INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR JUDEȚEAN PRAHOVA

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ - 28 FEBRUARIE 2026
CLASA a VIII - a

VARIANTA 1
Notă: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Timp de lucru 2 ore. Se acorda 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL I

Read the text and choose the correct answer. **(5 X 5p = 25 points)**

The Rise of Urban Gardening

In recent years, urban gardening has gained tremendous popularity in cities worldwide. Apartment dwellers and people without large gardens are finding inventive ways to cultivate fruits, vegetables and even herbs. Rooftops, balconies and small indoor spaces are increasingly being transformed into green oases. Urban gardening is not just about growing food—it also fosters stronger communities and promotes wellbeing.

One main reason for this trend is the desire for fresh, chemical-free produce. Many city residents worry about pesticides and the environmental cost of transporting supermarket goods. By growing their own food, they can ensure freshness and quality. Gardening also encourages consumption of seasonal vegetables, which are often tastier and more nutritious.

The environmental benefits are significant. Plants absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen and help mitigate the "urban heat island" effect, where city areas become hotter than their surroundings. Local production reduces the need for transportation, lowering fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Socially, community gardens connect neighbours from diverse backgrounds. People exchange advice, tools and experiences, creating a sense of belonging. Schools increasingly use gardening programs to teach children responsibility, teamwork and respect for nature.

Despite the advantages, urban gardening faces obstacles. Limited sunlight, space restrictions and municipal regulations can complicate efforts. However, innovative solutions such as vertical gardens, hydroponics and container planting are helping to overcome these challenges. As urban areas continue to grow, gardening may play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable, livable cities.

1. Why are city residents increasingly interested in urban gardening?

A. To compete with farmers
B. To sell homegrown food
C. To ensure fresh and chemical-free produce
D. Because imported products are expensive

2. What is meant by the "urban heat island" effect?

A. Cities with more islands than rural areas
B. Higher temperatures in cities compared to surrounding regions
C. Heat generated only by factories
D. More public parks in cities

3. How do community gardens influence social life?

A. They promote cooperation and knowledge-sharing

B. They encourage independent work only

C. They replace school programs

D. They create divisions among neighbors

4. Which solutions are mentioned for overcoming urban gardening challenges?

A. Moving gardens to rural areas

B. Importing vegetables from abroad

C. Limiting city population

D. Using vertical gardens and hydroponics

5. Which statement best summarizes the last paragraph?

A. Urban gardening is a short-term trend.

B. Its benefits outweigh its obstacles, especially with new technologies.

C. Only wealthy neighborhoods can benefit.

D. Gardening has more social than environmental impact.

SUBIECTUL II

Read the text below and decide which answer best fits each gap. **(10 X 2p = 20 points)**

Last weekend, I went on a short trip to the countryside to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. The scenery was absolutely **1.** _____, with rolling hills and clear rivers stretching as far as the eye could see. I decided to take a long walk along a trail that was marked on the map, but soon I realised that I had underestimated the **2.** _____ of the hike. It turned out to be much steeper than I expected and I had to stop several times to catch my **3.** _____ .

Despite the physical challenge, I felt a strong sense of **4.** _____ as I reached the top and looked at the view. Nature has a way of making us appreciate the **5.** _____ moments in life. On the way back, I noticed a small café near the village, which seemed very **6.** _____ to tourists. I went inside and ordered a hot drink. The café owner was incredibly **7.** _____ and shared interesting stories about the local traditions.

By the end of the day, I realized that this trip had been more than just a physical journey—it was also an opportunity to **8.** _____ my perspective on life. Sometimes, stepping away from the usual routine can help you feel more curious and **9.** _____. I left feeling inspired and determined to make a few positive **10.** _____ in my daily habits.

1. A tedious	B polluted	C breathtaking	D ordinary
2. A ease	B difficulty	C simplicity	D laziness
3. A courage	B energy	C breath	D pace
4. A disappointment	B satisfaction	C anxiety	D confusion
5. A meaningful	B useless	C trivial	D insignificant

6.	A unfamiliar	B welcoming	C dangerous	D irrelevant
7.	A impatient	B rude	C indifferent	D hospitable
8.	A narrow	B broaden	C ignore	D complicate
9.	A stressed	B careless	C tense	D open-minded
10.	A improvements	B mistakes	C challenges	D regrets

SUBIECTUL III

Use the word given in capitals at the end of the sentence to form a word that fits in the gap. (5 X 2p = 10 points)

1. The witness gave a completely inconsistent statement, which made the jury doubt his _____. (CREDIBLE)
2. She gave an _____ presentation that failed to capture the audience's attention. (INTEREST)
3. The government announced new measures to tackle the difficult matter of youth _____. (EMPLOY)
4. During his _____from the town, everything seemed to have changed. (ABSENT)
5. She handled the negotiation with great _____ and diplomacy. (CONFIDENT)

SUBIECTUL IV

Rewrite these sentences correctly. (10 points)

1. It is three weeks since Ann has bought that large red SUV.
2. She read the book silent and didn't notice me entering the room.
3. He says the guests will have left by the time you will get there.
4. I'm looking forward to see you at the party next week.
5. I prefer reading books than watching movies in my free time.

SUBIECTUL V

In 150 – 180 words, write a story ending with the following sentence: *"Then I realised why my so-called best buddy had been ridiculing everything I did—and with that bitter understanding, I knew our friendship was over." Give your story a suitable title.*

(25 points)