

MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI, CERCETĂRII ȘI INOVĂRII
OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
FEBRUARIE 2009
CLASA A XII-A

Varianta a II-a

Subject I

Write a reflective essay on “Books” using the text below and considering the topic from at least three view-points of the discussion clock: personal, psychological, artistic, educational, moral, historical etc. Use about 400 words.

But still we have our responsibilities as readers and even our importance. The standards we raise and the judgments we pass steal into the air and become part of the atmosphere which writers breathe as they work. An influence is created which tells upon them if it never finds its way into print. And that influence, if it were well-instructed, vigorous and individual and sincere, might be of great value now when criticism is necessarily in abeyance; when books pass in review like the procession of animals in a shooting gallery, and the critic has only one second in which to load and aim and shoot and may well be pardoned if he mistakes rabbits for tigers, eagles for barndoor fowls, or misses altogether and wastes his shot upon some peaceful cow grazing in a further field. If behind the erratic gunfire of the press the author felt that there was another kind of criticism, the opinion of people reading for the love of reading, slowly and unprofessionally, and judging with great sympathy and yet with great severity, might this not improve the quality of his work? And if by our means books were to become stronger, richer and more varied, that would be an end worth reaching.

Yet who reads to bring about an end, however desirable? Are there not some pursuits that we practice because they are good in themselves/ and some pleasures that are final? And is not this among them? (Virginia Woolf, “How Should One Read a Book?”)

50p

Subject II

As part of a course assignment you have been asked to write a report analyzing the organization where you work, or the institution where you study. Write your report, commenting on the organizational structure of the place, its strengths and weaknesses, and the performance and attitude of those who are in charge and those who work and study there. Use between 270 and 300 words.

25p

Subject III

A. Put one word in each space:

10 points

Viewed from the outside at least, the Houses of Parliament give a firm impression of all those (1) which we are supposed to value in the British form of government. The architecture gives the place a (2) look, and the buildings are sandwiched between a busy square and the river, with Westminster Abbey not far away, making them a (3) between the country house of an eccentric duke and a Victorian railway station. You have only to learn that the (4) refer to each other as “The Honourable Member for So and So” to complete the picture of a dignified gentlemen’s club, with of course a few ladies to make (5) the numbers. Sadly, over the past few years first radio, and now television, have shown the general (6), who are after all the electorate, what in fact goes on when bills are (7) and questions are asked. The

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first obvious fact is that the chamber is very rarely full, and there may be only a (8) of members present, some of (9) are quite clearly asleep, telling jokes to their neighbour, or engaged in shouting like badly-behaved schoolchildren. There is not enough (10) for them all in the chamber in any case, which is a second worrying point.

B. Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the word in capitals, and so that the meaning stays the same:

(10 points)

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| a. When did you last have a haircut? | THE |
| b. The police officer obliged us to open the boot of the car. | MADE |
| c. After six months, Joe's search for a job was successful. | MANAGED |
| d. Jean was given permission by her boss to take a day off. | AGREED |
| e. It was foolish of you to drive so fast. | THING |

C. For each question, write one word which can be used in all three sentences (5points):

1. He's actually quite a.....name in the world of bathroom fittings.
It was very.....of you to admit you were wrong.
There's no need to make such a.....thing out of this; it's not that important.
2. Ted's got a bit of a.....temper so don't say anything to upset him.
Why do I always seem to draw the.....straw?
We're running.....of sugar again.
3. You'd better get your.....together and start learning your lines.
They were caught in the.....of handing over the drugs.
Angie was just putting on an..... - she wasn't really upset.
4. We're going to be in.....trouble if anyone catches us.
There was.....silence for a second, then everyone started laughing.
Turn left at the corner, and the cathedral's.....ahead.
5. I hope the judge makes an.....of him and throws him in jail.
Could you give me a more specific.....?
As a teacher, you have to set an.....to the children.

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