

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ
DEVA
Aprilie 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 90 de minute.

I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow.

10 points

Many of the major supermarket chains have come in for heavy criticism for various unethical acts over the past decade. They've wasted tons of food, they've underpaid their suppliers and they've contributed to excessive plastic waste in their packaging, which has had its impact on our environment.

But supermarkets and grocer's are starting to sit up and take notice. In response to growing consumer **backlash** against the huge amounts of plastic waste generated by plastic packaging, some of the largest UK supermarkets have signed up to a pact promising to transform packaging and cut plastic wastage. In a **pledge** to reuse, recycle or compost all plastic wastage by 2025, supermarkets are now beginning to take some responsibility for the part they play in contributing to the damage to our environment, with one major supermarket announcing their plan to eliminate all plastic packaging in their own-brand products by 2024.

In response to criticisms over food waste, some supermarkets are donating some of their food surplus. However, charities estimate that they are only accessing two per cent of supermarkets' total food surplus, so this hardly seems to be solving the problem. Some say that supermarkets are simply not doing enough. Most supermarkets operate under a **veil** of secrecy when asked for exact figures of food wastage, and without more transparency it is hard to come up with a systematic approach to avoiding waste and to redistributing surplus food.

Some smaller companies are now taking matters into their own hands and offering consumers a greener, more environmentally friendly option. Shops like Berlin's Original Unverpakt and London's Bulk Market are plastic-free shops that have opened in recent years, encouraging customers to use their own containers or compostable bags. Online grocer Farmdrop eliminates the need for large warehouses and the risk of huge food surplus by delivering fresh produce from local farmers to its customers on a daily basis via electric cars, offering farmers the lion's share of the retail price.

There is no doubt that we still have a long way to go in reducing food waste and plastic waste. But perhaps the major supermarkets will be inspired by these smaller grocers and gradually move towards a more sustainable future for us all.

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

3 points

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. backlash: | a) warning | b) action | c) rebellion | d) counteraction |
| 2. pledge: | a) attempt | b) promise | c) plea | d) allegation |
| 3. veil: | a) confinement | b) shroud | c) disguise | d) shield |

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

- Many of the major supermarket chains have been criticized for various unethical acts over the past decade.
FIRE
Many of the major supermarket chains _____ accusations of various unethical acts over the past decade.
- Due to a pledge made last year to reuse and recycle, supermarkets are now beginning to take some responsibility.
PLEGGED
If supermarkets _____ not be taking any responsibility now.
- In response to criticisms, some supermarkets are donating some of their food surplus. **BE**
Were _____ some of their food surplus.

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

countless, excessive, wastage, suppliers, surplus, intake, produce, wrappings

Major UK supermarket chains have faced criticism for unethical practices, including food waste, underpayment of suppliers, and (1) _____ plastic packaging. However, some have signed a pact to transform packaging and reduce plastic (2) _____. Some have pledged to reuse, recycle, or compost all plastic wastage by 2025, while others plan to eliminate plastic packaging in their own-brand products by 2024. Some supermarkets are also donating some of their food (3) _____, but charities estimate only accessing 2% of the total. Smaller companies like Berlin's Original Unverpakt and London's Bulk Market offer greener options, while Farmdrop delivers fresh (4) _____ from local farmers via electric cars.

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

- Ferguson planned to broaden its product _____ to include internet telephones.
Joan hoped that the others were out of _____ of her mother's voice.
Prices _____ from around £10 for a basic keyboard, to £50 for an ergonomic one.
- Before we close the meeting, I would like to raise the _____ of punctuality at the office.
The press are calling into _____ government claims that the crime rate has fallen and point to latest research figures as evidence that this is not true.
The company claim there is absolutely no _____ of making anybody redundant as business has never been better.
- If you think it's cold in here, _____ a thought for Tim, who's working outside in the snow.
I'm afraid I can't _____ the time at present as I'm really busy.
The company usually host very nice conferences and _____ no expense when it comes to food.
- The British like to keep cheerful, even in the _____ of adversity.
He desperately tried to save _____, mumbling something about not being home on his birthday.
They would have done anything so as not to _____ their nemesis.
- I'd like to make it quite _____ that I have no intention whatsoever of resigning.
The roads were _____ this morning and I got here really quickly.
The coast is _____ so if you leave now, nobody will see you.

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

Where would you look for the inspiration if you are planning a new town? If you are Prince Charles or the Shanghai Planning Commission, the past would seem to be the answer; or to be more precise, the English past. The town of Poundbury in the south of England, was designed by Prince Charles, is an answer to what he calls the 'heartless urban planning' of the 1960s.

It was here that he could also offer an alternative to an 'ugly' high-rise apartment block, large housing estates and zonal planning – where industry, shops and homes are all separated into different areas of a city. Poundbury's buildings hardly imitate the quaint cottages and grander houses of 18th-century old Dorset. All are being built with local stone, helping the community take a root in such familiar surroundings. 'What I was trying to do,' the prince said, 'was remind people that it is not pointless to throw away the knowledge and experience of what has gone before.' If you find such reproductions of the past artificial, then you will not enjoy Thames Town, a new development just outside of Shanghai.

0 the
00 ✓
1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____
8 _____
9 _____
10 _____

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Și totuși acest lucru absurd avu loc: într-o după-amiază, cam la o lună după vizita mea la ei, mă pomenii cu ea în ușa. „Bună ziua, domnule Petrini, mi-a spus soțul că te-a invitat la noi de câteva ori și ne-ai refuzat, încep ea chiar din prag.

„E adevărat?!” mă interogă în timp ce îi țineam blana, cu care mă lăsă în mână și intră în biroul meu cu pași fermi, ca și când ar mai fi fost pe la mine și era familiarizată cu casa. Se așeză chiar pe scaunul meu și își ridică fruntea să-i văd chipul fascinant, cu întrebarea în frumoșii ei ochi verzi neclintiți [...].

Uitai să-i răspund, prins de o tulburare care mă indigna și din care nu-mi reveneam; deschisei gura să vorbesc, dar glasul îmi pierise. Și totuși în același timp, [...] eram stăpân pe mine, deși îmi dădeam seama că sunt paralizat. Simțeam în clipele acelea, într-un mod aproape fizic, diferența de vârstă dintre noi...

(Marin Preda, *Cel mai iubit dintre pământeni*)