

**INSPECTORATUL SCOLAR AL MUNICIPIULUI BUCURESTI**  
**EXAMEN DE VERIFICARE A CUNOSTINTELOR DE LIMBA ENGLEZA**  
**PENTRU ADMITEREA IN CLASA A IXA - PROBA SCRISA**

**I. Read the following article. Five sentences have been removed. Choose from the sentences the one which fits each gap 1 – 5. There are two extra sentences you do not need to use. (5 points)**

- A. This is why he thought they would make good servants and slaves.
- B. When the Spaniards were ready, they picked the best 'specimens' to load onto the ships.
- C. Why not sail west, thought Columbus, and reach the Indies that way?
- D. When Columbus and his sailors came ashore, the Arawaks ran to greet them bringing them food and gifts.
- E. They thought the best way to do this was by sailing south round Africa and eastwards.
- F. For others, he is responsible for the introduction of slavery and the destruction of Native American culture.
- G. We know very little about Columbus' childhood and education.

**Columbus: Hero or Villain?**

Most people are taught at school that Columbus is one of the greatest heroes of Western civilization. For a lot of people, he not only discovered America but introduced the arts, law and religion to the primitive tribes of the New World. (1 – ) Which view is more reliable? We should consider the facts.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Portuguese were one of the most powerful nations on earth. By the end of the century, they were sailing further and further into the Atlantic, in search of a new route to India. (2 – ) It seemed the most sensible thing to do, but the journey was much further than they thought.

Columbus came up with an original solution to the problem: he decided to turn Portugal's strategy for an eastern sea route on its head. (3 – ) No European before had deliberately sailed ships away from land, with no certainty of getting back home safely. In the end, it was the Spanish King and Queen who gave Columbus ships and men and in return he promised to bring "as much gold as they need...and as many slaves as they ask".

When the gold Columbus had found was not enough, he made the natives into slaves. The slave trade started when Columbus' men captured 500 Arawak men, women and children and kept them imprisoned, guarded by Spaniards and dogs. (4 – ) Of those, only 300 survived the trip. When they arrived in Spain they were sold.

Columbus thought the Indians were gentler and more intelligent than he had expected. (5 – ) During his later voyages to the Caribbean he imposed terrible punishments on the Indians. Yet Columbus was always warning his officers to treat the Indians well and he often seemed genuinely moved by the beauty of the natives' culture.

**II. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given in brackets. Do not change the word given. Use between two and five words, including the word given. (10points)**

1. Tony finds history easier than geography. (**not**) → Geography \_\_\_\_\_ history for Tony.
2. You have to wear safety helmets at all times. (**worn**) → Safety helmets \_\_\_\_\_ at all times.
3. We arrived at the cinema too late for the start of the film. (**already**) → The film \_\_\_\_\_ the time we arrived at the cinema.
4. We didn't find a place to park outside the shop (**to**) → We \_\_\_\_\_ park outside the shop.
5. "I'll never forget the way we met," he said. (**would**) → He \_\_\_\_\_ the way they had met.
6. The snake will bite if you threaten it. (**unless**) → The snake \_\_\_\_\_ threaten it.
7. Lisa's grandfather is teaching her Chinese. (**being**) → Lisa \_\_\_\_\_ her grandfather.
8. I find driving on the left in England very strange. (**used to**) → I \_\_\_\_\_ on the left in England.
9. He won't go swimming – he's afraid of water. (**were**) → If he \_\_\_\_\_, he would go swimming.
10. They started learning computing two months ago. (**been**) → They \_\_\_\_\_ two months.

**III. Complete the gaps in the text below with one word that best fits each space. There is one example. (10 points)**  
**THE JOY OF ICE-SKATING**

A lot of people have a go 0 at ice-skating in their teenage years and many will remember slipping over – to the great amusement of friends and family. For 1\_\_\_ majority of people, therefore, ice-skating is remembered as a bit of a laugh, or possibly as a skill they couldn't master, and very 2\_\_\_ ever go back and attempt to take 3\_\_\_ the sport seriously. This is 4\_\_\_ shame, because once they 5\_\_\_ overcome their nerves, and built 6\_\_\_ a bit of confidence, people discover 7\_\_\_ ice-skating is great exercise as 8\_\_\_ as being enjoyable and fun. Most major cities in the UK now have ice-skating rinks, and so a 9\_\_\_ more people could rediscover the sport. Most rinks have an introductory package for new ice-skaters which includes either group 10\_\_\_ individual lessons.

**IV. For questions 1 – 15, read the text below and decide which word A, B, C or D best fits each space. There is an example at the beginning (0). (15 points)**

Last summer, air pollution in Paris reached dangerous 0 A on six separate occasions. As a result, the government have recently decided that public transport in French cities will be 1 \_\_\_ on days when pollution becomes a 2 \_\_\_ to people's health, in a(n) 3 \_\_\_ to encourage people to leave their cars at home.

The Mayor of Paris said that he had several other ideas to reduce the pollution problem, such as free parking on the 4 \_\_\_ of the city on hot, still days when exhaust fumes tend to accumulate. He has also 5 \_\_\_ a €6 million plan for 56 km of bicycle tracks, new pedestrianised 6 \_\_\_ and a new tram 7 \_\_\_ for southern Paris. His most popular measure 8 \_\_\_ becoming mayor last May has been to 9 \_\_\_ traffic from several streets on Sundays.

Every summer, air quality is at its 10 \_\_\_ in Paris during holiday weekends, especially one weekend in July when the 11 \_\_\_ of the population leave by car for their summer holidays. 12 \_\_\_ then improve for the summer, but deteriorate again when most residents return at the end of August.

The free transport 13 \_\_\_ is part of the response to a new environmental regulation which says that local authorities must guarantee 14 \_\_\_ air. If it is 15 \_\_\_ seriously, locals can look forward to a cleaner Paris in the future.

- |    |              |                  |               |               |
|----|--------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0  | A. levels    | B. positions     | C. degrees    | D. standards  |
| 1  | A. open      | B. loose         | C. off        | D. free       |
| 2  | A. risk      | B. terror        | C. threat     | D. damage     |
| 3  | A. try       | B. pursuit       | C. trial      | D. effort     |
| 4  | A. outskirts | B. areas         | C. suburbs    | D. provinces  |
| 5  | A. exclaimed | B. announced     | C. stated     | D. put in     |
| 6  | A. rails     | B. zones         | C. crossings  | D. tracks     |
| 7  | A. line      | B. lane          | C. series     | D. path       |
| 8  | A. as        | B. from          | C. since      | D. while      |
| 9  | A. discharge | B. expel         | C. restrict   | D. ban        |
| 10 | A. top       | B. limits        | C. full       | D. worst      |
| 11 | A. lots      | B. majority      | C. most       | D. plenty     |
| 12 | A. Occasion  | B. Opportunities | C. Conditions | D. Situations |
| 13 | A. measure   | B. action        | C. answer     | D. move       |
| 14 | A. saved     | B. secure        | C. new        | D. safe       |
| 15 | A. taken     | B. thought       | C. held       | D. formed     |

**V. Read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some lines are correct and some contain a word which should not be there. If the line is correct put a tick (✓). If the line contains a word which should not be there, write the word beside it. There are two examples (0, 00) (10 points)**

|  |    |    |
|--|----|----|
| We reached to the Tower at ten o'clock in the morning.             | 0  | to |
| The first thing we saw was the large queue already stretching      | 00 | ✓  |
| a good way along the path. But the Tower it looked so big          | 1  |    |
| that we were sure there must to be room for us all inside.         | 2  |    |
| We joined with the queue and waited. British people are better at  | 3  |    |
| this queuing business than us, as I have learned from living here. | 4  |    |
| Finally the doors opened, we paid our money, and went in and       | 5  |    |
| began finding out our way around the Tower. I was surprised        | 6  |    |
| to see so very much armour – the metal worn by fighting men.       | 7  |    |
| And I was very frightened when I saw that where so many            | 8  |    |
| people had had their heads cut off by the man with                 | 9  |    |
| the axe. Altogether I did found the Tower rather frightening.      | 10 |    |

**VI. Read the text and use the words given in capitals to form words that fit in the numbered gaps. The words are given in the order in which you need to use them. There is an example at the beginning. (10 points)**

**0 – BEAUTY; 1 – TOURIST; 2 – SUCCEED; 3 – TRADITION; 4 – ATTRACT; 5 – LEGEND; 6 – VISIT; 7 – LARGE; 8 – FAME; 9 – COAST; 10 – COMBINE**

The 0 *beautiful* Cornish peninsula, on Britain's south-western tip, is one of the country's most popular areas as far as 1 \_\_\_ is concerned. Thousands of years ago, Cornwall was a centre of Celtic culture. The Romans tried without 2 \_\_\_ to conquer the region, and it managed to keep its 3 \_\_\_ way of life and its own language. One of the area's main tourist 4 \_\_\_ is the now ruined castle of Tintagel, where the 5 \_\_\_ King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table are said to have lived. 6 \_\_\_ can still see the remains of the hall, which is 7 \_\_\_ intact. Cornwall is also 8 \_\_\_ for its beaches on the English Channel, to the south-east, and its spectacular 9 \_\_\_ scenery on the Atlantic. The 10 \_\_\_ of a rich history and outstanding natural beauty make this area well worth visiting.

**SCRIETI RASPUNSURILE PE FOAIA DE RASPUNS (ANSWER SHEET). BARATI TOATE SPATIILE NECOMPLETATE. TIMP DE LUCRU: 60 DE MINUTE. SE ACORDA 10 PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.**