



## OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA LOCALĂ

11 februarie 2026

Clasa a X-a, SECȚIUNEA A

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.
- Timp de lucru: 180 minute

### SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH

40 points

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

When I boarded the train, I could not help (1) ..... (**notice**) that a great many local people got on as well. At the time, this (2) ..... (**not/ strike**) me as odd. Neither (3) ..... (**I/be**) surprised when the train stopped at the tiny station a few miles along the line. Even a mighty express train can (4) ..... (**hold up**) by signals. One hour and seventeen minutes passed and we (5) ..... (**not/cover**) even half the distance. I was determined to make a complaint as soon as we arrived. Two hours later, I (6) ..... (**talk**) angrily to a bored stationmaster. When he (7) ..... (**deny**) it briefly, he told me to look again. A tiny asterisk (8) ..... (**conduct**) me to a footnote at the bottom of the page: “This service (9) ..... (**suspend**)”. Never (10) ..... (**I/experience**) such a frustrating thing before!

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

Healthy eating and keeping physically active are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (**PARTICULAR**) important for children and adolescents. Their nutrition and lifestyle have a direct impact on their (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (**GROW**) and development. Moreover, worldwide trends in obesity in children and teenagers are becoming (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (**INCREASE**) worrying. Being (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (**WEIGH**) or obese has been linked to a greater occurrence of various health (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (**COMPLAIN**) later in life. One way to improve the dietary habits of schoolchildren is to make (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (**ADJUST**) to the food served for lunch. Several leading UK chefs have launched campaigns to improve the nutritional quality of the food on school menus. Despite (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (**CONSIDER**) publicity, the improvements to school dinners have not really (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (**MATERIAL**). Attention has now turned to reducing excess sugar in foods and beverages. Some local authorities are introducing a tax on drinks with more than a permitted amount of sugar. (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (**MANUFACTURE**) have already begun decreasing the quantity of sugar in their drinks. Health campaigners are delighted with this reduction and also with the news that the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (**COME**) raised from the tax will go towards school sports.

**III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only ONE word in each space. (10 points)**

It is an impressive fact that (1)\_\_\_\_\_the stone circles of Stonehenge in England were created more than 3,000 years ago, thousands of miles (2)\_\_\_\_\_, in Egypt, the great Pyramid of Khufu, a far superior and mathematically precise structure, was also built.

Little is known (3)\_\_\_\_\_how the Egyptian pyramids were constructed, but it is accepted that many people must have been involved in their creation. The great Pyramid of Khufu, in Giza, is the (4)\_\_\_\_\_known pyramid, attracting millions of visitors each year to wonder at the giant monument. The accuracy with which its 2.3 *million* stones were positioned is astounding, and the structure's perfect alignment with the stars rightly (5)\_\_\_\_\_this one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

It is widely accepted that the pyramids were built as vehicles in (6)\_\_\_\_\_ the bodies of dead pharaohs could be transported (7)\_\_\_\_\_ the afterlife, and inside each pyramid there are several burial chambers. (8)\_\_\_\_\_the massive stones were cut and moved into position remains a mystery and has divided opinion amongst the world's archaeological community (9)\_\_\_\_\_hundreds of years. It is likely that we will never learn the full secrets of (10)\_\_\_\_\_magnificent man-made towers to the heavens.

**IV. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use between two and five words, including the word given. Do not change the word given. (10 points)**

1. My parents met for the first time thirty years ago. (THAT)  
It.....my parents first met.
2. That was one of the best meals I've had this year. (AS)  
I've had very.....that one this year.
3. He sang in the show and danced in it as well. (ONLY)  
Not.....in the show, he also danced in it.
4. My sister regrets buying a second-hand car. (WISHES)  
My sister.....a second-hand car.
5. I was late for work because I missed my bus. (ACCOUNT)  
I was late for work .....my bus.

**SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS 50 points**

**Read the text and do the tasks that follow:**

For over six decades, the pianist Alfred Brendel gradually built up and maintained a dominant position in the world of classical music. He was an intellectual, sometimes austere, figure who explored and recorded the mainstream European works for the piano. He wrote and played a great deal, but taught very little. Those who knew him best glimpsed a playful side to his character, but that was seldom on display in his concerts. It was a disciplined, never-ending cycle of study, travel and performance.

And then, four or five years ago, a young boy, Kit Armstrong, appeared backstage at one of Brendel's concerts and asked for lessons. Initially, Brendel didn't take the suggestion very seriously. He had had very few pupils and he saw no reason to start now. He quotes from another famous pianist: 'You don't employ a mountain guide to teach a child how to walk.' But there was something that struck him about the young boy-then about 14. He listened to him play. Brendel explained, 'He played remarkably well and by heart. Then he brought me a CD of a little recital he

had given where he played so beautifully that I thought to myself, “I have to make time for him.” It was a performance that really led you from the first to the last note. It’s very rare to find any musician with this kind of overview and the necessary subtlety.’

As Brendel is bowing out of the public eye, so Kit is nudging his way into it- restrained by Brendel, ever nervous about the young man burning out early. Kit, now 19, is a restless, impatient presence away from the lessons- always learning new languages; taking himself off to study maths, writing computer code or playing tennis. All under the watchful eye of his ever-present mother. On top of all this, he composes. ‘This was very important’, Brendel says. ‘If you want to learn to read music properly, it is helped by the fact that you try to write something yourself. Then I noticed that Kit had a phenomenal memory and that he was a phenomenal sight reader. But more than this is his ability to listen to his own playing, his sensitivity to sound and his ability to listen to me when I try to explain something. He not only usually understands what I mean, but he can do it. And when I tell him one thing in a piece, he will do it everywhere in the piece where it comes in later.’

It is touching to see the mellowness of Brendel in his post-performing years. He explains ‘When I was very young, I didn’t have the urge to be famous in five years’ time, but I had the idea I would like to have done certain things by the age of 50. And when I was 50, I thought that I had done most of those things, but there was still some leeway for more, so I went on. Although I do not have the physical power to play now, in my head, there are always things going on, all sorts of pieces that I’ve never played. I don’t play now, but it’s a very nice new career.’

**I. For questions 1-5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. (10 points)**

**1. What is the writer emphasising in the first paragraph?**

- A. the wide range of music that Brendel has played
- B. the total dedication of Brendel to his art
- C. the reluctance of Brendel to take on pupils
- D. the light-hearted nature of Brendel’s character

**2. Brendel uses the quotation about the mountain guide to illustrate that**

- A. it is not always easy to teach people the basics.
- B. it is unwise to try to teach new skills before people are ready.
- C. people can learn new skills without help from others.
- D. it is unnecessary for an expert to teach people the basics.

**3. What made Brendel first decide to accept Kit as a pupil?**

- A. He seemed so young and serious.
- B. He was so determined and persistent.
- C. He could play without the music.
- D. He had an extraordinary talent.

**4. Which of Kit’s musical abilities does Brendel admire the most?**

- A. He is able to write music himself.
- B. He is able to understand and respond to advice.
- C. He can play a piece of music the first time he sees it.
- D. He is able to remember all the music he has ever played.

**5. What is Brendel doing in the final paragraph?**

- A. justifying his lack of ambition when he was young
- B. expressing regret at the loss of his physical strength
- C. describing his present state of mind
- D. explaining which pieces he prefers to play now

**II. WRITING**

**(40 points)**

You have recently attended a live concert that left a strong impression on you. Write a review of the concert, including information on the music, the place and the atmosphere. Write your **review** in 180-200 words.