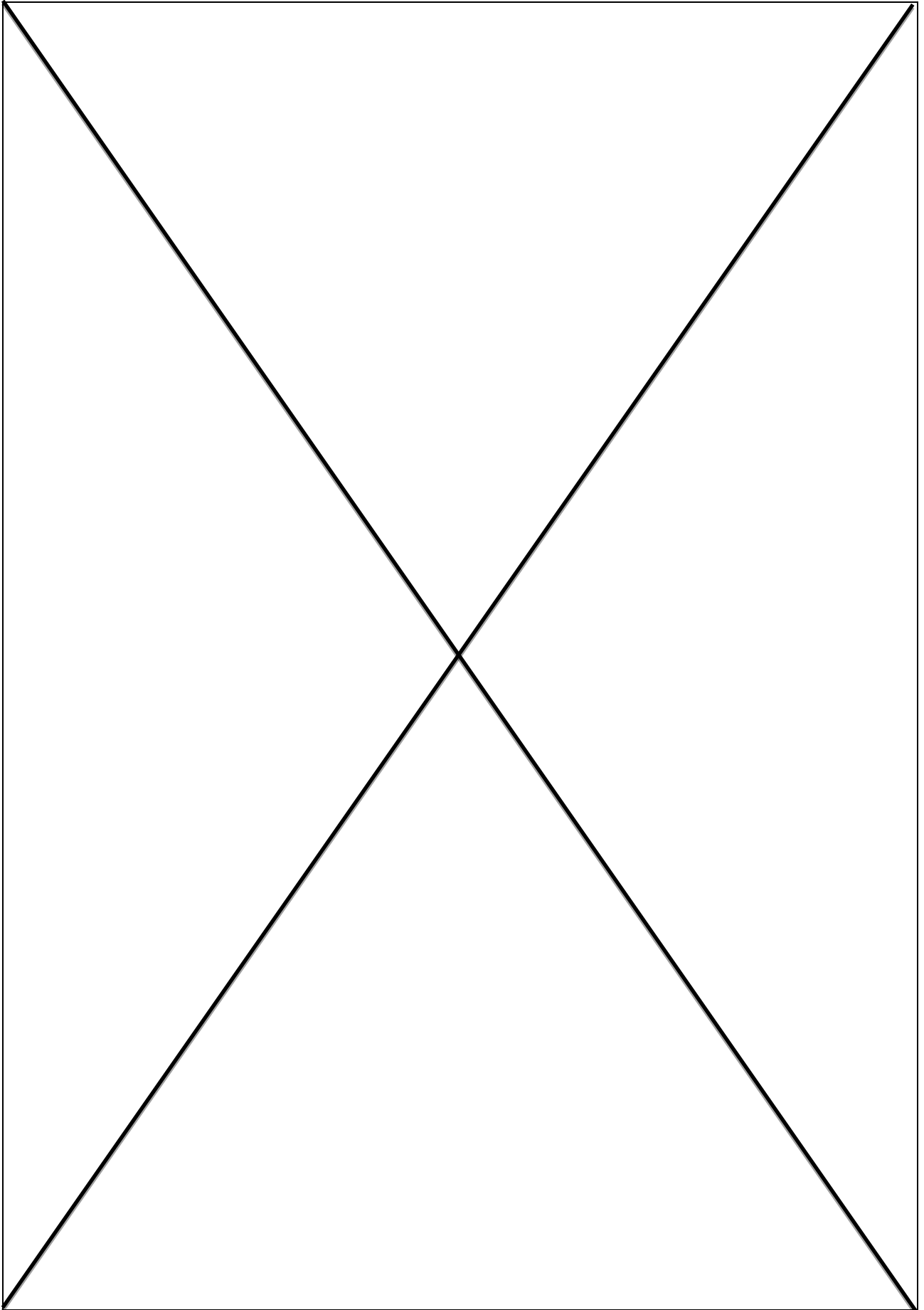


OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ
21 februarie 2024

CLASA A XI-A
SECȚIUNEA A

Numele și prenumele elevului: _____
Unitatea de învățământ: _____
Codul elevului: _____



VĂ RUGĂM SĂ NOTAȚI CODUL DUMNEAVOASTRĂ ÎN CASETA DE MAI JOS:

COD ELEV:

**OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ
21 februarie 2024**

**CLASA A XI-A
Secțiunea A**

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

USE OF ENGLISH

(40 de puncte)

I. Read the text below and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (10x1p=10p)

What's special (1) ___ the second week in February? It's Random Acts of Kindness Week - a time when people (2) ___ others and are, well, kind. The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation (RAK for short) is the organisation behind the (3) ____. They have set themselves the (4) ___ of making the world a kinder place.

It's understandable that we prioritise our family and the people we (5) ___ with most. But RAK thinks we can spread kindness so that it becomes part of everyday life. And don't be (6) ___ if you think it sounds expensive. Helping someone with their bags, complimenting someone, or simply smiling at a stranger are all free.

RAK believes that if you're kind to a person, they feel good and they also act in a thoughtful way. Giving someone a (7) ___ just means that we can just means that we can (8) ___ a little better. So go on, take a deep (9) ___ and try a random act of kindness today. You really have nothing to (10) ___.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| (1) A about | B in | C off | D of |
| (2) A come across as | B look up to | C fill in on | D reach out to |
| (3) A times | B idea | C curtain | D frame |
| (4) A goal | B intention | C purpose | D idea |
| (5) A hang on | B hang onto | C hang out | D hang in |
| (6) A put down | B put off | C put out | D put upon |
| (7) A hand | B need | C help | D care |
| (8) A get down | B get through | C get along | D get over |
| (9) A breath | B smile | C sigh | D air |
| (10) A waste | B pay | C stand | D lose |

II. Complete the text with ONE word that fits into each gap. (10x1p=10p)

Do only humans use language? This is (1) _____ of the most fascinating questions facing scientists in behavioural science. And interest in (2) _____ or not other creatures can communicate as we do has led to research into North American prairie dogs. Prairie dogs appear to have a rich community life, living in underground 'towns', or collections of prairie dog families, (3) _____ typically cover anything up to two square kilometres. However, the largest one ever recorded is estimated to (4) _____ covered 65,000 square kilometres!

Recordings of prairie dog communication made over the last 20 years have shown that they use a complex range of sounds to tell (5) _____ other about the presence of other creatures. Some scientists now believe that prairie dogs have a rich language all of their (6) _____ .

For example, they are able to communicate not only the size and shape of an individual human, (7) _____ also the colour of their clothes. Prairie dog 'language' (8) _____ well be the most sophisticated form of communication (9) _____ be found in the animal kingdom (10) _____ far.

III. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given in bold. Use between three and five words, including the word given. (10x1p=10p)

1. I'll only phone next week if it is absolutely necessary. **REALLY**
Next week, I won't phone _____ to.
2. I didn't like the new fashion at first, but I don't mind it now. **USED**
It has taken me a while _____ the new fashion.
3. Doing homework needn't be a chore if you work with your friends. **HAVE**
It _____ be a chore doing homework if you work with your friends.
4. There wasn't much food left over after the party. **SMALL**
Only _____ food was left over after the party.
5. To my mind, travel is a waste of time. **FAR**
As _____, travel is a waste of time.
6. Joe doesn't miss a goal very often in a football match. **EVER**
Joe _____ a goal in a football match.
7. Excuse me please, where is reception? **TELL**
Excuse me, can you _____, please?
8. I was really surprised when I won the competition. **EXPECT**
I _____ the competition.
9. Sofia started to do gymnastics nearly two years ago. **DOING**
Sofia _____ nearly two years.
10. Having a car was too expensive for Tom's brother until he got a weekend job. **AFFORD**
Tom's brother _____ have a car until he got a weekend job.

IV. Read the text and write the correct form of the word in CAPITALS to complete the gaps. (10x1p=10p)

An (1) _____ large number of selfies are taken every day, but **BELIEVE**
have you ever taken one and got an (2) _____ result? Well, now a **EXPECT**
computer scientist, Andrej Kaparthy, is here to help. He has shown there's nothing (3)
_____ about the perfect selfie. He's actually come up with a formula **ACCIDENT**
that gives you complete (4) _____ in every picture and takes the (5) **CONFIDENT**
_____ out of the process. **FRUSTRATE**

Kaparthy created an artificial intelligence network that can categorise images. **FOLLOW**
Working from pictures that had the most online 'likes', (6) _____ and
tags, the system was given data about what makes an image a success or a (7)

- _____The final best 100 selfies were analysed to create a set of tips. **FAIL**
- For women and girls, the face should take up one third of the image and it's best to take the picture at an angle. Style of hair is important: wear it down, the longer the better.
- (8) _____ is important for men and boys too. They should style their hair up, and take the shot straight on. **APPEAR**
- Shooting in black and white can (9) _____ the impact of an image. **STRONG**
- And despite the worldwide (10) _____ for group selfies, these are best avoided if you want a successful picture. **ENTHUSIASTIC**

INTEGRATED SKILLS

(60 de puncte)

I. Read the text below and for each question choose the correct letter A, B, C or D. (5 x2p=10p)

My mother, for all her faults, only ever wanted the best for me. "Study hard", she used to say, "go to university". She, like many others, held an almost unmovable belief that the piece of paper they award you at the end of an undergraduate degree would magically open all sorts of doors. Employers would queue up as far as the eye could see to offer me a host of well-paid, rewarding jobs. Without this piece of paper, my career prospects would plummet to a choice between being unemployed and, well, being unemployed.

I do not regret my time at university, but if I were to say that my degree magically opened any doors for me, I'd be lying. For my mother's generation having a degree was a massive advantage, but thirty years later it is a completely different story for people finishing a degree. The truth hits you around the time of your graduation ceremony. Just as you've finally made it, you look around proudly at your fellow graduates, dressed in gowns and funny hats. That's when you suddenly notice that the room is full of people just like you. Following this realisation, you sign up for a masters, in the hope that that's what's going to make you stand out from the crowd. One or two more years of stress, and in many countries, ten or twenty more years of debt, will land you the job you've always dreamt of. You don't quite know what that is yet, but surely a masters will lead you in the right direction, too. That wasn't something that I wanted to do.

At that point I started considering my options, which is something I admittedly should have done years earlier, and that I'd urge you to do now. A gap year might have seemed like a waste of time and money in my mother's eyes, but what fun would it have been, and how eye-opening an experience, before indebting myself for my degree. An internship would have given me the chance to get a feel for the office working environment, guiding me to choose the right career. Working would have given me the chance to be financially independent, perhaps save some money for other endeavours. If I'd thought about it before, I might have even decided to skip university altogether, as countless successful professionals have. In the end, it was an apprenticeship that caught my eye. Thousands of artisans everywhere are closing their shops due to a lack of apprentices, meaning the virtual disappearance of a multitude of crafts, from watchmakers to basket makers. I signed up for an apprenticeship in glassmaking, and I'm well on my way to taking over the workshop when the time comes.

Keeping in mind all of the above, you'd think I'd be recommending you don't bother with university at all. In fact, whilst flyers and brochures drone on about the monetary and career benefits of this or the other course, what they fail tell you is where the true value of higher education lies: exposure. Exposure to new ideas, different mentalities, wildly differing cultures and people. It taught me that if there's one thing I know, it's that I know nothing. And, just for the record, I do also have friends who've done brilliantly thanks to their masters.

I might not use my extensive knowledge of French literature in my job, but in the end, that was the right path for me.

1. In the first paragraph, the author mentions his mother in order to

- A Remember how loving his mother was
- B Say that mothers are annoying when it comes to their children's choices about their futures
- C Point out how degrees are generally believed to be the only route to attain professional satisfaction
- D Stress the importance of going to university and having a degree

2. In the second paragraph, the author's attitude towards a master's degree is

- A favourable
- B sceptical
- C indifferent
- D resentful

3. In the third paragraph, the author mentions that

- A He regrets not taking a gap year after university
- B He wishes he had evaluated his options before university
- C Is confident that working after university would have made him a successful professional
- D Believes that if he'd done an internship to begin with he would have pursued a career in an office

4. In the fourth paragraph, the author implies that

- A He wouldn't recommend a university degree
- B He would recommend a masters
- C He is glad he went to university after all
- D He wishes he'd done a masters

5. The overall purpose of the text is to

- A Promote a university course
- B Inform the reader of the drawbacks of university studies
- C Reassure the reader that they will make the right choice
- D Encourage the reader to reflect on their choices

II. Starting from the text above, write a report examining the decisions teenagers make regarding their future careers. Your report should focus on the factors influencing these choices, explore challenges faced by teenagers, and provide practical recommendations for informed decision-making. (200–250 words) (50 p)

