INSPECTORATUL ŞCOLAR JUDEŢEAN COVASNA

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

ETAPA LOCALĂ

CLASA a X-a, secțiunea A

31 ianuarie 2026

Timp de lucru: 3 ore
Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se iau în considerare decât subiectele rezolvate pe foaia de concurs.
Total: 100 de puncte
Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and think of ONE word which best fits each gap. (10 x 1p = 10p)

How to photograph fish

My hobby is photographing fish, and I always start my day early because that's when the fish begin **1.** _____ search for their food. I walk along the river bank to see **2.** _____ I can spot – I wear sunglasses which makes **3.** _____ easier for me to see, any movement in the water. I've also bought a special lens for my camera, which **4.** _____ the same job as the sunglasses, so I can take quite good photos without getting wet.

However, to be close **5.** _____ to the fish to take really good photographs, I do **6.** _____ to get into the water. Fish can be curious and, as **7.** _____ as I keep very still, **8.** _____ of them will come right up to me. But after **9.** _____ while, I usually find my fingers are too cold to operate the camera! Once out of the water, I rush home to see **10.** _____ well my shots have turned out.

II. Read the text below. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap. (10p)

According to some psychologists, our **1.** _____ **(ABLE)** to remember things is being negatively affected by our constant use of electronic devices. Researchers claim that these devices have almost become an **2.** _____ **(EXTEND)** of our brains and that relying too **3.** _____ **(HEAVY)** on them could possibly be **4.** _____ **(HARM)** to us, because it can prevent the **5.** _____ **(DEVELOP)** of long-term memories. They say that the process of recalling information can **6.** _____ **(STRONG)** these memories, while at the same time allowing our brains to forget other information that we no longer need. And getting rid of this **7.** _____ **(RELEVANT)** information then makes room in our brains for the storage of new facts and memories.

Although there is a **8.** _____ **(TEMPT)** not to learn new facts, because we can always find any information we need online, there is **9.** _____ **(EVIDENT)** that information obtained so easily is very quickly forgotten. On the other hand, human brains are very good at

adapting, and after all, it would be **10.** _____ **(REASON)** to expect people to ignore all the technology available nowadays.

II. Read the text below and decide which of the four words (A, B, C or D) best fits each space. (10 points)

Lighthouse of the Mediterranean

Just to the north of the island of Sicily **1.** ___ the tiny island of Stromboli, which is dominated by and named after Mount Stromboli, one of Italy's three **2.** ___ volcanoes. The name is connected to the Greek word for 'round', and in shape the volcano is almost a perfect cone that rises to 926 metres above sea **3.** ___. The last serious eruption of the volcano occurred in 1921, but there have been continuous minor volcanic **4.** ___ for the past 2,000-5,000 years. **5.** ___ the dangers, people have lived on the island more or less continually for the same period of time. However, the population has **6.** ___ in recent years, and today inhabitants number in the hundreds. In ancient times, it was believed to be the **7.** ___ that the Keeper of the Winds, Aeolus, called home. It was there that he gave Odysseus a **8.** ___ wind to take him back to Ithaka. He also appears in the *Aeneid* by Virgil. Whatever the legend, in those times it also had a practical **9.** ___: the smoke rising from its peak **10.** ___ be seen from so far away that sailors used it to guide their ships, giving it its nickname "Lighthouse of the Mediterranean".

1. A lies	B exists	C rests	D sights
2. A lively	B active	C alive	D energetic
3. A height	B quantity	C level	D amount
4. A happenings	B situations	C events	D moments
5. A Though	B Despite	C Although	D Nevertheless
6. A reduced	B declined	C disappeared	D increased
7. A part	B site	C place	D position
8. A beneficial	B advantageous	C positive	D favourable
9. A reason	B cause	C purpose	D aim
10. A could	B can	C must	D had to

III. 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 two and five words, including the word given. (10 points)

1. "You ate all the ice cream again, Dave," said Angela. **ACCUSED**

Angela _____ all the ice cream again.

2. It's more than six months now since I saw Tom. **FOR**

I _____ more than six months.

3. Carla is not planning to study abroad. **INTENTION**

Carla _____ abroad.

4. I won't have a problem working alone as I do it all the time. **USED**

I _____, so I won't have a problem.

5. There will be a concert when the school year ends. **HELD**

A concert _____ the end of the school year.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. You are going to read an article about the benefits of team sports. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. (10 points)

The Benefits of Team Sports

Participating in team sports offers numerous benefits for teenagers and young adults. Sports such as football, basketball, volleyball, and hockey not only improve physical fitness, coordination, and endurance but also teach important life skills that go beyond the playing field. One of the key advantages of team sports is the development of communication and cooperation skills. Players must learn to work together, share responsibilities, and support each other, which helps build friendships and a sense of belonging.

Another benefit is the opportunity to develop leadership and decision-making skills. Team members often take turns leading exercises or making strategic choices during games, which encourages responsibility and confidence. Additionally, regular practice and competition teach discipline and time management, as players must balance schoolwork, social life, and training schedules.

Team sports also have a positive impact on mental health. Being physically active releases endorphins, which help reduce stress and improve mood. Playing in a supportive team environment can also increase self-esteem and motivate teenagers to set personal goals. Furthermore, facing both victories and defeats in a controlled environment helps young people develop resilience and learn how to handle challenges.

However, it is important that competition remains healthy. Coaches and parents should encourage participation and effort rather than focusing solely on winning. Excessive pressure can lead to anxiety, frustration, or burnout, which may negatively affect both physical and mental well-being. When managed responsibly, team sports provide an enjoyable way to stay active, make new friends, and acquire skills that are useful in everyday life.

In conclusion, team sports are not just about physical activity; they are an important tool for personal development. They promote teamwork, leadership, and discipline while improving mental and physical health. Encouraging teenagers to participate in team sports can help them grow into confident, responsible, and socially aware adults.

1. Which of the following best explains why team sports help develop social skills?

A) They force players to follow strict rules without interacting

B) They require players to communicate, cooperate, and support one another

C) They allow players to focus only on their own performance

D) They encourage competition rather than teamwork

2. How does participation in team sports contribute to personal resilience?

A) By teaching players to always win

B) By exposing players to both victories and defeats in a supportive environment

C) By minimizing challenges and avoiding stress

D) By ensuring players do not need to work in groups

3. What is implied about the role of coaches and parents in team sports?

A) Their main responsibility is to guarantee the team always wins

B) They should create a supportive environment and avoid excessive pressure

C) They are not important for teenagers' personal development

D) They should focus only on physical training

4. Why might leadership experiences in team sports be valuable outside of sports?

A) Because they prepare individuals to make decisions, take responsibility, and guide others

B) Because they allow players to dominate their peers

C) Because they eliminate the need for academic skills

D) Because they guarantee immediate success in life

5. Which statement best summarizes the author's overall view of team sports?

A) Team sports are primarily about physical activity and winning games

B) Team sports are a tool for developing mental, social, and physical skills when managed responsibly

C) Team sports are too stressful and should be limited for teenagers

D) Individual sports provide more benefits than team sports

II. Imagine you have participated in or watched a team sport recently. Write a review of the sport. Your review should include:

1. Name of the sport and where you played or watched it.

2. A brief description of the game or the experience (e.g., rules, team size, duration, or key moments).

3. What you liked and what you found challenging about the sport.

4. How participating or watching the sport helped you or others improve physical fitness, teamwork, communication, or mental health.

5. Would you recommend this sport to others? Why or why not?

Write your review in 160 - 200 words. (50 points)