



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ ETAPA LOCALĂ

8 februarie 2026

Clasa a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA B – BILINGV/INTENSIV Varianta 1

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Timpul de lucru este 3 ore.
- Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTULA – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

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

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (fragment)

In my younger and more **vulnerable** years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. 'Whenever you feel like criticizing any one,' he told me, 'just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the **advantages** that you've had.' He didn't say any more, but we've always been unusually communicative in a reserved way, and I understood that he meant a great deal more than that. In consequence, I'm **inclined** to reserve all judgments, a habit that has opened up many curious natures to me and also made me the victim of not a few veteran bores. The abnormal mind is quick to detect and attach itself to this quality when it appears in a normal person, and so it came about that in college I was unjustly accused of being a politician, because I was privy to the secret griefs of wild, unknown men.

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

1. **vulnerable**: a) strong b) sensitive c) arrogant d) protected
2. **advantages**: a) benefits b) difficulties c) problems d) expenses
3. **inclined**: a) refused b) forced c) prone d) unwilling

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

1. My father gave me some advice years ago and I am still thinking about it.

BEEN

I over my father's advice for many years.

2. I only listened to them because I wanted to be polite.

IF

I wouldn't have listened to them to be polite.

3. "I will not judge you," Nick said to his friend.

PROMISED

Nick his friend.

criticism, tolerance, advantages, nature, personality, led, criteria , knowledge

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

In the opening of The Great Gatsby, the narrator Nick Carraway recounts his father's advice to reserve judgment because not everyone shares the same 1.... This counsel shaped Nick's reserved, non-judgmental 2... which allowed him to understand diverse people but also attracted bores and 3... to misunderstandings. His inclination to withhold 4 ... and his knowledge of others' private struggles resulted in accusations of being calculating while in college.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits in each sentence. 10 points

The atmosphere in the studio was (1) _____ (PEACE), filled with the scent of summer flowers. Basil Hallward sat in front of his easel, focused on the (2) _____ (CREATE) of his latest portrait. To him, painting was not just a profession, but a deeply (3) _____ (EMOTION) experience that required total (4) _____ (CONCENTRATE). He believed that every portrait painted with feeling is a portrait of the artist, not of the sitter, revealing the (5) _____ (DEEP) of the painter's soul. However, the (6) _____ (APPEAR) of Lord Henry Wotton changed the mood. His (7) _____ (CRITIC) views on life and art were often (8) _____ (CONTROVERSY), yet they had a strange influence on those around him. Lord Henry's presence was (9) _____ (DENY) powerful, leading to a conversation that would have (10) _____ (EXPECTED) consequences for young Dorian Gray.

III. 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. If a line has a word that should not be there, write the word down. (10 points)**The Secret of the Portrait**

No.	Text	Answer
0	Basil Hallward was a talented artist who had been painted many portraits.	been
00	However, the one he was currently working on was quite different.	✓
1	He felt that he had put too much of his own soul into the work.	.....
2	Lord Henry, a friend of Basil's, arrived at the studio during in the afternoon.	.....
3	He was fascinated by the young man whose portrait was almost being finished.	.....
4	Dorian Gray, the subject of the painting, was extremely handsome and young.	.....
5	Lord Henry warned Dorian that his beauty would eventually to fade away.	.....
6	Terrified of growing old, Dorian made a wish that he would stay young for ever.	.....
7	He wanted the portrait to age instead of him, whatever the cost might be so.	.....
8	To his surprise, his wish it was granted in a mysterious and dark way.	.....
9	Over the years, Dorian remained unchanged while the portrait became hideous.	.....
10.	Every sin he committed was reflected on the canvas, even although his face was pure.	.....

4. Translate the following text into English.**10 points**

Într-o zi, m-am trezit că fereastra camerei mele fusese zidită peste noapte, fără ca eu să fi auzit vreun zgomot. Peretele era neted, de un alb imaculat, de parcă acolo n-ar fi existat niciodată vreo deschidere spre exterior. Nedumerit, am început să bat în zid cu pumnii. Am ieșit în stradă să privesc casa pe dinafară, însă, spre uimirea mea, fereastra era la locul ei, larg deschisă, cu perdelele fluturând în vânt. Nu înțelegeam cum de lumina soarelui inunda grădina, în timp ce în camera mea domnea o întunecime densă, de mormânt proaspăt săpat.

(Marin Sorescu – text adaptat.)

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 best fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

10 points**The Mask We Wear Online**

In the modern age, the concept of "identity" has shifted from the physical world to the glowing screens of our smartphones. For most adolescents, a social media profile is not just a digital tool; it is a carefully curated gallery of their lives. We choose the best photos, the wittiest captions, and the most exciting highlights to share with the world.

(1)

Psychologists suggest that this "digital perfectionism" can lead to significant pressure. Teens often feel the need to maintain an image that doesn't always reflect their true reality. They might spend hours editing a single image before posting it, seeking validation through likes and comments.

(2)

This constant comparison with others' "highlight reels" can affect self-esteem. When a young person sees their peers seemingly living perfect lives—traveling, wearing expensive clothes, or hanging out in large groups—they may feel a sense of inadequacy.

(3)

However, social media is not entirely a place of vanity and competition. For many, it serves as a vital space for self-expression and community building.

(4)

Online platforms allow these individuals to connect with like-minded people across the globe, providing a sense of belonging that they might lack in their immediate physical environment.

As we move further into the digital century, the line between our online and offline selves continues to blur. It is becoming increasingly difficult to switch off and simply "be."

(5)

Only by recognizing that a profile is just a fragment of a person, and not the whole truth, can we navigate this digital landscape healthily.

- A. They forget that what they are seeing is a filtered version of someone else's daily routine.
- B. This is why digital literacy and emotional resilience have become such essential skills for the younger generation.
- C. Consequently, the "real" self is often hidden behind a wall of filters and artificial smiles.
- D. It is a well-known fact that most influencers earn a significant income from brand deals.
- E. This feedback loop becomes a primary source of confidence, but it is often fragile and temporary.
- F. It can be a lifeline for those who feel misunderstood or marginalized in their local schools or towns.

II. Review a specific app. Critically assess whether this tool is actually helpful for adolescents.

Write your review in 180-200 words.

40 points



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BAREM DE EVALUARE ȘI NOTARE

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.
Timpul de lucru este de 3 ore.
Se punctează oricare alte modalități de rezolvare corectă a cerințelor.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

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

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

1. **b) sensitive**
2. **a) benefits**
3. **c) prone**

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

1. **I have been turning** over my father's advice for many years.
2. I wouldn't have listened to them **if I hadn't wanted** to be polite.
3. Nick **promised not to judge** his friend. (sau *promised that he wouldn't judge*)

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

1. **advantages;**
2. **nature;**
3. **led;**
4. **criticism**

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits in each sentence. 10 points

1. PEACEFUL
2. CREATION
3. EMOTIONAL
4. CONCENTRATION
5. DEPTH
6. APPEARANCE
7. CRITICAL
8. CONTROVERSIAL
9. UNDENIABLY
10. UNEXPECTED

III. 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. If a line has a word that should not be there, write the word down. (10 points)

1. ✓
2. during
3. being
4. ✓
5. to
6. ✓
7. so
8. it
9. ✓
10. even

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

grammar structures 4 points

vocabulary 4 points

fluency 2 points

One day, I woke up to find that the window of my room had been walled/bricked up overnight, without me hearing any noise whatsoever. The wall was smooth and of an immaculate white, as if there had never been an opening to the outside world. Bewildered/puzzled, I began to pound on the wall with my fists. I went out into the street to look at the house from the outside, but, to my astonishment, the window was in its usual place, wide open, with the curtains fluttering in the breeze. I could not understand how the sunlight was flooding the garden, while inside my room there reigned a dense darkness, like that of a freshly dug grave."

Any correct variant should be taken into consideration.

SUBIECTUL B – Integrated Skills (50 points)

I. Five sentences have been removed from the following text about J.K. Rowling and Harry Potter. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which best fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.
10 points

Key

1. C
2. E
3. A
4. F
5. B

II. REVIEW writing – 40 points

MARKING SCHEME - REVIEW

Analytical criteria	Excellent 10p	Good 8p	Adequate 6p	Weak 4p	Inadequate 2p	Task not attempted 0p
TASK ACHIEVEMENT	The content of the review is completely relevant to the task, fully responding to its requirements; the format of the review is fully observed; an introduction and a recommendation is present	The review covers the requirements of the task but the key ideas could be better substantiated; the format of the review is observed; an introduction and a recommendation is present but not fully linked to the topic	The review addresses the requirements of the task but not all key ideas are relevant; the introduction or the recommendation may be missing	The review does not cover the requirements of the task; the introduction/ recommendation are missing or totally irrelevant; many irrelevant details are included	The review 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, the register is faulty.	
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 does not have relevant effect on the reader.	The text has a negative effect on the reader.	