

**Etapa județeană/sectoarelor municipiului București a olimpiadelor naționale școlare - 2023**

**Probă scrisă**

**Limba engleză**

**CLASA a X-a - SECȚIUNEA B**

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

**SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)**

**I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (20 points)**

**Decoded secret letters reveal royal plot against Queen Elizabeth I**

The imprisoned Mary, Queen of Scots used sophisticated ciphers as she conspired to **overthrow** her cousin, Elizabeth I. Long thought lost, the letters were hiding in plain sight.

Mary, Queen of Scots, was a master at sending secret messages and codebreakers have spent centuries frustrated by her sharp ciphering skills. Whenever her surviving exchanges have been cracked, scholars thrill to the information found inside.

But the existence of one set of letters, believed lost, has **tantalized** historians for centuries: the ones she penned during her nineteen years in English prisons. Prior to her execution on February 8, 1587, Mary Stuart wrote dozens of secret letters to French officials believed to contain sensitive information about her plots to regain the Scottish throne and to usurp her first cousin and political rival, Queen Elizabeth I.

For centuries, scholars thought these letters were either **irretrievably** hidden or destroyed, but an international trio of amateur codebreakers has just proven them wrong. Using a complex combination of computer software and traditional codebreaking techniques, the three sleuths were able to crack Mary's cryptograms, revealing a wealth of new information about the monarch and her political milieu.

**A. Answer the following questions, according to the text.**

**8 points**

1. Why did Mary Stuart use ciphers?
2. How do scholars react when they have deciphered some codes?
3. Whose support was Mary Stuart trying to get to regain the throne of Scotland?
4. How did the amateur codebreakers manage to decipher the letters?

**B. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text.**

**6 points**

- |                         |                  |                 |                 |              |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>overthrow</b>     | a. chase         | b. wobble       | c. bring down   | d. agitate   |
| 2. <b>tantalized</b>    | a. intrigued     | b. ingratiated  | c. displeased   | d. satisfied |
| 3. <b>irretrievably</b> | a. irresponsibly | b. irreversibly | c. irrationally | d. incurably |

**C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning.**

**6 points**

1. Long thought lost, the letters were hiding in plain sight.  
In spite of ....., the letters were not actually lost.
2. Mary was a master at sending secret messages and codebreakers have spent centuries frustrated by her sharp ciphering skills.  
If Mary ..... a master at sending secret messages, codebreakers wouldn't have spent centuries deciphering them.
3. The three sleuths were able to crack Mary's cryptograms, revealing a wealth of new information about the monarch.  
A wealth of new information about the monarch ..... the three sleuths.

**II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits in each sentence.**

**10 points**

Mark Twain was an American (1) .... (**HUMOR**), journalist, lecturer, and novelist who acquired (2) ..... (**NATION**) fame for his travel narratives and for his adventure stories of (3) ..... (**BOY**), especially "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". A gifted raconteur and irascible moralist, he transcended the (4) ..... (**APPEAR**) limitations of his origins to become a popular public figure and one of America's best and most beloved writers. He was born two months (5) ..... (**MATURE**) and was in relatively poor health for the first 10 years of his life. It is not surprising that the pleasant events of youth might (6) ... (**WEIGH**) disturbing realities. In many ways his childhood was a rough one. In 1847 his father died of pneumonia, which further led to the family's financial (7) ..... (**STABLE**). He worked at several odd jobs in town, and aged 13 he became a printer's apprentice. He lived (8) .... (**SPARE**) in the Ament household but was allowed to continue his (9) .... (**SCHOOL**) and, from time to time, indulge in boyish (10) .... (**AMUSE**).

**III. Translate the following text into English.**

**10 points**

În dimineața zilei ei de naștere, cineva trimisese un buchet imens de flori cu un plic și când Maitreyi a văzut scrisul s-a tulburat toată, a citit repede scrisoarea temându-se neîncetat să nu o surprindă cineva.

- Ascunde-o în birou și vezi să nu o ia nimeni. Am să ți-o cer mai târziu, îmi spuse ea, roșind. Păstrez și acum acea scrisoare, deși nu m-am încumetat încă să o citesc. Mă gândesc adesea ce adorator i-o fi trimis atunci florile și de ce a mințit Maitreyi, spunând că primise buchetul de la o colegă de școală care nu putuse veni...

(Mircea Eliade, *Maitreyi*)

**SUBIECTUL B – INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)**

**Read the following text and do the tasks.**

Art history tells the complex story of human civilization through art and design. It ranges from prehistoric art of the Neolithic period through Renaissance masterpieces, Impressionism, Modernism, the Bauhaus and contemporary art.

Impressionism was a radical art movement that began in the late 1800s, centered primarily around Parisian painters. Impressionists rebelled against classical subject matter and embraced modernity, desiring to create works that reflected the world in which they lived. Uniting them was a focus on how light could define a moment in time, with colour providing definition instead of black lines. The Impressionists emphasized the practice of plein air painting, or painting outside. Initially derided by critics, Impressionism has since been embraced as one of the most popular and influential art styles in Western history.

Impressionism coalesced in the 1860s when a group of painters including Claude Monet, Alfred Sisley and Pierre-Auguste Renoir pursued plein air painting together. American John Rand never joined their ranks as a preeminent artist, but as a painter living in London, he designed in 1841 a device that would revolutionize the art world: paint in a tube. His clever new technology offered easily portable, pre-mixed paint, and allowed painters to bring their process outdoors. Rand's technological leap allowed spontaneity and a casual quality to the work of Impressionists. Over time, other artists joined in the practice, and their exploration together moved from indoor studios to outdoor cafes, with regular get-togethers to discuss their ideas.

Realist painter Edouard Manet was part of this crowd and is often referred to as an Impressionist because of his early influence on and close friendships with the members of the movement. The Impressionists took many of Manet's techniques to heart, particularly his embrace of modernity as subject matter and the spontaneity of his brush strokes, along with his use of colour and lighting. All these qualities are displayed in his 1863 painting *Le Dejeuner sur l'herbe*.

The movement made its official debut in 1874 in a show hosted by the Paris photography studio of Félix Nadar. This show was an alternative to the Académie des Beaux-Arts' Salon de Paris, which had been the official exhibition and overseer of art world standards since 1667. The Impressionists took their name from an insult hurled by the press at one of Monet's paintings, *Impression, Sunrise*. Critics heaped scorn on the work presented in the show as "unfinished" and compared it unfavourably to wallpaper.

Monet was a leader of the movement, and his brief brush strokes and fragmented colour application found their way into the works of others. He was particularly interested in the passage of time in his portrayal of light. His series of paintings capturing Rouen Cathedral at different times of the year and day offer clear examples of Monet's ideas on how a subject can be transformed by properties around it. His most famous of this series is 1894's *Rouen Cathedral: The Facade at Sunset*. Monet expanded his Impressionist practice throughout his life, culminating in his multiple studies of the Water Lily Pond, produced from 1898 to 1926, of which the later works in the series (done just before his death) achieve an almost abstract quality.

Renoir was considered the other leader of the Impressionist movement. He shared Monet's interests but often preferred to capture artificial light in places like dance halls and directed his studies of the effects of light on figures, particularly the female form, rather than scenery, and he frequently focused on portraiture. Everyday life was Renoir's preferred subject matter, and his portrayal of it is drenched in optimism. His 1876 painting *Moulin de la Galette*, which depicts the crowded dance garden on the Butte Montmartre, utilizes both artificial and natural light to portray a jolly party atmosphere and highlights many of Renoir's interests.

**I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) fits best according to the text. 10 points**

1. Impressionism has stood out to this day as
  - A. a style of art which did not reflect the contemporary world.
  - B. one of the most influential art styles of the Renaissance.
  - C. a style which praised the practice of painting outside.
  - D. an attempt to rebel against modernity.
2. The Impressionist artist who is better known for an invention rather than his painting is
  - A. Claude Monet.
  - B. Alfred Sisley.
  - C. Pierre Auguste Renoir.
  - D. John Rand.

3. Which of these is **NOT** one of Manet's innovations?
- A. The modernity in the choice of subject matter
  - B. The clever invention of paint in a tube
  - C. The spontaneity of his brush strokes
  - D. The use of colour and lighting
4. The Impressionist movement took its name from
- A. one of Monet's paintings.
  - B. Renoir's interest in capturing light.
  - C. Felix Nadar's photography studio.
  - D. Edouard Manet's earlier influence.
5. Renoir was an influential Impressionist painter for
- A. his studies of the Water Lilly Pond.
  - B. the abstract quality of his painting.
  - C. his studies of the effects of light.
  - D. his female portraits.

**II. Starting from the text above, write a for-and-against essay on the following topic:** *While some people think art is an important subject for children to study, others think it is a waste of time.* **(200-220 words)** **50 points**