

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ 11 februarie 2024
Clasa a IX-a, SECȚIUNEA B- Bilingv/Intensiv Varianta 1

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
Timpul de lucru este 3 ore.
Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

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

2020 US Census

The population in the United States has grown to 331 million, an increase of about 7%, over the past **decade**. However, it is the slowest growth rate since the Great Depression between the two world wars. The census, taken every ten years, has an impact on the Electoral College, and, as a result, the **outcome** of the presidential election. The 2020 census shows that Texas is the big winner with the largest growth rate. 29 million people live in the state, whose population increased by 16% since the 2010 count. The southern state gained 2 seats in the Electoral College. One reason for the change may be the fact that more and more high-tech companies are leaving Silicon Valley and setting up headquarters in Texas. For the first time in history, California's population has actually decreased. Falling birth rates and more Californians leaving the state for other destinations have led to a loss of one electoral college seat. According to the census, more and more Americans are leaving the north-eastern US and the Midwest and heading towards the **sunbelt** states of the south. Apart from Texas, Florida is another winner and has gained one seat. The results of the census could increase Republican chances of winning back the White House in 2024, as typically Democratic states like California and New York have lost Electoral College seats while Republican **strongholds** have gained a few.

A. Answer the following questions: (4x2p=8p)

1. How many people live in the United States, according to the 2020 census?
2. How often is a census taken?
3. Which region of the U.S are people leaving?
4. Why does the outcome of the census improve Republicans chances of winning back the White House in 2024?

B. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text: (4x1p=4p)

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. decade – | a) 12 years | b) 10 years | c) 20 years |
| 2. outcome – | a) antecedent | b) conflict | c) effect |
| 3. sunbelt – | a) rumples | b) Frost Belt | c) Southern zone |
| 4. strongholds – | a) fortress | b) crack | c) cabin |

C. Do the tasks as required: (4x2p=8p)

Rephrase the following sentences so as the meaning stays the same:

1. Falling birth rates led the Californians to a loss of electoral seats.
Falling birth rates made

2. The last time Texas had a census was in 2020.
Texas

3. More and more Americans are leaving the state and consequently the population decreases.
If the Americans.....

Fill in with the correct tag question:

4. The southern state gained two seats in the Electoral College,?

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

1. The _____ of the Premier League has been agreed upon by all the managers. (CONTINUE)
2. I am so _____ with your report. Surely, you can do better. (SATISFY)
3. Lewis and Clarke were famous _____ who explored the Missouri River. (ADVENTURE)
4. The faster you drive the less _____ your car becomes. (ECONOMY)
5. The _____ lasted for several minutes when the performers came on the stage. (APPLAUD)
6. If they hadn't won the _____, they would have had to pay the players less. (CHAMPION)
7. John was a big _____ who spent all his money in casinos. (GAMBLE)
8. You should be proud of your _____ over the last three years. (ACHIEVE)
9. She always does her homework with great _____. (ACCURATE)
10. The city displays a relaxed, _____ atmosphere that takes you back in time. (COLONY)

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

Keep on learning!

It doesn't matter (1) _____ you are still at school or in full-time employment, making the effort to learn new things is very important. Most of us have a few subjects on (2) _____ we focus. These may be associated (3) _____ our study or job, or sometimes a hobby. (4) _____ it is obviously important to develop a deep understanding of (5) _____ matters to us most, it is equally worthwhile to extend our range of knowledge beyond what we are familiar with, and that is true at (6) _____ age.

So the best advice is to find the time to (7) _____ on new challenges and learn new skills outside the areas where we feel most comfortable. People often choose subjects (8) _____ as new languages, computer skills, or painting. If you can't get to a class, (9) _____ you can go online. Online courses can easily (10)

_____ found, and learning online means you put in as much time as you want each day.

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

I. Read a text about home design and for questions 1 to 5, choose the correct answer. (10 puncte)

Vanessa is 18 years old and was born in 1999 in a village in Saxony-Anhalt. So far she has only been on holidays in the Baltic Sea, Poland, the Czech Republic and a school trip to London. At the moment she is at the Slovenian border with Croatia. From there she wants to go to Hungary. The trip was made possible by the European Commission. "Discover EU" is the name of the programme under which 15,000 18-year-olds from all over the Union received a free Interrail ticket for the whole of Europe. The trip can last up to 30 days, and the young people must pay for their own accommodation and food. The participants should get to know Europe "first hand", make friends from distant countries and overcome prejudices.

Two days later, Vanessa is sitting at eleven o'clock in the evening along the promenade in Split, under her long brown hair, two big earrings, a striped t-shirt and a rain coat. A heavy downpour has just fallen on the city, an unusual occurrence for the season. "At least with the rain, nothing much happens here, tomorrow it will be awful again," says Vanessa. The horror, that is the many tourists who flood the old town with their selfie sticks during the day. Now some of them are still sitting in the bars on the promenade, many of them also Vanessa's age. The night train will now take them to Zagreb and from there to Hungary. Travelling by train, says Vanessa, is actually the best part of the journey. Falling asleep in a city, waking up on the coast, today the other way round. In between, landscapes, conversations with all kinds of people, everyday train life together, almost like a travelling flat-sharing community. In the early afternoon we finally arrive in Keszthely, a small town on Lake Balaton in the west of Hungary, 21,000 inhabitants, it is raining. Keszthely is the exact opposite of Split: no life on the streets, closed shops. "Almost like home," Vanessa thinks. Her birthplace Benndorf is even smaller, 2000 inhabitants, ten kilometres from Eisleben, according to Vanessa "small and not necessarily beautiful", but nevertheless she always likes to return there.

Four days later, Vanessa joined a group of other Interrail travellers in Budapest. First a young Dutchman, they walk through the city, have long conversations about Europe, the differences and peculiarities of the people in the different countries and about how travelling eliminates prejudices and connects people. A man from Cologne asks her the classic opening question of any traveller small talk: "Where are you actually from?" Vanessa says: "From Saxony-Anhalt". "Ah, that's a town in Saxony, isn't it?" Vanessa doesn't know whether to laugh or cry. Now, three quarters of the way through her journey, does she feel that free Interrail tickets are bringing European youth closer together? "The youth is not the problem at all," she thinks. Vanessa hardly knows anyone her age who doesn't enjoy travelling to other countries. She attests young people a kind of basic solidarity, the prejudices come later. "When you get older, you suddenly say strange things. Vanessa thinks that "it's better to send the older people on trips". Quelle: <https://www.jetzt.de/politik/junge-menschen-auf-interrail-trip> (letzter Zugriff: 18.01.2019)

1. Vanessa ...

- A. is an accompanist for long-distance trains.
- B. has already travelled to many continents.
- C. travels throughout Europe for the first time.



2. What is the purpose of the "Discover EU" programme ...
- A. makes it possible to travel for more than 30 days.
 - B. means to bring young people closer in Europe.
 - C. makes it possible to travel by different means of transport.
3. What does Vanessa criticize ...
- A. bad weather.
 - B. the mass of tourists.
 - C. bars on the promenade.
4. During her trip, what does Vanessa enjoy above all ...
- A. going to different places by train.
 - B. learning about life in foreign cities.
 - C. talking to others about her home town.
5. For Vanessa, Keszthely in Hungary is ...
- A. like the town where she grew up..
 - B. a typical Eastern European city.
 - C. like the city she used to go every year on holiday.

II. Write a narrative essay with the title “*My journey across Europe* ” (180-200 words) (50 points)

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BAREM DE EVALUARE

- 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 (20 points)

A. Answer the following questions: (4x2p=8p)

1. 331 million
2. every ten years
3. Midwest, Northeast
4. Traditionally Republican states (Texas, Florida) have gained population.

B. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text: (4x1p=4p)

1. b) 10 years
2. c) effect
3. c) Southern zone
4. a) fortress

C. Do the tasks as required: (4x2p=8p)

1.the Californians lose electoral seats.
2.hasn't had a census since 2020.
3. ...didn't leave the state, the population wouldn't decrease.
4. ... ,didn't it?

II. Complete the sentences by changing the form of the word in capitals. (10x1p=10p)

1. CONTINUATION
2. DISSATISFIED
3. ADVENTURERS
4. ECONOMICAL
5. APPLAUSE
6. CHAMPIONSHIP
7. GAMBLER
8. ACHIEVEMENTS
9. ACCURACY
10. COLONIAL

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

1. whether,
2. which,
3. with,
4. Although/Though,
5. what,
6. any,
7. take,
8. such,
9. then,
10. be

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

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

MARKING SCHEME FOR THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

Analytical criteria	Exemplary 10p	Proficient 8p	Partially Proficient 6p	Weak 4p	Incomplete 2p	P o i n t s
CONTENT	The essay is completely relevant to topic, describing places/events/characters/atmosphere/ reaching climax, including the final reactions of the protagonist.	The essay is fairly completed with all the sequencing elements of a narrative.	The essay is partially completed with slight logical impediments in sequencing the moments of the narrative.	The essay is faulty, including serious logical impediments in the sequencing of events.	The essay is incomplete, the sequencing of the narrative moments being inconsistent.	
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 narrative 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 narrative 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 narrative 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 narrative 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 narrative essay is inappropriate for this type 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 effect on the reader non-relevant.	