INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR JUDEȚEAN PRAHOVA

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBĂ ENGLEZĂ - ETAPA LOCALĂ
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CLASA a XI-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. Put the verbs in brackets into a suitable tense/ form: 10x1p = 10p

If someone (1)…….(tell) me a decade ago that I would be living in a remote cabin in the Arctic, I (2)…….(laugh) in their face. At that time, I was a dedicated city dweller, someone who (3)…….(be accustomed) to the constant hum of traffic and the neon glow of street lights.
By the time I turn forty next year, I (4)…….(spend) exactly five years in this frozen wilderness. Little I (5)…….(know) when I first arrived that the silence would be so deafening. Had I realised how harsh the winters were , I (6)…….(not/embark) on this journey in the first place.
However, despite the isolation, I don't regret my choice. It is high time people (7)…….(realise) that the pace of modern life is unsustainable. I often find myself wishing that more people (8)…….(have) the courage to disconnect. Recently, I (9)…….(work) on a memoir about my experiences, which I hope (10)…….(publish) by the end of the winter.

II. Use the word given in capital letters to form a word that fits in each space: 10x1p=10p

The Evolution of Modern Communication
The digital revolution has (1)…….altered the way we interact with one another. While some argue that technology has led to the (2)…….of social bonds, others believe it has fostered a new sense of global (3)……..
In the past, long-distance communication was often(4)……. and slow. However, the (5)……. of high-speed internet has made instant messaging (6)…… for both personal and professional life.
Despite the (7)……benefits of being constantly connected, there is a growing concern regarding digital fatigue.
Many people find it (8) ……. difficult to "unplug". This constant state of (9)…….to respond to notifications can lead to high levels of stress. Therefore, finding a balance is (10)…….for our long-term mental well-being.

1. DRAMATIC; 2. WEAK; 3. TOGETHER; 4. RELY; 5. EMERGE; 6. DISPENSE; 7. DENY; 8. INCREASE; 9. READY; 10. CRITIC

III. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D: 10x1p = 10p

1. If he _____ more attention to the signs, he _____ lost in the middle of the city yesterday.
   A) paid / wouldn't get B) had paid / wouldn't have got C) has paid / shouldn't have got D) would pay / hadn't got
2. The manager suggested that the meeting_____ postponed because the report _____ yet.
   A) be / hadn't been finished B) is / won't be finished C) was / hasn't finished D) being / isn't finished
3. She told me that she _____ for two hours and that her feet _____ terribly.
   A) is walking / hurt B) had been walking /were hurting C) has walked /have hurt D) walks/hurt
4. Hardly _____ the room _____ the phone started ringing.
   A) I entered /than B) had I entered/ when C) did I enter / then D) have I entered / that
5. I wish I _____, to her advice yesterday; I _____ in this mess now.
   A) listened / won't be B) would listen / wouldn't have been C) had listened / wouldn't be D) listen / am not
6. You _____ bring an umbrella; the weather forecast said it _____ definitely be sunny.
   A) mustn't / should B)needn't / would C) can't / might D)shouldn't / shall
7. The scientist_____ argued that the results _____interpreted with caution.
   A) convincingly /must be B) hardly/should be C) eventually/can have been D) utterly/might have
8. He is _____person I've ever met, and he _____speaks about himself.
   A) the most selfish/seldom B) more selfish/rarely C) the selfish/ always D)selfish/ never
9. We stopped _____the map because we couldn't help _____ that we were completely lost.
   A) reading /to feel B) to read /feeling C) reading / feeling D) to read / to feel

10. I've _____ to see anyone who can dance as well as Diana.
    A) never B) yet C) always D) seldom

IV. Read the text below and think of one word which best fits in each gap. Use only *one word* in each gap: 10x1p=10p

Although the numbers of elderly and disabled people are rising, the support provided by the state has not increased. (1)…….to a recent report by a leading charity, very (2)…….of them are in fact cared (3)…….in institutions, and the vast majority depend almost entirely (4) ……. family and friends. This allows the elderly and disabled to (5)…….a much better quality of life than they might (6)…….have, and the fact that this army of workers is unpaid also (7)…….that the state is relieved of a considerable burden. However, it is (8)…….noting that there is a hidden cost to society on (9)…….of the fact that these carers are prevented from (10)…….part in any economic activity outside the home.

SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits according to the text: 5x1p = 5p

The Rise of the "Green" Urban Spaces

In the last decade, urban planning has undergone a radical transformation. Cities like Copenhagen, Singapore, and Medellin have become pioneers in integrating nature into the concrete jungle. This shift isn't merely aesthetic; it is a calculated response to the escalating climate crisis. Urban ''heat islands'' - areas where concrete and asphalt absorb and irradiate heat - can make cities several degrees warmer than surrounding rural areas. By planting rooftop gardens and creating ''vertical forests'', city planners are effectively lowering local temperatures and reducing the energy demand for air conditioning.

However, the implementation of these green initiatives is not without its critics. Some urban sociologists argue that ''green gentrification'' is a growing concern. As neighbourhoods become more ecologically attractive, property values skyrocket, often displacing the long-term, lower-income residents who were supposed to benefit from the improved air quality and recreational spaces. In London, for instance, the development of luxury green complexes has faced backlash for prioritising wealthy investors over community-driven parks.

Despite these social challenges, the environmental benefits are quantifiable. Beyond temperature control, urban greenery plays a crucial role in biodiversity. Native bird species and essential pollinators like bees are returning to city centres where they hadn't been seen for decades.

The success of these projects depends on a delicate balance: city councils must find a way to prioritise environmental sustainability without sacrificing social equity.

1. What is the primary reason for the recent change in urban planning mentioned in the text?
   A. To make cities look more modern for tourists .
   B. To counteract the effects of the climate crisis.
   C. To increase the number of luxury housing complexes.
   D. To follow a new trend started by urban sociologists.

2. What are ''urban heat islands''?
   A. Tropical islands that are becoming highly urbanised .
   B. Parks that are specifically designed to trap heat.
   C. City areas that are significantly hotter due to building materials.
   D. Rural areas that have been turned into concrete jungles.

3. According to the text, what is a negative consequence of ''green gentrification''?
   A. A decrease in the overall air quality of the city.
   B. The return of dangerous wild animals to urban centres .
   C. Rising energy demands for cooling the buildings.
   D. The forced relocation of residents due to the higher costs.

4. The example of London is used to illustrate:
   A. The world's most successful vertical forest project.
   B. The conflict between private investment and public benefit.
   C. A city that has successfully avoided green gentrification.
   D. How bees and birds have improved the city's ecosystem.

5. What is the author's conclusion regarding green cities?
   A. They are a failed experiment due to social inequality.
   B. They should focus exclusively on biodiversity, not people .
   C. They require a strategy that balances ecology with social fairness.
   D. They are only effective in wealthy cities like Singapore and Copenhagen.

II. You have recently participated in a local community project aimed at ''greening'' your neighbourhood (planting trees, creating a small community garden, or installing recycling bins). Your school magazine has asked you to write a report on the activity. You should:

- describe the main activities that were carried out
- evaluate the impact the project had on the local community
- suggest further activities that could improve the area in the future

Write your report. (220-250 words) **45 p**