

Etapa județeană / a sectoarelor municipiului București a olimpiadelor naționale școlare –2025
Probă scrisă
Limba engleză
CLASA a XI-a - SECȚIUNEA A

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă 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

Me and my brain

It is **1)** ____ knowledge that significant changes occur in our bodies during adolescence; still, it **2)** ____ without saying that the major ones involve our brains.

To paint a clearer picture, we should first get familiar with the different parts of the brain. Did you know, for instance, that our brains are made **3)** ____ of around 100 billion nerve cells called neurons? And stemming from these neurons there are several branch-like structures for sending and receiving electrical signals. Whenever we do or think anything, a signal is transmitted. The signal travels down a long structure called the axon and, at the end, it passes across tiny gaps called synapses to the dendrites of another neuron, which receive the signal. **4)** ____ this way are messages sent across our neural network.

Only when we grow up **5)** ____ our brain structures change dramatically. **6)** ____ newborn babies have almost all their neurons, they can't do very much because **7)** ____ are thought to be few connections among the nerve cells. After a few months, **8)** ____, the number of connections explodes, which in turn helps tiny tots master a whole range of new skills such as walking and talking. **9)** ____ earlier myths that most brain development is completed in the first few years, we now know that our brains continue to develop throughout our lives and perhaps **10)** ____ is during puberty the most dramatic change and development takes place.

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

10 points

1. They are travelling to France on Thursday and that is why they did not plan to attend your birthday party.

- A. If they weren't travelling to France on Thursday, they would have planned to attend your birthday party.
- B. If they hadn't been travelling to France on Thursday, they would have planned to attend your birthday party.
- C. If they didn't travel to France on Thursday, they wouldn't have planned to attend your birthday party.
- D. If they were travelling to France on Thursday, they would have planned to attend your birthday party.

2. I wanted to know where the day before, and she explained to me that at the cinema.

- A. Jim had gone / he was
- B. did Jim go / he is
- C. had Jim gone / he has been
- D. Jim had gone / he had been

3. The woman explained that her lawyer ... to convince the jury that she ... innocent, but she the people in the jury him.

- A. tried/was being/had doubted/believed
- B. tried/was/doubted/had believed
- C. was trying/was/doubted/had believed
- D. had tried/was/doubted/would believe

4. The President was pushed in front of TV cameras as soon as the votes had been counted.

- A. Before the votes were counted, the President was pushed in front of TV cameras.
- B. No sooner had the votes been counted when the new president was pushed in front of TV cameras.
- C. Scarcely had the votes been counted when the new president was pushed in front of TV cameras.
- D. Hardly had the President been pushed in front of TV cameras when the votes were counted.

5. The young man denied that he ... the house, but he had to admit that unless his witness ... the following day, he ... to demonstrate he ... the crime.

- A. had broken into/testified/would have/hadn't committed
- B. had broken into/would testify/would have/hadn't committed
- C. broke into/would testify/would have/didn't commit
- D. has broken into/testified/had/hadn't committed

6. Supposing the company you a pay rise of 50%, so determined to leave and look for a job elsewhere?

- A. will offer / would you be
- B. would offer/ were you
- C. offered/had you been
- D. offered/ would you be

7. No sooner ... the crystal vase ... she ... it into pieces.

- A. she bought/then/was to break
- B. did she buy/when/had broken
- C. had she bought/that/broke
- D. had she bought/than/broke

8. He could in the garden when we came round, would explain why he didn't hear the bell.

- A. work / that
- B. be working / that
- C. have been working / which
- D. have worked / which

9. How can I tell my mother I'd rather she ... all the Easter shopping to me? It's high time she ... out the house after her illness.

- A. hadn't left/had gone
- B. didn't leave/went
- C. hadn't left/goes
- D. wouldn't leave/goes

10. The woman was and sentenced six months in prison.

- A. assumed / at
- B. convicted / to
- C. charged / at
- D. confined / to

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

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|--|----------------|
| 1. The flight has been delayed because the weather isn't good today.
The flight wouldn't have been delayed _____ today. | UNLESS |
| 2. It is important that the door is kept unlocked.
On no _____ locked. | SHOULD |
| 3. They think the burglar knew the owner of the house.
The burglar _____ the owner of the house. | KNOWN |
| 4. No one nowadays writes letter, do they?
No one _____ writes letters, do they? | AGE |
| 5. We'd have been completely lost if you hadn't lent us a hand.
But _____ us, we'd have been completely lost. | HELPING |

IV. Translate the following text into English.

10 points

Am în urma mea, trebuie s-o recunosc, nu puține aspirații prea vagi sau, pur și simplu, uitate, lucruri făcute pe jumătate sau făcute rău, ambiții la care am renunțat sau pe care n-am fost în stare să le împlinesc. Nu mă consider un idealist ratat, dar nu sunt nici foarte departe de această condiție în anumite privințe. Sigur, eșecurile nu ne sunt totdeauna imputabile integral. Am fost „ajutați” și de vremuri sau de împrejurări uneori. Alteori, se nasc din iluzii prea mari, din așteptări exagerate, din supraestimarea posibilităților noastre. Dar eșecul meu în planul relațiilor umane, care m-a adus la bătrânețe în pragul mizantropiei, cum l-aș putea motiva? Prin tendința de a mă lăsa „folosit” de tristețile mele? Prin dificultățile pe care mi le-am creat singur fiind și impulsiv și ușor de rănit? M-am străduit în viață să rămân onest și să n-am pe conștiință nici o mare prostie, dar asta nu a fost suficient, se pare.

(Adaptat după *Autoportret într-o oglindă spartă* de Octavian Paler)

SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

I. Five short fragments have been removed from the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer. There is one extra fragment which you do not need to use. **10 points**

Will Chatbots Teach Your Children?

New A.I. tools could enable a Silicon Valley dream: bots that customize learning for pupils. Prior attempts have not lived up to the hype.

Sal Khan, the chief executive of Khan Academy, gave a rousing TED Talk last spring in which he predicted that A.I. chatbots would soon revolutionize education.(1) “And the way we’re going to do that is by giving every student on the planet an artificially intelligent but amazing personal tutor.”

Videos of Mr. Khan’s tutoring bot talk amassed millions of views. Soon, prominent tech executives, including Sundar Pichai, Google’s chief executive, began issuing similar education predictions. (2)... Google introduced an A.I. chatbot called Bard last year. It has also donated more than \$10 million to Khan Academy.

Mr. Khan’s vision of tutoring bots tapped into a decades-old Silicon Valley dream: automated teaching platforms that instantly customize lessons for each student. Proponents argue that developing such systems would help close achievement gaps in schools by delivering relevant, individualized instruction to children faster and more efficiently than human teachers ever could.

In pursuit of such ideals, tech companies and philanthropists over the years have urged schools to purchase a laptop for each child, championed video tutorial platforms and financed learning apps that customize students’ lessons.(3) ... Now the spread of generative A.I. tools like ChatGPT, which can give answers to biology questions and manufacture human-sounding book reports, is renewing enthusiasm for automated instruction — even as critics warn that there is not yet evidence to support the notion that tutoring bots will transform education for the better.

Online learning platforms like Khan Academy and Duolingo have introduced A.I. chatbot tutors based on GPT-4.(4)... And some tech executives envision that, over time, bot teachers will be able to respond to and inspire individual students just like beloved human teachers.

“Imagine if you could give that kind of teacher to every student 24/7 whenever they want for free,” Greg Brockman, the president of OpenAI, said last summer on an episode of the “Possible” podcast.(5)... “It’s still a little bit science fiction,” Mr. Brockman added, “but it’s much less science fiction than it used to be.”

The White House seems sold. In a recent executive order on artificial intelligence, President Biden directed the government to “shape A.I.’s potential to transform education by creating resources to support educators deploying A.I.-enabled educational tools, such as personalized tutoring in schools,” according to a White House fact sheet.

Even so, some education researchers say schools should be wary of the hype around A.I.-assisted instruction.

(AI and Education: Will Chatbots Soon Tutor Your Children? - The New York Times)

A. Some online math and literacy interventions have reported positive effects. But many education technology efforts have not proved to significantly close academic achievement gaps or improve student results like high school graduation rates.

B. “I think over time we can give every child in the world and every person in the world — regardless of where they are and where they come from — access to the most powerful A.I. tutor,” Mr. Pichai said on a Harvard Business Review podcast a few weeks after Mr. Khan’s talk.

C. But to do this, the report says, AI must be deployed equitably and not exacerbate inequality. With more than 2.6 billion people worldwide currently without basic internet access, there is a potential for the benefits of new tools to widen existing equity gaps in education.

D. “We’re at the cusp of using A.I. for probably the biggest positive transformation that education has ever seen,” Mr. Khan, whose nonprofit education group has provided online lessons for millions of students, declared.

E. It is co-hosted by Reid Hoffman, an early investor in OpenAI.

F. That is a large language model, developed by OpenAI, which is trained on huge databases of texts and can generate answers in response to user prompts.

II. A non-governmental organisation dealing with education research is investigating attitudes students have towards using AI tools in classes in different parts of the world. You have been asked to write a report on the use of AI in your school. Your report should answer the following questions:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of using AI tools for school?
- How would you like to see AI tools used in your classes in the future?

Write your report in 220-250 words, starting from the text above.

50 points