

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ****ETAPA LOCALĂ****12 FEBRUARIE 2026****CLASA a X-a****SECTIUNEA B****SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH****40 points****I. Read the text below and complete the following tasks.**

Storytelling, one of humanity's oldest traditions, remains a powerful tool in the modern world. From ancient oral tales to today's blockbuster films, stories shape how we understand ourselves and others. They serve as a bridge across cultures, **conveying** universal themes like love, conflict, and resilience. In education, storytelling is increasingly used to engage students, making complex concepts more relatable and memorable. Businesses, too, have harnessed its potential, using narratives to build brand loyalty and connect with consumers on an emotional level. A well-crafted story can inspire action, whether it's rallying support for a cause or motivating a team to achieve a goal. The science behind storytelling reveals why it resonates so deeply.

Neurostudies show that narratives activate multiple areas of the brain, fostering empathy and retention. When we hear a story, we don't just process facts; we imagine ourselves in the characters' shoes, creating a personal connection. This emotional engagement explains why stories are more persuasive than statistics alone. However, the digital age has transformed how stories are told. Social media platforms allow anyone to share their narrative, amplifying voices that were once marginalized. Yet, this democratization comes with challenges.

The flood of content can dilute quality, and misinformation disguised as storytelling can spread rapidly. Despite these concerns, storytelling's versatility ensures its enduring relevance. In therapy, narrative techniques help individuals reframe their experiences, promoting healing and self-awareness. In politics, leaders use stories to **galvanize** supporters, though this can sometimes veer into manipulation. Critics argue that storytelling's emotional pull can oversimplify complex issues, leading to superficial understanding. Supporters, however, see it as a vital tool for fostering connection in a fragmented world.

The rise of **immersive** technologies, like virtual reality, is pushing storytelling into new frontiers, allowing audiences to step inside narratives in unprecedented ways. The accessibility of storytelling today is both its strength and its weakness. While platforms enable global reach, the pressure to produce viral content can prioritize sensationalism over substance.

**A. Answer the following questions:****8 points**

1. What is a key function of storytelling mentioned in the text?
2. What does the text say about the impact of digital platforms on storytelling?
3. What concern is raised about storytelling in the digital age?
4. What do critics of storytelling argue?

B. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meanings in the text.**6 points**

1. galvanize	a) motivate	b) electrify	c) fuel
2. immersive	a) entertaining	b) enchanting	c) engaging
3. conveying	a) disclosing	b) divulging	c) transmitting

C. Rephrase the following sentences, so as to preserve the meaning, using the word given:**6 points**

1. Stories help people understand themselves and others.	CONTRIBUTE
Stories and others.
2. The digital age transformed the way stories are told.	CHANGE
The digital age the way stories are told.
3. Neurostudies show that stories foster empathy.	PROVEN
It..... that stories foster empathy.

II. Read the text below and use the words given in capitals below to form words that fit in the gaps.**10 points**

People in the world of 1)(ENTERTAIN) have to be very 2) (OBSERVE) in the way that they dress. It's an 3)(REFUTE) fact that image is more than just a case of 4) (DECORATE) for a celebrity. How they present themselves is all part of their artistic personality. It would be 5) (FOOL) though to think that somebody can be a successful celebrity just because of the clothes they wear. They don't 6).....(NECESSARY) have to wear 7) (FLASH) clothing but they do need to be talented and communicative and they also need to be 8) (APPRECIATE) of their fans who make them 9)(SUCCESS). They also need to be 10) (ADAPT) so that they can cope with all the public attention.

III. Translate the following text into English.**10 points**

“Clipe de fericire! Și simții o sfâșiere la gândul că s-ar fi putut ca aceste clipe să se repete pentru mine zilnic, dacă am fi rămas toți trei împreună... Desigur, Matilda era astfel fericită, fiindcă un copil, până la o anumită vîrstă, e o veșnică surpriză. Iar soarta făcea ca surprizele Silviei să fie aproape toate miraculoase, și doar puține rele. Matilda intui starea mea de spirit. „Dacă te-ai hotărî, îmi spuse în franțuzește, ai fi la București și n-ar fi o problemă să iei pe Silvia oricând ai vrea.” (Marin Preda – **Cel mai iubit dintre pământeni**)

**SUBIECTUL B - INTEGRATED SKILLS****50 points**

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

***Dream Jobs* by Giovanni Marks**

During our teens, all the pupils at my school had to have a meeting with a ‘careers advisor’ who only seemed to know about jobs at the local shipbuilding works. That was fine for some, but many of us would have liked to hear about a wider range of opportunities at that time. If only she had known about the jobs I’ve been researching for this article! It seems there are positions out there that are almost too good to be true.

Take, for example, the job with the title *‘Ice cream flavour advisor’* for ice cream manufacturer Frederick’s. Imagine making and tasting ice cream for a living! From the Fredrick’s website I learned that the people who do this job are all chefs and food scientists, and often go on what they call ‘taste hunts’ where they travel to other countries, trying new foods to get inspiration for new products. The website’s home page also states that ‘every ingredient deserves consideration’, meaning anything from peanuts to potatoes could make it into the next flavour advisor’s invention. I guess the one downside of this job could be tasting failed creations. For those worried about the health implications of eating so much ice cream, then how about something more active? The perfect job for water sports lovers was advertised in 2015 by holiday company *Travel Now*. They needed a water slide tester! This involved getting into swimming gear and speeding down slides at various holiday centres around the world to check for any issues. The company was seeking applicants with strong written and verbal skills, experience in social media and a willingness to travel.

Another job that seems impossibly wonderful is one for those who dream of living on a remote island. As the caretaker of a private island in the Maldives, Simon Grainger gets to enjoy fabulous weather, fishing and boating as part of his job. However, he says that while it may sound more like an extended holiday than work, the responsibilities of the job can be very demanding. These include maintaining and repairing the island owners’ property and cleaning up after storms. On top of that, being by yourself on an island means that your social life suffers. Seeing friends involves an hour’s boat ride, which is never easy and sometimes impossible. Grainger warns anyone considering a job like his to be realistic about it. He explains you’ve got to be very practical with good physical fitness, and happy in your own company. If you are this type of person, you’ll do the job well and never want to go back to life on the mainland.

A fortune cookie is a moon-shaped biscuit given away in Chinese restaurants that contains a little piece of paper with a message on it. Millions of these are read every day, but few realise that people actually get paid to write the words of wisdom you find when you crack your cookie open. Daisy Cheng, president of *New Asian Food* in Los Angeles, used to be one such person. It wasn’t exactly her chosen career path, it was more of a role she fell into. When the company expanded and realized they needed to update their cookie messages, she was asked to do it because her English language skills were stronger than other employees’. She found it difficult to start with, but soon she was finding inspiration everywhere, from subway signs to newspapers. As a writer myself, I would love to create messages for fortune cookies, but I would be delighted to do any one of these amazing jobs. Listen up careers advisors!

**I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text.****10 points****1. How does the writer feel about the careers advisor he met when he was younger?**

A He regrets that she was unable to help any of the teenagers.
B He found her guidance quite useful at the time.
C He thought it was unnecessary to see her.
D He wishes she had been aware of a greater variety of job options.

2. What is claimed on the website for Frederick's ice cream?

A There is no food type that they will refuse to experiment with.
B They are able to make most ingredients taste good in ice cream.
C They trial every new flavour creation internationally before it goes on sale.
D No other ice cream producer has greater expertise.

3. Applicants for the job of water slide tester were required by Travel Now to

A be good at communicating with people.
B have plenty of travel experience.
C have good IT qualifications.
D be very physically fit.

4. What does Grainger say about his role as caretaker on a private island?

A He is considering giving it up so he can move back to the mainland.
B The only thing that is hard about it is being alone on the island.
C It might not be the right job for everyone.
D The holiday lifestyle involved is not always enjoyable.

5. What does the fifth paragraph say about Daisy Cheng getting her job as fortune cookie writer?

A She did not deliberately choose to do the job.
B She got the job because none of her colleagues spoke any English.
C She applied for it when the company grew and needed more people to do the job.
D She tried to avoid doing the job at first.

**II. As part of a class project about education and work, you have been asked to write a report on what young people in your city, region or country do after they leave school.
Your report should include:****40 points**

- the most common choices (further education or employment)
- less traditional or “dream” careers
- advantages and disadvantages of different paths
- recommendations for students making career decisions

Write your report in 220- 250 words.**TOTAL: 90 POINTS****NOTĂ: TOATE SUBIECTELE SUNT OBLIGATORII.****TIMPUL DE LUCRU ESTE DE 3h.****SE ACORDĂ 10 PUNCTE DIN OFICIU**