

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

**Probă scrisă  
Limba engleză**

**CLASA a XI-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 paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (10 points)**

The Japanese have a strong aesthetic sense: they **embellish**, adorn and decorate everything they touch. A sandwich in Japan is not just a sandwich, it is a work of art. It is cut into an artistic shape - it can be circular, octagonal or star-shaped - and given a colour scheme with carefully placed bits of tomato, coleslaw and pickles. There is, as a rule, a flag or some other decoration **hoisted** on top. Every dish is aimed at the eye as well as the palate.

Every tiny parcel, from the humblest little shop, radiates some original charm or at least tries to, and reflects pride: look how well done it is! Every taxi-driver has a small vase in front of him, with a beautiful, fresh, dark-red or snow-white flower in it. Once I watched a man at the counter in a fish-restaurant. Sushi and sashimi - the famous raw fish of Japan - comes in many forms and cuts, and it takes about ten years for a man to reach the counters of a first-class establishment. The man I watched was not bored with his somewhat monotonous job: he enjoyed every minute of it to the full and was immensely proud of it. Michelangelo could not have set a freshly carved Madonna before you with more pride than this cook felt when he put a freshly carved piece of raw fish on your plate.

The Japanese are unable to touch anything without beautifying it, shaping it into something pretty and pleasing to the eye. One evening I was walking in one of the **slummy** suburbs of Tokyo and saw a heap of rubbish outside the backyard of a factory. It was an immense mountainside of rubbish, but it was not just thrown out as it came: all the boxes were piled into a graceful if somewhat whimsical pyramid, while the loose rubbish was placed on top as artistic and picturesque decoration. Someone must have spent considerable time converting that heap of rubbish into a thing of beauty.

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

**3 points**

- |                      |            |               |              |              |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>embellish:</b> | a) embalm  | b) emancipate | c) embroider | d) beautify  |
| 2. <b>hoisted:</b>   | a) lifted  | b) risen      | c) elevated  | d) increased |
| 3. <b>slummy:</b>    | a) stained | b) bustling   | c) grimy     | d) blemished |

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

**3 points**

1. A sandwich can have many shapes and be given a colour scheme with carefully placed vegetables.

**BUT**

Not \_\_\_\_\_ it can also be given a colour scheme with carefully placed vegetables.

2. Michelangelo could not have carved Madonna before you with more pride than this cook felt.

**TAKEN**

Michelangelo could not \_\_\_\_\_ Madonna than this cook felt.

3. It was an immense mountainside of rubbish; someone must have spent considerable time in converting that heap of rubbish into a thing of beauty. **NOT**

Had \_\_\_\_\_ converting it into a thing of beauty, it would have been an immense mountainside of rubbish.

**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**

beautifying, pleasing, preparing, radiating, shaping, showcasing, transforming, touching

The Japanese have a strong aesthetic sense, transforming everything they touch into something beautiful and pleasing to the eye. They treat every dish as a work of art, with every parcel (1) \_\_\_\_ charm and pride. Even small parcels, like taxi drivers' small vase with a beautiful flower, reflect pride. The Japanese feel proud of their work, even in the mundane tasks of preparing sushi and sashimi. They are unable to touch anything without (2) \_\_\_\_\_ it, shaping it into something pretty and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the eye. For example, in a slum suburb of Tokyo, a heap of rubbish was transformed into a graceful pyramid, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ their artistic and picturesque approach to transforming waste into a beautiful object.

**II. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Write only the missing word on your answer sheet. 10 points**

1. When I first met Gerry, we didn't \_\_\_\_ it off very well and had one or two disagreements. What would you do if you \_\_\_\_ the jackpot and won millions on the lottery? You really \_\_\_\_ the nail on the head when you pointed out the lack of motivation amongst the players lately.
2. After all the problems they had been through, the couple decided to move to Spain and make a \_\_\_\_ start. John's so funny. He's like a breath of \_\_\_\_ air in this boring office. She joined the company \_\_\_\_ out of college at the age of 18.
3. Working in the travel industry, the peak season really \_\_\_\_ it out of you. Melanie really \_\_\_\_ after her mother when it comes to choosing holidays. It \_\_\_\_ a lot of courage to go bungee jumping at her age.
4. Walk down the \_\_\_\_\_, go up a flight of stairs and you'll see the library on your right. With the \_\_\_\_ of time, the events of that day began to fade in all their memories. The students were told to pick a short \_\_\_\_ from the novel and analyse it for homework.
5. If the lights should \_\_\_\_\_, there are some candles in the cupboard in the kitchen. It's assumed that those who \_\_\_\_ to turn up for the meeting aren't interested in joining the team. You can't \_\_\_\_ to notice Pauline's new hairdo; it's most unusual.

**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. 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**

Obsessive note-taking which is the occupational hazard of students. They believe 0 which  
they remember things best by writing them down. Writing things down, however, is a 00 ✓  
practice that can be abused as it can so easily lead back to a passive and unconfident 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
attitude to books. Every little point the student reads may, in its context, be so persuasive 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
and that he feels obliged to include it in his notes. These become an abridged version 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
of the original. What the obsessive note-taker usually postpones learning by understanding 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
until he comes to read his notes; but as such these are not always the product of understanding, 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
they may be lengthy and unreliable. Furthermore, sentence-by-sentence or paragraph-by- 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
paragraph note-taking which commits the reader to further page-by-page reading; and, this 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
is not necessarily the best way of reading it and understanding a book. 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
The reader's notes should be either the outcome of understanding and not the prelude to it. 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes written of this kind are brief. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Translate the following text into English.**

**10 points**

În Istanbulul acela forfotind de străini, era un medic care studiasse medicina la Roma și petrecuse apoi câțiva ani la curtea lui Brâncoveanu, în București. Chemat într-o zi la casa unui turc bolnav, pe când se afla acolo, sosi în vizită un prieten de-al acestuia. Începu vorba de sănătatea turcului și apoi de noutățile zilei. Musafirul destăinuie turcului, între altele, că Brâncoveanu a fost declarat rebel și că, după ce i se vor confisca toate averile, va fi adus la Istanbul cu toată familia sa. Doctorul, care se făcea că nu înțelege turcește, trăgea cu urechea cât putea. Ieșit din casa bolnavului, alergă la prietenul său grec, pe care-l știa bine cu Brâncoveanu, și îi spuse tot ce auzise, rugându-l să dea de știre lui Vodă de soarta care-l așteaptă însă fără a-i descoperi numele. Când primi Brâncoveanu scrisoarea grecului, rămase foarte nedumerit. Nici nu o citi bine în gura mare sfetnicilor săi, că o și rupse mânios.

(*Trecute vieți de doamne și domnițe*- C.Gane -text adaptat)

**SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)**

**I. Five paragraphs have been removed from the following text. 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. Write your answer on your answer sheet.**

**10 points**

As experienced operators and professionals retire, process manufacturers are facing a significant knowledge and skills gap for incoming workers. Artificial intelligence (AI) can help manufacturers capture and retain valuable historical knowledge and ease the transition for younger workers. Bayer Crop Science found one solution to help capture knowledge from their experienced workers through an AI-powered Smart Search system for their plant process management (PPM) software.

“Knowledge transfer is a big issue in shift operations,” said Matthias Hesskamp, the head of Site Operations and Excellence at Bayer Muttentz. “Shifts are producing and generating data 24/7. Day Operations, responsible for problem-solving, only works 40 hours per week. They face the challenge of processing data that is generated constantly every day.”

**(1) ....**

All these inputs generate vast volumes of information every single shift. Mining this data can help employees discover opportunities for continuous improvement, identify best practices, learn from prior mistakes and find solutions for recurring problems. But sifting through mountains of data to find the information needed can be time-consuming and cumbersome for human workers. Often, valuable knowledge and insights remain hidden within PPM software.

**(2) ....**

Eschbach worked with the Bayer Crop Science Muttentz site to develop a customized Smart Search system for their shift handover software. The Smart Search system was trained on industry- and plant-specific terminology and data formats and informed by user groups, employee workshops and onsite investigations that shaped development of the final product. The result is a search system that is highly customized for Bayer’s workflows, language, and user requirements.

**(3) ....**

Smart Search has transformed Bayer’s PPM software from an information repository and shift communication system to a centralized knowledge management platform. Knowledge management and transfer will be essential to help process manufacturers adapt to new workforce realities. In the U.S., nearly one-fourth of manufacturing workers are age 55 or older, and The Manufacturing Institute projects that nearly 2.1 million manufacturing jobs could go unfilled by 2030 due to skill gaps in younger generations.

**(4) ...**

A knowledge management platform with AI can help companies retain knowledge from experienced operators, technicians and engineers and make it accessible for the next generation. This includes valuable tacit knowledge: the “on-the-job” knowledge gained through experience and observation that exists outside of formal training programs and SOPs.

**(5) ...**

These are the types of knowledge that are often lost as older workers leave the workforce—but may be hiding within maintenance logs, shift notes and other human-generated records. A knowledge management platform with AI tools brings this kind of tacit knowledge to the surface, acting almost like an experienced mentor for newer workers.

**A.** Similar skills shortages are projected for Europe and other parts of the world. As the baby boomer retirement wave continues and fewer Gen Z workers choose manufacturing as a career path, talent acquisition, development and retention will be critical issues.

**B.** Process industries typically operate 24/7, with three or more shifts across the day and numerous different teams and areas of responsibility, including engineering, production, R&D/technical, maintenance and management. Bayer implemented an enterprise platform that improves communication and information transfer across shifts and teams. The software acts as a centralized PPM solution, gathering both user-derived data (such as shift notes, maintenance logs and inspection observations) and automated data from sensor and equipment readings.

**C.** For example, an experienced process engineer may know that a formulation has to be tweaked at certain times of year to account for environmental conditions, or a long-time maintenance director may know just what to do to resolve an idiosyncratic issue for a piece of machinery.

**D.** As Gen Z enters the workforce, AI knowledge management tools will help them get up to speed quickly and maximize their on-the-job productivity. Younger workers appreciate cutting-edge technology tools that can help them do their jobs better. By harnessing the power of AI to amplify human potential, process manufacturers will be better positioned to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

**E.** That's where AI comes in. Tools like machine learning (ML) allow AI to quickly sort through large volumes of data to identify patterns and surface insights that would be difficult or impossible for humans to discern within a reasonable timeframe. Natural Language Processing (NLP), another AI tool, enables the system to understand queries and instructions provided in plain human language, derive meaningful information from text-based sources, and return results that humans can understand.

**F.** Using Smart Search, employees can now quickly uncover the information they need to perform their jobs effectively. For example, if a problem develops at a particular point in a process, they can simply submit a query (e.g., "Why is Product A brown instead of clear?") and quickly discover any previous instances of the problem and what was done to resolve it. The Smart Search system has reduced the amount of time employees spend searching for relevant information, often from several hours to mere minutes. This enables faster troubleshooting and problem resolution and greater worker efficiency.

## **II. You have seen the following announcement on a website.**

### Articles wanted

Send us an article about how automation has affected our everyday life. To what extent has automation unlocked a world of innovation? Has automation made our lives more complicated? Is it imminent that it will backfire on us in the future?

**Write your article starting from the text above. (250-280 words)**

**50 points**