

**OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ**  
**CLASA a IX 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.**

The Contradictions of the 21st Century

The twenty-first century is often celebrated as an age of progress, yet it is equally defined by **paradox**. Never before have people been so connected, and never before have so many reported feeling isolated. Technology promises efficiency and freedom, but it also creates new forms of dependence, anxiety, and constant comparison.

One striking contradiction lies in information itself. Individuals have instant access to knowledge that previous generations could not have imagined, yet **misinformation** spreads with the same speed and sometimes with greater impact. The ability to verify facts exists, but the willingness to do so is not always present.

A similar tension appears in social values. Public discourse strongly promotes equality and inclusion; however, social media environments frequently reward hostility and **polarisation**. People are encouraged to “be themselves,” while simultaneously being judged for every visible choice.

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

- 1. paradox:** a) inherent contradiction      b) abstract principle      c) rhetorical device
- 2. misinformation:** a) distorted factual content      b) selective disclosure      c) technical data
- 3. polarisation:** a) ideological fragmentation      b) social interaction      c) emotional expressiveness

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

1. Progress in the 21st century is no longer only about invention, but about judgment and restraint.

**rather**

Progress in the 21st century \_\_\_\_\_.

2. People have never been more connected, yet many feel increasingly isolated.

**society**

\_\_\_\_\_, yet many individuals feel increasingly isolated.

3. Individuals can verify facts easily, but they are often unwilling to do so.

**have**

Individuals can \_\_\_\_\_, but are often unwilling to do so.

**C. Sum up the text in no more than 40 words.**

**4 points**

**II. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. On your answer sheet, if a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet. 10 points**

(0) ..an.. Hi Alex, I am writing to ask you for an advice.

(00) ..✓.. I hope this message finds you well.

(1) ..... English is not my first language, so I sometimes feel uncertain inside.

(2) ..... I have been practising for months, but my speaking is still hesitant yet.

(3) ..... I understand most written texts, but real conversations move too fast.

(4) ..... Could you recommend on some exercises to improve my pronunciation?

(5) ..... I often translate in my head, which has makes me slower.

(6) ..... I am particularly interested in learning naturally collocations.

(7) ..... If you have time, could we practise together once a week online?

(8) ..... I would be grateful in if you corrected a short paragraph.

(9) ..... Any feedback from you would mean a lot to me.

(10) ..... Thanks in advance already for your help.

### III. Translate the following text into English: 20 points

Nu știa exact când începuse să simtă că ceva se schimbase, dar avea adesea un nod în gât, ca și cum lucrurile nespuse cântăreau mai mult decât cele spuse. Zilele treceau pe nesimțite, iar el își dădea seama că, în anumite privințe, bate pasul pe loc. Adevărul îi apărea uneori clar, alteori rămânea ascuns. Spunea că e bine, deși știa că nu era chiar așa, pentru că învățase că tăcerea spune mai mult decât o mie de cuvinte. În cele din urmă, mergea mai departe, așteptând ca lucrurile să se limpezească.

### 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)**

#### Life Without Electricity

Electricity has become so central to modern existence that its absence is rarely considered beyond brief power cuts. Yet imagining life without it reveals how deeply daily routines are shaped by constant access to energy, often without conscious awareness.

In a world without electricity, time itself would be experienced differently. Activities would follow natural cycles rather than artificial schedules, and productivity would depend heavily on daylight. (1) ..... This change would challenge the fast-paced rhythm many people take for granted.

The impact on communication would be equally significant. Digital platforms, instant messaging, and online news would no longer be available. Information would spread slowly, relying on physical presence and word of mouth. (2) ..... As a result, messages might carry more weight, but reach far fewer people.

Communities would also be transformed. Without electric-powered services, cooperation would become essential for survival. People would share tasks, skills, and resources more openly. (3) ..... However, such interdependence would require trust and strong social bonds.

Healthcare, transportation, and food distribution would face serious obstacles. Systems designed for efficiency and speed would struggle to function. (4) ..... This vulnerability would expose how dependent modern societies are on invisible infrastructures.

Ultimately, life without electricity would force a reassessment of priorities. Comfort and convenience would be replaced by resilience and adaptability. (5) ..... In doing so, people might rediscover both the limits and strengths of human independence.

### A–F Sentences

- A. This reliance on collective effort could either strengthen communities or reveal existing tensions.
- B. Many would initially find it difficult to adjust to a slower and less predictable pace of life.
- C. In some cases, this could lead to a deeper appreciation of face-to-face interaction.
- D. Such conditions would demand careful planning and long-term adaptation strategies.
- E. The absence of constant stimulation might encourage reflection rather than distraction.
- F. Consequently, the role of technology in shaping human behaviour would become irrelevant.

## II. Writing – Review (25 points)

You have recently visited a **technology exhibition**, where you saw an innovative **gadget** that is expected to be launched **next year**.

Write a **review** in which you:

- describe the gadget and its main features;
- explain what makes it innovative or different from existing products;
- comment on its possible impact on everyday life;
- say whether you would consider using or buying it in the future, giving reasons.

Write **140–190 words**.

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

**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 text.**  
**3 points**

1. **paradox** → a) inherent contradiction
2. **misinformation** → a) distorted factual content
3. **polarisation** → a) ideological fragmentation

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

1. Progress in the 21st century is rather about judgment and restraint than about invention.
2. Modern society has never been more connected, yet many individuals feel increasingly isolated.
3. Individuals can easily have facts verified, but are often unwilling to do so.

**C. Sum up the text in no more than 40 words.** **4 points**

**Assessment criteria:**

- observance of the maximum limit of **40 words** – **1 point**
- coverage of the **essential ideas of the text** – **2 points**
- **coherence and linguistic accuracy** – **1 point**

**Note:**

Exceeding the word limit → **1 point is deducted.**

**Model Summary**

The 21st century is marked by progress but also by contradiction. **Although** people are more connected than ever, isolation is widespread. **Moreover**, access to information has increased, **yet** misinformation and social polarisation continue to shape attitudes and behaviour.

**II. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. On your answer sheet, if a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet. 10 points.**

- 1 **inside**
- 2 **yet**
- 3 ✓
- 4 **on**
- 5 **has**
- 6 **naturally**
- 7 ✓
- 8 **in**
- 9 ✓
- 10 **already**

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

**Assessment criteria:**

- **Accuracy of grammatical structures and correct use of verb tenses – 8 points**
- **Appropriate lexical choice and range of vocabulary – 6 points**
- **Clarity, coherence and overall fluency of expression – 4 points**
- **Faithful rendering of the meaning and tone of the source text – 2 points**

**Evaluation notes:**

- Repeated minor inaccuracies result in **proportional deductions**.
- Major distortions of meaning are **heavily penalised**.
- All **accurate and contextually appropriate alternative renderings** are accepted.

Possible answer :

He could not tell exactly when he had started to see things differently. Perhaps it was on that quiet morning, when the city seemed suspended between what had been and what was yet to come. He had learned many things, but he felt that the real lessons were not found in textbooks. Some slipped into late thoughts, others into awkward silences or decisions made too hastily. All he knew was that time was no longer patient and that, in a strange way, childhood was fading away without asking him.

### **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)**

- 1 B
- 2 C
- 3 A
- 4 D
- 5 E

### **II. Writing – Review (25 points)**

#### **Marking scheme**

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Content / Task achievement</b>	0–7
<b>Organisation and coherence</b>	0–6
<b>Lexical resource</b>	0–6
<b>Grammatical range and accuracy</b>	0–6

**Total: 25 points**

#### **Notes:**

- All content points must be addressed.
- Logical organisation and appropriate use of linking devices are required.
- Vocabulary must be varied and appropriate to the task.
- Grammatical structures must be accurate and sufficiently varied.
- Failure to respect the word limit (**140–190 words**) results in a **1-point deduction**.
- Repeated minor errors lead to gradual deductions.
- Serious errors affecting meaning are heavily penalised.
- Alternative correct formulations are accepted.

