INSPECTORATUL ŞCOLAR JUDEŢEAN COVASNA
OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ
CLASA a XII-a, secţiunea 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 I. – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I.1. Read the gapped text and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. (10x1p=10points)

Oxford University

Oxford University is a(n) (1)_____ of over 35 colleges, varying in terms of (2)_____ from medieval to more recent times. The colleges also vary in wealth, in character and in architecture. Some _____ (3) imposing buildings and grounds, (4)_____ are almost intimate in their scale. Most colleges can boast well-known former students – Oxford is the place where (5)_____ as diverse as Margaret Thatcher, Mrs Gandhi, Michael Palin and Evelyn Waugh were (6)_____. Most visitors will want to see a college and one or more of the University buildings, such as the Bodleian Library or the Ashmolean Museum.

The University has supported the (7)_____ of The Oxford Story Exhibition, in Broad Street – now recognized as the best short (8)_____ to Oxford University. Here, during an entertaining ride, through recreated (9)_____ and events, Magnus Magnusson offers an informed view of Oxford's past and present. Special materials for children and foreign (10)_____ commentaries are also available.

1.	A. hostel	B. whole	C. association	D. city
2.	A. date	B. create	C. manner	D. foundation
3.	A. live	B. reside	C. exist	D. occupy
4.	A. rest	B. else	C. those	D. others
5.	A. personalities	B. cartoons	C. caricatures	D. participants
6.	A. educated	B. risen	C. trained	D. raise
7.	A. discovery	B. creation	C. expectation	D. education
8.	A. history	B. beginning	C. introduction	D. past
9.	A. postcards	B. maps	C. paintings	D. scenes
10.	A. custom	B. currency	C. phrase	D. language

I.2. Fill in the gaps with ONLY ONE word which best fits each gap. (10x1p = 10p)

History from the sea

An ancient ship has (1)_____ discovered beneath the waters of the Mediterranean. The ship, (2)_____ sank off the coast of Tunisia more than 2,300 years ago, is already giving historians fresh insights (3)_____ trade and diet in the ancient world.

The remains of the ship (4)_____ found last August on the final day of an expedition undertaken (5)_____ American scientist Robin Asquith. Three of his team, (6)_____ were using a miniature submarine to explore the seabed, spotted rows of storage jars and some rotten wood. (7) _____ of the jars was brought to the surface by a diver, and inside it the scientists found bones belonging to freshwater fish, and some olive stones.

After examining the contents and design of the jar and other evidence, Dr Asquith concluded that the ship had been following a trade route when (8)_____ sank, probably in a storm. He intends to return to the site of the shipwreck, 32 km from the coast, (9)_____ that he can conduct further investigations. He hopes to excavate making use (10) _____ a new robot that uses sound to make a computer plan of the wreck, and in this way create an accurate picture of what the ship looked like.

I.3. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. (10x1p = 10p)

This year, St. Patrick's Day will be observed on Thursday, March 17. Although the holiday **(1)…….. (ORIGINAL)** started as a Christian feast day celebrating the life of St. Patrick and the spreading of Christianity to Ireland, today, it is a day of revelry and a **(2) …… (CELEBRATE)** of all things Irish. The **(3) …….. (SIGNIFY)** of March 17 is that it is said to be the date of St. Patrick's death in the late 5th century (circa A.D. 493). Saint Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He is credited with **(4) ……. (SUCCESS)** spreading Christianity throughout Ireland. The shamrock is the most **(5) …….. (ICON)** symbol of St. Patrick's Day. Legend and tradition state that the shamrock was a vital part of St. Patrick's **(6) …… (TEACH).** He used its three rounded leaves **(7).....(GROW)** on a single stem as a natural symbol to **(8) …… (SIMPLE)** the concept of the Trinity. Whether you are Irish or not, St. Patrick's Day is, **(9) …… (DISPUTE),** one of the best holidays leading into spring and this year March 18 will also be a public holiday in Ireland in **(10) ……. (RECOGNISE)** of people's efforts through the pandemic.

I.4. 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 THREE AND SIX words, including the word given. (5 x 2p= 10p).

1. I regret not telling her the truth about what happened. **WISH**
I _____ the truth about what happened.
2. "I'm sorry I'm late," said James to the teacher. **APOLOGIZED**
James _____ to the teacher.
3. It was only because of the manager's help that we finished the project on time. **FOR**
Had _____ the manager's help, we wouldn't have finished the project on time.
4. After the weather took a turn for the worse, the organisers had to cancel the event. **CHOICE**
The weather became so bad the organisers _____ cancel the event.

5. He felt much better as a result of stopping smoking. **RESULTED**
Stopping smoking _____ much better.

SUBIECTUL B - INTEGRATED SKILLS 50 points

I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text (5 x 2p= 10p)

The Rise of "Slow Travel"

In an era of hyper-connectivity and budget airlines, the act of travelling has often been reduced to a frantic checklist of iconic landmarks and "Instagrammable" moments. However, a growing counter-culture known as "Slow Travel" is beginning to take root. This movement, which borrows its philosophy from the Slow Food movement of the 1980s, encourages travellers to prioritize the quality of their experiences over the quantity of destinations visited.

The core of Slow Travel is the rejection of the "tourist gaze"—the superficial viewing of a culture from the safety of a tour bus. Instead, practitioners of this method might stay in one neighborhood for weeks, shopping at local markets and learning the nuances of the regional dialect. By doing so, they argue that they are not merely "consuming" a place, but engaging with it in a way that is mutually beneficial. This approach often involves using slower modes of transport, such as trains or bicycles, which not only reduces the traveler's carbon footprint but also allows for a more profound connection with the changing landscape.

Critics of the movement argue that Slow Travel is a luxury reserved for the "time-rich"—those with flexible careers or substantial savings. For the average worker with only two weeks of annual leave, the pressure to see as much as possible is understandable. Yet, proponents suggest that even a short trip can be "slow" if the mindset is right. It is about the intentionality of the journey; choosing to sit in a single café for three hours observing local life rather than rushing through five museums in one afternoon.

Furthermore, Slow Travel is increasingly seen as a necessary response to "overtourism." In cities like Venice and Barcelona, the sheer volume of transient visitors has placed an intolerable strain on local infrastructure and driven residents out of their own neighborhoods. Slow Travel offers a more sustainable path forward, shifting the focus from mass consumption to meaningful cultural exchange.

1. What is the primary goal of the "Slow Travel" movement?
A) To find the most popular spots for social media photography.
B) To visit as many countries as possible in a single trip.
C) To value the depth of an experience over the number of sights seen.
D) To find the cheapest possible ways to travel internationally.

2. According to the second paragraph, how does Slow Travel benefit the environment?
A) By encouraging travellers to stay in eco-friendly luxury hotels.
B) By promoting the use of transportation that produces fewer emissions.
C) By teaching travellers how to cook their own food using local ingredients.
D) By reducing the need for regional dialects to be translated.

3. What is the main criticism leveled against ‘Slow Travel’?
A) It is less educational than traditional sightseeing.
B) It can be physically exhausting due to the use of bicycles.
C) It requires a level of time that many ordinary workers do not have.
D) It causes travellers to miss out on the most famous landmarks.

4. How does the author define the "mindset" of Slow Travel for those on short trips?
A) It involves careful planning to ensure every museum is visited.
B) It requires staying in one city for at least a month.
C) It is characterized by making deliberate choices to slow down and observe.
D) It is about ignoring local life to focus on personal reflection.

5. Why is Slow Travel considered a solution to "overtourism"?
A) It discourages people from travelling to popular cities altogether.
B) It encourages a more sustainable and less disruptive way of visiting places.
C) It forces local governments to build more infrastructure for residents.
D) It promotes the idea that travellers should stay home instead of flying.

II. You see the following announcement on a popular lifestyle and technology blog:

Like “Slow Travel”, "Digital Detoxing" is also a movement that has become increasingly popular in recent years. It involves intentionally avoiding all electronic devices for a set period. But does "Digital Detoxing" actually improve our well-being, or is it an impractical reaction to modern life?

We are looking for articles from our readers! Write an **article** sharing your thoughts on the impact of constant connectivity and whether a "digital detox" is a realistic solution for people today.

Write your **article in 200-240 words (40 points).**