

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
CLASA a XI-a, Secțiunea A
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. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits in each sentence. 10 points

From Coin to Paper

In ninth century China, at the height of the Tang dynasty, the government became concerned about the **1. (CONVENIENT)** of carrying around large amounts of coins in order to conduct business **2. (ACTION)**. Consequently, they devised a method of paying merchants with money certificates, which had a **3. (TEND)** to blow away. This quickly earned them the **4. (NAME)** "flying cash". These certificates could be exchanged for coin money on demand at the capital. They were **5. (TRANSFER)**, so merchants began exchanging them with each other instead of using coins.

It was not until the Song dynasty that actual paper money was created. **6. (INITIAL)** introduced by a group of merchants and financiers, each banknote had images of houses, trees and people printed on it. These were **7. (COMPANY)** by various intricate marking, the **8. (IDENTIFY)** of which could be made only by the issuing banks, thereby making counterfeiting difficult. For this reason, they became readily accepted for payment, and their circulation increased. Then, in 1023, the government decided to **9. (DRAW)** the banknotes and issue government notes in their place, every one of them with a cash backing. These new banknotes could be exchanged for government-issued coins, and so could be used to buy simple groceries. As a result, the use of paper money soon became **10. (SPREAD)**.

II. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use *between three and six words*, including the word given. 14 points

1. Sandra regrets not being able to visit her grandmother more often.
WISHES
Sandra visit her grandmother more often.
2. Everyone expects a lot of people to attend the rock band's farewell concert.
TURN

- A huge crowd is the rock band's farewell concert.
3. Thanks to the success of the concert, the singer was offered a recording contract.
LED
The success of the concert offered a recording contract.
4. As soon as Alex finished his homework, he went out on his bike.
HAD
No than he went out on his bike.
5. Even if she runs really fast, Tina won't get to school on time.
HOW
No Tina won't get to school on time.
6. Clarice's mother told her not to spend the money under any circumstances.
MUST
"Whatever that money, Clarice!" said her mother.
7. Although her manager refused to buy us a new photocopier, she was still popular.
HER
The manager was still popular to buy us a new photocopier.

III. Translate the following text into English.

16 points

Oamenii care mi-au spus că nu-și mai amintesc nimic din cei dintâi ani ai copilăriei m-au surprins tare mult. Cât despre mine, am păstrat amintiri vii încă de pe timpul când nu eram decât un copil mic de tot. E adevărat că nu sunt decât imagini izolate, dar care, tocmai de aceea, se desprind cu mai multă strălucire pe un fundal obscur și misterios. Cu toate că sunt încă destul de departe de bătrânețe, amintirile acestea, deosebit de dragi, îmi par că vin dintr-un trecut nespus de îndepărtat. Îmi închipui că lumea era atunci la mărețele sale începuturi, învăluită toată în cele mai fragede culori. Dacă aș fi un sălbatic, aș crede că lumea e tot atât de tânără ca și mine sau, dacă vreți, tot atât de bătrână. Dar, din nenorocire, nu sunt deloc sălbatic. Am citit multe cărți despre vechimea pământului și originea speciilor și compar, cu melancolie, scurta durată a indivizilor cu lunga durată a speciilor. Știu, prin urmare, că nu demult aveam pătuțul meu, într-o cameră mare dintr-o casă veche și foarte dărăpănată, care a fost dărâmată apoi pentru a face loc noilor clădiri ale Școlii de Belle Arte.

(Mircea Eliade, *Romanul adolescentului miop*)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS _____ 50 points

I. Five paragraphs have been removed from the following text. 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. Put your answer down on your answer sheet.

25 points

Small Actions, Big Change!

When a group of secondary school students in a coastal town noticed how much plastic was washing up on their local beach, they decided to do more than complain about it. What began as a weekend clean-up organized through social media, quickly developed into a much larger initiative, attracting volunteers from neighbouring schools and community groups.

At first, the students worked with very few resources. Equipment was borrowed, and waste was sorted by hand. Still, the visible results of their efforts motivated them to continue, and passers-by frequently stopped to ask questions or offer support. **(1) ...**

As the project grew, the students became increasingly aware that collecting rubbish was only part of the problem. Much of the plastic they found came from everyday items used by local residents and business. This raised difficult questions about responsibility and long-term change. **(2) ...**

The group decided to contact the local council, hoping to secure funding and official recognition. While the response was polite, progress was slow, and meetings were often postponed. Some students began to worry that their momentum would fade before any concrete action could be taken. **(3) ...**

Despite these frustrations, the project continued to evolve. The students organized school workshops created online awareness campaigns, and encouraged local shops to reduce single-use packaging. These activities helped shift the focus from clean-up to prevention. **(4) ...**

Two years after the first clean-up, the initiative is still active and has inspired similar groups in other towns. Although most of the original members have now left school, they remain involved in an advisory role. Reflecting on the experience, one of the founders explained that the project had changed how they viewed both environmental issues and their own ability to influence them. **(5) ...**

A. Eventually, a regional environmental charity offered professional training to the group, helping them develop advanced data-collection methods for measuring pollution levels.

B. They began to realise that without education and cooperation, the same waste would simply return. Several members admitted that they themselves had never considered how their daily habits contributed to the issue.

C. The main challenge at this stage was time. Balancing exams, homework, and the growing demands of the project required careful organization, and not everyone was able to remain involved.

D. Instead of giving up, the group used the waiting period to refine their goals. They researched similar projects elsewhere and learned how young people could influence policy through persistence and clear communication.

E. ‘It made us understand that age doesn’t automatically limit your impact,’ she said. ‘What matters is whether you’re willing to take responsibility and keep going when things get difficult.’

F. This early encouragement proved essential. It showed the students that their actions mattered and that small-scale efforts could attract wider attention. As a result, attendance at future clean-ups increased steadily.

II. Your school is considering ways to encourage students to take an active role in improving their community.

Write a report in which you:

- **discuss the benefits of student involvement in community or environmental projects**
- **identify the challenges students may face when organizing such initiative**
- **make recommendations on how schools can support student-led projects.**

Write your report in 220-260 words.

25 points

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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 A – USE OF ENGLISH _____ 40 points

I. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each sentence.

10x1p = 10 points

1. INCONVENIENCE; 2. TRANSACTIONS; 3. TENDENCY; 4. NICKNAME;
5. TRANSFERABLE; 6. INITIALLY; 7. ACCOMPANIED; 8. IDENTIFICATION;
9. WITHDRAW; 10. WIDESPREAD.

II. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

7x2p = 14 points

1. wishes (that) | she could/was able to/were able to;
2. expected to | turn out for/up for /up to/up at
3. led to | the singer being
4. sooner | had Alex finished his homework
5. matter how fast | she runs
6. you do | you must not spend
7. despite/in spite of | her refusal

III. Translate the following text into English.

16 points

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| grammar structures | 6 points |
| vocabulary | 6 points |
| fluency | 4 points |

SUGGESTED ANSWER

The people who told me that they didn't remember anything from the first years of their childhood astonished me. As for myself, I have kept vivid memories since as early as a very little child. It's true that they are just isolated images but it is for that very reason that they are underlined more brightly against an obscure and mysterious background. Even if these memories very dear to me are still far enough from the old age, they seem to be from a very remote past. I imagine the world to be at its great beginning at that time, all of it surrounded by the most delicate colours. If I were a primitive man, I'd believe the world to be as young as myself or, if you like, as old. But, unfortunately, I'm not primitive at all. I've read plenty of books about the age of the Earth, and the origin of the species and I can draw, melancholically, a comparison between the short life of the

individuals and the long one of the species. Thus, I know that not too long ago, I used to have my little bed in a big room of an old and ruined house which was afterwards demolished to make room for the new buildings of the *Belle-Arte School*.

(Mircea Eliade, *Romanul adolescentului miop*)

SUBIECTUL 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. Put your answer down on your answer sheet.

(5x5p=25 p)

1 F 2 B 3 D 4 C 5 E

II. REPORT

(25 points)

Use the marking scheme.