

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ, 11 februarie 2024
CLASA a XI-a, SECȚIUNEA B - Bilingv/intensiv Varianta 1**

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.

- Pentru rezolvarea corectă a tuturor subiectelor din Partea A și Partea B se acordă 100 de puncte.
- Timpul de lucru: 3 ore.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH

(40 points)

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (20 p)

King Charles knows that he needs to be seen to be reducing the wealth of the Royal Family and the number of people who benefit from it. Bloomberg estimated in 2022 that the British monarchy owned property worth about £19 billion, and while selling some of this would make little or no difference to royal lifestyles, it would be a symbolic gesture. We can therefore expect some sales of royal property in the coming years, along with other signs that the monarchy is in touch with twenty-first century expectations.

Before becoming king, Charles was known as an environmentalist, a keen supporter of organic agriculture, and someone who was acutely aware of the social problems of British cities. The "Prince's Trust", which he personally set up in 1976, is a major British charity that works with problems of homelessness and unemployment among young people who are struggling at school and at risk of exclusion, and Charles's social and environmental credentials are personal assets that will help him to take the monarchy forwards.

Finally, Charles will need to build on the monarchy's other great assets, its permanence and its position above politics. Ask people in Britain if they want to abolish the monarchy, and just over 20% may say "yes". Ask them who they would prefer to have as Britain's head of state, and there is no agreement.

As for the future of the monarchy, only one thing is sure, and that is that King Charles's reign will be shorter than that of his mother. Will the monarchy survive beyond him? Probably yes, but nothing can be ruled out.

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

(8 points)

1. What is King Charles aware of?
2. What was King Charles aware of?
3. What is the "Prince's Trust"?
4. What is sure about the future of the monarchy?

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. environmentalist: | a) a dendrologist, | b) a green, | c) a wildlife expert, |
| 2. charity: | a) a non-profit association, | b) a donation, | c) generosity, |
| 3. credentials: | a) qualifications, | b) a licence, | c) accomplishments |

C. Rephrase the following two sentences so as to preserve the meaning and add the tag-question for the third item. (6 points)

1. Bloomberg estimated in 2022 that the British monarchy owned property worth about £19 billion.

It _____ that the British monarchy owned property worth about £19 billion.

2. Charles was known as an environmentalist, a keen supporter of organic agriculture.

Not only _____, but also as a keen supporter of organic agriculture.

3. King Charles knows that he needs to be seen to be reducing the wealth of the Royal Family, _____?

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

1. The farmer is going to set up a(n) _____ for his horses soon. CLOSE
2. Her father was _____ in her childhood and that's why she lacks self-confidence now. PROTECT
3. Many stars were absent at the party, _____ Taylor Swift – she had been invited too late. NOTE
4. A cooked meal is more _____ than junk food. NUTRITION
5. The team ended their mission _____ and their commander was very satisfied. SUCCESS
6. The bomb is believed to have been planted in the shop by left-wing _____. EXTREME
7. All _____ are kindly requested to be punctual every day. EMPLOY
8. His rapid rise to _____ made him lose his head. STAR
9. What do you know about her _____ in this issue? INVOLVE
10. Our allies came out _____ after a two-day battle in the mountains. VICTORY

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. (10 points)

In southern California, Angels may guard over the City of Angels; but (1) _____ appropriately, the city might be renamed the "City of Dangers".

(2) _____ San Francisco, Los Angeles lies astride one of the most active geological fault lines on our planet, the San Andreas Fault.

Every few years, city buildings tremble and sway as Los Angeles is rocked (3) _____ an earthquake. Often, millions of dollars' worth of damage are done, and lives are lost; but the effect on Angelenos is little, and short lived. Few Angelenos (4) _____ their bags and move out of town after an earthquake; most shrug their shoulders, and get on with the job, making money, enjoying life, bringing up a family, or whatever.

Yet as seismologists keep warning, the "Big One" is coming. No one knows when it will strike, (5) _____

how violent it will be; but experts tend to agree that at some time within the next fifty years, a mega-quake will strike (6) _____ in California.

According to nightmare scenarios, whole sections of the ultra-chic L.A. suburbs of Palos Verdes and Malibu (7) _____ slide into the sea (as little bits (8) _____ from time to time already); a major quake centered in the city in mid-summer could set (9) _____ fires that could rage uncontrolled for weeks on end. There is no limit to the extravagance of the disaster scenarios that (10) _____ be imagined, as Hollywood - on the spot and in the know - has not failed to realise.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS

(60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

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

The term “genetic modification” provokes widespread fears about the corporate control of agriculture, and of the unknown. However, results from 25 years of EU-funded research show that there is “no scientific evidence associating GM plants with higher risks for the environment or for food and feed safety than conventional plants and organisms”. This, of course, does not prove GM methods are 100% safe, but makes clear there is no evidence to the contrary.

This Saturday, anti-GM campaigners plan to offload potatoes outside the John Innes Centre (JIC) in Norfolk – one of the country’s leading crop research institutes – for a “photo shoot”. They claim that our research trial of blight-resistant GM potatoes on a plot at JIC, one of only two ongoing GM research trials in the UK, is a “dangerous experiment”.

The trial involves research on genes from wild potatoes. We have been able to isolate genes from wild species that make them resistant to UK races of the late blight pathogen, *Phytophthora infestans*, which causes \$ 3.5 bn in annual losses worldwide.

The blight resistant variety being trialed, that reduces the amount of pesticides the crop needs – and is rejected by the protesters – could not have been produced without GM.

We had hoped to create an opportunity to discuss this with the campaigners, as well as other issues they raise in their publicity material. With support from JIC, we invited them to take part in a proper debate. Disappointingly, they declined. We recognize their right to peaceful protest but have been frustrated that we cannot talk to the organizers, except via exchange of emails.

Meanwhile, the benefits of GM technology are becoming clearer to all. Insect resistant GM cotton and maize has reduced insecticide applications and lowered mycotoxin levels in the maize we eat. Genetic engineering in microbial research has produced new antibiotics and other natural products. IJC purple tomatoes contain elevated levels of health-promoting anthocyanins.

Food insecurity and climate change highlight the challenges of sustainability feeding a growing world population. Further research using GM methods opens new possibilities for raising and stabilizing yields, improving resistance to pests and diseases and withstanding abiotic stresses such as drought and cold.

But in Europe, while taxpayers' money is still paying to develop useful GM crop traits, taxpayers are not benefitting from their development. In contrast, Canada, China, the US and South America are blazing ahead with GM and India is not far behind. The largest figures from the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications report 15 million farmers planting GM crops on around 150 m hectares in 2020. Many promising GM traits exist, often discovered by academics, but the commercial risks are too great, the costs too high and the rewards too low for the European private sector to invest in taking them forward.

The argument has to be made that the benefits of the technology far outweigh any hypothetical hazards. We need to think about the cost of not adopting GM as well as the risks, and we must not spurn the great opportunities created by embracing it.

(www.guardian.co.uk)

1. Research shows that:
 - A. GM plants pose greater risks than conventional plants.
 - B. GM plants are not as tasty as conventional plants
 - C. GM plants are not more dangerous than conventional plants
 - D. GM plants harm the environment more than conventional plants

2. The blight-resistant potatoes being trialed:
 - A. Are not suitable for human consumption
 - B. Diminish the use of pesticides
 - C. Are approved by anti-GM campaigners
 - D. Could have been produced without GM

3. GM technology:
 - A. Has obvious advantages
 - B. Reduces the risks of disease
 - C. Promotes healthy eating
 - D. Enhances productivity

4. European tax-payers:
 - A. Do not want to pay for the development of GM technology
 - B. Blame GM technology for the rising prices of food
 - C. Do not take advantage of the benefits of GM thechnology
 - D. Disagree with the development of GM technology

5. European companies:
 - A. Make good profit out of GM crops
 - B. Invest a lot of money in GM crops
 - C. Are the driving force behind GM
 - D. Are reluctant to invest in GM crops

II. Starting from the text above, write a *for and against* essay on spending money on research on GM food. (220-250 words) (50 points)

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ, 11 februarie 2024
CLASA a XI-a, SECȚIUNEA B - Bilingv/intensiv Varianta 1**

BAREM DE CORECTARE

- Se punctează oricare alte modalități de rezolvare corectă a cerințelor.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

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

A. Answer the following questions, according to the text. (4 x 2 p=8 points)

1. ... that he needs to be seen to be reducing the wealth of the Royal Family and the number of people who benefit from it
2. ... of the social problems of British cities
3. ... is a major British charity that works with problems of homelessness and unemployment among young people who are struggling at school and at risk of exclusion, and Charles's social and environmental credentials are personal assets that will help him to take the monarchy forwards
4. ... that King Charles's reign will be shorter than that of his mother.

B. Choose the synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. (3 x 2 p=6 points)

1. b) a green 2. a) a non-profit association 3. a) qualifications

C. Rephrase the following two sentences so as to preserve the meaning and add the tag-question for the third item. (3 x 2 p=6 points)

1. ... was estimated by Bloomberg in 2022 ...
2. ... was Charles known as an environmentalist, ...
3. ... ,doesn't he?

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

1. ENCLOSURE, 2. OVERPROTECTIVE, 3. NOTABLY, 4. NUTRITIOUS, 5. SUCCESSFULLY, 6. EXTREMISTS, 7. EMPLOYEES, 8. STARDOM, 9. INVOLVEMENT, 10. VICTORIOUS

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. (10 x 1 p=10 points)

1.more, 2. Like, 3. by, 4. pack, 5. nor, 6. somewhere, 7. could, 8. do, 9. off, 10. can

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS

(60 points)

I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text. (5 x 2 p=10 points)

1. C, 2. B, 3. A, 4. C, 5. D

MARKING SCHEME FOR THE FOR AND AGAINST ESSAY

Analytical criteria	Exemplary 10p	Proficient 8p	Partially Proficient 6p	Weak 4p	Incomplete 2p	Po in ts
CONTENT	The essay is completely relevant to topic, all arguments are well-rounded, well-grounded, and balanced, developing the thesis of the introduction and leading to a balanced consideration and/or personal opinion.	The essay is fairly completed, the thesis in the introduction being further developed with balanced arguments and relevant ideas.	The essay is partially relevant to topic, there is no thesis formulated in the first paragraph, which leads to inconsistencies in the logical development of arguments.	The essay is faulty, including serious logical impediments in the sequencing of ideas / arguments.	The essay is wholly inadequate, there is no thesis in the first paragraph, while the arguments lack logical development.	
ORGANIZATION AND COHESION	There is complete logical connection of paragraphs due to a judicious use of linking devices, mechanics, and length requirements.	There is a fairly completion of paragraph organization due to scarce misuse of linking devices, mechanics, and length requirements.	There is partial completion of the task. Paragraphs are partially complete due to unfinished ideas and scarce use of linking devices, mechanics, and length requirements.	There is serious inconsistency in the organization of the paragraphs due to the misuse of the linking devices, mechanics, and length requirements.	Paragraphs are incomplete, both linking devices, mechanics, and length requirements having been disrespected.	
VOCABULARY	A wide range of vocabulary is used appropriately and accurately throughout the essay; precise meaning is conveyed; minor errors are rare; spelling is very well controlled. The register of the for and against essay is totally relevant to the task, being organically integrated all along the discourse.	A range of vocabulary is used appropriately and accurately in the essay; occasional errors in word choice/formation are possible; spelling is well controlled with occasional slips. The register of the for and against essay is relevant to the task with slightly incongruent lapses within the discourse	The range of vocabulary is adequately used in the essay; errors in word choice / formation are present when more sophisticated items of vocabulary are attempted; spelling can be faulty at times. The register of the for and against essay is partially relevant to the task with a narrow inconsistency of style, leading to halts in the logical development of ideas	A limited range of vocabulary is present within the essay; less common items of vocabulary are rare and may be often faulty; spelling errors can make text understanding difficult. The register of the essay is inconsistent due to the mixture of styles.	A very narrow range of vocabulary is present; errors in word choice/formation predominate; spelling errors can make the essay obscure at times. The register used in the for and against essay is inappropriate for the type of functional writing.	
STRUCTURES	A wide range of grammatical structures is used accurately and flexibly throughout the essay; minor errors are rare; punctuation is very well controlled.	A range of grammatical structures is used accurately and with some flexibility along the essay; occasional errors are possible; punctuation is well controlled with occasional slips.	A mix of complex and simple grammatical structures is present throughout the essay; errors are present when complex language is attempted; punctuation can be faulty at times.	A limited range of grammatical structures is present along the essay; complex language is rare and may be often faulty; punctuation errors can make text understanding difficult.	A very narrow range of grammatical structures is present within the essay; errors predominate; punctuation errors make the text obscure at times.	
EFFECT ON TARGET READER	The interest of the reader is aroused and sustained throughout.	The text has a good effect on the reader.	The effect on the reader is satisfactory.	The effect on the reader non-relevant.	The text has a negative effect on the reader.	