INSPECTORATUL ŞCOLAR JUDEŢEAN COVASNA

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

ETAPA LOCALĂ

2026 ianuarie

Clasa a IX-a Secțiunea A

TOTAL 100 PUNCTE

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

Timp de lucru: 3 ore.

Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.

I. USE OF ENGLISH

40 points

I.For questions 1-10, select the most appropriate word (A, B, C or D) to complete each gap. 10 points

Brussels

Brussels is the main city (0) ***B*** Belgium, and it is the home of the European Union. It has a reputation for (1) _____ a little boring, but this is unfair. (2) ____ , it is a modern, lively city with some of the (3) _____ restaurants in Europe. Every evening its bars are (4) _____ with visitors and locals who come to (5) _____ the wonderful variety of different beers. Don't forget to visit the Grand Place. There aren't many market squares (6) _____ this one in Europe. If you (7) _____ some free time you can visit Bruges, (8) _____ is only a short train ride (9) _____ Bruges is a medieval town with canals and beautiful old houses. It is really (10) _____ visiting.

0	**A** at	**B** in	**C** to	**D** for
1	**A** be	**B** being	**C** to be	**D** been
2	**A** Personally	**B** As well	**C** However	**D** In fact
3	**A** delicious	**B** good	**C** best	**D** better
4	**A** full	**B** occupied	**C** plenty	**D** lived
5	**A** attempt	**B** experiment	**C** prove	**D** try
6	**A** beautiful than	**B** as beautiful as	**C** as beautiful than	**D** so beautiful than

7	**A** have	**B** will have	**C** are having	**D** to have
8	**A** whose	**B** who	**C** which	**D** that
9	**A** journey	**B** far	**C** distant	**D** away
10	**A** worth	**B** value	**C** good	**D** recommend

II. For questions 1-10, read the following text. Use the numbered word in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the same numbered gap. 10 points

Music and mood

There is clear (1) ……..... that music can have an effect on a person's mood. An increase in the volume or speed of a piece of music creates a feeling of (2) ……..... , while a decrease has a calming effect. Music can also produce a sense of (3) ……..... : if we hear quiet music played repeatedly, we feel that something of (4) ……..... is about to happen – possibly something wonderful, possibly something terrifying.	**EVIDENT** **EXCITE** **ANTICIPATE** **IMPORTANT**
In the era of silent films, cinema (5) ……..... recognised the value of music in setting a mood and heightening (6) ……..... . To achieve this, cinemas in many countries hired a (7) ……..... who would accompany the action on the screen. Sometimes a film came with music written specifically for the film, or at other times with a list of (8) ……..... classical pieces. In many cases, though, it was by no means (9) ……..... for the person playing the piano to make the (10) ……..... about what to play while watching the film.	**OWN** **TENSE** **PIANO** **SUIT** **USUAL** **DECIDE**

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. (10 x 1p = 10 points):

A MEMORABLE TRIP

Last summer, my family and I went on a trip that we will never forget. It was the first time we had travelled abroad (1) …… our own. At the beginning, we were a little nervous, but everything went smoothly. We stayed in a small hotel (2) …… was run by a very friendly couple. They gave us plenty of advice (3) …… what to see and where to eat. One day, while we were walking around the city, we got lost, but a local resident kindly showed us (4) …… right direction. Thanks (5) …… him, we discovered a beautiful park that wasn't in the guidebook. By the end of the holiday, we felt more confident and independent (6) …… ever before. It was an experience (7) …… taught us a lot about travelling and ourselves. I hope we will have the chance to go (8) …… there one day, because it is a place (9) …… will always have a special meaning (10) …… us.

IV. Complete the second sentence so that the meaning is similar to the first, using the key word in bold. Use between two and five words, including the key word. (10 points)

1. My advice to you is to talk to your parents. **WOULD**
   If ……talk to my parents.
2. "Do you know when the match starts?", asked Helen. **IF**
   Helen asked me ……. time the match started.
3. "It's unnecessary to bring your own food; the school provides lunch."
   You …… lunch. **NEED**
4. "We had to cancel the trip because of the heavy rain."
   If it …… , we wouldn't have canceled the trip. **NOT**
5. "I didn't realise that the shop closed so early."
   The shop …… . **REALISED**
6. "He started learning Spanish two years ago and still studies it."
   He …… two years. **LEARNING**
7. My mother once worked for an engineering company. **EMPLOYED**
   My mother used……..an engineering company.
8. I failed to catch the bus because I got up too late. **MISSED**
   If I had got up earlier,…… the bus.

9. My advice is to tell the locals the truth about the power station. **WERE**
   If …….....tell the locals the truth about the power station.
10. The tourist guide told us: “Take a map if you go walking in the hills.” **ADVISED**
    The tourist guide……a map if we went walking in the hills.

B. READING COMPREHENSION AND FUNCTIONAL WRITING (50 points)

Volunteer work

I. You are going to read a selection of letters from a driving magazine. For questions 1-10, choose from the people (A-E). The people may be chosen more than once. (10 points)

A. Sam

I recently started volunteering at our local animal shelter. Working with the animals has been an incredible experience for me. Every time I walk into the shelter, I'm greeted by wagging tails and happy purrs, which instantly brightens up my day. The work is not always easy, as some animals come in injured or sick, but seeing them recover and finding their 'forever homes' are so rewarding. One of my favourite things to do is to take the dogs on walks and give them some fresh air and exercise. It's amazing to see their personalities shine through as they explore and play. Volunteering at the shelter has not only taught me about animal care but also about the importance of giving back to the community. Knowing that I'm making a difference to the animals' lives is an indescribable feeling.

B. Max

A soup kitchen opened in my town last winter. The cost of everyday essentials, like groceries, electricity and medicines, has been going up and many people have found that they just don't have enough money to eat. A local charity asked for helpers online and I signed up straight away. Originally, I did this to fulfil my community service hours as part of a national youth award program, but it has turned into so much more. I'm fortunate that my parents have stable jobs, and food insecurity isn't a part of my life. Working at the soup kitchen has opened my eyes to the struggles of those who are working hard but still don't have enough to meet their basic needs. Several of my classmates and neighbours are volunteers too. It's been amazing to see the community come together.

C. Bella

Since I was a child, I've been passionate about the environment. I would cry if someone squashed a fly, and I used to get into a lot of trouble for sneaking bugs in jars into my bedroom because I was worried about them! That's why I've been volunteering with an environmental clean-up organization. We are a seaside community, and I feel that we are privileged to be able to swim in the ocean every day. Unfortunately, not everyone recognises this privilege. It's shocking to see the amount of rubbish that people leave behind on the beach. We've set up a social media profile and film videos of our beach clean-ups. They don't get many views at the moment, but I hope that will change. Maybe if people see their favourite beaches covered in rubbish, they'll drop less litter.

D. Erica

I've been volunteering at a hospital in my community for the past year. My dream is to become a surgeon, so this role is giving me some valuable experience before I start medical school. I'm part of the support team in the paediatric unit, and I help with activities and playtime. This takes the young patients' minds off their treatments. It also gives parents a short break so they can grab a coffee or have a nap. People often tell me how inspiring it is that I give up my weekends to volunteer at the hospital, but I always correct them. The patients inspire me - they are so resilient in the face of their illnesses. Several of them are in long-term treatment, and they've become like my little brothers and sisters.

Which speaker:

1) mentions other people who also join them in the volunteer work?
2) can use their volunteering experience in the career they chose for the future?
3) learnt how important it is to take care of other creatures?
4) uses technology to promote their work?
5) considers those they volunteer for like family?
6) enjoys the way those they volunteer for say hello to them?
7) lives and volunteers near the seashore?
8) started doing volunteer work because they needed to?
9) has always felt bad when an animal was killed?
10) helps people who can't afford things?

II. Writing: (40 points) You see this advertisement on a website.

Helpers wanted

We are looking for secondary school students aged 16–17 to work at a summer holiday programme for children aged 5–9. Write a letter to our manager, Mrs Anna Stewart, if you would like to apply for this part-time job. Please give the following details:

- how experienced you are in entertaining children
- what kinds of activities you would like to do with them
- why you believe you would be suitable for the job

Write your <u>letter of application</u> in 150-180 words.