

MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII ȘTIINȚIFICE
OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ, BRAȘOV, aprilie 2015
SECȚIUNEA A /PROBA SCRISĂ
CLASA a XII-a

Varianta 3

Question I (50 points)

Write a **450-word** reflective essay starting from the following quote: "To thrive in life you need three bones: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone." (Reba McEntire) Consider the issue from at least three perspectives.

Question II (25 points)

You have a summer job and the company requires you to wear formal dress in the workplace. Last week there was a proposal to introduce a 'dress-down' Friday. You have been asked to write a proposal to the manager analyzing the pros and cons of the suggestion. Write your proposal in **300 words**.

Question III (25 points)

A. Fill in the blanks with ONE word that fits each gap. (10 points)

Charles Schulz

The cartoonist Charles Schulz created the daily lives of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy and the other inhabitants of the *Peanuts* strip. Schulz, (1) to his friends as 'Sparky', drew the daily strip for almost 50 years. (2) distinctly American culture (3) nothing to hamper its universal success. It was said to have 355 million readers in 75 countries, and it (4) Schulz very rich, (5) an income eventually of perhaps 20 million a year. There are *Peanuts* enthusiasts (6) over the world, and no American politician (7) dream of saying he did not much like the strip.

Schulz insisted he had (8) systemised psychological or philosophical insights, but he displayed unflinching sharp observation and a fairly gentle, if sometimes downbeat, humour. He was given (9) anxiety and low spirits, and (10) was an underlying sadness in his stories, a bitter-sweet quality that clearly fascinated many of his fans. In the 1950s, the strip had a vogue following among intellectuals, but Schulz was happy to point out that he himself had flunked algebra, Latin, English and physics at school. When someone called him an existentialist, he had to ask what the word meant.

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B. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. (5 points)

1. Early summer is withoutthe best time to visit the island.
All the tickets have been sold, so there's no ...of rearranging the concert at this stage.
We were nearly at the end of the meeting before the ...of redundancies was brought up.
2. She is neverwith just passing an exam; she always wants an excellent mark.
Jamie's a very responsible boy, so I'm quiteto let him look after the children.
If the salt..... of food is very high, I try to avoid it.
3. They became increasinglyabout their daughter as she continued to lose weight.
I left there early as I was.....to avoid the heavy traffic during the rush hour.
My parents werethat I should settle down and find a job.
4. There are...to be fewer than 4,000 tigers surviving in the wild in India.
It's an interesting idea, but I wouldn't have...it was very practical.
The nearest village was five miles away, but he...nothing of walking there to do his shopping.
5. We first met on May 21st 1997 which, by..., happened to be my 21st birthday.
Mr. Turner claimed that it was mere ...that he sold his share of the company the day before it was declared bankrupt.
Perhaps it's no ... that poets often seem to lead very troubled lives.

C. For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given. The word must not be altered in any way. (10 points)

1. What the lecturer said was not very clear at times. **LACK**
Therein what the lecturer said at times.
2. Although she didn't agree with the management's decision, Chloe was forced to accept it. **CHOICE**
Much as she disagreed with it, Chloe..... the management's decision.
3. I ought to have had the roof repaired in the summer rather than leaving it until the autumn. **BETTER**
Ithad the roof repaired in the summer rather than leaving it until the autumn.
4. Visitors can only enter the exhibition if they have booked online. **RESTRICTED**
Entrancehave booked online.
5. The role played by the PR company in securing the government contract was never acknowledged officially. **OFFICIAL**
At no timethe role the PR company played securing the government contract.

Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Timp de lucru 3 ore.

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BAREM DE CORECTARE ȘI NOTARE

Question III (25 points)

A. (10 points)

1. known
2. Its
3. did
4. made
5. with
6. all
7. would
8. no
9. to
10. there

B. (5 points)

1. question, 2.content , 3.anxious, 4.thought, 5.coincidence.

C. (10 points)

1. was a lack of clarity
2. had/was left with no choice but / other than to accept
3. would have been better / if I had OR / to have
4. to the exhibition is restricted to visitors / people / those who OR is restricted to the exhibition to / for visitors / people / those who
5. was there (any/an) official acknowledg(e)ment of / as to / regarding