

VARIANTA 1

NOTA: 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 text below and do the tasks that follow:

Unidentified flying objects, UFOs, first became a major subject of public interest after World War II, possibly sparked by the development of rocket technology. Some interpret the sighting of UFOs as evidence that extraterrestrial life exists and has visited Earth.

The first widely publicized UFO sighting took place in 1947, when businessman Kenneth Arnold claimed he spotted a group of high-speed, crescent-shaped, flying objects while piloting his own plane near Mount Rainier in Washington. In 1952, the U.S Air Force undertook Project Blue Book, which remained open till 1969, being the most lasting of the U.S. government's inquiries into the UFO question. It recorded over 12,000 sightings that either could be associated with a known phenomenon, be it atmospheric, astronomic, or man-made, or could not be readily associated with any identifiable cause. An inquiry, opened by the U.S. Air Force in 1966, was tasked with investigating 59 **compelling** but inexplicable sightings but failed to make headway with the expert committees finding no evidence for the existence of visitors from the outer space. Nevertheless, a small minority of scientists and engineers the most notable of whom was astronomer J. Allen Hynek, who had participated in the UFO Projects investigations, continued to advocate for the idea and concluded that a small fraction of the most-reliable UFO reports gave definite indications for the presence of such visitors.

Governmental **scrutiny** of the UFO phenomenon was revived in the 21st century with the Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program (AATIP), a secret, albeit unclassified, program run by the U.S Department of Defense (DoD). According to the DoD, AATIP operated from 2007 to 2012, at which point the program's funding was diverted elsewhere. When the existence of the AATIP was made public in December 2017, the most newsworthy aspect of it was a report that the U.S. government possessed alloys and compounds **purportedly** attained from UFOs that were of unidentifiable nature, but many scientists remained skeptical about this claim.

A. Answer these questions 8 points

1. Why was Project Blue Book launched?
2. What could the recorded sightings be linked to?
3. Why did Allen Hynek support the idea of visiting extraterrestrial life?
4. What caused the AATIP to cease?

B. Choose the right synonym:

6 points

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. compelling | A hypnotizing | B obligatory | C convincing | D unforgettable |
| 2. scrutiny | A exam | B trial | C investigation | D inspection |
| 3. purportedly | A intentionally | B undoubtedly | C allegedly | D obviously |

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning. 6 points

1. UFOs became a major subject of public interest possibly sparked by the development of rocket technology. People's major interest in UFOs is likelyby the development of rocket technology.

2. A US Forces inquiry failed to find evidence for the existence of visitors from the outer space. Hardly for the existence of visitors from the outer space.

3. Despite the result of the inquiry, Hynek continued to advocate for the idea of the presence of extraterrestrial visitors.

The presence of extraterrestrial visitors would have been ignored if.....the astronomer's public support of the idea.

II Use the word given in capitals to form a word that best fits in each sentence. 10 points

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, when the USA suffered (1) ... (FINANCE) crisis, extreme (2) ... (POOR) and hunger, President Franklin D Roosevelt began a series of radio broadcasts in which he addressed the American people in a friendly, (3) ... (FORM) way. These fifteen-minute evening talks became known as his “fireside chats” and made a great impression on the people sustaining their morale through difficult times. After the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt referred to December 7th as “a date which will live in (4) ... (FAME)” asking Congress to declare war on Japan. During World War II, short news films, called “newsreels” were shown by film companies before every main film and (5) ... (DATE) twice a week to inform the audiences of important events such as the (6) ... (DROP) of the atomic bomb or the death of the president. In 1969, the American networks (7) ... (CONTINUE) showed the Apollo 11’s (8) ... (COVER) during its three-day journey from Florida to the moon. When the (9) ... (SPACE) entered the moon’s orbit it was midnight, so the networks told the (10) ... (VIEW) to go to sleep with the TV sound turned down low promising to wake them with a loud alarm when the astronauts landed.

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

Before the 1990s, making a long trip to the supermarket and queuing for hours (1) ... to be the normal weekly routine for the British and American shoppers. But since then, there is a better way to get your groceries: shopping on the Internet has boomed in the UK and the USA. (2) ... their own websites, the supermarkets will do your shopping and deliver it to your door for a small extra sum. They’ll remember your favourite items (3) ... you can order them next time without searching for them. (4) ... contrast, in many rural areas of Britain there has been a return to the traditional outdoor market which has been resurrected recently (5) ... to help farmers make more profit and to provide customers with the ‘real’ food again.

SUBIECTUL B –INTEGRATED SKILLS

60 points

Read the text below and do the tasks below it:

10 points

Saddell Castle, “a fair pile and a strong” was built by the bishop of Argyll in 1508. By the end of the century it was the house of the Campbell family, who then held it for nearly four hundred years. It is a fine and complete tower-house with a wall-walk round the roof; it stands at the mouth of a little river, facing the Isle of Arran across a narrow stretch of sea. When we, the Landmark Trust, bought it, there were small trees growing from the roof, all the windows had gone, and it had not been lived in for many years - indeed it has all but fallen into ruin several times in its long life.

Inside, one bedroom has eighteenth-century woodwork, which was damaged but has now been repaired, and there is a good mid-nineteenth sitting room. All the windows are set deep into the thick walls and, as usual in such buildings, a number of little cupboards have been hollowed out too. The floor just inside the front door was once removable so that unwelcome visitors could fall straight into a prison below, but it has now been screwed down.

Many Scottish castles and tower-houses stand alone. Like that they are impressive, but a good deal less interesting than where, as here, the walls of all the out-buildings survive. The dairy, cattleshed, barn, stable and mill were built at the side of the castle for protection. All the later structural repairs seem to have been a struggle – carried out with whatever was at hand, even poles from old carts used as door-frames, and lengths of railway track.

Here and there in the castle buildings there are ornamental stones from the ruins of Saddell Church which is a short distance up the valley. On the ground under the trees in that peaceful spot are many gravestones showing wild Scotsmen gripping their long swords or standing in their ancient ships of war – a reminder, as is all Saddell, of Scotland’s history, half sorrowful, but half splendid as well.

I. For each question, choose the correct letter A, B, C or D.

1. Where is Saddell Castle situated?
 - A On the Isle of Arran.
 - B In a small wood up the river.
 - C Near the house of the Campbell family
 - D By the sea.

2. What has happened to Saddell Castle over the centuries since it was built?
 - A It has had a series of different owners.
 - B Its owners have looked after it carefully.
 - C It has nearly fallen down several times.
 - D It has remained in much the same condition.

3. What was once peculiar about the castle?
 - A The windows were surrounded by hollow cupboards.
 - B The eighteenth-century bedroom was irreparably damaged.
 - C The front door could be lifted out to allow access.
 - D A trap door in the main entrance passage sent unwanted visitors into a dungeon.

4. What really impresses today is the fact that
 - A the original farm-buildings are still standing.
 - B the tower-house stands alone.
 - C its old gravestones have been used to repair the walls.
 - D all the door-frames are the original ones.

5. Saddell Castle's value resides in the fact that
 - A it was built near the ruins of an ancient church.
 - B it is living proof of Scottish admirable national heritage
 - C it had a unique walk-wall round its roof.
 - D its history is connected to brave Scottish warriors.

II. Starting from the text above, write a narrative-descriptive essay about an unusual family reunion organised at the castle. (220 words)

50 points

