THE INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD
CONSTANȚA SEPTEMBER 2024
USE OF ENGLISH
LEVEL B1

All questions are compulsory
Alloted points: 40
Alloted time: 90 minutes

I. Read the text below and do the tasks that follow. **(10 points)**

Timothy, a lively and curious seven-year-old, eagerly waited for his beloved Aunt Lily to arrive. Known for her adventurous spirit and warm hugs, Aunt Lily had always held a special place in his heart. She had promised a big surprise during this visit, sparking Timothy's imagination with endless ideas.

When Aunt Lily's car finally pulled into the driveway, Timothy ran out with great excitement. Aunt Lily stepped out with her usual big smile and, with a dramatic **flourish**, opened the back door. Out jumped a golden retriever, her coat shining in the sunlight and her tail wagging fast.

"Meet Tara," Aunt Lily said, laughing as Timothy's eyes widened with joy.

"She's magnificent!" Timothy exclaimed, dropping to his knees to pet the dog lovingly. Tara responded with excited licks to his face, **eliciting** a lot of giggles.

Aunt Lily explained that Tara was a rescue dog needing a loving home. Timothy's parents had already agreed to adopt Tara, knowing their son's deep love for animals. This news filled Timothy's heart with uncontainable joy. In the weeks that followed, Tara became Timothy's loyal companion. They went on many adventures, from exploring the nearby woods to playing fetch in the park.

One warm afternoon, as Timothy and Tara played in the backyard, Tara suddenly stopped and looked towards the woods. Curious, Timothy followed her gaze and found a small, injured bird lying helplessly on the ground. Remembering Aunt Lily's lessons on kindness, Timothy carefully picked up the bird and ran to find his aunt. With Aunt Lily's help, Timothy made a **makeshift** sanctuary for the bird using a shoebox. She explained how they could help it get better. With their careful attention, the bird slowly got stronger.

Aunt Lily's frequent visits continued to enrich his life, bringing joy and invaluable lessons that Timothy would cherish forever.

A. Answer the following questions according to the text. **(4 points)**

1. What traits make Aunt Lily special to Timothy?
2. How does Timothy manifest his love for Tara?
3. What does Timothy learn from helping the injured bird?
4. What is the significance of Aunt Lily's frequent visits for Timothy's development?

B. Choose the right synonym for the words below, according to their meaning in the text. **(3 points)**

1. flourish:	**a)** gesture	**b)** swirl	**c)** blossom	**d)** wave
2. eliciting:	**a)** extorting	**b)** begging	**c)** determining	**d)** prompting
3. makeshift:	**a)** temporary	**b)** improvised	**c)** rudimentary	**d)** alternative

C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning . **(3 points)**

1.She had promised a big surprise during this visit, sparking Timothy's imagination with endless ideas.
If it _____, Timothy would have expected a lot less from her visit.
2. Timothy's parents had already agreed to adopt Tara, knowing his deep love for animals.
Such _____ that his parents had already agreed to adopt Tara.
3. With their careful attention, the bird slowly got stronger.
The _____, the stronger the bird got.

II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap. **(10 points)**

Helen Keller's life is a testament to overcoming immense challenges. She was **(1) _____ (PRISON)** by her condition and limited in communication by total **(2) _____ (BLIND)** and hearing loss from an early age. Yet, while growing up, she was totally **(3) _____ (IMPRESS)** with the **(4) _____ (TYPE)** and misconceptions, present both in the media and in the minds of people, about the limits of those with **(5) _____ (ABLE)**. All those generalities actually made her want more from a life that had appeared doomed once. Instead of accepting her fate, she fought against it. Refusing to be confined by her condition, Helen showed incredible strength. Her **(6) _____ (POSSESS)** of a strong will meant a lot. This, along with the deferential support of her teacher, Anne Sullivan, helped her move forward. Anne taught Helen with enthusiasm, showing her a whole new world through touch. Helen often explored objects at her **(7) _____ (FINGER)** with a sense of wonder, thus slowly learning to understand her surroundings. Despite the **(8) _____ (DREAM)** and dislocated sense of normality in her life, she **(9) _____ (TRIUMPH)** overcame all obstacles. Eventually, Helen Keller went on to become an **(10) _____ (INFLUENCE)** author, political activist, and lecturer who shaped the history of the fight for human rights.

III. Five sentences have been removed from the text below. Read the text and use the sentences A – H to fill in the gaps in the text. There are THREE sentences you do not need. **(10 points)**

The Bermuda Triangle

The area we know as the Bermuda Triangle lies between Florida, Bermuda and Puerto Rico which, when you look at them on a map, form a triangle. Inside this triangle, the crews of planes and ships have reported a number of strange happenings. In addition, there have been many stories of ships and planes disappearing under strange circumstances.

The first reported incident of something odd happening in the area was when Christopher Columbus sailed through on his voyage to the New World in 1492. Columbus commented that the stars appeared to move around in the sky. He also reported a tongue of fire crashing into the sea. **(1) ____** Columbus mentioned that even his compass behaved in an unusual way.

Another unusual story is the disappearance of a 170-metre ship with 300 sailors in 1918. The ship was sailing between Brazil and the USA when it vanished, never to be seen again. Even though it had functioning communications equipment, the ship didn't send any emergency message. **(2) ___** Given these normal conditions, rescue people were puzzled that they couldn't find anything - how is it possible that not a single piece of the ship was ever found or washed up on shore?

Another account that has added a sense of mystery to the area took place in December, 1945. Five US aeroplanes, known as Flight 19, disappeared in the region. The lead pilot's radio message suggested that they were lost and that nothing looked as it should. For example, he mentioned that, while they expected the water to be white, it appeared to be green. The pilot added that his compass was not behaving in the usual manner. **(3) ___** A rescue plane, sent to find out what had happened, also disappeared along with its crew.

When we look for a logical explanation to these tragedies, there are several possibilities. Many people believe that most accidents are due to the heavy traffic, not to some mystery. **(4) ___** It makes sense, given the numbers, that a percentage of them will crash or sink. That does not mean that supernatural forces are involved, as it is simply a matter of statistics.

Scientific explanations include the possibility of giant waves, or that some kind of tornado could have been involved. People have attempted to explain the unusual compass activity by pointing out that the area is famous for being at the heart of a powerful magnetic field. **(5) ___** Any combination of these natural causes could explain the events in a perfectly reasonable way.

A. Despite there being no reports of bad weather in the area, all five planes vanished and the crews were lost.
B. Although we now have sophisticated diving equipment, that did not use to be the case.
C. Others have suggested that methane gas rising from the ocean floor stops GPS equipment from working properly.
D. Furthermore, they say, thousands of planes and ships make it through the area without incident.
E. In addition, he said he saw a light moving up and down above the sea.
F. On the contrary, the last known message simply stated that all was well and the weather was good.
G. However, there are still plenty of people who look for supernatural explanations.
H. That is probably one of the wildest suggestions.

IV. Fill in the gaps in the text with ONE appropriate word only. **(10 points)**

Tourism in Europe

Tourism in Europe is a major industry, attracting millions of visitors **(1)** _____ year. Europe's diverse landscapes, rich history, and cultural heritage make **(2)** _____ a popular destination **(3)** _____ tourists from around the world. Many tourists travel across Europe to visit iconic landmarks such **(4)** _____ the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Colosseum in Rome, **(5)** _____ the Acropolis in Athens. These attractions showcase Europe's architectural and historical significance. In addition to historical landmarks, Europe offers a wide range **(6)** _____ activities for travellers. For **(7)** _____, one can enjoy skiing in the Alps, sunbathing on Mediterranean beaches, or hiking in the scenic countryside. Cultural festivals and events are also abundant, providing unique experiences. In spring or summer most top European destinations pride themselves **(8)** _____ hosting traditional carnivals or culinary gatherings. Tourism also contributes significantly **(9)** _____ the economy of European countries. Tourists come to their destination of choice to spend money and this provides jobs for many people in the hospitality and service sectors. Last but not least, Europe is easy to explore. Distances between points of attraction are not huge, and the infrastructure is greatly taken care of. So, visitors can explore vibrant cities, picturesque villages, and beautiful landscapes in one batch. They can indulge **(10)** _____ local cuisine, shop for souvenirs, and immerse themselves in diverse cultures.