

**CONCURSUL DE LIMBA ENGLEZA “QUEST”
ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ, martie 2026
CLASA A XII-A**

I. READING COMPREHENSION

20p

You are going to read a magazine article in which four different people talk about their favourite science fiction books. For questions 1-10 choose from the people (A-D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Favourite science fiction books

A. Tom

I have to admit it took me a while to finish this novel. The story involves a group of friends with special powers who are now being called on to help save the world. Every time I stumbled across someone that felt like a superhero from comics, I'd put it down again in disgust, as their plots had always felt so predictable to me. When I finally got down to giving the book my full attention, I realised what I'd been missing. What the author does is to use the story to crack open a much deeper issue – moral, philosophical, whatever. And every detail counts, as he really stretches the boundaries of storytelling in ways most authors wouldn't even attempt, let alone be able to pull off. Some readers will disagree, I know, but I now compare any sci-fi book I read with this one – and most of them fall short.

B. James

In my opinion, you can't write science fiction well if you haven't read any – but then neither can you write it if you haven't read anything else. Many authors just use jargon which makes their work meaningful only to a limited group of fans. When I first started reading this novel by an author who's better known for literary fiction, I found the plot rather confusing, but soon discovered that the fantasy world she's created was brought dramatically alive by her skill. I was transported to the past and the future by her unusual imagery, which left out just enough detail to allow me to fill in the gaps and form my own idea of her world. In this story, the writer gets inside the mind of a dog – a non-human brain, and an alien mentality. We're invited to picture the dog's timeless world, and experience everyday life through eyes other than our own. That to me is the essence of true sci-fi.

C. Anna

One of my favourite haunts has always been the vast heated greenhouse in the botanical garden in my city. And the more spiked and monster-like the plants that are growing there, the more fascinating I find them. So when I mentioned this to my mum, she spotted an opportunity to interest me in literature and presented me with *Plant Monsters*. I read it in one sitting, excited by an instant sense of recognition. After all, I knew these plants already. What appealed, I think, was the writer's love of addressing the great "What if...?" questions: what if monster plants such as these broke loose and started to take over the planet? Enter the hero Jamie King, tasked with saving the world. Yet, it's the plants that root themselves most firmly in the reader's memory. The writer describes them in great detail botanically, but in my mind's eye they were the ones growing in a greenhouse – right in the heart of my city.

D. Sarah

It wasn't easy to pick just one book as my favourite by this writer. She's written so many, all of which I've read, and all of them are weird but somehow true. Fantasy and sci-fi get mixed up with domestic family tales so that awkward teenagers are having to cope with mythological creatures and superhuman powers. I loved sci-fi even before I read these books, but might have outgrown it, had it not been for *Universe* and its characters. The book's about other worlds, which I loved, but the people in it are very much of this one. They're eccentric, lonely, funny, sometimes selfish, but always characters I can identify with. I find it really interesting to discover how they make their way through the situations they find themselves in. And her interesting insights into why children can have problems with other family members during their teenage years have been a very helpful guide to me.

Which person...

1. ...immediately felt familiar with the subject matter of the book?
2. ...says that the book has influenced how they judge other science fiction novels?
3. ...mentions that their interest in sci-fi was maintained by this book?
4. ...appreciated the fact that the writer gives readers the opportunity to use their imagination?
5. ...found elements in the book of a type of story they disliked?
6. ...initially struggled to understand what was happening in the novel?
7. ...doubts whether many writers would be capable of producing something similar?
8. ...enjoyed the opportunity to see things from a completely different point of view?
9. ...was given the book because of their love of a particular location?
10. ...finds the characters in the book are familiar, despite their origins?

II. USE OF ENGLISH

40p

II.A. MULTIPLE CHOICE. For questions 1-8, read the text below and decide which answer best fits in each gap. (8x1p=8p)

Pigeons monitor air pollution levels in London

A team of racing pigeons flew over London recently in order to collect information on the UK capital's high pollution levels. The birds were each carrying a small lightweight backpack containing an air quality monitor which 1..... measure levels of polluting gases as the birds flew around the city. The project wasn't 2..... to be a permanent solution to air monitoring in London. It only lasted for three days, and was more concerned with raising awareness about the scale of the city's pollution problem.

People interested in finding out about the air quality in their area could send a message to the organisers 3..... the internet. They then got an automated 4....., rating it on a scale of 'Fresh' to 'Extreme'. Any attempt to improve air quality should be 5..... by Londoners. And 6..... residents aren't generally great fans of pigeons, this 7..... flock of helpful racing pigeons may have changed people's 8.....to the birds.

1.	A.	entirely	B.	intensively	C.	endlessly	D.	constantly
2.	A.	intended	B.	imagined	C.	arranged	D.	advised
3.	A.	down	B.	with	C.	over	D.	along
4.	A.	response	B.	return	C.	reaction	D.	repeat
5.	A.	greeted	B.	received	C.	welcomed	D.	awarded
6.	A.	despite	B.	although	C.	however	D.	even
7.	A.	certain	B.	particular	C.	exact	D.	precise
8.	A.	idea	B.	opinion	C.	view	D.	attitude

II.B. WORD-FORMATION. Use the word at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. (10x1p=10p)

Wild camping

I really enjoy camping with my dad, so I was very (0) excited when he suggested going wild camping – that's camping in the middle of nowhere rather than at a campsite.

This is not ideal for (1)..... campers, who might lack the necessary (2)..... skills. And you can't just camp anywhere – it may be necessary to ask for (3)..... But my dad and I have been on many camping trips, and

0. EXCITE

1. EXPERIENCE

2. SURVIVE

3. PERMIT

love the feeling of (4).....it gives us. We were just being a bit more
 (5).....this time. 4. INDEPENDENT
 One downside on a trip like this can be the (6)..... British weather, but we'd
 taken that into (7)..... and had plenty of warm clothes. Food's important 5. ADVENTURE
 too, of course. (8)....., dad and I aren't good cooks and I didn't really enjoy our meals. 6. PREDICT
 However, nothing else I've done has given me the same sense of (9)..... as wild 7. CONSIDER
 camping. Without doubt, it was the most (10).....trip I've ever been on. 8. FORTUNATE
 9. FREE
 10. MEMORY

II.C. OPEN CLOZE. For questions 1-10, read the text below and fill in each gap with ONE word which fits best. (8x1p=8p)

Ice car racing

From January to March the temperature in the US state of Minnesota often drops to -40°C. That's when, in 1. _____ to show off their driving skills, some people go to the area's frozen lakes that double up as racetracks. The cars used are standard family-type cars fitted with special tyres, designed 2. _____ ensure they don't skid on the slippery ice.

The races are organised once the ice layer 3. _____ reached a thickness of 46 cm. A maximum of ten cars take part in each race. With multiple cars racing around the track at speeds of 160 kmph, you might expect collisions to 4. _____ a regular occurrence. In fact, that is not the case. 5. _____ there have been minor accidents, the main hazard is flying snow dust rather 6. _____ other cars.

Minnesota is not the 7. _____ state to host such events. The sport is also popular in New York and Alaska, as 8. _____ as in the Canadian provinces and parts of Europe.

II.D. KEY-WORD TRANSFORMATIONS. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using the word given. Do not change the form of the word given. Use between two and five words, including the word given. (7x2p=14p)

1. My brother doesn't play tennis now as well as he used to. BETTER
 My brother used todoes now.
2. Clothing companies are selling an increasing number of goods on the internet. BOUGHT
 An increasing number of goodsclothing companies on the internet.
3. "Well done for scoring twice, Mark", said the coach. PRAISED
 Markfor scoring twice.
4. You are welcome to contact me if you need information. TOUCH
 Please feel freeme if you need more information.
5. Tickets for the concert cannot be bought before 12th May. SALE
 Tickets for the concert will not12th May.
6. The result was so surprising that it was impossible for anyone to predict. SUCH
 No one could ever.....surprising result.
7. My grandmother thinks that using the mobile phones in restaurants is rude. USE
 My grandmother thinks that itmobile phones in restaurants.

III. WRITING

30p

You were asked by your teacher of English to write an opinion essay on the following topic: **Do you think that students should help to make decisions about what happens at school?** Use relevant arguments and examples to support your ideas. (200-250 words)

**Nota: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Timp de lucru 2 ore.
 Se acordă 10p din oficiu.**

BAREM
CONCURSUL DE LIMBA ENGLEZA "QUEST" - ETAPA JUDETEANA - 2026
CLASA A XII-A

I. READING COMPREHENSION (10x2p=20p)

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

II. USE OF ENGLISH (40p)

II.A. MULTIPLE – CHOICE (8x1p=8p)

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

II.B WORD FORMATION (10x1p=10p)

1. INEXPERIENCED
2. SURVIVAL
3. PERMISSION
4. INDEPENDENCE
5. ADVENTUROUS
6. UNPREDICTABLE
7. CONSIDERATION
8. UNFORTUNATELY
9. FREEDOM
10. MEMORABLE

II.C. OPEN CLOZE (8x1p=8p)

1. ORDER
2. TO
3. HAS
4. BE
5. WHILE/WHILST/ALTHOUGH/THOUGH
6. THAN
7. ONLY
8. WELL

II D. KEY-WORD TRANSFORMATIONS (7x2p=14p)

1. ...play better tennis | than he..... / ...play tennis better | than he...
2. ...is/are | (being) bought from... / ...can | be bought from
3. ...was praised | by the coach...
4. ...to get | in touch with...
5. ...go on sale | until/before/till... / ...be on/for sale | until/before/till...
6. ...have predicted | such a
7. ...is/'s rude | to use

III. WRITING (30p)

- organization and cohesion5p
- language accuracy6p
- content8p
- range of vocabulary6p
- register5p

Din oficiu: 10p