INSPECTORATUL ŞCOLAR JUDEŢEAN COVASNA

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

ETAPA LOCALĂ

CLASA a XII-a, Secțiunea B

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. For questions 1-10, read the text below and decide which answer (A,B,C or D) best fits each gap. (10 X 1p = 10 p)

Technological gadgets and knowledge

Does having the internet mean we never need to (1) ……. anything to memory ever again? The generation who have grown up with technology hope this is the (2) …… , not to mention everyone else who feels the need to (3) ….. their habitual attachment to the latest technological devices.

Some educationalists fear the access to information on the internet reduces the importance of remembering facts. However, research shows that this is (4) …. important. When we think, we use working memory and long-term memory. (5) …….. our long-term memory can be described as vast, our working memory limited to very few items and is easily (6) ……. . By transferring facts (7) …….. our long-term memory we free up precious space in our working memory, enabling us to manipulate and combine those facts with new ones. (8) …….., memorising some things aids understanding, as it creates a framework of known facts, needed to be able to (9) ……what we find on the internet.

Consequently, while technology may appear to (10) ……. the necessity to remember facts, unfortunately, the world we live in is far more complex.

1.	A place	B convey	C commit	D bring
2.	A case	B issue	C matter	D instance
3.	A confirm	B approve	C assert	D justify
4.	A vitally	B completely	C largely	D totally
5.	A Although	B Despite	C Owing	D Since
6.	A overrated	B overloaded	C overdone	D overrun
7.	A in	B on	C to	D for
8.	A Nevertheless	B Thereby	C Therefore	D Provided
9.	A obtain	B consume	C digest	D acquire
10.	A cancel	B remove	C delete	D take

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

The Changing Urban Landscape

The (1) _____ (GROW) of modern cities is often driven by a need for efficiency. While urban planners strive for (2) _____ (SUSTAIN), many residents complain about the (3) _____ (SCARCE) of architectural styles. This (4) _____ (WILLING) to preserve local heritage can lead to (5) _____ (REVERSE) consequences for the city's character. In some cases, the (6) _____ (DESTROY) of historic buildings is met with (7) _____ (RELENT) opposition from local communities. However, some developers (8) _____ (MISTAKE) believe that modernization is essential. To succeed, they must (9) _____ (DIVERSE) their approach to include community feedback. (10) _____ (PARADOX) as it may seem, many modern structures are actually built to be more sustainable than their older counterparts.

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

The Rise of the "Digital Nomad"

In recent years, the concept of the "digital nomad" has transitioned from a niche lifestyle (1) _____ a global phenomenon. Enabled by the rapid advancement of communication technology, an increasing number of professionals are opting to work remotely (2) _____ than being tied to a traditional office desk. This shift has (3) _____ about a fundamental change in how we perceive the relationship between location and productivity.

For many, the primary appeal (4) _____ in the freedom to travel while maintaining a steady income. (5) _____, this lifestyle is not without its challenges. Maintaining a work-life balance can be difficult when your office is a beachside café or a mountain cabin. Furthermore, digital nomads often find (6) _____ struggling with feelings of isolation, as they lack the consistent social interaction (7) _____ by a fixed workplace.

(8) _____ these hurdles, the trend shows no signs of slowing down. Countries around the world are even beginning to introduce special "nomad visas" to attract high-skilled remote workers. It remains to (9) _____ seen how this will impact urban planning and local economies in the long (10) _____, but for now, the world is their office.

IV. **Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word in bold. You must use between THREE and SIX words, including the word given. DO NOT change the given word. (5 × 2p = 10 p)**

1. People believe the actor lives abroad most of the year. **SAID**
   The actor ……. abroad most of the year.
2. I'm sure they will complain about the delay. **CERTAIN**
   They……..about the delay.
3. He stands little chance of winning. **ODDS**
   The……..winning.
4. He never planned to become an actor. It just happened. **BY**
   It was purely……..…….an actor.
5. This door is an emergency exit and must never be locked for any reason. **ACCOUNT**
   On …….. be locked because it is an emergency exit.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow:

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER

The tutor came into the room, coffee in hand, ready to teach. With a glum look on his face, he said: "Leaders are born, not made. Who would want to be led by you?" This was what I experienced when , in pursuit of personal growth , I recently completed a course on leadership and organizational development. I wasn't sure if the tutor meant that the group of people sitting before him seemed a pathetic group to be leaders, or if he really wanted to know the answer. I hadn't thought about who would want to be led by me, but it was a perplexing and humbling question.

I've learned that any time a course begins with a rhetorical question, one should be prepared for self-reflection at dizzying heights. I was quite nervous: the course was going to force me to ask questions of myself that I wasn't sure I wanted the answers to. Sweat broke out on my forehead and panic crept across my face. I knew I was an effective manager, but I wasn't sure I was a leader at all. I hoped that my fear of exploring my own weaknesses wasn't burrowing through the surface and betraying the confident stance that I usually project.

The road to discovering leadership can be challenging. Some people really are born leaders. We all know them: the captain of the football team; the top manager who turns the company round and the professor who stands in front of hundred of students. There are, however, others, myself included, who have to dig deep to find the leader within, While born leaders naturally demonstrate their prowess by larking about and being the life of the party, the quiet leaders are often overlooked and underdeveloped. On my course, I learned that the most competent leaders are not always the ones that are obvious to us. They are people who have the exceptional skill of making decisions that others want to follow, often without even knowing they are being led.

The tutor challenged us to observe people who demonstrate unconventional leadership skills. I thought about the older brother whose younger brother follows his every move, the mother who leads her children by nature and the builder who is leading a team to complete a project. Leadership is all around us. There are born leaders in every race, gender, community and industrial sector. Before I changed my frame of reference, I'd always thought of leaders as people standing on podiums rallying the masses for change. I had been ignoring the beauty of change around me – including the benefit that the leaders all around us contribute to our everyday lives. Suddenly, my future as a leader didn't seem so bleak. I realized that my tutor had been trying to get me to recognize that I was born a leader. He'd known it before I or anyone else had come into his room. In reality, there was no skill he could teach me that I didn't innately know. He'd only facilitated my being able to recognize it. For years, I'd been ignoring my own contribution to leadership.

I tell you this story, not to give you anecdotes about my coming into leadership, but in an effort to change your frame of reference about your own. You were born a leader with infinite possibilities. If your company is looking for leaders, let them know they've got one. Evaluate the leadership skills that you demonstrate and concentrate on building them. The extent to which you demonstrate your leadership is up to you. So, now that you have the data you need, I will pose the question to you: "Who would want to be led by you?"

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

1. What first impression did the writer gain of the course she attended?
   A. She was surprised by the tutor's casual appearance
   B. She found the tutor's opening remarks rather offensive
   C. She was intrigued to find out about the other participants
   D. She realized that she was going to be made to think quite deeply

2. In the second paragraph , we learn that the writer
   A. felt threatened by the issues raised on the course
   B. doubted whether the course would be useful for her
   C. lacked confidence in her ability to do her current job
   D. realized that her feelings had been perceived by others

3. In the third paragraph, the writer makes the point that the best leaders
   A. are those who take the trouble to learn the skills of leadership
   B. may not actually be the people in the most prominent positions
   C. are those who make us aware of their natural leadership abilities
   D. may never be in a position to use the natural abilities they possess

4. As a result of following the course, the writer came to appreciate that
   A. we all have the potential to be good leaders
   B. she had nothing to learn from her course tutor
   C. her course tutor had underestimated her abilities
   D. leadership skills are very different to other skills in life

5. In the final paragraph, the writer encourages us to
   A. support the leaders in the places where we work
   B. demand that our leadership potential is recognized
   C. develop the leadership qualities that we already possess
   D. rethink our ideas about why it is necessary to have leaders

II. Starting from the text above, **write a proposal** on the following topic:

You have been asked to write a proposal for your local community youth organization on how to maximize the impact of leadership on young people.

You should

- emphasize the need for a shift from a traditional to a more modern image
- contrast charismatic vs. effective leaders
- focus on influence through actions, not status

Write your proposal in **220-260 words** in an appropriate format. You may use the suggestions provided, but feel free to incorporate others. Be sure to provide reasons to support your recommendations. (40 points)