

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA LOCALĂ**  
**8 FEBRUARIE 2025**  
**CLASA a X-a - SECȚIUNEA A**

**VARIANTA 1**

**NOTĂ:**

**Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.**

**Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.**

**Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.**

**SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH**

**40 points**

- 1. 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. (10 p)**

1.1 We had hardly got into shelter of the wood when the rain started pouring down.

**GOT**

Hardly ..... of the wood when the rain started pouring down.

1.2 If he hadn't been driving so fast, he could have avoided the crash.

**SO**

Had ..... , he could have avoided the crash.

1.3 Why didn't you keep the receipt? Now you can't change the item.

**ONLY**

If ..... the receipt; you would have been able to change the item.

1.4 He was convicted because an eye-witness remembered his distinctive scar.

**BY**

He was convicted because his ..... an eye-witness.

1.5 "I can't come with you to the briefing meeting," she said to me.

**SAID**

She ..... me to the briefing meeting.

- 2. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (10 p)**

What a waste!

Research has shown that one in ten (1) ..... bought in the sales will never be used. This has always been the (2) ..... and everything points to this year being no (3) .....; if anything, it will be worse. People become a little bit crazy during the sales (4) ....., which, these days, lasts from November through to the New Year. Huge (5) ..... on the high street and online will lead to a mountain of waste being sent to landfill sites or the incinerator as bargain (6) ..... buy tons of goods they don't really need.

There is a (7) ..... between consumption and waste, so when people buy more things in the sales there will be a(n) (8) ..... in how much gets thrown away. Environmental groups are asking consumers to think before they buy. The temptation to splash out when (9) ..... are slashed by up to 75% is difficult to resist, but (10) ..... twice before you buy something that's just going to end up on the rubbish tip.

1	A items	B objects	C stuff	D produce
2	A point	B case	C purpose	D matter
3	A contrast	B alternative	C trouble	D different
4	A period	B term	C duration	D interval
5	A deductions	B discounts	C rebates	D offers
6	A searchers	B hunters	C consumers	D watchers
7	A link	B contact	C union	D bond
8	A raise	B addition	C increase	D gain
9	A fares	B prices	C fees	D rates
10	A believe	B consider	C think	D notice

### 3. Write one word in each gap. (10 p)

#### The Brain

It wasn't so long (1) ..... that scientist thought the adult brain was unable to change and all we could (2) ..... forward to was a slow decline. This is not completely true, however. Although the brain does indeed slow (3) .... with age, it remains remarkably adaptable. The brain loses volume from about the age (4) ..... forty, but it will improve as long as you exercise and challenge it. Research has shown that, not (5) ..... can we change the way we think and feel, but (6) ..... those thoughts and feelings can change the physical workings of the brain. What you need to do is take (7) ..... a new and challenging activity, such as learning a new language, playing chess, learning to draw or learning to play a musical instrument. The more mentally active you stay the (8) ..... . Of course, exercise and diet (9) ..... their part too, as does a good night's sleep. In fact, sleep improves memory (10) ..... you sleep within a few hours of learning something new.

### 4. Write the correct form of the word in CAPITALS to complete the gaps: (10 p)

You have probably seen photographs of those (1) ..... paintings found on the walls of caves across Europe. Less familiar are the (2) ..... markings also found there. It is not as if they had been lying there (3) ..... for all this time, just that they had been largely ignored as (4) ..... doodles. Now, however, (5) ..... are suggesting that they may represent the first step on the path to modern writing. Archaeologists have found a (6) ..... of strange symbols in the caves, including geometric figures such as triangles, arrangements of dots and lines, and something that looks very much like the modern hashtag. Naturally, the (7) ..... drawings and paintings of bison and horses and hunting scenes caused the most excitement and interest when they were discovered, but the attention now being paid to these symbols is forcing a re-examination of cave art and the (8) ..... made about the people who created it. Our (9) ..... of early human development is (10) ..... changing with such new discoveries.

1	WONDER	6	VARY
2	MYSTERY	7	SPECTACLE
3	DISCOVER	8	ASSUME
4	MEAN	9	UNDERSTAND
5	SCIENCE	10	CONSTANT

## SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

### I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (10 points)

**Hotels of the future-** *Our Travel correspondent Joana Richards reports about a new trend in hotels.*

I recently visited a hotel in France which has no visible human staff. This is just one of several hotels in Europe and Asia which runs with apparently no human contact. Most of the services are provided by robots and machines. The concept is to provide an environmentally friendly hotel where staff and running costs kept to a minimum. Personally, I've spent my life away from robots and machines, and so kept having to remind myself that in many parts of the world, it is not unusual for jobs and household tasks to be automated these days.

So I lost no time in booking myself a room at one of these hotels and going to see it for myself. And sure enough, there at the reception desk, instead of a friendly receptionist wearing a uniform, was a machine. 'I'd like to check in please', I shouted, wondering if the machine would respond to my voice, and feeling thrilled that I was about to have my first ever conversation with a check-in machine. Nothing. I said it again but there was silence. I was hoping the machine would say something like 'If you want to check in, press 1'. But then I noticed a written message in the machine's screen. 'Please insert your credit card and key in your booking reference, then follow the instructions.' No conversation. How disappointing.

Staying at the hotel costs from €35 (more if you want a bigger room). That's a bargain for Paris, where a stay in a more conventional hotel can easily cost two or three times that much. And if you did stay there, it wouldn't necessarily be any nicer, and certainly wouldn't be any more memorable. The hotel is located near to the amusement park, Disneyland Paris, which was created as a visitor attraction on the east of the city with lots of amusement rides. In fact, many of the guests book the hotel purely in order to be close to the park.

Back in the hotel, as well as machines to check in, there are vending machines to serve drinks and snacks and vacuum cleaners that work without a human, using sensors to navigate around the rooms. According to the owners, the laundry has robots which do all the washing unaided. Another innovation is the use of face recognition instead of keys to get into your room. A photograph of the guest's face is taken at the reception desk by the check in machines.

With 60 rooms in the building, there is a lot of coming and going. Guests are actively encouraged to stop and get a coffee from one of the machines in the guest lounge with other guests, so there is at least some social interaction. One area where humans are absolutely essential for the hotel is security. There are scanners and CCTV cameras everywhere, and the footage from these is watched by human security guards, no matter whether or not the hotel is full. It is their job to make sure that the guests are safe – and that no-one causes any damage to hotel property, including of course making off with a costly robot.

Critics say that businesses like these automated hotels will mean that people lose their jobs, as more and more roles can be performed by robots and machines. But there are many who see them as a vision of the future and argue that robots can make our lives easier. But this can only happen if higher manufacturing and operating standards are achieved, and if guests are prepared to put their trust in machines and don't mind the lack of personal contact. Only then will this type of hotel be a success. Time will tell if this is the case.

- 1 The aim of this hotel is to be very
  - A efficient.
  - B friendly.
  - C famous.
  - D unusual.
- 2 What aspect of the writer's experience at reception was 'disappointing'?
  - A the appearance of the reception
  - B the time she wasted checking in
  - C the lack of verbal interaction with the machine
  - D the rudeness of the other guests

- 3 What does the writer say about the price of the rooms in the hotel?
- A The hotel is good value.
  - B The prices are likely to rise.
  - C Other hotels provide better accommodation.
  - D It is not always clear how much a room will cost.
- 4 What is the writer's main point in the fourth paragraph?
- A There are limits to what robots and machines can do.
  - B Robots and machines can learn a wide range of skills.
  - C Different robots and machines are used for different tasks.
  - D Humans make mistakes that robots and machines do not make.
- 5 What does 'this' in the last paragraph refer to?
- A more roles being performed by robots and machines
  - B many seeing the hotel as a vision of the future
  - C robots and machines make our lives easier
  - D reduction in social human contact

**II. Your school magazine is organizing a competition. They have asked their readers to send in reviews of an AI-Powered Device or robot that is used in daily life. Examples include a smart speaker (e.g. Amazon Echo), a robot vacuum (e.g. Roomba), or a wearable fitness tracker (e.g. Fitbit). Write a detailed review of the device. The best reviews will be published in the school magazine. You decide to enter the competition. Write your review in 180 - 200 words.**

**(50 points)**