

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ  
DEVA  
Aprilie 2024**

**Limba engleză**

**Probă scrisă**

**CLASA a VIII-a**

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 2 ore.

**SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (25 points)**

**I.1. Read the following text and fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms.**

**10 points**

As we were strolling through the bustling city streets, we 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (**not notice**) the small cafe tucked away in a quiet corner. Lost in our conversation, we 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (**wander**) along the same streets for the past half an hour. "Hey, over here! I 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (**wait**) for you for ages!", a familiar voice suddenly interrupted us. Startled, we 4. \_\_\_\_\_ (**turn**) around and saw our friend Jack waving excitedly from the entrance of the small cafe. "Where 5. \_\_\_\_\_ (**the two of you/be**)?" Jack exclaimed as we hurried over to join him realising we 6. \_\_\_\_\_ (**completely forget**) about our plans for the evening. We followed Jack inside the cozy cafe, the inviting aroma of freshly brewed coffee enveloping us when we 7. \_\_\_\_\_ (**step**) through the door. While Jack 8. \_\_\_\_\_ (**chat**) animatedly with the waiter, we realised that it 9. \_\_\_\_\_ (**be**) a long night and even if we wanted, we 10. \_\_\_\_\_ (**not be able**) to escape Jack's enthusiasm over finally spending a night out together.

**I.2. Read the text below and look carefully at each line. If the line is correct, write a tick (✓). If it has a word that should not be there, write the word.**

**10 points**

00. Yesterday's work meeting was quite eventful, to say the least. It all started when Mike, one	.....✓.....
0. of my colleagues, arrived late. As he came late, <i>because</i> he missed the beginning of the	..because..
1. meeting, which it didn't go unnoticed. The man who I was talking to when Mike entered	.....
2. was the manager, who asked Mike: "Weren't you come late for work yesterday, too?"	.....
3. Mike denied of having arrived late the day before, but the manager seemed skeptical.	.....
4. Feeling a bit defensive, Mike wondered why had they always asked the same question.	.....
5. He explained that however how hard he tried, he wasn't able to arrive on time due to	.....
6. unforeseen circumstances. The manager responded by saying that punctuality was of	.....
7. crucial for the smooth running of the company. The manager assured him that he would	.....
8. help in any way possible if did he needed support. Before the meeting ended, the manager	.....
9. reminded to us, "If you contact my assistant, she will give you all the info you need	.....
10. regarding the new project." This gave us some clarity amidst the uncertainty of the meeting.	.....

**I.3. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in capital letters.**

**5 points**

1. The necklace, passed down through generations, held sentimental value that made it \_\_\_\_\_ to the family. **REPLACE**
2. Wearing tight shoes caused her \_\_\_\_\_ during the long hike through the forest. **COMFORT**
3. The support from the community was \_\_\_\_\_ positive. **OVERWHELM**
4. As they ventured deeper into the forest, the undergrowth became thicker, making it \_\_\_\_\_ to navigate through the dense foliage. **CHALLENGE**
5. The suspenseful music only served to \_\_\_\_\_ the tension in the room. **HIGH**

**SUBIECTUL al II-lea – READING COMPREHENSION (25 points)**

Read the text below and complete the tasks that follow.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

On the deck of a 17-metre-long research vessel in California's Monterey Bay, Karen Osborn peers into a cooler filled with seawater and a galaxy of wiggling life-forms caught moments earlier from a net that had been slowly towed around 450m down, through an inky realm of near-total darkness. Most intriguing to Osborn is a hand-size ruby red squid. Strawberry squid, as they're known, are well adapted to their habitat. Their red color, when absorbed in the sunless deep, fades into a brownish black, blending them into their surroundings. And their mismatched eyes look in two directions at once: one, huge and yellow, gazes upward, detecting silhouettes passing overhead. The other, smaller and blue, stares down, watching for glowing prey in the darkness.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Osborn, a zoologist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., is no stranger to the fantastic beasts that inhabit this so-called twilight zone, a layer of the ocean spanning across the whole of Earth, beginning at two hundred metres below the surface and ending at 1 km down – where the pressure would be equivalent to ten elephants standing on your head! Over the past 25 years, she's studied it remotely with camera-clad robots and been there herself in deep-diving submersibles. Her co-discoveries include how twilight zone fish make their skin intensely black and how the bodies of crustaceans called *Cystisoma* are so transparent they are almost completely invisible. "Every time we go out, we still see something new that we haven't seen before," she says.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

By its very nature, the twilight zone is obviously difficult and expensive to access and study. It makes up a fifth of the ocean's total volume, and much of it remains largely unexplored. The zone begins at a depth where photosynthesis fails and continues down until the last traces of sunlight die out. The lack of sunlight means there are no plants, but large fish and whales dive there to hunt prey. To a human inside a submersible, this realm appears pitch-black, but animals there have evolved all sorts of tricks to navigate the lack of light while at the same time avoiding predators in the open ocean. "We see all these cool shapes and sizes, transparent animals, mirrored animals and ultrablack animals," says Osborn. "They're all solving the problem of survival in a bunch of different ways."

4. \_\_\_\_\_

This phantasmal region holds a particular lure for Osborn—not simply to uncover its hidden biodiversity but also to find out how living things can survive such extreme conditions. In the twilight zone, *amphipods* – a type of shell-less crustaceans – have evolved a variety of unique and elaborate eyes, to catch any snatches of light that make it through to the depths – from glassy eyes which cover their entire heads or, on the contrary, a single, highly specialized, cone-shaped eye. "This doesn't happen anywhere else," says Osborn, as most animals that live in darkness have reduced eyes or no eyes at all. "Not in caves, not on the deep seafloor."

5. \_\_\_\_\_

What she and other researchers have discovered, however, is that while many of the twilight zone's inhabitants might at first appear otherworldly, they're very much earthlings with vital roles in the health of the entire ocean and the balance of our planet's climate. "It's the most exciting place in the universe, in my opinion," Osborn says. "It's interesting what's in black holes and what's out there on Mars, but there's so many cool things right here that we don't know anything about that we've gotta get out there and see."

**II.1 Choose the most suitable heading from the list (A-G) for each part (1-5). There are two extra headings which you do not need to use. 10 points**

- A. *Learning should start in our own backyard*
- B. *Nothing comes cheap*
- C. *Masters of disguise*
- D. *You dive, you learn*
- E. *An interesting catch*
- F. *A colourful world*
- G. *Peering through the dark*

**II.2 For questions 1-5, choose the answer A, B, C, or D which you think fits best according to the text.****15 points**

1. According to the text, the twilight zone refers to
  - A. the deep ocean floor.
  - B. the part of the day when the last sunrays die out.
  - C. an area where ten elephants or more make up a matriarchal family.
  - D. the poorly-sunlit part of the ocean right underneath the sunny zone.
2. Which of the following is a form of camouflage for the inhabitants of the twilight zone?
  - A. shape shifting
  - B. transparency
  - C. highly specialized eyes
  - D. bright colours
3. "Photosynthesis fails" where the twilight zone begins because
  - A. there are no plants.
  - B. there is hardly any sun.
  - C. only before sunset does the sun reach the twilight zone.
  - D. there are big fish and whales.
4. The word "lure" in paragraph 4 means
  - A. appeal.
  - B. significance.
  - C. meaning.
  - D. illusion.
5. Earthlings are to Earth what
  - A. ducklings are to ducks.
  - B. lambs are to sheep.
  - C. bees are to a hive.
  - D. lions are to cattle.

**SUBIECTUL al III-lea – WRITING (50 points)**

Write a narrative essay ending like this:

*Before we knew it, we heard the pilot announce that we were ten minutes from our destination. As we touched down with a bump, the relief was almost palpable.*

**Write your story in 150-180 words and give it an appropriate title. Pay attention to the following:**

- you don't need to write long descriptions;
- use dialogues only if they are relevant to your characters or events;
- you should use this plan:

1. **Introduction** (paragraph 1 – set the scene)
2. **Main Body** (paragraph(s) 2/3 – develop the story)
3. **Conclusion** (paragraph 4 – end the story).

Do not count the words given in the ending.