



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

ETAPA INTERJUDEȚEANĂ
10 MAI 2025

CLASA A V-A

Varianta 1

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *Kate Middleton, George, grandchild, queen, British Throne, charming, Westminster Abbey, 70 years, Princess Diana, Charles.*

Queen Elizabeth II was crowned at (1) _____. In June 1953 following the death of her father, King George VI, she was only 25 years. She married Phillip Mauntbatten, Prince of Greece and Denmark and gave birth to 3 sons and a daughter: (2) _____, Ann, Andrew and Edward. She reigned the most as a British monarch for (3) _____ and so King Charles became the oldest monarch to be crowned.

Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, is the elder son of King Charles and (4) _____ and heir to the (5) _____ crown. He married Catherine, then known as (6) _____, who he met at University of St. Andrews. Catherine Middleton is (7) _____ and elegant and very loved by the British people.

They now have 3 children: (8) _____, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis, the (9) _____ of Charles III and Diana.

Princess Charlotte only becomes (10) _____ if Prince George dies without having any children.

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

II. Match the two columns:

1. How many countries make up the UK?	a. 6 th May 2023.
2. Harry Potter is a series of fantasy novels.	b. Mowgli.
3. The capital of Scotland is	c. Edinburgh.
4. The main character of the jungle book is	d. Shere Kan.
5. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born in London on	e. Edward.
6. Elizabeth II had 4 children: Charles, Ann, Andrew and	f. 4
7. Some of the wolf pack started to resent him because of the ferocious tiger	g. Charles Dickens.
8. King Charles III was crowned on	h. 7
9. <i>A Christmas Carol</i> was written by	i. 21 st April 1926.
10. Queen Elizabeth II died on	j. 8 th September 2022.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(20 points: 10 x 2p)



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III. Match the headings to the extracts. There is ONE extra heading you do not need to use:

A. Visit from Ghost of Christmas present	C. Scrooge refuses to give to charity	E. Scrooge is haunted by Marley
B. Scrooge is redeemed	D. Visit from ghost of Christmas Past	F. Scrooge mends his way

1

A mean-spirited, miserly old man named Ebenezer Scrooge sits in his house on a frigid Christmas Eve because he refuses to spend money on heating coals for a fire. Fred, his nephew pays him a visit and invites him to an annual Christmas party. Two portly gentlemen also drop by and ask Scrooge for a contribution to their charity. Scrooge reacts to the holiday visitors with bitterness, spitting out an angry *Bah! Humbug!* in response to his nephew's *Merry Christmas*.

2

Later that evening, Scrooge receives a chilling visitation from the ghost of his dead partner, Jacob Marely. As punishment for his greedy life, Marely's spirit has been condemned to wonder the Earth with heavy chains. He hopes to save Scrooge from sharing the same fate and informs him that 3 spirits will visit him during each of the 3 next nights. Then Scrooge collapses into a deep sleep.

3

A strange childlike ghost escorts Scrooge on a journey into the past to previous Christmases. Scrooge revisits his childhood school days, his apprenticeship, his engagement to Belle.

4

The next Ghost takes him to the Cratchit's home, (his clerk), where he is saddened by the ill but kind, Tiny Tim. He is also shown how his nephew celebrates Christmas with friends and how others celebrate Christmas together.

5

The final Ghost is the Ghost of Christmas yet to Come who terrifies Scrooge with visions of his death. Scrooge awakens on Christmas Day and is delighted to find he has the chance to repent of his miserly ways. He buys a turkey for the Cratchits and goes to his nephew's party.

(20 points: 5 x 4p)



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IV. Write a text based on the picture below (80-100 words). Please remember to give a title to your text.



(https://www.canva.com/design/DAGmFaXaWHA/HHKMnkDa9LBdGPfyiGr1aQ/view?utm_content=DAGmFaXaWHA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utm_id=h4ed0de5bcb)

3

(40 points)

*NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** Timp de lucru: 60 de minute.*



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**ETAPA INTERJUDEȚEANĂ
10 MAI 2025**

CLASA A VI-A

Varianta 2

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *empire, exceptions, development, King George VI, transformation, Commonwealth, British, Queen Elizabeth II, independence, Asian.*

The origins of the Commonwealth lie in Britain's former colonial (1) _____. Until 1949, the member states of today's Commonwealth were united through common allegiance to the British Crown.

After the Second World War, many countries wanted their (2) _____. Soon after attaining independence in 1947, India declared that it wished to adopt a republican constitution, but also wanted to remain within the (3) _____. This was accepted in the London Declaration agreed at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1949, if India accepted (4) _____ as *the symbol of the free association of the independent Member Nations and as such Head of the Commonwealth.*

Over the next two decades, (5) _____ rule ended in many parts of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the Pacific.

With a few (6) _____ (such as Myanmar), the newly independent countries joined the Commonwealth and recognized King George VI and, following his death, (7) _____, as Head of the Commonwealth. The King is now Head of the Commonwealth.

The London Declaration made it possible for the (8) _____ and African states of the former Empire, most of which wished to become republics, to remain within the Commonwealth upon attaining independence. This has led to the (9) _____ of the contemporary Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth symbolizes the (10) _____ of the Crown from an emblem of dominion into a symbol of free and voluntary association. In all history this has no precedent.

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

II. Match the two columns:

1. Queen Elizabeth II	a. the year Queen Elizabeth II began her reign
2. King Charles III	b. the location of Queen Elizabeth II's passing
3. The Coronation of King Charles III	c. the historic venue for royal coronations



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4. Balmoral Castle	d. King Charles III's wife, crowned Queen
5. Camilla, Queen Consort	e. marked the beginning of King Charles III's official reign.
6. The longest-reigning British monarch	f. known for championing sustainability and climate change.
7. Westminster Abbey	g. Queen Elizabeth II's title for most years on the throne
8. Charles's environmental work	h. became king after Queen Elizabeth II.
9. 1952	i. Queen for over 70 years
10. May 6, 2023	j. the date of the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There is ONE extra heading you do not need to use.

A. Balancing Public Life and Privacy	C. Tradition and Duties	E. Family Meetings
B. The Monarchy and the Old Colonies	D. Modern Changes	F. Personal Interests

2

Family Life of the Royal Family

The Royal Family plays an important role in the United Kingdom and has a unique family life that reflects both tradition and modern values. Here's a look at what it's like for them:

1	
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Members of the Royal Family have specific duties that include representing the UK at various events, both nationally and internationally. This means they often join ceremonies, openings, and charitable events. Despite their royal status, they also focus on family values and support each other in their roles. They play an important role in consolidating diplomatic relations, often meeting with foreign leaders and dignitaries to promote goodwill and cooperation. In addition to their public duties, many royal family members serve as patrons of various charities and organizations, using their platform to raise awareness and support important causes. Through their work, they intend to maintain centuries-old traditions while also adapting to the changing values and expectations of modern society.

2	
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Just like any family, the Royal Family enjoys spending time together. Important occasions, such as birthdays and holidays, are often celebrated with family gatherings. These moments offer a chance to fortify their bonds and create lasting memories. While some of these meetings are private, others, like the annual Christmas celebration at Sandringham or the Trooping the



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Colour event, are shared with the public in some way. These occasions not only highlight their relationships but also serve to connect the monarchy with the people. Through shared traditions and time-honored customs, family gatherings help preserve the Royal Family's sense of unity and continuity across generations.

3	
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Each member of the Royal Family has their own interests and hobbies. From sports to arts, they pursue activities that reflect their personalities. They also work on personal projects, such as charitable initiatives that are close to their hearts. These individual passions often influence the causes they support and the roles they take on within the monarchy. For example, some focus on mental health awareness, environmental conservation, or youth development. By sharing their personal interests with the public, they not only highlight important issues but also make themselves more relatable and friendly. This balance of public duty and personal passion adds depth to their roles and helps shape their unique identities within the Royal Family.

4	
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While they are often in the public eye, the Royal Family values their private time. They strive to maintain a balance between their public duties and personal lives, making time to relax and enjoy activities with friends and family. This balance is essential for their well-being, especially given the constant media attention and public scrutiny they face. They often retreat to their private residences, such as Balmoral or Windsor, where they can relax away from the spotlight. Maintaining this separation allows them to recharge and stay grounded, ensuring they can fulfill their official roles with focus and dedication. Navigating the fine line between public expectations and personal boundaries remains one of the ongoing challenges of royal life.

5	
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In recent years, the Royal Family has embraced modern changes, reflecting contemporary society. They engage with younger generations through social media and other platforms, sharing their experiences and supporting various causes. These efforts help make the monarchy more accessible and relevant in today's world. Younger royals, in particular, have taken a more open and relatable approach, often speaking candidly about personal struggles and societal issues. Additionally, the Royal Family has shown a willingness to adapt long-standing traditions to better align with modern values, including greater transparency and inclusivity. By evolving with the times, they continue to maintain public interest and support while honoring their historical legacy.

(20 points: 10 x 2p)



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IV. Write a text based on the picture below (80-100 words). Please remember to give a title to your text.



(https://www.canva.com/design/DAGkfmzaCVI/ZvVStbpymVKsTnfBKxhe_w/edit)

(40 points)

NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** Timp de lucru 60 de minute.



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ETAPA INTERJUDEȚEANĂ
10 MAI 2025

CLASA A VII-A

Varianta 3

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *constitutional, duties, executive, government, Head, identity, legislation, Parliament, Sovereign, supported.*

The Role of the Monarchy

Monarchy is the oldest form of (1) _____ in the United Kingdom. In a monarchy, a king or queen is (2) _____ of State. The British Monarchy is known as a (3) _____ monarchy. This means that, while the (4) _____ is Head of State, the ability to make and pass (5) _____ resides with an elected (6) _____. Although The Sovereign no longer has a political or (7) _____ role, he or she continues to play an important part in the life of the nation. As Head of State, The Monarch undertakes constitutional and representational duties which have developed over one thousand years of history. In addition to these State (8) _____, The Monarch has a less formal role as *Head of Nation*. The Sovereign acts as a focus for national (9) _____, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognises success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service. In all these roles The Sovereign is (10) _____ by members of their immediate family.

1

(<https://www.royal.uk/the-role-of-the-monarchy>)

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

II. Match the two columns:

1. Queen Victoria's	a. restored England to Protestantism.
2. Victoria and Albert got married on	b. next in line to the British throne.
3. In 1558	c. Edinburgh.
4. Elizabeth I	d. February 10, 1840.
5. King Charles III was	e. crowned on May 6, 2023.
6. Prince William, Prince of Wales is	f. a novel written by Charles Dickens.
7. The capital of Scotland is	g. reign was one of the longest in British history and an age in British history was named after her.
8. <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> was	h. the second novel in the series.
9. <i>David Copperfield</i> is	i. Elizabeth I becomes Queen of England.
10. <i>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</i> is	j. first published in London in 1719.

(<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Victoria-queen-of-United-Kingdom>;
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Elizabeth-I>; <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Robinson-Crusoe-novel>;)



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There is ONE extra heading you do not need to use:

A. Not so lucky	C. Changing one's mind	E. Family background
B. On one's own	D. Against the odds	F. A young boy

Robinson Crusoe

1	
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Robinson Crusoe is an Englishman from the town of York in the seventeenth century, the youngest son of a merchant of German origin. Encouraged by his father to study law, Crusoe expresses his wish to go to sea instead.

2	
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His family is against Crusoe going out to sea, and his father explains that it is better to seek a modest, secure life for oneself. Initially, Robinson is committed to obeying his father, but he eventually succumbs to temptation and embarks on a ship bound for London with a friend.

2

3	
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When a storm causes the near deaths of Crusoe and his friend, the friend is dissuaded from sea travel, but Crusoe still goes on to set himself up as merchant on a ship leaving London. This trip is financially successful, and Crusoe plans another, leaving his early profits in the care of a friendly widow.

4	
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The second voyage does not prove as fortunate: the ship is seized by Moorish pirates, and Crusoe is enslaved to a potentate in the North African town of Sallee. While on a fishing expedition, he and a slave boy break free and sail down the African coast. A kindly Portuguese captain picks them up, buys the slave boy from Crusoe, and takes Crusoe to Brazil. In Brazil, Crusoe establishes himself as a plantation owner and soon becomes successful. Eager for slave labor and its economic advantages, he embarks on a slave-gathering expedition to West Africa but ends up shipwrecked off of the coast of Trinidad.

5	
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Crusoe soon learns he is the sole survivor of the expedition and seeks shelter and food for himself. He returns to the wreck's remains twelve times to salvage guns, powder, food, and other items. Onshore, he finds goats he can graze for meat and builds himself a shelter. He erects a cross that he inscribes with the date of his arrival, September 1, 1659, and makes a notch every day in order never to lose track of time. He also keeps a journal of his household



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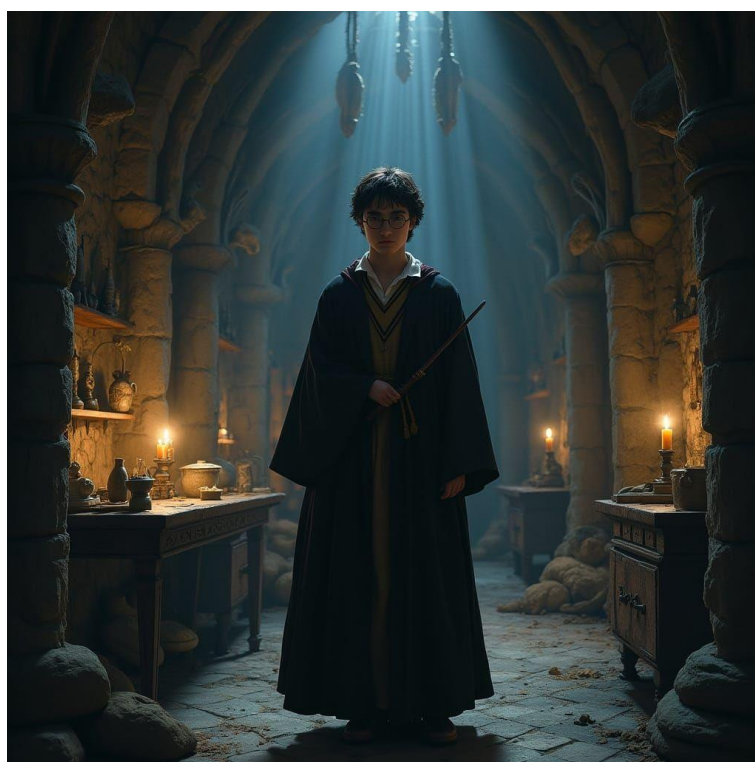
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activities, noting his attempts to make candles, his lucky discovery of sprouting grain, and his construction of a cellar, among other events.

(<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/crusoe/summary/>)

(20 points: 5 x 4p)

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (120 -150 words). Please remember to give a title to your text.



(Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone - AI Generated Artwork – NightCafe Creator – creator.nightcafe.studio)

(40 points)

*NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** Timp de lucru 60 de minute.*



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ETAPA INTERJUDEȚEANĂ
10 MAI 2025

CLASA A VIII-A

Varianta 1

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *judges, common, diminished, conflict, powers, honours, abolished, types, Privy Council, constitutionally.*

Prerogative powers

Prerogative powers can be exercised by the King acting alone (the appointment of a Prime Minister and conferral of certain (1) _____, by the King on the advice of ministers (public appointments), by Ministers of the Crown (treaties and foreign affairs) or by the King in Council (a meeting of the (2) _____ at which the King is present).

The exercise of most prerogative powers results in some sort of legal *instrument*, a formal document containing an expression of *the King's will*. The main (3) _____ are an Order in Council, a Royal Order, Commission or Warrant made under the Royal Sign Manual (the monarch's personal signature), or Proclamations, Writs or Letters Patent issued under the Great Seal.

1

Where there is a (4) _____ between the prerogative and statute, statute prevails. Use of the prerogative remains subject to the (5) _____ law duties of fairness and reason and can be subject to judicial review in most cases. While the prerogative can be (6) _____ or abrogated by statute, it has been argued that it can be revived.

Most of the King's prerogatives and all his statutory (7) _____ depend upon *advice* from ministers. The responsibility for the monarch's actions based on that advice rests with the minister who gave it, and that minister is accountable to Parliament. Advice can also come from the Cabinet, Parliament, the Privy Council and (8) _____. Formal advice is (9) _____ binding and must be followed by the monarch.

Although much (10) _____ in scope, the prerogative remains an important source of constitutional law in the UK and continues regularly to be exercised by ministers on a UK-wide basis or, where responsibility for its use is devolved, in England (or England and Wales) alone, Scotland, Wales and in Northern Ireland.

(<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9877/>)

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

II. Match the two columns:

1. 1876

a. Queen Elizabeth celebrates her Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years on the throne.



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2. Commonwealth of Nations	b. the capital of Northern Ireland
3. 1837 (June 20)	c. the capital of Australia
4. The monarch is	d. Queen Victoria is officially declared Empress of India
5. 1887	e. the first book in the beloved <i>Paddington Bear</i> series by British author Michael Bond.
6. Belfast	f. a political association of 56 member states, most of which were former territories of the British Empire
7. Canberra	g. Victoria becomes Queen of the United Kingdom at the age of 18, following the death of her uncle William IV
8. <i>A Bear Called Paddington</i>	h. the capital of Canada
9. Ottawa	i. the official Head of State of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms
10. 2002	j. Queen Victoria celebrates her Golden Jubilee (50 years on the throne).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There is ONE extra heading you do not need to use:

A. The Coronation Guest List and Attendees	C. The Significance and Tradition of Coronations	E. Planning and Preparations for the Coronation
B. Ceremonial Processions on Coronation Day	D. The Coronation Service: Tradition and Innovation	F. The Coronation Liturgy

2

The coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla

1	
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The crowning of a King or Queen is an ancient ceremony and rich in religious significance, history and pageantry. Although coronations have no explicit basis in law, several Acts of Parliament clearly expect that such a ceremony will take place at some point following the accession of a new Monarch.

2	
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The date for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla was announced by Buckingham Palace in October 2022, a month after the death of Queen Elizabeth II. A Coronation Committee oversaw the planning, while the Cabinet Office established a Coronation Claims Office to decide who would perform certain roles on the day. Preparations were also made to transport the Stone of Destiny from Edinburgh Castle to Westminster Abbey so it could be used, as is traditional, in the ceremony.

3	
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On 1 May 2023, the Palace announced that a *congregation* of more than 2,200 people would attend the Coronation, including members of the Royal Family, international representatives



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from 203 countries (including approximately 100 Heads of State), as well as *community and charity champions*. This briefing looks at the different categories of those who attended in greater depth.

4

The day began with processions by the Speaker of the House of Commons and Lord Speaker of the House of Lords from Westminster Hall to the Abbey. Later, the King's Procession – in which the King and Queen travelled in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach – departed from Buckingham Palace before a much larger procession entered the Abbey itself.

5

The Order of Service comprised both traditional and completely new elements. This briefing describes each aspect of the Coronation service and compares it with previous ceremonies, particularly that of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953. New changes to the statutory Coronation Oath are also described.

(<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9789/>)

(20 points: 5 x 4p)

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (120 -150 words). Please remember to give a title to your text.



(Robinson Crusoe - AI Generated Artwork – NightCafe Creator – creator.nightcafe.studio)

(40 points)

NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** Timp de lucru 60 de minute.



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10 MAI 2025

CLASA A IX-A

Varianta 1

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *regime, ministers, descend, presided, emerged, nationhood, executed, statesman, Roman Catholic, monarchy.*

As king of England from 1509 to 1547, Henry VIII (1) _____ over the beginnings of the English Reformation, which was unleashed by his own matrimonial involvements, even though he never abandoned the fundamentals of the (2) _____ faith. Though exceptionally well served by a succession of brilliant (3) _____, Henry turned upon them all; those he elevated, he invariably cast down again. He was attracted to humanist learning and was something of an intellectual himself, but he was responsible for the deaths of the outstanding English humanists of the day. Though six times married, he left a minor heir and a dangerously complicated succession problem. Of his six wives, two joined a large tally of eminent persons (4) _____ for alleged treason; yet otherwise his (5) _____ observed the law of the land with painful particularity. Formidable in appearance, in memory, and in mind, and fearsome of temper, he yet attracted genuine devotion and knew how to charm people. Monstrously egotistical and surrounded by adulation, he nevertheless kept a reasonable grasp on the possible; forever taking false steps in politics, he (6) _____ essentially unbeaten and superficially successful in nearly everything he attempted to do.

1

Henry VIII has always seemed the very embodiment of true (7) _____. Even his evil deeds, never forgotten, have been somehow amalgamated into a memory of greatness. He gave his nation what it wanted: a visible symbol of its (8) _____. He also had done something toward giving it a better government, a useful navy, a start on religious reform and social improvement. But he was not a great man in any sense. Although a leader in every fibre of his being, he little understood where he was leading his nation. But, if he was neither (9) _____ nor prophet, he also was neither the blood-stained monster of one tradition nor the rowdy bon vivant of another. Though cold, self-centred, ungiving, forever suspicious of the ways of the world, he could not (10) _____ to the second stereotype; despite a ruthlessness fed by self-righteousness, he never took the pleasure in killing required of the first. Simply, he never understood why the life of so well-meaning a man should have been beset by so many unmerited troubles.

(<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Henry-VIII-king-of-England/Legacy>)

(20 points: 10 x 2p)



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II. Match the two columns:

1. Over the course of the poem, Beowulf matures from a valiant combatant	a. <i>Beowulf</i> humanizes evil, suggesting that evil is both an unspeakable threat from the darkness and at the same time an ordinary part of human life.
2. Whereas the youthful Beowulf, having nothing to lose, desires personal glory,	b. is devoted to Beowulf's death and funeral.
3. Throughout the poem, the reader sees old kings pass on and new kings rise and grow old themselves,	c. to end a poem about confronting death.
4. Many readers have seen <i>Beowulf</i> 's monsters as	d. which preserves the lessons and lineages of the past, and helps to spread reputations.
5. By giving the monsters comprehensible, human motives and at moments even showing us their points of view,	e. weaving a pattern of ongoing change, conflict, and resolution.
6. The gloriousness of Beowulf's achievement in killing Grendel is measured	f. the restoration of order and harmony to the Danish people.
7. On one level, <i>Beowulf</i> is from beginning	g. into a wise leader.
8. The final third of the poem	h. embodiments of evil, representing the idea that evil is a mysterious, inhuman force.
9. Intimately connected to the theme of the importance of establishing one's identity is the oral tradition,	i. by the amount of treasure Hrothgar gives him as a reward.
10. The great banquet at Heorot after the defeat of Grendel represents	j. the aged Hrothgar, having much to lose, seeks protection for his people.

(<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/beowulf/themes/>, <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/beowulf/motifs/>,
<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/beowulf/symbols/>)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There are THREE extra headings you do not need to use:

A. Royal traditions and gatherings	C. Responsibilities of the modern-day King	E. Inside the Palace	G. Limits on royal power
B. Royal Scandals	D. Behind the scenes	F. An international royal presence	H. Next in line

The royal role of Britain's kings and queens

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While coronations are the symbolic high point of a monarch's accession, Charles became King immediately on the death of his mother on 8 September 2022, quickly followed by official public proclamations and his declaration to uphold the constitutional government at a meeting



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of the Accession Council. In an address to the nation and Commonwealth he pledged *to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life*.

Such historic moments prompt a closer look at just what a constitutional monarch does. In typical British fashion, there is no single constitutional rulebook, but rather a tangled mix of events, laws, customs and conventions that have, by force, accident or agreement, shaped the sovereign's role over more than 1,000 years; it is certainly far removed from the days when *might was right* and the monarch wielded absolute political power.

2

Royal power was constantly challenged, particularly when wielded unfairly, as England's King John discovered when his barons obliged him to set limits on his authority through Magna Carta in 1215. Subsequent English kings who summoned parliaments, to gain support for taxation and statutes, also found their royal powers diluting. Stuart kings, believers in their divine right to rule, notoriously clashed with parliament but ultimately lost their battles, though the country decided its flirtation with republicanism (1649-1660) was not to its liking either.

The Glorious Revolution of 1688, when Protestant William III and Mary II were invited to replace King James II, cemented the foundations for our constitutional monarchy, through the Bill of Rights (1689) and its Scottish counterpart the Claim of Right Act (1689). Among other things the right of regular parliaments was established and there was a constitutional requirement for the Crown to seek the consent of the people as represented in parliament.

The Act of Settlement (1701) underlined the Protestant succession, stipulating that the monarch must be a member of the Church of England – King Charles III is Supreme Governor of the Church of England (a role stemming from Henry VIII's reformation in the 1530s), though spiritual leadership rests with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

3

3

There were to be many more tussles between sovereign, parliament and people, but today, in essence, the monarch *reigns but does not rule*. Government exercises political and executive powers (often in the name of the Crown), and where the monarch still exercises royal prerogatives (their *reserve powers*) it is generally on the advice of the prime minister or cabinet.

As Head of State the monarch's most visible constitutional responsibility is at the State Opening of Parliament, marking the formal start of the parliamentary year, when the Monarch's Speech is delivered outlining the government's policies and proposed legislation. The government writes the speech and the monarch, who never votes at general elections, is obliged to remain politically neutral – a tightrope for Charles, who as Prince of Wales was sometimes accused of political meddling when voicing passionate views on wide-ranging topics.

Every day the monarch receives a red leather box containing briefings, and documents to approve and sign, from government and Commonwealth officials. Weekly audiences with the prime minister, usually at Buckingham Palace, are completely private and no official record is kept, but it is acknowledged that a long-reigning, much-travelled monarch like the late Queen who had met so many world leaders can bring valuable insights to issues; the prime minister is nevertheless under no obligation to take them into account. The monarch has (in the famous



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Ediția a IV-a

words of Walter Bagehot writing *The English Constitution*, 1867) *the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, the right to warn.*

Other official duties for the King include formally appointing new prime ministers and inviting them to form a government. He is also required to give royal assent to bills passed through parliament for them to become law – the last time assent was withheld was by Queen Anne who blocked the Scottish Militia Bill in 1708 just after England and Scotland were unified. In our modern times of devolved parliaments and perennial murmurings for independence among the home nations, the King's role as a unifier, exemplified by his swift visits to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland early in his reign, should not be underestimated.

4	
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As Head of State the monarch receives foreign ambassadors, and hosts banquets for visiting world leaders – an opportunity to charm and deploy *soft power* amid glittering palace or castle surroundings. On state visits abroad international ties can be strengthened through friendly diplomacy, and the King is Head of the Commonwealth whose roots go back to the British Empire but is now a voluntary association of 56 independent countries *working together for prosperity, democracy and peace*. As well as the UK, 14 Commonwealth Realms including Australia, Canada and New Zealand have the King as their monarch.

As Head of Nation – a more informal role – the monarch *acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognises success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service.*

5	
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Traditions preserve links with history, like Trooping the Colour, which for more than 260 years has marked the sovereign's official birthday. At events like the commemoration of the war dead at London's Cenotaph monument on Remembrance Sunday, the sovereign publicly represents the nation's mood. The monarch's annual, notably personal broadcast on Christmas Day and exceptional addresses to the nation help to draw people together.

The monarch sets the tone for working members of the Royal Family too, meeting people from all walks of life in a diary-packed round: honouring individuals for public service and outstanding achievement at investitures; hosting people nominated from a cross-section of society at annual Buckingham Palace summer garden parties (first held by Queen Victoria in 1868); giving patronage and visiting the armed forces (of which the King is Commander-in-Chief), charities, schools, hospitals and all sorts of local organisations – the nitty-gritty of royal life that shines a spotlight and means so much to those who get the chance of an affirming royal word or smile.

Royal political powers have waned over time but Elizabeth II and now Charles III have firmly defined monarchy as a life of duty and service, while embellishing the image of the nation with ceremonial gravitas and stardust. Woven into the very fabric of the country and its identity, the role of monarch – diverse, complex and challenging, even for someone groomed for the job from birth – looks set to continue to evolve; always constant, always changing.

(<https://www.discoverbritain.com/heritage/royals/role-of-britains-kings-and-queens/>)



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Ediția a IV-a

(20 points: 5 x 4p)

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (180 -200 words). Please remember to give a title to your text.



(Gulliver's Travels - AI Generated Artwork – NightCafe Creator – creator.nightcafe.studio)

(40 points)

NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** Timp de lucru 90 de minute.



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

**ETAPA INTERJUDEȚEANĂ
10 MAI 2025**

CLASA A X-A

Varianta 2

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *high commissioner, investments, bylaws, Chair-in-Office, Commonwealth Games, ceremonial, consultation, enshrined, Royalists, Board of Governors.*

The Commonwealth differs from other international bodies such as the United Nations or the World Trade Organization. It has no formal constitution or (1) _____. The members have no legal or formal obligation to one another; they are held together by shared traditions, institutions, and experiences as well as by economic self-interest. Commonwealth action is based upon (2) _____ between members, which is conducted through correspondence and through conversations in meetings. Each member country sends an emissary, called a (3) _____, to the capitals of the other members.

The member states' heads of government make up the primary decision-making component of the Commonwealth. The Head of the Commonwealth, a title historically belonging to the British Crown, is largely (4) _____. Succession to the post is non-hereditary and is determined by the Heads of Government. The Commonwealth Secretariat, headed by a secretary-general, organizes and coordinates Commonwealth activities and facilitates relations between member states. The Secretariat is responsible to the (5) _____, composed of the member states' high commissioner to the United Kingdom. At high-level international events, the Commonwealth is represented by the (6) _____, which rotates between member states every two years.

A Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is held every two years. At the meeting in Singapore in 1971, members adopted a declaration that restated the Commonwealth's voluntary and cooperative nature and committed the organization to promoting international peace, fighting racism, opposing colonial domination, and reducing (7) _____ in wealth. This declaration was echoed at the meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1991, when leaders further committed the organization to human rights and democracy. In 2011, in Perth, Australia, leaders tasked the Commonwealth with drafting a charter; the charter – which (8) _____ core principles such as democracy, human rights, freedom of expression, sustainable development, access to health and education, and gender equality – was adopted at the close of 2012.

Britain has huge overseas (9) _____, both government and private, in the Commonwealth. When Britain joined the European Economic Community (later succeeded by the European Union [EU]) in 1973, the trade privileges of member countries began to be reduced. Now Commonwealth members have trade agreements with the EU. Malta and Cyprus are members of both the Commonwealth and the EU; they remained in the EU even after



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

Britain left in 2020. Many of the exports of Commonwealth countries go to other member countries. In 1996 the Commonwealth Africa Investment Fund was established to increase investment in that continent. There are also significant educational links between members, as many British teachers travel overseas and many students from Commonwealth members study in Britain. Other cultural links include the (10) _____, a sporting competition held every four years.

(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Commonwealth-association-of-states/Structure-and-activity>)

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

II. Match the two columns:

1. <i>The course of true love never did run smooth</i> , comments Lysander, articulating one of	a. who find themselves in an increasingly tangled knot of misaligned desire.
2. The tone of the play is so lighthearted that the audience never doubts that things will end happily,	b. their opposites throughout the play.
3. The fairies' magic, which brings about many of the most bizarre and hilarious situations in the play,	c. is the play's chief creator of mischief.
4. This sense of illusion and gauzy fragility is crucial to the atmosphere of <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> ,	d. things cease to make sense.
5. Jealousy plays out most obviously among the quartet of Athenian lovers,	e. but also shocks Helena, who suddenly finds herself being pursued by Lysander.
6. The trickster fairy Puck (also known as Robin Goodfellow)	f. <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream's</i> most important themes – that of the difficulty of love (I.i.134).
7. Most of the transformations that take place in the play derive from fairy magic,	g. is another element central to the fantastic atmosphere of <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> .
8. As night progresses in the forest,	h. and it is therefore free to enjoy the comedy without being caught up in the tension of an uncertain outcome.
9. Situations transform quickly into	i. as it helps render the play a fantastical experience rather than a heavy drama.
10. The sudden reversal of Lysander's affection for Hermia not only leaves his former lover stunned,	j. specifically the magic of Puck.

2

(<https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/msnd/themes/>)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(20 points: 10 x 2p)



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There are THREE extra headings you do not need to use:

A. How to Drink Tea	C. The Queen and the Hostage Lawmaker	E. Up in the Heir	G. Queen Elizabeth II's Ceremonial Nosegay
B. The Balmoral Test	D. Boys in Shorts Until Age 8	F. The Duchess Slant	H. No Bed Before the Queen

Rules of Royal Etiquette You Had No Idea About

1	
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Royals are required to stay up until the queen herself has gone to bed as a mark of respect, according to the queen's former private secretary Sir William Heseltine.

His book, *The Royals in Australia*, details the struggle Princess Diana had waiting for Elizabeth to retire for the night.

For Diana the long royal evenings were agony, he wrote. There'd be an hour or so in the sitting room of everyone sitting around making conversation.

And Diana was driven to such extremes that she'd excuse herself and go to bed, which was thought to be rather bad form, going to bed before the Queen.

3

2	
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There is a correct way to sit for female royals, with the knees together and angled to one side, rather than the legs crossed, in a position known as the *Duchess Slant*.

Meghan was photographed sat with her legs folded alongside Elizabeth during an event for the Queen's Young Leaders Awards in June 2018, Harper's Bazaar reported.

However, she was not the first to break with etiquette as Kate Middleton and Princess Diana have both sat with legs crossed before.

Myka Meier, a royal etiquette expert, told People crossing at the knee was among *the biggest etiquette mistakes a lady can make*.

She added: *It's sophisticated, protects vulnerabilities and looks fabulous in photos.*

3	
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The queen carries a bunch of flowers known as a *nosegay* during her Maundy Thursday service, just before Easter each year.

Since the 13th century, British monarchs have handed out gifts to the poor, or in Elizabeth's case her ordinary subjects received specially-minted coins, the BBC reported.

However, originally the monarch would bathe people's feet during the event and took a bunch of flowers along to help deal with the bad smell.



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Ediția a IV-a

The foot washing was to honor Jesus Christ, who washed the feet of his disciples. But that royal tradition stopped under the rule of King James II in the 17th century.

The nosegay tradition, however, continues and *By Appointment to HM The Queen*, Rosemary Hughes currently holds the job title *Supplier of Nosegays*.

4	
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Royal etiquette rules do not just affect the family and their partners but also visitors to their world, including British prime ministers.

One rite of passage for U.K. political leaders is the visit to the queen's Scottish retreat, Balmoral, which is famous for its ability to show up the ill prepared.

One aspect of the Balmoral Test made famous by Netflix series *The Crown* is a chair which no-one is allowed to sit in because it was Queen Victoria's and has remained vacant since her death.

However, there are many other oddities as former PM Tony Blair discovered on his first visit.

Quoted by the *Daily Mail*, he said: *Yes, you get your own valet. He asked me if he could fold my clothes and generally iron the underpants and that type of thing.*

This so disconcerted me that when he then asked if he could 'draw the bath,' I lost the thread completely and actually thought for a moment that he wanted to sketch the damn thing.

5	
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Many a royal family portrait has seen young princes dressed in eccentric outfits, rather than the trousers and T-shirts a lot of families opt for.

One reason, according to etiquette expert Grant Harrold, is the tradition dates back to the 16th century.

Formerly a butler to Prince Charles, Harry and William, he told the BBC: *This saw young boys wearing gowns or dresses until the age of eight, if not before.*

Thankfully in late 19th Century and early 20th century this developed into shorts. This tradition is carried on by the Royal Family to this very day.

However, the tradition has not always gone down well with the young royals in question.

In a 2017 ITV interview, Prince Harry reminisced over the outfits Princess Diana dressed him and Prince William in.

He said: *I genuinely think she got satisfaction out of dressing myself and William up in the most bizarre outfits – normally matching.*

It was weird shorts and little shiny shoes with the old clip on. Looking back at the photos it just makes me laugh and I think, 'How could you do that to us?'

(<https://www.newsweek.com/21-rules-royal-etiquette-you-had-no-idea-about-1590498>)

(20 points: 5 x 4p)



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (180-200 words). Please remember to give a title to your text.



(Rebecca from Ivanhoe - AI Generated Artwork - NightCafe Creator creator.nightcafe.studio)

5

(40 points)

*NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** Timp de lucru 90 de minute.*



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

ETAPA INTERJUDEȚEANĂ
10 MAI 2025

CLASA A XI-A

Varianta 3

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *legions, assimilation, Domesday Book, writs, rune-stones, castra, longships, Danelaw, feudalism, earldorman.*

The history of Britain has been shaped by successive waves of invaders, each leaving a distinct imprint on the island's culture and governance. Beginning in AD 43, the Romans dispatched ten (1) _____ to subdue the native tribes. They established permanent military camps known as (2) _____, many of which later evolved into major towns. Roman administration also facilitated the (3) _____ of local Britons into imperial law, language, and urban life.

After the Roman withdrawal in the early 5th century, Germanic tribes – chiefly Angles, Saxons, and Jutes – settled in eastern and southern Britain. They organized themselves into kingdoms under powerful (4) _____ and introduced written (5) _____ to record land grants and legal judgments. Archaeological finds of (6) _____ bearing early inscriptions attest to their use of runic alphabets and evolving Old English. Over generations, this wave reshaped local governance and laid the foundations of a new English identity.

From the late 8th century onward, Scandinavian raiders arrived in agile (7) _____, attacking monasteries and trading along rivers. Their incursions culminated in the establishment of the (8) _____, where Norse law and customs prevailed across much of eastern England. This Norse influence left a lasting legacy in place-names, legal practices, and maritime technologies.

The final conquest came in 1066, when William the Conqueror defeated King Harold at Hastings and introduced a strict system of (9) _____ to bind tenants to their lords. He then commissioned the (10) _____, an unprecedented survey of landholdings and resources used to assess taxes and assert royal authority. Norman rule thus transformed England's social hierarchy and administrative framework.

(<https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom/The-period-of-the-Scandinavian-invasions>)

(20 points: 10 x 2p)



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

II. Match the two columns:

1. James VI of Scotland, believing in the divine right of kings, became ruler of England in 1603, uniting the two crowns for the first time, but	a. in what is known as the <i>Restoration of the Monarchy</i> .
2. Ascending the throne in 1625, Charles I inherited his father's strong belief in royal prerogative and	b. which curtailed royal prerogative and affirmed parliamentary authority.
3. After more than a decade of republican rule, Charles II was restored to the throne in 1660	c. and his reliance on ministers – most notably Sir Robert Walpole – cemented the office of the prime minister and shifted real power toward Parliament.
4. Taking the crown in 1685, James II alarmed the Protestant establishment by promoting Catholics to positions of power,	d. soon clashed repeatedly with Parliament leading to the civil war which erupted between Royalists (<i>Cavaliers</i>) and Parliamentarians (<i>Roundheads</i>), ending with his capture and execution.
5. Invited to rule jointly in 1689, William III and Mary II accepted only after agreeing to the terms of the English Bill of Rights,	e. therefore her reign saw Britain's emergence as a major European power through victories in the War of the Spanish Succession under the Duke of Marlborough.
6. As the last Stuart sovereign, Queen Anne presided over the 1707 Act of Union, uniting England and Scotland into Great Britain,	f. which he successfully quelled at Culloden.
7. A German prince unfamiliar with English customs or language, George I ascended in 1714 under the terms of the Act of Settlement,	g. which profoundly altered Britain's global standing. He championed agricultural improvement and infrastructure projects at home but later suffered prolonged bouts of mental illness that led to the Regency period.
8. The only British monarch born outside Great Britain, George II reigned from 1727 to 1760 and faced another Jacobite challenge in 1745,	h. despite his achievements, his government struggled with financial strain and complex foreign-policy challenges, particularly in dealings with Spain.
9. Ascending in 1760, George III's long reign encompassed the loss of the American colonies following the Revolutionary War,	i. thus the Parliament invited his Protestant daughter and her Dutch husband to assume the throne, precipitating the almost bloodless <i>Glorious Revolution</i> .
10. Initially serving as his father's regent from 1811, George IV officially became king in 1820	j. and ruled until 1830, his flamboyant taste shaping the Regency era's neoclassical architecture and high society – exemplified by Brighton Pavilion and Carlton House.



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Ediția a IV-a

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There are THREE extra headings you do not need to use:

A. The role of women	C. Elizabeth Bennet's character	E. Title explained	G. Dracy's pride and prejudice
B. Jane Austen's life	D. Life for Victorian boys	F. Social expectations	H. Marriage and wealth

Pride and Prejudice

1	
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Elizabeth Bennet stands out in *Pride and Prejudice* as a woman of sharp intellect, keen wit, and ardent independence. Unlike many of her contemporaries, she challenges societal conventions with playful irony and moral conviction. Though born into modest means, Elizabeth refuses to compromise her principles for material gain, insisting that happiness, mutual respect, and emotional compatibility must underpin any marriage. Her curiosity and perceptiveness allow her to see through social façades – whether the pretensions of Lady Catherine de Bourgh or Mr. Collins's obsequiousness – and to critique them with both humor and empathy. Yet she is not without her flaws: her readiness to form judgments, especially regarding Mr. Darcy, reveals a certain pride and impulsivity that she must overcome.

3

2	
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In Regency England, rigid social codes governed nearly every aspect of daily life, prescribing how individuals should dress, speak, and comport themselves according to rank and gender. Young ladies were instructed in the nuances of etiquette – how to enter a room, to dance at balls, to engage in polite conversation – skills deemed essential for making advantageous marital connections. Beyond mere manners, these unwritten yet universally acknowledged rules reinforced class distinctions: aristocrats mingled primarily within their own circles, while families of lesser standing could only hope for social elevation through strategic alliances. Deviations from these norms – whether overly assertive behavior by a woman, too familiar familiarity from a lower-born gentleman, or unseemly displays of emotion – risked scandal and public censure.



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

3	
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Marriage in the early nineteenth century was often as much an economic arrangement as a romantic partnership – especially for families with limited means. A son's inheritance or a substantial dowry could determine a family's future security, and parents viewed marital negotiations through a financial lens. Young women, lacking independent income or property rights, depended on marital alliances to maintain their social status and ensure their livelihood.

Thus, matrimonial prospects hinged on land, money, and connections rather than affection. By Elizabeth and Darcy's eventual union she brings spirited intelligence and integrity, he brings the means to support and respect her choices, thus Austen suggesting that the ideal marriage reconciles economic necessity with genuine mutual esteem.

4	
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Fitzwilliam Darcy's journey is marked by an evolution from aloof arrogance to self-aware humility. Initially, he appears the embodiment of high-born pride: disdainful of local society, he shuns promenades at assemblies and brusquely dismisses Elizabeth's attractiveness. His haughty demeanor blinds him to the virtues of those beneath his social rank and fuels Elizabeth's equally prejudiced judgments. By the novel's end, Darcy's pride has been tempered by empathy, and his character arc illustrates Austen's assertion that true nobility derives not from birthright but from moral growth and the willingness to confront one's own biases.

4

5	
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In the restricted world of early nineteenth-century England, women's roles were largely confined to domestic spheres: managing the household, hosting social gatherings, and securing advantageous marriages. Educational opportunities favored finishing touches over academic rigor; young ladies were schooled in music, drawing, and the art of conversation rather than in mathematics or philosophy. Legal constraints left women dependent on fathers or husbands for financial security, and the doctrine of coverture effectively subsumed a married woman's legal identity under her husband's. Through varied women portrayals, Austen critiques her era's narrow definitions of womanhood and envisions possibilities beyond mere domesticity—suggesting that women's intelligence, moral strength, and emotional depth deserve recognition equal to that of men.

(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pride-and-Prejudice>)

(20 points: 5 x 4p)



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Ediția a IV-a

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (220-250 words). Please remember to give a title to your text.



5

(<https://creator.nightcafe.studio/>)

(40 points)

*NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** Timp de lucru 90 de minute.*



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Ediția a IV-a

ETAPA INTERJUDEȚEANĂ
10 MAI 2025

CLASA A XII-A

Varianta 2

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *mourning, Jubilee, 1861, morality, colonies, industrial, Parliament, empire, railways, 1837.*

The reign of Queen Victoria, beginning in (1) _____, marked a transformative era in British history, later known as the Victorian Age. It was a period of rapid (2) _____ expansion, technological innovation, and global influence. Under her rule, the British (3) _____ grew to become the largest the world had ever seen, encompassing vast (4) _____ across Asia, Africa, and the Pacific.

Domestically, Britain experienced a boom in infrastructure, most notably with the construction of extensive (5) _____ that revolutionized travel and commerce. Society also underwent significant cultural shifts, with Victorian (6) _____ emphasizing restraint, duty, and respectability.

Victoria's marriage to Prince Albert was a defining personal and political alliance. His early death in (7) _____ plunged her into prolonged (8) _____, during which she withdrew from public life but remained a symbolic national figure. Despite her limited direct involvement in politics, she respected constitutional norms and worked cooperatively with (9) _____, embodying a stable constitutional monarchy.

Her Diamond (10) _____ in 1897 celebrated sixty years on the throne, reflecting a nation at the height of its power and self-confidence.

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/z73mrd>)

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

II. Match the two columns:

1. In Huxley's dystopia, the notion of individuality is carefully eradicated from birth,	a. Elizabeth's journey reflecting Austen's belief that marriage should balance affection and respect with practical considerations.
2. The World State's motto – <i>Community, Identity, Stability</i> – reveals a society where technology has not only mechanized reproduction	b. even when confronted by Lady Catherine de Bourgh, who tries to intimidate her into refusing Darcy, she stands firm, to critique the limitations placed on women and to champion personal merit over inherited privilege.
3. Elizabeth Bennet is a woman ahead of her time, valuing intellect and integrity over wealth and status,	c. the novel forcing readers to confront how language can manipulate, beautify, and obscure truth, how charisma and rhetoric can disguise



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

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	abuse, how the power of the narrative can distort reality.
4. Marriage in Jane Austen's world is as much an economic transaction as a romantic ideal,	d. people being taught not to desire solitude or intimacy, for these lead to instability.
5. William Golding's novel begins with a plane crash that leaves a group of British schoolboys stranded on an uninhabited island,	e. but also sanitized emotion and thought.
6. At its core, <i>Lord of the Flies</i> is an exploration of the tension between civilization and primal instinct,	f. Orwell eventually illustrating how revolutions, when unchecked, can recreate the very oppression they sought to overthrow, as the animals' hopes dissolve into a regime as brutal as the one they replaced.
7. Orwell's fable begins with a hopeful rebellion against the human owner by which the animals envision a society based on equality and shared labor,	g. <i>Lolita</i> explores the psychological maze of obsession.
8. One of Orwell's sharpest critiques in <i>Animal Farm</i> is of propaganda, Squealer, the pig spokesman, manipulating language and statistics to justify the pigs' actions,	h. Ralph representing order, rules, and cooperation, while Jack symbolizes the lure of power and violence, thus Golding arguing that civilization is a fragile construct, easily dismantled when fear and the desire for dominance prevail.
9. Narrated by the charming yet deeply unreliable Humbert Humbert,	i. explaining contradictions with persuasive but empty rhetoric, blaming Snowball for failures, and convincing the animals that their suffering is noble.
10. Vladimir Nabokov's <i>Lolita</i> is renowned not only for its controversial subject but for the extraordinary lyricism of its language	j. on which they attempt to establish order, electing Ralph as leader and assigning tasks for each of them, but the veneer of civilization quickly erodes.

(<https://www.anticexlibris.ro>)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There are THREE extra headings you do not need to use:

A. Conditioning and control	C. A romantic getaway	E. Women's independence	G. Obsession and morality
B. The corruption of innocence	D. Satire and revolution	F. Social inequalities	H. Strong bonds

1	
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Community, Identity, Stability. The motto embraced by the World State isn't merely a slogan – it defines every facet of existence. From artificial reproduction to hypnopædic learning,



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

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citizens are conditioned not to desire individuality or question authority. The state dictates the course of people's lives from birth to death. Those who deviate from these social norms are eliminated or punished. Huxley's vision of a technologically controlled society critiques modernity's potential to suppress what makes us human. In the World State, happiness is manufactured and consumption is the key to satisfaction, yet individuality and emotional depth are sacrificed for the sake of stability.

2	
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Elizabeth Bennet is not easily swayed by wealth or status. She engages in lively conversation and challenges Mr. Darcy's pride with intelligence and integrity. Austen crafts a heroine who values self-respect and moral judgment over superficial appearances, making Elizabeth a timeless figure of female independence. She rejects the traditional path of marrying for security and status, instead seeking a union founded on respect and understanding. In an era when women's choices were often constrained, Elizabeth Bennet stands out as an individual who defies convention, asserting her own values and independence. Her eventual marriage to Darcy becomes a partnership based on mutual respect, not mere social convenience.

3	
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Left without adults, the boys descend into savagery. Order collapses as fear, power struggles, and primal instincts take over. Golding's novel exposes the thin veneer of civilization and suggests that the capacity for violence lies just beneath the surface. The boys' initial attempts to establish rules and order break down as they succumb to their darker impulses. Their descent into chaos is swift and devastating, showing how quickly innocence can be corrupted when societal structures are removed. What begins as an idyllic attempt to form a community devolves into brutal competition, with the boys eventually losing their humanity altogether.

3

4	
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At first, the animals rejoice in freedom. They sing, vote, and build. But as Napoleon consolidates power, the dream of equality fades. Language is twisted, the commandments change, and by the end, the pigs walk upright – indistinguishable from humans. Orwell's fable warns how revolutions can breed new oppressions. What begins as a noble cause for animal equality becomes a system just as corrupt as the one it overthrew. Orwell's biting critique of power, propaganda, and the manipulation of language reveals how easily idealistic revolutions can morph into totalitarian regimes that betray their own founding principles.

5	
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Humbert Humbert's obsession with Dolores Haze is narrated with poetic precision and manipulative brilliance. Though he cloaks his desire in romantic language, the reader perceives the moral horror beneath the surface. Humbert's attempts to justify his actions are drenched in self-deception and intellectual rationalizations. His obsession blinds him to the reality of his wrongdoing, even as the tragic consequences of his actions unfold. Nabokov's novel is a disturbing exploration of fixation, self-deception, and guilt. Humbert's narrative voice entices the reader into complicity, challenging our ability to distinguish between beauty and moral repulsion.



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

(20 points: 5 x 4p)

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (220-250 words). Please remember to give a title to your text.



(<https://scifi.zone/engineering-happiness-the-alarming-vision-of-aldous-huxleys-brave-new-world/>)

4

(40 points)

NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** Timp de lucru 90 de minute.