**INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR JUDEȚEAN PRAHOVA**

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ - ETAPA LOCALĂ**
**28.02.2026**
**CLASA a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA A**

**VARIANTA 1**

**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 the correct form to complete the letter below: (10x 1 p=10 points)**

A night out
1 ……. (you ever feel) that birthdays were more fun when you were a kid?
I certainly 2 ……. (do) on my 18th birthday as I 3 …… (sit) at home and watched TV. Sure, people 4 ……. (give) me nice presents, but somehow the old excitement 5 ……. (miss). Then, to my surprise, the doorbell 6 ……. (ring).
The moment I 7 ……. (open) the door and 8 ……. (see) my friends standing there my mood changed. "We 9 ……. (take) you downtown!", they said, laughing. You can imagine how delighted I was!
I quickly got ready and I knew it 10 …… (be) a great evening!

**II. Use the word given in capital letters to form a word that fits in each space: (10 x 1 p= 10 points)**

Teleworking

An (0) ...increasing... number of people nowadays are choosing to work from the (1) ……. environment of their own homes rather than undergo the (2) ……. process of travelling to work every day. The emergence of teleworking, as it is commonly called, is due to the (3) ……. use of computers in the workplace. Working conditions at home are more relaxed and can actually be timed to suit oneself. There is no (4) ……. need to get to the office on time, no (5) ……. caused by the rush-hour traffic as with (6) ……., and it isn't necessary to face (7) ……. colleagues on a (8) ……. basis. However, there is a negative side. For example, some people might suffer from (9) ……. if they spend all day at home, or they might feel the (10) ……. to spend time doing other jobs around the house.

0. INCREASE; 1. COMFORT; 2. TROUBLE; 3. EXTEND; 4. STRESS; 5. FRUSTRATE; 6. COMMUTE; 7. PLEASANT; 8.DAY

9. BORE; 10. TEMPT.

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

There has been no space for new buildings in Central London …… (1) many years now. In fact, this was a problem that city planners had to …… (2) with as long as 19th century. They decided that the only way …… (3) expand was to go down. So they dug. Recent construction work in the heart of London has uncovered a lot of London's underground past. Workers found a hidden world …… (4) Roman times.
On …… (5) recent development, construction workers unearthed the old High Street of Roman London, …… (6) follows exactly the line of today's main roads in the City of London. There are even secrets …… (7) the River Thames, which has around 30 tunnels beneath. The first of these …… (8) built by Marc Brunel back in the 1800s. It was …… (9) difficult job, and it took …… (10) and his men 15 years to finish.

**IV. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the word given in brackets. You must use between two and five words. Do not change the word given. (5 x 2 p= 10 points)**

1. They cannot do all that work in a single day. (**capable**)
   They ……. all that work in a single day.
2. How long has she been a chef? (**become)**

When ……..…... chef?

3. You won't be forced to buy anything there. **(make)**
   Nobody……. anything there.
4. Unfortunately, Tim can't be a pilot because of his eyesight. (**were)**
   If Tim's eyesight …… a pilot.
5. The actors have never met before. (**seen)**
   The actors …… before.

**SUBIECTUL B - INTEGRATED SKILLS 50 points**

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

***Active Villagers***

Residents of a small Welsh-speaking community in the UK have clubbed together to buy the post office and shop, ten years after buying the café. The people of Llithfaen were determined to prevent their village losing its focal point. Ten years ago they paid £40,000 for the café, called the Victoria, and now they have helped to keep the shop open. Most of the cost, £19,500, was met by the local council and a European Union grant, but the villagers needed to raise a further £6,000 to buy the shop from the owner who is retiring.

John Jones, chairman of the community committee, said: "We went around every house and came back with £500 more than we needed. The post office and the café are essential to the life of the village. There are no other amenities. We were not prepared to stand by and let the heart and soul be ripped out of our community. No one else was going to help us so we decided to buy them ourselves." Llithfaen had a population of 600 but that halved when nearby granite quarries were closed. The primary school was shut because of the population decline but the locals turned it into a leisure centre and youth club.

The shop has been leased to Ffion Medi Llywelyn, 24, who lives in the village with her husband, Dillon. She said: "There is a wonderful community spirit here." The couple plan to modernize the shop and extend its range of goods to attract both residents and visitors from nearby towns. They also hope to sell locally produced crafts and organic food, supporting small-scale Welsh producers. Ffion believes that by combining traditional rural values with modern services, the shop can become not only a business but a symbol of hope and resilience for the people of Llithfaen.

Over the past decade, Llithfaen has become an example of how small communities can survive despite economic decline. When larger towns attract businesses and young families, many rural areas struggle to keep their shops and public spaces open. Yet Llithfaen's villagers have shown that cooperation and determination can keep local life thriving. Thanks to their effort, the post office, café, and leisure centre now provide vital meeting points, especially for elderly residents and children, helping prevent isolation and preserving the Welsh language in everyday life.

The success of Llithfaen's community initiatives has inspired other villages in Wales to take similar action. Local councillors say that community ownership projects like this one foster pride and self-reliance. For Llithfaen, what started as a small attempt to save a café has grown into a movement that keeps the village's identity alive, proving that even in the smallest corners of the country, collective effort can make a lasting difference.

1. Why did the villagers decide to buy the post office and the shop?

A) They wanted to turn it into a museum.

B) They feared losing the heart of their community.

C) They were encouraged by the EU to do so.

D) The previous owner gave it to them for free.

2. How much money did the villagers themselves need to raise to buy the shop?

A) £19,500

B) £40,000

C) £6,000

D) £500

3. What did the villagers turn the closed primary school into?
A) A small factory
B) A library
C) A leisure centre and youth club
D) A restaurant

4. What is Ffion Medi Llywelyn planning to do with the shop?
A) Sell it to a chain supermarket
B) Close it to focus on her family
C) Transform it into a postal museum
D) Modernize it and support local producers

5. What overall message does the story of Llithfaen convey?
A) Community cooperation can preserve local identity.
B) Economic decline is inevitable for small villages.
C) Only government funding can save rural life.
D) Villagers should move to larger towns for better opportunities.

**II. You have just read the newspaper article above and you are impressed by the initiative of the villagers in Llithfaen, Wales. Next, they are looking for help with an advertising campaign over social media to promote their shop and local products so that more visitors come to the village.**

*Communication specialist needed*

*The Active Villagers are looking for a communication specialist over social media networks to design a campaign to promote our village and initiative with the shop and local products. We are looking for serious, friendly, respectful students, with good language command, digital skills and a creative spark. We need students to contribute in designing the campaign, promote our village shop and local products over social media and keep in touch with people who show interest in us.*

*If you consider yourself suitable for the position, apply now!*

**Write your letter of application. (120-180 words)** **(45 points)**