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CLASA a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA B

VARIANTA 1

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A USE OF ENGLISH 40 points

I Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (20 points)

The Wonders of Science

Since 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope has been orbiting Earth and providing scientists with unique views of the Universe. In that time, it **has beamed** hundreds of thousands of images back to Earth and has revolutionized astronomy by helping researchers to make important discoveries about deep space and the Universe. Thanks to Hubble, we now know that the Universe is about 13 to 14 billion years old.

The idea of an orbiting telescope was first put forward by astronomer Lyman Spitzer in 1946. Spitzer pointed out that the Earth's atmosphere **distorts** light coming from stars, making it difficult for even the most precise telescopes on the ground to receive clear images. However, a telescope in orbit above the Earth's atmosphere would not be faced with the same problem. NASA agreed and, in the 1960s, with the help of rocket scientists, astrophysicists, and millions of dollars, the project to build a space telescope **took off** in earnest. Though the initial idea was Spitzer's, the telescope was actually named after Edwin P. Hubble, the astronomer who, in the 1920s, proved that our galaxy, the Milky Way, was not the only one in the Universe.

The telescope orbits the Earth every 96 minutes. It travels at a speed of 8 km per second, 569 km above the Earth's surface. It is fast enough to travel across the United States in about 10 minutes. Although it is regularly serviced, some time after 2013, Hubble will eventually degrade, stop working, and crash back to Earth. Its successor, the James Webb Space Telescope, has already been developed.

A. Answer the following questions (4 x2p=8 points)

1. How has the Hubble Space Telescope contributed to our understanding of the Universe?
2. Who first proposed the idea of an orbiting telescope and in what year?
3. Why was an orbiting telescope considered a better option compared to ground-based telescopes?
4. What will probably happen in a few years?

B. Choose the right contextual synonym. (3 x 2 p=6 points)

1. **HAS BEAMED** a) has thrown b) has shone c) has transmitted d) has scattered
2. **DISTORTS** a) clarifies b) twists c) strengthens d) maintains
3. **TOOK OFF** a) landed b) became successful c) remained d) rose

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning of the sentences given.

(3x2p=6 points)

1. Thanks to Hubble we now know that the Universe is about 13 to 14 billion years old.
   If it hadn't been for Hubble …… that the Universe is about 13 to 14 billion years old.
2. The idea of an orbiting telescope was first put forward by astronomer Lyman Spitzer in 1946.
   ..... who first put forward the idea of an orbiting telescope in 1946.
3. Its successor, The James Webb Space Telescope, has already been developed.
   They …….. its successor, The James Webb Space Telescope.

II Use the word given in capitals to form a new word that fits in each gap. (10 x1p=10 points)

A Book of World Records

One of the most fascinating **(1)** ___ **(REFER)** books you can read is *Guinness World Records*. It contains a **(2)** ___ **(COLLECT)** of facts and figures about incredible human achievement. It is also full of statistics concerning **(3)** ___ **(IMPRESS)** natural features such as the world's highest mountains. But it is more than just a **(4)** ___ **(RELY)** source of amazing facts. The organization that produces the book is also now responsible for checking the **(5)** ___ **(TRUE)** and **(6)** ___ **(ACCURATE)** of every new world record.

It all started in 1951 when Hugh Beaver, the managing director of a large British company, got into an **(7)** ___ **(ARGUE)** about which bird was the fastest in the world, and found that none of the books in his library were **(8)** ___ **(HELP)** in giving him the answer. He hired researchers to produce a book that could answer such questions. It sold quickly and became a huge **(9)** ___ **(COMMERCE)** success.

In recent years, the book has increasingly focused on records set during **10)** __ **(CONVENTIONAL**) competitions, such a sword swallowing.

III Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap. (10x 1p=10 points)

Holidays with Friends

I always (1) ___ to go to Porchester (2) ___ my summer holidays. It is a quiet little town, full of old and interesting buildings. Very (3) ___ visitors ever go there, so there are no crowds. I enjoyed its sleepy atmosphere. I work in a big city, so a holiday in Porchester was a complete change (4) ___ my usual life. Besides, I found (5) ___ about the history of the place. I wanted to learn how life used to be in Porchester – the stories of its people and buildings. I made notes on all these things during my holidays and I soon knew (6) ___ about the history of Porchester than most of the people (7) ___ lived there. I am not a rich man and I cannot afford to stay in hotels. (8) ___ Jack Thompson heard that I wanted to spend my holidays in Porchester again all these years later, he invited me to stay with (9) ___ . Jack and I were in the army (10) ___ during the war and we were good friends.

SUBIECTUL B-INTEGRATED SKILLS 60 points

I Read the text below. For questions 1 to 5, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (5x2p=10 points)

Land of Fire and Ice

Iceland is Europe's most westerly country, with the most northerly capital city in the world. It is my first trip to this land of fire and ice and it is with great excitement that I board the plane in London for my trip out to the wilds of the North Atlantic Ocean. In fact, I do rather feel like a modern Viking explorer following in the footsteps of those who migrated there from northern Europe more than a thousand years before me. However, it isn't long before this link with the past is cruelly cut as I am told to safely store my rucksack in the overhead compartment and instructed to buckle up with the hundred other obedient passengers who have been herded into the familiar metal tube along with me.

Iceland, of course, is no longer just the mythical land of fire and ice that we imagine it to be. Those early settlers quickly established the foundations of a civilised society by creating the world's first parliament. Today, the country with its population of just over 310,000 people spread over 100,000 square kilometres, has suffered a banking and financial crisis along with the rest of us. The capital, Reykjavik, is a small clean city known for its colourful and stylish architecture. The city centre is full of shops, art galleries, cafes, and bookshops. In 2000, Reykjavik was very deservedly awarded the title of Europe's city of Culture, thanks to its impressive art collections and museums, and lively nightlife.

However leaving the hustle and bustle of the city behind me following my arrival, and travelling out towards the volcanoes and lava fields, Iceland's legendary landscape begins to emerge and visions of those early settlers return. Perhaps it is the long winter nights often spectacularly lit up by the Northern Lights, or the extraordinary long summer days with up to 22 hours of daylight that bring a magical, almost spiritual quality to this land and its people.

The country is one of the most volcanically active nations in the world, and there are a number of hot springs around the island. All are heated naturally by underground volcanic activity. In fact, energy produced by these springs is converted into electricity which provides power and heat for people's homes and businesses. As a result, Iceland burns very little fossil fuel, such as oil and gas, and has some of the cleanest air in the world.

So I finally reach Iceland's most famous hot spring, the huge lake of bright blue seawater known as the Blue Lagoon , I lie back just like the other 300,000 visitors a year who come to relax in its steaming hot water. Submerged in its skin-improving, curing waters I find it hard to think of a country of greater contrast.

1 What stops the writer feeling like an early explorer?
A how to get a summer job in Utah
B a passenger on the plane
C preparations for take off
D footsteps behind him

2 What significant historical achievement is noted about the early settlers of Iceland?
A) They discovered the Northern Lights
B) They established the world's first parliament
C) They created a banking system
D) They built the Blue Lagoon

3 What is Reykjavik known for?
A) Its colourful and stylish architecture
B) Its vast wilderness
C) Its volcanic activity
D) Its role in ancient Viking culture

4 What natural feature is highlighted as a significant part of Iceland's landscape?
A) The Blue Lagoon
B) The Northern Lights
C) The Golden Circle
D) The land of fire and ice

5 How does Iceland generate energy for its homes and businesses?
A) Through fossil fuels
B) By using wind turbines
C) By using geothermal energy from hot springs
D) By importing electricity

II You are asked to contribute to the school brochure with a review of a captivating holiday destination for students. Refer to a place that you have visited or would like to visit. Your review should cover various aspects of the destination, including its attractions, experiences, accommodation, food, and overall atmosphere. Try to provide potential travellers with valuable insights and personal opinions that will help them decide whether to visit the location.

Write the review. (200-220 words)

(50 points)