

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ****ETAPA LOCALĂ****12 FEBRUARIE 2026****CLASA a XI-a****SECTIUNEA A****VARIANTA A****SUBIECTUL A -USE OF ENGLISH****40 points**

I. For questions 1–10, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.
(1px10 items=10points)

Laboratory Food

This is the 1_____ question occupying the minds of food scientists today: there will be nine billion people walking the earth by 2050 and, if our current food production systems don't change, how are we going to feed them? This problem has 2_____ a technological revolution in the food industry: the development of synthetic or lab-grown food. What 3_____ would it have on your appetite to know that the steak 4_____ in the pan was grown in a lab, and that the mouth-watering 5_____ omelette that will accompany it is made from 'eggs' developed from plant protein?

Probably very little if you do some research. First and 6_____ , we should be aware that there's little or no difference in the 7_____ value of these foods as compared to the goodness contained in naturally produced food. 8_____, many of the foods we regard 9_____ fresh, homegrown or natural have been treated with artificial substances to make sure they are not actually 10_____ before we get to buy them. So, as the change-the-world technology evangelists would say, bring it on and let's feed the world!

1 A burning	B flaming	C bursting	D heating
2 A handled	B rocketed	C triggered	D invented
3 A impact	B crash	C threat	D pressure
4 A crunching	B clinking	C popping	D sizzling
5 A slimy	B starched	C savoury	D soggy
6 A last	B the most	C final	D foremost



7 A influential	B nutritional	C emotional	D universal
8 A In fact	B Although	C In comparison	D Consequently
9 A like	B as	C alike	D similar
10 A off	B on	C out	D over

II. For questions 1–10, read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. . **(1px10 items=10points)**

Why are overheard calls so annoying?

People are more distracted (1).... mobile phone conversations than background chat in the same room,(2)to a study at San Diego University. The research also shows that an overheard phone conversation is significantly more memorable (3).... someone involuntarily listening in than if the conversation(4).... place between people in the same location. Volunteers were asked to do anagram puzzles while,unknown (5)..... them, researchers conducted a scripted conversation in the background, either between two people in the room or between someone on a mobile phone and an unknown caller . Participants only heard the conversation once and were unaware (6).... the fact it was part of the study. Those(7).... overheard the one-sided conversation found it more distracting and annoying, and remembered more words from it.

A possible explanation is that we keep trying to figure out what is going on, becoming frustrated (8) our failure to do (9).....It is (10).... knowing where the conversation is heading that makes overheard cell-phone calls so irritating.

III. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. You must use between three and six words, including the word given. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it.

(2px5 items=10points).

1. Sam has constantly attempted not to attract attention since the trial began.

PROFILE

Sam has made constant..... since the trial began.

2 Lisa threatened to resign if they did not increase her salary.

UNLESS

Lisa threatened that..... her salary.



3. Defending himself against such a powerful opponent was a brave thing to do.

STAND

It was brave ofsuch a powerful opponent.

4 Economists believe that the rise in oil prices caused last year's downturn.

BELIEVED

Last year's downturnby the rise in oil prices.

5. The CEO never said anything about people having to be made redundant.

TIME

At..... say anything about people having to be made redundant.

IV. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.

(1px10items=10points)

The role of expertise

In public discussions, experts are often treated as 1) _____ authorities whose views should not be questioned. (FALLIBLE)

This attitude can lead to the 2) _____ acceptance of claims that deserve closer scrutiny. (CRITIC)

When predictions fail, responsibility is frequently 3) _____, allowing institutions to avoid accountability. (PLACE)

Such practices encourage a culture of intellectual 4) _____, in which errors go unchallenged. (COMPLACENT)

Over time, this results in the gradual 5) _____ of public trust in expert opinion. (ERODE)
Attempts to restore credibility often rely on superficial 6) _____ rather than meaningful reform. (TRANSPARENT)

A more constructive approach would involve the 7) _____ of diverse perspectives and the open admission of uncertainty. (INCLUDE)

Without this, decision-making risks becoming increasingly 8) _____, shaped more by ideology than evidence. (DOCTRINE)

Ultimately, genuine expertise requires not certainty, but the 9) _____ to revise one's views when necessary. (WILL)

Only then can trust be rebuilt on a foundation of intellectual 10) _____. (HONEST)

**SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS****50 points****I. Five short fragments have been removed from the text below. 2px5 items=10 points**

Choose the correct fragment A–F. One fragment is extra.

Can Technology Replace Critical Thinking?

Digital tools increasingly shape the way information is accessed and processed. Search engines provide instant answers, while algorithms determine what content users are exposed to. (1) ___ As a result, there is growing concern that reliance on such tools may discourage independent analysis.

Supporters of digital innovation argue that technology enhances learning by increasing efficiency. (2) ___ When used appropriately, these tools can free up cognitive resources for higher-order thinking.

However, critics point out that convenience often comes at a cost. (3) ___ The ability to evaluate sources critically may deteriorate when answers are readily available.

Educational researchers stress that the issue is not technology itself, but how it is integrated. (4) ___ Without explicit instruction, students may confuse information access with understanding.

Ultimately, fostering critical thinking requires deliberate effort. (5) ___ Technology should support this process, not replace it.

Fragments:

- A. For instance, digital note-taking allows students to organise information more efficiently.
- B. This can lead to passive consumption rather than active engagement.
- C. In many classrooms, however, such guidance is inconsistent or absent.
- D. At the same time, students are rarely taught how these systems operate.
- E. Tools alone cannot substitute reflection and reasoning.
- F. Consequently, educators must rethink traditional assessment methods.

II. A research organisation analysing the impact of digital technology on students' thinking skills is collecting data from schools worldwide.

Based on the text above and on your own experience, write a **report** on the use of technology in your school. Write your report in 220-250 words. **40 points**



Your report should:

- evaluate how digital tools influence students' **critical thinking abilities**
- identify both **advantages and potential risks** of relying on technology in learning
- suggest **practical ways** technology could be used more effectively in the classroom

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TOTAL 100 DE PUNCTE.

TOATE SUBIECTELE SUNT OBLIGATORII.
TIMPUL DE LUCRU ESTE DE 3h.