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ETAPA LOCALA
CLASA a X-a - SECȚIUNEA B
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Varianta 1

SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH**I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks. (20p)**

We are all aware of the dramatic increase in popularity of energy drinks in the past few years. From being a stimulant used in sport, they're now widely available and popular across a much greater age range. The success of the energy drinks is so great that sales have doubled in the last 8 years. What concerns me is the increase in consumption of energy drinks among schoolchildren. One child in twenty would pick an energy drink instead of breakfast, if one gave them the choice. The effect these drinks have is dramatic; teachers report hyperactivity and jittery behaviour, followed quite rapidly by a sudden drop to lethargy and tiredness. And it is children as young as ten who are often the targets of energy drinks advertising. What makes them so dangerous is that these drinks contain thirteen spoons of sugar and up to 10 mg of caffeine per litre. Therefore, a leading supermarket chain has recently decided to ban the sale of such drinks to children under sixteen. I totally agree with the idea. Under no circumstances should young children be drinking this kind of thing.

A. Answer the following questions. (4x2p=8p)

1. What does the consumption of energy drinks trigger in the case of children?
2. Which is one proof of the increasing popularity of such drinks?
3. What are the perilous elements contained by energy drinks?
4. What is the outlook regarding these beverages?

B. Choose the right synonym. (3x2p=6p)

1. **stimulant:** a. craze b. impetus c. incentive d. fortitude
2. **jittery:** a. aflutter b. uplifted c. staggered d. nutty
3. **tiredness:** a. fatigue b. torpidity c. laxness d. expenditure

C. Rephrase the second sentence so as to preserve the meaning, using the word given. DO NOT CHANGE the word given. You must use between TWO and FIVE words, including the word given.
(3x2p=6p)

1. He did the same job as his father, as it was expected of him. **FOOTSTEPS**
He followed, as it was expected of him.
2. They should have told him the truth. **BETTER**
It they had told him the truth.
3. Jenny Smith was interviewing candidates. **BY**
Candidates Jenny Smith.

II. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0). (10 x 1p = 10p)**Take-away food in Britain**

The fish and chip shop is the most (0) *traditional* form of British take-away, a place which sells (1) hot meals at lunch time and in the evening. However, the last thirty or forty years have seen the rapid spread of foreign fast food restaurants, and there are now few towns without Chinese, Indian and Italian restaurants, as well as many other (2) of food.

Despite the constant (3), the concept is always the same: (4) meals to eat in or take away for clients who don't have the time or energy to cook for themselves. Restaurants such as MacDonald's pioneered the idea of fast food to be eaten whilst sitting down in the restaurant itself, and also developed ways of (5) their customers ate (6) and left.

Visitors to Britain are advised to try everything at least once, (7) the foods which are not common in their own countries. They are also warned not to make (8) with the food they eat at home; the pizza and pasta which is served in London, is very (9) to be as (10) as the dishes available in Naples or Rome.

TRADITION
AFFORD

VARY
INNOVATE
ECONOMY

SURE
QUICK
SPECIAL

COMPARE
LIKE
TASTE

III. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. (10x1=10p)**Simply Entertainment?**

Many youngsters these days easily devote more time than they do to any other form of entertainment. Each year children read less and (1) ... and watch television more and more. In fact, a typical child sits through an average (2) ... about four hours of TV viewing every day. They spend more time on this form of entertainment (3) ... they spend talking to parents, playing with friends, attending school or reading books.

According (4) ... a recent study, sixty-two percent of television programmes contain scenes of violence. It would be logical then to assume that watching a steady flow of violent images on screen cannot (5) ... seen simply as entertainment. The bright colours, quick movements and sudden flashes will always capture a child's attention and there are certainly very (6) ... children who find television totally uninteresting.

If we listen to the experts, it seems (7) ... viewing large amounts of TV violence does not necessarily cause a child to act in a violent (8) ..., but can lead to the view that violence (9) ... acceptable in everyday life, as well as possibly creating a fear of being attacked on the streets.

With governments finally taking measures to improve the quality of children's TV, parents must now become aware that (10) ... many hours of viewing can have serious effects on a child's behavior and attitude. Obviously, turning off the set could be the best solution in the end.

SUBIECTUL B - INTEGRATED SKILLS

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

Fashion during recession

Current economic trends present an opportunity for many people to look at fashion in a way they haven't before.

Many consumers are looking for fashion that is not only affordable, but stylish as well. According to some fashion experts, this has forced designers and retailers to lose the excess fluff and get back to the meat and potatoes of their lines and offerings. That can mean clothes with a better fit and designs that are more in tune with their target markets, says Amanda Lovell, department chair of Fashion Design at The Art Institute of New York City.

"By making less and offering less, there is a stronger focus on producing items that are known sellers," Lovell says. "Designers and retailers need to get the most out of every purchase a customer makes, due to the fact that customers are thinking twice before buying excess pieces."

Each fashion brand, designer, and retailer has items that are known sellers, Lovell explains. "For example, the Gap most likely sells their short-sleeve Crewneck or V-neck, black fitted T-shirts for both men and women season after season regardless of the economy or forces in the trend cycle," she offers. Designers also have responded by offering lower-priced bridge lines, adds Mary Hall, who provides money-saving tips on fashion, dining out, and entertainment in her blog *The Recessionista*.

"There are fewer and fewer high-end collections with high prices coming out," says Hall, a Los Angeles marketing manager. "Now we have Norma Kamali at Walmart, Vera Wang and Dana Buchman at Kohl's, and the annual H&M designers. It makes fashion so much more accessible to consumers."

And as fashion focuses on getting more bang for the buck, shoppers are on the hunt for versatile clothing items that have a long shelf life.

"We all just got a little wiser and started exercising the power of the purse," Hall states. "We are shopping smarter. The new differentiator is value along with the best price."

Lovell agrees. "I believe from a consumer point of view, they are looking for pieces to add to their wardrobes that will take them further and have more staying power," she offers. "Classic pieces have been trending well."

To keep them looking up-to-date, many designers just give them a slightly newer spin. "Pieces such as the basic cardigan are receiving a face-lift with added bobbles and trimmings and simple touches in updating the buttons, or the cut," Lovell comments. "This is an example of a classic piece that women can wear and depend on year round. I see customers buying these pieces that they can get more wear out of."

Classic items aren't the only things popular in the down economy. Many thrift stores are seeing a boost in sales. According to a member survey by the National Association of Resale & Thrift Shops, slightly more than 64% of stores had an average increase in sales of 31%.

Lovell also says there's a resurgence of people mending their clothes and accessories before replacing them with new items. "For example, shoe repair shops have noticed an increase in business, as consumers bring in their shoes to be repaired as opposed to purchasing a new pair," she explains.

“Overall, trends in consumer buying behaviors change with what is going on socially, politically, and economically in the world. The fashion industry just needs to ride out this wave and consumers will soon be spending in excess as before,” Lovell opines.

However, some say the recession has prompted them to become more responsible in their spending habits – a change that could be permanent for many consumers.

I. For each question choose the correct letter A, B, C or D. (5 X 2p = 10 p)

1. Economic developments have made fashion professionals ...
 - A look for new consumer groups.
 - B focus on more basic things again.
 - C use only cheap materials.
 - D design more stylish clothes.
2. As designers reduce the range of products, they ...
 - A increase the price consumers have to pay.
 - B have to sell double the amount of goods.
 - C have their sales a little earlier than usual.
 - D put more emphasis on what consumers buy.
3. As consumers think more carefully about what they buy, they ...
 - A limit the number of clothes they own.
 - B spend more time shopping for clothes.
 - C focus more on quality and cost.
 - D prefer cheaper prices over quality.
4. It has become a trend to ...
 - A fix old clothes rather than get new ones.
 - B spend more on accessories rather than clothes.
 - C sell your old shoes to repair businesses.
 - D exchange broken or damaged things for new ones.
5. Lovell believes that after the recession ...
 - A fashion trends will become very different.
 - B shoppers will be buying as much as ever.
 - C the social and political world will improve.
 - D the fashion industry will continue to suffer.

II. Starting from the text above, write a narrative-descriptive essay about a visit to your favourite shopping centre. (220-250 words) (50p).

N. B. Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii!

Punctaj total 100p

Timp de lucru 3 ore!