



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

I. READING COMPREHENSION

10X2 = 20p

Read the text below about earthquakes in California region and choose the correct answer A,B,C or D (10x2-20p).

California may be in danger of losing its major cities. Several along the coast were built upon a dangerous section of fault line known for ferocity and speed. Some faults can send earthquakes zooming along the ground faster than the speed of sound, scientists say—and California’s San Andreas Fault may be one of them. Most earthquake faults "unzip" at around 3 kilometers a second. But evidence is growing that some faults can send quakes zooming much faster—up to 6 kilometers a second. "They are moving faster than the speed of sound, like a sonic boom," said Reah Kapur, a seismologist at Wentworth University in the U.K. These hasty earthquakes cause much more damage on the ground and are more likely to topple buildings, snap bridges, and crinkle highways than regular upheavals. Now it turns out that the San Andreas Fault may be one of these earthquakes "superhighways." It has taken Kapur nearly 30 years to prove their existence because superfast earthquakes are rare. But on February 12, 2006, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck the Khatota coastal region of Madagascar. That quake unzipped over 500 kilometers of fault, providing the long-awaited opportunity. Kapur and her colleagues, by studying the seismic activity, have been able to map out the earthquake’s trek. "The quake started slowly, but then accelerated to speeds of a super shear-wave speed, traveling for more than 100 kilometers at a speed of nearly 6 kilometers per second," Kapur said. Kapur and colleagues also realized that the fast section of the Madagascar fault happened to be very long and straight, like a true beam. "When a fault has curves and bends in it, then the earthquake slows," Kapur said. "But on a long straightaway, it can reach breakneck speeds. "Theories are now abound concerning the reason for the colossal damage caused by California’s 1904 earthquake. "Directly beneath San Francisco is a long straight section," Kapur said. Efforts are underway to effectively utilize this information. "Much can be done to ensure buildings can cope with the higher frequencies of a faster wave," said Lacy Underawl, a seismologist at Nebraska State University, who wasn’t involved in Kapur’s work. "New buildings can be built on balls and located on bedrock rather than soft sediments," she added. San Francisco isn’t the only major city at risk. Further down the San Andreas Fault, another section of "freeway" exists underneath the Carrizo Plain down to the Baja Peninsula, Kapur and colleagues say. "As an earthquake moves along this section it is likely to send out shock waves in front, which may focus on cities like Modesto, Santa Cruz, and Los Angeles, some of the most densely populated parts of California," Kapur said. In a presentation to the National Academy of Subterranean Associates, Kapur outlined the need to classify all the world’s fissures according to their probable earthquake speed. She believes that communities can be better prepared if faults are better categorized.

1. The major cities of California are in danger, because...

- a) the earthquakes are too frequent in the region.
- b) a number of them are located above faults.
- c) the faults are ferocious and zoom faster than sound.
- d) San Andreas is an active fault.

2) Faults...

- a) open up faster than the speed of sound.
- b) like San Andreas can send earthquakes at a 6 kilometer per second speed.
- c) can act like a sonic boom.
- d) provide no clear evidence that earthquakes can be as fast as sound.

- 3) Superfast earthquakes...
 - a) in San Andreas cause more damage than other faults.
 - b) are stronger than regular highway upheavals.
 - c) are devastating because they are fast.
 - d) can happen in California as it possibly lies along an earthquake superhighway.

- 4) The seismic activity...
 - a) has to reach 7.6 to be a superfast earthquake.
 - b) reached the 100 km per minute speed at the Khatota region.
 - c) changed speed and became a superfast earthquake.
 - d) studies helped Kapur predict where to expect the earthquake.

- 5) The Madagascar fault...
 - a) proved the origins of superfast earthquakes, being straight and long.
 - b) acted like a beam.
 - c) would have slowed the earthquake without the curves and bends.
 - d) proves that a long highway promotes breakneck speeds.

- 6) Theories...
 - a) flourish about why the 1904 earthquake was so devastating.
 - b) directly say that the 1904 earthquake was caused by the long straight section beneath San Francisco.
 - c) of the 1904 earthquake got proved by the Madagascar earthquake.
 - d) mostly focus on the colossal damage of the 1904 earthquake.

- 7) New buildings...
 - a) are built on bedrock.
 - b) will avoid soft sediment.
 - c) can use new technologies.
 - d) should cope with the higher frequencies.

- 8) Another risk area ...
 - a) is south of Carrizo Plain, under the Baja Peninsula.
 - b) is on the second section of freeway down to Carrizo Plain.
 - c) exists under the densely populated California.
 - d) runs along the Carrizo Plain ending at the Baja Peninsula.

- 9) Kapur's work is important, because...
 - a) she drew a map of world's fissures.
 - b) she emphasized the importance of fissure classification.
 - c) she suggested that a set category would make it easier to deal with the preparations and aftermath of earthquakes.
 - d) she proved that it is easier to prepare if faults are categorized.

- 10) The conclusion of the article is, that...
 - a) new building technologies can prevent the disaster from happening.
 - b) straight fissures promote devastating earthquakes and a number of big cities are in danger.
 - c) the study proved that fast earthquakes do the most damage.
 - d) knowing more about the nature of earthquakes makes it easier to minimize the loss

II. USE OF ENGLISH**40p****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)**

Parrots and macaws have become so 1) _____ that special varieties of these birds are 2) _____ up to £9,000 each on the black market in Britain. Macaws from Brazil cost from £1,000 and parrots from Australia can cost £7,500 a pair. The demand for parrots, cockatoos and macaws has led to a 3) _____ increase in thefts from zoos, wildlife parks and pet shops. London and Whipsnade zoos are among the many places from which parrots have been stolen. Some thefts have not been 4) _____ in an effort to prevent further 5) _____. Parrot rustling, as it is known among bird fanciers, has increased rapidly in Britain since 1976 when imports and exports of 6) _____ birds became 7) _____ controlled. Quarantine controls, 8) _____ with the scarcity of many types of parrots in the wild in Africa, Australia, Indonesia, and South America, have caused a shortage of birds which can be sold legally under 9) _____. This has sent prices to 10) _____ levels.

1.	A.	costly	B.	extinct	C.	outlandish	D.	rare
2.	A.	raising	B.	reaching	C.	lifting	D.	fetching
3.	A.	acute	B.	peak	C.	sharp	D.	high
4.	A.	published	B.	publicized	C.	advertised	D.	activities
5.	A.	happenings	B.	incidents	C.	acts	D.	activities
6.	A.	unusual	B.	uncommon	C.	exotic	D.	strange
7.	A.	tightly	B.	hardly	C.	toughly	D.	grimly
8.	A.	coupled	B.	doubled	C.	attached	D.	accompanied
9.	A.	warranty	B.	guarantee	C.	licence	D.	law
10.	A.	unknown	B.	unheard	C.	record	D.	highest

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

Stress (1) _____ often called a 21st century illness but it has always been with us if perhaps with different names. These days we regard stress (2) _____ a necessary evil of modern living. Yet stress is not negative and without (3) _____ we would not enjoy some of the highpoints in life (4) _____ as the anticipation before a date or the tension leading up to an important match. All these situations produce stress but (5) _____ you can control it and not the other way around, you will feel stimulated, not worn out. However, unlike these situations, (6) _____ are generally positive and easier to deal with, sitting in a train that is running late, (7) _____ stuck in a traffic jam or working to a tight deadline are much harder to manage and control and can be a significant cause of stress. Stress is now recognized as a medical problem and as a significant factor (8) _____ causing coronary heart disease, high blood pressure and a high cholesterol count. Patients are often unwilling to admit (9) _____ stress problems since they feel they are a form of social failure and it is important that symptoms are identified in (10) _____ to avoid unnecessary suffering.

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

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Extraterrestrial life has not been..... proved yet. | SCIENCE |
| 2. Did you use to have as a child? | ALLOW |
| 3. There is little of the president being re-elected. | LIKELY |
| 4. Measures were taken around the world toairport security after the 11 September attacks. | TIGHT |
| 5. You paid \$25 for a simple breakfast?! They have certainly.....you! You should go back and complain. | CHARGE |
| 6. I left the house at 8am and stared at the empty garage in..... My car was nowhere to be seen. Someone had stolen it! | BELIEVE |
| 7. Jennings is soenthusiastic about the game that his enthusiasm spreads to his team-mates and the result is usually a strong performance. | WONDER |
| 8. The president's speech went on for so long that I almost died of | BORE |
| 9. Thank you so much for the flowers. It's veryof you. | THOUGHT |
| 10. . If you buy presents in the summer your..... can be very high. | SAVE |

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)

- | | | |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| 1. He was proud of his skillful work. | PRIDE | |
| He _____ so skillfully. | | |
| 2. The team members were annoyed as they were not consulted. | | LACK |
| It was _____ members of the team | | |
| 3. He says he's never met her before. | DENIES | |
| He _____ her before. | | |
| 4. Tom doesn't get on with his father-in-law any more. | FALLEN | |
| Tom _____ his father-in-law. | | |
| 5. I wish I had revised more for the exam. | LIKE | |
| I _____ more for the exam. | | |

III WRITING

30p

Write an opinion essay on "The Influence of Role Models on Teenagers", using 200-250 words:

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

I. READING COMPREHENSION

(10x2p=20p)

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

II. ENGLISH IN USE

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

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

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

1. 1. is 2. as 3. it 4. such 5. if 6. which 7. being 8. in 9. to 10.
order

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

1. scientifically	6. disbelief
2. allowance	7. wonderfully
3. likelihood	8. boredom
4. tighten	9. thoughtful
5. overcharged	10. savings

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

1. took pride / had pride // in doing his work / in working
2. the lack of consultation// that annoyed the
3. He denies ever //meeting her before.
4. I fell out //with my father-in-law last week.
5. must have been // lying

III. WRITING (30p)

- *organization and cohesion*5p
- *language structures*5p
- *content*5p
- *range of vocabulary*5p
- *register*5p
- *impact on the reader*5p