

**CONCURSUL DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ PENTRU LICEE  
CU PROFIL TEHNOLOGIC ȘI VOCAȚIONAL  
ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ, 8 Iunie 2024  
CLASA a XI-a**

- Toate subiecte sunt obligatorii
- Timp de lucru: 2 ore
- Total puncte: 100. Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.

**SUBIECT I**

**20 points**

**You are going to read an article about fast fashion and its impact. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

***The Fast Fashion Phenomenon***

*By Sarah Lane, a journalist specializing in sustainable fashion*

Fast fashion has taken the world by storm in the past few decades. It refers to the rapid production of cheap, trendy clothing that allows consumers to buy new styles frequently. Companies such as Zara, H&M, and Forever 21 have built empires on this model, offering an endless array of new collections. While fast fashion makes it easy to keep up with the latest trends, it also comes with a hidden cost.

The most immediate impact of fast fashion is on the environment. The production of these garments requires a significant amount of water, energy, and raw materials. Furthermore, the chemicals used in dyeing and treating fabrics often end up polluting water sources. According to a 2017 report by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the fashion industry produces 20% of global wastewater and 10% of global carbon emissions. These figures are staggering, considering that many of these clothes are worn only a few times before being discarded.

Another major concern is the working conditions in factories that produce fast fashion items. To keep prices low, companies often outsource production to countries where labour is cheap. Workers in these factories, often women and children, are paid meagre wages and work long hours in unsafe conditions. The collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in Bangladesh in 2013, which killed over 1,100 workers, highlighted the dire state of garment factories in many parts of the world.

Despite these issues, fast fashion remains incredibly popular. Consumers are drawn to the low prices and the thrill of constantly updating their wardrobes. Social media influencers and celebrities further fuel this demand by showcasing the latest styles and encouraging their followers to buy more. However, there is a growing awareness of the negative impacts of fast fashion. More people are starting to question whether the convenience and low cost are worth the environmental and ethical consequences.

To combat the negative effects of fast fashion, some brands are adopting more sustainable practices. These include using eco-friendly materials, improving factory conditions, and promoting recycling and upcycling of garments. Consumers can also make a difference by choosing to buy less, opting for higher-quality items, and supporting brands that prioritize sustainability. As awareness grows, there is hope that the fashion industry will shift towards more responsible practices.

1. According to the article, the primary appeal of fast fashion for consumers is:

- A. its focus on sustainability.
- B. the variety of styles it offers.
- C. the durability of the clothing.
- D. its high-quality materials.

2. What is a significant environmental impact of fast fashion mentioned in the text?

- A. It reduces global carbon emissions.
- B. It conserves water resources.
- C. It produces a large amount of global wastewater.
- D. It prevents water pollution.

3. What event highlighted the poor working conditions in the fast fashion industry?
- The launch of a new fashion brand.
  - The release of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation report.
  - The collapse of the Rana Plaza factory.
  - A social media campaign by influencers.
4. The article suggests that fast fashion companies keep prices low by:
- using high-quality, sustainable materials.
  - outsourcing production to countries with cheap labour.
  - employing a large number of workers.
  - selling products directly to consumers online.
5. What does the writer say about the role of social media in fast fashion?
- It helps to decrease the demand for fast fashion.
  - It plays a role in promoting new styles and increasing demand.
  - It has no significant impact on consumer behaviour.
  - It encourages consumers to recycle their old clothes.
6. What positive changes are some brands making to address the issues of fast fashion?
- Lowering the prices of their garments.
  - Increasing the speed of production.
  - Adopting more sustainable practices.
  - Expanding their range of products.
7. The writer's attitude towards the future of the fashion industry is:
- pessimistic due to the irreversible damage caused.
  - indifferent as consumer behaviour is unlikely to change.
  - hopeful that more responsible practices will be adopted.
  - uncertain due to conflicting industry trends.
8. What is the writer's conclusion about consumer behaviour in relation to fast fashion?
- Consumers will always prioritize low prices over sustainability.
  - There is a growing awareness and shift towards more ethical choices.
  - Social media will continue to drive demand for fast fashion.
  - Consumers are unlikely to change their shopping habits significantly.

## **SUBJECT II**

**30 points**

Your teacher has asked you to write a **story** of 220-250 words for the school English language magazine. The story must end with the following words: "*And that was how Nigel discovered the hidden talent he never knew he had.*"

## **SUBJECT III**

**20 points**

**Read the text below and use the words given in capitals to form words that fit in the gaps.**

### ***A Significant Discovery***

One of the most (0) *remarkable* (REMARK) discoveries in recent history was made by a team of archaeologists in Egypt. While conducting a routine excavation, they unearthed what appeared to be an ancient tomb. The discovery was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (EXPECT), as the site had been thoroughly explored before with no significant findings.

The tomb contained (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (VALUE) artifacts, including jewellery, pottery, and well-preserved mummies. These items provided insights into the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (BURY) practices and daily life of the ancient civilization. The most exciting find was a(n) (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (SCRIPT) tablet that appeared to detail the life of a previously unknown pharaoh.

This discovery was not only (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (HISTORY) significant but also shed light on the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (COMPLEX) of ancient Egyptian society. The team's leader described the experience as (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (THRILL), saying it was the highlight of his career. He emphasized the importance of continued exploration and research in (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (COVER) the mysteries of the past.

Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space.

### *The Tradition of Irish Storytelling*

One of the most cherished traditions in Ireland is the art of storytelling. This age-old practice, known (0) ~~as~~ "seanchas" in Irish, has been passed (1) \_\_\_\_\_ from generation to generation. Traditionally, storytelling was a way to entertain, educate, and preserve the history and culture of the community.

Storytellers, or "seanchaithe," were highly respected (2) \_\_\_\_\_ their ability to weave tales that captivated audiences. These stories often included myths, legends, and folktales that explained the origins of natural landmarks or the deeds of legendary heroes. The storytelling sessions typically took place (3) \_\_\_\_\_ gatherings in homes or public houses, where people would come together to listen and share stories.

A key feature of Irish storytelling is its emphasis on the spoken word. The rhythm and melody (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the language, along with the storyteller's gestures and expressions, create a vivid and engaging experience. This oral tradition was particularly important in rural areas (5) \_\_\_\_\_ written texts were not widely available.

In modern times, efforts have been made to preserve and promote this cultural heritage. Festivals dedicated (6) \_\_\_\_\_ storytelling are held across Ireland, attracting both locals and tourists. These events celebrate the rich tapestry of Irish folklore and ensure that the tradition continues to thrive.

The power of storytelling lies in its ability to connect people and keep history alive. As such, it remains a vital (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of Ireland's cultural identity. Through the tales told by the *seanchaithe*, the spirit of Ireland's past is brought to life, and its cultural legacy is passed on (8) \_\_\_\_\_ future generations. The practice of storytelling also plays an important role in teaching moral lessons, with many stories having clear messages (9) \_\_\_\_\_ right and wrong.

Moreover, the tradition has evolved with the times, and today's storytellers often incorporate modern themes (10) \_\_\_\_\_ their tales, ensuring the practice remains relevant in contemporary society.

### SUBJECT V

Match the questions to the answers. There are three extra answers which you do not need to use:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Can you lend me a hand with this project?                 | a. I think I might have caught a cold.      |
| 2. How did you manage to complete the assignment so quickly? | b. It was a piece of cake.                  |
| 3. Why are you feeling under the weather today?              | c. She's the best thing since sliced bread. |
| 4. What do you think about the new manager?                  | d. I'll be burning the midnight oil.        |
| 5. When should we expect the final report?                   | e. I'm all ears.                            |
|  | f. Right as rain by tomorrow, I hope.       |
|  | g. Sure, let's get the ball rolling.        |
|  | h. At the drop of a hat.                    |