

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ

BRAȘOV

Aprilie 2026

Probă scrisă

CLASA a XI-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 paragraph below and do the tasks that follow.

10 points

UK actors have taken a significant stand against the integration of artificial intelligence in the arts. In a recent indicative ballot, members of the performing arts union Equity overwhelmingly voted to refuse digital scanning on sets, a common practice used to capture an actor's likeness for future AI-generated use.

The vote saw a staggering 99% majority in favour of the move, based on a 75% turnout from over 7,000 polled members. Equity's general secretary, Paul Fleming, characterised AI as a "generation-defining challenge," stating that the workforce is now prepared to significantly jeopardise productions unless their terms and conditions are respected. While the vote demonstrates a clear strength of feeling, actors currently lack legal protection if they refuse scans. Consequently, the union is seeking to negotiate new minimum standards for pay, terms and conditions — including AI protections — with the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (Pact). Prominent actors including Hugh Bonneville, Adrian Lester, and Harriet Walter have backed the union's campaign to ensure AI protections are written into union agreements. Bonneville emphasised that an actor's likeness and voice should not be **appropriated** for the benefit of others without consent or licence, while Lester noted that those at the start of their careers find it particularly difficult to push back against body scanning. Furthermore, actress Olivia Williams has warned that performers are often **coerced** into scans and required to sign contracts granting studios rights to their likeness "in perpetuity".

The urgency of these negotiations has been heightened by the arrival of the first AI "actor", Tilly Norwood, which has fuelled performers' concerns about how their digital likeness might be used. Equity may hold a formal ballot if negotiations do not **yield** the necessary protections, which would provide legal cover for actors resisting digital capture.

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

3 points

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. appropriated | a. appreciated | b. seized | c. distributed | d. licensed |
| 2. coerced | a. encouraged | b. pressured | c. coaxed | d. persuaded |
| 3. yield | a. concede | b. demand | c. enforce | d. produce |

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

3 points

- The vote saw a staggering 99% majority in favour of the move. **SCALE**
Such _____ that 99% voted in favour of the move.
- An actor's likeness and voice should not be appropriated for the benefit of others without consent or licence. **NO**
On _____ appropriated for the benefit of others without consent or licence.
- Equity may hold a formal ballot if negotiations do not yield the necessary protections. **FORTH**
Equity may hold a formal ballot unless _____ protections.

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

protocols, defied, safeguards, misused, indicative, statutory, permanent, pressing

Equity members have shown a near-unanimous refusal to participate in digital scanning for AI-related work. However, performers currently lack (1) _____ protection if they refuse such practices on set. In response, the union is campaigning for clear contractual (2) _____ to prevent artists from being coerced into unfair agreements. These concerns have become increasingly (3) _____ following the arrival of Tilly Norwood, the first AI "actor". Ultimately, Equity aims to ensure that performers' likenesses are not (4) _____ or appropriated without explicit consent.

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. The proposal was subjected to intense public _____.
Her actions came under close _____ once the results were published.
New technologies often face _____ before being widely accepted.
2. The algorithm was designed to _____ user preferences rather than dictate them outright.
She had to _____ her language carefully to avoid offending either side.
Over time, social pressure began to _____ his original convictions.
3. The organization has a strict _____ of practice, and employees must make sure they adhere to it.
I would like to make a phone call, but I do not know the international _____ for Spain.
I couldn't read the message because it was written in some kind of _____.
4. When she entered the competition, Amy never expected to _____ off with the first prize.
They returned home early only to _____ in on thieves stealing their silver.
If you don't tell me what's going on, I'll _____ the door and never come back.
5. After a _____ of bad luck, things began to change for him.
Janet knew the training programme would be difficult but she decided that it would be worth it in the long _____.
Jack had been working in the office all day and decided that a _____ in the fresh air would do him good.

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 <input type="checkbox"/> ✓ | In the last few decades, the world has seen a massive shift in |
| 00 <input type="checkbox"/> in | where people choose to live in, with more than half the population |
| 1. _____ | now been residing in urban areas. This rapid growth has led to many |
| 2. _____ | significant challenges that cities they must address immediately. |
| 3. _____ | For instance, the demand for affordable housing has been increased |
| 4. _____ | dramatically, often outstripping the supply available. Furthermore, |
| 5. _____ | transportation systems are under a constant strain as more of |
| 6. _____ | commuters rely on public transit or personal vehicles to reach |
| 7. _____ | their jobs. While city planners are working hard to improve |
| 8. _____ | infrastructure, but the pace of change is often too slow for |
| 9. _____ | many residents. Unless authorities invest more in sustainable and |
| 10. _____ | solutions, such quality of life in megacities will continue to decline. |

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Tare-mi plăcea să alunec și să mă amețesc. De altfel, jocurile mele preferate erau cele care îmi provocau frică și amețeală. Mă împrietenisem cu un băiat mai mare care mă făcea avionul. Mă apuca de o mână și un picior și mă învârtea până obosea, pentru că eu nu protestam și nu țipam ca alte fetițe, iar când mă lăsa în iarbă, eliberându-i-mi glezna din strânsoare, aveam senzația clară că mă vărs, că mă scurg în pământ așa, leent, un jeleu de carne și creier, o pastă caldă, un lichid viu și turbure. Zăceam pe pământ, mi-era rău, lumea în jurul meu își schimba de câteva ori „substanța” (nu știu cum să explic senzația), apoi totul se curăța, se purifica. Abia așteptam să vină iarna, ca să-mi dau drumul cu sania de pe un deal la care ajungeam greu pentru că se afla la mare depărtare de casă, de aceea nu mă duceam decât o dată sau de două ori pe iarnă acolo. Mă așezam cu burta pe sanie, închideam ochii și îmi dădeam drumul. Despiceam frigul, îl tăiam în două, zăpada mă izbea peste față și nu-mi mai păsa de nimic. Mă apuca seara, mă ustureau buzele, îmi curgea nasul, mă dureau mâinile, aveam ciorapii uzi și alunecam, cu ochii deschiși de data asta spre rozurile, spre vinețiul difuz de la capătul pantei. Mă lăsam înghițită de aerul ăla colorat și înnebunitor.

(Simona Popescu, *Exuvii*)

