

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
CLASA a X-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 points)

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (10 points)

In an age dominated by constant connectivity, solitude has become an increasingly rare experience. Yet psychologists argue that the ability to be alone — without feeling lonely — is a crucial component of emotional maturity. Solitude allows individuals to process experiences, regulate emotions, and develop a stronger sense of identity independent of social validation.

However, modern culture often equates being alone with social failure. The rise of social media has intensified the pressure to appear constantly engaged, productive, and surrounded by others. As a result, many people struggle to tolerate even brief moments of silence or inactivity, immediately turning to digital distractions.

Paradoxically, this avoidance of solitude may weaken emotional resilience. Without time for reflection, individuals can become more reactive, less self-aware, and overly dependent on external approval. In contrast, those who learn to embrace solitude often report higher levels of creativity, clearer decision-making, and improved mental wellbeing.

Cultivating healthy solitude does not require withdrawing from society altogether. Rather, it involves intentionally setting aside time for independent activities such as reading, walking, journaling, or simply thinking without interruption. In doing so, individuals strengthen their inner resources and build a more stable emotional foundation.

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

1. **dominated** a. influenced b. controlled c. improved d. limited
2. **validation:** a. approval b. challenge c. criticism d. recognition
3. **reactive:** a. responsive b. passive c. impulsive d. thoughtful

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

1. Solitude allows individuals to develop a stronger sense of identity independent of social validation.
LESS
Through solitude, individuals become social validation.
2. Many people struggle to tolerate even brief moments of silence.
DIFFICULT
Many people even brief moments of silence.
3. Those who embrace solitude often report higher levels of creativity.
LIKELY
Those who embrace solitude higher levels of creativity.

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)

reflection; avoidance; pressure; identity; isolation; resilience; distraction; productivity

The text argues that solitude helps individuals build a stronger sense of (1) _____ and emotional (2) _____. However, social and cultural (3) _____ often push people to avoid being alone, leading to constant (4) _____ instead of meaningful reflection.

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 (✓). Cross out the words that should not be there. (10 points)

- (0) ...✓... Social media has transformed the way people communicate around the globe
(00) *easily*..., allowing users to share easily ideas, photos and experiences instantly.
(1) While these platforms offer many benefits, they also raise concerns
(2) about privacy, misinformation seriously and the impact on mental health.
(3) Teenagers, in particular, are often exposed to unrealistic standards
(4) which can affect their self-esteem and overall general well-being.
(5) At the same time, social media can also create supportive communities
(6) where individuals feel understood and less alone.
(7) Experts say properly developing healthy online habits is essential
(8) for maintaining a balance between the digital and real worlds.
(9) Setting time limits and being selective carefully about content are simple
(10) but effective strategies that help users stay in control of their usage

III. Translate the following text into English: (20 points)

L-am întrerupt de mai multe ori. „Dar toate acestea nu sunt adevărate. Știi foarte bine că nu pot fi adevărate. Le-ai inventat dumneata.” „Și accidentul ? mă întrebă zâmbind. Tot eu am inventat și accidentul ?” îşi apăsa batista pe buza de sus, însângeraată, și mă privea cu candoare, dar și cu o imperceptibilă ironie. Șovăiam. îmi venea greu să-i spun adevărul, să-i spun că e amnezic. În cele din urmă, a trebuit să mă hotărâsc. Dacă ar fi leșinat din nou, aş fi fost obligat să-l duc la spital și

s-ar fi ivit atâtea complicații, atâtea complicații. „E o eroare la mijloc, i-am spus cu blândețe. Te afli aici printr-o eroare. Mă confunzi cu altcineva. Dumneata aparții altei lumi, altei societăți. (Mircea Eliade-Pe strada Mântuleasa)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. You are going to read a newspaper article about a politician who made a film about climate change. Five sentences have been removed from the article. 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

The Accidental Movie Star

Former Vice President of the U.S.A. Al Gore has made a film he hopes will help to change the way we view climate change. Al Gore has been concerned with climate change, or 'climate crisis' as he calls it, for the majority of his political career. As the years passed and he became more passionate about this issue, he started travelling the world in order to educate people about the effects of global warming using computer slideshows. Free of charge, he explained to his audiences that the world is facing a 'planetary emergency' and that it isn't too late to stop it if appropriate action is taken now.

It was during this time of touring and giving lectures that Gore was spotted by Hollywood producer Laurie David, who asked him to turn his slideshow into a documentary which he would play the starring role. 1 ____ Eventually, though, David managed to persuade him. The result was a fascinating documentary combining references to Gore's own life story with horrifying predictions about the future of our planet.

Little did Gore know that just one year later he would be walking along the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival and later collecting an Oscar for 'Best Documentary'. 2 ____ Advertised as 'the scariest movie you'll ever see,' it concentrates on the potentially terrifying consequences of climate change.

'An Inconvenient Truth' certainly gives us much to consider. For example, is there a link between the frequency of strong hurricanes and global warming? Why was 2005 the hottest year ever recorded? Could whole cities such as San Francisco one day be submerged in water due to rising sea levels? 3 ____ As the title of the film suggests, however, it may be inconvenient for us to have to think about the future of the planet, but think we must.

Published at the same time as the release of the film, Gore's book of the same title contains additional information and scientific analysis to further support his claims. 4 ____ Gore is delighted that some schools are even using the DVD to help them teach awareness of environmental issues to their students.

As pessimistic as the film may seem, it ends on a positive note. 5 ____ If Gore was going to present a problem, he wanted to offer a potential solution, too. His main hope is that people accept the reality of the crisis and then turn that knowledge into action.

A. The movie owes its success to its ability to hold our attention.

B. He insists on using biodiesel vehicles and has decided to become carbon neutral, which means that he reduces the amount of carbon dioxide he produces every day.

- C. At first, Gore was reluctant, as he has always been a very private person, despite being used to being in the public eye.
- D. As Gore himself says, "It's not too late to solve this crisis, and solving it means avoiding the worst of the consequences and reversing this trend towards catastrophe."
- E. The aim of the film certainly seems to be to 'shock' people into action, which may or may not be the best way to tackle the issue of global warming.
- F. The profits from both the film and the book are now funding other campaigns to spread the message about global warming.

II. You have been asked to write a report for the World Information Organisation on the following topic:

What are the greatest threats to the environment in your country today? What are the solutions?

Write your report. (190–220 words)

25 points

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KEY

SUBIECTUL I - USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. (3x1p=3p)

1.b 2. a 3. a

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. (3x1p=3p)

1. less dependent on
2. find it difficult to tolerate
3. are likely to report

C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill in the summary. (4x1p=4p)

1. identity 2.resilience 3. pressure 4. distraction

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 (✓). Cross out the words that should not be there. (10x1p=10p)

1. ✓ 2. seriously 3. ✓ 4. general 5. also 6. ✓ 7. properly 8. ✓ 9. carefully 10. ✓

III. Translate the following text into English. 20 points

grammar structures 8 points

vocabulary 8 points

fluency 4 points

SUGGESTED ANSWER

I interrupted him several times. "But all these things are not true. You know very well they cannot be true. You invented them."

"And the accident?" he asked me, smiling. "Did I invent the accident too?"

He pressed a handkerchief to his upper lip, which was bleeding, and looked at me with innocence, but also with an imperceptible irony. I hesitated. It was hard for me to tell him the truth, to tell him that he was suffering from amnesia. In the end, I had to make a decision. If he had fainted again, I would have been forced to take him to the hospital and so many complications would have arisen, so many complications.

"There is a mistake," I told him gently. "You are here because of a mistake. You are confusing me with someone else. You belong to another world, another society."

B. Integrated Skills (50 points) I. Five paragraphs have been removed from the following interview. Choose from the paragraphs A-F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. (5x5p=25p)

1C, 2A, 3E, 4F, 5D

II. REPORT (25 points) Use the Marking Scheme

MARKING SCHEME - REPORT/PROPOSAL

Analytical criteria	Excellent 5p	Good 4p	Adequate 3p	Weak 2p	Inadequate 1p	Task not attempted 0p
Task achievement	The report/proposal is completely relevant to the task, fully developing all content points; the format of the report/proposal is fully observed; the purpose of the report/proposal is clearly and fully explained, the information is appropriately categorized, a relevant conclusion is drawn	The report/proposal covers the requirements of the task but the content points could be more fully extended; The format of the report/proposal is observed; the purpose of the report/proposal is presented; the information is appropriately categorized in spite of minor inaccuracies; the conclusion drawn could be better substantiated	The report/ proposal addresses the requirements of the task but not all content points are included; the format may be faulty at times; the purpose of the report/ proposal is presented but it is not very clear; there are lapses in the categorization of the information; the conclusion is not logically linked to the content	The report/ proposal does not cover the requirements of the task; the content points are attempted but many irrelevant details are included, the format is faulty; the purpose for writing/ the conclusion is missing or the information is inappropriately categorized	The report/ proposal does not relate to the task	
Organization and cohesion	There is a logical progression throughout; the paragraphs are well built, well extended, the topic sentence is clear; a wide range of cohesive devices is used effectively.	There is a logical progression although minor inconsistencies are possible; the paragraphs are well built but could be more extended or balanced; a range of cohesive devices is used effectively.	The text is generally coherent but the internal organization of some paragraphs may be faulty; the topic sentence is not always clear or may be missing; cohesive devices are present but sometimes they are not accurate.	There is serious inconsistency in the organization of the text; the sequencing of ideas can be followed with difficulty; paragraphing may be missing; cohesive devices are limited or most of them are faulty.	The text is not logically organized and does not convey a message; no control of cohesive devices.	
VOCABULARY	A wide range of vocabulary is used appropriately and accurately; precise meaning is conveyed; minor errors are rare; spelling is very well controlled; the register is appropriate throughout..	A range of vocabulary is used appropriately and accurately; occasional errors in word choice/formation are possible; spelling is well controlled with occasional slips; the register is appropriate, although minor inconsistencies are possible.	The range of vocabulary is adequate; errors in word choice/formation are present when more sophisticated items of vocabulary are attempted; spelling can be faulty at times; there are inconsistencies in register.	A limited range of vocabulary is present; less common items of vocabulary are rare and may be often faulty; spelling errors can make text understanding difficult; there are major inconsistencies in register	A very narrow range of vocabulary is present; errors in word choice/formation predominate; spelling errors make the text obscure at times.	
STRUCTURES	A wide range of grammatical structures is used accurately and flexibly; minor errors are rare; punctuation is very well controlled.	A range of grammatical structures is used accurately and with some flexibility; occasional errors are possible; punctuation is well controlled with occasional slips.	A mix of complex and simple grammatical structures is present; errors are present when complex language is attempted; punctuation can be faulty at times.	A limited range of grammatical structures is present; complex language is rare and may be often faulty; punctuation errors can make text understanding difficult.	A very narrow range of grammatical structures is present; errors predominate; punctuation errors make the text obscure at times.	
EFFECT ON TARGET READER	The interest of the reader is aroused and sustained throughout.	The text has a good effect on the reader.	The effect on the reader is satisfactory.	The text has not a relevant effect on the reader.	The text has a negative effect on the reader.	



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