Etapa județeană / a sectoarelor municipiului București a olimpiadelor naționale școlare – 2026
Probă scrisă
Limba engleză

CLASA a XII-a - SECȚIUNEA B

- **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 paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. 10 points

Reconciling Biological Imperatives with Contemporary Demands

The concept of 'evolutionary mismatch' can help foster self-compassion and point the way to a more rewarding existence. Simply put, we evolved in a very different environment from the one in which we now find ourselves. As a result, our brains, bodies and instincts are poorly matched to their surroundings. Understanding the life we evolved for allows us to look at our problems with more clarity and can **nudge** us towards better, more informed decisions.

Managing the difficulties we encounter often requires wrestling with our own drives, doing our best not to give in to every impulse. To lose weight, to find meaningful work, to maintain long-term, happy relationships: all demand postponing our immediate desires in the service of a longer-term goal. Why is it that following our instincts often seems to land us in so much trouble?

Human beings are highly adaptable, capable of solving problems, cooperating, and developing technology. However, our genetics and anatomy have remained largely unchanged for about 100,000 years. Therefore, genetic evolution is too slow to keep up with the rapid urban, technological, and cultural changes. So what has the fallout been?

Perhaps the starkest impact has been on our waistlines. The instinct to binge on foods rich in salt, fat and sugar kept people alive for most of human history, when the next meal was never guaranteed. Now we live in a world where calories are cheap, and where scientists devote whole careers to making foods far more appealing than any food found in nature. Obesity, once rare, has now overtaken malnutrition as the leading public health issue in many countries.

The world has developed in ways our biology hasn't been able to keep up with. If you don't take this into account as you look at your own life, you open the door to profound self-criticism, frustration, and resentment.

Conversely, rather than **berating** ourselves for not being able to control our impulses, we can start to think about helpful **mitigations**. Some solutions include keeping junk food out of the house, limiting screen time, or getting involved in community, collaborative problem-solving. These are vital ingredients for a satisfying life and will remain so, whatever technology we invent.

A. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text. 3 points

1.	**nudge**	a. compel	b. pressure	c. demand	d. prompt
2.	**berating**	a. scolding	b. praising	c. analysing	d. ignoring
3.	**mitigations**	a. implications	b. justifications	c. remedies	d. adaptations

B. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. Use the word given WITHOUT changing it. 3 points

1. Understanding the life we evolved for allows us to look at our problems with more clarity. **APPROACH**
Only _____ our problems with more clarity.

2. Obesity, once rare, has now overtaken malnutrition as the leading public health issue in many countries. **OVERTAKEN**
In many countries, malnutrition _____ the primary public health concern.

3. If you don't take this into account as you look at your own life, you open the door to profound self-criticism, frustration, and resentment. **RISK**
Should _____ the door to profound self-criticism and resentment.

C. Four words have been removed from the summary of the text above. Choose the right words to fill in the summary. There are four extra words which you do not need to use. 4 points

fallout, engagement, align, allegations, discrepancy, prevail, afflictions, incentive

"Evolutionary mismatch" occurs because our ancient biology cannot **(1)** _____ with rapid modern changes. Our instincts, once vital for survival, now lead to **(2)** _____ like obesity and frustration. By recognizing this biological **(3)** _____, we can replace self-criticism with self-compassion. Instead of relying on willpower alone, we should implement environmental mitigations and community **(4)** _____ to foster a more satisfying existence.

II. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Write only the missing word on your answer sheet. 10 points

1. The official listened to the whole story, but it was difficult to tell whether he believed it because his _____ did not change at all.
   'Yours faithfully' is a polite _____ which can be used to close a formal letter.
   Her technique isn't perfect but she puts great _____ into her piano playing.

2. The legal team argued that the evidence was not _____ to the case at hand.
   The architect's design was highly _____, as it met the requirements of blending modern aesthetics with traditional materials.
   Despite the critics' harsh reviews, the film remained _____ to a younger generation of viewers.

3. After the scandal, the CEO found it impossible to _____ the trust and confidence of the shareholders.
   The investment is expected to _____ a significant profit within the first fiscal year.
   To _____ a better understanding of the subject, one must engage in extensive research.

4. The scientist was able to _____ a compelling case for the necessity of further funding.
   You must _____ sure that all electrical appliances are turned off before leaving the building.
   The artisan used high-quality leather to _____ the handmade shoes.

5. The company has decided to _____ its focus toward renewable energy in response to recent environmental legislation.
   Employees who work the night _____ are entitled to a higher hourly rate and additional break time.
   There has been a perceptible _____ in public opinion regarding the government's handling of the economic crisis.

III. For questions 1-10, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word that should not be there. If a line is correct, put a tick (√) by the number on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word down next to the number on your answer sheet. 10 points

0 __√___ Languages are constantly evolving and changing as the world around
00 __of__ us does. New words are being created every single of day to describe
1. _____ new technologies and social trends. While some people they might argue
2. _____ that the quality of language is declining because of slang and textspeak,
3. _____ but linguists view this as a natural sign of a healthy, living
4. _____ communication system. One of the most fascinating aspects is how much
5. _____ words can shift in their meaning over the centuries. For an example,
6. _____ the word "nice" used to mean "foolish" or "ignorant" in the late 13th
7. _____ century. It was not until much later that it has began to take on its
8. _____ a modern, positive connotation. Understanding these shifts helps us to
9. _____ appreciate the depth of our own history. We must remember to
10. _____ that language belongs to everyone who speaks it, not just the dictionaries.

IV. Translate the following text into English. 10 points

Am pornit Google Maps urmărind coordonatele trimise de Urbex. Părea că am de mers pe jos vreo trei sferturi de oră, așa că am grăbit pasul. Mi-am făcut socoteala că nimeni nu-mi va observa dispariția o vreme, pentru că Aryanna mai avea de cântat cel puțin o oră. Mai departe nu m-am gândit ce se va întâmpla, voiam doar să ajung la clădirea aia și apoi să-i cunosc, în sfârșit, pe Urbex și gașca. În ultimele zile, pe toate aplicațiile îmi tot apăruseră imagini și filmulețe cu case părăsite și explorări urbane, deci clar ăsta era trendul momentului. Înainte să ies din parc, am simțit că-i cineva pe urmele mele, dar nu m-am uitat înapoi, de frică să nu mă răzgândesc. Am continuat să merg, concentrându-mă pe traseul care-mi apărea pe telefon. Partea enervantă cu Google Maps e că uneori îți arată fix direcția opusă și te întorci din drum de-o mie de ori. Am pățit chestia asta când am ieșit pe bulevard, am mers vreo sută de metri până mi-am dat seama că distanța creștea, deci clar trebuia să o iau înapoi. M-am întors brusc, cu ochii în ecran, și m-am ciocnit de cineva. Ne-am ciocnit așa de tare, că mi-a scăpăt telefonul din mână. Persoana de care mă ciocnisem, care-mi dărâmase telefonul pe jos (da, evident că fix cu ecranul!) ...hai să vedem dacă vă pică fisa, că mie mi-a dat *jump scare* când am văzut-o! Da, Mara Zărnescu, care făcea o față de zici că i se-necaseră pisicile.

(Adina Rosetti, *Ultima provocare*)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (50 points)

I. Five paragraphs have been removed from the following text. Choose from the paragraphs A-F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Write your answer on your answer sheet. 10 points

Schools are facing a growing problem of students using artificial intelligence to transform innocent images of classmates into deepfakes. The fallout from the spread of the manipulated photos and videos can create a nightmare for the victims.

The challenge for schools was highlighted this fall when AI-generated nude images swept through a Louisiana middle school. Two boys ultimately were charged, but not before one of the victims was expelled for starting a fight with a boy she accused of creating the images of her and her friends.

“While the ability to alter images has been available for decades, the rise of A.I. has made it easier for anyone to alter or create such images with little to no training or experience,” Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre said in a news release. “This incident highlights a serious concern that all parents should address with their children.”

The prosecution stemming from the Louisiana middle school deepfakes is believed to be the first under the state’s new law, said Republican state Sen. Patrick Connick, who authored the legislation. The law is one of many across the country taking aim at deepfakes. **1.....**

Deepfakes started as a way to humiliate political opponents and young starlets. Until the past few years, people needed some technical skills to make them realistic, said Sergio Alexander, a research associate at Texas Christian University who has written about the issue. “Now, you can do it on an app, you can download it on social media, and you don’t have to have any technical expertise whatsoever,” he said.

Sameer Hinduja, the co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center, recommends that schools update their policies on AI-generated deepfakes and get better at explaining them. **2.....** “So many of them are just so unaware and so ignorant,” said Hinduja, who is also a professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University. “We hear about the ostrich syndrome, just kind of burying their heads in the sand, hoping that this isn’t happening amongst their youth.”

AI deepfakes are different from traditional bullying because instead of a nasty text or rumor, there is a video or image that often goes viral and then continues to resurface, creating a cycle of trauma, Alexander said. **3.....**

Parents can start the conversation by casually asking their kids if they've seen any funny fake videos online, Alexander said. Take a moment to laugh at some of them, like Bigfoot chasing after hikers, he said. From there, parents can ask their kids, "Have you thought about what it would be like if you were in this video, even the funny one?" **4.....**

If kids encounter things like deepfakes, they need to know they can talk to their parents without getting in trouble, said Laura Tierney, who is the founder and CEO of The Social Institute, which educates people on responsible social media use and has helped schools develop policies. She said many kids fear their parents will overreact or take their phones away.

She uses the acronym SHIELD as a roadmap for how to respond. The "S" stands for "stop" and don't forward. "H" is for "huddle" with a trusted adult. The "I" is for "inform" any social media platforms on which the image is posted. "E" is a cue to collect "evidence," like who is spreading the image, but not to download anything. The "L" is for "limit" social media access. The "D" is a reminder to "direct" victims to help. **5.....**

As schools grapple with how to respond, experts warn that deepfake technology is evolving faster than most education systems can keep up. While some districts are beginning to update policies and provide guidance on digital ethics and online safety, many acknowledge they are still reacting rather than preventing harm. For now, educators, parents and lawmakers face growing pressure to address a problem that blurs the line between technology misuse and traditional bullying — and to ensure that students are protected in an online environment that is becoming increasingly difficult to control.

A. And then they can ask if a classmate has made a fake video, even an innocuous one. "Based on the numbers, I guarantee they'll say that they know someone," he said.
B. That way, he said, "students don't think that the staff, the educators are completely oblivious, which might make them feel like they can act with impunity." He said many parents assume that schools are addressing the issue when they aren't.
C. She said the fact that the framework involves six separate steps highlights just how complex cases involving deepfake images can be. "It shows that this issue is really complicated," she added, pointing to the need for careful, multi-stage responses rather than quick or simple solutions.
D. He described the scope of the problem as staggering. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said the number of AI-generated child abuse images reported to its cyber tipline soared from 4,700 in 2023 to 440,000 in just the first six months of 2025.
E. In 2025, at least half the states enacted legislation addressing the use of generative AI to create seemingly realistic, but fabricated, images and sounds, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Students also have been prosecuted in Florida and Pennsylvania and expelled in places like California.
F. Many victims become depressed and anxious, he said. "They literally shut down because it makes it feel like, you know, there's no way they can even prove that this is not real — because it does look 100% real," he said.

II. Starting from the text above, write a proposal (250–280 words) addressed to your school management in which you explain why AI-generated deepfake content is a concern for your school community, make recommendations for changes to school policy and practice to prevent and respond to deepfake cyberbullying, and evaluate possible benefits and challenges of implementing these changes. **40 points**