

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ
CONSTANȚA****2018****CLASA A X-A - SECȚIUNEA B****Proba scrisă****Varianta 2**

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 90 de minute.

I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (20 points)

Jeans were the classic clothes of the American West. In 1853, a young tailor from Germany, called Levi Strauss, began working in San Francisco; Levi sold **thick** canvas to miners; the miners used the canvas to make tents. One day, a miner told Levi that he could not find trousers that were strong enough for work in the gold mines. Levi decided to make some trousers out of canvas. Very soon, he had sold all the canvas trousers he had made! They were just what miners wanted. However, the canvas was rather heavy and **stiff**. Levi therefore began to look for a different textile; soon he found a heavy textile from France; it was called *serge de Nimes*. Americans just called this *de Nimes*, and this name soon got reduced to *denim*. Denim was a bit lighter than canvas, but it was very strong; it was ideal for miners. However, **original** denim was almost white, and miners did not like the colour! Their denim trousers got dirty as soon as they began working! Levi Strauss therefore decided to use coloured denim, and he chose dark blue. In 1873, he began to make denim trousers with metal rivets to make them stronger. This was a radical new idea: "Blue jeans" had arrived! Levi's jeans were so popular, that his company got bigger and bigger; soon, other firms were making blue jeans too. Miners liked them, but so did cowboys and other working men. Blue jeans became classic American working trousers. After the Second World War, jeans became popular all over the world.

A. Answer the following questions.**8 points**

1. Why did Levi Strauss decide to produce a new type of trousers?
2. How did the new material come to be known as *denim*?
3. Why did Levi Strauss decide to use coloured denim?
4. Who were blue jeans most popular with before the Second World War?

B. Choose the right synonym.**6 points**

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|---------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. thick: | a. heavy | b. close | c. confined | d. stuffy |
| 2. stiff: | a. strong | b. severe | c. rigorous | d. rigid |
| 3. original: | a. elementary | b. authentic | c. primary | d. accurate |

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning.**6 points**

1. He sold all the canvas trousers because they were just what miners wanted.
If the canvas trousers.....all of them.
2. Denim was a bit lighter than canvas, but it was very strong; it was ideal for miners.
Being both.....ideal for miners.
3. After the Second World War, jeans became popular all over the world.
It was all over the world.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits in each sentence. 10 points

Few people know that it was the (1) _____ (PORTUGAL) who inspired tea's popularity in England. Travel back in time to 1662, when Catherine of Braganza (daughter of Portugal's King John IV) won the hand of England's (2) _____ (NEW) restored monarch, King Charles II, with the help of a very large dowry that (3) _____ (INCLUSION) money, spices, treasures and the lucrative ports of Tangiers and Bombay. This made her one very (4) _____ (IMPORTANCE) lady: the Queen of England, Scotland and Ireland. When she (5) _____ (LOCATION) up north to join King Charles, she is said to have packed loose-leaf tea as part of her personal (6) _____ (BELONG); it would also have (7) _____ (LIKE) been part of her dowry. A fun legend has it that the crates were marked *Transporte de Ervas Aromaticas* (Transport of Aromatic Herbs) – later abbreviated to T.E.A. That last bit probably isn't true – (8) _____ (ETYMOLOGY) believe the word 'tea' came from a Chinese character, but what is for sure is that tea was already popular among the (9) _____ (ARISTOCRATIC) of Portugal. So tea became a special occasion for elite women to socialise around the English royal court, of which Catherine was the most (10) _____ (FAME) emblem.

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap. 10 points

Two weeks (1) _____ she climbed again through the window. It was a little difficult, this time. If it had been this hard to do before, I reckon I would (2) _____ be doing now" she thought". She could have departed by the door, by daylight. Nobody would have stopped her. (...)

Her shoes were a pair of his own which her brother had given to her. They were but slightly worn, since in the summer (3) _____ of them wore shoes (4) _____ all. When she felt the dust of the road beneath her feet, she removed the shoes and carried them in her hand.

She (5) _____ been doing that now for almost four weeks. Behind her the four weeks, the evocation of far, was a peaceful corridor paved with unflagging and tranquil faith and peopled with kind and nameless faces and voices: Lucas Burch? I don't know. I don't know of anybody by that name around here. This road? It goes to Pocahontas. He might be there. It's possible.