

**OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ – ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ  
CLUJ-NAPOCA  
Aprilie 2023**

**CLASA A IX-A - SECȚIUNEA B**

**Probă scrisă**

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Nu se acordă puncte din oficiu.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 90 de minute.

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

***The Theft of the Mona Lisa***

Arguably the most famous painting in the world, Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa, has enjoyed pride of place at Paris's Louvre Museum for centuries. But, for a brief period in the early 1900s, the art world was rocked by the mysterious disappearance of the celebrated portrait.

It was on the morning of 22 August, 1911 when officials at the Louvre discovered that the Mona Lisa had gone missing. The police were immediately summoned and, by noon, a team of investigators was **scouring** the museum in search of clues. They found the frame of the Mona Lisa in a stairwell and little else. Authorities suspected that the crime was an 'inside job', but had little evidence to support their theory. The investigation continued; however, as time went by, hopes of finding the portrait began to **dwindle**.

Two years later, a Florentine antiques dealer, Alfredo Geri, was approached by a man who claimed to be in possession of the Mona Lisa. The man offered to sell the painting to Geri, but only if the antiques dealer could guarantee that the painting would go on display at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. Intrigued by the proposition, Geri arranged to meet with the man the next day in order to verify the authenticity of the painting and negotiate a selling price. Then, Geri notified the authorities.

The following day, Geri visited the man at his hotel in Florence, and, once the painting had been authenticated, the man was arrested. It **emerged** that the man, Vincenzo Perugia, had worked briefly at the Louvre and that he had stolen the painting in order to return it to Italy, its rightful home. Though Perugia spent several months in jail for his crime, the Italians praised his actions, calling him a hero and a patriot. The Mona Lisa went on display in Italy before it was returned to France on 4 January, 1914.

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

**8 points**

1. Who did the French authorities believe to be the author of the crime?
2. What was Alfredo Geri's reaction to the man's proposal?
3. What was Perugia's main motivation for stealing the painting?
4. What is the writer's attitude towards Perugia's action?

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

**6 points**

- |                    |              |              |               |              |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>scouring</b> | a. scrubbing | b. searching | c. removing   | d. cleaning  |
| 2. <b>dwindle</b>  | a. escalate  | b. neglect   | c. decrease   | d. waste     |
| 3. <b>emerged</b>  | a. appeared  | b. escaped   | c. originated | d. concluded |

**C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning.****6 points**

1. Authorities suspected that the crime was an 'inside job'.  
The crime ..... be an inside job' by the authorities.
2. The man offered to sell the painting to Geri, but only if the antiques dealer could guarantee that the painting would go on display at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.  
The man wouldn't have offered to sell the painting to Geri ..... guaranteed that the painting would go on display at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.
3. The Mona Lisa went on display in Italy before it was returned to France on 4 January, 1914.  
The Mona Lisa had been displayed in Italy prior ..... to France on 4 January, 1914.

**II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that best fits in each sentence. 10 points**

Adverts are very creative and attract our attention; they are also highly **(1) \_\_\_\_ (PERSUADE)** and influence the way we think. Their aim is to make us believe we will feel a certain way if we purchase the product which is being advertised. For example, many adverts for products show good-looking, **(2) \_\_\_\_ (SUCCEED)** people enjoying themselves and consuming or using a specific product. This plays on our psychology and our sense of self-worth, and it makes us want to buy the product so that we can look and feel like the models in the adverts.

Images and lifestyles aren't the only thing that advertising imposes on us. Artificial needs are also imposed on us. We are **(3) \_\_\_\_ (CONSTANT)** exposed to visual and verbal adverts which try to convince us that our lives will be improved if we buy a particular product. Don't tell me the plasma TV or the air **(4) \_\_\_\_ (FRESH)** advertised on TV is a necessity. However, clever advertising creates in people a sense of need for material goods, which if they don't acquire, can often lead to feelings of inferiority and **(5) \_\_\_\_ (HAPPY)**.

Advertising also gives a distorted picture of reality, which creates **(6) \_\_\_\_ (REAL)** expectations, particularly among young children and teenagers. Many adverts are targeted **(7) \_\_\_\_ (SPECIFIC)** at these age groups, creating an intense desire to own a particular product. The resulting pressure on parents is so great that they often give in to the demands of their children in order to avoid confrontation and tantrums, thus creating patterns of **(8) \_\_\_\_ (CONSUME)** and gratification at the expense of other values in life. This **(9) \_\_\_\_ (VICE)** cycle can have a very detrimental effect on children and, **(10) \_\_\_\_ (CONSEQUENCE)**, the future of society.

**III. Translate the following text into English.****10 points**

Nem tudnám senkinek elmagyarázni, hogyan íródnak a könyvek, nemhogy tanácsot adni, mit tegyen és mit ne. Ha ilyet tennék, megszégyelleném magam, mert még csak kezdő író vagyok, még csak tanulom a szakmát. Ha nem is értek túlságosan a történetíráshoz, legalább tanultam valamit az életről embertársaim megfigyelése által. Megtanultam valamit magamról és az írás művészetéről is. Ha nem biztattak volna azok, akik különféle folyóiratokban olvasták novelláimat, nem lett volna erőm tovább írni a regényemet. Fontos, hogy aki híres akar lenni, a saját erejére támaszkodjon, de tapasztalatból tudom, hogy embertársaink segítségével nem nagyon lehet messze jutni. Lehet, hogy tévedek, de nem hiszem.