

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA LOCALĂ – 02 martie 2024
CLASA a XII-a SECȚIUNEA B

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

1. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. (20 points)

Procrastination is the voluntary postponement of an action until a later time. It's a self-regulatory failure that all of us experience at some point or another. Most people tend to procrastinate on tasks that they find difficult, complex, unpleasant, or boring. But when we consistently put things off, it can undermine our career, relationships, and overall well-being.

One reason we procrastinate may be the fact that we struggle with focus. There are so many distractions in our modern world: social media, emails, text messages, and more. When we're not fully engaged in a task, it's easy to get sidetracked and avoid doing the work. Another reason is that we have too much freedom. Research has shown that people actually work better when they have some restrictions placed on them. For example, if you know that you only have a limited amount of time to complete a task, you're more likely to stay focused and get it done. Procrastination is also fueled by our desire for instant **gratification**. We tend to prioritize short-term pleasure over long-term goals. For example, watching TV or hanging out with friends might be more enjoyable in the moment than studying for an exam or working on a project.

The first step in overcoming procrastination is awareness. Pay attention to the times when you find yourself putting things off. Notice the thoughts and feelings that come up for you. Are you feeling overwhelmed, bored, or anxious? Once you understand why you're procrastinating, you can start to address the underlying issues. One effective strategy is to break large tasks into smaller, more manageable steps. This makes the work feel less intimidating and helps you to get started. You can also try setting specific deadlines for each step along the way. Deadlines create a sense of urgency and make it harder to justify delaying the work.

Accountability can also be a powerful tool for overcoming procrastination. Share your goals with a friend, family member, or colleague who can help keep you on track. You might even consider working with a coach or therapist who specializes in productivity and time management.

Finally, it's important to learn how to tolerate discomfort. **Adjourning** an activity is often a way of avoiding negative emotions, such as frustration or boredom. But these feelings are a normal part of life. By developing your emotional resilience, you can learn to sit with discomfort and still take action.

A. Answer the following questions, according to the text. (8 points)

1. Why does the struggle with focus contribute to procrastination?
2. According to research, how does having restrictions placed on us help in overcoming procrastination?
3. How can breaking large tasks into smaller steps help in combating postponing the tasks?
4. Why is it important to learn how to tolerate discomfort when trying to overcome procrastination?

B. Choose the synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. (6 points)

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. gratification: | a. bonus | b. satisfaction | c. function | d. freedom |
| 2. accountability: | a. finances | b. guilt | c. responsibility | d. talking |
| 3. adjourning: | a. interrupting | b. travelling | c. frustration | d. forgetting |

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. (6 points)

- All the students finished the tasks as soon as the teacher gave them a deadline.
No sooner..... all the students finished the tasks.
- Thanks to my friends' support, I was able to focus better.
Had it able to focus better.
- People have little realization of how much they have to work to overcome procrastination.
Little have to work to overcome procrastination.

2. Think of one word which can be used appropriately in all three sentences: (10points)

- I was on the of booking my holiday when my boss said I might have to change the dates.
As the meeting drew to a close, the chairperson moved on to the final on the agenda.
Theo couldn't see the of getting to the airport too early, as the check-in desk only opened one hour before the flight departed.
- Although she enjoyed going out with friends, Harriet alwaysher college work very seriously.
John remembers that it quite a lot of courage to sing in public for the first time.
When the new managerover the football club, not everybody liked him.
- Sandra got used to her new job at the fashion magazine.
If you eat too, you may find that you get a stomach ache.
You can get to the town centre quite by bike, as there is a dedicated cycle track.
- The detective said he hadn't ruled out a between the two burglaries in the village.
A new high-speed rail will connect the Olympic Stadium with the city centre.
Garry found the name of the hotel by following a on the tourist board website.
- The battery in my laptop needs before I leave for London.
The museum is not local residents an entrance fee if they visit on weekdays.
The police say they won't be the man because he hasn't committed a criminal offence.

4. Translate the following text into English. (10 points)

Când am trecut pe lângă camera părinților mei am observat că una dintre ușile dulapului mare era deschisă câțiva centimetri. Majoritatea dulapurilor din casă erau mici dar tata îi pusese pe niște

oameni să facă o gaură în perete și să transforme dormitorul cel mic de alături într-un dulap mare. Era atât de mare încât avea două uși care dădeau înăuntru. Eu nu aveam voie să intru pentru că acolo își ținea tata puștile de vânătoare. Mă simțeam ciudat să intru în el dar am făcut-o oricum. Am aprins lumina și am închis ușa. Mi-am amintit că am văzut-o pe mama ieșind de acolo cu o cutie mare și rotundă pentru pălării. Erau o grămadă de hârtii și de poze în ea și mi-am dat seama din felul în care umbla cu ele că erau speciale pentru ea. De atunci tot voiam să arunc o privire în cutie și am hotărât că venise momentul potrivit. M-am uitat prin hârtii și dosare cât de repede am putut. Înăuntru era un petic de hârtie pe care scria Certificat de naștere, iar alături stătea scris de mână cuvântul „băiat”. Data de pe el era data mea de naștere. Numele de fată al mamei mele era trecut în partea de jos a hârtiei și în stânga cuvântul „mamă”. În partea dreaptă, unde era scris „tată” era un cuvânt la care nu mă așteptam: „Necunoscut”. (Băiatul cu ziare, Vince Vawter)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

Renovating the Lymm Water Tower

After eight years of grit and determination, Russell and Jannette Harris have succeeded in transforming a derelict water tower into a spacious family home, and in doing so, won the 2023 Homebuilding and renovation awards. However, the road to success was relentless, as what began as a whim turned into an insurmountable challenge, and there were times when they thought they might never move in.

1 .

Finding themselves the owners of the dilapidated structure, the couple then had to decide what to do with it. Their early visions for the project were fairly modest; they originally considered wrapping the structure in timber cladding and fitting a copper roof, or keeping the tower as a folly and building a cottage in the grounds. As time progressed, the couple decided that they could use this opportunity to create something far more ambitious.

2 .

Julian's masterplan involved wrapping a glass-and-steel extension around the tower, creating living spaces on various levels. Massive windows would give floor-to-ceiling views of the countryside, strategically placed so that the morning sun would shine into the kitchen and set on the dining area. The summer lounge, facing due south, would catch the daytime rays.

3 .

Work also had to be done to hide the unsightly selection of antennae on the roof of the old tower. These could not be removed, as they were essential part of funding the conversion. So they were rehoused in an extension to the existing stone turret, concealing them from sight.

4 .

Thankfully, they were able to reclaim something towards these costs from the income generated by the radio masts. They also reaped some money by making a television programme about the project. But with costs soaring to £450,000 and beyond, the family was forced to cut down on personal spending. They stopped taking family holidays, traded in their car and lived in cheap rented accommodation.

5.

The extension meanwhile, which accommodates the main living space, is a tribute to minimalism. There are no pictures. The house is like a work of art in itself, with its sweeping views of the countryside. White is the dominant colour, and everywhere there are sleek, curved lines. Even the light switches and plug sockets are discreetly hidden.

5. Read the text above carefully. Five paragraphs have been removed. Choose from the paragraphs A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is an extra paragraph which you do not need to use. (20 points)

A Russell and his wife had lived for several years in the picturesque village of Lymm where the crumbling 130-year old tower stood. The grade II listed building was one of several hundred surviving water towers which were built in the 1800s to improve public health across Britain. This particular tower was currently being used by three mobile phone companies to anchor their telephone masts. Russell regularly walked along the footpath beside the tower, and when it went up for auction in 2007, he impulsively put in a bid for £138,000

B But finally it all paid off. The end result is both contemporary and luxurious. The original tower houses a 'winter' living room on the ground floor. Above it is a master bedroom with an en suite bathroom on a mezzanine. Above that, there is an office, guest room and a room for the telecom equipment. Atop it all is a roof garden with views stretching as far as Manchester and Liverpool.

C Work finally began when planning permission was granted in 2014. But before the new structure could be built, substantial work had to be done to the existing tower. The stonework was cracked and the turret was damaged. Two skilled stonemasons worked for six months on its restoration. It was then sandblasted, the water tank was removed, and huge steel frames were put into place to support the new floors. Only then could foundations be laid for the extension.

D Over 60 companies were involved in the construction, and Russell gave up work to act as project manager. There were problems at almost every stage. If something could go wrong, it inevitably would. Spirits plummeted and costs spiralled, and Russell and Jannette could do little but look on as their savings dwindled.

E Russell and Jannette had just finished renovating a 1920s farmhouse nearby. This was done in a much more traditional style. By the time they'd finished with it, the once-roofless property had the typical Aga, log-burning stove, rugs, country pine furniture, dried flowers and knick-knacks. Chintzy in comparison to the modernist design they attached to the water tower. Since the work on the tower, they have become a real converts to minimalism.

F Fate, however, had other ideas. Russell and Jannette had to battle town planners and local opposition to get their dream on the road. Five years along, work still hadn't started and the couple were losing heart. All this changed, however, when they met the architect Julian Baker, who drew up plans for a contemporary design blending old and new. His inspirational ideas gave them the impetus they needed to kick-start their project.



6. Starting from the text above, imagine that there are plans to demolish an old unused building in your town. You feel that the building should be saved. Write a proposal addressed to the city council explaining why you think the building should be preserved, suggesting what could be done to modernize it and saying how the building could benefit the local people. (250-280 words) 40 points

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