

## Examenul național de bacalaureat 2026

### Proba C

de evaluare a competențelor lingvistice într-o limbă de circulație internațională  
studiată pe parcursul învățământului liceal

### Proba scrisă la Limba engleză

Toate filierele, profilurile și specializările/ calificările

Model

- Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii.
- Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 120 de minute.

### ÎNȚELEGEREA TEXTULUI CITIT

#### SUBIECTUL I

(40 de puncte)

Read the text below. Are the sentences 1-5 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C). Mark A, B or C on your exam sheet.

By 2030 – if things really go to plan – you'll land in Queenstown on New Zealand's South Island (possibly even aboard an electric-powered Air New Zealand airplane) and make your way to town via an electric gondola or on a hydro-powered ferry across the town's famous glacier-fed lake, Lake Wakatipu. Skiers and snowboarders – who in winter descend on this region in ever-increasing numbers from around the world – will ride electric-powered chairlifts to the peaks of the surrounding ski resorts.

Year-round, travellers might take high-speed rides on Lake Wakatipu and along the shallow whitewater rapids of the Shotover River town aboard the world's first fully electric jet boats. Even the TSS Earnslaw – this hemisphere's oldest coal-fired, passenger-carrying steamship that has transported young families on day excursions since the 1970s – will run on hydrogen.

It's all part of the region's very ambitious plan to become the first tourist town on Earth to have a carbon-zero visitor economy by 2030. The "adventure capital of the world" – a title earned through decades of innovation creating death-defying activities that had been done nowhere else, but ones that run primarily on fossil fuels – now wants to become the ecotourism capital of the world. And they're aiming for a carbon-zero visitor economy in six years, not an easier-to-achieve carbon-neutral visitor economy (where Queenstown could use carbon credits, like planting trees, to achieve its environmental goals). Becoming carbon-zero is much harder to achieve – because it means you can't emit any carbon at all. "Well, 2030 creates urgency, doesn't it?" Destination Queenstown CEO Mat Woods asks rhetorically. "2030 seemed so hard to achieve that it got the community excited. It means that everyone in the community has to be part of this [push to carbon-zero]."

Queenstown's huge environmental challenge stemmed from a concern that the region's infrastructure was struggling to cope with the sheer number of tourists coming to town. Queenstown is set around a massive lake, fringed by the rugged mountains of the country's Southern Alps. It's been a skiing hotspot since resorts first opened in the 1940s, but the development of an adventure tourism economy built around its dramatic landscape since the 1960s established the region as one of New Zealand's most popular destinations.

1. By 2030, Queenstown on New Zealand's South Island is expected to feature more sustainable transportation options.  
A. Right                      B. Wrong                      C. Doesn't say
2. The oldest passenger-carrying steamship, the TSS Earnslaw will not run on coal in the future.  
A. Right                      B. Wrong                      C. Doesn't Say
3. Queenstown's plan is to focus on expanding fossil fuel-based activities instead of promoting ecotourism.  
A. Right                      B. Wrong                      C. Doesn't Say
4. All the people in Queensland will drive electric cars in order to achieve a carbon-zero economy by 2030.  
A. Right                      B. Wrong                      C. Doesn't say
5. Queenstown has faced significant environmental challenges due to its infrastructure struggling to accommodate the high volume of tourists attracted to the region.  
A. Right                      B. Wrong                      C. Doesn't say

**SUBIECTUL al II-lea**

**(60 de puncte)**

**Read the text below. For questions 1-10, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

Paul Mescal is the "mesmerising centre" of Ridley Scott's long-awaited *Gladiator* sequel, which balances emotional drama and social themes with all-out action spectacle. How can you *not* love a film that has swords, sandals, sharks in the flooded Roman Colosseum, Denzel Washington in flowing robes and Paul Mescal biting a baboon? There's much more than that, both serious and camp, in Ridley Scott's exhilarating and fun sequel to *Gladiator*, which won the Oscar for best picture nearly a quarter of a century ago. Full of spectacle and spectacular performances, *Gladiator II* is by far the best popcorn film of the year.

Mescal, a counterintuitive choice given his sensitive roles in *Normal People* and *Aftersun*, is the mesmerising centre of the film, holding it together with the same power and magnetism Russell Crowe brought to the original. The sequel has a less perfect balance between emotion and action than the first, with beheadings and swordfights almost overwhelming the characters, but it comes close enough.

Those comparisons aren't gratuitous, because *Gladiator II* is full of echoes of the original, in which Crowe's gladiator, Maximus, and the vile Caesar, Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix) battled to the death in the Colosseum. Lucius, Maximus's son with Commodus' sister, Lucilla (Connie Nielsen, returning to that role here) was then a small boy sent away from Rome for his own safety. Fifteen years later, here he is played by Mescal, more sinewy than usual but thankfully not pumped up to the cartoonish proportions of a Marvel character.

Lucius has grown into manhood in Numidia in northern Africa, and soon plunges into war against the Roman invaders. Scott is in total command of the action scenes, and makes that point with an extravagant opening battle. Numidians catapult balls of fire toward the approaching Roman ships, Roman arrows fly toward the Numidian battlements, Lucius's warrior wife is killed, and he is captured and sent toward Rome, vowing revenge against the empire's General Acacius (Pedro Pascal).

The Rome he returns to is more colourful and sinister than ever. Now there are two decadent emperors, twins ruling jointly without regard for the populace, creepy visions in pasty white face makeup and heavy eyeliner. Joseph Quinn is especially chilling, quietly intense and fearsome as Geta, the smarter and therefore more dangerous of the two. Fred Hechinger is the wild-eyed, out-of-control Caracalla, the Fredo to Geta's Michael Corleone.

Washington plays the enigmatic Macrinus, a wealthy businessman and owner of gladiators who buys Lucius. With jewelled rings on every finger and gold chains around his neck, Washington approaches the role with absolute gusto and over-the-top delivery as Macrinus schemes for power. But at times he pulls the performance back enough to reveal the canniness beneath that brash persona. Pascal's fans may be disappointed in his relatively smaller role and subdued performance. He doesn't make much of an impact, even though it turns out Acacius is married to Lucilla and shares her desire to depose the demented, blood-thirsty emperors.

In the big-action arena scenes, Scott pulls out all the stops. A Roman enters riding a rhino. The editing is kinetic as tigers and baboons are unleashed against Lucius and the other gladiators, who are called barbarians. Lucius is so fierce he chomps on a baboon's furry arm. At close range those baboons are conspicuously fake, a weak spot in special effects that are generally smooth. Some distant backgrounds also look flatly CGI'ed, but Scott stages the action with enough volatility to overcome those small glitches.

In the smaller-scale episodes, Scott knows when to give Mescal the close-ups that allow him to shine, exuding Lucius's determination and anger. That is especially true in his defiant conversations with Macrinus, who does not yet know that Lucius is the heir to the empire, but wonders why this gladiator can quote Virgil. Mescal's intelligent performance raises the level of the film beyond its violent combat.

And some of the violence is emotional. Most viewers will know going in, as the film's trailer reveals, that Lucius is Maximus's son, so we are way ahead of most characters. But one of the most bracing episodes takes place when Lucilla recognises the gladiator as her son and visits him in his jail-like cell, a meeting that defies our easy expectations.

As the film heads toward its ultimate battles, the camp level rises. There is a scene with Macrinus, the Roman Senate and a severed head (no spoilers; it's not Washington's head) that is just silly. At times Washington and the emperor twins seem to be in a little camp-fest all their own, but instead of pulling against the rest of the film, that style lands as another sign that *Gladiator II* is meant to be an entertaining romp.

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/>

1. What makes *Gladiator II* stand out as a "popcorn film"?
  - A. It has a serious and dramatic tone throughout.
  - B. It features a combination of spectacle and memorable performances.
  - C. It focuses on historical accuracy and character development.
  - D. It is the most serious and intense film of the year.
2. How does Mescal's performance in the sequel compare to Russell Crowe's in the original film?
  - A. Mescal's performance is less captivating than Russell Crowe's.
  - B. Mescal's performance is overshadowed by the action scenes.
  - C. Mescal brings the same power and magnetism as Russell Crowe.
  - D. Mescal's performance is not as emotionally balanced as Russell Crowe's.
3. How is Lucius portrayed in *Gladiator II* compared to his depiction in the original film?
  - A. He is now portrayed as much older and more muscular.
  - B. He looks exactly the same as he did when he was a child.
  - C. He appears younger and smaller than before.
  - D. Played by a different actor, he appears thinner than before.
4. What is Lucius's main goal after being captured by the Romans in *Gladiator II*?
  - A. To negotiate peace with the Roman Empire.
  - B. To escape from captivity and return to Numidia.
  - C. To seek revenge against General Acacius.
  - D. To join the Roman army and fight for Rome.

5. How are the twin emperors portrayed in *Gladiator II*?
- A. They are benevolent rulers focused on the well-being of the people.
  - B. They are depicted as decadent and indifferent to the people.
  - C. They are quiet and strategic, ruling with wisdom.
  - D. They are portrayed as strong and noble warriors who defend Rome.
6. What does the text suggest about Washington's performance as Macrinus?
- A. He plays the character with subtlety, focusing on his kindness.
  - B. He performs with energy and exaggeration, but also shows moments of cleverness.
  - C. He focuses only on Macrinus's physical appearance and wealth.
  - D. His portrayal is serious and without any change in his behaviour.
7. What is mentioned as a flaw in the special effects of *Gladiator II*?
- A. The appearance of Lucius during battle scenes.
  - B. The backgrounds that are overly bright and colorful.
  - C. The fake appearance of baboons at close range.
  - D. The unrealistic behaviour of the tigers in the arena.
8. What role do the close-up shots play in Paul Mescal's performance as Lucius in *Gladiator II*?
- A. They highlight his emotional depth, showcasing his determination and anger.
  - B. They serve to portray his vulnerability and fear.
  - C. They focus on his ability to memorize lines, like quoting Virgil.
  - D. They emphasize his physical strength during action scenes.
9. What is one of the most emotional scenes in *Gladiator II*?
- A. Lucius defeats his enemies in the Colosseum.
  - B. Lucilla recognizes the gladiator as her son.
  - C. Lucius engages in a battle with his father, Maximus.
  - D. Lucius and Macrinus have a final confrontation.
10. What is the effect of the rising "camp level" in *Gladiator II*, as described in the text?
- A. It detracts from the film's serious themes and emotional depth.
  - B. It makes the action scenes more intense and dramatic.
  - C. It creates a humorous contrast, enhancing the film's entertainment value.
  - D. It undermines the overall plot and character development.

## PRODUCEREA DE MESAJE SCRISE

### **SUBIECTUL I**

**(40 de puncte)**

You are part of an international volunteering organisation that supports disadvantaged communities. As part of its tradition, the organisation hosts an annual volunteering camp in a different country each year. For the 2025 edition, you have been appointed as the organiser, and the camp will take place in your country. Write an email to your fellow volunteers, letting them know about the dates of the camp, location, meeting place, transportation arrangements, and some of the activities you have planned.

**Write your email in 80 - 100 words.**

### **SUBIECTUL al II-lea**

**(60 de puncte)**

You have attended a conference discussing the challenges of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. Based on what you learned, write an essay for your ICT class, expressing your opinion on the use of AI technology in schools.

**Write your essay in 180 - 200 words.**