INSPECTORATUL ŞCOLAR JUDEŢEAN COVASNA

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

ETAPA LOCALĂ – CLASA a VIII-a

31 ianuarie 2026

Timp de lucru: 2 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.

I. READING (25 POINTS)

Read the following text about the history and importance of video games.

Paragraph A _____ The history of video games goes back further than many people realize. While most think they started in the 1980s, the first simple games were actually created in research labs during the 1950s. However, it wasn't until the 1970s that games like *Pong* became popular in public arcades. These early games had very simple graphics, but they captured the world's imagination.

Paragraph B _____ In the 1990s, the industry changed forever with the introduction of 3D graphics and powerful home consoles. This allowed developers to create much more complex stories and larger worlds for players to explore. Suddenly, gaming wasn't just about getting a high score; it became an immersive experience, similar to being the main character in a movie.

Paragraph C _____ Today, video games are more than just entertainment; they are a massive global industry. Competitive gaming, known as E-sports, attracts millions of viewers and offers huge prizes. Furthermore, games are now used in education to help students learn history, logic, and even teamwork. Scientists also use "gamification" to solve complex problems by turning them into interactive challenges.

Paragraph D _____ Despite their popularity, some people worry about the effects of gaming. Spending too much time in front of a screen can lead to a lack of physical exercise or sleep. However, most experts agree that when played in moderation, video games can improve hand-eye coordination and problem-solving skills. The key is to find a healthy balance between virtual adventures and real-life activities.

1. Match the following headings (1-5) to the correct paragraphs (A-D). There is one extra heading that you do not need to use. (4 items x 2.5p = 10 points)

1. A Modern Tool for Learning and Work
2. The Dark Side and the Benefits
3. The Future of Virtual Reality
4. The Humble Beginnings
5. A New Era of Storytelling

2. Choose the correct answer (a, b, c, or d) for each question based on the text. (5 items x 3p = 15 points)

1. When did video games first appear in research laboratories?
   a) In the 1980s
   b) In the 1970s
   b) In the 1950s
   d) In the 1990s

2. Why were the 1990s important for the gaming industry?
   a) Because *Pong* became a hit in arcades.
   b) Because of the invention of 3D graphics and home consoles.
   c) Because E-sports started to offer huge prizes.
   d) Because scientists started using gamification.

3. According to the text, what is "E-sports"?
   a) A type of game used in schools.
   b) A scientific method to solve problems.
   c) Competitive gaming with a large audience.
   d) A way to improve physical exercise.

4. What is a potential negative effect of playing too many video games?
   a) Improved hand-eye coordination.
   b) Better teamwork skills.
   c) Not getting enough sleep.
   d) Solving logical problems too quickly.

5. What is the author's main advice regarding video games?
   a) Only play games that are educational.
   b) Avoid 3D graphics because they are too immersive.
   c) Stop playing games and focus on real-life only.
   d) Enjoy games but keep a balance with other activities.

II. USE OF ENGLISH (40 POINTS)

A. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense. (20 points)

1. Every morning, Julia … **(drink)** a large cup of coffee while reading the newspaper.
2. Listen! The neighbours … **(argue)** about something outside.
3. While I **… (walk**) through the park yesterday, I … **(find)** a lost wallet.
4. … you ever … **(visit)** a castle in your life?
5. Peter is very reliable. I **…(know)** him since we were at school together.
6. At 9 o'clock last night, my parents … **(watch)** the news while I …(**finish)** my homework.
7. She … often … **(not go)** to school by bus.
8. Tomorrow, we … **(have)** a meeting about the new project at 10 a.m.
9. I would help you with your homework if I … **(have)** more time.

10. She … **(already / complete)** the report before the manager asked for it.
11. I … **(learn)** English for five years, but I still make mistakes in pronunciation.
12. Right now, the scientists …**(examine)** the new samples in the lab.
13. We … **(not / see)** each other for ages, so we are planning a big reunion next weekend.
14. Look at those clouds! It … **(rain)** soon, I'm sure.
15. If it … **(rain)** tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.
16. … you… **(do)** anything last weekend?
17. You **…(not be)** with your friend yesterday at the cinema.
18. I think Barcelona … **(win)** the cup.

B. Each of the following sentences contains ONE error (spelling, grammar, or an extra word). Identify and correct it. (10 items x 1p = 10 points)

1. He is the most tallest boy in our entire basketball team.
2. This is the house which my father built it twenty years ago.
3. English are spoken worldwide.
4. There is a lot of people waiting outside.
5. I haven't ever seen a busyer person than you!
6. My younger sister plays the piano really good.
7. She arrived home as late than me.
8. I am looking forward to meet you.
9. The story was very exciting, isn't it?
10. I'm afraid from dogs.

C. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in each gap: (10 items x 1p = 10 points)

1. I had a wonderful..... **(CHILD)**
2. The Colosseum is the main tourist..... in Rome. **(ATTRACT)**
3. I love _____ food, especially pizza. **(ITALY)**
4. The room was dirty and _____. **(TIDY)**
5. That answer is _____. Try again. **(CORRECT)**
6. They lived _____ ever after. **(HAPPY)**
7. I _____ like this song! **(REAL)**
8. This flower is very _____. **(BEAUTY)**
9. My sister is a _____ for the local newspaper. **(JOURNAL)**
10. This is the _____ time I have watched this movie. **(FIVE)**

III. WRITING (25 POINTS)

Write a narrative composition (a story) of between 150-180 words that ends with the following sentence:

"Looking back, I realized that everything happened for a reason."

In your story, you should:

- Give your story an interesting title.
- Establish the setting and characters.
- Develop a clear plot (beginning, middle and end).
- Ensure your story leads naturally to the given ending.
- Don't count the words given to end the story.
- Use this plan:

    * **Introduction** (paragraph 1- set the scene)

    * **Main body** (paragraph(s) 2/3- develop the story)

    ***Conclusion** (paragraph 4- end the story)