

Etapa județeană / a sectoarelor municipiului București a olimpiadelor naționale școlare - 2026

Probă scrisă

Limba engleză

CLASA a X-a –SECȚIUNEA A

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

SUBIECTUL A- USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the following text and fill in the blanks with ONE word only.

10 points

For the modern teenager, the smartphone has (1) _____ become a tool, but a central part of their identity. Only in recent years (2) _____ society begun to realize the true extent of this digital bond. Most teens spend (3) _____ than five hours a day staring at their screens. Parents often worried about television in the past, but the phone is far more personal. Even so, many adults are now starting to see the creative potential of these devices. A teenager is (4) _____ likely to be seen without their phone than without their keys, as most of their social life happens online. (5) _____ the constant distractions, many students use apps to organize their studies and express their creativity. Today, experts consider mobile technology to be a primary influence (6) _____ adolescent development. Many children do not receive their first device (7) _____ they are at least twelve years old. Strange as it (8) _____ seem, the most significant social changes have happened in just the last decade. There are now millions of apps available, from gaming to mental health trackers. Today, social media platforms are (9) _____ of the most visited sites in the world, with the most popular (10) _____ TikTok and Instagram, which occupy the majority of a teen's free time.

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

10 points

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. The government's decision to cut funding was deeply _____ to the local artists. | COURAGE |
| 2. He was frustrated by the _____ of his plans. | PRACTICE |
| 3. It would be _____ to go hiking in this weather with proper gear. | ADVISE |
| 4. These core exercises are designed to _____ your abdominal muscles. | STRONG |
| 5. His sudden _____ from the company surprised all his colleagues. | DEPART |
| 6. He became _____ when choosing which university to apply to. | DECIDE |
| 7. He answered the question _____ | CONFIDENCE |
| 8. The research team is studying the _____ between the two species. | RELATION |
| 9. The speaker was accused of _____ the facts to suit his argument. | REPRESENT |
| 10. The _____ of the contract led to a long and expensive court case. | LEGAL |

III. 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 two and five words, including the word given.

10 points

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. After many successful years in office, everyone respected the mayor.
The mayor _____ after many successful years in office. | HIGHLY |
| 2. "Did John leave last night?" Fiona asked us.
Fiona asked us if _____ night. | LEFT |
| 3. I'm sure that it was the sound of the rain that disturbed me.
It _____ of the rain that disturbed me. | BEEN |
| 4. I didn't realize that the smartphone would be so addictive when I first bought it.
Little _____ the smartphone would be when I first bought it. | DID |
| 5. The dentist is going to remove her wisdom tooth.
She _____ wisdom tooth removed. | HAVE |

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

În seara aceea, însă, de îndată ce și-a mărturisit marea ei dragoste trecută, Ileana s-a schimbat din nou: a început să semene cu cea pe care o cunoscusem la început, ca și cum până atunci ar fi fost neliniștită și tulburată de o preocupare străină ei. Mi-a amintit din nou că uitasem cu atâta ușurință făgăduiala de a-i aduce cartea. M-a întrebat apoi dacă, într-adevăr, scriitorii de romane povestesc întotdeauna propriile lor experiențe și în ce măsură o femeie pe care au iubit-o se poate transforma în eroina unei cărți. Încerca, în orice chip, să abată discuția într-un domeniu neprimejdios, cel al faptelor neutre. Începusem să mă dezmeticesc și mă bucuram că găsesc o femeie inteligentă cu care aș putea sta de vorbă despre arta și tehnica scrisului.

(Mircea Eliade, *Nuntă în cer*)

SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. You are going to read an article about camping. 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.

10 points

The World's Most Famous Ski Resorts Continue to Attract Winter Tourists

Every winter season, ski resorts across the globe prepare for an influx of international visitors eager to experience high-quality slopes, scenic mountain landscapes, and reliable infrastructure. Despite rising travel costs and increasing concerns about climate change, certain destinations continue to attract large numbers of tourists, largely because they have managed to adapt to changing expectations and environmental challenges.

Among the most prominent of these destinations is Val Thorens in France, which is frequently ranked as one of the highest ski resorts in Europe. Its altitude plays a crucial role in maintaining dependable snow conditions, even during milder winters. Travel analysts often note that the resort's continued success can be attributed to the fact that it _____ (1), ensuring consistent skiing opportunities when other resorts are forced to close runs.

In North America, Whistler Blackcomb in Canada has established itself as a global leader in winter tourism. The resort's vast terrain and advanced lift system allow it to accommodate a wide range of skiers. However, skiing alone does not explain its popularity. Many visitors emphasise that Whistler Blackcomb appeals particularly to mixed-ability groups because it _____ (2), making it possible for each member of a group to enjoy a personalised holiday experience.

Meanwhile, Zermatt in Switzerland offers a markedly different appeal. Located beneath the Matterhorn, the resort is internationally recognised for its emphasis on tradition and exclusivity. The absence of cars in the village contributes to an atmosphere that many visitors describe as refined and tranquil. Critics argue that Zermatt has remained competitive precisely because it _____ (3), preferring to maintain its character rather than transforming itself into a mass-tourism destination.

Outside the traditional European and North American ski markets, Niseko in Japan has seen a significant rise in international visitors over the past decade. Renowned for its deep powder snow, the resort attracts experienced skiers from around the world. What distinguishes Niseko from its Western counterparts is the way in which skiing is integrated into everyday life. Visitors frequently comment that the resort _____ (4), offering insight into local customs that extend well beyond the slopes.

Taken together, these examples illustrate that the appeal of the world's most famous ski resorts lies not only in the quality of their skiing but also in their ability to provide a broader travel experience. When choosing a winter destination, experts advise travellers to assess their priorities carefully, as long-term satisfaction often depends on _____ (5) rather than on reputation alone.

- A. the extent to which a destination aligns with travellers' underlying motivations and priorities
- B. has resisted the pressure to expand rapidly at the expense of its cultural and environmental integrity
- C. successfully caters to contrasting skill levels and leisure preferences within the same destination
- D. positions winter sports within a broader cultural framework that shapes visitors' daily experiences
- E. has developed strategies that reduce its dependence on short-term weather fluctuations
- F. maintains a strong international marketing presence through high-profile sporting events and media exposure

II. You have recently visited a skiing resort. Write a **review for a travel magazine** describing your experience.

Your review should address the following aspects:

- a general description of the resort and accommodation options
- the quality of skiing facilities and available services
- the type of visitors for whom the resort is most suitable
- an overview of the resort's main strengths, as well as any potential drawbacks

Write your review in **200-220** words.

40 points