

MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI, CERCETĂRII ȘI TINERETULUI
OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
FAZA PE JUDEȚ / MUNICIPIUL BUCUREȘTI, 16 MARTIE 2008
Clasa a IX-a

Subject 1 (100 points)

Read the fragment A Way Out from *The Machine Stops* by E.M. Forster and write a 300-word essay in which you:

- **explain what the title of the text refers to;**
- **comment on the meaning of ‘ You’re beginning to worship the Machine’;**
- **discuss the characters and the way they are compared and contrasted pointing to their inner motivations.**

You may refer to the above in the order you find fit.

By a vestibule, by a lift, by a tubular railway, by a platform, by a sliding door-by reversing all the steps of her departure did Vashti arrive at her son’s room, which exactly resembled her own. She might well declare that the visit was superfluous. The buttons, the knobs, the reading-desk with the book, the temperature, the atmosphere, the illumination –all were exactly the same. And if Kuno himself, flesh of her flesh, stood close beside her at last, what profit was there in that? She was too well-bred to shake him by the hand.

Averting her eyes, she spoke as follows:

‘Here I am. I have had the most terrible journey and greatly retarded the development of my soul. It is not worth it, Kuno, it is not worth it. My time is too precious. The sunlight almost touched me, and I have met with the rudest people. I can only stop a few minutes. Say what you want to say, and then I must return.’

‘I have been threatened with Homelessness,’ said Kuno.

She looked at him now.

‘I have been threatened with Homelessness and I could not tell you such a thing through the Machine.’

Homelessness means death. The victim is exposed to the air, which kills him.

‘I have been outside since I spoke to you last. The tremendous thing has happened, and they have discovered me.’

‘But why shouldn’t you go outside?’ she exclaimed. ‘It is perfectly legal, perfectly mechanical, to visit the surface of the earth. I have lately been to a lecture on the sea; there is no objection to that; one simply summons a respirator and gets an Egression-permit. It is not the kind of thing that spiritually –minded people do, and I begged you not to do it, but there is no legal objection to it.’

‘I did not get an Egression-permit.’

‘Then how did you get out?’

‘I found out a way of my own.’

The phrase conveyed no meaning to her, and he had to repeat it.

‘A way of your own?’ she whispered. ‘But that would be wrong.’

‘Why?’

The question shocked her beyond measure.

‘You are beginning to worship the Machine,’ he said coldly. ‘You think it irreligious of me to have found a way of my own. It was just what the Committee thought, when they threatened me with Homelessness.’

At this she grew angry. ‘I worship nothing!’ she cried. ‘I am most advanced. I don’t think you irreligious, for there is no such thing as religion left. All the fear and the superstition

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that existed once have been destroyed by the Machine. I only meant what to find out a way of your own was – Besides, there is no new way to get out.'

'So it is always supposed.'

'Except through the vomitories, for which one must have an Egression-permit, it is impossible to get out. The Book says so.'

'Well, the Book's wrong, for I have been out on my feet.'

Subject 2 (100 points)

Write a 250-word narrative essay ending with the sentence: "All's well when it ends well".

AMBELE SUBIECTE SUNT OBLIGATORII. TIMP DE LUCRU: 3 ORE. NU SE ACORDA PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.