

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ  
CLUJ-NAPOCA  
Aprilie 2023**

**CLASA A XII-A - SECȚIUNEA B**

**Probă scrisă**

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 90 de minute.

**SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH**

**I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (20 points)**

How can we be sure that animals such as pigs actually have a subjective world of needs, sensations and emotions? Are we not guilty of humanising animals, i.e. **ascribing** human qualities to non-human entities, like children believing that dolls feel love and anger? In fact, attributing emotions to pigs does not humanise them. It ‘mammalises’ them. For emotions are not a uniquely human quality – they are common to all mammals (as well as to all birds and probably to some reptiles and even fish). All mammals evolved emotional abilities and needs, and from the fact that pigs are mammals we can safely deduce that they have emotions.

In recent decades life scientists have demonstrated that emotions are not some mysterious spiritual phenomena that are useful just for writing poetry and composing symphonies. Rather, emotions are biochemical algorithms that are vital for the survival and reproduction of all mammals. What does this mean? Let us begin by explaining what an algorithm is. This is of great importance not only because this key concept will reappear in many of the following chapters, but also because the twenty-first century will be dominated by algorithms. ‘Algorithm’ is arguably the single most important concept in our world. If we want to understand our life and our future, we should make every effort to comprehend what an algorithm is, and how algorithms are connected with emotions.

An algorithm is a **methodical** set of steps that can be used to make calculations, resolve problems and reach decisions. An algorithm is not a particular calculation, but the method followed when making the calculation. For example, if you want to calculate the average between two numbers, you can use a simple algorithm. (...) A more complex example is a cooking recipe. Of course, you need a person to read the recipe and follow the prescribed set of steps. But you can also build a machine that **embodies** this algorithm and follows it automatically: a vending machine. The algorithms controlling vending machines work through mechanical gears and electric circuits. The algorithms controlling humans work through sensations, emotions and thoughts, according to biologists.

*(Homo Deus. A Brief History of Tomorrow, by Yuval Noah Harari)*

**A. Answer the following questions, according to the text.**

**8 points**

1. What does the word “humanising” mean?
2. What types of living organisms have emotions, according to the writer?
3. What purposes do emotions serve?
4. What are algorithms utilised for?

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

- |                      |               |              |                |              |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>ascribe</b>    | a. accredit   | b. attach    | c. charge      | d. impute    |
| 2. <b>methodical</b> | a. meaningful | b. intricate | c. organized   | d. detailed  |
| 3. <b>embody</b>     | a. epitomize  | b. typify    | c. incorporate | d. incarnate |

**C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. 6 points**

- In fact, attributing emotions to pigs does not humanise them.  
In fact, if emotions ..... humanised.
- In recent decades life scientists have demonstrated that emotions are not some mysterious spiritual phenomena.  
What life scientists ..... demonstrate that emotions are not some mysterious spiritual phenomena.
- An algorithm is a methodical set of steps that can be used to make calculations, resolve problems and reach decisions.  
Not only ..... , but also to resolve problems and reach decisions.

**II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. 10 points**

He was difficult from the beginning. "Difficult" is such a useful, vague word, but in this situation its lack of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (**SPECIFIC**) is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (**INTENTION**). This is because almost everything about Victor – every (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (**INTERACT**), every exchange, every rite of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (**CHILD**) seemed particularly fraught, and even the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (**BASE**) facts about him that should have been easy to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (**CERTAIN**) became the subject of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (**LABYRINTH**) explorations and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (**INVESTIGATE**). There are children who make life difficult for themselves through their bad (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (**BEHAVE**) or lack of personality or common sense, and there are others for whom – through genetics or circumstances – life is already difficult. It should be said that although Victor eventually became a member of the former (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (**CATEGORISE**), he began life with me as a member of the latter.

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

Nici astăzi nu pot vedea la sfârșitul iernii profilându-se pe albastrul cerului ramurile negre ale copacilor și nu pot simți adierea vântului încărcată cu mirosul fânului și al pământului umed fără a-mi reaminti cât de grele ne erau tălpile și moi picioarele pe când ne urcam în deal la lecție. Dinu, mai mic, rămânea uneori în urmă și culegea un buchețel de flori ca să îmbuneze pe d-ra Marie și să scape de nota rea a întârzierii. Buletinul săptămânal cel mai bun dădea dreptul să alegem prăjitura de duminică, singura zi în care aveam un dulce. De obicei, eu mă bucuram de acest privilegiu, căci eram foarte silitoare. Adesea Ionel, cam leneș, dar și mai mic și pus la aceeași lecție ca mine, îmi sufla numele prăjiturii la care poftea.

(Ioana Parvulescu - *Și eu am trăit în comunism*)