

PROBA ORALĂ DE VERIFICARE A CUNOȘTINȚELOR LA LIMBA ENGLEZĂ  
pentru admiterea în clasa a IX-a cu program bilingv  
IUNIE 2010

BILETUL NR. 1

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Throughout history people have used maps, but these maps have not always been drawn on paper. In fact, some of the earliest maps were made on pieces of stone or sometimes simply by drawing a map on the ground to show travellers the way to go. The oldest maps that we still have today date back 4,000 years or so. A map is basically a kind of picture of an area and is designed to help people find their way from one place to another.

However, to do this, it is necessary to know where you are starting from. The ancient Greeks invented a geographical grid using the stars as their starting points. They drew lines going from North to South – Longitude and lines going East to West – Latitude. Using these lines, it was possible to work out where you were and look at where you wanted to go on the map. The use of stars to help navigate has long been known and so it should not come as a surprise to learn that map-making relied heavily on the stars to help determine location. The Greeks were so fascinated by the night sky that they made as many maps of the skies as they did of the land around them.

1. What were some early maps made from?
2. Who used the sky to help them draw maps?
3. Apart from travel information, what did some early maps show?

**Profesori examinatori:**

## BILETUL NR. 2

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Ancient maps often included drawings of people and animals to show who or what lived in a particular location. Maps like these were used not only to show locations but also to give people some idea of what they might find there – and often warn people of dangers. Many old maps (and even some today) have large blank areas. In fact, many of the maps from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries show the coastlines of countries and continents in detail, but very little of the inland areas. Nowadays, with the use of satellite technology, we have comprehensive maps of even the most remote areas of the world.

Many maps of the world have the UK and Europe in the centre of the map. This is partly because the line of zero degrees longitude goes through Greenwich in London. However, there are maps that show the USA or China at the centre of the map. And, there is a map designed by Stuart McArthur, an Australian, that not only has Australia in the centre but also has the South Pole at the top of the map and the North Pole at the bottom. Many people, when they first see this map, think that it is upside down and try to turn it round. Of course, it isn't upside down at all – it is simply a different perspective of the world.

1. What information was often missing in old maps?
2. What is special about McArthur's map?
3. What is your dream destination?

**Profesori examinatori:**

### BILETUL NR. 3

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Companies like *Lost and Found* in London are leading the way when it comes to recycling our junk. Set up by Becky Oldfield, the company specializes in making furniture and covers. One of the key things that *Lost and Found* do is to source their materials locally. Becky will go round to local companies and get whatever they are throwing away and use these things in her products.

Meanwhile, Electra Gillies has set up her own eco-tourism company. She used to work as a journalist for a national newspaper and realized that there was a demand for 'green holidays'. To ensure that her holidays really are green she goes out and visits every place she advertises. Unfortunately, this is necessary as there is no international eco-standard and companies often realize that if they use the word 'green' they can charge more for the same thing. One of the best things as far as Electra is concerned is that most of the places she has chosen use renewable energy, employ local staff and therefore re-invest in the local economy.

1. Which company was founded on recycling junk?
2. Which word drives the prices up in the tour industry?
3. What do you think are the biggest environmental problems?

**Profesori examinatori:**

#### BILETUL NR. 4

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Electra Gillies has set up her own eco-tourism company. To ensure that her holidays really are green she goes out and visits every place she advertises. One of the best things as far as Electra is concerned is that most of the places she has chosen use renewable energy, employ local staff and therefore re-invest in the local economy.

Rachel Rogers has started her own online department store, [thenaturalstore.co.uk](http://thenaturalstore.co.uk). The idea for *The Natural Store* came from the fact that Rachel was frustrated by having to shop at lots of different places to buy what she wanted. She thought that it would be good to start a shop where you could buy Fairtrade products, organic food, environmentally friendly cosmetics and ethical clothing all in one place. Although things cost a bit more it is worth it because the result is a cleaner planet.

So, the next time you are thinking about the environment and you'd actually like to do something positive, check out the options that are available. You'll be surprised just how easy it is to be green.

1. What is the main advantage of shopping at The Natural Store?
2. According to the text, why should people buy eco-friendly products?
3. What can we do about the environment?

**Profesori examinatori:**

**BILETUL NR. 5**

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Aromatherapy, as the name suggests, is to do with smells. In aromatherapy oils from flowers, fruits and leaves are used to help people relax. Usually the oils are inhaled by smelling the scent given off when the oils are heated. So, one very common product that you can buy is special candles that you can place around your room and light when you feel the need to relax. The oils can also be used in massages and when having a bath. Research has shown that aromatherapy is good for relieving stress and also helps with insomnia (not being able to sleep) and some emotional problems.

Reflexology is an ancient alternative therapy that was used in ancient Egypt, Greece and China. However, modern reflexology was developed by William H Fitzgerald, a doctor in the USA, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Reflexology involves putting pressure on parts of the feet or hands and a gentle movement, a little bit like massage.

1. What do we use in aromatherapy?
2. How are the oils used?
3. What is reflexology?

**Profesori examinatori:**

### BILETUL NR. 6

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Acupuncture is probably the best known of these alternative therapies and is part of traditional Chinese medicine. It involves using needles and inserting them into selected points on the body. The belief is that by placing needles at particular points the flow of energy can be changed so that particular parts of the body are affected.

Hypnosis (or hypnotherapy) is probably not usually thought of as a way of treating illnesses. But, in fact, it can be extremely effective. It works by getting the patient to relax. When they are very relaxed it is possible to make suggestions that are supposed to help the person get better – this is known as mental healing. The suggestions are positive ideas about how to behave, what to do, or how you wish to feel. Because your body and mind are relaxed you are more likely to accept these ideas and find that they work. Hypnosis is used a lot to help people overcome anxiety, addictions, weight problems, insomnia and phobias.

1. What does acupuncture involve?
2. How does hypnosis work?
3. Why is hypnosis used?

**Profesori examinatori:**

### BILETUL NR. 7

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Reflexology is an ancient alternative therapy that was used in ancient Egypt, Greece and China. Reflexology involves putting pressure on parts of the feet or hands and a gentle movement, a little bit like massage. The idea is that the pressure will help remove any blockages in the nervous system and help stimulate your body's energy pathways. It is used to relieve stress, cure headaches and help with pain and insomnia.

Acupuncture involves using needles and inserting them into selected points on the body. The belief is that by placing needles at particular points the flow of energy can be changed so that particular parts of the body are affected. Scientists believe that by using the needles endorphins are released into the brain and that it is this that makes acupuncture work. Research shows that acupuncture is effective at helping relieve pain and headaches, as well as helping with asthma and high blood pressure

1. What does reflexology involve?
2. Why is acupuncture used?
3. What do you do to relax?

**Profesori examinatori:**

### BILETUL NR. 8

Read the text below and answer the questions.

People in Britain love listening to music and they enjoy making music too. Thousands of schoolchildren lay a musical instrument and they like classical music as well as pop! If they are very good, they can join the National Children's Orchestra (NCO). Its members come from all over Britain and they are all under 14.

There are training courses twice a year – usually at Easter and in the summer holidays. The students practise every day and at the end of the week they give a concert. But they work all the time. They can go swimming, do sport and they always have a lot of fun.

The orchestra give concerts in London, Birmingham and Liverpool and its musicians sometimes appear on radio and television.

1. What sort of music do the British schoolchildren like?
2. What does NCO mean?
3. How often do they have training courses?

**Profesori examinatori:**



### BILETUL NR. 9

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Larry Walters, from San Pedro, California, lived his dream yesterday. His dream was to fly. Larry bought 42 special weather balloons and he filled them with helium. With the help of some friends, he attached the balloons to his garden chair. He had a bottle of soda, a radio and a camera. He also took a gun. Larry planned to shoot the balloons when he wanted to return to Earth.

His idea was to go up slowly but, in fact, his chair went up into the sky very quickly and Larry lost his glasses. Soon he was at 3.500 metres. He stayed in the air for several hours and he began to feel cold and worried. At the end of the afternoon he was near Los Angeles International Airport. A plane went past him. The pilot closed his eyes and opened them again. It was true! There was a man in a garden chair in the clouds.

1. What was Larry Walters's dream ?
2. How did he manage to fly?
3. What was the pilot's reaction when he saw Larry?

**Profesori examinatori:**

### BILETUL NR. 10

Read the text below and answer the questions.

In 1895 the Lumiere brothers showed the first public film in a café in Paris. But it was Hollywood that became the centre of the film industry. In 1919, 35,000 people lived in Hollywood. The first talking movie, the Jazz Singer, appeared in 1927 and the first colour films appeared in the 1930's.

Today's films often use a mixture of real images and images from a computer. Toy story was the first film made completely by computers, in 1995. It took 800,000 hours to create the pictures that you see on the screen.

The Lord of The rings films took several years to make, and the actors used 1,600 pairs of hobbit ears and feet! For the film Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone, the animal trainer Paul Wray worked for nine months with the owl Hedwig.

1. When was the first public film shown?
2. What do modern films make use of?
3. What is your favourite movie? Why?

**Profesori examinatori:**

### BILETUL NR. 11

Read the text below and answer the questions.

The Eco – Challenge Race takes place once a year, usually in a different country each year. There are four people in each team, and the teams come from all over the world. The race is about 500 kilometres long.

The competitors travel for six to 12 days, sometimes for 24 hours a day, so they don't get much sleep. They walk through rainforests. They ride horses across the desert. They travel across the sea. They go up the mountains on mountain bikes. They go down rivers and across lakes.

The natural environment is very important in the Eco-Challenge. The teams must not touch the tents on top of plants and they must not leave rubbish. Before the race the competitors do something to help the local people. For example in Morocco, they cleaned the beaches. In Fiji, they collected books for local schools. In the US, they worked in a children's park.

1. What is Eco-Challenge?
2. What do the competitors have to do?
3. Have you ever taken part in such a competition? Would you like to? Why?

**Profesori examinatori:**

BILETUL NR. 12

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Thirty thousand years ago the first Americans travelled across the ice from Asia to Alaska. Some of them stayed in Alaska and became the Inuit people. Others went to different parts of Canada and North and South America. Some were fishermen, some were farmers and some were hunters. When Columbus arrived in the Caribbean in 1492, he thought he was in India, so he called the Native Americans *Indians*.

When the first Europeans went to live in North America, there were already a million people there. There were about 300 Indian Tribes. Each tribe had a different language and way of life, but they also had a sign language that everyone could understand.

1. How did Columbus come to call Native Americans *Indians* ?
2. How did the tribes manage to understand among themselves?
3. Have you ever been to USA? Would you like to? Why?

**Profesori examinatori:**

**BILETUL NR. 13**

Read the text below and answer the questions.

When the first white settlers arrived, the Native Americans were living in their traditional homes across North America. At first, they were friendly to their new neighbours, but the European settlers wanted their land. The Indians fought many wars and their leaders – Crazy Horse, Geronimo, Sitting Bull – became famous. Thousands of them died and they also died from illnesses that the Europeans brought with them. Finally, the US government forced the Native Americans to live in special reservations.

Today, about 1.5 milion Native Americans live on reservations. Many of them try to keep their ancient traditions and now Native American culture is growing again.

Settlers – European immigrants.

1. How did some of the Indians die?
2. What solution did the US government come up with?
3. Have you ever been to USA? Would you like to? Why?

**Profesori examinatori:**

BILETUL NR. 14

Read the text below and answer the questions

Matt Long Class 9

My main interest is astronomy – the study of the stars. When I was little, I always watched a programme called the Sky at night. There was a lot of information about the eclipse of the sun in 1999. The best place to see it was Cornwall. So we all went to Cornwall on holiday, but the weather was awful. We didn't see the eclipse because it was too cloudy. I was very disappointed and everyone said it was our worst holiday.

I bought a new telescope last week. Last night I got up at four o'clock because I wanted to see the International Space Station. It was travelling at 28,000 kilometres an hour, 386 kilometres above my head.

I could see it clearly!

Amazing!

1. Why did Matt and his family go to Cornwall?
2. What was the problem?
3. What was one of the best moments?

**Profesori examinatori:**

BILETUL NR. 15

Read the text below and answer the questions

The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe is the story of life on a desert island nearly three hundred years ago. Richie Sowa, from Liddlesbrough in the UK, is a 21st century Robinson Crusoe. His home is an island near Cancun in Mexico. But Richie's island is different. He built it himself – with 250,000 plastic bottles!

The house has got a living room, a simple kitchen and two bedrooms. The weather is hot, dry and sunny so Richie uses solar power. He's got a solar cooker, a shower, electric lights and a CD player. He shares the island with his dogs, two ducks and four cats.

A lot of tourists visit the island and, last year, an ecology student stayed there and studied Richie's way of life. "It's paradise!" He said.

1. What did Richie use to build his house?
2. How many rooms has his house got?
3. Would you like to live like Richie? Why?

**Profesori examinatori:**