Etapa județeană / a sectoarelor municipiului București a olimpiadelor naționale școlare – 2026

Probă scrisă

Limba engleză

CLASA a IX-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 text below and do the tasks that follow. 10 points

Over many centuries, the United Kingdom has forged a distinctive cultural identity through the continual interplay between historical tradition and modern innovation, a synthesis that defines much of its national character. This duality is evident in Britain's simultaneous **reverence** for canonical figures such as Shakespeare and its commitment to remaining at the forefront of scientific research, technological advancement, and industrial development. Frequently characterised as a cultural superpower, the nation—particularly through London as a global hub—embodies a landscape where venerable institutions coexist with experimental artistic movements and cutting-edge scholarship. Ceremonial practices of great antiquity, including royal processions and state rituals, **unfold** alongside the work of world-class universities and research centres, thereby illustrating a productive tension between continuity and transformation that lies at the heart of British cultural life.

Alongside these enduring traditions, contemporary Britain actively incorporates modern and multicultural influences that reflect decades of migration and global interconnectedness. Customs such as afternoon tea and the Changing of the Guard persist not as static relics, but as living practices that are continually performed and collectively experienced, reinforcing a shared sense of heritage while remaining relevant in a changing society. At the same time, new cuisines, languages, and artistic expressions have been **woven** into the cultural fabric, ensuring its ongoing evolution. Had Britain failed to respond to the pressures and opportunities of an increasingly globalised world, its cultural identity might have stagnated; instead, it continues to balance respect for historical legacy with an openness to progress, shaping a national identity that is simultaneously rooted in the past and responsive to the demands of the present.

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

1. **reverence**:	a. respect;	b. fear;	c. loyalty;	d. curiosity
2. **unfold**:	a. expand;	b. occur;	c. reveal;	d. spread
3. **woven**:	a. supplemented;	b. juxtaposed;	c. integrated;	d. balanced

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

1. Few Britons begin their day without a cup of tea. **OFF**
Rarely _____ their day without a cup of tea.
2. I regret not visiting the British Museum first thing in the morning. **WISH**
I _____ the British Museum first thing in the morning.
3. British culture is different today because the Scots have preserved many Celtic traditions. **NOT**
British culture _____ if the Scots had not preserved many Celtic traditions.

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

innovation, heritage, evolve, ceremonial, coexist, identity, resist, stagnate

Britain has developed a distinctive national _____ (**1**) by balancing respect for tradition with openness to change. Historical practices and modern institutions continue to _____ (**2**), reflecting a dynamic relationship between continuity and progress. While long-standing customs reinforce a shared sense of _____ (**3**), multicultural influences and creative expression allow British culture to continually _____ (**4**) in a globalised world.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits each sentence. 10 points

In recent years, the study of literature has grown to include far more than classic novels and poetry. Today, readers explore stories written by authors from many cultures, engaging with narratives that introduce new themes and challenge familiar styles. Literary **(1) …… (CRITICISE)**, once seen as something only specialists could do, has become more **(2) …… (ACCESS)** thanks to online platforms that allow wider discussion. A noticeable change is the increasing **(3) …… (POPULAR)** of genres like graphic novels and speculative fiction, which were once considered less serious. Their success has encouraged teachers and researchers to **(4) …… (THINK)** what counts as true literary value.

To understand this **(5) …… (TRANSIT)**, we spoke with Dr. Elena Marlowe, a respected researcher who studies how storytelling develops as society changes. She explains that modern readers show greater **(6) …… (ACCEPT)** of different voices and enjoy more complex portrayals of characters. Even so, debates continue. Some critics argue that the rapid **(7) …… (EXPAND)** of genres may affect the quality of books, while others believe it represents a much-needed **(8) …… (REVIVE)** of creativity. What is clear is that literature keeps evolving, offering new chances for **(9) …… (REFLECT)** and discussion. According to Marlowe, the future of reading depends on how ready we are to accept change while keeping the **(10) …… (ESSENCE)** love of storytelling alive.

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. On your answer sheet, if a line is correct, put a tick (√) by the number. 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) .....**on**…… One of the most enjoyable on ways of spending free time these days
(00) .....√**…**… is taking part in activities that help people unwind.
(1) …… Many adults now join on weekly groups for painting or creative writing,
(2) …… which allow them to express themselves freely without any pressure.
(3) …… In recent years, interest has been steadily grown in hobbies
(4) …… that encourage relaxation, sometimes even inviting also families to join.
(5) …… This shift has become more noticeable as the people search
(6) …… for meaningful ways to disconnect from their busy routines.
(7) …… At the same time, organisers must be ensure that sessions
(8) …… remain accessible, so that no one should feels excluded from the experience.
(9) …… Several centres have already introduced a simple booking systems
(10) ……. to make participation more easier and improve the overall enjoyment.

IV. Translate the following text into English. 10 points

Îi trecu prin minte că ar trebui să-l cheme iarăşi pe Petre, să-i spună că mâine în zori vor pleca înapoi pe front şi deci să nu uite ceva pe aici... În acelaşi timp, însă, îşi dădu seama că i-e frică să rămâie singur cu gândurile-i proprii. Îi era ruşine că simţea asta, dar nu se putea opri şi numai din dorinţa de a-şi ascunde teama se gândea la Petre, parcă astfel ar fi căutat să-şi alunge frica. Îşi dădea seama că s-a sfârşit tot şi-i părea rău că s-a sfârşit aşa. Cum ar fi vrut ca totul să fi fost altfel!

(Camil Petrescu**,** *Ultima noapte de dragoste, întâia noapte de război*)

B. Integrated Skills (50 points)

I. Five sentences have been removed from the following text. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. 10 points

Traditional dishes are often seen as windows into a culture's history, but in a globalised world, many people feel increasingly disconnected from the foods their grandparents once prepared. How can we rediscover the meaning behind traditional eating?

After growing up in a small coastal town in South Korea, food anthropologist Min-Seo Park became fascinated by the way recipes travel across generations. Her interest deepened when she moved abroad for university and realised how much she missed the flavours of home. She began interviewing migrant families about their food memories and noticed a pattern: people often rediscovered their cultural identity through cooking.**1…….** Park says that this emotional connection is one of the strongest motivators for people to return to traditional dishes, even when they live far from their birthplace. In many cultures, traditional meals are not simply about taste, but about ritual. Preparing a dish slowly, using specific tools or ingredients, can create a sense of belonging that modern fast-food culture rarely provides. **2…….** While some younger people may initially resist these customs, many eventually find comfort in the familiarity and symbolism behind them.

Chef and culinary historian Luis Herrera, who has spent decades documenting regional recipes in Latin America, believes that traditional food survives because it adapts. He explains that dishes evolve as families migrate, ingredients change, or new cooking methods become available. **3…….** Whether it's adding a local spice, substituting an unavailable vegetable, or adjusting cooking times, families reshape their culinary heritage while keeping its essence alive. Herrera encourages people to explore traditional food not only through cooking, but also through shared experiences. He suggests visiting local markets, talking to vendors, or attending community food festivals. **4. …….** Interactions like these, he says, help people understand the cultural stories behind the dishes and appreciate the diversity of global food traditions.

Your relationship with traditional food can depend on your openness to new flavours and your willingness to learn about the cultures behind them. **5…….** With so many opportunities to explore global cuisines, reconnecting with traditional eating can be both a personal journey and a way to strengthen community ties.

Today, more people than ever are seeking out authentic food experiences, whether by taking cooking classes abroad, joining cultural supper clubs, or simply asking older relatives to share their recipes. As Park notes, traditional food is not disappearing — it is being rediscovered, reinterpreted, and celebrated in new ways. And perhaps that is what keeps these dishes alive: the desire to taste not only the food itself, but the stories it carries.

A. These small encounters often reveal details that no cookbook could ever capture.
B. This flexibility is what allows traditional dishes to survive across continents and generations.
C. Many families describe cooking as a way of keeping memories alive, especially when living far from home.
D. This can help you recognize how your own food habits have been shaped by history and migration.
E. But these rituals can feel overwhelming for those who are used to quicker, more convenient meals.
F. Some of the researchers argue that traditional food is becoming relevant in modern societies.

II. Starting from the text above, answer the following announcement on a website. 40 points

Have you recently visited a restaurant that specialises in a cuisine from another culture? Write a review of the restaurant, including:

- **a brief description of the restaurant**
- **what you discovered about the culture it represents**
- **whether you would recommend it to people your age and why**

We'll post the best reviews on the website next month.

Write your review in 220-250 words.