

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

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

SUBJECT I

20 points

You are going to read an article about the impact of social media on modern communication. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C, or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Social media has revolutionized the way we communicate in the modern world. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram allow people to stay connected with friends and family, share their thoughts instantly, and even influence public opinion on a large scale. While social media has undoubtedly brought numerous benefits, it also poses several challenges that affect both individuals and society as a whole.

One of the most significant advantages of social media is its ability to connect people across great distances. In the past, maintaining relationships with friends or relatives living far away was often difficult and costly. Today, social media provides a convenient and free way to keep in touch with loved ones, regardless of geographical barriers. This connectivity has made it easier for people to maintain personal relationships and has contributed to the globalization of social networks.

However, the pervasive use of social media has also led to some negative consequences. One major issue is the impact on mental health. Studies have shown that excessive use of social media can lead to feelings of anxiety, depression, and loneliness. The constant exposure to idealized images of other people's lives can create unrealistic expectations and a sense of inadequacy among users. Additionally, the anonymity of online interactions can sometimes lead to negative behaviours such as cyberbullying and harassment.

Another challenge is the spread of misinformation. Social media platforms can act as echo chambers where false information spreads rapidly, often unchecked by credible sources. This phenomenon can influence public opinion and even affect the outcomes of elections and other significant events. Efforts to combat misinformation are ongoing, but the sheer volume of content on these platforms makes it a daunting task.

Despite these challenges, social media continues to be a powerful tool for communication. It has given a voice to marginalized groups, allowing them to share their experiences and advocate for change. Social media campaigns have raised awareness about various social issues and mobilized people to take action in ways that were not possible before the advent of these platforms.

In conclusion, while social media has transformed the way we communicate and brought many benefits, it is essential to be aware of its potential drawbacks. Users should strive to use these platforms responsibly and critically evaluate the information they encounter to mitigate the negative effects.

1. According to the article, one major advantage of social media is:
- A.** The ability to share thoughts anonymously.
 - B.** The ease of connecting with people regardless of distance.
 - C.** The reduction of communication costs.
 - D.** The influence on public opinion.

2. The article suggests that maintaining personal relationships today is:
- A. More difficult than in the past.
 - B. Less costly but still challenging.
 - C. Easier due to social media.
 - D. Only possible with modern technology.
3. What mental health issues are associated with excessive use of social media according to the text?
- A. Anxiety, depression, and cyberbullying.
 - B. Depression, loneliness, and anxiety.
 - C. Loneliness, harassment, and stress.
 - D. Harassment, inadequacy, and anxiety.
4. How does the article describe the spread of misinformation on social media?
- A. It is easily controlled by credible sources.
 - B. It spreads slowly and is usually accurate.
 - C. It spreads rapidly and is often unchecked.
 - D. It is a minor issue compared to other challenges.
5. The phrase "echo chambers" in the text refers to:
- A. Platforms where only positive news is shared.
 - B. Environments where false information is amplified.
 - C. Groups that discuss various viewpoints.
 - D. Spaces for sharing personal experiences.
6. Social media has empowered marginalized groups by:
- A. Allowing them to disconnect from mainstream media.
 - B. Giving them a platform to share their experiences.
 - C. Helping them avoid negative interactions.
 - D. Preventing the spread of misinformation.
7. The article suggests that users can mitigate the negative effects of social media by:
- A. Reducing the amount of time they spend online.
 - B. Critically evaluating the information they encounter.
 - C. Avoiding all social media platforms.
 - D. Only using platforms with strict content controls.
8. In the conclusion, the author's tone towards social media can best be described as:
- A. Enthusiastic and unreserved.
 - B. Pessimistic and critical.
 - C. Neutral and indifferent.
 - D. Optimistic but cautious.

SUBJECT II

30 points

You have recently watched a documentary about the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the job market. Your English teacher has asked you to write an **essay** to express your **opinion** on the following statement:

"The development of AI will significantly alter the job market, bringing both opportunities and challenges."

Write your answer in 200-250 words.

SUBJECT III**20 points**

Read the text below and use the words given in capitals to form words that fit in the gaps. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A MAN HAPPY IN HIS WORK

Flying has always had a (0) *fascination* for me. During my childhood I was often taken to air shows, where I could see planes close up and even go inside them. However, it was not until I was twenty that I made the (1) to apply for an eighteen-month training course to become a pilot. There was no funding available for students on this course so (2) I had to wait six months for a suitable job (3) , but then the (4) I had shown was rewarded when I got a job with a large airline. I've been a pilot for three years now, and I remain just as (5) about flying. I love the modern jet aircraft with all their sophisticated equipment as well as the (6) of challenges that occur on a (7) basis. And, of course, it's wonderful to visit places all over the world, not to mention the (8) views I get when I'm flying.

0. FASCINATE
1. DECIDE
2. FORTUNATE
3. VACANT
4. COMMIT
5. ENTHUSIASM
6. VARY
7. DAY
8. SPECTACLE

SUBJECT IV**20 points**

Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

The importance of laughter

Psychologists tell us that humour and laughter (0) *are* good for our social relationships. Having a good sense of humour is often regarded (1) being one of the most important characteristics that people look (2) in a friend. In classrooms, a humorous teacher can make learning far (3) enjoyable and improve a student's motivation. In one study, students on a psychology course (4) split into two different groups: one group was taught with a certain amount of humour, and the other with (5) humour at all. Later, when researchers tested the students to see how much they had retained of (6) they had heard in the lectures, they found that those (7) had attended lectures containing humour scored significantly higher than the other students. Humour and laughter make us feel happy, and our laughter makes others laugh as (8) , so if we laugh a lot we may be helping to make other people feel happy.

SUBJECT V**10 points**

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 two and five words, including the word given.

1. Last Saturday my friend asked me, 'Do you want to see a film tonight?' **WHETHER**
Last Saturday my friend asked me a film that night.
2. The journey was shorter than I had expected. **LONG**
The journey was I had expected.
3. 'There's been a rise of over ten per cent in the price of the tickets,' said Sue. **GONE**
Sue said that the price of the tickets than ten per cent this year.

4. He sings in the show and dances in it as well. **ONLY**

Not in the show, he also dances in it.

5. I am sorry I didn't contact you, but I was very busy. **TOUCH**

I apologise for you, but I was very busy.