INSPECTORATUL ŞCOLAR JUDEŢEAN COVASNA
OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ
CLASA a XI-a, secțiunea A
31 ianuarie 2026

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 best option A, B, C or D. (10 x 1p= 10p)

Earthquakes are among the most destructive (1) _____ disasters. They usually occur without any (2) _____ warning and often result in (3) _____ of life and the collapse of buildings. In addition, earthquakes may cause (4) _____ landslides or create gigantic tidal waves. Such a disaster happened in 2004, when an earthquake (5) _____ the coast of Indonesia (6) _____ a massive tsunami that killed over 200,000 people.

Earthquakes (7) _____ mostly where the earth's tectonic plates meet. Massive amounts of energy are (8) _____ when two plates push towards, pull apart from or slide past each other. (9) _____ millions happen every year, there are only a small number that (10) _____ and very few that cause damage.

1	a.naturalistic	b.natural	c.nature	d.native
2	a.ahead	b.former	c.past	d.prior
3	a.cost	b.damage	c.harm	d.loss
4	a.devastating	b.overwhelming	c.disturbing	d.shocking
5	a.of	b.off	c.on	d.at
6	a.generated	b.set	c.triggered	d.activated
7	a.occur	b.are occurring	c.occurred	d.are occurred
8	a.emitted	b.loosened	c.escaped	d.released
9	a.Although	b.In spite of	c.However	d.Nevertheless
10	a.are being felt	b.should be felt	c.must be felt	d.can be felt

II. Read the following text and use ONE word to fill in each gap. (10 x 1p = 10p)

Some say you can do it in seven days, others promise success in 24 hours, or you may prefer to take **(1)** …..... time and do it in 5 weeks. What are we talking about? Believe it **(2)** …..... not, these periods **(3)** ….. time refer to language learning courses that promise excellent results in less time **(4)** …..... it takes to say 'Bonjour'!

However, the advertisements of these companies are not necessarily the best guide and if you don't know what to look **(5)** ..... in a good course, you could be left with little **(6)** …..... than a large bill. A complaint was recently made to a consumer rights group against Whizz Learn Systems, a language school chain, and the company has been forced to remove its claim that its technique is ten (7) …....better than any other method. The Managing Director of Whizz Learn Systems said **(8)**" ….. we still believe our claim is true, we are willing to change our advert. But the fact remains, if you spend three hours per day for five weeks on our language course you will soon be speaking the language. What we **(9)** ….. have done was to make **(10)** …..... clearer in the advert.″

III. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word in brackets. Do not change the given word. You must use between TWO and FIVE words for your answer. (10x 1p= 10p)

1. When I studied at university, I never had enough money. **SHORT**
When I studied at university, I _____.
2. The foundation has very little money left. **RUNNING**
The foundation _____ money.

3. Dad needs me if he wants to finish painting the house. **DEPENDS**
Dad _____ to finish painting the house.

4.Everyone came to the party apart from Cathy. **EXCEPTION**
Everyone came to the party _____ Cathy.

5.They are building some new apartments in the suburbs. **CONSTRUCTION**
New apartments _____ in the suburbs.

6.Jane regrets lending her new laptop to her neighbour. **WISHES**
Jane _____her new laptop to her neighbour.

7.I am sure the final score was a real disappointment for the losing team. **BEEN**
The losing team _____ about the score.

8.I think you should complain to your boss about this situation. **WOULD**
If I _____a complaint to my boss about this situation.

9. My desk-mate hadn't finished the work on his project when I called him. **STILL**
My desk-mate _____his project when I called him.

10. There was a long journey ahead of us, so we agreed upon an early departure. **OFF**
We decided _____there was a long journey ahead of us.

IV. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. (10x 1p= 10p)

El Niño and La Niña are climate patterns that represent some of the most common (1. OCCUR) across the tropical Pacific Ocean approximately every five years. The two (2. VARY) work in tandem and are responsible for ocean warming and, (3. RESPECT), cooling. But it is the warming effect of El Niño that has the greatest impact around the world. El Niño is (4. CHARACTER) by prolonged differences in ocean temperatures in comparison to the average value. This (5. NORMAL) occurs at intervals of three to seven years. The (6. RESULT) climate changes can have a devastating effect on developing countries dependent on (7. AGRICULTURE) produce or fishing for their economies. It is probably the cause of higher degrees of rainfall in parts of Africa, Australia and Northern Europe, while causing (8. CONSIDER) colder winters in parts of North America. Because of the increased rainfall, El Niño is linked to increases in the (9. TRANSMIT) of diseases caused by mosquitoes. (10. RESEARCH) have also found a link between El Niño and an increased risk of conflict.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS READING COMPREHENSION AND FUNCTIONAL WRITING (50 points)

I. READING. You are going to read an article about doing a degree course from home. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. (5x 2p=10p)

Distance learning

Distance learning can give students the chance to work and learn at the same time.

Nineteen-year-old Jamie Henderson hasn't had what you'd call a typical student experience. Despite wanting to read for a degree in Law, Jamie decided against the usual university route and instead opted to study from home. 'With course fees now so high in this country, I was really put off by all the debt I would have when I came out of university,' he says.

Having made this decision, Jamie was able to look into alternatives – which in the end turned out to be a degree validated by a university through a distance learning provider. 'It was a massive weight off my mind and it was a perfect option for me,' Jamie says. 'It has allowed me to stay near my friends and my family and still work part-time.'

Jamie has been able to take on two part-time jobs – alongside his studies – but has also been free to undertake work experience for a law firm, which has led to a full-time job offer before he has even completed his course.

Jonathan Smith, who is studying for a BA in Business, chose to study via a distance learning course when already in full-time employment. 'I'd studied History, Politics and Economics at school but going to university wasn't even a consideration for me,' he explains. 'My friends were at home, I didn't want to be burdened with debt and I wanted to get straight into a career.'

Jonathan completed a Business and Administration Apprenticeship with the local council. While working as a medical administrator, he studied for a diploma and after 12 months had valuable workplace experience. 'I'd done so well at work that they kept me on. But after six months getting settled into my new role, I was financially stable and ready to progress my career with a degree. I didn't want to give up what I'd achieved to go to university, so distance learning was an appealing choice.'

Obviously, one of the downsides to a distance learning course is that students miss out on the experience of attending university, which means missing out on traditional lectures. 'Reading feedback and instructions from a screen isn't quite the same as talking to someone face-to-face,' Jamie says. 'It's also a lot of work to do on your own. I don't have a close circle of friends going through the same thing, so I can't really ask my peers (*line 46*) for help and advice. However, I've found the online student forums helpful and the firm I've been working for have offered advice and guidance when I've needed it.'

'I haven't met as many new people as I would have, had I moved away,' says Jamie. 'But I have met new people through work instead. It's just a different type of experience, which is just as rewarding and ultimately, in my opinion, makes me more employable.'

For anyone considering a distance learning course, there are several other factors to be considered; perhaps most importantly, motivation. 'Distance learning isn't an easy option,' says Dr Philip Hallam, Chief Executive Officer of a distance and online learning provider. 'It's going to be a substantial commitment, not only financially but also on your time. We need to make sure that people have really thought it through and understand why they want a degree. You will need to dig deep occasionally.'

Jonathan Smith is confident in the choices he's made regarding education, but believes more could be done to make young people aware of the choices they have. 'When I left school with good qualifications, I was shocked at how little advice was available on options other than university. Everyone is different and education should reflect that. I'm glad I took the route I did and I think it is important that more people have the opportunity to study in a way that suits them.'

1 Why did Jamie decide to do his degree from home?
- **A** His friends were also studying by distance learning.
- **B** He had already been offered a full-time job.
- **C** He wanted to avoid owing a lot of money.
- **D** He was unable to obtain a place at university.

2 Jonathan's reason for studying from home was that
- **A** he wanted to remain in his job.
- **B** the job he was doing was badly paid.
- **C** his preferred subject wasn't available at university.
- **D** it was too late for him to apply to university.

3 Jamie says that studying from home has enabled him to
- **A** work with people who were also studying at the same time.
- **B** improve his chances of finding work in the future.
- **C** get to know more people than he would have done at university.
- **D** concentrate on studying rather than spend time socializing.

4 Dr Hallam recommends distance learning for students who
- **A** dislike having to work very hard.
- **B** have little time available for study.
- **C** cannot afford to go to university.
- **D** know exactly what it involves.

5 In the last paragraph, Jonathan says that young people should
- **A** be advised not to go to university.
- **B** be made more aware of the choices they have.
- **C** apply for work with employers like his.
- **D** ensure they get high grades at school.

II.WRITING – 40p

You are a member of the Student Council at your college. You recently helped organize the annual "*Future Pathways*" Career's Day. The event has just finished, and the College Principal has asked you to write a report assessing the event's success and suggesting improvements for next year. Write your report in 180-220 words.