

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ**

**BRAȘOV**

**Aprilie 2026**

**Proba scrisă**

**CLASA a XII-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.**

**10 points**

Artificial intelligence has quietly shifted from a specialised innovation into the **scaffolding** of contemporary life. Once perceived as a distant technological curiosity, it now underpins decision-making in fields as varied as healthcare, finance, education, and entertainment. Algorithms sift through vast data sets, constructing probabilistic models that influence everything from medical diagnoses to patterns of consumption. In this way, AI no longer merely assists human judgement; it reshapes the structural conditions under which choices are made.

Rather than acting as passive tools, intelligent systems increasingly function as filters through which reality is interpreted. Search engines prioritise visibility, recommendation systems **curate** preference, and automated moderation redraws the boundaries of acceptable discourse. These mechanisms generate a sense of coherence, yet this apparent neutrality often conceals the assumptions embedded in their design. What appears objective is frequently the amplification of partial perspectives, scaled beyond individual scrutiny.

Within innovation hubs, development cycles resemble high-speed ecosystems in which AI **orchestrates** workflows, expectations, and outcomes. Ethical deliberation struggles to keep pace as market incentives reward velocity over reflection. For societies navigating this transformation, artificial intelligence operates both as compass and current: it promises direction while exerting a powerful pull. Ultimately, AI is less a standalone technology than a framework through which authority, knowledge, and responsibility are continuously renegotiated.

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

**3 points**

- |                         |              |              |                |                |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>scaffolding:</b>  | a. extension | b. support   | c. skeleton    | d. podium      |
| 2. <b>curate:</b>       | a. validate  | b. shape     | c. consolidate | d. carry       |
| 3. <b>orchestrates:</b> | a. monitors  | b. engineers | c. merges      | d. coordinates |

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

**3 points**

- AI no longer merely assists human judgement; it reshapes the structural conditions under which choices are made. **MORE**  
AI \_\_\_\_\_ human judgement; it actually changes the way choices are structured.
- What appears objective is the amplification of partial perspectives, scaled beyond individual scrutiny. **APPEAR**  
Only scaled beyond individual scrutiny \_\_\_\_\_ objective.
- Ethical deliberation struggles to keep pace as market incentives reward velocity over reflection. **ABREAST**  
As market incentives reward velocity, ethical deliberation \_\_\_\_\_ reflection.

**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**

**decisive, direct, govern, momentum, pervasive, pressure, strain, subtlety**

Artificial intelligence has shifted from a peripheral innovation to a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ presence in contemporary decision-making. It can now actively (2) \_\_\_\_\_ how information is filtered and prioritised across sectors. As development gathers (3) \_\_\_\_\_, ethical judgement faces increasing (4) \_\_\_\_\_, forcing societies to reconsider responsibility and control.

**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. \_\_\_\_\_ charges on an overdraft are usually quite high.  
She used to be very active in politics, but she has lost \_\_\_\_\_ now.  
There are many places of \_\_\_\_\_ near my town.
2. Students are advised to keep their options \_\_\_\_\_ and not to take the first offer of a university place they get.  
It is also important to find a doctor who is prepared to be frank and \_\_\_\_\_ with you and answer all your questions.  
His interpretation is \_\_\_\_\_ to criticism on two main grounds.
3. Politicians seem able to \_\_\_\_\_ with every available tide, depending on what suits them.  
Marilyn Monroe had the ability to make everyone's head \_\_\_\_\_.  
I'm not sure how the meeting will \_\_\_\_\_ out, now that our key people won't be there.
4. No one takes Mr Potter \_\_\_\_\_ any more, after he disgraced himself at the party.  
Teenagers are often \_\_\_\_\_ at risk of getting into trouble with the law.  
But \_\_\_\_\_, don't you feel that hitch-hiking is too risky nowadays?
5. Ferguson planned to broaden its product \_\_\_\_\_ to include internet telephones.  
Joan hoped that the others were out of \_\_\_\_\_ of her mother's voice.  
Prices \_\_\_\_\_ from around £10 for a basic keyboard, to £50 for an ergonomic one.

**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  \_\_\_\_\_ One of the hottest destinations for birdwatchers who like to combine  
00  our \_\_\_\_\_ travel with their chosen hobby has got to be Tobago. With our more  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ than 210 of feathered creatures, Tobago is a birdwatcher's  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ paradise. In fact, Tobago and its sister island, Trinidad,  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ are included in the top to ten list of countries having the  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ most species of birds per square kilometre. Newton George, is a  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Rainforest Reserve Ranger on the island, has been made it his life's  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ work to protect these birds. Amazingly enough, George also can  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ identify each species on the sight. He can even recognise  
8. \_\_\_\_\_ any of the endemic bird species by their call. The Main  
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Ridge Forest Reserve, where George is employed, has the distinction  
10. \_\_\_\_\_ of being one the oldest rainforest reserve in the Western Hemisphere.

**IV. Translate the following text into English.****10 points**

Nu făcură însă nici zece pași prin aurul transparent al după-amiezii, care tremura sonor la fiecare mișcare, când Maria ridică din nou capul, uimită și contrariată: ridicându-se deasupra caselor reconstruite în același gustoresc stil fără stil, răsărind neagră ca smoala pe cerul încă limpede, printre vârfurile plopilor, se-nălța încă, așa cum o văzuse Maria cu doisprezece ani în urmă, după bombardament, casa liftului, rămasă-n picioare după ce blocul care o-mbrăcase devenise o grămadă de moloz... Fata nu-și credea ochilor: cum era cu putință ca himera asta să fi rămas întreagă, când totul, totul împrejur fusese demolat și reconstruit?

Maria n-avea pe-atunci știință de domul nuclear din centrul Hiroshimei sau de biserica amintirii din Berlin, ruine păstrate cu grijă ca pe niște oseminte de strămoși sau cranii de martiri sanctificați în centrul postindustrial, oțel și sticlă, al marilor orașe. Și chiar dac-ar fi știut, n-ar fi făcut vreo legătură, căci un fapt incredibil ștergea orice analogie și-i întărea Mariei impresia de halucinație, sentimentul jenant, dar tot mai puternic pe măsură ce devenea femeie matură, că mintea ei nu-i aparținea pe de-a-ntregul, ci era teatrul unui joc care o depășea cu totul, dar care îi dădea și o importanță fără egal pe lume.

(Mircea Cărtărescu, *Orbitor. Aripa stângă*)

