

**Etapa județeană/sectoarelor municipiului București a olimpiadelor naționale școlare - 2024**  
**Probă scrisă**  
**Limba engleză**

**CLASA a XII-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)**

Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, is a beloved and delicious tradition embraced in many countries around the world. The tradition of eating pancakes to mark the beginning of Lent has been **observed** in Britain since around the 16th century. It is possible that this tradition occurred because some ingredients would typically be banned during Lent. These were eggs, butter and fat, which would not last throughout the lengthy fasting time. One of the easiest ways to **dispose of** such items was to turn them into pancakes.

The primary focus of many people on Pancake Day is the excessive consumption of palate-pleasing pancakes. Some also take part in an activity called “pancake racing”, which, as the name suggests, involves participating in a race while flipping pancakes in a frying pan. People say this tradition originated in 1445. According to the story, a woman lost track of time while making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. As she heard the church bell ring, calling for the community to head to the church for confession, she ran out of her house to make her way to church, all the while still holding her frying pan with the pancake on top.

In the UK, some also celebrate Pancake Day by taking part in “mob football” matches. This centuries-old tradition used to be more common, and involved teams kicking a ball around on public roads. While many no longer partake in the activity, some villages continue **to uphold** the tradition.

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

- |                      |              |              |                |                 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>observed</b>   | a) obeyed    | b) watched   | c) remarked    | d) noticed      |
| 2. <b>dispose of</b> | a) deal with | b) give away | c) get rid of  | d) do away with |
| 3. <b>uphold</b>     | a) to defend | b) to state  | c) to renounce | d) to keep      |

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

1. It is possible that this tradition occurred because the ingredients would typically be banned during Lent. **GIVEN**

This tradition may ..... of some ingredients during Lent.

2. One of the easiest ways to dispose of such items was to turn them into pancakes. **BUT**  
There ..... to turn them into pancakes.

3. People say this tradition originated in 1445. **TO**  
This tradition ..... in 1445.

**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**

certainty, stack, savor, meal, solemnity, gulp, earnest, tradition

Shrove Tuesday, known as Pancake Day in Britain and in many parts of the world, is a delightful occasion to **1**\_\_\_ delicious pancakes and embrace the spirit of celebration before the **2**\_\_\_ of Lent. Before Lent could begin in **3**\_\_\_, all edible temptations had to be removed. Whether you're flipping pancakes in a race, playing mob football or enjoying a **4**\_\_\_ at home, Shrove Tuesday is a day to indulge in this tasty tradition.

**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. She answered their question with a faint ..... of boredom.  
As an English teacher, I often encourage my students to engage in discussions about current affairs to ..... their opinions and develop their speaking skills.  
Exploring the majestic Alps, one cannot help but feel invigorated by the crisp mountain ....., a refreshing departure from the city smog.
2. The negotiation process requires careful diplomacy, as no one likes it when one party ..... away dissatisfied with the terms of the agreement.  
Growing up in a bustling metropolis, I cherished the opportunity to talk to people belonging to all ..... of life.  
With each step, the elderly man's ..... became slower and more deliberate, yet he cherished the simple pleasure of being outdoors.
3. As an educator, I emphasize the importance of taking regular ..... during study sessions to maintain focus and prevent burnout.  
A ceasefire ..... the relentless cycle of conflict, offering hope for peace in the region.  
I often encourage children to talk to an adult when one of their friends ..... the silence regarding bullying.
4. Marylin had a really ..... budget and had to think twice before spending every cent.  
The dress suits me, but it is a bit ..... around the chest.  
As expected, the security was ..... at the G8 summit.
5. Garry is so ruthless that he will ..... at nothing to get what he wants.  
The formula one driver lost precious minutes at a pit ..... and came third in the race.  
Many disgruntled Internet users wanted the Internet provider to put a ..... to spam.

**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**

- |    |                                     |  |
|----|-------------------------------------|--|
| 0  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | How much does it cost to run a repair cafe? Here's how to cut waste while              |
| 00 | <u>the</u>                          | raising the money for charity. "It's abhorrent seeing things thrown away," says        |
| 1  | _____                               | Chris Murphy, the organiser of Tunbridge Wells Repair Cafe. Chris who is the type      |
| 2  | _____                               | of person who goes to the dump and leaves with much more things than he went           |
| 3  | _____                               | with. He makes do and mends items when they are broken. And he enjoys bringing         |
| 4  | _____                               | people over together. So when he learnt about repair cafes from a friend back in 2019, |
| 5  | _____                               | his next step was a no-brainer. "I thought, well, we don't have the one, I'll start    |
| 6  | _____                               | one," the 51-year-old from Tunbridge Wells, UK tells Euronews Green. Just over         |
| 7  | _____                               | three years later on, he oversees one of the largest repair cafes in southeast England |
| 8  | _____                               | with 28 repair stations and 75 volunteers. "There's broken stuff over here, people     |
| 9  | _____                               | who can mend stuff and they have got a charity ethos. Bring them together - I love the |
| 10 | _____                               | idea of it," Chris explains. Repair cafes are some free, community-run meeting         |
|    |                                     | places where locals can bring broken items for volunteers to fix.                      |

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

**10 points**

I se spusese că de la gară până în centrul orașului sunt trei kilometri care pot fi străbătuți într-o jumătate de ceas cu o trăsură dusă de cai buni, dacă nu cumva n-a plouat înainte. Legătura dintre capriciile cerului și drumurile târgului acestuia omul încă n-o pricepea. Deocamdată privea peronul îngust, fațada roșie de cărămidă a sălii de așteptare năpădită de iederă, geamurile pline de praf ale biroului, dinlăuntru cărăuia se auzea păcănitul telegrafului. Nu mai coborâse nimeni altcineva. Șeful de gară dăduse semnalul de plecare și trenul dispăruse în câteva clipe, mistuindu-se în depărtarea sură a zilei de toamnă. Era duminică, apropape de ora două și nu-i rămânea decât să găsească trăsura. Îi fu o clipă teamă că dincolo de gardul pitic al gării nu va găsi pe nimeni. Străbătu linia ce-l despărțea de ușile peronului. Odată ieșit în piața pavată cu piatră cubică, se lămurii. Și să fi vrut să aleagă, n-ar fi putut, deoarece nu se afla decât o trăsură aducând mai degrabă cu obiectele bizare uitate prin expoziții pentru a aminti oamenilor istoria mijloacelor de transport.

(Eugen Barbu – *Unsprezece*)

**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**

**Fear of ageing is really a fear of the unknown – and modern society is making things worse**

For the first time in human history, we have entered an era in which reaching old age is taken for granted. Unlike in ages past, when living to an older age was a luxury afforded mainly to the privileged, globally around 79% of women and 70% of men can expect to reach the age of 65 and beyond. Despite longer life expectancy, many people in the contemporary west see growing old as undesirable and even scary. Research shows, however, that anxiety about ageing may in fact be fear of the unknown. Society's focus on youthfulness and capability can cause anxiety about becoming weak and unwanted. [.....] **1.** We frequently hear about attempts to reverse ageing, often by the super rich. For example, Bryan Johnson, a 45-year-old American entrepreneur, is spending millions of dollars a year to obtain the physical age of 18.

While the desire to reverse ageing is not a new phenomenon, advancements in biomedicine have brought it closer. Work published by genetics professor David Sinclair at Harvard University in 2019 suggests that it may be possible to challenge the limits of cell reproduction to extend our lifespan, for example. His information theory of ageing argues that reprogramming DNA can improve damaged and old tissues, and delay or even reverse ageing. However, these new possibilities can also heighten our fear of ageing.

People haven't always dreaded growing older. In many societies, older people used to be widely regarded as wise and important – and in some they still are. In ancient China, there was a culture of respecting and seeking advice from older family members. There is still an ethos of filial piety (showing reverence and care for elders and ancestors) today, even if it's not as pronounced as it used to be. [.....] **2.** People who had surpassed the age to work, alongside those with incurable diseases, were regarded by society as "evils" in need of assistance.

The treatment of older people has taken a different form since the early 20th century. The introduction of universal pension systems made ageing a central concern in welfare systems. [.....] **3.** This can result in the institutionalisation of older people in residential facilities that keep them hidden, sequestered from the awareness of younger generations.

Research analysing the responses of 1,200 US adults from the American Association of Retired Persons' Images of Ageing survey shows that much of the perceived fear of ageing is closely aligned with the fear of the unknown, rather than the ageing process itself. This fear is only exacerbated by the largely separate lives lived by older and younger generations. The prevalence of nuclear families and the decline of traditional mixed-generational communities have deprived younger people of the opportunity to more fully understand the experiences of older people. [.....] **4.** Older people are frequently portrayed in the media as conservative and privileged, making it difficult for younger generations to comprehend why older people act and think the way they do.

Academics suggest that creating a system for older and younger generations to interact in everyday settings is vital. A set of three UK-based studies in 2016 analysed and compared the effects of direct contact, extended contact and interactions between younger (aged 17 to 30) and older people (65 and over). [.....] **5.** Studies show that these activities can not only enhance the wellbeing of older people but also help younger people gain an appreciation of ageing as a valuable and fulfilling life stage.

Getting worried about growing older is normal, just as we experience anxieties in other stages of life, such as adolescence and marriage. But here's the thing – instead of seeing ageing as a looming figure, it is important to realise it is just a part of life.

- A. The findings indicated that good quality direct intergenerational contact can improve young people's attitudes towards older adults (especially when sustained over time). Intergenerational programmes have been adopted globally, including mixed and intergenerational housing, community choirs and senior volunteers reading to young children in nurseries.
- B. Once we understand ageing as a regular experience, we can let go of these worries and approach the journey through different life stages with a positive attitude and a fortified will to enrich our lives and the lives of those around us.
- C. The same went for medieval Europe, where older people's experiences and wisdom were highly valued. However, the industrial revolution in the west from the 18th century led to a cultural shift where older people became excluded from society and were considered unproductive.
- D. Adverts for anti-ageing products are everywhere, reinforcing the idea that growing older is inherently unattractive. Some people fear ageing so much that it becomes a pathological condition called gerascophobia, leading to irrational thoughts and behaviour, for example, a fixation on health, illness and mortality and a preoccupation with hiding the signs of ageing.
- E. Plus, the rapid increase in house prices means many young people cannot afford to live near their older relatives. The separation of older people from children and young people has sparked generational conflicts that seemingly continue to grow wider than ever.
- F. But as the demands for social and health care have increased, journalists increasingly portray ageing as a burden on society. Consequently, growing older is often associated with managing the risk of ill health and alleviating the onus of care from younger relatives.

**II. The director of the charitable organisation for which you volunteer twice a week would like to start a programme meant to bring both senior citizens and teenagers in your community together. The volunteers have been asked to write proposals suggesting three common activities for the two age groups, describing how these activities will benefit both the young and the elderly and recommending two activities for the charity to organise.**

**Starting from the text above, write your proposal. (250-280 words)**

**50 points**