

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

Varianta a II-a

Subject I

Write a 350-word opinion essay on the saying **“It is not in war, but in peace that self-fulfillment is to be found”**, as illustrated in the text below.

For three hundred years, while its fame spread across the world, the little town had stood here at the river's bend. Time and change had touched it lightly; it had heard from afar both the coming of the Armada and the fall of the Third Reich, and all Man's wars had passed it by.

Now it was gone, as though it had never been. In a moment of time the toil and treasure of centuries had been swept away. The vanished streets could still be traced as faint marks in the vitrified ground, but of the houses, nothing remained. Steel and concrete, plaster and ancient oak – it had mattered little at the end. In the moment of death they had stood together, transfixed by the glare of the detonating bomb. Then, even before they could flash into fire, the blast waves had reached them and they had ceased to be. Mile upon mile the ravening hemisphere of flame had expanded over the level farmlands, and from its heart had risen the twisting totempole that had haunted the minds of men for so long, and to such little purpose.

The rocket had been astray, one of the last ever to be fired. It was hard to say for what target it had been intended. Certainly not London, for London was no longer a military objective. London, indeed, was no longer anything at all. Long ago the men whose duty it was had calculated that three of the hydrogen bombs would be sufficient for that rather small target. In sending twenty, they had been perhaps a little overzealous.

This was not one of the twenty that had done their work so well. Both its destination and its origin were unknown: whether it had come across the lonely Arctic wastes or far above the waters of the Atlantic, no one could tell and there were few now who cared. (“The Curse”, by Arthur C. Clarke)

50p

Subject II

Your school magazine has asked its readers to give their opinions on whether exams are useful as a means of testing students' knowledge. Write your article in 200-220 words.

25p

Subject III

A. Think of a word which best fits each space. (10p)

More than a million people a year come from all over the USA to the little town of Scottsboro, Alabama. The reason they visit (1).....to shop at the Unclaimed Baggage Centre, an enormous warehouse (2).....offers attractive bargains on a wide range of new and second-hand goods. (3)....is unusual about everything on sale is that it comes from luggage lost (4)....airline travellers. US airlines claim that when they lose a passenger's

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luggage, (5).....is usually found and returned to the owner within a day or two. Some unlabelled luggage, though, is never identified; (6).....such cases, the airline pays the passenger compensation, and the luggage then legally belongs to the airline. (7).....a result, US airlines are left (8)almost half a million lost bags every year. About 30 years (9).....an Alabama businessman began buying the unclaimed luggage (10).....the airlines, and selling the contents to the public at discount prices.

B. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the word given without changing it. (10 points)

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. I don't feel like walking all the way into town
I'mwalking all the way into town. | MOOD |
| 2. The island was completely uninhabited.
There wason the island. | SIGN |
| 3. James ignored the "Danger" sign.
Jamesthe "Danger" sign. | NOTICE |
| 4. Without a new tennis coach, Olga would never have won the tournament.
If a new tennis coach, Olga would never have won the tournament. | HAD |
| 5. The teacher made all the students do presentations last week.
All the studentspresentations last week. | DO |

C. Complete each sentence with a word made from the word in capitals:

5 p

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| a. Little Jimmy has been a bit today. | TROUBLE |
| b. You cannot enter the country without the documents. | REQUIRE |
| c. The evidence in this case is entirely | CIRCUMSTANCE |
| d. The failure of this scheme would have serious | IMPLY |
| e. There is a living-room, with French windows. | SPACE |

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