

ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE
FACULTATEA DE COMUNICARE ȘI RELAȚII PUBLICE
ADMITERE 2018
SUBIECTE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

1. Write a story with the following ending: “I knew I had made a mistake.” Use 180-200 words.
2. Write a story that begins with the following sentence: “It all began one Sunday morning.” Use 180-200 words.
3. What were your favourite extracurricular activities when you were a high school student? Give details. Use 180-200 words.
4. What career would you like to pursue? Use specific reasons and details to motivate your choice. Use 180-200 words.
5. Which foreign country would you like to visit in the near future? Use specific reasons and details to motivate your choice. Use 180-200 words.
6. What do you think is the ideal part-time job for a student? You can write about personal experiences (if any) or friends’ experiences. Use 180-200 words.
7. If you could change one important thing about your hometown, what would you change? Give reasons to support your choice. Use 180-200 words.
8. If you were the mayor of your hometown, what project would you finance: a. an arts centre for poor children or b. an NGO fighting for environment protection? Use specific reasons and examples to motivate your choice. Use 180-200 words.
9. Your college wants to involve students in a social action project: caring for the elderly, playing with sick children in hospitals, teaching maths to children in poor communities. Which project would you choose and why? Give reasons to support your choice. Use 180-200 words.
10. A student magazine has asked you to contribute an article recommending a place that you know well as the best location for the summer holidays for low-budget students. Include in your article a description of the place and some recommendations about places to visit and activities to enjoy in the area. Use 180-200 words.
11. You are in charge of your high school’s self-study centre, which has not received appropriate funding for some time. Write a report to the principal explaining the problems you have and giving recommendations to improve the services offered to students. Use 180-200 words.

12. What are some important qualities of a good teacher? Use specific details and examples to explain why these qualities are important. Use 180-200 words.
13. The widespread use of the internet has given young people access to new ways of learning. Do young people benefit from the wide availability of information? In what ways? Use 180-200 words.
14. Some students prefer to use books and articles to learn and do research, others prefer to use the internet exclusively. Which do you prefer and why? Use specific examples to support your answers. Use 180-200 words.
15. What extracurricular activities should universities encourage students to attend? Use specific reasons and examples to motivate your choice. Use 180-200 words.
16. "People nowadays spend too much money on entertainment." How far do you agree with this statement? Express your opinion in an essay. Use 200-250 words.
17. "People work harder today than in the past." How far do you agree with this statement? Write an essay giving your opinion on the issue. Use 200-250 words.
18. Many high school graduates now apply to universities abroad. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad. Use 200-250 words.
19. What are the advantages/disadvantages of working while still attending school? Use 200-250 words to answer the task.
20. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Traditional methods of teaching (lectures, the use of printed materials, written exams) are outdated. Use specific reasons to support your opinion, in 200-250 words.
21. Have young people become too dependent on the internet for entertainment? Express your viewpoint. Use 200-250 words.
22. An online student magazine has asked its visitors to write essays giving their opinion on the following statement: "Self-help books do not really help you develop your personality." Write your essay, discussing how far you agree with this statement. Use 200-250 words.
23. It seems that our way of life has had a negative impact on the environment in the last two centuries. What changes should we make in order to improve the health of our planet? Use 200-250 words to answer the task.
24. Are written exams a relevant means of testing students' knowledge? Write an essay giving your opinion on this issue. Use 200-250 words.
25. Some people claim that the internet has destroyed communication among friends and family. How far do you agree with this statement? Use 200-250 words to answer the task.

26. Do students learn better in conventional or non-conventional settings (a traditional classroom versus an open-air class, for instance)? Use specific reasons to support your opinion, in 200-250 words.
27. How far do you agree with this statement: “Parents should decide their children’s career.” Use specific reasons to support your opinion, in 200-250 words.
28. How far do you agree with this statement: “Children should help with household chores.” Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 200-250 words.
29. How far do you agree with this statement: “It is more important to earn a lot of money than be happy at work.” Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 200-250 words.
30. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important for students to study history and literature than it is for them to study science and mathematics. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion, in 200-250 words.
31. “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” (Barack Obama) What is your opinion on this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 220-280 words.
32. “The future rewards those who press on. I don’t have time to feel sorry for myself. I don’t have time to complain. I’m going to press on.” (Barack Obama) What is your opinion on this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 220-280 words.
33. “If you can dream it, you can do it.” (Walt Disney) Starting from this quote, discuss the importance of dreaming in achieving your purpose. Use 220-280 words to answer the task.
34. “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.) What is your opinion on this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 220-280 words.
35. “The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential...these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.” (Confucius) What is your opinion on this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 220-280 words.
36. “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.) What is your opinion on this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 220-280 words.

37. “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” (Confucius)
What is your opinion on this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 220-280 words.
38. “Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.” (Samuel Beckett)
What is your opinion on this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 220-280 words.
39. “Believe you can and you’re halfway there.” (Theodore Roosevelt) What is your opinion on this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 220-280 words.
40. “Friends show their love in times of trouble, not in happiness.” (Euripides) What is your opinion on this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer, in 220-280 words.
41. Read the following text and answer the task below:

“While sufficient sleep is generally defined as between seven and nine hours, a National Sleep Foundation survey found the average adult in the UK is getting just six hours and 49 minutes, in the US that’s six hours and 31 minutes, and Japan is worse again at six hours and 22 minutes. Sleep loss can seriously damage your health. But it’s the impact it has on productivity that is starting to make some companies revise attitudes to sleep and rest.

An afternoon nap can help improve performance without interfering with night-time sleep, according to Rita Aouad, psychiatrist and sleep specialist at Ohio State University. ‘Lots of research shows that a nap of about 20 minutes in the afternoon has a positive effect on attention vigilance mood and alertness,’ she says.

Procter & Gamble has lighting systems in its offices that regulate melatonin, the sleep hormone, to help employees switch off in the evenings. Ben & Jerry’s was an early adopter of this understanding approach to the need for rest and relaxation, and has had a nap room at its headquarters for over a decade. The company’s HR director Jane Goetschius says that along with other perks, such as yoga classes and an on-site gym, the nap room is part of a wider strategy to show employees they’re appreciated. ‘We want you to bring your whole self [to work]. It builds more productivity,’ she says.

But will efforts like these have much of an impact? ‘I’m broadly in favour of nap pods, even if they just signal some degree of recognition of sleep’s importance in the workplace by people in senior positions,’ says Matthew Walker, neuroscientist and author of *Why We Sleep: The New Science of Sleep and Dreams*.

Organisational, societal and structural change is what’s required, he says, adding that moves like the French government’s decision to impose a law that gives workers the right to disconnect from emails out of hours should be encouraged.

‘Sleep has an image problem. In this modern day and age we have not only abandoned a full night’s sleep, we don’t celebrate it anymore,’ he says. ‘We have to return to this mentality that sleep is OK.’

(adapted from Anne Cassidy, *Clocking off: the companies introducing nap time to the workplace*, in *The Guardian*, online edition, 4 December 2017)

Now write an essay discussing the main ideas in the text. How far do you agree with the viewpoints expressed in the text? Do you think that organisational changes are required to make people more comfortable at work? Use 220-280 words.

42. Read the following text and answer the task below:

“According to a recent OECD report, Finland is the only country in the developed world where fathers spend more time with school-aged children than mothers. The Global Gender Gap report rated Finland the second most equal country in the world in 2016, and the Economist recently rated it the third best country to be a working mom.

How did Finland get there? And what can the rest of us learn from this small Nordic nation that might accelerate the battle for gender equity in other places? In the end, it’s not about what’s good for adults – it’s about what’s good for children.

‘This is a question of gender equality, but it’s more a question of the rights of the child,’ says Annika Saarikko, Finland’s minister of family affairs and social services, one of six female ministers out of a cabinet of eleven. ‘This is not about the mother’s right or the father’s right – but the child’s right to spend time with both parents.’

Finland believes fathers play a crucial role in child development. The government offers fathers nine weeks of paternity leave, during which they are paid 70% of their salary. And to encourage fathers to take advantage the benefit, it recently launched a new campaign, called ‘It’s Daddy Time!’

‘We want fathers to take more of the shared parental leave available,’ says Saarikko. ‘We are quite sure if we look at the research that the connection between the baby and the father is really important – the early years are vital and we believe in investing in that.’ The Finnish state strives to provide both mothers and fathers with meaningful social support before their child is even born. Once the baby is born, Finland gives mothers about four months of paid maternity leave and fathers a little more than two months of paid leave. On top of all that, couples can share an additional five-plus months of paid parental leave between them.

So where does the country go from here? The next big push for greater gender balance may just come from fathers, predicts Katja Lahti, 43, who writes a popular family blog Project Mama. ‘It feels like a real millennial movement of fathers who are asking for more, who want their voice,’ she says. ‘It’s like they want to have it all.’”

(adapted from Alexandra Topping, *Finland: the only country where dads spend more time with kids than moms*, The Guardian, online edition, 5 December 2017)

Now write an essay discussing the main ideas in the text. What do you think could be done to encourage fathers (in general) to spend more time with their children and be more involved in their upbringing and education? Use 220-280 words.

43. Read the following text and answer the task below:

“The world’s oceans are under the greatest threat in history, according to Sir David Attenborough. The seas are a vital part of the global ecosystem, leaving the future of all life on Earth dependent on humanity’s actions, he says.

Attenborough will issue the warning in the final episode of the Blue Planet 2 series, which details the damage being wreaked in seas around the globe by climate change, plastic pollution, overfishing and even noise.

Previous BBC nature series presented by Attenborough have sometimes been criticised for treading too lightly around humanity's damage to the planet. But the final episode of the latest series is entirely dedicated to the issue. 'For years we thought the oceans were so vast and the inhabitants so infinitely numerous that nothing we could do could have an effect upon them. But now we know that was wrong,' says Attenborough. 'It is now clear our actions are having a significant impact on the world's oceans. [They] are under threat now as never before in human history. Many people believe the oceans have reached a crisis point.'

Attenborough says: 'Surely we have a responsibility to care for our blue planet. The future of humanity, and indeed all life on Earth, now depends on us.'

BBC executives were reportedly concerned about the series appearing to become politicised and ordered a fact-check, which it passed. The series producer, Mark Brownlow, said it was impossible to overlook the harm being caused in the oceans: 'We just couldn't ignore it – it wouldn't be a truthful portrayal of the world's oceans. We are not out there to campaign. We are just showing it as it is and it is quite shocking.'

Jon Copley, from the University of Southampton and one of many scientists appearing in the final episode, says. 'What shocks me about what all the data shows is how fast things are changing here [in Antarctica]. We're headed into uncharted territory.'

Lucy Quinn from the British Antarctic Survey says that the oceans are of vital importance for the whole world: 'The oceans provide us with oxygen, they regulate temperature, they provide us with food and energy supplies. It is unthinkable to have a world without a healthy ocean.'

(adapted from Damian Carrington, *Oceans under greatest threat in history, warns Sir David Attenborough*, The Guardian, online edition, 5 December 2017)

Now write an essay discussing the main ideas in the text. What do you think could be done to encourage people to care about the environment? What is the role of such TV documentaries in inviting activism for environment protection? Use 220-280 words.

44. Read the following text and answer the task below:

"My parents first took me to the theatre to see an open-air production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* aged three, and although I don't really remember the show (I can't name who played Beatrice or what the set design was like), it was the start of a lifelong love affair with live theatre. I think it's worrying how few children actually experience live theatre before they are coerced to by their school.

It's hardly news that the UK is currently experiencing a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) shortage – according to EngineeringUK, the country needs 1.8 million new engineers and technicians by 2025 – and in order to tackle this deficit, we need to encourage young children to take up science and maths subjects.

But, it's just as important to remember that we do need the arts. Even engineering experts agree that as artificial intelligence starts to play a greater role in engineering (and also many other) sectors, it's creative and not just analytical minds that are now needed more than ever.

Theatre not only entertains and enchants the audience, it fires the imagination, giving children the skills, curiosity and creativity they need to understand the complex world we live in.

‘Musicals are the first love of almost everyone you’ll speak to who works in theatre – on, off or behind the stage,’ says Ceri Lothian, associate producer at Deus Ex Machina Productions.

‘There’s something magical about the way song weaves into every part of a live show which sparks something in children that you’ll find incredibly hard to extinguish. They’ll wonder: ‘How can I create that magic?’, and that’s how you create the next generation of designers, musical directors, performers, producers and stage managers.’

(adapted from Alice Barraclough, *Why it’s so important to take your children to the theatre*, The Telegraph, online edition, 16 November 2017)

Now write an essay discussing the main ideas in the text. How far do you agree with the viewpoint expressed in the text? Do children need the experience of theatre-going to develop creative minds? Use 220-280 words.

45. Read the following text and answer the task below:

“Artificial intelligence (AI) is going to transform the world, and our lives. But are we heading for a brave new world, or a science-fiction horror show?

Is it actually possible that the dream of science fiction writers going back a century or more is on the verge of reality? Are we really about to live in the long-promised future of robots and AIs?

‘We will harness this potential and turn it into the high paid high productivity jobs of tomorrow. Others may choose to reject the future, we choose to embrace it’, says Chancellor Philip Hammond. But when is this future we are embracing going to come? And the highly paid jobs... who’s going to do them? Them, the robots, or us, the humans?

According to a report earlier this year by PricewaterhouseCoopers, almost a third of UK jobs could be affected by as soon as the 2030s. John Hawksworth, chief economist at PwC, told the BBC that ‘more manual, routine jobs’ which ‘can effectively be programmed’ were the most at risk, adding, that ‘jobs where you’ve got more of a human touch, like health and education’ would be less affected.

Ah, but is that really the case? Channel 4’s documentary *The Robot Will See You Now* posits a near-future where robodocs are the norm, and according to CMRubinWorld, an organisation set up to prepare young people for a rapidly-changing world, one of the biggest changes will be in the classroom.

Former adviser to Tony Blair, Sir Michael Barber, says we shouldn’t just think about what jobs robots will take over, rather about how aspects and parts of jobs will become automated or handed over to AIs.

‘It’s not just what jobs will exist and what won’t. It’s about what parts of current roles will be automated and what won’t,’ says Barber, noting that while we will still need the human touch in jobs such as doctors and lawyers, ‘machines will often be more accurate’ in terms of diagnosis and determination.

In terms of changes for global education, Barber says that ‘the combination of great teachers and sophisticated AI could be transformative’, but it is not a choice between teachers and AI, adding: ‘Fewer, more sophisticated teachers will combine with machines.’”

(adapted from David Barnett, *The robots are coming – but will they really take all our jobs?* in The Independent, online edition, 30 November 2017)

Now write an essay discussing the main ideas in the text. How far do you agree with the viewpoint expressed in the text? How will artificial intelligence change our world? Use 220-280 words.