

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

Varianta a III-a

Subject I

Starting from the text below, write an opinion essay on the following statement:

“There is no such thing as equality.” Use about 350 words

“Beyond the small and slippery pyramid which composed Mrs. Archer’s world lay the almost unmapped quarter inhabited by artists, musicians and “people who wrote”. This scattered fragment of humanity had never shown any desire to be amalgamated with the social structure. In spite of odd ways there were said to be, for the most part, quite respectable; but they preferred to keep themselves to themselves. Medora Manson, in her prosperous days, had inaugurated a “literary salon”; but it had soon died out owing to the reluctance of the literary to frequent it.

Others have made the same attempt, and there was a household of Blenkers – an intense and voluble mother, and three blowsy daughters who imitated her – where one met Edwin Booth and Patti and William Winter, and the new Shakespearian actor George Rignold, and some of the magazine editors and musical and literary critics.

Mrs. Archer and her group felt a certain timidity concerning these persons. They were odd, and they were uncertain, they things one didn’t know about in the background of there lives and minds. Literature and art were deeply respected in the Archer set, and Mrs. Archer was always at pains to tell her children how much more agreeable and cultivated society had been when it included such figures as Washington Irving and Fitz-Green Halleck. The most celebrated authors of the generation had been “gentlemen” ; perhaps the unknown persons who succeeded them had gentlemanly sentiments, but their origin, there appearance, their hair, their intimacy with the stage and the Opera, made any old New York criteria inapplicable to them.”

(Edith Wharton – “The Age of Innocence”)

50p

Subject II

An English language magazine has just run a competition to find the reader with the most interesting hobby or pastime. You were asked to judge the competition, which attracted more than 500 entries. The editor of the magazine now wants you to write an article naming the prize winner and the runner-up. Write about the hobby or pastime of each of the two people selected and give reasons for choosing them as prize winners. Your article must have between 200 and 220 words.

25p

Subject III

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A. For questions 1- 15, complete the following text by writing each missing word in the space provided. Use only one word for each space. The exercise begins with an example (0)

(10 points)

When it comes to work, we have always followed (0) in America's footsteps; we work longer hours than other European countries, and more and(1) companies book team-building weekends for their employees. The intention is clear –(2) raise morale and help people work more effectively together – but the reasoning less (3). It doesn't seem to matter that if you spend most of the week with your colleagues, you may..... (4) want to spend the weekends with them. Especially when it invariably involves doing something absurd(5) driving go-karts. This is one of the activities that often tops managers' lists of ideas.

For just under £50 you'll (6) issued with a helmet and a small petrol-driven kart. Usually you will have to compete in a championship in the hope of(7) a tiny plastic trophy. Of course, there will be one person who will take it all desperately seriously; it is quite possible he will have practised (8) the team-building weekend. He is usually the most unpopular person in the office, too.

An even more adrenalin – charged alternative is to arrange a tandem parachute at £235(9) person. Remind the manager that employees should not be forced to jump. Survival weekends, when the department is deposited in the(10) of nowhere (usually Wales) and told to find their own food and shelter, are popular.

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. If you should see Paul at the weekend, you could ask him for help.
Wereat the weekend, you could ask him for help. | INTO |
| 2. If Sophie worked as hard as everyone else, we'd be finished in no time
If Sophie....., we'd be finished. | WEIGHT |
| 3. I really hate this kind of film.
I.....that kind of film. | AVERSION |
| 4. Don't forget to discuss these factors in your essay.
Remember.....in your essay. | CONSIDERATION |
| 5. The odds are against Maria getting such an important job.
Mariasuch an important job. | LIKELY |

C. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. (5 points)

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Julie Morganstern's book entitled *Time Management from the Inside Out* aims to help people organise their time better.

Julie says that getting organised is a (1)... 'learnable' skill.

One common reason she has (2)..... for people not getting things done, be it tasks at work, study (3)....., or things they hope to achieve in their free time, is that they don't set aside a (4)... time in which to do these things.

In other words, they're always trying to fit new activities into an already full schedule, or allowing themselves to be distracted by things other than the task in hand. What's more, because they (5)... how long tasks are actually going to take, such people are always running behind schedule.

COMPLETE
IDENTITY
OBJECT
SPECIFY

ESTIMATE

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