

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ - 10 FEBRUARIE 2024
CLASA a XI-a SECȚIUNEA B

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

1. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks: (10 X 2 p = 20 p)

KEN AND BROTHER TOMMY

"Hair is a very important factor when choosing dolls - part of the lasting **appeal** of glamour dolls is the ability to do their hair and dress them up after the gimmicks have lost their novelty," **mused** Rebecca Jones's mother in her report about Barbie's male friend, now produced **in tandem** with his baby brother, Tommy. The New Man caring and sharing theme made no impact on the testers, it seemed; they were **appalled** by Ken's hair, since it felt as if it had gel on it. The accessories in this packet include a "special baby carrier pack" which takes Tommy, his bottle, rattle, dummy, nappy and baby lotion on Ken's back. The testers thought Tommy was rather "cute", but were concerned that he was only wearing dungarees with no shirt underneath and that his dummy was too large, covering half of his face. The fact that Tommy can wave did not impress the testers.

A. Answer the questions: (3X2p=6p)

1. Why is hair an important factor when children choose a doll?
2. Did the testers feel pleased with Ken's hair?
3. Why were the testers not impressed with the dolls?

B. Choose the right synonym: (4x2p=8p)

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. appeal | a) retrial | b) reconsideration | c) attraction | d) ornament |
| 2. to appal | a) intimidate | b) embarrass | c) horrify | d) humble |
| 3. to muse | a) study | b) consider | c) ruminate | d) meditate |
| 4. in tandem | a) synchronously | b) in collaboration | c) together | d) in partnership |

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning: (3x2p=6p)

1. The fact that Tommy can wave did not impress the testers.

Little..... impress the testers

2. The testers were concerned that he was only wearing dungarees with no shirt.

If he.....concerned.

3. The New Man caring and sharing theme has made no impact on the testers.

No impact.....

2. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each sentence: (10 X 1 p = 10p)

This TV (1) (document) follows a family of chimpanzees which live in the forest of Tanzania. Set in (2) (spectacle) scenery, the programme gives us a fascinating insight into the life and social (3) (action) of these creatures. (4) (appear), we humans share 98% of our genes with chimpanzees; indeed, they are our closest relative in the animal (5)(king) and scenes in the documentary offer clear evidence of our (6)(similar). The focus of the film is on Fifi and we first see her as a (7) (play) five-year-old who spends all her time annoying her younger brother. Meanwhile, the older male chimps seem to be involved in an endless fight for (8) (supreme) and it is no surprise to learn that while all this is taking place the females are left to deal with day-to-day matters. Make sure you set aside an hour to watch this. The (9) (splendid) of the location makes this programme worthwhile viewing, although our (10) (like) to these animals will make you think.

3. Translate the following text into English (10 p):

L-am privit un timp, înainte de a-i răspunde: era ironic domnul profesor? Nu știu, nu cred că era... În orice caz, după prima pornire de a-i răspunde cu o frază sarcastică, am renunțat să deschid gura. Afară ploua, cerul era cenușiu și pe el se zăreau norii gri. Preferam această ploaie fină și pașii trecătorilor pe trotuarul ud. Apoi, „profesorul” și-a continuat monologul, falsa sa confesiune. Nu știu nici eu de ce am numit-o așa. Poate nu mințea, săracul de el, sau nu mințea lucid, sau mințea doar pe jumătate: adică se mințea pe el, iar adevărul despre viața lui trecută era un fals adevăr.

SUBIECTUL B - INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 p)

4. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow: (5x4p=20p)

What Salman Khan, the founder of the non-profit online school Khan Academy has to say to the parent of an eleven-year-old in the USA is frankly terrifying: ‘If your child is not placed in the fast

track for math in sixth grade, his chances of becoming a doctor or an engineer are probably zero. And it's decided when he's eleven years old.'

This is exactly what happened to his cousin Nadia. Usually a straight-A student, she had done poorly in a maths streaming test in sixth grade because she had failed to understand one concept. This one test result, Khan says, might have harmed her academic destiny. Nadia's distraught mother turned to Khan for help. Khan tutored her remotely over the phone and Nadia passed her retake with flying colours. Soon, many more relations and friends wanted Khan's help. Unable to handle the volume of requests, at the suggestion of a friend, he started to record his lessons on video and post them on YouTube. 'At first I was dismissive,' Khan says. 'I thought YouTube was for dogs on skateboards.'

Now Khan has more than 3,000 videos to his name, which are watched by nearly three million unique users a month, via YouTube and his own website. His friendly, avuncular style, coupled with his knack for making difficult concepts seem simple, has helped children – and adults – all over the world move into the fast track. He says his aim is to create 'the world's first free, world-class, virtual school where anyone can learn anything'. Some teachers are wary of him, thinking that he is trying to supplant them, but many more embrace his approach and have started 'flipping' the classroom, encouraging students to watch Khan's videos at home and then tackling maths problems together in class.

You might expect a man with such influence to have state-of-the-art headquarters but Khan's premises are unprepossessing. Arriving at an unmarked red door, sandwiched between a clothes shop and a Chinese restaurant, I decide I have the wrong address – especially after ringing the bell for ten minutes with no response. Eventually, I rouse someone on the telephone and the door is opened. When his assistant shows me in, Khan appears at first to be slightly annoyed at this interruption. Sitting on a leather swivel chair behind a heavy oak desk surrounded by pictures of his wife – a doctor – and their two young children, he continues to work for a few minutes. But once he warms up, it becomes clear that the initial awkwardness is down to shyness, not rudeness. 'I'm not very good when people want to meet me,' he says. 'I want to hide a little bit.'

Khan believes that the rigidity of the school system is outdated and deadens a child's natural curiosity. 'Aged one to four, kids are excited by anything new, they want to figure it out, then all of a sudden, when they turn five, you start seeing fewer curious kids, by nine or ten you see very few with any curiosity, and by eighteen it's very much the exception. Curiosity is just stamped out of them. I'm convinced it's indoctrination, not a genetic thing. Kids are herded together, the bell rings, you're rewarded for passivity, you're rewarded for compliance, that's what keeps you moving through the system.'

Private school education makes little difference, he says. Nor does he believe that student-teacher ratio is an issue. 'The idea that smaller classes will magically solve the problem of students being left behind is a fallacy.' As he points out, if a teacher's main job is lecturing to the students, it doesn't really matter how many students are in the classroom. What matters is the 'student-to-valuable-human-time-with-teacher' ratio. What his videos do, Khan says, is free teachers up for more personal interaction.

He thinks bigger classes with more teachers would provide a more creative learning ground. In his ideal classroom there would be 75-100 students of widely varying ages, with three or four teachers. Some students would be working at computers; others would be learning economics through board games; others would be building robots or designing mobile apps; others would be working on art or creative writing. His dream is nothing short of revolutionary. 'In 500 years I hope people look back and say, "Imagine, kids had to learn in classrooms that were like factories and it was unheard of for an eight-year-old to truly, deeply understand quantum physics. Isn't that strange?"

1 Why did Khan initially start to record videos?

- A. It was easier to explain concepts in a video than on the phone.
- B. It enabled him to advertise his services worldwide.
- C. It was impossible for him to respond personally to each request for assistance
- D. It was a more popular medium for young people to use.

2 One value of the videos is that they can

- A. be used as an additional tool for teachers in class.
- B. be shown to students as a reward for hard work.
- C. act as a substitute for formal learning.
- D. help students prepare for a topic they will study.

3 When visiting Khan the writer is

- A. annoyed by Khan's lateness.
- B. surprised by Khan's choice of location.
- C. embarrassed by the way Khan addresses him.
- D. impressed by the style of furnishings in Khan's home.

4 The writer mentions different children's ages to illustrate his idea that

- A. it is quite natural for children to grow disillusioned with formal education.
- B. the older a child is, the less able they are to assimilate new information.
- C. a child's growing lack of interest in learning is a result of experience at school.
- D. younger children need more motivation to remain interested in education.

5 When Khan compares classrooms to factories in the final paragraph, he is implying that

- A. classrooms produced what industry demanded.
- B. children were part of an inflexible system.
- C. teaching methodology produced student clones.
- D. small numbers of teachers dealt with large numbers of students.

5. Starting from the text above, write an article for your school magazine on the usefulness of taking free courses online. (220-250 words). (40 p)

NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Timp de lucru: 3 ore