

CONCURSUL DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ „QUEST”  
ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ, februarie 2024  
Clasa a XI-a

**I. READING COMPREHENSION**

**10X2 = 20p**

**You are going to read an article containing reviews of recently-published books. For questions 1-10, choose from the Books (A-D). The reviews may be chosen more than once.**

**A The Beach** by Alex Garland

Alex Garland's tale of a group of work-shy travellers who independently discover an island paradise in Thailand inspired a generation of gap year students to head to the Far East. Garland acidly investigates what such people would do if found their idea of Paradise – keep it to themselves, whatever the cost. What purports to be a likeable, broad-minded community turns out to be cliquish, mistrustful and selfish. Garland displays nerve in slaughtering the characters that are likely to closely resemble his main readership.

**B Notes From a Small Island** by Bill Bryson

An unabashed Anglophile, Bryson spent 20 years in Britain before deciding to repatriate to his native Iowa. *Notes from a Small Island* depicts his farewell journey across "the green and kindly island" with humour and nostalgia. Although readers from all nations will enjoy it, only the British themselves will experience the full gamut of emotions that this book has to offer; at times, cringing as Bryson deftly points out their most ridiculous foibles, while at others feeling immense pride at its rich and varied culture.

**C Arabian Sands** by Wilfred Thesiger

Thesiger's account of a precarious journey through the Arabian deserts met with considerable acclaim ever since its publication in 1956. The book covers five years that the author spent in and around the Empty Quarter, half a million square miles of cruel desert. Before Thesiger, no other traveller had dared to cross this empty wasteland, except for the Bedu who inhabit it. Thesiger lived as one of the tribe, describing their unimaginable hardships as if they were mere inconveniences. His experiences are unique, and will remain so now that the world he described, which had been unchanged for millennia, has been invaded by oil companies.

**D A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush** by Eric Newby

Newby humorously describes the trials and tribulations encountered that Eric Newby and his climbing partner Hugh Carless as they attempt, and fail, to scale one of Afghanistan's most challenging peaks. However, neither Newby nor his friend have any experience in climbing; moreover the area they are visiting is basically unchartered and potentially violent territory. Their expedition is so ill-thought-out that at times it reads like a farce. At one point they encounter the explorer Wilfred Thesiger as they are blowing up their air-beds. 'You must be a couple of pansies,' comments the experienced adventurer. Although Newby provides enough description of the landscape to give the reader a sense of being there, it does not overshadow the exploration of human character which is the overriding theme of the book.

**Which book ...**

- |  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| ..... <i>may make some readers feel embarrassed</i>  | 1....   |         |
| ..... <i>played down the challenging lifestyle he encountered</i>                            | 2.....  |         |
| .... <i>portrayed the people who would read his book in a bad light</i>                      | 3. .... |         |
| .... <i>describes a relationship, rather than an environment</i>                             | 4. .... |         |
| .... <i>described a lifestyle which has changed irreversibly</i>                             | 5. .... |         |
| .... <i>focuses on the negative attributes of travellers who seek to discover new places</i> | 6.....  |         |
| ..... <i>is best read by people from the nation depicted in the book</i>                     | 7.....  |         |
| .... <i>shows how unprepared the writer was for his travels</i>                              | 8.....  |         |
| .... <i>depicts unfriendly environment</i>   | 9.....  | 10..... |

**II.A Multiple choice cloze. Read the texts below and decide which variant A, B, C or D best fits each space. (10 x 1p = 10p) Read the text below and choose the correct option A, B, C or D (10x1=10p)**

The expression ‘getting off the beaten track’ is used with (1) .....to the experience of avoiding famous tourist attractions and choosing (2) ..... to explore less well-known places when travelling. For many people the whole (3) ..... of travel is to visit cities such as Paris or Venice that have a great (4) ..... as places of beauty and historic importance. Furthermore, they are not particularly (5) .....by the crowds that are usually found in such locations. But for others who have more of a (6) ..... of adventure, a good holiday must (7) ..... unfamiliar experiences, even taking some risks.

Travelling off the beaten track may be done by some students who don’t (8) ..... to a rigid plan, but make decisions about what to do depending on how they feel. Other travellers prefer to spend money on guided tours to unusual locations. Such tours are designed to (9) ..... their particular needs, and all the arrangements are made for them. However people choose to get off the beaten track, the hope is always the same: to have a special, often unique (10) ..... of a different culture.

1.	A regarding	B meaning	C reference	D significance
2.	A instead	B otherwise	C thus	D furthermore
3.	A worth	B point	C aim	D goal
4.	A image	B approval	C reputation	D view
5.	A bothered	B interrupted	C offended	D disturbed
6.	A feeling	B impression	C mood	D sense
7.	A possess	B consist	C involve	D concern
8.	A fix	B stick	C fasten	D attach
9.	A please	B fit	C agree	D meet
10.	A experience	B understanding	C awareness	D knowledge

**II B. OPEN CLOZE. Fill the gaps in the text below with ONE suitable word. (10 x 1p = 10p)**

Some people claim we (1).....all feel much happier if, instead of constantly checking for emails and texts, we turned (2)..... our smartphones completely and concentrated (3) .....those people physically present. Such messages are a big distraction and (4).....people may be unaware of it, they can cause stress and unhappiness. Thinking (5) .....something instead of concentrating makes us less productive at work and can also lead to our having unsatisfying and incomplete personal relationships. If we are (6) ..... careful, we will lose the knack of enjoying the warmth of human company, preferring to (7).....our attention taken by messages from those far away. Some people say the art of forming real relationships and keeping them going seems to be (8) .....threat from the march of technology. The good news, however, is that making small changes to the way in (9) .....we use our phones can be very effective and that it is not (10)..... late to recognise the danger and do something about it.

**II.C. Use the word given in capitals to form a new word that fits in each gap. (10x1p=10p)**

This TV documentary follows a family of chimpanzees which live in the forest of Tanzania. Set in (1) **SPECTACLE**..... scenery, the programme gives us a fascinating insight into the life and social (2) **ACTION**..... of these creatures. (3) **APPEAR**..... we humans share 98% of our genes with chimpanzees; indeed, they are our (4) **CLOSE** ..... relative in the animal (5) **KING** ..... and scenes in the documentary offer clear evidence of our (6) **SIMILAR** ..... . The focus of the film is on Fifi and we first see her as a (7) **PLAY** ..... five-year-old who spends all her time annoying her younger brother. Meanwhile, the older male chimps seem to be involved in an (8) **END** ..... fight for (9) **SUPREME** ..... And it is no surprise to learn that while all this is taking place the females are left to deal with day-to-day matters. Make sure you set (10) **SIDE** ..... an hour to watch this. The splendour of the location makes this programme worthwhile viewing, although our likeness to these animals will make you think.

**II.D Rephrase the following sentences so that the meaning stays the same and using the word in capitals. You must not change the word in capitals. Use between 3 and 6 words. (5 x 2p = 10p)**

- a) The witness said that he had not seen the homeless leaving the building.     **HAVING**  
The witness .....the old man leaving the building.
- b) Even in cold weather, we shall still go for a walk in the forest     **HOW**  
No ....., we shall still go for a walk in the forest.
- c) Not many people could predict the results of the game.     **MANAGED**  
Only .....the results of the game.
- d) There was very little paper left in the printer.     **RUN**  
The printer had ..... paper.
- e) The former mayor is imprisoned because he was found guilty of fraud.     **IF**  
The former mayor would not be in ..... found guilty of fraud.

**III WRITING**

**30p**

*An English language magazine has invited its readers to write an article about the way in which the professional field and the workforce market will change in the near future.*

*Articles wanted*

***The jobs of the future***

- What jobs are likely to take over in the near future?*
- What current jobs will probably lose ground in the decades to come?*
- What kind of skills and training will be mostly required?*

*Write us **an article** answering these questions. We will publish the best articles in our magazine! .*

**CONCURSUL DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ „QUEST”  
ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ, februarie 2024  
CLASA a XI-a – BAREM**

**I. READING COMPREHENSION**

(10x2p=20p)

- |      |      |       |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. B | 5. C | 9. C  |
| 2. C | 6. A | 10. D |
| 3. A | 7. B |       |
| 4. D | 8. D |       |

**II. ENGLISH IN USE**

**II.A. MULTIPLE CHOICE CLOZE (10x1p=10p)**

- |      |      |       |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 5. A | 9. D  |
| 2. A | 6. D | 10. A |
| 3. B | 7. C |       |
| 4. C | 8. B |       |

**II.B. OPEN CLOZE (10x1p=10p)**

- |                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. WOULD                     | 6. NOT   |
| 2. OFF                       | 7. HAVE  |
| 3. ON                        | 8. UNDER |
| 4. ALTHOUGH / THOUGH / WHILE | 9. WHICH |
| 5. ABOUT / OF                | 10. TOO  |

**II.C WORD BUILDING (10x1p=10p)**

- |                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. SPECTACULAR | 6. SIMILARITY / SIMILARITIES |
| 2. INTERACTION | 7. PLAYFUL                   |
| 3. APPARENTLY  | 8. ENDLESS                   |
| 4. CLOSEST     | 9. SUPREMACY                 |
| 5. KINGDOM     | 10. ASIDE                    |

**II.D. KEY WORD TRANSFORMATION (5X2P=10)**

- ..... DENIED //HAVING SEEN .....
- ..... MATTER HOW COLD // IT/THE WEATHER IS .....
- ..... A FEW PEOPLE //MANAGED TO PREDICT .....
- .....RUN OUT // OF .....
- .....PRISON / JAIL IF // HE HADNIT BEEN .....

**III. WRITING (30p)**

- *organization and cohesion* .....5p
- *language accuracy* .....5p
- *content* .....5p
- *range of vocabulary* .....5p

- *register* .....5p
- *impact on the reader* .....5