

**Etapa județeană/sectoarelor municipiului București a olimpiadelor naționale școlare -
2024**

Probă scrisă

Limba engleză

CLASA a X-a - SECȚIUNEA B

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

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (10 points)

Civic engagement involves working to make a difference in the civic life of one's community and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes. Civic engagement includes both paid and unpaid forms of political activism, environmentalism, and community and national service.

Youth civic engagement includes activities which enrich the lives of youths and are socially beneficial to the community. Volunteering is only one form of civic engagement included, as defined above, in the **construct** of civic action and civic commitment or duty, but research has also shown a connection between youth who volunteer and other forms of youth civic engagement. The **findings** suggest that, among youth, volunteering plays a valuable role in shaping how youth learn to interact with their community and develop the skills, values, and sense of empowerment necessary to become active citizens.

Another possible form of civic action and civic commitment and duty is service-learning. Unlike civic engagement, service-learning does not have to include a civic dimension and all forms of civic engagement are not service-learning. It is a broader concept that may **encompass**, but is not limited to, service-learning. Service-learning differs from community service or volunteerism in two distinct ways: the service activity is integrated with academic curriculum and content and students engage in reflection activities after their service experience and apply their learning in real-life activities.

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. 3 points

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. construct | a) endeavour | b) framework | c) backbone | d) venture |
| 2. findings | a) results | b) breakthroughs | c) detections | d) allegations |
| 3. encompass | a) encourage | b) embrace | c) enthrall | d) encounter |

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it. 3 points

1. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes. **DOES**

What promote the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.

2. Research has also shown a connection between youth who volunteer and other forms of youth civic engagement. **BY**

A connection researchers between youth who volunteer and other forms of youth civic engagement.

3. Volunteering plays a valuable role in shaping how youth learn to interact with their community and develop the skills, values, and sense of empowerment necessary to become active citizens.

ONLY

Not a valuable role in shaping how youth learn to interact with their community but it also develops the skills, values, and sense of empowerment necessary to become active citizens.

C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill-in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use. 4 points

involves, cultivates, springing, shaping, focuses, relies, enhance, enlarge

Civic engagement involves actively participating in community affairs to (1) quality of life through various means, including political and non-political avenues. Youth civic engagement particularly (2) on activities benefiting both youths and communities, with volunteering being a significant aspect. Research indicates volunteering (3) skills, values, and empowerment crucial for active citizenship. Service-learning, integrating service with academics and fostering reflection, extends beyond volunteerism in (4) civic commitment.

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

Plastics are polymers: long-chain molecules made of repeating links, or monomers. The chains are strong, light, and (1) (**DURATION**), which makes them so useful — and so (2) (**PROBLEM**) when they're disposed of (3) (**CARE**). The polymer here is PET, a type of polyester, the stuff of bottles and clothes.

The (4) (**GROW**) of plastic production has far outstripped the (5) (**ABLE**) of waste management to keep up — that's why the oceans are under assault. "It's not (6) (**SURPRISE**) that we broke the system," Jambeck says. "That kind of increase would break any system not prepared for it." In 2013 a group of (7) (**SCIENCE**) issued a new (8) (**ASSESS**) of throwaway living. Writing in *Nature* magazine, they declared that (9) (**DISPOSE**) plastic should be classified, not as a housewife's friend, but as a (10) (**HAZARD**) material.

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. On your answer sheet, if a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet.

10 points

- (0) *like* It feels like unfair to be asked to change your day-to-day life to solve what is,
(00) ..✓... by all scientific accounts, a global environmental crisis, especially when
(1) fossil fuel emissions continue unabated and celebrities famously take in
(2) private planes to cross distances they could easily drive. I get by it—it's exhausting.
(3) I'm not here to tell you to give up the hot shower you earned at the end
(4) of a long day. And if everyone needs a plastic water bottle now and then!
(5) But if you're like me and the state of our planet sends you into a mental tailspin,
(6) I've found that mindfully tending to your little slice of Earth can help it keep that
(7) existential dread at bay. You, individually, can't to stop sea levels from rising,
(8) but you, individually, can provide a small backyard refuge for some endangered
(9) monarch butterflies by planting a few milkweed bulbs. How sweet is that?
(10) And science shows up these individual actions can even make a difference.

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Multă vreme, cartierul dintre Piața Victoriei și „Lupoaică” a fost un cartier decorativ și pașnic. Se născuse pe un teren - parcul Bonaparte - aflat la marginea orașului, așadar într-o zonă aerisită, nezgomotoasă, foarte atrăgătoare pentru burghezia prosperă care își dorea case pitorești și confortabile. După revoluție, vecinătatea cu clădirea Guvernului a transformat, brusc, zona într-o culisă turbure a politicii stradale. Am ghinionul să locuiesc peste drum de un stabiliment, „Saga”, care la început avea aerul unui experiment decent. Lucrurile s-au degradat galopant, se organizează mari petreceri de gașcă, se programează nunți și se pune muzică. Tare. Asurzitor. Nerușinat. De vreun an, ascult seară de seară, laolaltă cu o sumedenie de vecini terorizați, aceleași casete cu Armstrong și Pavarotti (deveniți, firește, pe această cale, odioși).

(Andrei Pleșu, *Comedii la porțile Orientului*, adaptat)

SUBIECTUL B –Integrated Skills (60 points)

I. Five paragraphs have been removed from the following interview. Choose from the paragraphs A-F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Put your answer down on your answer sheet. 10 points

Do you see a bird right now? Can you hear one chirping? If so, you might be getting a mental health boost. A study recently published in the journal *Science* found that being in the presence of birds made people feel more positive.

(1)

Emerging from the app's data was a discernible trend—study participants who saw birds were more likely to report a better mood. Research is increasingly finding that getting outside is good for our brains, which is why scientists want to know more about what aspects of nature may be the most therapeutic.

(2)

Why study birds? Andrea Mechelli, a psychologist at King's College London and one of the paper's authors, found himself studying the natural world by accident. "I don't have a particular agenda focused on nature myself. I wasn't thinking we were going to demonstrate nature has a strong effect," says Mechelli.

(3)

"Our first finding was that nature has a very powerful effect," says Mechelli. He and his colleagues then wondered if some aspects of nature were more beneficial than others. In August, they published a study finding a positive effect from walking along canals or rivers. To study the effect of wildlife, they turned to birds for their ubiquity in rural and urban environments. **(4)**

The mental health benefit was true both for people who disclosed a depression diagnosis and those without any diagnosed mental health conditions. Nature, Mechelli notes, isn't a cure all. The presence of trees and birds, for example, didn't result in a better sense of wellbeing if participants also noted their neighborhood felt unsafe.

When analyzing the data, researchers also combined the app's options for positive and negative emotions into two broad categories, which only allows a glimpse into an individual's wellbeing. Yet, James and other scientists note the study provides an interesting insight into how specific parts of nature may influence wellbeing.

(5)

The second theory is called attention restoration theory. Similar to the first, it theorizes that the constant strain of daily life—stressful commutes and constant Zoom calls—requires intense focus. Nature allows us to disengage that focus and engage in a sort of open-eyed meditation as we watch a bird flying from branch to branch.

A. Scientists have two main theories for why nature may be a soothing balm for our overworked minds. The first is that because homo sapiens evolved in nature, urban environments create a constant background stress. “And we can recover from that stress in natural settings because that’s what we evolved for,” James says of the theory. “We as human beings like nature because that’s where we’re meant to be.”

B. Instead, he was searching for answers to why people who live in cities seem to be more prone to mental illness, particularly psychosis. In 2015, he created the smartphone app Urban Mind to search for patterns in users’ environments. How crowded was their city? Did they feel safe in their neighborhood? Could they see trees?

C. For two weeks, study participants using a smartphone app were prompted to fill out a questionnaire three times a day. They were asked questions about their surrounding environment and their mental state.

D. A study first published in 1984 found that hospital patients recovering from surgery took fewer painkillers and had a shorter recovery if they also had a room with a view of nature. Another study looking at COVID-19 lockdown habits found those who spent time in nature reported less depression, anxiety, and stress.

E. “This kind of study helps us understand how people’s everyday experience with specific elements of nature, such as birds, can be restorative,” says Lisa Nisbet, a psychologist at Trent University in Canada, who was not involved with this research.

F. Their latest study included 1,292 participants, mainly in the United Kingdom and Europe, some of whom disclosed a professional mental health diagnosis such as depression. With the data he collected, Mechelli performed a statistical analysis that found a discernible improvement in wellbeing when birds were present, even when eliminating other factors like the presence of trees or waterways.

II. You are the secretary of the student council in your high school. The principal has asked you to write a report on the wellbeing of students. Starting from the text above, write a report in which you should consider how schools could integrate spending time in natural environments to promote wellbeing among students. 50 points

Write a 220-250 word report.