

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ
BRAȘOV
Aprilie 2026**

Probă scrisă

CLASA a IX-a - SECȚIUNEA A

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

I. Read the following text and put the verbs in brackets in the correct form. 10 points

During Alternative School Week, our class went on a school trip to the botanical garden. We 1. _____ (wait) for this activity for weeks, and everyone was excited.

The air smelled moist and fresh in the garden, as if the plants 2. _____ (just / water). Our biology teacher explained the dense vegetation kept the air fresh. The guide told us that some areas were closed to visitors. Many rare plants 3. _____ (protect) by law in our country and botanical studies 4. _____ (carry out) in the garden that week. We were a bit disappointed but soon found solace in other beautiful areas.

One student asked how long 5. _____ (the plants / grow) there, and the guide said that many of them were over fifty years old, adding that, if people 6. _____ (not take care) of nature, many plants would disappear in the future.

At one point, we saw a broken branch on the ground. Someone said a visitor 7. _____ (may / tear) it, but our teacher said it 8. _____ (can't / do) on purpose because the area was supervised.

I wish we 9. _____ (stay) longer. If we 10. _____ (arrive) earlier, we would have explored more, but the tight schedule left us little time.

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

It's common knowledge that having a good command of languages sets you 1. _____ (PART) as a well-rounded, educated individual. But is it really worth having it in our day and age? 2. _____ (ADMIT) the original purpose of spending 3. _____ (COUNT) hours mastering another language has lost some of its 4. _____ (RELEVANT). The reason is simple – technological progress. Most modern translation apps support any language 5. _____ (IMAGINE) including those that are long dead, such as Latin. The speed and quality of their translation have increased 6. _____ (CONSIDER) over the past decade, so now your phone is well capable of helping you overcome the dreaded language barrier.

So, does that mean that we might as well give up on mastering other languages? Well, not at all. One should keep in mind that knowing and using a language other than your native one has 7. _____ (DISPUTE) benefits. The main benefit is keeping your brain young through the significant mental exercise involved in using a non-native language. It can also make you more 8. _____ (EMPLOY) as mastering a foreign language shows 9. _____ (COMMIT). Finally, it offers valuable 10. _____ (SIGHT) into a culture that is different from your own, which are likely to be missed without knowing the language.

III. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. 10 points

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| 1. I'm certain that James didn't understand the instructions.
James _____ the instructions. | CANNOT |
| 2. "Let's postpone the meeting until next week," she said.
She _____ until the following week. | PUTTING |
| 3. He regrets not accepting the offer when he had the chance.
He _____ the offer at the time. | RATHER |
| 4. One of the five students he interviewed was Spanish.
He interviewed _____ was Spanish. | WHOM |
| 5. Without careful organisation, the project is likely to fail.
The project will fail _____ carefully. | IF |

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Așadar, Hippokalos ne părăsise. Noi ne-am întors spre cetate, am traversat podul de lemn care se ridica noaptea, am trecut nestingheriți pe sub poarta înaltă și ne-am trezit înăuntru. Acolo mai exista un zid interior nu prea mare, după care începea cetatea propriu-zisă, un loc foarte populat. Străduțele înguste, acoperite cu pietre șlefuite în timp de pașii locuitorilor, erau pline de viață. Casele din lemn înghesuite, mirosurile grele de animale și trupuri omenești transpirate, zarva neîntreruptă, lumea certăreată, toate m-au șocat. Nu mai văzusem așa o înghesuială și dezordine. Femei, bărbați și copii în haine lungi, zdrențăroase și înflorate de murdărie, alergau încolo și-ncoace, de parcă asta ar fi fost scopul întregii lor vieți.

(Radu Pavel Gheo, *Fairia – o lume îndepărtată*)