INSPECTORATUL ŞCOLAR JUDEŢEAN COVASNA
OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ
CLASA a X-a, secţiunea B

Total: 100 de puncte
Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
Timp de lucru: 3 ore
Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)
I . Choose the correct word (A, B, C, or D) to complete each sentence. (10 points)

Brighton

This popular seaside resort on the south coast of England is so (1) .....to London it has sometimes been called 'London by the sea'. It is one of the United Kingdom's top ten beach destinations and was recently (2) .....the UK's Green Capital. Brighton has also always had a reputation (3).....being very stylish and fashionable and in particular 'funky'. It's a very cool place and has plenty to (4).....every kind of visitor.

Those interested in history or architecture should (5) ..... the Brighton Pavilion. Originally a farmhouse, the Pavilion was (6).....into an exotic seaside home for the Prince Regent, who later became King George IV, between 1815 and 1822. It's a beautiful mixture of Indian and classical architecture and is quite (7) ..... in style. For fantastic shopping you should (8) ..... an afternoon walking through the lanes; you'll find all sorts of unusual and interesting shops there. If you want fun and good food you should visit the famous Victorian pier. This stretches out over the sea and is (9) .....of life. There are amusement arcades, cafes and shops as well as places to try some very (10).....fish and chips. The beach front is also a busy place with more shops, cafes and stylish bars. There's plenty of nightlife too. Even the beach has made a name for itself as a great place for a party. There's just a wonderful holiday atmosphere.

1. A next	B close	C convenient	D easy
2. A chosen	B voted	C elected	D decided
3. A to	B for	C of	D with
4. A offer	B give	C suggest	D invite
5. A visit	B go	C look	D sightsee
6. A translated	B transferred	C altered	D transformed
7. A unique	B alone	C single	D solo
8. A pass	B have	C waste	D spend
9. A complete	B whole	C full	D plenty
10. A real	B authentic	C true	D genuine

II. Fill in the gaps with one suitable word. (10 points)

The Northern Lights

Surely one of the most amazing sights on Earth is the display of natural light in the night sky known (1)… the Northern Lights. It is something everyone should see (2)… least once in their life.

These lights, (3)… are mainly visible in the Arctic region, are caused when material from the sun reaches the Earth's magnetic field. On the (4)…, the most common colours are green and red, although sometimes blue or purple lights can be seen. They often look (5)… brightly coloured clouds dancing across the sky, in displays that can last several hours.

(6)… you want to observe the Northern Lights, it's best to get as close to the North Pole as possible during the winter, in (7)… of the extreme cold. Seeing the lights in the short Arctic summer is not really possible in view of the (8)… that they are only visible in darkness, and during the months (9)… the sun never sets there is daylight 24 hours a day. Weather conditions also (10)… a big difference.

III. Use the word given in brackets to create a word that best fits in each sentence Use CAPITAL LETTERS. (10 points)

Teenagers today grow up in a world where technology plays a central role in everyday life. Social media has a strong (1) _____(INFLUENTIAL) on how young people see themselves and others. As a result, some teenagers react (2) _____ (ANGRY) when they feel excluded or criticised online.

School life can also be extremely (3) _____(STRESS), especially during exam periods. Many teenagers struggle with stress and expect more (4) _____(INDEPENDENT) from their parents as they get older. At the same time, the use of digital platforms has (5) _____(INCREASE) dramatically in recent years, making it harder to switch off.

When expectations are too high, students may feel (6) _____(EXTREME) disappointed with their results, even when they have tried hard. Taking part in team sports or creative hobbies helps teenagers develop social (7) _____(SKILL) and make better decisions instead of acting (8) _____(CARE).

Online communication is not always as (9) _____(MEAN) as face-to-face contact, and parents sometimes (10) _____(ESTIMATE) how emotionally demanding teenage life can be.

IV. Complete the second sentence with TWO to FIVE words using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

1. Getting over a divorce can take some time. (**RECOVER**)
   It can take a while _____ a divorce.
2. I wanted to buy a brand-new iPhone, but the store didn't have any in stock. (**RUN**)
   The store _____ brand-new iPhones so I couldn't buy one.
3. It would be great if someone discovered a way to organise a test for all the classes. (**COME**)
   Someone should _____ a way to organise a test for all the classes.
4. Herbie drove a car for the first time this year. (**NEVER**)
   Herbie _____ a car before this year.
5. My brother was too young to travel on his own. (**ENOUGH**)
   My brother was _____ to travel on his own.
6. After his visit, we would all say good-bye to him at the airport. (**SEE**)
   After his visit, we would all _____ at the airport.
7. I do not understand the Maths homework the teacher gave us. **(FIGURE**)

I can't _____ do the Maths homework the teacher gave us.

8. The teacher has tolerated the student's behaviour for a long time. (**PUT**)
   The teacher has _____ the student's behaviour for a long time.
9. Did you discover who invented the computer? (**FIND**)
   Did you _____ of the computer was?
10. In the past, people spent their holidays with their relatives. (**USED**)
    In the past, people _____ their holidays with their relatives.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. Read the article below in which four people comment on a book they have read recently. For questions 1-10, choose from the people A-D. The people may be chosen more than once. (10 points)

A *Sundance by Teresa Wilson*

Kerry:

I really don't know why this book is so popular. I mean, I suppose it is going to appeal to young girls who want danger and romance, but I found this book really tedious. For a start, the characters were really unconvincing. The author went out of her way to add lots of details about the characters, but I found these details really pointless. I thought that some of the facts she presented about the main characters would become significant in some way later in the novel, but they didn't. They were just worthless bits of information. I also was disappointed that, although this book is meant to be about kids at high school, the writer seems to have no recollection at all about what it's like to be 17. The main character thought and acted like a 32-year old. It just wasn't believable. I'm not saying Teresa Wilson is a bad writer. She can obviously string words together and come up with a story that is appealing to a large number of people, but she lacks anything original. There is no flair. It just uses the same sort of language as you can see in many other mediocre novels.

B *Wild Ways by Margery Emerson*

Liz:

I have to say that I won't forget this book for a long time. I was hooked from the very first chapter. The devastating story affected me so much that I don't know if I'll ever feel the same again. I was close to tears on several occasions. I've got images in my brain now that I don't think will ever leave me. It's incredibly well-researched and, although it is fiction, is based on shocking real-life events. I learned an awful lot about things that went on that I never knew before. Margaret Emerson has a brilliant way with words and I really felt real empathy towards the characters, although I was sometimes irritated by the choices they made. However, the parallel story, the part that is set in the present, is not quite so good. I found myself just flicking through that part so that I could get back to 1940s Paris.

C *Orchid by Henry Rathbone*

Imogen:

This is a delightful novel full of wonderful imagery, a paints a remarkable picture of life in a distant time and a far-away place. If you're looking to learn about Eastern culture in great detail, then this

is probably not the book for you, as the writer skims over most of the more complicated aspects of the country's etiquette. The historical aspects are also not covered in much depth. However, I wonder whether this was the writer's intention. By doing this, he symbolise the superficiality of the girl's life. She, like the book, is beautiful and eager to please, but remains too distant from us, the readers, to teach us much. Although I loved the book and read it in one sitting, the ending was a bit of a disappointment. A story which involves so much turmoil, in a place where the future is uncertain, should not have a happy-ever-after fairy-tale ending.

D ***High Hills by Mary Holland***

Hannah:

I read this book for a literature class. I know it's a classic, and I did try to like it, but I just didn't get into it. I kept persevering, hoping that I'd start to enjoy it, but no such luck. The famous scene out on the moors was definitely the best bit of the book, but even that I found ridiculous when it is clearly supposed to be passionate. As I approached the end of the book, I figured there must be some kind of moral to the story, something that I would learn from the experience of trudging through seven hundred long pages, but there was nothing worthwhile. I don't know why the literary world sees this book as such a masterpiece. The characters are portrayed as being intelligent, but they do such stupid things! And as for it being a *love* story - marrying someone you don't love and then being abused by them - that doesn't spell love to me.

Who read a book which...

1. was set in an Oriental country?
2. finished in an unrealistic way?
3. had characters that the reader could sympathize with?
4. is well-known and was written a long time ago?
5. contained two stories?
6. was not set in the past?
7. was historically accurate?
8. made the reader cry?
9. contained insignificant details?
10. has a well-known scene?

II. Writing Task (40 points)

You have recently volunteered at your local book club’s event. The organizer has asked you to write a **report** about the event. You should present the activities and suggest further improvements for next year’s event.

Write your report in 180-220 words.