

OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ, 1 MARTIE 2014
Clasa a XI-a/a XII-a, Secțiunea B

SUBIECTUL I

(50 points)

Read the following excerpt from Martin Luther King's speech, "I have a dream". Based on it, write a 350-word argumentative essay outlining aspects and effects of discrimination in the Romanian society and suggest solutions to these problems.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today! I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together." And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, From every mountainside, let freedom ring! And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

SUBIECTUL AL II-LEA

(50 points)

Read the following excerpt from the American essayist, lecturer and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882), to whom "the individual is the world" and who sought "to help the young soul add energy, inspire hope and blow the coals into a useful flame" and write a 250-word article for a youth magazine focusing on the young people's role in nowadays' society.

"To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men – that is genius ... There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that he must take himself for better, for worse, as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till ...

Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string. Accept the place the divine providence has found for you, the society of your contemporaries, the connection of events. Great men have always done so... It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after your own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude."

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