OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ

CLUJ-NAPOCA
Aprilie 2023

Probă scrisă

Limba engleză

CLASA a VIII-a

- **Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.**
- **Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.**
- **Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 2 ore.**

SUBIECTUL I – USE OF ENGLISH (25 points)

I.1. Read the following text and fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms. 10 points

In December 2006, twenty-five-year-old Michael Holmes took off in a plane with sixteen other skydivers from an airfield near Lake Taupo in New Zealand. At 4,000 metres above the lake, he **1)** _____ **(jump)** from the plane into the clear, blue sky.

After 60 seconds, Michael pulled the cord to open his parachute (or canopy, as skydivers prefer to call it). But the canopy **2)** _____ **(not open)** properly. Michael knew that something **3)** _____ **(be)** wrong, because he just kept falling very fast. He wasn't worried. Skydivers always carry a reserve parachute in case the main canopy **4)** _____ **(not open).** It **5)** _____ **(happen)** to him a few times before, so he knew he **6)** _____ **(have)** to get rid of the main parachute. If he didn't, the reserve **7)** _____ **(get)** tangled in the strings of the main one.

So, he pulled the cord to unfasten the main canopy. Nothing happened. He pulled it again. Again nothing happened. The strings of the main parachute **8)** _____ **(catch)** in the bag on his back. All this time, he **9)** _____ **(fall)** at nearly 200 kilometres per hour, spinning out of control. He wished he **10)** _____ **(check)** his parachute more thoroughly before the jump. Then everything went black.

I.2. Read the following text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits in each gap. 10 points

People say that time heals all **(1)** ____ but I'm not sure if that is true. My aunt is still **(2)** ____ about what happened last summer and hasn't let me babysit my little cousin again. This is what happened. It was about two o'clock in the afternoon, and I was babysitting my little cousin. When she fell asleep, I decided to take out the rubbish. **(3)** ____ no time, a strong wind slammed the door shut which **(4)** ____ have been a problem if I had taken the keys with me. At first, I was so shocked that I just stood there. After I **(5)** ____ from my initial shock, I tried to get into the house but all the doors and windows were locked. I was **(6)** ____ just thinking about what my aunt would say to me when she came home. There wasn't **(7)** ____ I could do except wait for my aunt to come home. If only I'd **(8)** ____ my mobile with me; I could have phoned my older cousin and ask her to bring the keys. That way my aunt wouldn't have found out about it. As you can **(9)** ____ when she arrived home two hours later, she **(10)** ____ bananas.

1	A - pain	B - wounds	C - things	D - problems
2	A - tedious	B - bored	C - nasty	D - furious
3	A - For	B - In	C - On	D - Of
4	A - wouldn't	B - couldn't	C - would	D - might
5	A - covered	B - got over	C - recovered	D - turned up
6	A - petrified	B - tedious	C - terrifying	D - satisfied
7	A - many	B - much	C - a lot of	D - any
8	A – should have	B - didn't have	C – have	D – had
9	A -think	B - imagine	C - believed	D - thought
10	A – was	B – had gone	C – went	D – go

LIVEWORKSHEETS

I.3. Use the word given in bold to form a word that fits in each sentence. 5 points

1. This material is produced _____. **SYNTHETIC**
2. They were _____ about the exercise programme, which turned out to be too tiring. **INFORM**
3. All _____ should be over 18 years old. **PARTICIPATE**
4. Will you take this _____ to the chemist's? **PRESCRIBE**
5. She bases her statement on a false _____. **ASSUME**

SUBIECTUL al II-lea – READING COMPREHENSION (25 points)

Read the text below and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

How to choose our next planet

Humans need to reach beyond the Earth to ensure that a cataclysmic event doesn't wipe us out like the dinosaurs. Here are some things to look for in our next home.

The earth is warming, countries are waging war against their neighbours and somewhere far, far away a giant asteroid is getting into position to head towards us. The human race's days are numbered unless we find another planet or two to settle on. Elon Musk and his fans have their sights on Mars, which is a step away from Earth but it's dry and barren and its air is unbreathable. Venus is pizza-oven hot with an atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfuric acid clouds which smell like toilet cleaner. While it didn't tick any of the boxes for a Planet B candidate until recently, the discovery of phosphine in its atmosphere could signal the presence of microbes. In the distant future, it might be possible to live there. Anyway, if we had a choice, what planets would we colonize?

Where No Man Has Gone Before

At present, neither Mars nor Venus is livable, so our future home must be an "exoplanet" outside the solar system. NASA says more than 4000 exoplanets have been discovered. Only some would be livable and fewer still would be "super habitable" or better than Earth. When we sit down to browse the sky for a next planet, what should we look for?

Smaller and Dimmer Star

Our sun is a 'G star'. Not the biggest or brightest, but it's already halfway through its life. Another type of star called 'K dwarf' is smaller, cooler and less bright but lasts 2-7 times longer than the sun. And more good news is that 'K dwarfs' are twice as common as 'G stars'.

Older Planet

We don't want to land on a shiny new planet where quakes and volcanoes are an hourly bother. Planets, like puppies, get tamer with age. Our Earth is 4.5 billion years old and still a bit frisky. A planet in the 5-8 billion years age group would be perfect because it has released more of its internal heat and cooled down.

Large Moon, Not too Far

Large enough to inspire poets, the moon is much more than an ornament on the earth's night sky. Without it, the Earth would spin faster; the day would be short of a 10-hour workday and you would have no time for yourself.

Magnetic Field

Useful for finding our way around with a compass, but more importantly, blocking harmful radiations from a new star. Without the earth's magnetosphere, charged particles flying at us from the sun would have wiped out life. Such "solar winds" can be 5-25 times more intense around a 'K dwarf' star, so the magnetic shield will be essential.

2 dozen candidates

Researchers have so far identified 24 exoplanets that could be super habitable, but all of these are at least 100 light-years away. It would take us 100 years to reach the nearest of them traveling at the speed of light. However, we do not travel at the speed of light. Yet. Also, none of these candidates tick all the boxes. The search continues.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. What is the writer trying to do in this text?
   A. raise awareness about global warming
   B. urge scientists to find our next "home" because the Earth's days are numbered
   C. explain the criteria of selection of our next "home"
   D. identify possible habitable planets

2. Venus has recently become a potential Planet B candidate because
   A. it's pizza-oven hot.
   B. of its atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfuric acid clouds.
   C. some gases in its atmosphere smell like toilet cleaner.
   D. the discovery of phosphine in its atmosphere.

3. The adjective "frisky" in paragraph 4 refers to
   A. the brightness of our planet.
   B. the age of our planet.
   C. the instability of the Earth.
   D. the internal temperature of our planet.

4. What is another term for the Earth's magnetic shield?
   A. a compass
   B. the magnetosphere
   C. a harmful radiation
   D. a solar wind

5. Which of the following facts is true according to the article?
   A.
   An average 'G star' like our sun is bigger and brighter than a 'K dwarf'.
   B.
   A 1.5 billion-year-old planet would be more stable than our Earth.
   C.
   The Moon makes the Earth spin faster.
   D.
   It would take present-day spaceships 100 years to reach the nearest habitable exoplanet.

SUBIECTUL al III-lea – WRITING (50 points)

Write a narrative essay ending like this:

"I started laughing to make it look like a funny mistake, but I just wanted the ground to open up and swallow me."

Write your story in 150-180 words and give it an appropriate title. Pay attention to the following:

- you don't need to write long descriptions;
- use dialogues only if they are relevant to your characters or events;
- you should use this plan:

1. **Introduction** (paragraph 1 – set the scene)
2. **Main Body** (paragraph(s) 2/3 – develop the story)
3. **Conclusion** (paragraph 4 – end the story).

Don't count the words in the given ending.

LIVEWORKSHEETS