

Etapă județeană / a sectoarelor municipiului București a olimpiadelor naționale școlare – 2025

Probă scrisă

Limba engleză

CLASA a IX-a - SECȚIUNEA B

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. 10 points

Scientists finally solve mystery behind Bermuda Triangle disappearances

The Bermuda Triangle is one of urban legends' favourite locations. For decades, this section of the North Atlantic Ocean has sparked fear and fascination as the **alleged** site and source of dozens of mysterious disappearances. More than 50 ships and 20 airplanes are said to have vanished in the region, which stretches roughly from the Florida coast to Bermuda to the Greater Antilles islands. Naturally, conspiracy theories have abounded as to the causes of these tragic and unexplained instances, with aliens and even Atlantis blamed for the phenomena.

However, experts have offered more credible hypotheses and, in 2017, Australian scientist Karl Kruszelnicki claimed to have "solved" the enduring mystery once and for all. He dismissed any suggestion that the supernatural was at play here and instead pointed the finger of blame simply at human error, bad weather and high traffic volumes.

Ultimately, it doesn't matter what the experts say. For some people, legends like that of the Bermuda Triangle will always hold appeal. After all, mystery and intrigue are a lot more **enticing** than the **prosaic** truth: that humans make mistakes and you can't trust the weather.

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. 3 points

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. alleged | a. dubious | b. rumoured | c. claimed | d. suspicious |
| 2. enticing | a. winning | b. fetching | c. inviting | d. fascinating |
| 3. prosaic | a. plain | b. practical | c. flat | d. clear |

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it. 3 points

1. This section of the North Atlantic Ocean has sparked fear and fascination as the alleged site and source of dozens of mysterious disappearances. **HAPPENED**
If dozens of mysterious disappearances here, this section of the North Atlantic Ocean wouldn't have sparked fear and fascination.

2. He dismissed any suggestion that the supernatural was at play here (...). **ADMIT**
Under no circumstances the supernatural might have had any role here.

3. Ultimately, it doesn't matter what the experts say. For some people, legends like that of the Bermuda Triangle will always hold appeal. (...). **MAY**
The experts have scientifically explained the phenomena. Be, some people will always prefer to believe legends like that of the Bermuda Triangle.

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

beguile, fluctuating, despite, can, however, ranging, bewilder, did

The Bermuda Triangle has been a subject of fascination and conspiracy theories for decades. Over 50 ships and 20 airplanes have disappeared, with theories _____ (1) from aliens to Atlantis. Australian scientist Karl Kruszelnicki claimed to have "solved" the mystery. Not only _____ (2) he blame human error and bad weather, but also high traffic volumes. _____ (3) these theories, legends like the Bermuda Triangle continue to _____ (4) some people.

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

After spending more than three years and \$160 million (1) (**SCOUR**) thousands of square miles of the Indian Ocean, the (2) (**APPEAR**) of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 and the 239 people aboard remains a total mystery, a dismayed Australian government admitted Tuesday.

"It is almost (3) (**CONCEIVE**) and certainly (4) (**SOCIETY**) unacceptable in the modern aviation era with 10 million passengers boarding commercial aircraft every day, for a large commercial aircraft to be missing and for the world not to know with (5) (**CERTAIN**) what became of the aircraft and those on board," the safety bureau said.

Despite the (6) (**VARY**) methods used, such as studying satellite imagery and investigating ocean drifts after debris from the plane washed (7) (**SHORE**) on islands in the eastern Indian Ocean and the east coast of Africa, the 1,046-day search was resultless and was called off by the (8) (**GOVERN**) of Malaysia, China and Australia on January 17th.

The report said the analysis identified an area of less than 9,650 square miles — roughly the size of the state of Vermont — that "has the highest (9) (**LIKELY**) of containing MH370."

The bureau noted the Malaysian government is "continuing work on their investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the (10) (**LOSE**) of MH370."

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. 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) .. *been* .. Online shopping has been become increasingly popular, with many people now
(00) ..✓... choosing to shop from the comfort of their homes. The ease and convenience of browsing
(1) various stores at any time has made online shopping highly appealing. Many of online
(2) retailers offer significant discounts, which has attract customers looking to save money.
(3) However, some argue that shopping online removes the social aspect of shopping, making
(4) it more harder to connect with others. Although you can't physically touch or try products
(5) before purchasing, digital shopping provides with unparalleled convenience. Some
(6) customers both believe that online stores sell inferior products compared to traditional
(7) retailers. Despite this, online shopping has continued to grow in popularity among
(8) consumers worldwide. With the ability to compare prices easily and do shop at any time of
(9) day, it is easy not to see why many people prefer shopping online. Some customers enjoy
(10) the fact that they can shop late at night, even also when physical stores are closed.

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Peste câteva zile, Felix primi o carte poștală ilustrată care-i făcu să-i tresară inima la-nceput, și-apoi îl cufundă în tristețe și mai mare. Pe o vedere de la Paris (eternul Turn Eiffel), recunoscuse scrisul Otiliei. Fata îi trimitea scurte salutări din Franța, unde nu spunea cu cine se află, întreba de moș Costache și de el și-l ruga să-i scrie, dându-i un număr oarecare pe rue de la Michodiÿre. Ce căuta Otilia la Paris, mai ales cu cine? Fără îndoială, cu Pascalopol. Sufletul ei se umplu de amărăciune. Dacă Otilia s-ar fi dus la moșie, asta ar mai fi mers. Era un gest de plictiseală care se scuza, mai ales că moșia era un loc de delectare primăvara. Dar la Paris, era altceva. Otilia petrecea, se bucura, dormea poate în aceeași cameră cu Pascalopol, trecea drept soția lui, dacă nu era, legal sau nelegal.

(George Călinescu, *Enigma Otiliei*)

B. Integrated Skills (60 points)

I. Five sentences have been removed from the following text. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. 10 points

Amusement parks are the ultimate playgrounds, serving up a perfect combo of thrills, giggles, and good old-fashioned nostalgia. From effortlessly navigating the park with interactive maps to experiencing the thrill of roller coasters, it is the perfect escape. They have adrenaline-pumping rides for thrill-seekers and family-friendly attractions with themed entertainment and unique food experiences.

Finding your way around an amusement park can feel like a wild ride. This is especially true when you're on a mission to enjoy every thrill in just one day! **(1)** Interactive digital maps are now the must-have accessory for any experience. These maps are like your personal tour guides, leading you straight to the desired attractions. This cuts down on the wait times and offers real-time updates on all the rides, shows and events! For instance, Mapsted's hardware-free navigation systems make parks more accessible and efficient for visitors to explore. **(2)** Parks are now using technology to ensure hazard-free rides and aid fast evacuation procedures.

For those chasing adrenaline, the soul of any amusement park lies in its rides! From the thrill of high-speed roller coasters to spiralling loops, these attractions keep thrill-seekers returning for more! While heart-pounding rides steal the spotlight, amusement parks also offer a wide range of family-friendly attractions. **(3)** Beyond the rides, family-friendly activities are important for creating healthy bonds and lasting memories. It turns out that family fun at theme parks depends on the variety of attractions to choose from!

Apart from the rides at these amusement parks, the visitors also enjoy a magical experience through themed entertainment. With live shows showcasing amazing talent and beloved characters, these experiences amp up the park's vibe. Guess what? Disney parks host more than hundreds of live performances every single day! Whether at Universal Studios or Disneyland, these moments add magic to your day.

(4) From the legendary funnel cake to themed dining, food plays a major role in spicing up the entire experience. From a giant turkey leg to butterbeer at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, these treats are also a part of the adventure! However, to make the experience more interesting, parks tend to introduce limited-time, themed dishes to make your visit more exciting. Whether you're grabbing a quick snack or going for a themed feast, the unique food options are the perfect stop to recharge.

Amusement parks aren't just about shows and rides; they're about creating memories with your loved ones. **(5)** From screaming your heart out on a roller coaster to just basking in the park's lively vibe, these experiences turn into golden memories. So capture those smiles and create unforgettable memories with your favourite people!

- A. *No trip to an amusement park is truly complete without diving into some one-of-a-kind tasty treats.*
- B. *Fortunately, today's theme park maps have levelled up, making it a breeze for visitors to navigate the fun.*
- C. *From capturing that perfect pic to the thrill of a new attraction, these experiences stay with visitors long after they leave.*
- D. *Amusement parks are still the go-to spots for fun-seekers of all ages, serving up a combination of rides, attractions and unforgettable experiences.*
- E. *From gentle carousels to interactive play zones, these attractions engage all age groups!*
- F. *This not only reduces stress but also boosts safety with real-time updates during emergencies or unexpected events.*

II. Starting from the text above, answer the following announcement on a website. (50 points)

Reviews wanted – The best theme park in Romania

Have you ever been to a theme park you enjoyed a lot? Write a review, including:

- a brief description of the park
- the activities that you can do there
- whether you would recommend it to people your age and why

Write your review in 220-250 words.