

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

Aprilie 2024

Probă scrisă

Limba engleză

CLASA a IX-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 text below and do the tasks that follow on your answer sheet. 10 points

In today's digital age, video games have transcended their origins as mere forms of entertainment to become a **pervasive** aspect of modern culture. With immersive storytelling, stunning graphics, and interactive gameplay, they captivate audiences of all ages. More than just a pastime, video games offer cognitive benefits, sharpening problem-solving skills, improving hand-eye coordination, and enhancing strategic thinking. Moreover, multiplayer online games serve as platforms for social interaction, connecting individuals globally and **fostering** communities based on shared interests.

However, concerns persist regarding the potential negative impacts of excessive gaming, including addiction and desensitization to violence. Despite these challenges, the industry continues to evolve, embracing innovations like virtual reality and augmented reality to push boundaries and **enhance** user experiences. Furthermore, video games have expanded beyond entertainment, finding applications in education, healthcare, and even therapy. If the industry continues to prioritize innovation and responsible gaming practices, while also addressing these concerns, video games may further solidify their position as transformative tools for education, socialization, and cultural expression.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. pervasive : | a. elusive; | b. persuasive; | c. prevalent; | d. consistent |
| 2. fostering : | a. encouraging; | b. thriving; | c. advancing; | d. feeding |
| 3. enhance : | a. raise; | b. lift; | c. elevate; | d. boost |

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

1. Video games offer cognitive benefits, at the same time sharpening problem-solving skills.

Not but they also sharpen problem-solving skills.

ONLY

2. The industry continues to evolve, embracing innovations like virtual reality and augmented reality.

INDUSTRY

If innovations like virtual reality and augmented reality, it wouldn't continue to evolve.

3. If the industry continues to prioritize innovation and responsible gaming practices, video games may further solidify their position as transformative tools.

BE

If innovation and responsible gaming practices by the industry, video games may further solidify their position as transformative tools.

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

help, design, cultural, strategic, innovate, extend, potential, destiny

Video games have evolved from entertainment to _____ (1) staples, offering immersive experiences and cognitive benefits like improved problem-solving skills. Despite concerns about

addiction and violence, the industry continues to _____ (2) with technologies like virtual reality. Video games now _____ (3) into education, healthcare, and therapy, solidifying their _____ (4) as transformative tools for the future.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits in each sentence. 10 points

In 2006, the world lost a lot of stars— (1) (**ACTOR**) Shelley Winters, soul icon James Brown, naturalist Steve Irwin—but only one planet: Pluto. Declared the (2) (**NINE**) planet in our solar system after its discovery in 1930 by American (3) (**ASTRONOMY**) Clyde Tombaugh, Pluto is small, marble-colored, and became quickly beloved thanks to its (4) (**ASSOCIATE**) with Mickey Mouse’s pet dog. To celebrate the 94th anniversary of Pluto’s (5) (**DISCOVER**) , we sat down with Brown and Philip Metzger, retired planetary physicist at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center to get some answers. Are Brown and likeminded people correct in reducing Pluto’s (6) (**SIGNIFY**)? Or do Metzger and others have a solid (7) (**ARGUE**) for the (8) (**TRIUMPH**) return of Pluto? Before the International Astronomical Union, (IAU), made up term “dwarf planet”, we used the word “planetoid” to describe these things that are small but round. The vote to downgrade it was (9) (**RELEVANT**). The IAU didn't have a right to do that vote. Our claim is that it never stopped being a planet because taxonomy is part of science, and the taxonomy that matters is the one that the scientists are using and finding (10) (**USE**).

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. On your answer sheet, 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) ..of... The most heartening of thing about the plastic waste problem
 (00) ..√... is the recent explosion of attention to it, and even of serious,
 (1) if scattered, efforts to address it with. A partial list of the good news
 (2) since 2014 would include, in no way particular order: Kenya joined
 (3) a growing list of some nations that have banned plastic bags,
 (4) imposing steep fines and jail time on offenders. France said it
 (5) would have ban plastic plates and cups by 2020. Bans on plastic
 (6) microbeads in cosmetics (they’re exfoliants) take their effect this year in the U.S.,
 (7) Canada, the U.K., and four other countries. The industry is phasing them out off.
 (8) Corporations are responding to public opinion. Coca-Cola, which is also
 (9) produces Dasani water, announced a goal to collect and recycle the equivalent
 (10) of merely 100 percent of its packaging by 2030.

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Sigur, acum Louvre este puțin desfigurată de turiști, motiv pentru care Kafka vine rar... Ați reflectat la fraza „Pe domnul K îl calomniase pesemne cineva pentru că într-o bună zi se trezi arestat”? Știu cât de mult îl admirați pe Kafka și ce mult v-ați hrănit cu romanele sale, cu universul său. Va trebui într-o zi să veniți la Praga și să priviți, de pe podul Carol, spre edificiul fostului palat regal, o cetățuie imensă, strivitoare de fapt, așezată pe colina de pe malul stâng al râului Vltava, de unde domină tot orașul. Acest palat, această fortăreață de fapt, una dintre cele mai mari din Europa Centrală, este un adevărat labirint de curți și clădiri, un monument al austerității în total contrast cu exuberanța plină de ecouri baroce care emană din restul orașului.

(Matei Vișniec, *Negustorul de începuturi de roman*)