



**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ
CONSTANȚA
2018
CLASA A XI-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)

Today's young women, having observed their mothers **juggling** a full-time job and all the domestic responsibility, having the odd nervous breakdown and still having to look glamorous, have now decided they'd prefer to be kept by a **well-off** husband. Countless women dived straight into marriage when finding such a match. Who can blame them? There are times - usually when sick children and deadlines collide - that I think the same thing. But marry rich and you may marry a man who views you as a commodity; you can marry for money, but it's not a marriage, it's a deal. The divorce courts are littered with high earners, as well as the shattered dreams of traded-in middle-aged wives who have been replaced by a younger, glamorous model. It's always the wives in the really expensive cars that have the sourest face. They will surely disagree with me. However, having a career brings more **contentment** than having a designer bag. So, I wouldn't be delighted if my daughter ended up with a dropout. But I'd feel worse if she believed the most important aspect was a man's bank balance.

A. Answer the following questions.

8 points

1. Which are the challenges that might drive young women to tie the knot for financial reasons?
2. What is the author's opinion regarding women's preferences today?
3. Who is more likely to end their marriage?
4. What does she fear regarding her daughter's preferences when picking a husband?

B. Choose the right synonym.

6 points

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. juggling: | a. wielding | b. hindering | c. deluding | d. dodging |
| 2. well-off: | a. felicitous | b. decent | c. affluent | d. exemplary |
| 3. contentment: | a. joyance | b. atonement | c. alleviation | d. reprisal |

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning.

6 points

1. Countless women dived straight into marriage when finding such a match.
No countless women dived into marriage.
2. They will surely disagree with me.
Surely they will not see me.
3. But I'd feel worse if she believed the most important aspect was a man's bank balance.
But I'd feel worse were importance was a man's bank balance.

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

In some of most Britain's most exclusive (1) _____ (NEIGHBOUR), where swimming pools and (2) _____ (CONSERVE) are commonplace, the most stylish are opting for the only addition (3) _____ (GUARANTEE) to turn the neighbours green - a luxury tree house for adults. (4) _____ (COST) more than 20,000 pounds, they come with drinks cabinets, dining tables (5) _____ (FIT) kitchens and balconies. Some (6) _____ (OWN) find their tree-house perfect for holding (7) _____ (INTERRUPT) business meetings, and one businessman liked his so much that he made it into a permanent office. Derek and Edwina Lilley spent 24,000 pounds on Britain's most (8) _____ (LUXURY) and extravagant tree-house. It took four weeks to build and can accommodate 35 for drinks parties with ease. It has a kitchen (9) _____ (EQUIP) with a combination oven, grill, hob, as well as hot and cold (10) _____ (RUN) water.

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**

It was true; he was (1) _____ the most part happy; he had his wife; he had his children promised in six weeks' time to talk "some nonsense" to the young men of Cardiff about Locke, Hume, Berkeley, and the causes of the French Revolution. But this and his pleasure in it, in the phrases he made, in the ardour of youth, in his wife's beauty, in the tributes that reached him from Swansea, Cardiff, Exeter, Southampton, Kidderminster, Oxford, Cambridge – all had to be deprecated and concealed under the phrase "talking nonsense", because (2) _____ effect, he had not done the thing he might have done. It was a disguise; it was the refuge of a man afraid to own his own feelings, who could (3) _____ say, This is what I like – this is what I am; and rather pitiable and distasteful to William Bankes and Lily Briscoe, who wonder why such concealments should be necessary, why he needed always praise; why (4) _____ brave a man in thought should be so timid in life; (5) _____ strangely he was venerable and laughable at one and the same time.