

Etapa județeană / a sectoarelor municipiului București a olimpiadelor naționale școlare –2026
Probă scrisă
Limba engleză
CLASA a XI-a - SECȚIUNEA A

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

SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Read the following text and fill in the blanks with ONE word only.

10 points

Many cities around the world are attempting to reinvent themselves by investing heavily in so-called “smart” technologies. Sensors regulate traffic flow, apps monitor energy consumption, and public services are increasingly automated. If implemented **1. ____** care, such innovations can significantly improve the quality of urban life. Rarely **2. ____** technological progress been so closely linked to everyday routines.

However, not everyone is convinced that smart cities are the solution they claim to be. Critics argue that, **3. ____** appealing as the concept may sound, it often prioritises efficiency over human interaction. Surveillance systems, **4. ____** intended to enhance safety, may also erode privacy.

As **5. ____** as sustainability is concerned, smart infrastructure can certainly reduce waste and emissions. Yet these benefits are frequently unevenly distributed, with wealthier districts enjoying far greater access **6. ____** poorer ones. This raises the question of **7. ____** technology truly serves the public interest or merely reinforces existing inequalities.

Ultimately, the success of smart cities depends not only on innovation, but also on governance. Without clear regulations and public accountability, even the most advanced systems risk becoming tools of control rather than instruments **8. ____** progress. Going beyond **9. ____** impressive statistics and glossy presentations, citizens must ask themselves whether they are gaining convenience **10. ____** the expense of autonomy.

II. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

10 points

1. If the management ____ more decisively at the outset, the controversy ____ escalated and public confidence ____ undermined.

- A. acted / would not have / had not been
- B. had acted / might not have / would not have been
- C. were to act / will not have / is not
- D. has acted / would not / has not been

2. I understood Hamlet only after I had seen it on stage.

- A. Only after seeing Hamlet on stage I understood it.
- B. I understood Hamlet only after I did see it on stage.
- C. Only after seeing Hamlet on stage did I understand it.
- D. Only after I saw Hamlet on stage had I understood it.

3. The official is believed ____ the figures deliberately, which ____ the findings unreliable and ____ further investigation.

- A. manipulating / makes / leads to
- B. to be manipulating / made / led to
- C. to have manipulated / has made / prompted
- D. having manipulated / making / prompting

4. The committee has denied _____ prior knowledge of the incident, insisting that all members _____ informed only after the matter _____ public.

- A. to have had / were / became
- B. to have / had been / had become
- C. having had / have been / became
- D. having / should be / has become

5. Had the company _____ more transparent in its dealings, the dispute _____ avoided and its reputation _____ less damage.

- A. being / will be / suffers
- B. to be / would have been / would suffer
- C. been / might have been / would have suffered
- D. having been / had been / suffered

6. It's very important that we _____ as soon as there _____ any change in the patient's condition.

- A. would be notified/will be
- B. will be notified/has been
- C. be notified/is
- D. should be/will have been

7. The witness claimed _____ under considerable pressure at the time, though this _____ later questioned and _____ never conclusively proven.

- A. acting / is / was
- B. to act / was / has been
- C. having acted / is / has been
- D. to have acted / was / has been

8. No account _____ taken of the long-term consequences, nor _____ adequate measures _____ to mitigate the risks.

- A. was / were / implemented
- B. had / were / implementing
- C. is / had / been implemented
- D. has / had / implemented

9. The proposal was rejected, not because it _____ impractical, but because it _____ insufficiently detailed and _____ widespread concern.

- A. was / was considered / raised
- B. had been / had considered / has raised
- C. is / is considered / rises
- D. was / was considered / rose

10. Suppose Alison _____ practising an hour before Robert _____, how long _____ when he _____ at the gate?

- A. started / had arrived/ had she practised/ stopped
- B. was starting / arrived / did she practise/ had stopped
- C. has started / had arrived / has she been practising/ has stopped
- D. had started/ arrived/ had she been practising/ stopped

III. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

10 points

1. Someone has suggested changing the company logo.

FORWARD

A suggestion has _____ the company logo.

2. Jane's cooking soon impressed her friends.

REPUTATION

Among her friends, Jane soon gained _____ a good cook.

3. When it comes to football, there is very little Tim doesn't know.

GAPS

There are very _____ of football.

4. They had no success in contacting their friend before the departure.

MANAGE

They _____ hold of their friend before the departure.

5. I didn't particularly like either of the two dresses which the shop assistant showed me. **NEITHER**

The shop assistant showed me two dresses, _____ very much.

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Sala de Bal fusese decorată după indicațiile ei precise. O sută de spiriduși munciseră trei zile și trei nopți, în mai multe schimburi, supraveghează îndeaproape de Domnul Azi, pentru a-i duce la îndeplinire toate dorințele în ceea ce privește decorațiunile, aranjamentele florale, meniul și momentele artistice. Cei trei membri ai trupei The Leprechauns, acum rămași din nou fără solist, își ocupaseră deja locurile pe scenă. Urmasi să cânte doar muzică ambientală, ceea ce avea să-i convină de minune lui Tempus, care nu suporta melodiile zgomotoase, specifice stilului Future Rock. În bucătărie, toți cofetarii de la Temps d'Amour lucrau de zor la finisarea tortului cu patru etaje, ba nu, cinci, ba nu, șapte – Poimarți nu se putea hotărî asupra numărului! Mai întâi ceruse câte un etaj pentru fiecare copil, apoi a decis să includă în numărătoare și restul familiei extinse, însă abia aici au început încurcăturile. Prin urmare, cofetarii lucrau în niște emoții teribile, știind că oricând ar putea fi rugați să mai adauge sau să mai elimine câte un etaj.

(Adina Rosetti, *Misterul orașului Lunivineri*)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. Five paragraphs have been removed from the article below. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

10 points

At 3.45, on a rainy morning in May, two years ago, I woke to a chorus of alarm clocks and headed down to a market street in London to meet Phil, my school friend and business partner. On arriving there, I found him setting up the stall with our meal kits: boxes with all the fresh ingredients already chopped, washed, and weighed.

1.....

Neither of us had had any previous business experience. We had, though, followed the advice of countless startup guides and new business seminars for those just starting out: we had written a business plan, identified market trends, and developed a product.

2.....

While this sort of research was invaluable, we were faced with a slight problem. On the basis of our research findings, we'd have 95% of adults across all socio-economic groups buying our products at a cost of £6 per go, at least four nights a week- for all eternity.

3.....

This gave us confidence that our plan was a good one. However, it also highlighted that maybe we'd missed something, that there were clearly some fundamental questions that hadn't been answered and couldn't be tested in this way. Was our product right? Would people actually buy it?

4.....

Fortunately, we landed on our feet, selling 100 meals on our first day of trading. And despite a few nail-biting initial hours after the market opened, our rather direct promotional activity (literally grabbing customers off the street) finally paid off. To our great delight, we sold out by the end of the day.

5

The street market offered us a low-cost and flexible platform from which to start building up a record of sales. These proved essential in developing future sales, raising finance from banks and building up relationships with suppliers. It's amazing how much more seriously people in such crucial sectors take you when they can check out a product that is actually selling. Even if that is only in small quantities, rather than one that is only hypothetical. The most valuable aspect of our experience in the street market was that it allowed us to communicate with our customers on a daily basis and respond to their feedback on our products, marketing and pricing in real time. Over the three months, we were able to take many small-scale risks and experiment with many different recipes, points of sales and kinds of messaging, allowing us to develop those that worked and tweak those that proved unpopular.

A. That, of course, excludes the extras they would buy for their close friends and family. Clearly, people were so taken with the idea that they would want to share it with others.

B. Above and beyond the pleasing sales figures, the insights gained from that opening session were so useful that we kept our stall at Whitecross Street Market for three months. Looking back, we would not recommend any other approach to businesses that are launching products for the first time.

C. Phil and I had also organised focus groups to try out early prototypes and set up an online questionnaire. We'd even pestered commuters in train stations to find out what they thought of the concept.

D. How much this fairly low-budget advertising campaign achieved in terms of helping to boost sales is difficult to evaluate, not least because it proved impossible to determine what proportion of our customers had actually been influenced by it. All we can say with a fair degree of certainty is that the market research we carried out enabled us to identify the target audience pretty accurately.

E. This was it. After months of painstaking planning, our task was simple: cast aside the books and theory, make up our products and get them into the kitchens of paying customers.

F. This realisation, that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, led us to the 3.45 a.m. wake-up calls and a real drive to test our products on the paying public. We rented a stall at Whitecross Street Market, splashed out on a second-hand chiller, decorated our stall and made the tentative leap from business plan to business.

II. You have just finished an entrepreneurship course offered by your school. The principal of your school has asked you to write a report for the school council about two different courses the students might attend. In your report you should:

- describe the courses giving details about the place and duration
- discuss the benefits of attending the courses
- recommend the more appealing one

Write your report in 220-250 words.

40 points