

**OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ**  
**CLASA a 12-a, Secțiunea B**  
**Varianta 1**  
**ETAPA LOCALĂ, 7 februarie 2026**

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 180 de minute

**SUBIECTUL A – Use of English**

**(40 puncte)**

**I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow on your answer sheet.**

**A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text.**

**3 points**

**Can Music Still Speak for an Entire Generation?**

Music has long been regarded as a defining element of collective identity, capable of capturing the anxieties, hopes and contradictions of a particular era. From protest songs that once articulated political dissent to genres that emerged as expressions of social marginalisation, music has often functioned as a shared language through which generations recognised themselves.

In recent decades, however, this unifying role has become increasingly fragmented. Digital platforms have transformed music consumption into an intensely personalised experience, guided by algorithms rather than communal taste. As a result, listeners are less likely to encounter the same artists, albums or messages, weakening music's capacity to serve as a common cultural reference point.

At the same time, music has not lost its expressive power. It continues to reflect individual experience with remarkable precision, offering emotional resonance rather than collective meaning. Whether this shift represents cultural decline or simply a redefinition of music's social function remains open to debate. What is clear is that music no longer speaks *for* a generation in the way it once did, but instead speaks *to* individuals navigating an increasingly complex cultural landscape.

**defining:** a. constitutive   b. ornamental   c. incidental   d. peripheral

**fragmented:** a. atomised   b. curtailed   c. diluted   d. displaced

**resonance:** a. reverberation   b. consonance   c. affective force   d. audibility

**B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it.**

**3 points**

1. Music no longer brings people together in the way it once did.

**FAILS**

Music \_\_\_\_\_ people together in the way it once did.

2. Digital platforms have made shared musical experiences increasingly rare.

**SCARCELY**

People \_\_\_\_\_ shared musical experiences because of digital platforms.

3. It remains uncertain whether music can still represent a whole generation.

**DOUBT**

There is \_\_\_\_\_ music can still represent a whole generation.

**C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use. 4 points**

**1.constitutive 2.atomised 3.idiosyncratic 4.attenuated 5.ubiquitous 6.affective  
7.homogenised 8.contested**

The text argues that music once operated as a 1 \_\_\_\_ force in shaping collective identity, enabling generations to articulate shared values and experiences. In contemporary culture, however, this role has been fundamentally altered, as digital consumption has rendered musical experience increasingly 2 \_\_\_\_\_. While music retains its 3 \_\_\_\_ capacity to express individual emotion with precision, its ability to function as a unified cultural reference has become 4 \_\_\_\_\_, reflecting a broader fragmentation of meaning rather than a complete loss of relevance.

**II. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Write only the missing word on your answer sheet. 10 points**

**1.** The committee agreed to \_\_\_\_\_ the decision until further evidence was presented.  
The judge chose to \_\_\_\_\_ comment on the ongoing investigation.  
She paused to \_\_\_\_\_ her response before answering.

**2.** The company struggled to \_\_\_\_\_ the losses caused by the economic downturn.  
Additional funding helped \_\_\_\_\_ the effects of budget cuts.  
He failed to \_\_\_\_\_ his anger during the heated debate.

**3.** His remarks were intended to \_\_\_\_\_ doubt rather than provide clarity.  
Rumours continue to \_\_\_\_\_ uncertainty among investors.  
Such statements only serve to \_\_\_\_\_ confusion.

**4.** The agreement was reached under \_\_\_\_\_ pressure from international partners.  
The company operates under \_\_\_\_\_ regulations.  
He denied acting under \_\_\_\_\_ influence.

**5.** The professor encouraged students to \_\_\_\_\_ assumptions rather than accept them blindly.  
She began to \_\_\_\_\_ her own judgement after the incident.  
He had reason to \_\_\_\_\_ the accuracy of the data.

**III. Translate the following text into English. 20 points**

Nu lipsa informației ne dezorientează, ci abundența ei. Trăim într-un spațiu în care opiniile se succed cu o viteză care nu mai lasă timp pentru reflecție, iar certitudinile sunt consumate înainte de a fi înțelese. De multe ori, confundăm reacția cu gândirea și impresia cu judecata, acceptând concluzii care ne scutesc de efortul îndoielii. În acest context, adevărul nu dispare, dar devine greu de recunoscut. El nu mai are autoritatea unei voci unice, ci se fragmentează în perspective concurente, fiecare revendicând legitimitate. A distinge între ele presupune nu doar inteligență, ci și disciplină interioară: capacitatea de a suspenda verdictul, de a suporta ambiguitatea și de a nu transforma complexitatea într-o amenințare.

## **SUBIECTUL B – Integrated Skills**

**50 points**

**I. Five sentences have been removed from the following text. Choose from the sentences A- F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. 25 points (5x5=25points)**

### **BUYING A SMARTPHONE: INFORMED CHOICE OR CAREFUL ILLUSION?**

Purchasing a new cellphone has become an increasingly complex decision, shaped as much by marketing narratives as by genuine technological need. While manufacturers emphasise innovation and performance, consumers are often left navigating a maze of specifications, promotional claims and rapid product cycles.(1)

One of the most common mistakes buyers make is equating novelty with necessity. Annual upgrades frequently highlight marginal improvements that have little impact on everyday use, yet they are framed as indispensable. Without a clear understanding of personal priorities, consumers risk paying a premium for features they will rarely, if ever, use.(2)

Another crucial consideration is longevity. A device's value is not determined solely by its initial performance, but by how well it is supported over time. Software updates, battery durability and repair options often matter more in the long run than cutting-edge hardware, though they receive far less attention in advertising campaigns.(3)

Price comparison, while essential, should also be approached critically. A lower cost may conceal compromises in build quality or long-term reliability, just as a higher price does not automatically guarantee superior performance. The challenge lies in distinguishing genuine value from perceived prestige.(4)

Equally important is resisting the pressure of immediacy. Limited-time offers and artificial scarcity are commonly used to accelerate purchasing decisions, discouraging reflection. Taking the time to consult independent reviews and user experiences can counterbalance such tactics.(5)

Ultimately, buying a cellphone is less about acquiring the latest device and more about making a conscious, informed choice. Awareness, patience and critical evaluation remain the most reliable tools for consumers seeking technology that genuinely serves their needs rather than dictates them.

## SENTENCES A–F

**A.**As a consequence, making a genuinely informed purchase requires abandoning passive acceptance of marketing claims and engaging in deliberate evaluation. Consumers must actively distinguish between features that meaningfully enhance daily use and those designed primarily to create the illusion of innovation.

**B.**This uncertainty is further intensified by the dense technical jargon embedded in product specifications, which frequently prioritises numerical performance over practical relevance, leaving buyers unable to translate data into concrete expectations.

**C.**From this perspective, a smartphone should be regarded less as a short-lived consumer good and more as a long-term investment, whose real worth emerges gradually through reliability, adaptability and sustained usability rather than immediate novelty.

**D.**For a significant number of buyers, brand allegiance complicates the decision-making process by substituting habitual trust for critical assessment, thereby discouraging comparison and reinforcing purchasing patterns driven by familiarity rather than evidence.

**E.**Consequently, decisions made under time pressure or promotional urgency often result in post-purchase dissatisfaction, once consumers realise that emotional impulse has outweighed rational consideration.

**F.**This rationale underpins why expert evaluations tend to favour balanced performance across multiple criteria, warning against devices that excel spectacularly in one area while compensating through hidden compromises elsewhere.

## II. WRITING – PROPOSAL (25 points)

**Write a proposal of 240–300 words.**

Your school is planning to organise an information campaign aimed at helping students make more responsible and informed decisions when purchasing electronic devices and gadgets. You have been asked to write a proposal suggesting how such a campaign could reduce impulsive buying and increase consumer awareness among students.

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**BAREM DE EVALUARE ȘI DE NOTARE**

- Se punctează oricare alte modalități de rezolvare corectă a cerințelor.
- Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

**SUBIECTUL I – Use of English** **(40 puncte)**

**A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text.** **3 points**

1. defining → a. constitutive  
2. fragmented → a. atomised  
3. resonance → c. affective force

**B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it.** **3 points**

Music fails to bring people together in the way it once did.  
People scarcely share musical experiences because of digital platforms.  
There is doubt whether music can still represent a whole generation.

**C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use.** **4 points**

1. constitutive   2. atomised   3. affective   4. attenuated

**II. II. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Write only the missing word on your answer sheet.** **10 points**

1. withhold   2. offset   3. sow   4. considerable   5. question

**III. III. Translate the following text into English. 20 points**

Componentă	Punctaj
Acuratețe semantică	8p
Corectitudine gramaticală și lexicală	5p
Registru literar și fluentă	4p
Redarea idiomurilor și nuanțelor	3p

**SUBIECTUL B – Integrated Skills**

**50 points**

**I. Five sentences have been removed from the following text. Choose from the sentences A- F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. 25 points (5x5=25 points)**

**1.B 2.D 3.C 4.F 5.E**

**II. WRITING – PROPOSAL (25 points)**

Criteriu	Punctaj
Task achievement (cerință, soluții, beneficii)	10p
Organizare și structură specifică proposal	5p
Limbaaj (C1+, varietate, acuratețe)	6p
Registru formal și coerență stilistică	4p