



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ/PE MUNICIPIUL BUCUREȘTI,  
2018  
CLASA A X-A - SECȚIUNEA B

Varianta 1

- 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 paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (20 points)

The debate over whether graffiti is art or vandalism is still going on. Peter Malone, a New York City councillor, thinks that graffiti done with permission can be art, but if it is on someone else's property it becomes a **crime**. 'I have a message for the graffiti vandals out there,' he said. 'Your freedom of expression ends where my property begins.' On the other hand, Felix, a member of the Berlin-based group Reclaim Your City, says that artists are reclaiming cities for the public from advertisers, and that graffiti represents freedom and makes cities more vibrant. For decades graffiti has been a springboard to international **fame** for a few. Jean Michel Basquiat began spraying on the street in the 1970s before becoming a respected artist in the '80s. The Frenchman Black le Rat and the British artist Banksy have achieved political and humorous points. Works by Banksy have been sold for over £100,000. Graffiti is now sometimes **big** business.

## A. Answer the following questions.

8 points

1. What point does Peter Malone make about graffiti?
2. What positive aspects about graffiti does Felix mention?
3. How have some artists benefitted from spraying on the street?
4. What evidence is there in the text that graffiti is now 'big business'?

## B. Choose the right synonym.

6 points

1. **crime**: a. harm      b. offence      c. theft      d. abomination
2. **fame**: a. perk      b. notoriety      c. dignity      d. popularity
3. **big**: a. ample      b. spacious      c. profitable      d. vast

## C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning.

6 points

1. Graffiti becomes a crime if it is sprayed on someone else's property.  
Graffiti does not become a crime .....on someone else's property.
2. Some artists have considered graffiti a springboard to international fame for decades.  
Graffiti ..... a springboard to international fame for decades.
3. Jean Michel Basquiat began spraying on the street in the 1970s before becoming a respected artist in the 80s.  
After ..... a decade, Jean Michel Basquiat became a respected artist in the 80s.

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

Politicians around the world are meeting to discuss ways in which to protect our environment. The message is clear. Leaders in industry must find (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (ALTERNATE) ways to create energy, other than by the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (TRADITION) burning of fossil fuels



such as coal. The laws governing the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (DISPOSE) of toxic waste must be rigorously (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (FORCE). Governments must support projects to reduce our (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (DEPEND) on oil and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (FOREST) must decrease – our rainforests must be protected, not destroyed. Many farming methods are also (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (DETRIMENT) to our environment. If more farmers could be persuaded to use less intensive methods, organic farming methods for example, and consumers be persuaded to pay higher prices to support this move, our (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (RELY) on (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (POISON) chemicals would decrease. As individuals, we can all help in a very practical way by (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (CYCLE) materials such as glass, cans and paper.

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

“No, I have to stop by the office, anyway. I just didn’t know if you had to go out there or not,” Wohl said, and got in the passenger seat.

Matt drove to the North Broad Street and headed north. They had travelled a dozen blocks in silence when Wohl broke the news. There are allegations that – I don’t have to tell you that you don’t talk about this, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ I?”

“No, sir.”

(...)

“Several arrests and confiscations that should have gone smoothly didn’t happen,” Wohl went on. “Chief Lowenstein told Commissioner Czernich what he thought was happening. Maybe a little prematurely, because he didn’t want Czernich to hear it anywhere else. Czernich, either (2) \_\_\_\_\_ his own or possibly because he told the mayor and the mayor suggested (3) \_\_\_\_\_ up with a solution (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the problem, took the investigation away from Chief Lowenstein.”

(...)“Is that why Chief Lowenstein was so sore?”

“Sure. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ I in his shoes, I’d be sore, too. It’s just about the same thing as telling him he can’t be trusted.”

(adapted from W.E.B.Griffin, *The Victim*)

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

**Read the following text and do the tasks.**

You probably don’t like the term ‘staycation’. Me neither. But you mustn’t be put off. As a concept, it is quite attractive. Perhaps you’ve already had one, but weren’t aware that’s what it was called. Staycations don’t just mean staying in, doing things around the house or just relaxing at home. They involve getting out more by taking day trips from your home to see local sights. If you don’t want to stay at home, you can holiday locally – for example, camping at a local campsite.

Staycations originally became popular after the financial crisis of 2008, when people were looking for ways to cut back on their spending. Apart from the savings, let’s not ignore the other benefits: you don’t have any of the problems associated with travel, such as packing, long drives, delays at airports and so on; and you bring money to the local economy, by eating out, for example. The only people who hope this kind of holiday won’t catch on are the holiday companies themselves.

Some staycationers who base themselves at home like to follow a set of rules, such as setting a start and end date, planning their activities ahead of time and avoiding routine. You don’t have to do these things, but it helps to create the feel of a traditional vacation. Others, aware that an extra barbecue and a visit to the local zoo may not match the thrill of foreign



travel, take it a step further. A recent example was Karen Ash, whose story appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*.

A resident of New York, Karen Ash decided not to go to Japan, as she had originally planned, but instead took a weeklong Japanese vacation in her own city. This included buying postcards and souvenirs at a Japanese market, admiring bonsai plants, eating ramen (and even speaking Japanese when ordering), all without leaving New York. Her itinerary also involved joining in at a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, attending a taiko drumming concert and watching Japanese soap operas on DVD. I don't think many people would want to take this much trouble to create their staycation, but you get the idea!

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

**10 points**

1. A 'staycation' means

- A. a vacation you spend doing chores around the house.
- B. a type of vacation in which you don't necessarily leave your home.
- C. a type of vacation that the author warns against.
- D. a type of vacation very few people know of.

2. Staycations are beneficial because they

- A. provided the solution to the financial crisis of 2008.
- B. discourage people from travelling long distances.
- C. enable people to save money and support local businesses.
- D. travel agencies do a very good job of promoting them.

3. Planning your 'staycation' is advisable because

- A. this is what you normally do for a vacation.
- B. it will prevent you from getting bored.
- C. you need to book tickets for the zoo.
- D. otherwise it won't be as exciting as going abroad.

4. The Japanese holiday that Karen Ash spent in her home town was a success because

- A. she could experience many aspects of Japanese culture in New York.
- B. the local market had an excellent selection of souvenirs.
- C. she had learned to speak Japanese in advance.
- D. she was a great fan of Japanese soap operas.

5. The reason why the author mentions Karen Ash is

- A. to encourage people to discover Japanese culture.
- B. to offer an alternative to going to Japan.
- C. to demonstrate what an extraordinary person she is.
- D. to demonstrate how much can be achieved on a 'staycation'.

**II. Starting from the text above, write a narrative-descriptive essay about a holiday you spent at home when things went wrong. (200-220 words)**

**50 points**