

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

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

10 points

WE MADE PLASTIC. WE DEPEND ON IT. NOW WE'RE DROWNING IN IT.

If plastic had been invented when the Pilgrims sailed from Plymouth, England, to North America – and the Mayflower had been stocked with bottled water and plastic-wrapped snacks – their plastic trash would likely still be around, four centuries later.

If the Pilgrims had been like many people today and simply tossed their empty bottles and wrappers over the side, Atlantic waves and sunlight would have worn all that plastic into tiny bits. And those bits might still be floating around the world's oceans today, sponging up toxins to add to the ones already in them, waiting to be eaten by some **hapless** fish or oyster, and ultimately perhaps by one of us.

Ocean plastic is estimated to kill millions of marine animals every year. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by it. Some are harmed visibly – strangled by abandoned fishing nets or **discarded** six-pack rings. Many more are probably harmed invisibly. Marine species of all sizes, from zooplankton to whales, now eat microplastics, the bits smaller than one-fifth of an inch across.

How did we get here? When did the dark side of the miracle of plastic first show itself? Since helping the Allies win World War II – think of nylon parachutes or lightweight airplane parts – plastics have transformed all our lives as few other inventions have, mostly for the better. They've eased travel into space and revolutionized medicine. They lighten every car and jumbo jet today, saving fuel – and pollution. In the form of clingy, light-as-air wraps, they extend the life of fresh food. In airbags, incubators, helmets, or simply by delivering clean drinking water to poor people in those now demonized disposable bottles, plastics save lives daily.

In 1955 *Life* magazine celebrated the liberation of the American housewife from **drudgery**. Under the headline "Throwaway Living," a photograph showed a family flinging plates, cups, and cutlery into the air. The items would take 40 hours to clean, the text noted – "except that no housewife need bother." When did plastics start to show their dark side? You might say it was when the junk in that photo hit the ground.

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

3 points

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| 1. hapless | a) miserable | b) unhappy | c) unfortunate | d) cursed |
| 2. discarded | a) abandoned | b) worn-out | c) run-down | d) useless |
| 3. drudgery | a) slavery | b) grind | c) routine | d) duty |

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

1. Ocean plastic is estimated to kill millions of marine animals every year. **BE**
Millions of marine animals killed by ocean plastic every year.
2. Since helping the Allies win World War II, plastics have transformed all our lives mostly for the better. **SINCE**
Onlyall our lives mostly for the better.
3. Those now demonized disposable bottles save lives daily. **THEY**
Demonized save lives daily.

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

although favourable exceedingly havoc significantly beneficial however
damage

Since its invention, plastic has (1) ... improved the lives of many people, due to its (2) ... characteristics: light weight, durability, elasticity, low price, etc. (3) ..., the disposal of plastic waste has wreaked (4) ... on the environment, which was not anticipated by those who promoted the use of this material, back in the 1950s.

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 we first met, we were in graduate _____.
Growing up in the street, everything he knew came from the _____ of hard knocks.
As to the origins of species, they all belong to the same _____ of thought.
2. She knew it would take _____, sweat and tears to win the tournament.
The detective pointed at a patch of dried _____ on the carpet.
Making a miser like Tom donate to charity is like getting _____ from a stone.
3. _____ foods are popular because they shorten the time of meal preparation.
Please feel free to schedule the interview at your earliest _____.
They enjoy every modern _____ possible, from microwaves to online banking.
4. I'd still like to buy a _____ something for her birthday, even if there's no party.
In 1914, _____ did they know how long the Great War would last.
Since she could not speak the language, she made _____ of what the tour guide kept explaining.
5. I think you'd better have a _____ jacket for your interview.
They say that nowadays anyone is _____ enough to understand computers.
If we want to finish this on time, we should really work at a _____ pace.

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 ✓ The UK is experiencing a boom in book clubs, according to new data.
00 so The trend coincides with the launch of book clubs by young celebrities so as well as
1. the rise of #BookTok, where readers let share recommendations.
2. The pandemic may have to played a role in boosting the popularity of book clubs, it was
3. suggested. Many were forced to slow down and pick up or reignite hobbies and online
4. book clubs provided for a platform to connect with others while isolated. People were starved
5. of connection during more lockdown,” said T. Godfrey, who runs Brunch Book Club.
6. “Everybody has still recognized the importance of connection.” Virtual book clubs also
7. require less commitment as you just have to log on rather than turn up to a specific location.
8. If an online book club does begin to hold in-person events, you may have feel more inclined
9. to attend in person even if you’ve been enjoying it over Zoom. Social media may be helping with
10. the visibility of book clubs, too. These have been opened up a “safe space” in communities.

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Zbuciumate erau nopțile Regelui, somnul îl ocolea, sufletul îi era măcinat de îndoieli. Era oare ceasul potrivit? De va scoate sabia, va fi pentru binele țării? Cuvântul ce-l va avea de spus, cuvântul ce-l va despărți de tot ceea ce iubise până atunci, oare acel cuvânt îi va călăuzi poporul către împlinirea Visului de Aur?

În seara de care îmi amintesc, arșița era apăsătoare, aproape sufocantă; nici cea mai mică adiere nu clintea aerul. Colbul ridicat de mașina noastră și de căruțele cu care ne întâlneam continua să plutească precum un vâl gros peste pământ – priveliștea era încețoșată, asemenea unui pastel pe jumătate șters. Era în aer ceva înecăcios, ce te împiedica să respiri și se potrivea cu neliniștea din sufletele noastre, apăsate de emoții prea complexe pentru a fi exprimate în cuvinte. Eram copleșită până la durere de dragostea pentru țara noastră și de presimțirea a ceea ce avea să se întâmple.