OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ, ETAPA LOCALĂ
28 FEBRUARIE 2026
CLASA a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA B

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 Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. 20 points

Until relatively recent times, historians chose to record events that **had a bearing on** the development of their own society, or on the society they decided to study. As a result, many people treated political history as history itself.

Over the last century, historians expanded the scope of historical writing. They included constitutional, economic, local, and social history. Research standards also became more exact. Historians responded by creating fields and time periods that made research easier to manage. This **delineation** of topics helped historians organise evidence and compare sources. It also pushed them to narrow their focus.

In theory, history covers the whole range of past human actions. In practice, historians select a subject and impose a chronological framework. These choices lead many historians to reject large areas of human activity. They do this when sources remain limited, or when the topic offers little benefit for serious research. One professor summed up this view by saying that darkness is not a subject for history. Voltaire made a similar point when he asked what benefit the public gains from learning that one barbarian replaced another in the same remote place.

This focus has also tended to make historians Eurocentric. Europe has strongly affected the rest of the world over the last five centuries, through politics, trade, and culture. Historians therefore often treat European development as a key reference point. Societies that left no written record often fall under prehistory, or they become the province of the anthropologist.

The civilisations of Egypt and Mesopotamia can be studied more or less in isolation because they developed early written systems and state structures in their own regions, and historians can analyse them mainly through their internal records. Greece and Rome, in contrast, had a more direct bearing on later Europe, so historians link them more closely to European history. The question is whether this delineation of history limits connections between periods, thus **hindering** historians in their attempts to shed light on our own times.

A. Answer the following questions. 8 points

1. What has influenced most historical writers' choice of subject?
2. According to the text, what factors contributed to the rejection of large areas of human activity by historians?
3. Why have historians tended to become Eurocentric?
4. What kind of evidence allows historians to reconstruct Egypt and Mesopotamia without depending mainly on later European links?

B. Choose the right synonym. 6 points

1. **had a bearing on** a. impacted b. were tangential to c. were preceded by d. were identical to
2. **delineation** a. classification b. chronology c. delimitation d. framework
3. **hindering** a. encouraging b. enabling c. impeding d. prompting

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning: 6 points

1. Historians ought to broaden their focus beyond a Eurocentric view, or they will fail to draw links between periods.
Historians had…….in drawing links between periods.
2. It is believed that historians were more preoccupied with studying civilisations which had more influence on European society.
Historians…….. with studying civilisations which had more influence on European society.
3. Historians regret having ignored societies which left no written record.
Historians wish…….no written record.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. 10 points

Wind farms are an (**1. INCREASE**) common sight around the world. Onshore wind farms are built in areas which are (**2. SPECIAL**) windy, such as hillsides. They represent one of the most effective ways of producing (**3. RENEW**) energy. 75 percent less expensive than solar power, and even slightly cheaper than nuclear power, onshore wind is also a winner as far as cost (**4. EFFICIENT**) is

concerned. There are, however, problems associated with wind farms. One of them is the notorious (**5. RELY**) of their source of energy - the wind - which does not always blow. (**6. ADD**), they can have a negative impact on the surrounding countryside, and sometimes produce noise. This has led to protests by local (**7. RESIDE**). One way of avoiding these problems is to build the wind farms offshore - in the middle of the sea - where the wind blows more constantly. The countryside is left completely (**8. SPOIL**), and there's nobody to complain. The trouble is, building huge wind farms miles out at sea is (**9. SURPRISE**) expensive, and once built, repair and (**10. MAINTAIN**) is also costly.

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap.
10 points

About a century ago, the English science- fiction writer H.G. Wells said, 'When I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair of the human race'. In the years since the Industrial Revolution, the world has seen an explosion of technical inventiveness, but none has had (**1**)_____ an exclusively positive effect as the bicycle. Nearly every modern invention has its downside (**2**)_____ from the bicycle. The car pollutes our cities, the TV spreads fake news, the computer shortens our attention span, etc. But, (**3**)_____ or not you are a cyclist yourself, it is difficult to come up with a single drawback of this18th-century invention. As far as energy consumption is concerned, it is a more efficient method of travel than walking. Needless to (**4**)_____ , the car is way behind in this respect. A litre of petrol will drive you about 16 km, whereas if you use the energy equivalent of that litre to pedal a bicycle, you will travel over 1,000 km, as (**5**)_____ as you are fit enough!

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

Hungry pop stars

Valerie Jones runs a company called Peanuts whose jobt is to look after pop stars and pop groups when they go on tour. She is the person who feeds the stars and she's been doing it for the past ten years.

When the stars are playing at a festival Valerie may have to cook for up to a thousand people which includes all the crew and the people who work backstage. She erects a marquee – a huge tent – and the food is served buffet style from a central serving area. She has to cater for different tastes, so there are normally four or more choices of menu. She also has to look after people who may be on a special diet or some singers who don't eat dairy food before a concert.

She drives an enormous truck full of kitchen equipment and hires at least three walk-in refrigerators, a dishwashing unit and portable cabins which act as storerooms and office.

All the bands have to queue up to be served and everyone has to have a meal ticket. The stars are usually more relaxed when they are eating as no one is bothering them for autographs, although Valerie says that sometimes the security men and the stars' managers are more trouble than the stars themselves.

There are certain things which she always has to keep in stock like herbal teas and her own particular mixture of honey, lemon and ginger which singers like to keep in flasks on stage with them when they're singing. Years ago, bands used to drink quite a lot of alcohol, but these days they're much healthier. Most bands drink fresh fruit juice and prefer to eat salads.

A lot of people in the bands are quite young and they're not used to very expensive food, so Valerie prepares plain food unless a band sends her a 'rider'. This is a list of special requirements. When people are tired, unwell or homesick they like to have familiar 'comfort' food, so she keeps a stock of people's requirements just in case. As a result of all this, Valerie says she has become an expert shopper and in less than an hour in a supermarket she can spend £1000.

I. For each question choose the correct letter A, B, C or D. **(5x1p= 5p)**

1. Valerie has to provide a range of food because
A people are very fussy about what they eat.
B people are used to eating in restaurants.
C there is such a wide variety of preferences.
D there is such a demand for special menus.

2. The singers are less nervous when they are eating because
A their security men are with them.
B there are no fans hanging around.
C their managers fuss over them.
D the bands enjoy eating together.

3. Why does Valerie have to keep a supply of certain drinks?

A The bands rely on a special recipe.
B The bands prefer herbal tea to coffee.
C The bands take fruit juice on stage.
D The bands like to drink alcohol.

4. What do most bands like best to eat?

A rich food
B cheap food
C junk food
D simple food

5. Why do you think Valerie has become an 'expert shopper'?

A She has a lot of money to spend each week.
B She has learnt to find what individuals want.
C She has to buy as much as possible for £1000.
D She has to shop very quickly in a supermarket.

II. A travel website is creating a new section to promote exciting local festivals to international tourists. They are looking for engaging reviews that describe the atmosphere, cultural significance, and tourist appeal of such events. You have been asked to write a review (200–220 words) of a regional festival in your country. (**45 points)**