

STUDII AMERICANE 2014
– probă scrisă la limba engleză –

Varianta 1

Write an argumentative essay (more precisely, a *for and against* essay) on the following topic:

What are the advantages and disadvantages of working on a project in a team, compared to carrying it out individually?

Do not exceed 350 words!

Varianta 2

Write an argumentative essay (more precisely, an *opinion* essay) on the following topic:

“In today’s world, excellent communication skills are vital for any career.” To what extent do you agree/disagree?

Do not exceed 350 words

ENGLEZĂ A 2014

(subiect destinat candidaților care au optat pentru secția A Engleză,
profil *Limbă și Literatură* sau *Traducere și Interpretare*)

I.**1. Write out the sentences, using the most logical form of the verbs in brackets:** (0,5 x 6 = 3 points)

If you (met) your wife earlier, she (give) you the car keys and you could have avoided the traffic. Now it is too late (drive) your car. It (be) as bad as yesterday, when you (take) the bus to work and (come) late for a meeting.

2. Rewrite the sentences, beginning as shown: (1 x 3 = 3 points)

- a. As soon as they wrote their letter of resignation, they left the building. / No sooner...
- b. I delivered that parcel two days ago. / It's two days...
- c. Although he was an intelligent man, nobody wanted him on their team. / Intelligent as...

3. Negate the following sentences: (0,5 x 3 = 1.50 points)

- a. She came home very early.
- b. Bill is still a handsome man.
- c. He has met her before.

4. Rewrite each sentence so that it contains a suitable modal verb and the meaning remains the same: (0,5 x 3 = 1.50 points)

- a. It is important that you go to that meeting.
- b. I am sure they didn't quarrel.
- c. Last year, Bill managed to fly a kite for a whole hour.

II. Translate into English: (9 + 1 = 10 points)

Am început să vorbesc repede, ca să nu fiu întrerupt de vreo privire ironică, sau să mă lase pur și simplu singur în încăpere, întorcându-mi spatele, cum făcea nu rareori.

- Singura dată când m-am îndrăgostit și eu a fost prin anul trei de facultate, de o fată pe care nu numai că o cunoșteam bine, ci și o disprețuiam puțin, deoarece era cam prostuță. Cum spuneam, o cunoșteam bine, o disprețuiam și, deodată, m-am trezit îndrăgostit de ea. Nu știu cum de mi s-a întâmplat asta tocmai mie, un om cinic, veșnic nemulțumit. Sau poate că tocmai de aceea am pățit-o. Probabil că mă prinsese „fără apărare”, ca la box, prea îngâmfat de inteligența și ironiile mele, extrem de eficiente, ca să mă mai feresc de ea. M-a prins ca pe o muscă mare și grasă în plasa unui păianjen mărunț, neînsemnat.

III. Translate into Romanian: (9 + 1 = 10 points)

She is watching the dancing. Now and then the parents or some of their guests stop to speak to her; the party is at its height, and there are more onlookers than these two: the nanny, red-faced Ann, is standing at the bottom of the stairs, in all the dignity of her limitations. She is waiting for the children, who simply cannot get their fill of these festivities, and watching over Snapper, so he won't break a vase, or something. Snapper is her own son and she knows that any mistake he makes will reflect badly on her. So she is trying hard to keep an eye on him and on her employers' children. There is another woman quietly noticing the people going in and out of the room. It is the housekeeper, Martha, who has poured all her heart and soul in the preparations of the party, and is now waiting to see if everything has turned out all right.

IV. Reading comprehension (3 + 3 + 3 + 1 = 10 points)

Charles Darwin was never a bold, romantic figure. His school career was undistinguished and he didn't have the stomach to follow his father into medicine – he found surgical procedures too distressing to watch – so he was sent to Cambridge to study theology; then, a common fate for the less impressive sons of prominent families. While at Cambridge, Darwin became a student and friend of the cleric and botanist John Stevens Henslow. His canine loyalty and unassuming character meant that he soon became known as 'the man who walks with Henslow' – a telling epithet, as it suggests the total eclipse of one man's identity by the mere presence of another. When Darwin was still relatively young, he became sickly and somewhat apprehensive. His condition deteriorated, resulting in problems such as insomnia and palpitations. Many believe that he suffered from some form of anxiety. He was certainly very cautious, and delayed publishing the details of his theory of evolution for years, because he did not want to offend devout Christians. Indeed, if the young biologist Alfred Wallace had not come up with exactly the same idea – forcing Darwin to publish – he might have procrastinated indefinitely. Darwin was an atheist, but he never attempted to promote atheism as an alternative to Christian orthodoxy. He had no desire to disturb commonly held opinions. Those who set out to challenge traditional values frightened him. Even nature scared him a little. (adapted from Frank Tallis, *Love Sick*)

1. **Give a summary of the text. Do not exceed 3 lines.**
2. **The author argues that Darwin showed 'canine loyalty' to Henslow. How does he support his opinion? Do not exceed 4 lines.**
3. **What are the main features of Darwin's character according to the author? Do not exceed 8 lines.**

Variantă de rezolvare – ENGLEZĂ A**1. Write out the sentences, using the most logical form of the verbs in brackets:** (0,5 x 6 = 3 points)

If you **had met** your wife earlier, she **would have given** you the car keys and you could have avoided the traffic. Now it is too late **to drive** your car. It **is** as bad as yesterday, when you **took** the bus to work and **came** late for a meeting.

2. Rewrite the sentences, beginning as shown: (1 x 3 = 3 points)

- As soon as they wrote their letter of resignation, they left the building./ No sooner *had they written their letter of resignation, than they left the building.* [notati cu 0,50 inversiunea și cu 0,50 pe *than*]
- I delivered that parcel two days ago./ It's two days *since I delivered the parcel.*
- Although he was an intelligent man, nobody wanted him on their team./ Intelligent as *he was, nobody wanted him on their team.*

3. Negate the following sentences: (0,5 x 3 = 1.50 points)

- She came home very early./ *She didn't come home very early.* [notati cu 0,25 negatia și cu 0,25 forma corecta (i.e.) infinitivul după **did**]
- Bill is still a handsome man. /*Bill isn't a handsome man any more.* [notati cu 0,50 negatia și dati bonus de 0,25 pentru polarity item **any more**]
- He has met her before. / *He hasn't met her before.* [notati cu 0,25 negatia și cu 0,25 forma corecta (i.e.) **has** pentru pers 3sg.]

4. Rewrite each sentence so that it contains a suitable modal verb and the meaning remains the same: (0,5 x 3 = 1.50 points)

- It is important that you go to that meeting./ *You should/must/have to go to the meeting.*
- I am sure they didn't quarrel./ *They couldn't/can't have quarreled.*
- Last year, Bill managed to fly a kite for a whole hour./ *Last year, Bill was able to fly a kite for a whole hour.*

II. Translate into English: (9 + 1 = 10 points)

I started to speak fast, so that he wouldn't interrupt me/cut in (*bonus pt phrasal verb*) with an ironic glance or simply leave me alone in the room, turning his back on me, as he very often/ frequently did. „The only time I fell in love was in my third year of college, I fell for a girl whom I not only knew well but also despised a little, since she was a bit silly. As I was saying, I knew her well, I did despise her/despised her (*aici cred ca se poate acorda un bonus pentru emphatic did*) and, suddenly, I found myself deeply in love (with her). I don't really know how this came about/ how this happened to me, of all people (*bonus pt enfaza*), a cynical man, always discontent/never happy with my lot/ a grumbler of the worst sort/ the unhappy kind. Or I might have got in trouble for this very reason. (*bonus pt enfaza, bonus pt modal*). She must have caught me (*bonus pt modal*) defenseless, like a (careless/defeated) boxer, too conceited/pleased with/ proud of my intelligence and sharp wit to be wary of her/ fend her off/ avoid her/ be scared of her/stay away from her. She caught me, (as if I had been) (*bonus pt subjunctive*) a big fat fly (struggling) in the web of a small, insignificant spider.

III. Translate into Romanian: (9 + 1 = 10 points)

Se uită la lumea care dansează. Din când în când părinții sau vreunul din musafirii lor se opresc și îi adresează un cuvânt/vorbesc cu ea; petrecerea e în toi și pe margine sunt mai mulți spectatori decât aceștia doi/acestea două: bona, îmbujorata Ann, stă la capul scărilor, (învestmântată) în toată demnitatea atribuțiilor ei/limitelor ei. Așteaptă copiii, care pur și simplu nu se mai satură de festivități, și îl supraveghează pe Snapper, să nu spargă vreo vază, ceva. Așa că se străduiește să îl urmărească atent/fie cu ochii pe el și pe copiii stăpânilor. Mai este cineva care privește în tăcere oamenii care intră și ies din cameră. Este Marta, menajera, care s-a dat peste cap să iasă bine petrecerea/ s-a străduit din răputeri să pună totul la punct și care acum așteaptă să vadă dacă petrecerea e un succes.

IV. Reading comprehension (3 + 3 + 3 + 1 = 10 points)**A. Instrucțiuni:**

1. Candidații trebuie să identifice cuvintele-cheie, ideile principale și relațiile logice dintre acestea pentru a putea rezuma fragmentul.
2. Candidații trebuie să identifice cuvintele și frazele relevante, apoi să formuleze răspunsul parafrazând afirmațiile autorului.
3. Candidații trebuie să identifice cuvintele și expresiile relevante, apoi să formuleze răspunsul parafrazând afirmațiile autorului.

B. Model:

1. The author dwells on Charles Darwin's choice of a career in theology while focusing on his character. Thus, Tallis tries to justify Darwin's hesitations in putting forth his theory of evolution and his reluctance to challenge the Christian perspective on creation.
2. The author refers to Darwin's 'canine loyalty' to Henslow, thus implying that Darwin was, figuratively speaking, as loyal as a dog to the Cambridge cleric and botanist. Tallis suggests that modesty, his 'unassuming character', is the trait that made Darwin a devoted companion and led people to think of him as the man who lived in Henslow's shadow.
3. According to Tallis, Darwin emerges as a modest, unremarkable man who failed to impress at school or to show any particular inclination for the medical profession and thus follow in his father's footsteps. As was the case with less ambitious young men coming from well-to-do families, Darwin was destined for a career in theology. While a student at Cambridge, Darwin proved remarkably devoted to his mentor and friend, John Stevens Henslow, and earned his reputation as Henslow's anonymous companion on the latter's walks. The author suggests that Darwin's hesitations in publishing his theory of evolution can be put down to his anxiety and caution and explains that Darwin was wary of making his opinions known due to his fear of challenging traditional values.

ENGLEZĂ B 2014

(subiect destinat candidaților care au optat pentru alte secții A+B,
profil *Limbă și Literatură* sau *Traducere și Interpretare*)

I.

1. Write out the sentences, using the most logical form of the verbs in brackets: (0,5 x 6 = 3 points)
He had no difficulty (climb) the cliff. I had a slight difficulty myself, but (hide) it from him. It was too early (start) losing face and I (not want) to look old to him. I (want) him (accept) me as a comrade.

2. Rewrite the sentences, beginning as shown: (1 x 3 = 3 points)

- a. She has been with us for a month./ It's a month...
- b. They will never speak to each other again./ Never...
- c. I won't tell you the secret, unless you give me money./ I will tell you the secret only...

3. Negate the following sentences: (0,5 x 3 = 1.50 points)

- a. She met Susan's father.
- b. We are looking at some dot on the wall.
- c. I have always known the truth.

4. Rewrite each sentence so that it contains a suitable modal verb and the meaning remains the same: (0,5 x 3 = 1.50 points)

- a. I would like you to pour me some tea, please.
- b. It is possible he is having an affair.
- c. It is regrettable that they met.

II. Translate into English: (9 + 1 = 10 points)

După ce i-am povestit ce pășisem în primul an de liceu, m-a privit lung și m-a întrebat mirat:

- Nu cumva și dumneata ai fost un școlar minune?!

L-am privit un timp, înainte de a-i răspunde: era ironic domnul profesor? Nu știu, nu cred că era... În orice caz, după prima pornire de a-i răspunde cu o frază sarcastică, am renunțat să deschid gura. Afară ploua, cerul era cenușiu și pe el se zăreau norii gri. Preferam această ploaie fină și pașii trecătorilor pe trotuarul ud. Apoi, „profesorul” și-a continuat monologul, falsă sa confesiune. Nu știu nici eu de ce am numit-o așa. Poate nu mințea, săracul de el, sau nu mințea lucid, sau mințea doar pe jumătate: adică se mințea pe el, iar adevărul despre viața lui trecută era un fals adevăr.

III. Translate into Romanian: (9 + 1 = 10 points)

Neither arguments nor requests moved him. He said little, but he was absolutely determined, because for the first time he saw how his daily life was. What need had he to return to England? Who would miss him? His friends were dead or cold. Ethel loved him in a way, but, as was right, she had other interests. His other children he seldom saw. He had only one other relative, his sister Julia, whom he both feared and hated. It was no effort to struggle here. He would be a fool as well as a coward if he stirred from the place which brought him happiness and peace. Then why did everybody try so hard to make him leave this place? He was inclined to think that it was envy that moved them and that he had to fight against this envy, he had to push their feelings away and make room only for his own peace of mind.

IV. Reading comprehension (3 + 6 + 1 = 10 points)

Charles Darwin's life was touched by romance in the more conventional way. He fell in love. Darwin – not the most passionate of men – was an unexpected triumph for Cupid. He approached the idea of marriage with a curious degree of intellectual detachment. The problem was complicated by the fact that he was considering marriage entirely in the abstract, having no wife-to-be in mind. In an attempt to resolve his uncertainty, Darwin did something very unromantic. He drew up two columns, one headed 'Marry', and the other headed 'Not Marry', and then set about evaluating the costs and benefits associated with each. His instinct, therefore, was not to find love, but to examine its balance sheet*. He took his first steps towards the altar not as love's victim, but as love's auditor. The costs that Darwin associated with marriage are very revealing: he would have less time for himself in general, less time to spend in gentlemen's clubs, and less time for reading. But what of the benefits of marriage? In the 'Marry' column of his balance sheet, he attempted to enumerate the benefits of female company. The best he could do at one point was to observe that a wife would be "better than a dog". (adapted from Frank Tallis, *Love Sick*)

**balance sheet* – a record of the financial situation of an institution on a particular date

1. Give a summary of the text. Do not exceed 4 lines.
2. Describe Darwin's attitude to marriage. Do not exceed 10 lines.

Variantă de rezolvare – ENGLEZĂ B**1. Write out the sentences, using the most logical form of the verbs in brackets:** (0,5 x 6 = 3 points)

He had no difficulty **climbing** the cliff. I had a slight difficulty myself, but **hid** it from him. It was too early **to start** losing face and I **did not want** to look old to him. I **wanted** him **to accept** me as a comrade.

2. Rewrite the sentences, beginning as shown: (1 x 3 = 3 points)

- a. She has been with us for a month./ It's a month *since she has been with us./came here.*
- b. They will never speak to each other again./ *Never will they speak to each other again.*
- c. I won't tell you the secret, unless you give me money./ I will tell you the secret only *if you give me the money.*

3. Negate the following sentences: (0,5 x 3 = 1.50 points)

- a. She met Susan's father./ *She didn't meet S's father.* (acordati 0,25 pt negatie si 0,25 pt forma corecta a verbului, i.e. infinitiv dupa did)
- b. We are looking at some dot on the wall./ *We aren't looking at a/ any dot on the wall. / We are looking at no dot on the wall./* (acordati bonus pt polarity item any)
- c. I have always known the truth./ *I have never known the truth./ I haven't always known the truth.*

4. Rewrite each sentence so that it contains a suitable modal verb and the meaning remains the same:

(0,5 x 3 = 1.50 points)

- I would like you to pour me some tea, please./ *Please, will you/would you be so kind as to/could you pour me some tea?*
- It is possible he is having an affair./ *He might / may be having an affair.*
- It is regrettable that they met./ *They shouldn't have met.*

II. Translate into English: (9 + 1 = 10 points)

After I told him what had happened to me in my first year of high-school, he stared at me/cast me a lingering glance and asked me, surprised:

“Don’t tell me you were a brilliant student, too!/ one of those nerds/ You weren’t a wonder student too, were you?”

I looked at him for a while/some time before I answered: was the teacher being ironic/ was the teacher trying to be ironic (*bonus pt aspect continuu*) ? I don’t know, I don’t think he was... Anyway/at any rate, after my first impulse to answer him by some sarcastic sentence/sarcastically, I gave up saying anything. It was raining outside, the sky was grey and there were heavy clouds up there/ and it was covered with dark clouds. I rather/ kind of liked this fine rain and the steps of the passers-by (echoing) on the wet pavement. Then “the teacher” continued / went on with his monologue, his fake confession. I don’t really know why I called it this way. Maybe he wasn’t lying, poor man, or he wasn’t doing so deliberately, or he was only half-lying: that is/namely he was lying to himself/ he was in denial and the truth about his past life was a fake truth.

III. Translate into Romanian: (9 + 1 = 10 points)

Nu-l mișcau nici dojenile/reproșurile/țipetele și nici rugămințile. Nu spunea mare lucru, dar era ferm hotărât, pentru că, pentru prima dată, își vedea viața de zi cu zi exact așa cum era. La ce bun să se întoarcă în Anglia? Îi lipsea cuiva de acolo?/ Îl aștepta cineva acolo? Prietenii lui erau morți sau (niște oameni) reci. Ethel îl iubea în felul ei, dar, așa cum era firesc, avea alte preocupări (*bonus pt traducerea corectă a lui interests*). Pe ceilalți copii ai lui îi vedea rar. (*bonus pt topicalizare și în romana*) În rest, mai avea doar o rudă acolo, pe sora lui, Julia, pentru care simțea și teamă și ură. Pe când aici îi era mult mai ușor. (*bonus pt contrast*). Ar fi un prost și un laș dacă s-ar clinti dintr-un loc unde se simțea fericit și liniștit/ unde avea fericire și pace. Atunci de ce se străduiau cu toții să îl facă să părăsească acest loc? Îl bătea gândul că erau motivați de invidie (*bonus pt contrast sau emfază*) și că el trebuia să lupte împotriva acestei invidii/gelozii, că trebuia să le dea deoparte sentimentele și să lase loc doar liniștii lui sufletești/pentru liniștea lui sufletească.

IV. Reading comprehension (3 + 6 + 1 = 10 points)**A. Instrucțiuni:**

- Candidații trebuie să identifice cuvintele-cheie, ideile principale și relațiile logice dintre acestea pentru a putea rezuma fragmentul.
- Candidații trebuie să identifice cuvintele și expresiile relevante, apoi să formuleze răspunsul parafrazând afirmațiile autorului.

B. Model:

- The excerpt dwells on Charles Darwin’s attitude toward romance. Darwin’s considerations on the advantages and disadvantages of marriage reveal, in a rather humorous way, his propensity to approach the matter reasonably in the absence of a romantic attachment.
- While not being romantically attached to anyone, Charles Darwin starts looking at the advantages and disadvantages of married life in an apparently detached manner, acting more like an accountant and less like a lover. Consequently, he sets down to work and makes up a list of advantages and disadvantages. Not surprisingly for this kind of reasonable, impassionate approach to romance, the disadvantages are clear and more numerous than the advantages – marriage would take up time dedicated to himself, his intellectual pursuits and his social engagements. As for advantages, he manages to come up with only one idea – a woman’s company would be better than that of a dog. Therefore, Darwin’s abstract idea of marriage does not include too many benefits.
