

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ****ETAPA LOCALĂ****12 FEBRUARIE 2026****CLASA a X-a****SECȚIUNEA A****VARIANTA B****SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH****40 points****I. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. (10 × 1p = 10 points)**

When I first agreed (1) _____ (take) part in the project, I underestimated how much time it would require. If I (2) _____ (be) more realistic about my schedule, I might have planned things differently.

I remember (3) _____ (warn) about the tight deadline, yet I chose to ignore the advice. Looking back now, I wish I (4) _____ (listen) more carefully instead of assuming everything would work out.

The organiser insisted that all participants (5) _____ (submit) their work by Friday, regardless of personal circumstances. Failure to do so could result in (6) _____ (exclude) from future projects.

Had it not been for the support of my colleagues, I (7) _____ (give) up halfway through. Even so, I realise that I should (8) _____ (manage) my time more effectively from the very beginning.

By the time the project is reviewed, we (9) _____ (work) under considerable pressure for several months, which explains why some mistakes were unavoidable. Nevertheless, the experience turned out (10) _____ (be) far more valuable than I had expected.

II. For questions 1–10, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. (10 × 1 p = 10 points)**Cooking: More Than Just a Daily Routine**

For many people, cooking is simply a daily necessity, something that must be done in order to eat. For others, however, it is an activity that allows them to relax and (1)---- their creativity. Preparing meals at home gives people a sense of control over what they eat, from the ingredients they choose to the size of each (2) ____.

One of the greatest advantages of cooking at home is that it encourages healthier habits. When people prepare their own food, they are more aware of what goes into their meals and are less likely to (3) ____ on processed products. As a result, home-cooked food is often more nutritious and satisfying.

Cooking can also be a social experience. When meals are prepared together, the responsibility is shared, which often (4) ____ to better communication and stronger relationships. Even simple dishes can become enjoyable when they are made in a good (5) ____ and with a sense of cooperation.

Of course, cooking is not without its challenges. A small mistake can easily (6) ____ in a disappointing result, especially for inexperienced cooks. However, such moments usually help people learn from their errors and become more confident. Over time, they are more willing to (7) ____ with new recipes and techniques.

For many, cooking eventually becomes more than just a skill. It turns into a habit that provides both practical (8) ____ and personal satisfaction. After a long day, spending time in the kitchen can help people (9) ____ and focus on something positive. In this way, cooking continues to play an important (10) ____ in everyday life.



Questions:

1. A express B reveal C show D display
2. A amount B portion C quantity D measure
3. A depend B rely C trust D count
4. A causes B leads C results D creates
5. A mood B spirit C condition D attitude

6. A bring B cause C lead D result
7. A experiment B attempt C try D practise
8. A values B rewards C benefits D profits
9. A relax B calm C rest D pause
10. A role B place C part D position

III. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap.**(10 × 1 p = 10 points)**

Friendship plays an important role in our lives, offering emotional support and a sense of belonging. Many people believe that true friends are those who remain loyal even in the most challenging moments. However, building such relationships is not always easy, as it requires trust, patience and mutual (1) ...UNDERSTAND

Some people find it hard to make friends because of their natural (2) ...SHY, which can make them appear distant or uninterested. Others, on the contrary, are extremely (3) ...SOCIETY and enjoy meeting new people, although this sometimes leads to shallow relationships rather than deep connections.

Modern technology has changed the way friendships develop. Social media allows us to stay in touch with people from all over the world, but it can also create a false sense of

(4)... CLOSE. Online communication often lacks the (5) ...EMOTION warmth of face-to-face interaction, which is essential for strong bonds.

Despite these challenges, friendship remains a powerful source of (6) ...STRONG and motivation. Friends can encourage us to overcome difficulties and help us discover our true (7)...PERSON

When conflicts arise, the ability to communicate openly and show (8)... FORGIVE is crucial for maintaining harmony.

In the end, the most (9)... VALUE friendships are those based on honesty, respect and shared experiences. If we learn to appreciate our friends and invest time in our relationships, we can enjoy a lifetime of (10) MEAN..... and lasting connections.

IV. For questions 1–5, 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 two and five words, including the word given. (5× 2 p = 10 points)

1. It is difficult for many students to manage their studies and social life equally.
BALANCE

Many students find it difficult to.....between their studies and social life..

2. We succeeded because we worked together.
ONLY

..... together did we succeed.

3. The investigation helped people understand what really happened.
LIGHT

The investigation what really happened.



4. He denied any involvement at first, but later accepted that he had leaked the information.

ADMITTED

Later, he the information.

5. Students with a medical certificate do not have to take the test.

EXEMPT

Students with a medical certificate the test.

SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS

(50 points)

I. READING

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

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.

I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text (5x2p=10p)

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. WRITING

40 points

Your school magazine is organizing a competition. They have asked their readers to send in reviews of a highly automated hotel that relies on technology instead of human staff. Express your opinion about the experience, discussing both the advantages and disadvantages of this type of accommodation. Consider aspects such as comfort, efficiency, price, social interaction, and the possible impact of automation on jobs. The best reviews will be published in the school magazine. You decide to enter the competition.

Write your **review** in 200-220 words.

A. Read the text below and choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. ($10 \times 1 \text{ p} = 10 \text{ points}$)

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SE ACORDA 10 PUNCTE DIN OFICIU

TOTAL 100 DE PUNCTE

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TIMPUL DE LUCRU ESTE DE 3h.