

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ****ETAPA LOCALĂ****12 FEBRUARIE 2026****CLASA a XII-a****SECTIUNEA A****VARIANTA B****SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH****40 points****I. Read the following text and fill in the blanks with ONE word only. 1px10= 10points****Interpreting the past**

Fragments of pottery, tools or skeletal remains are often the only traces left 1) ____ early human societies. 2) ____ the absence of written records, historians and archaeologists have reconstructed much of our distant past. This has been achieved 3) ____ careful observation and comparison of evidence from diverse regions.

What is particularly remarkable is 4) ____ prehistory represents the vast majority of human existence, accounting 5) ____ almost 99% of our time on Earth. During this long period, early communities developed practices and technologies that would later 6) ____ the basis of modern civilisation.

Evidence can emerge from far and wide, ranging 7) ____ cave paintings to burial sites. Only 8) ____ recent decades have scientific methods allowed more precise dating. 9) ____ a result, our understanding of early societies continues to evolve. Not only 10) ____ such research shed light on the past, but it also helps us understand the present.

II. Choose the best option A, B, C or D.**1px10= 10points**

1. Her argument was so ____ and poorly structured that it failed to ____ even the most sympathetic audience.

- A. nebulous / persuade
- B. trenchant / confuse
- C. unequivocal / alienate
- D. lucid / undermine

2. No sooner ____ the findings ____ critics began to question their validity.

- A. he released / when
- B. has he released / then
- C. had he released / than
- D. he had released / that

3. The minister's resignation was seen as a ____ attempt to ____ public outrage.

- A. perfunctory / inflame
- B. cynical / defuse
- C. candid / provoke
- D. futile / justify



4. The committee concluded that the data ____ have been misinterpreted and that further analysis ____ be required before a decision could be reached.

- A. must / would
- B. might / might
- C. should / ought to
- D. could / must

5. His credibility remained intact, ____ repeated accusations, ____ no concrete evidence emerged.

- A. although / yet
- B. notwithstanding / as
- C. because of / unless
- D. whereas / therefore

6. The spokesperson denied ____ prior knowledge of the issue and insisted that the minister ____ informed only the previous day.

- A. having / was
- B. to have / is
- C. having had / has been
- D. to have had / had been

7. The theory was accepted ____ question and soon became ____ wisdom within the field.

- A. above / controversial
- B. beyond / received
- C. without / speculative
- D. under / conventional

8. Which proverb best completes the sentence?

He ignored repeated warnings and overestimated his abilities; as the saying goes, ___, and he soon learned this ___.

- A. pride comes before a fall / the hard way
- B. the early bird catches the worm / in hindsight
- C. actions speak louder than words / by chance
- D. every cloud has a silver lining / unexpectedly

9. Hardly ____ the contract ____ discrepancies began to surface.

- A. he had signed / than
- B. had he signed / when
- C. did he sign / than
- D. had he signed / before

10. The journalist's ____ questions were designed to ____ evasive responses from those in power.

- A. cursory / encourage
- B. derivative / suppress
- C. incisive / elicit
- D. impartial / disguise

**III. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. 2px5= 10points**

Use the word given. **Do not change the word given.**

Use **3–6 words**, including the word given.

1. He avoided giving a direct answer to the question.

He _____ when asked the question.

HEDGED

2. She was extremely nervous about speaking in front of the audience and kept imagining everything that could go wrong.

She _____ and kept imagining everything that could go wrong.

JITTERS

3. It is highly likely that she inadvertently revealed confidential information.

She must _____ the bag.

HAVE

4. He did not give his consent until he had considered every possible outcome very carefully.

Only after _____ he give his consent.

MULLED

5. It is possible that the documents were destroyed intentionally.

The documents _____ intentionally.

MAY

IV. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space. 1px10= 10points

In contemporary society, empowerment is often framed as the process through which individuals gain greater control over decisions affecting their lives. However, this process is neither simple nor automatically (1) ___, particularly for marginalised groups who face long-standing structural barriers.

EFFORT

True empowerment requires more than symbolic gestures; it involves the active (2) ___ of power relations that systematically disadvantage certain communities.

BALANCE

Education is frequently cited as a key driver of empowerment, yet access to quality education remains profoundly (3) ___, reinforcing cycles of exclusion rather than breaking them.

EQUAL

Moreover, initiatives that claim to empower individuals can become counterproductive when they foster (4) ___ rather than autonomy, leaving people reliant on external support systems.

DEPEND

At a policy level, empowerment strategies often fail due to a lack of (5) ___ between stated objectives and concrete implementation.



ALIGN

In the workplace, empowerment is sometimes reduced to a managerial buzzword, stripped of its original (6) _____ potential to challenge hierarchical norms.

TRANSFORM

Digital platforms, while offering unprecedented opportunities for self-expression, can also expose users to (7) _____ pressures that undermine confidence and agency.

EMPOWER

Psychological empowerment is closely linked to an individual's sense of self-worth, which can be severely affected by repeated experiences of social (8) _____.

VALID

For empowerment to be sustainable, it must be rooted in critical awareness and collective action, not in the (9) _____ belief that personal effort alone guarantees success.

ILLUDE

Ultimately, empowerment is not a destination but an ongoing process, requiring constant reflection, resistance, and the (10) _____ of existing power structures.

NEGOTIATE

II. SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

50 points

2px5=10 points

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

Get them going!

Welcome to the world of the 21st century teenager-where DVDs and computer games rule and trainers are something you wear to look cool rather than run in. As a result, at a time when they should be at their peak fitness, the UK's teenagers are lagging badly behind. A national survey recently found that many 16-to 20-year-olds had less aerobic capacity and muscle strength than healthy 60-year-olds. And not surprisingly this is giving cause for concern.

Roger Draper, chief executive of Sport England, agrees. "If they want to give themselves a head start in staying healthy for life, teenagers need to get into the exercise habit now", he says. "We want to see more teenagers channelling their natural energy into exercise in any shape or form."

Many parents think that encouraging teenagers into sport is something schools should take responsibility for but Andrew Findley, a former PE teacher, points out that schools can only go so far.

'The majority of pupils only get two hours of PE a week so although it's better than nothing there's only so much teachers can do-parents have a major role to play too', he says. 'It always amazed me how many pupils would come with a note from home excusing them from PE without good reason. A lot of teenagers also feel it's not cool to do well at school and that goes for PE as much as other subjects.'



A recent survey of 11-to 14-year-olds revealed that sport is becoming a less popular way of spending leisure time while the number of children in that age range who say they love sport has dropped by 10 per-cent compared to previous years. Roger Draper puts this down to the number of other pursuits competing for teenagers' leisure hours, from playing on the computer to going out clubbing.

"That's why we're looking to support sports such as skateboarding and other street sports, which young people are increasingly interested in. We cannot just promote the old traditional sports of football, hockey and cricket—many teenagers still want to play these but many others don't and we need to broaden sport's appeal."

Membership of sports clubs drops significantly in teenage years; 71 percent of 7-to 10-year-olds belong to a club compared to 43 percent of 15-to 19-year-olds. The danger is that those who have dropped out may not take up another activity to keep them fit and will enter adulthood with a sedentary lifestyle. While for teenagers who wouldn't even dream of joining a sports club in the first place, it's particularly important that they find alternative exercise they enjoy—or at least do regularly.

It's great if teenagers show an interest in competitive sport but if they don't, it's essential to realise that exercise and the health benefits it brings are more important than becoming brilliantly skilled in a particular discipline. It's all very well talking about the benefits of exercising but when you are faced with telling a sulky 16-year-old you are not driving them down the road because the walk will do them good, it's another matter. So is it really worth the effort? Bearing in mind the way a teenager's mind works can help parents to strike a balance between encouraging a more active lifestyle and what will be viewed as nagging. Dr Dawn Skelton points out that most teenagers find it hard to imagine themselves getting older and live for today not tomorrow, so the importance of keeping fit for the future may be lost on them.

"Parents need to focus on how a healthier lifestyle can help them now", she says. "If you are studying for exams for instance, research shows that exercise can boost their concentration levels. Girls might be inspired by the fact that exercise can improve their looks in terms of their skin as well as their figures and teenage boys might like the idea of building up their muscle mass.

Sport can also be useful social contact through which they can form relationships that last a lifetime."

And of course, setting a good example helps too. It's no good telling your child to get up and be active if you are slouching in front of the TV. Family trips to the swimming pool, bowling alley or nearest country park will help you all to stay active—with family harmony as an extra bonus.

1. What is suggested in the opening paragraph?
 - A. Teenagers don't want to get their clothes dirty.
 - B. Teenagers are more interested in fashion than health.
 - C. Older people are much healthier than they used to be.
 - D. Teenagers won't take exercise if older people are around
2. According to Andrew Findley
 - A. children write false notes to excuse them from PE at school.
 - B. parents need to be skillful at the sports that children like.
 - C. parents are unhappy with the sports facilities in schools.
 - D. parents sometimes aggravate the situation.
3. Roger Draper believes that the situation could be improved by:
 - A. offering a wider choice of activities.
 - B. scrapping all traditional sports.
 - C. banning all team sports in schools.
 - D. introducing extreme sports to inspire teenagers.
4. One of the problems with pushing a teenager to be more active is they may
 - A. not appreciate the wider benefits of exercise.
 - B. become too tired to do their schoolwork.



C. insist on their parents taking up a sport too.
D. resent the fact that they can't do certain sports with their friends.

5. In order to inspire a teenager, you
A. should tell them about the sports you used to play when you were young.
B. should stress how lucky they are to have good sports facilities.
C. ought to practise what you preach.
D. should ban them from watching TV in the evening.

**II. Starting from the text above, write an article on the 21st century teenager and a healthy lifestyle.
Write your article in 250-280 words.**

40 points

TOTAL **100 points**

Notă: TOATE SUBIECTELE SUNT OBLIGATORII.

TIMPUL DE LUCRU ESTE DE 3 h.

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