



**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ/PE MUNICIPIUL BUCUREȘTI,
2018
CLASA A XII-A - SECȚIUNEA A**

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 following text and put the verbs in brackets into the correct form. 10 points

When Martin left the library, he carried under his arm four volumes. [...] Unfortunately, he began the most difficult book of them. Every line bristled with many-syllabled words he did not understand. He sat up in bed, and the dictionary was in front of him more often than the book. He looked up so many new words that when they recurred, he (1) _____ (TO FORGET) their meaning and had to look them up again. He said to himself, 'It's time I (2) _____ (TO DEVISE) a plan', and soon after he started writing the definitions in a note-book and filled page after page with them. And still he could not understand. He read until three in the morning, and his brain was in turmoil, but not one essential thought in the text (3) _____ (HE/TO GRASP) yet. He looked up, and it seemed that the room was lifting, heeling, and plunging like a ship upon the sea. Then he hurled the book and many curses across the room, turned off the gas, and composed himself to sleep. Nor (4) _____ (HE/TO HAVE) much better luck with the other three books. It was not that his brain was weak or incapable; it could think these thoughts (5) _____ (TO BE) it not for lack of training in thinking and lack of the thought-tools with which to think. He guessed this, and for a while entertained the idea of reading nothing but the dictionary. He ended up saying, "It's the first time I (6) _____ (TO READ) a reference book. I'll read until I (7) _____ (TO MASTER) every word in it".

His teachers would rather he (8) _____ (NOT TO START) with something so difficult. They tried to have him (9) _____ (TO ENJOY) detective stories or romances. But he chose poetry. It was his solace, and he read much of it, finding his greatest joy in the simpler poets, who were more understandable. He loved beauty, and there he found beauty, as if he (10) _____ (TO BE) aware of it before. Poetry, like music, stirred him profoundly, and, though he did not know it, he was preparing his mind for the heavier work that was to come.

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

Flowering plants were (1) _____ (PRIMARY) cultivated for their fragrance, as well as their (2) _____ (USE) and beauty. In the last two decades this situation has changed in that currently plants and their flowers are being subjected to the rigors of intensive scientific research in an attempt to (3) _____ (VEIL) their secrets. Although it is a (4) _____ (RELATIVE) recent undertaking, researchers have already scoured some of the most obscure regions of the globe in search of the ultimate curing, healing and rejuvenating (5) _____ (BOTANY) specimens. Ancient tribal traditions and healing recipes have also been researched as a means of identifying the potential (6) _____ (CURE) properties of flowers and plants. Flora has been researched for centuries in order to (7) _____ (SURE) a continuous supply of the ingredients that have been proven to be (8) _____ (EFFECT) in providing remedies offering (9) _____ (RELIEVE). The latest technologies are employed in parallel to this ancient knowledge to identify chemical profiles and (10) _____ (CHARACTER). Modern plant breeding makes it possible for new and improved plants to be added to the list of previously discovered specimens. In this marriage of science and nature, a new market of products is now available to whet consumer appetite.



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

10 points

1. E o noapte prea friguroasă ca să ieși îmbrăcat așa.

- A. It's too cold a night to go out dressed like that.
- B. It's such cold a night that you can go out dressed like that.
- C. It's so cold, you can't get out dressed like that.
- D. It's such a cold night than you can't go out dressed like that.

2. Se zice că el a inventat internetul.

- A. He is said to invent the Internet.
- B. He is said to have invented the Internet.
- C. They say he had the Internet invented.
- D. He is said to have been invented the Internet.

3. Which of the sentences best rephrases the original sentence?

Were I to choose between the two cars, I would choose the black one.

- A. Supposing I would choose between the two cars, I'd chosen the black one.
- B. If it has been for my choice between the two cars, I would choose the black one.
- C. If I chose between the two cars, I would choose the black one.
- D. Should I have chosen between the two cars, I would choose the black one.

4. Complete the sentence with the correct version. I'll be very happy when I....

- A. will see you
- B. saw you
- C. had seen you
- D. see you

5. You'd better stay in bed today. 'd' is the short form for

- A. would
- B. did
- C. had
- D. should

6. Which of the sentences best rephrases the original sentence?

They're servicing my car tomorrow.

- A. I'm having my car serviced tomorrow.
- B. My car is servicing tomorrow.
- C. My car will be serviced tomorrow.
- D. I'm servicing my car tomorrow.

7. Choose the correct alternative. Supposing Jane...with us, what would you do?

- A. comes
- B. came
- C. will come
- D. has come

8. "Where is the bus station?" she asked me yesterday. Yesterday she asked me

- A. where was the bus station.
- B. where is the bus station.
- C. where the bus station is.
- D. where the bus station was.



9. "Well done, Tom, you've passed the exam!"
A. I congratulated Tom on passing his exam.
B. I congratulated Tom to pass his exam.
C. I congratulated Tom for passing his exam.
D. I congratulated Tom in passing his exam.
10. What do you do when you come across a generation gap?
A. you jump over it
B. you fall into it
C. you bridge it
D. you fill it

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

"Poets are not half (1) _____ scrupulous as you are. They know how useful passion is for publication. Nowadays a broken heart will run to many editions. It goes (2) _____ saying."

"I hate them for it," cried Hallward. "An artist should create beautiful things, but should put nothing of his own life into them. We live in an age when men treat art as if it (3) _____ meant to be a form of autobiography. We (4) _____ lost the abstract sense of beauty of late. Some day I will show the world what it is; and for that reason the world shall never see my portrait of Dorian Gray."

"I think you are wrong, Basil, but I won't argue with you. It is only the intellectually lost (5) _____ ever argue. Tell me, is Dorian Gray very fond of you?"

The painter considered for a few moments.

"He likes me," he answered after a pause; "I know he likes me. Of course I flatter him dreadfully. I find a strange pleasure in saying things to him that I know I shall be sorry for having said."

(adapted from Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

I was so excited when I started out from Beijing. I'd hired a jeep and an interpreter, as well as camping gear, and I was off to see the only thing ever made by man that is visible from space: that long, continuous structure that is more than 2,000 years old. However, my excitement began to disappear when I learned that these 'facts', were nothing more than urban legends.

One of the facts that I had learned was indeed true; although much of the wall had been built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), some parts of it do date from the seventh century BC. As I left Beijing, I realised that the further away I got from the Chinese capital and all the tourist haunts, the more the wall was in need of repair. In some places along my route it didn't exist at all. This was particularly noticeable at the reservoir that had been created by the dam built on the Luan River in the 1970s. Sometimes there were other walls running parallel to the Great Wall. At one point I saw a Han Dynasty wall parallel to the Ming wall, and it was dwarfed by it. If a villager hadn't pointed it out to us, we wouldn't have spotted it.

We were lucky to find that villager. He had done a lot of research into the wall in his area. He had gone through the county archives, but he had also interviewed many elderly people who told him stories about the wall which had been passed down from generation to generation, and he had copied them all down. He'd written lots of pages and illustrated them



with sketches and maps, and he had also collected broken pieces of pottery which he had found near the walls over the years. These would be invaluable to anyone wishing to study the history of this part of the wall but, instead, here they were, perfectly stored and kept in labelled boxes in the man's home! He was a farmer, earning about 200 US dollars a year. I wished I could have photocopies of his work, but I knew that there was no possibility of finding a photocopier nearby. I might have had to drive for hours, or even days, before I found one. I did take photographs of the bits of pottery though.

That night we camped near the road under the stars. They were much brighter than they seem when you see them from an urban area. I began to understand how ancient people had made up their myths to explain how the constellations had formed. The stars must have had a powerful fascination for our ancestors, who would have seen them as I was seeing them now, without modern street lights which obscure their brilliance. Then, just as I was falling asleep, a bright light shone into my tent. I panicked because I thought it was a huge truck bearing down on me, the driver having made a mistake on the road. I crawled outside, and saw the moon rising over a hill. What a magnificent sight! One that I will always remember.

I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text. 10 points

1. As she travelled, the writer discovered that
 - A. the Great Wall is one of the oldest structures in the world.
 - B. the journey was not going to be exciting.
 - C. the Great Wall was more impressive than she had thought.
 - D. things she had considered to be true were fiction.
2. What did the author notice about the Wall as she travelled farther away from Beijing?
 - A. It was older and had been built by a different dynasty.
 - B. Much of the wall was under water.
 - C. It was completely missing at some points.
 - D. Sections of the wall had been used to construct a dam.
3. How did the author feel about the research the villager had conducted?
 - A. It was a waste of his time.
 - B. It was a pity that nobody wished to see it.
 - C. It should be more accessible.
 - D. It could have been a more in-depth study.
4. What idea does the writer want to stress upon by mentioning the villager's job and salary?
 - A. That he didn't really know what he was doing.
 - B. That it was a pity that he had all this information.
 - C. That the Chinese aren't paid in their own currency.
 - D. That a love for a subject can be as important as being trained in it.
5. What made the writer suddenly realise how ancient people felt about the stars?
 - A. setting up a camp at night for the first time
 - B. being far away from anything modern
 - C. remembering some of the ancient tales about stars
 - D. seeing the stars as our ancestors had seen them

II. Read the text again and write an *opinion* essay on the statement: *It is worth spending resources on exploring ancient monuments and historic sites.* (250-280 words)

50 points