

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ

BRAȘOV

Aprilie 2026

Probă scrisă

CLASA A X-A - SECȚIUNEA B

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul de lucru efectiv este de 90 de minute.

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow on your answer sheet.

10 points

At just 37 years old, Salvador Dalí penned 'The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí,' an autobiography as surreal and provocative as his art. Blending truth with elaborate fiction, the book offered a glimpse into the eccentric mind behind the mustache. In the decades since, biographers have worked to untangle fact from fantasy, revealing the curious man behind the legend. In the world of Salvador Dalí, reality bends, imagination reigns, and every detail reveals something unexpected. Dalí grew up in the Catalan town of Figueres, Spain, but spent his summers in the coastal village of Cadaqués. In this seaside town, Dalí took painting lessons from family friend Ramón Pichot, an artist known for his Impressionist works and for **dabbling** in the experimental styles of the Catalan avant-garde. Pichot mentored Dalí and eventually convinced Dalí's skeptical father to let him apply to the prestigious San Fernando Academy of Art in Madrid. In 1922, Dalí entered the Academy of Art in Madrid, where he thrived creatively and formed deep bonds with fellow students like poet Federico García Lorca and filmmaker Luis Buñuel, future collaborators in art. Despite his growing success, Dalí grew restless at the Academy. Frustrated by what he saw as uninspired teaching, he openly defied his professors, eventually getting expelled in 1926 for inciting **dissent** among fellow students. Back in Figueres after his expulsion, Dalí immersed himself in painting, producing increasingly macabre images of decay and violence. His shocking style alienated even the Catalan avant-garde, and galleries in Madrid and Barcelona began shutting him out. By 1939, Dalí's split from the Surrealists was final. From then on, he worked independently, free from group affiliations, continuing to develop his unique style rooted in introspection and his signature paranoiac-critical method. Dalí embodied the belief that life itself is the greatest form of art. His passion, unwavering commitment, and dedication to exploring his myriad interests left an **indelible** mark on the art world, forever reshaping its boundaries and possibilities.

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

3 points

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. dabbling: | a. avoiding | b. ignoring | c. mastering | d. experimenting |
| 2. dissent: | a. consent | b. opposition | c. harmony | d. conformity |
| 3. indelible: | a. inedible | b. immutable | c. lasting | d. temporary |

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

3 points

1. Pichot mentored Dalí and eventually convinced Dalí's skeptical father to let him apply to the prestigious San Fernando Academy of Art in Madrid. **IT**
If _____ Dalí's skeptical father may never have agreed to let him apply to the prestigious San Fernando Academy of Art in Madrid.
2. Frustrated by what he saw as uninspired teaching, he openly defied his professors. **OPENLY**
The more he grew frustrated by what he saw as uninspired teaching, _____ his professors.
3. By 1939, Dalí's split from the Surrealists was final. From then on, he worked independently. **BEGIN**
Only after finally splitting from the Surrealists in 1939, _____ working independently.

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

territories; talent; instinct; confusing; challenging; confines; incorporating; mentoring

At 37, Salvador Dalí published *The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí*, a surreal autobiography (1) _____ truth and fiction. Raised in Figueres and influenced early by avant-garde artist Ramón Pichot, Dalí developed his (2) _____ before studying at the San Fernando Academy in Madrid. There, he formed key artistic friendships but was expelled for openly (3) _____ authority. His increasingly disturbing style later alienated even the Surrealists, leading him to work independently. Viewing life itself as art, Dalí's radical imagination and commitment permanently reshaped the (4) _____ of modern art.

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

L. Frank Baum opened a window and in walked Oz. His 1900 novel did more than tell a story—it built an (1) _____ (ENTIRE) new world. Light, (2) _____ (WHIMSY), and unburdened from the moral heaviness of earlier children's literature, Oz marked a turning point as the genre shed its Victorian (3) _____ (STIFF). In Baum's universe, scarecrows could talk, tin men wrestled with (4) _____ (EXISTENCE) dilemmas, and imagination ruled. One of the novel's most enduring lines, "There's no place like home," (5) _____ (FIT) reflects Baum's creation of a heroine who valued (6) _____ (PRACTICAL) over glory. This was not a story about kingdoms, but about self-knowledge. The 1939 MGM film (7) _____ (SHRINE) *The Wizard of Oz*. With a \$2.8 million budget, it was among the most ambitious musicals of its time. While Baum's original story contained no songs, the film's music (8) _____ (MORTAL) Judy Garland, whose (9) _____ (PORTRAY) of Dorothy, scholars note, captured adolescent vulnerability with (10) _____ (MATCH) sincerity. Garland did not merely play Dorothy—she defined her.

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)...✓ A recent *Fortune* survey of 12–15-year-olds found that 68% aspire to careers in media, such as
 (00) it YouTube, TikTok creator, or streamer. That number it isn't surprising, as Gen Alpha is drawn to
 (1)..... platforms where they see themselves creativity, influence, and opportunity. But there is a clear
 (2)..... disconnect...Most traditional learning environments don't provide students with the skills needed to
 (3)..... thrive in these old fields—such as media literacy, public speaking, personal branding, digital
 (4)..... storytelling, community building, and even understanding how algorithms work up. These are real,
 (5)..... foundational skills for the world ahead. Let's call them off essential skills. This is a blind spot in
 (6)..... education— also not because kids want to be creators, but because we fail to understand what being
 (7)..... "work-ready" truly means in 2025. If we want to meet students where they are and be truly "future-
 (8)..... ready," we need to start in building learning experiences that take their passions seriously. Not every
 (9)..... student will be the next viral sensation—and that's a so good thing—but all of them can learn how to
 (10).... communicate with confidence, think critically, and navigate digital ecosystems with farther purpose.

IV. Translate the following text into English. 10 points

Din nou în tren. De astă dată absolut singură. Dacă aş fi puțin mai extravagantă, aş putea să-mi închipui că trenul ăsta îmi aparține și circulă ca să-mi facă mie o plăcere. Gând năstrușnic. Mi-e suficient că sunt singură în compartiment. N-aş putea spune că m-am plictisit mult la Techirghiol. Am avut câteva momente de intensă bucurie și pentru aceste momente am suportat bucurioasă plictisul unor conversații inepte, care de altfel nu lipsesc nici la București. Încerc să mă revăd acolo. Mergeam, uneori singură, la debarcaderul lacului. Aveam acolo un loc preferat. Debarcaderul era un fel de punte care înainta aproximativ 100 de metri în lac și de-o lărgime de cel mult un metru. Mergeam până la capăt, unde era mai întotdeauna vânt. Stăteam acolo ore întregi și contemplam apa, în timp ce vântul îmi răscolea părul.

(Jeni Acterian, *Jurnalul unei ființe greu de mulțumit*)