

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
CLASA a VIII-a,
Varianta 1
ETAPA LOCALĂ, 7 februarie 2026

- **Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.**
- **Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.**
- **Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 120 minute**

I. USE OF ENGLISH – 40 POINTS

1. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets. (15 puncte – 10 x 1,5p)

1. If she _____ (know) about the meeting, she would have arrived earlier.
2. By the time we got to the station, the train _____ (leave).
3. He speaks English as if he _____ (live) abroad for many years.
4. This time tomorrow, we _____ (fly) over the Atlantic.
5. She denied _____ (break) the window.
6. I wish I _____ (pay) more attention during the lessons.
7. The homework must _____ (finish) before you go out.
8. Not only _____ (he forget) his keys, but he also lost his phone.
9. She suggested that he _____ (take) a break.
10. Hardly _____ (the teacher enter) the room when the students became silent.

2. Use the word in brackets to form a new word that fits into each sentence. (5 x 2p = 10p)

1. His explanation was very _____ and easy to understand. (**HELP**)
2. The film was a huge _____ all over the world. (**SUCCEED**)
3. Teenagers often show great _____ when they feel misunderstood. (**IMPATIENT**)
4. The _____ of the city surprised all the visitors. (**BEAUTIFUL**)
5. She accepted the job offer without any _____. (**HESITATE**)

3. Fill in the gaps. (15 × 1 = 15 points)

The Mystery of the Bermuda Triangle

The Bermuda Triangle has fascinated scientists and explorers (1) _____ decades. This area of the Atlantic Ocean is believed (2) _____ be responsible for the unexplained disappearance of ships and aircraft. Although many stories have been exaggerated (3) _____ time, the mystery continues to attract attention.

Some researchers argue that natural phenomena, such (4) _____ sudden storms or powerful ocean currents, could explain most of the incidents. Others, (5) _____, suggest that human

error plays a far more important role than people are willing to admit. There is little scientific evidence (6) _____ supports the idea of supernatural forces. Despite this, countless books and documentaries have been produced in (7) _____ attempt to prove that something unusual is happening in the region. According to experts, the majority of accidents can be explained (8) _____ careful analysis of weather conditions and navigation mistakes. (9) _____ the lack of convincing proof, the Bermuda Triangle remains a popular topic in modern culture. It raises important questions (10) _____ how myths are created and why people continue to believe (11) _____ them. Perhaps the real mystery lies not in the ocean itself, (12) _____ in the human desire to find meaning where none exists. (13) _____ theory one chooses to accept, the legend of the Bermuda Triangle is unlikely to disappear (14) _____ time soon. It seems that some mysteries are simply too fascinating (15) _____ let go.

II. READING COMPREHENSION – 25 POINTS

Read the text carefully and do the tasks below.

Finding My Voice

I never imagined that music would change my life. Growing up in a small industrial town, opportunities were limited and expectations even lower. Most people believed that success was something meant for others, not for us. Surrounded by closed factories and uncertainty, I often felt that my future was already decided.

Everything shifted when I joined a school music club. At first, I was nervous and unsure of myself, but learning to play the drums gave me confidence. Practising after school became my escape, a way to forget about daily worries and express emotions I could not put into words.

Soon, I started writing lyrics inspired by the lives of people around me. The songs spoke about struggle, hope, and the desire for change. I realised that music could give a voice to those who felt ignored, just like I once did.

Performing on stage for the first time was unforgettable. Seeing people react to my music made me understand that what I was doing mattered. It was no longer just about me — it was about sharing experiences and emotions with others.

Today, I encourage young people to follow their passions, even when the path seems uncertain. Talent grows with practice, and confidence comes from perseverance. Sometimes, all it takes is one opportunity to discover who you really are.

1. Chose a suitable title for each paragraph. ($5 \times 1 = 5$ points)

Paragraph 1

1. Life in a Town of Closed Factories
2. Growing Up with Little Hope

Paragraph 2

1. Finding Confidence in the Music Club
2. Learning to Express Myself Through Drums

Paragraph 3

1. Giving a Voice to the Voiceless
2. Songs About Struggle and Hope

Paragraph 4

1. The Magic of the First Performance
2. Sharing Emotions on Stage

Paragraph 5

1. Following Your Passion Against the Odds
2. Talent Grows with Practice

2. For each question choose the correct answer. ($5 \times 4 = 20$ points)

1. How did the author feel about his future while growing up?
 - A. Optimistic and confident
 - B. Indifferent and relaxed
 - C. Limited by his environment
 - D. Excited about opportunities
2. What role did the music club play in the author's life?
 - A. It helped him become famous
 - B. It offered financial support
 - C. It allowed him to express himself
 - D. It helped him meet important people
3. What inspired the author's song lyrics?
 - A. Personal success
 - B. Famous musicians
 - C. Historical events
 - D. The lives of ordinary people
4. What did performing on stage make the author realise?
 - A. He wanted to become rich
 - B. Music was only a hobby
 - C. His music had an impact on others
 - D. He preferred practising alone
5. What message does the author give at the end of the text?
 - A. Success depends on luck

- B. Talent is more important than effort
- C. Dreams should be realistic
- D. Persistence helps people discover themselves

III. WRITING – 25 POINTS

Write a story of 150–180 words that ends with the following sentence:

"Only then did I realise how much that moment had changed my life."

Your story should:

- have a clear beginning, middle and ending;
- include a turning point;
- use appropriate narrative tenses and linking words.

OFICIU – 10 POINTS

TOTAL: 100 POINTS

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BAREM DE CORECTARE

- **Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.**
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I. USE OF ENGLISH – 40 POINTS

1. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets. (15 puncte – 10 x 1,5p)

1. had known
2. had left
3. had lived
4. will be flying
5. breaking/ having broken
6. had paid
7. be finished
8. did he forget
9. should have taken/ took
10. had the teacher entered

2. Use the word in brackets to form a new word that fits into each sentence. (5 x 2p = 10p)

1. helpful
2. success
3. impatience
4. beauty
5. hesitation

3. Fill in the gaps with ONE suitable word. (15 x 1p = 15p)

1. for
2. to
3. over

4. as
5. however
6. that
7. an
8. by
9. Despite
10. about
11. in
12. but
13. Whichever
14. any
15. to

II. READING COMPREHENSION – 25 POINTS

Read the text carefully and do the tasks below.

1. Chose a suitable title for each paragraph. (5 × 1 = 5 points)

Paragraph 1: *Growing Up with Little Hope*

Paragraph 2: *Learning to Express Myself Through Drums*

Paragraph 3: *Giving a Voice to the Voiceless*

Paragraph 4: *Sharing Emotions on Stage*

Paragraph 5: *Following Your Passion Against the Odds*

2. Multiple choice

1. C
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. D

III. WRITING – 25 POINTS

Write a story of 150–180 words that ends with the following sentence:

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Your story should:

- have a clear beginning, middle and ending;
- include a turning point;
- use appropriate narrative tenses and linking words

Marking scheme:

Content - complete relevance to the topic, describing places, events/characters, atmosphere, reaching climax and the final reactions of the protagonist..... 5 points

Organisation/Cohesion - complete logical connection of paragraphs due to a judicious use of linking devices, mechanics and length requirements. 5 points
Vocabulary/Spelling - wide range of vocabulary used appropriately and accurately; convey precise meaning; rare minor errors; well controlled spelling. 5 points
Structures/Punctuation - wide range of grammatical structures used accurately and flexibly; rare minor errors; very well controlled punctuation..... 5 points
Register and Style / Effect on target reader- total relevance and integration of the register to the task; the reader's sustained interest, the appropriate title5 points

DESCRIPTORII PENTRU EVALUARE

Marking Scheme for the Narrative Composition

Analytical Criteria	Excellent 5 p	Good 4 p	Adequate 3 p	Limited 2 p	Incomplete/ Poor 1p
Content	The story is <i>completely relevant</i> to the topic, describing places/events/characters/atmosphere/reaching climax, including the final reactions of the protagonist.	The story is fairly <i>completed</i> with all the sequencing elements of a narrative.	The story is <i>partially completed</i> with slight logical impediments in sequencing the moments of the narrative.	The story is faulty, including serious logical impediments in the sequencing of events.	The story is <i>incomplete</i> , the sequencing of the narrative moments being inconsistent.
Organization/ Cohesion	There is complete <i>logical connection</i> of paragraphs due to a judicious use of linking devices, mechanics and length requirements.	There is a fairly <i>completion of paragraph</i> organization due to scarce misuse of linking devices, mechanics and length requirements.	There is partial <i>completion of the task</i> . Paragraphs are partially complete due to unfinished ideas and scarce use of linking devices, mechanics and length requirements.	There is serious <i>inconsistency in the organization of the paragraphs</i> due to the misuse of the linking device, mechanics and length requirements.	Paragraphs are <i>incomplete</i> , both <i>linking devices</i> , mechanics and length requirements having been disrespected.
Vocabulary/ Spelling	A wide range of vocabulary is used appropriately and accurately throughout the story; precise meaning is conveyed; minor errors are rare; spelling is very well controlled.	A range of vocabulary is used <i>appropriately and accurately in the story</i> ; <i>occasional errors in word choice/formation</i> are possible; spelling is well controlled with occasional slips.	The range of vocabulary is <i>adequately used in the story</i> ; <i>errors in word choice/formation</i> are present when more sophisticated items of vocabulary are attempted; spelling can be faulty at times.	A limited range of vocabulary is present within the story; less common items of vocabulary are rare and may be often faulty; spelling errors can make text understanding difficult.	A very narrow <i>range of vocabulary is present</i> ; <i>errors in word choice/formation</i> predominate; spelling errors can make the story obscure at times.

flexibly throughout the story; minor errors are rare; punctuation is very well controlled.

accurately and with some flexibility along the story; occasional errors are possible; punctuation is well controlled with occasional slips.

structures is present throughout the story; errors are present when complex language is attempted; punctuation can be faulty at times.

present along the story; complex language is rare and may be often faulty; *punctuation errors* can make text understanding difficult.

structures is present within the story; *errors* predominate; *punctuation errors* make the text obscure at times.

The register of the narrative composition is *totally relevant to* the task, being organically integrated all along the discourse. The interest of the reader is aroused and sustained throughout.

The register of the narrative composition is *relevant to the task* with slightly incongruent lapses within the discourse. The text has a good effect on the reader.

The register of the narrative composition is *partially relevant to* the task, with a narrow inconsistency of style, leading to halts in the logical development of ideas. The effect on the reader is *satisfactory*.

The register of the narrative composition is *inconsistent due to* the mixture of styles. The effect on the reader is non-relevant.

The register used in the narrative composition is *inappropriate for* this type writing. The effect on the reader is non-relevant