

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ, ETAPA LOCALĂ  
CLASA A IX-A, SECȚIUNEA B**

**VARIANTA 1**

**SUBIECTUL A- USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)**

**I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow (10 x2p=20 points).**

Early on in mime school, I hit a brick wall. It's about 6ft high and the width of my outstretched arms, but you can still see my shiny, plum-faced embarrassment through it. We drool and shimmy against the imaginary bricks and I wonder if I'm secretly being filmed for a prank show. I wave my arms awkwardly in a caress, wondering how much shame I'm willing to wade through. It is the most beautiful wall you have never seen. We grab things out of the air. We make our audience see what isn't there. We become zombies, spiders, misers and flies. We bob and crouch and hop; we are taught snippets of history through Marceau, Étienne Decroux and commedia dell'arte.

There are two dozen of us. Our group includes a clown, an improv duo and drama-school students. They all carry themselves with confidence. Their exaggerated movements seem to flow effortlessly through their joints and fingertips, while I'm trapped inside my head panicking about how awkward I feel. "Don't worry about being stupid or making mistakes," the teacher advises. "That's how you learn." And yet, the worry lingers. For comfort, I cling to the few others who have little experience in performing on stage. There's a young woman who has never acted but wanted to give mime a go, and a retired councillor who has been going to the mime festival for years and thought it would be fun. Then I'm paired up with 10-year-old Eva.

We're partnered up for an exercise where we have to mimic each other while crossing the space to meet in the middle of the room, as if greeting a long lost friend, only to meet, realise it's the wrong person, and waddle away. When it's our turn, Eva leads. We shout and grumble and squeal, flinging our arms and legs and jumping around like deer. At one point, she makes me laugh so hard I have to catch my breath before I can copy her. When we cross in the centre she makes me walk like a crab across the whole length of the space back to the starting line. I can't stop grinning. Finally rid of my stifling embarrassment, I start to get to grips with the task. Look through the bright eyes of an eager, intelligent child, and mime is all about play. Mime celebrates the skill of playfulness. "To be silly is quite an art."

Mime makes us focus on the little things: eye contact, touch, individual movements. To mime is to play a game and stick to the imaginary, wondrously childish rules as well as you can. It is the comedy in someone falling over and the pleasure of making someone laugh. It is the skill of telling a good story, eyes wide and lips sealed. Mime is the art of paying attention. At least, that's what I think it's all about, sweaty and aching as I leap over a brick wall, pick up a heavy suitcase, slip on a puddle of water and wallop into a tree on my way out.

**A. Answer the following questions: (4x2p=8 points)**

1. How does the writer feel during the first mime session?
2. What does he suspect during the mime practice?
3. How does the author define mime?
4. What physical elements does mime focus on?

**B. Choose the right contextual synonym: (3x2p=6 points)**

1. SNIPPETS: a-extracts b-edges c-writers d-courses
2. LINGER: a-leave b-express c-continue d-disappear
3. GET TO GRIPS WITH: a-understand b-relax c-control d-hold

**C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning (3x2p= 6 points)**

1. There's a young woman who has never acted.  
He said ..... never acted.
2. We make our audience see what isn't there.  
The audience ..... there.
3. Finally rid of my stifling embarrassment, I start to get to grips with the task.  
Unless he had got rid of ..... to grips with the task.

**II. Use the word given to form a word that fits in each gap (10 x 1p = 10 points)**

After a 1-COLLIDE ... between two ships in the Atlantic, Alan Connaught from Dundee ended up 2-EXPECT ... living on a desert island. "I fell 3-BOARD ... and no-one noticed. A few hours later I found myself lying 4-EXHAUST ... on a

beach after swimming for miles. It was 5-FREEZE ... too, not warm and sunny, like Crusoe's island. The only 6-SOLVE ... I could find was to dig a hole in the sand as a shelter." After an 7-IMPROVE ... in the weather, Alan waited to be rescued. "There was little food and no fresh water. It was an 8-HEALTH ... life, and I felt ill most of the time. I suffered from 9-LONELY ... too, but then I found a village on the other side of the island."- he said. "The people had moved there after the 10-DESTROY ... of their homes by a volcano."

**III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits in each gap. Use only one word in each gap (10x1p= 10 points)**

Most people find 1..... very hard to change their eating habits, so when 2 ..... time comes for them to lose a 3 ..... weight and 4 ..... into shape, it is not easy to get used to a different lifestyle. Improving your eating habits doesn't mean 5..... up all the foods you like and eating only a little every day. What it does involve, 6..... , is 7 ..... down on foods that are unhealthy and 8 ..... of sugar, for example. Instead, you should opt for alternative foods which are rich 9..... vitamins, minerals and iron to ensure that you have the energy you need to get through the day. Basically, there really is no need to go 10 ..... a strict diet; eating in moderation, together with regular exercise will help you reach your goal.

**SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)**

**I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.**

**(10 points)**

A whole year had gone by since Tyler and I'd hung out together and I'd grown used to people reporting bad things about him. Mostly I just sighed. I'd accepted the fact that he was no longer the lad I once knew. He'd chosen the wrong kind of people to hang around with and had got into trouble. I knew these things only too well. Still, the news that he was in hospital shook me all the same. It was Beth's brother who told me.

"Wait for me outside Whitechapel station, Ashe", Beth had said. She was late and I kept looking at my mobile to check the time.

The odd thing was that I'd been thinking about Tyler since the previous afternoon. I'd seen him while walking home from college. He'd got out of a car about ten metres in front of me. It had taken me only a second to recognise who it was and I'd darted into the doorway of a closed shop to avoid coming face to face with him.

When eventually I'd peeked out, he was standing on the pavement speaking on the phone. He had a long coat on over jeans and boots. His hair was cropped and his face was pale. He wasn't wearing his glasses and his free hand was cutting the air as if he was making points while talking. He was looking round but his attention was on the call. Suddenly, he brought it to an abrupt end and slipped the mobile into a pocket. He walked a couple of steps and then, to my dismay, he spotted me. He smiled and headed in my direction. I kept my face towards the glass window and studied one of the posters that had been stuck there. "Ashe!" he'd called.

"Oh, hi!"

"What are you up to?" he said, glancing at the poster on the shop window. I stumbled out some words about looking for a gig to go to. I'd no idea what my hair looked like or if I'd got a spot on my chin or if he'd noticed me earlier watching him from the shop doorway. "Fancy a coffee?" he said.

"I've got to be somewhere", I said, stepping out of the shop doorway and making off.

"See you, Ashe", he'd called after me.

After about twenty metres, I looked round and I saw that he was in exactly the same position, staring at me. He raised his hand in a tiny wave and I turned and went on. I didn't look back again.

I'd thought about him on and off during the previous evening. Now, while waiting for Beth, I thought about him again. I wondered what he was doing. I pictured the funny brown glasses he'd worn to read with and wondered if he still read books by George Orwell. Perhaps, I should have gone for that coffee, I might not get another chance to find out what he was really up to these days.

Beth was very late. A couple of cars started hooting and there were some raised voices from a group of pedestrians who were ignoring the red man and crossing the road. I looked through the shoppers to see if I could see Beth's cheery face but there was no sign. I took my mobile out of my pocket again and stared at the screen, but again drew a blank. I wondered what to do. I was stamping my feet with the cold. Something must have happened. Beth wouldn't just leave me standing in the freezing cold for no reason. Tyler came into my mind again. That's when I saw her brother walking towards me.

**I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text. (5x2p=10 points)**

**1 In the first paragraph, Ashe is surprised to discover that Tyler**

A has got into trouble again.

B has made unsuitable friends.  
C has been admitted to hospital.  
D has been the subject of rumours.

**2 How did Ashe feel when she'd first seen Tyler the previous day?**

A unsure if it was him  
B surprised that he was driving  
C keen that he shouldn't see her  
D upset that he didn't recognise her

**3 When Tyler finally noticed her, Ashe felt**

A relieved that he was smiling  
B sure he'd been waiting for her  
C offended by something he said  
D concerned about her appearance

**4. After meeting Tyler, Ashe felt**

A sorry she'd been rude  
B curious about his current life  
C guilty about refusing his invitation  
D convinced she would see him again

**5. The phrase "drew a blank" suggests that**

A Beth had left no message  
B Ashe's mobile wasn't working  
C Ashe had decided to wait no longer  
D Beth was just being typically unreliable

**II. Consider the text above and write a narrative essay starting with the following sentences:**

*Something must have happened. Beth wouldn't just leave me standing in the freezing cold for no reason.*

**( 200-220 words)**

**(50 points)**

**NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu. Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.**