, and in an undoubtedly environmentally friendly way.

|    |                 |                 |             |                |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1  | A. takes        | B. gives        | C. bears    | D. makes       |
| 2  | A. intends      | B. intents      | C. insights | D. intakes     |
| 3  | A. clamber      | B. perch        | C. climb    | D. swing       |
| 4  | A. superseded   | B. circumvented | C. overcome | D. overhauled  |
| 5  | A. However      | B. Despite      | C. Moreover | D. Besides     |
| 6  | A. Additionally | B. Whereas      | C. Whenever | D. Since       |
| 7  | A. stirred      | B. twisted      | C. mixed    | D. shaken      |
| 8  | A. doubtless    | B. veritable    | C. factual  | D. genuine     |
| 9  | A. been         | B. to be        | C. to being | D. having been |
| 10 | A. beginning    | B. starting     | C. opening  | D. launching   |

**II.** Fill in each gap in the following text with only ONE word which fits the meaning of the text. **(10 points)**

**Navigating the Media Maze**

The media landscape is a pressure cooker. Journalists, 1) ..... pressure from deadlines and competing narratives, must respond quickly, often with limited resources. 2)..... view of the fact that information travels at breakneck speed, the need 3)..... immediacy can trump thoroughness, leading 4)..... inaccuracies and sensationalism. As a result, responsible consumers must be critical thinkers, demanding more from media outlets.

We must insist on context, questioning the "who," "what," "when," "where," and "why" behind every story. We should 5)..... people's attention to biases, 6)..... explicit and implicit, recognising that agendas and narratives shape coverage. Fact-checking has 7)..... crucial, seeking diverse perspectives and verifying information before sharing.

The media's role is 8)..... just to inform, but also to educate and empower. 9)..... responding to immediate events is important, responsible outlets should also invest in investigative journalism, in-depth analysis, and diverse voices. Remember, the media is a tool, and 10)..... any tool, its effectiveness depends on the user. Let's be responsible users, wielding our critical thinking skills to navigate the media maze with awareness and purpose.

III. Read the sentences and use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in the gap. (10 points)

**Whitby**

Whitby is a seaside town on the north - eastern coast of

England, which (1) ..... has a charm and character not

**DOUBT**

found in many places. (2) ..... in the harbour are relics

**STAND**

of the past that help illustrate its (3) ..... history.

**REMARK**

On the West Cliff stands the arched upper jawbone of a whale,

(4) ..... of Whitby's strong fishing tradition and the still

**REFLECT**

evident community of (5) ..... . On the East Cliff, you can

**FISH**

climb 199 steps to visit the ghostly ruins of Whitby Abbey and the

magnificent St Mary's church and graveyard, which stand side by side,

silhouetted against the (6) ..... clifftops and the stunning

**DRAMA**

Yorkshire moors.

Indeed, it is here that Bram Stoker's (7) ..... vampire Dracula

**FAME**

is said to have first landed on English soil. This is commemorated

by a tourist attraction which includes exhibits that (8) .....

**COUNT**

his story and legend.

No visit to Whitby would be complete without having fish and chips,

making it a place (9) ..... worth visiting.

**DEFINE**

Newer (10) ..... to the town, loved by tourists and locals alike, **ADD**

are an eclectic mix of vintage shops and cafes.

IV. Complete the second sentence with THREE to SIX words using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (10 points)

1. I'm disappointed with the Fisher's new album when I compare it to their previous one.

**COMPARISON**

I think the Fisher's new album is ..... their previous one.

2. I am sure that my book is better than yours. **MIND**

There is ..... that your book is not as good as mine.

3. Meeting everyone was the most important thing for her. **LENGTHS**

She ..... sure to meet everyone.

4. Although my flight was cancelled, I was able to get on the next one. **SUBSEQUENT**

I managed to get ..... mine was cancelled.

5. Jane had a nose operation because she didn't like the way it looked. **IT**

Jane didn't like the look of her nose so she .....

## SUBIECTUL II – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

I. Read the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D (5 x 2p = 10 points)

### THE FUTURE OF NEWSPAPERS

Anybody who says they can reliably forecast the future of newspapers is either a liar or a fool. Look at the raw figures, and newspapers seem doomed. Since 2000, the circulation of most UK national dailies has fallen by between a third and a half. The authoritative Pew Search Centre in the USA reports that newspapers are now the main source of news for only 26 percent of US citizens as against 45 percent in 2001. There is no shortage of prophets who confidently predict that the last printed newspaper will be safely buried within 15 years at most.

Yet one of the few reliable facts of history is that old media have a habit of surviving. An over-exuberant New York journalist announced in 1835 that books and theatre 'have had their day' and that the daily newspaper would become 'the greatest organ of social life'. Theatre duly withstood not only the newspaper, but also cinema and then television. Radio has flourished in the TV age; cinema, in turn, has held its own against videos and DVDs. Even vinyl records have made a comeback, with online sales up 745 percent since 2008.

Newspapers themselves were once new media, although it took several centuries before they became the dominant medium for news. This was not solely because producing up-to-date news for a large readership over a wide area became practicable and economic only in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, with the steam press, the railway and the telegraph. Equally important was the emergence of the idea that everything around us is in constant movement and we need to be updated on its condition at regular intervals- a concept quite alien in medieval times and probably also to most people in the early modern era. Now, we expect change. To our medieval ancestors, however, the only realities were the passing of the seasons, punctuated by catastrophes, such as famine, flood or disease that they had no reliable means of anticipating. Life, as the writer Alain de Botton puts it, was 'ineluctably cyclical' and 'the most important truths were recurring'.

Journalism as a full-time trade from which you could hope to make a living hardly existed before the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Even then, there was no obvious reason why most people needed news on a regular basis, whether daily or weekly. In some respects, regularity of newspaper publication and rigidity of format was, and remains, a burden. Online news readers can dip in and out according to how they perceive the urgency of events. Increasingly sophisticated search engines and algorithms allow us to personalise the news to our own priorities and interests. When important stories break, internet news providers can post minute-by-minute updates. Error, misconception and foolish speculation can be corrected or modified almost instantly. There are no space restrictions to prevent narrative or analysis, and documents or events cited in news stories can often be accessed in full. All this is a world away from the straitjacket of newspaper publication. Yet few if any providers seem alive to the new medium's capacity for spreading understanding and enlightenment.

Instead, the anxiety is always to be the first with the news, to maximise reader comments, to create heat, sound and fury and thus add to the sense of confusion. In the medieval world, what news there was usually exchanged amid the babble of the marketplace or the tavern, where truth competed with rumour, mishearing and misunderstanding. In some respects, it is to that world that we seem to be returning. Newspapers have never been very good- or not as good as they ought to be – at telling us how the world goes. Perhaps they now face extinction. Or perhaps, as the internet merely adds to what de Botton describes as our sense that we live in 'an unimprovable and fundamentally chaotic universe', they will discover that they and they alone can guide us to wisdom and understanding.

1. In the first paragraph, the writer is presenting
  - A. His interpretation of a current trend.
  - B. Evidence that supports a widespread view.
  - C. His prediction on the future of print journalism.
  - D. Reasons for the decline in newspaper readership.
2. What point is the writer making in the second paragraph?
  - A. Existing media are not necessarily replaced by new ones.
  - B. The best media technologies tend to be the most long-lasting.
  - C. Public enthusiasm for new types of media is often unpredictable.
  - D. It is inevitable that most media technologies will have a limited life.
3. In the third paragraph, the writer stresses the significance of
  - A. A shift in people's attitudes towards the outside world.
  - B. Certain key 19<sup>th</sup> century advances in mechanization.
  - C. The challenges of news distribution in the pre-industrial era.
  - D. The competition between newspapers and more established media.
4. What does the writer suggest is the main advantage of online news sites?
  - A. The flexibility of the medium.
  - B. The accuracy of the reporting.
  - C. The ease of access for their users.
  - D. The breadth of their potential readership.
5. What does the writer suggest about newspapers in the final paragraph?



- A. They still have an important role to play.
- B. They can no longer compete with the internet.
- C. They will have to change to keep up with the digital age.
- D. They will retain a level of popularity among certain types of readers.

**II.** Social media has evolved a lot from where it started out, and in less than 20 years it has gone from not existing, to touching almost everyone's lives in some way. How do you think it will be in 20 years' time? Write your **article** for the school website in 220-260 words. **(50p)**