THE INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD
CONSTANȚA SEPTEMBER 2024
USE OF ENGLISH
LEVEL C1

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

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

The only known surviving portrait taken from life of sibling literary **luminaries** Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë has gone home. Part of the collection of the National Portrait Gallery in London, the painting is on display at the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth to take part in an exhibition honoring the bicentenary of Emily's birthday (July 30th, 1818). The painting will only be on view at the parsonage through to August 31st. It was painted by Branwell Brontë around 1834 at the Haworth parsonage, the family's home on the Yorkshire moors, which is now the Brontë Parsonage Museum. Usually, the Museum has to make do with a copy of the famous group portrait, but the original work is now being exhibited in Emily's honor. While this is the only undisputed portrait of Emily, author of *Wuthering Heights,* the honor is a transitory one, however.

The work has quite a **chequered** history. Branwell originally included a self-portrait in the group between Emily and Charlotte; however, for unknown reasons, he painted himself out, covering his likeness with a weirdly random green ectoplasmic pillar. Because of that odd feature, the painting is known as the Pillar Portrait.

Charlotte, the oldest child, was also the last survivor of the Brontë siblings. She had married her father's curate Arthur Bell Nicholls in 1854. A year later, Charlotte passed away, but Nicholls remained at Haworth until 1861. Then he returned to his hometown in Ireland. He sold the contents of Haworth but he kept manuscripts, ephemera and personal effects, including the group painting, even though he apparently hated it. He put it on top of an upstairs cupboard and let people believe it was lost for decades. It was rediscovered in 1913, seven years after Nicholls' death, by his second wife and cousin, Mary. By then it was out of its frame, off its stretcher and folded in four. The widow told her niece that Nicholls "disliked them very much. He thought they were very ugly representations of the girls. I think he meant to destroy them, but perhaps shrank from doing so. You see, there is only one other existing portrait of Charlotte, and none at all of Emily and Anne."

That last bit is not true, though. There was actually a portrait by Branwell (scholars disagree whether this is of Emily or Anne) found on top of the same cupboard as the Pillar Portrait. According to Mrs. Nicholls herself, the single portrait was **cut out of** a group portrait, as her husband "thought it good but the others were bad".

(adapted from https://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/51670#)

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

1. Why is the honor of having the Pillar Portrait on display at the Brontë Parsonage Museum a transitory one?
2. What feature gives the name under which the portrait of the Bronte siblings is known?
3. What was Arthur Bell Nicholls' opinion of the 1834 portrait of the Brontë siblings?
4. How many group portraits by Branwell Brontë seem to have existed?

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

1. luminaries:	**a)** leaders;	**b)** masterminds;	**c)** influencers;	**d)** personalities
2. chequered:	**a)** amorphous;	**b)** jumbled;	**c)** troubled;	**d)** diverse
3. cut out of:	**a)** ousted from;	**b)** extracted from ;	**c)** abolished from ;	**d)** erased from

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

1. Usually, the Museum has to make do with a copy of the famous group portrait, but the original work is now being exhibited in Emily's honor.

Despite usually _____ as to honor Emily.

2. A year later, Charlotte passed away, but Nicholls remained at Haworth until 1861.

Following _____ on at Haworth until 1861.

3. According to Mrs. Nicholls, the single portrait was cut out of a group portrait, as her husband "thought it good but the others were bad".

If Mrs. Nicholls' husband _____ the single portrait of the group.

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

Full recovery from an IT failure that wreaked havoc **(1) _____ (WORLD)** on Friday could take weeks, experts have said, after airports, healthcare services and businesses were hit by the "largest **(2)_____ (OUT)** in history."

A Microsoft (**3) _____ (PERSON)** said: "We're aware of an issue affecting Windows devices due to an update from a third-party software platform. We anticipate a resolution is (**4) _____ (COMING)**" CrowdStrike confirmed the problem was due to a software update from one of its products and was not caused by a cyber-attack. Its (**5) _____ (FOUND)** and chief executive, George Kurtz, said he was "deeply sorry for the impact that we've caused to customers". Troy Hunt, a (**6) _____ (LEADER)** cybersecurity consultant, said the scale of the IT failure was (**7) _____ (PRECEDENCE)**. "This is (**8) _____ (BASE)** what we were all worried about with Y2K, except it's actually happened this time", he added, referring to the "millennium bug" that worried IT experts but ultimately did not cause serious damage.

However, Ciaran Martin, the former chief executive of the National Cyber Security Centre, said that **(9) _____ (LIKE)** adversarial cyber-attacks, this problem had already been identified and a solution had been (**10) _____ (FLAG)**. (adapted from https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news)

III. Five paragraphs have been removed from the article below. Read the article and use the paragraphs A-F to fill in the gaps in the text. There is ONE extra paragraph which you do not need to use. **(10 points)**

Teenagers have gone through enough – national service is too much to ask

UK prime minister Rishi Sunak has announced plans to reintroduce national service should the Conservative party retain power in the general election. Under Sunak's proposed scheme, 18-year-olds would either spend a year in the military or one weekend out of every four volunteering. The scheme is intended to "foster a culture of service", which Sunak said would make society "more cohesive". **(1) ___** Sunak's plan positions young people as a problem. Requiring them to develop an ethos of service suggests that this is lacking in young people. Sunak has commented that national service will keep young people "out of trouble". **(2) ___**. The press bemoaned the end of the scheme at the time and since its end there have been repeated calls for its reintroduction, particularly when the moral panic is concerned with the behaviour of young men. Whether through drugs, anti-social behaviour, knife crime, early pregnancy, sexual identity, exploitation and radicalisation, young people are often labelled as thugs, users or victims.

But today's teenagers have been let down. In the last 14 years, youth services have been cut massively by the current Conservative and preceding coalition governments. **(3) ___**. More than 760 centres have closed and 4,500 youth work jobs have been lost. Government research, published in 2024, has found that if young people were able to attend a youth club they were likely to live healthier lives, less likely to be truant from school and more likely to attend higher education. But many young people are now missing out on the benefits of these.

(4) ___. National service would have the most striking effect on the most disadvantaged young people – those who are least likely to be able to give up weekends when they may have jobs or caring responsibilities, or spend a year out of the job market in the military. No solid plan on how mandatory national service would be enforced has been put forward, but if it involved fines, these would most penalise the poorest families.

Young people have been denied access to safe places and the youth workers who might support them. They have been the victims of a global pandemic that has seen them stripped of the usual rites of passage. (**5)** ___ In 2023 there were a record number of young people referred to child and adolescent mental health services. What young people need is a level of understanding, some sympathy with what they have faced over the last decade and a robust youth service restored – not to be required to also give up their weekends or spend a year of their lives in the military. *(https://theconversation.com*)

A. They face years of living with their parents due to unstable employment, zero-hours contracts, student loans, high rents and unattainable deposits. In the face of all of this, they are – not surprisingly – experiencing unprecedented levels of mental ill-health.

B. But this is a way of asking even more from young people who will have already suffered disruption to their education and social development as a result of the pandemic, some of whom have seen increased family hardship from the cost of living crisis and a lack of support due to widespread cuts in youth services.

C. The impact of these cuts has affected all young people, but it is the most vulnerable who have been hardest hit. Those who live in areas of social and economic deprivation are at much more risk and experience the most entrenched inequality and lack of opportunity.

D. This view of youth is far from new. Criminologist Stanley Cohen used the term "moral panic" to discuss the widespread and overblown alarm over disturbances between mods and rockers in 1964. These commotions occurred within a year of the end of national service.

E. Military service offers young people numerous benefits, including discipline, leadership skills, and a strong sense of responsibility. It fosters teamwork and camaraderie, enhancing social skills and resilience. Not to mention that the training and education provided can lead to valuable career opportunities, both within the military and in civilian life.

F. Safe places to meet, spend leisure time and have fun, overseen and supported by trained youth workers who are committed to offering them guidance and support, have been targets of austerity and local authority cuts. Between 2010 and 2019, the UK's youth service budget has been cut by £400 million.

IV. Fill in the gaps in the text below with ONE appropriate word in each gap. (10 points)

Let's just say that this book is certainly one open to a lot of controversy and debate, yet that is **(1)** _____ makes it such an interesting read. ***The Catcher in the Rye*** certainly wouldn't be everyone's cup of tea, however I find it an exciting and compelling read, with a gallon of brutal reality poured in **(2)** _____ with some humour, contrasting with moments of depression. **(3)** _____ being written in 1951, I think many teenagers today would be able to **(4)** _____ to the various themes present in the book. It is a modern classic of the **(5)** _____ of age genre.

I **(6)** _____ the main character, 17-year-old Holden Caulfield, absolutely intriguing and as I read the book, it was fascinating to get **(7)** _____ the head of the strange, rebellious protagonist. What strikes me the **(8)** _____ is the way Salinger creates a brash atmosphere from the **(9)** _____ beginning of the book with Holden **(10)** _____ portrayed as insolent, lazy and quite frankly, completely clueless about his future.