Inspectoratul Şcolar Judeţean Prahova

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA LOCALĂ
28 FEBRUARIE 2026
CLASA a X-a - SECȚIUNEA A

VARIANTA 1

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

SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH 40 points

I. 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. (5 X 2p = 10 p)

1. Alice found it hard to settle down to a new life in France.
   DIFFICULTY
   Alice ……to a new life in France.
2. Patients rarely make a full recovery from this disease.
   CASES
   In very …… a full recovery from this disease.
3. But for the referee's prompt intervention, a fire would have developed on the pitch.
   NOT
   If ……., a fire would have developed on the pitch.
4. "Is it possible he paid someone to burgle his house?" wondered the insurance investigator.
   BURGLED
   "Is it possible……?" wondered the insurance investigator.
5. "How long have you been standing here?" she said to me.
   I
   She asked me…… standing there.

II. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (10 X 1p = 10p)

Eat breakfast and lose weight

Eating breakfast helps teenagers lose weight, a survey of eating habits in the United States has found. The study showed that those who have a **(1)**_____ meal at breakfast time - and therefore end up with a higher **(2)**_____ intake - are more likely to be within a healthy weight range than those who **(3)**_____ the first meal of the day.

Although it may seem hard to swallow, the people who ate more did more **(4)**_____ activity during the day, and that may be because they didn't feel so **(5)**_____. Dr Pereira, who led the research, said that even cooked breakfasts were better than missing out on food altogether. 'While it's best to go for a healthy option - a wholegrain cereal for instance - the evidence does **(6)**_____ that eating anything is better than eating nothing.'

Other studies have also shown that those who eat breakfast are less likely to feel **(7)**_____ mid-morning and snack on high-fat foods before lunch. They therefore have a more **(8)**_____ diet.

Dr Pereira said: 'This study clearly supports what other studies have shown: kids who don't eat breakfast tend to **(9)**_____ on more weight.' This obviously has a **(10)**_____ effect on their long-term health. Missing breakfast is a common approach to dieting, particularly among teenage girls, but they would do well to heed advice and develop a taste for breakfast.

1	**A whole**	**B round**	**C square**	**D main**
2	**A nutrients**	**B calorie**	**C ingredient**	**D nourishment**
3	**A skip**	**B leap**	**C step**	**D jump**
4	**A vitalising**	**B invigorating**	**C brisk**	**D refreshing**
5	**A immobile**	**B inoperative**	**C lethargic**	**D redundant**
6	**A offer**	**B propose**	**C persuade**	**D suggest**
7	**A parched**	**B allergic**	**C peckish**	**D fussy**

8	**A beneficial**	**B nutritious**	**C healthful**	**D energetic**
9	**A put**	**B get**	**C carry**	**D take**
10	**A hurtful**	**B detrimental**	**C unfavourable**	**D disadvantageous**

III. Write <u>ONE</u> word in each gap. (10 X 1p = 10p)

Traditionally, post offices have been treated as poor relations by governments everywhere. The business of carrying mail and dispensing other government-related services (such as driving licences and state pensions) has suffered, while the far **(1)**_____ glamorous telecommunications services have been favoured **(2)**_____ investment to keep them abreast of modern trends. Now, not before time, things are changing. Post offices throughout Europe are being transformed from off-putting, government-style institutions into **(3)**_____ a lot more cheery and efficient. Post offices are **(4)**_____ pressure from a number of directions. Firstly, governments are increasingly trying to off-load the headache of managing postal organisations. That's why most of Europe's post offices are now semi-independent operations run **(5)**_____ business principles. They retain some of their privileges but have lost many of their lucrative rights. **(6)**_____ post office counter networks are going to survive, then much will depend on **(7)**_____ the managers can make the best use of their presence in the High Street. They will need a **(8)**_____ eye for what services sell best, and in what type of atmosphere. Modern technology will be indispensable in accomplishing the task of updating the old institutions. Computers will be used to **(9)**_____ queues by automating routine transactions, and will help hard-pressed staff by simplifying postal duties, **(10)**_____ get more complex by the day.

IV. Write the correct form of the word in CAPITALS to complete the gaps: (10 X 1p = 10 p)

Having experienced an **(1)**_____ hospitable welcome at the last Olympics and talked to thousands of happy **(2)**_____ who attended them, I am even more **(3)**_____ about this wonderful event. This is one of the few occasions when the whole of **(4)**_____ comes together, displaying a unity that is all too rare in today's world. Where **(5)**_____ fail, athletes appear to succeed. The **(6)**_____ themselves, thrilling, spectacular and emotional, are the ultimate test of human **(7)**_____. They are not only a test of speed, skill and **(8)**_____, but also a measure of the competitors' courage and **(9)**_____. For the thousands present, and for the millions watching on TV, the Olympics are the most **(10)**_____ show on earth.

1.	**AMAZE**	6.	**COMPETE**
2.	**VISIT**	7.	**ACHIEVE**
3.	**ENTHUSE**	8.	**STRONG**
4.	**HUMAN**	9.	**ENDURE**
5.	**POLITICS**	10.	**FASCINATE**

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (5 X 1p = 5 points)

A Bike Ride

The Netherlands is home to over 18 million bicycles. This is a staggering number when you consider that the population is only 16.5 million people. About 84 percent of the Dutch own a bike, which works out to about 1.3 bikes per active cyclist. The country has close to 35,000 km or 22,000 miles of cycling infrastructure, which in a country the size of a peanut - or more precisely, the size of Maryland - is quite a lot.

I am a Canadian girl who used to drive everywhere, had her license when she was 16 and a day, and managed to put more mileage on her parents' car before she turned 20 than in the following 20 years. Now I live just outside of Amsterdam and own four of those 18 million bicycles.

I have a bike for the city, which I leave parked by the bus stop so that I can get around Amsterdam. I have a regular bike here at home that I use for quick zips around town. There's a cargo bike for family outings. And I still use my old L.L. Bean cycle, purchased over 20 years ago, for the occasional long-distance ride.

I've never tallied up my total kilometers biked over the last 15 years, but a rough calculation has me nearing 30,000 km. That's like biking across Canada six times - and I've driven it only once.

My cargo bike is built for six. It seats four children in the front, one on the back, and me. If it's not full of kids, it's full of groceries, school bags, other bikes, beehives - my husband's hobby - and the occasional borrowed chair or table for

a party. Every day, I get up, have breakfast, and take my kids to school and head to work on this bike - every day, rain or shine, snow or sleet, wind or wind. There is a lot of wind where I live.

I was working in Amsterdam when I met my husband, who is Dutch. I've stayed, however, not only because of the marriage or the weather or the drug laws. It's the biking and the lifestyle that comes with it. Before living here, I biked around the block as a tyke, and occasionally to school. Now I have the Dutch mindset: use a bike where you can, when you can. I never think about using the car. Rather, I think about which of my four bikes I need to pull out.

The Dutch government has made it easy by providing the infrastructure needed for safe and efficient cycling. Creating bike paths and lanes is important, but a lot of other components make it into an ecosystem: bike signage, bike traffic lights, bike repair shops, bike-purchase tax breaks, and bike right of way, as well as a well-designed bike parking system.

This is further enhanced by the diversity of types of bikes and the accessories designed for them. Some bikes, like my cargo one, carry kids and groceries. There are clip-ons for baby buggies or dog leashes, and crates in the front and bags on the back for extra carrying space. Add some good old-fashioned tie wraps on the tires in the winter, and you're ready for biking in the snow.

There are taxi bikes, foldable-portable bikes the size of a small suitcase for use with public transport, cargo bikes with two or three wheels, kid bikes, speed bikes, back-break bikes, and the list continues. Electric bikes are gaining market share by enabling the elderly and others to cycle while using the extra support of the bike generator. There is, quite literally, a bike for every occasion.

This becomes clear in another remarkable number: over a quarter of all trips in this country are made by bike, with up to 59 percent of them within cities. The national daily biking average is 2.6 km, and that number includes trips by kids and the elderly. Denmark follows, with a 1.6 km average, and the United States lags at 0.1 km. The percentage of the elderly still using bikes for daily trips is 24 percent, double that of Germans and Danes.

Some cities have free bikes; others work with companies that charge for use, as with car sharing. These systems place bikes or bike parking near stations or end points in their public transport infrastructure and encourage people to bike as a component of a commute, taking kids to school, or running errands.

This innovation began in Amsterdam back in 1965. The city had made free bikes available for anyone to use. Although it wasn't a huge success here, it did lay the groundwork for other cities to embrace and develop their own bike-sharing systems.

The happy lifestyle of the Dutch is well known and much envied. Biking is clearly a part of it. When I bike, I arrive at my destination already feeling good. I have avoided the stress of sitting in a traffic jam and can park anywhere. Imagine spreading those feelings around an entire population.

Sometimes it's a challenging workout, with wind, hills, rain, or a full load, so I bike a little slower. And sometimes I would rather take the car. But I don't. It's my policy: I do it for me, and I want my kids to understand that, when possible, it's better for everyone if we bike.

(The Tribune)

1 What is the writer's objective in the second paragraph?

A She wants to highlight the difference between two divergent cultures.
B She would like to encourage people to ride bicycles.
C She wants to impress us with her driving record.
D She would like to dissuade people from driving.

2 Why does the writer focus on one particular bicycle in the fifth paragraph?

A She wants to illustrate its value on windy days.
B She would like to demonstrate how she occasionally uses it.
C She intends to showcase its versatility.
D She wants to highlight its safety features when transporting children.

3 Why did the writer choose to stay in Amsterdam?

A She became enamoured with the Dutch countryside.
B She benefits from the relaxed drug laws.
C The weather was agreeable to her.
D She admires the Dutch way of living.

4 What does the writer credit for the success of the Dutch cycling system?

A The policies and programs of the authorities make biking convenient.
B The courteousness of Dutch drivers.
C The strictness of the Dutch police.
D The extensive network of security cameras.

5 Why does the writer imply that electric bicycles are increasing in popularity?

A They are useful for all occasions.
B Markets prefer people to share electric bikes.
C Electric bikes are supported by industry.
D Electric bikes are preferred by a population that is growing older.

II. You recently downloaded an app for ordering taxis through your smartphone. The company is asking its users to write a review for their website. They are keen for the reviews to cover details about the app's features, its ease of use and convenience, and how it compares to traditional taxi services or other taxi apps. Include a recommendation as to who would benefit most from the app. Write your review in 180-200 words.

(45 points)