

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA LOCALĂ

2 MARTIE 2024

CLASA a XII-a - SECȚIUNEA A

VARIANTA 1

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form. (10 p)

When I boarded the train I could not help **(1) _ (NOTICE)** that many local people got on, as well. At the time, this **2 _ (NOT STRIKE)** me as odd. I reflected that there must be many local people besides myself who wished to take advantage of this excellent service. Neither **3 _ (I/BE)** surprised when the train stopped at Widley, a tiny station, a few miles along the line. Even a mighty express train can **4 _ (HOLD UP)** by signals. Then, it suddenly dawned on me that this express **5 _ (NOT ROAR)** down the line at ninety miles an hour, but barely chugging along at thirty. One hour and seventeen minutes passed and we **6 _ (NOT COVER)** even half the distance. I asked a passenger if this was the Western Express, but he **7 _ (NOT EVEN/HEAR)** of it. I determined to make a complaint as soon as we arrived. Two hours later, I was talking angrily to a bored station master. When he denied the train's existence, I showed him my copy of the timetable. **8 _ (GLANCE)** at it briefly, he told me to look again. A tiny asterisk conducted me to a footnote at the bottom of the page. It said : '*This service* **9 _ (SUSPEND).**' Never **10 _ (I/EXPERIENCE)** such a frustrating thing before!

II. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (10 p)

1. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *If you ... a good manager, of your employees*
 - A. had been/ no/ would resign
 - B. will be/ any/ would not have resigned
 - C. were/ none/ would have resigned
 - D. are/ some/ will resign
2. Which of the sentences best rephrases the following sentence? *He is certainly lying in bed.*
 - A. He must lie in bed.
 - B. He should lie in bed.
 - C. He must be lying in bed.
 - D. He might be lying in bed.
3. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *They came all ... way from ... Netherlands to attend ... ceremony.*
 - A. -/ the / a
 - B. the/ the/the
 - C. the/ -/ the
 - D. a / the/ -
4. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *Sarah and I always agree ... where to go holidays.*
 - A. with/ in
 - B. on/ for
 - C. by/ on
 - D. on/ at
5. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *How can I tell my housemate I'd rather he ... all the cooking to me? It's high time he ... to cook for himself!*
 - A. hadn't left/learnt

- B. didn't leave/ learned
C. doesn't leave/learns
D. wouldn't leave /learn
6. Choose the correct translation. *Dacă aş fi în locul tău, nu i-aş împrumuta maşina pentru nimic în lume.*
A. If I had been in your place, I wouldn't lend him the car for nothing in the world.
B. Had I been you, I wouldn't lend him the car no matter what.
C. Were I you, I wouldn't borrow him my car at all.
D. Were I you, I wouldn't lend him the car for anything in the world.
7. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *"What lovely weather!" Betty exclaimed ...*
A. what lovely weather
B. that the weather is lovely
C. what lovely weather it was
D. that the weather was lovely
8. Which of the sentences best rephrases the following sentence? *It was impossible for him to be running in the rain.*
A. He can't be running in the rain.
B. He was impossible to run.
C. He mustn't be running in the rain.
D. He can't have been running in the rain.
9. Choose the correct translation. *Nu văd ce te împiedică să adopţi propunerea lui.*
A. Hardly I can see what prevents you from adopting his proposal.
B. I can hardly see what prevents you to adopt his proposal.
C. I can hardly see what prevents you adopt his proposal.
D. I can hardly see what prevents you from adopting his proposal.
10. Complete the gaps with the best solution. *This old man ... here for 40 years by the time he next year.*
A. will be working / retires
B. will have worked / retired
C. will work / retires
D. will have been working/ retires

III. Write one word in each gap. (10 p)

Newspapers accuse a well-known footballer (1) _ anti-social behaviour in a night-club. His manager makes a public statement in (2) _ he asserts that the young man is innocent. When asked (3) _ makes him so sure, the manager says "he looked me straight in the eye when he told me."

Can we really know (4) _ or not someone is telling the truth just by looking in their eyes? Psychologist Robert James is far from convinced. "(5) _ and large, maintaining eye contact is something liars do because eye movements are fairly easy to control."

Communications expert Becky Rhodes shares his skepticism. "Body language clues are never precise (6) _ to rely on with absolute confidence." she says. She illustrates this (7) _ describing the 'Othello error', named (8) _ Shakespeare's tragic character (9) _ claims his wife has been deceiving him and then interprets her shocked reaction (10) _ guilt. "Personally, the minute I see a security guard watching me in a shop, I start looking guilty, so my body language definitely doesn't reflect the truth about me."

IV. Write the correct form of the word in CAPITALS to complete the gaps: (10 p)

- He obeyed all your orders **TRUTH**
- They have started a business. **WHOLE**

3. Our firm has more than two hundred **EMPLOY**
4. There are on all the hills surrounding the town. **VINE**
5. What a shock he had when he realized his were wearing masks. **PURSUE**
6. You'll have to do a lot of special exercise to your muscles. **STRONG**
7. has been the main characteristic of the recent election. **ABSENT**
8. I admired the wonderful of the countryside. **SCENE**
9. He provided a certain for him until he became of age. **ALLOW**
10. The first railroad in the United States was built in the 1860s and connected North America's east and west coasts. **CONTINENTAL**

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

The Great Indoors: At Home in the Modern British House

In 1910 the music hall comedian Billy Williams scored his biggest hit with the song *When Father Papered the Parlour*, mocking the incompetence of the amateur home decorator. Fifty years later, comedians Norman Wisdom and Bruce Forsyth were still entertaining millions on the TV show *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* with a similar routine, but the joke was starting to look dated. The success of magazines such as *The Practical Householder* was already proving that, as the 1957 Ideal Home Exhibition proclaimed, "Do-it-yourself is a home hobby that is here to stay."

By this stage, Britain had mostly completed its transition from primitive housing conditions, made bearable – for those who could afford it – by servants and handymen, into a world where families looked after themselves in highly serviced environments. Recognisably modern technology, in the form of telephones, televisions and electricity, had become ubiquitous and was to transform domestic living still further in the coming years. The makeover of British homes in the twentieth century is recounted in Ben Highmore's entertaining and informative new book. He takes us on a whirlwind tour of an everyday house, from entrance hall to garden shed, illuminated by extensive reference to oral histories, popular magazines and personal memoirs.

At its centre, though, is the way that our homes have reflected wider social changes. There is the decline of formality, so that living rooms once full of heavy furniture and Victorian knick-knacks are now dominated by television screens and littered with children's toys. There is a growing internationalism in taste. And there is the rise of domestic democracy, with the household radiogram and telephone (located in the hall) now replaced by iPads, laptops and mobiles in virtually every room. Key to that decentralisation of the home – and the implied shift of power within it – is the advent of central heating, which gets pride of place as the innovation that allowed the whole house to become accessible at all times of day and night. Telling an unruly child to 'go to your room' no longer seems much of a threat.

Highmore also documents, however, some less successful steps in the onward march of domestic machinery. Whatever happened to the gas-powered fridges we were promised in 1946? Or to the Dishmaster a decade later that promised to do "a whole day's washing up in just three minutes"? Rather more clear is the reason why a 1902 Teasmade failed to catch on: "when the alarm clock triggered the switch, a match was struck, lighting a spirit stove under the kettle". You don't have to be a health and safety fanatic to conclude that a bedroom isn't the ideal place for such a gadget. Equally disturbing to the modern reader is the prewar obsession with children getting fresh air. It was a belief so entrenched that even a voice of dissent merely argued that in winter, "The healthy child only needs about three hours a day in the open air, as long as the day and night nursery windows are always open." Nowadays, the fresh air obsession has been replaced by irrational fears of horrors outside the home. It's easier to laugh at the foibles of the past, and Highmore doesn't always resist a sense of modern superiority, though, for the most part, he's an engaging and quirky guide, dispensing sociological insights without jargon.

The message is that even the language of the home has changed irrevocably: airing cupboards are going the same way as drawing rooms. As for that Billy Williams song, "By the 1980s", Highmore writes, "it would be impossible for anyone to imagine their front room as a 'parlour' without seeming deeply old-fashioned." He's not entirely correct, for there was at least one person who was still employing such terminology. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sold her message with the use of what she called 'the parables of the parlour', which suggests she understood the truth that, despite the catalogue of changes, there is a core that seems consistent. A 1946 edition of *Housewife* magazine spelt it out: "men make houses, women make homes". When you watch a male comedian today doing a routine about his wife's attachment to scatter cushions, it seems worth asking: has the family dynamic really moved a great deal?

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

1. The reviewer's main topic in the first paragraph is
 - A. improvements in home decorating skills
 - B. how common it was for home decorating to be discussed
 - C. how unfair descriptions of home decorating used to be
 - D. a change in attitudes to home decorating
2. In the second paragraph, the reviewer says that the book includes evidence illustrating
 - A. that some British people's homes were transformed more than others
 - B. the widespread nature of changes that took place in British homes
 - C. the perceived disadvantages of certain developments in British homes
 - D. that the roles of certain people in British homes changed enormously
3. In the third paragraph, the reviewer points to a change in
 - A. the extent to which different parts of the house are occupied
 - B. ideas of which parts of a house should be furnished in a formal way
 - C. how much time children spend in their own rooms
 - D. beliefs about what the most pleasant aspect of home life is
4. The reviewer suggests in the fourth paragraph that
 - A. most unsuccessful inventions failed because they were dangerous
 - B. various unsuccessful inventions failed because they did not work properly
 - C. some unsuccessful inventions were not advertised appropriately
 - D. there were unsuccessful inventions which might have been good ideas
5. In the final paragraph, the reviewer suggests that Highmore may be wrong about
 - A. when certain modern attitudes to home life first developed
 - B. which changes in home life in Britain have been most widely welcomed
 - C. the extent to which home life in Britain has changed
 - D. how common terms such as 'airing cupboards' are in modern Britain

II. Read the text again and write an article about the impact of modern living on family life. (250-280 words) (50 p)

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.