

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

Varianta a III-a

Subject I

Write a 400-word reflective essay considering the topic of solitude starting from the text below. Include at least three view-points of the discussion clock: personal, philosophical, artistic, educational etc.

So, year after year, Silas Marner had lived in this solitude, his guineas rising in the iron pot, and his life narrowing and hardening itself more and more into a mere pulsation of desire and satisfaction that had no relation to any other being. His life had reduced itself to the functions of weaving and hoarding, without any contemplation of an end towards which the functions tended. The same sort of process has perhaps been undergone by wiser men, when they have been cut off from faith and love - only, instead of a loom and a heap of guineas, they have had some erudite research, some ingenious project, or some well-knit theory. Strangely Marner's face and figure shrank and bent themselves into a constant mechanical relation to the objects of his life, so that he produced the same sort of impression as a handle or a crooked tube, which has no meaning standing apart. The prominent eyes that used to look trusting and dreamy, now looked as if they had been made to see only one kind of thing that was very small, like tiny grain, for which they hunted everywhere: and he was so withered and yellow, that, though he was not yet forty, the children always called him "Old Master Marner". ("Silas Marner" by George Eliot)

50p

Subject II

You are a counselor of the Minister of Education. Write a proposal for improving the school-leaving exam. Use between 270 and 300 words.

25p

Subject III (25points)

A. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.(10 points)

1. My boss took great offence when I told him what I really thought of the plan.

DEEPLY

My boss.....when I told him what I really thought of the plan.

2. The French had three times as many soldiers as us.

OUTNUMBERED

The French.....one.

3. I'm doing everything I can to find accommodation for your guests.

WITHIN

I'm doing everything..... find accommodation for your guests.

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4. Everyone but Valerie failed to pass the test.

SUCCEED

Valerie the test.

5. Considering your past experience, we've decided to offer you the job.

LIGHT

In, we've decided to offer you the job.

B. Find one word which is appropriate for all three gaps in each of the following sentences (5points)

1. My shoes are a bit.....

We drove round a.....bend in the road and almost crashed into another car.

He is always very.....with his money.

2. Her house was very close to the local rubbish.....

Let me give you a; you need to get some legal advice.

She left aon the table for the waiter.

3. Heto look out of the window.

Her face.....a pale green colour when she saw her blood on the road.

Mark.....his ankle when he stumbled over the toy.

4. He.....on you for support.

She Angela as one of her closest friends.

It's a person's character thatnot their appearance.

5. You look; are you going somewhere nice?

If you're, you'll make sure you're there early.

She gave her younger brother a.....rap on the knuckles when he tried to lick the bowl.

C. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the following passage. Use only one word in each space. (10 points)

It is not surprising that actors want to be pop stars, (1) vice versa. (2) that is deep in a part of our brain that most of us manage to keep (3) control, we all want to be pop stars and actors. Sadly, there's nothing about the (4) profession that automatically qualifies you for the other, (5), of course, for the fact that famous actors and singers are already surrounded by people who never (6) no to them. (7) the whole, pop stars tend to fare better on screen than (8) numbers do on CD. Let's (9) it: not being able to act is no big drawback in Hollywood, whereas not being able to play or sing still tends to count (10) you in the recording studio.

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