

LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

**Pregătire pentru concursul
de admitere în învățământul militar
superior și postliceal**

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Choose the correct answer *a, b, c* or *d*.

A. READING FOR MAIN IDEA

Benjamin Franklin, the most famous American of his times, was keen on writing. He opened his own printing shop, when he was only twenty-two, and published a newspaper. He also printed a book called Poor Richard's Almanac. This book contained not only funny stories, but also information about the weather, as well as wise sayings.

1. Which of the following best summarizes the paragraph?

- a. Benjamin Franklin was poor and wanted to get rich.
- b. Benjamin Franklin worked a lot when he was young.
- c. Benjamin Franklin was very interested in topics such as the weather.
- d. Benjamin Franklin loved to write stories and books and print them.

The first seasoned crisps, Cheese & Onion and Salt & Vinegar, were produced in the 1950s by Joe "Spud" Murphy and Seamus Burke in Ireland. What people in the US call potato chips is known as crisps in the United Kingdom and Ireland while the name "chips" refers to what Americans mean by "French fries". In the Mid-East and Canada, people like ketchup flavored chips best. In Asia, seaweed is extremely popular, whereas Mexicans prefer chicken flavored chips. Of course, there are a lot of other flavors around the world: Firecracker, Lobster, paprika, meat pie, pickled onion, Chili Crab, Salmon Teriyaki, Caesar Salad, Borscht, Roasted Sausage, and others.

2. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

- a. Potato chips are known all over the world, but they have different names and origins.
- b. Seaweed is the Asian name of potato chips.
- c. People all over the world enjoy potato chips in many different varieties.
- d. Potato chips have had a long and interesting history.

The leaders who like to keep everything under control, including group members and all their activities are called autocratic leaders. These hands-on leaders don't ask too many questions, they take all the decisions, they give orders, and will probably use coercion to make their subordinates carry out their tasks. Laissez-faire, also known as hands-off leaders, allow most decisions to be taken by the group and seem not to be willing to get involved. There are also the democratic leaders, who encourage everybody to participate in the process of decision-making and problem solving. This leadership style is midway between the two.

3. What is the overall idea of the passage above?

- a. There are three leadership styles.
- b. Democratic leaders are more effective than autocratic leaders.
- c. Autocratic leaders are in complete control, laissez-faire leaders are hands-off leaders, and democratic leaders encourage only men to take part in decision-making.
- d. Employees like working with democratic leaders.

Is it taking longer for Americans to get married nowadays? Are they waiting more? If we consider the 2003 figures from the Census Bureau, the answer to these questions is yes. The Associated Press reports that when reaching the age of 34, 30 percent of men and nearly

25 percent of women are still single. These figures are four times higher if we compare them with the data from the 70s. In 1970, only 9 percent of men aged 30-34 had never been married; their rate is now close to 33 percent. When it comes to women who have always been single, the rate has risen from 6 to 23 percent. The most common age for men to get married was 27.1 years in 2003, up from 25.3 in 1970, whereas for women, it rose from 20.8 to 23.2.

4. Which of the following best summarizes the text?
- Do Americans still want to get married?
 - At present, Americans are waiting longer before they get married.
 - When they marry, men are older than women.
 - I will be single at the age of 34, like most men and women.

Fiction is more than just novels and short stories. These are types of fiction, but so is drama. Fables and fairy tales are also fiction. Thus, fiction may be defined as a kind of narrative writing that comes from the author's imagination, rather than from history or real life.

5. What does this paragraph mainly discuss?
- Only novels and short stories are types of fiction.
 - Fiction is a kind of narrative writing that comes mostly from the imagination of the author.
 - Fiction includes novels, short stories, drama, fairy tales and fables.
 - There are many kinds of literature.

If you are part of a small group, you have more opportunities to get to know all the others better and to establish close ties with everybody. The groups where relationships are most influential and strong are two-person groups. When there are three persons involved, coalitions may appear, meaning that two of the members join forces against the third one. If there are five persons in a group, then it is large enough for everybody to feel free and express their emotions, even if they risk antagonizing one another. Still, five-member groups are small enough for members to show respect and consideration for everybody's feelings and needs.

6. Which is the main idea of the text above?
- When two persons are members of the same group, they are very influential.
 - It is better to be part of a five-person group than a two-person group.
 - Groups are very important in any human activity, within the family, the workplace, and the government.
 - The number of people in a group affects relationships within the group.

Even if to many people a koala is a bear, this couldn't be further from the truth. Koalas are a type of mammals known as marsupials. Another example of a marsupial is the kangaroo. These kinds of mammals have a pouch in which they carry their babies. When it comes to kangaroos, the pouch is on their stomach, but the pouch of the koala is on the female's back. Both kangaroos and koalas feed their babies milk and keep them safe in their pouches until they are strong enough to make it on their own.

7. What is the main idea of the paragraph?
- Kangaroos and koalas cannot be compared.
 - A koala is not a bear.
 - The kangaroo and the koala belong to the same family, but have some differences.
 - The kangaroo and the koala are totally similar.

Susan ran down the street looking for her dog. “Candy! Candy!” she yelled. She knew very well that she should have checked the gate before allowing Candy to go into the garden. Her mom had told her a dozen times. How could she have forgotten again? Had she simply closed that gate, Candy would still be there.

8. What is the main idea of the text above?
- Susan forgot to make sure the gate was closed.
 - Candy ran away.
 - Susan was always forgetting things.
 - Susan’s mother was bossy.

Most people consider that violence on TV is nothing more than harmless entertainment. Yet, a lot of recent research shows that TV violence negatively affects people. One of the theories states that people frequently watching TV are more fearful and suspicious. They always try to protect themselves more from the rest of the world with additional door locks, guard dogs, alarm systems, and even weapons. Moreover, the same study shows that people who massively watch TV are less upset about real-life violence than people who don’t watch TV at all. The fact that they constantly see violence on TV makes them less sensitive to it when it really happens. Another study shows that, when it comes to children, TV violence stimulates aggressive behavior. Children who constantly watch violent shows are more likely not only to hurt others while playing, but also to choose toy weapons over other kinds of toys.

9. Which of the following best summarizes the text?
- It is commonly believed that violence on television is harmless entertainment.
 - One theory states that people frequently watching TV are more fearful and suspicious.
 - Recent research shows that TV violence negatively affects people.
 - TV addicts try to protect themselves from the rest of the world with additional locks on the doors, alarm systems, guard dogs, and weapons.

Parents are aging and they need help. Unfortunately, to their adult children, this is a tremendous burden. The situation gets even worse and more difficult if the parent and the adult child do not live close to each other. In order to cope with such difficult situations, health experts suggest that adult children should take into consideration community resources such as “Meals on Wheels”. They also advise them to take care of the aging parent in shifts, involving other family members, too. Sometimes the problem can be solved by talking the parent into moving closer. It is also vitally important to evaluate all the needs of the parent.

10. Choose the sentence that best illustrates the main idea of the text:
- It is very difficult to care for your aging parents.
 - Adult children have several possibilities at their disposal to assist their aging parents.
 - Community resources can be very helpful to adult children whose aging parents do not live nearby.
 - One should always take into account one’s own needs when making decisions about aging parents.

No matter who the operator might be, at Dalton State College, the only person held responsible for the safe operating and proper parking of a vehicle is the registrant of that particular vehicle. If curbs are painted in yellow, it means that there are no parking areas. It is prohibited to park against the traffic flow, no matter the time of day. After school hours

are over all vehicles which are parked on campus are likely to be towed away. Parking areas which are reserved for faculty and staff are painted in red. Fines will be paid in the Eastcott Building, at the Internal Affairs Office. Observe the posted speed limits. Under no circumstances is anyone allowed to park on College Drive. Decals are not to be transferred.

11. What is the main idea of the text?

- a. Registrants of vehicles are completely responsible for the safe operating and proper parking of their own vehicles.
- b. There are several rules related to parking and driving on campus at Dalton State College.
- c. People have problems when parking at Dalton State College.
- d. There are many rules related to parking at Dalton State College.

Patrick has recently turned sixteen and his father taught his first driving lesson yesterday. “Back out of the driveway. Be careful!”, his father said. “Make sure you look in the rear-view mirror to see that there is nobody behind you.” Patrick followed the steps, backed up the car and turned the wheel quickly. Suddenly, he and his father felt a strong bump. Oh, God! Patrick had hit the mailbox.

12. The idea that best summarizes the paragraph is:

- a. Patrick’s first driving lesson did not go very well.
- b. Patrick will never be a good driver.
- c. Patrick’s father was very upset.
- d. Patrick doesn’t have good driving skills.

Believe it or not, the skunk, which is a small animal, comes in various color patterns, the best-known variety being black with a white stripe down its back. The skunk’s method of protecting itself has turned it into a famous animal. In case it is attacked or hurt by another animal, the skunk will release or spray a yellowish liquid. This liquid can burn the skin and hurt the eyes of other animals. As if it weren’t enough, the liquid smells horrible!

13. Which of the following best summarizes the paragraph?

- a. Skunks attack or hurt other animals if they have similar colors.
- b. Some skunks are black with a white stripe, but there are various other patterns.
- c. Skunks are special due to a unique way of protecting themselves from danger.
- d. Skunks are small animals with various feet.

Tourist attractions and theme parks have made Southern California very well-known all over the world. Firstly, Hollywood is the most important reason why people go there; tourists are also attracted by such things as the “Walk of Fame”, where the names of many famous people and film stars are found written on gold stars. The hope of catching sight of the movie stars who live in the hills surrounding Los Angeles also appeals very much to tourists. Visiting glamorous shops in Beverly Hills is another thing that fascinates tourists. The most popular theme parks are Disneyland, of course, and then Magic Mountain Amusement Park, Knott’s Berry Farm, and Raging Waters Park. The best thing to do is to visit Universal Studios, which offer to people who want to combine tourist attractions and theme parks the possibility to do both.

14. Which of the following statements best states the main idea of this passage?
- a. Not only does Southern California have tourist attractions, but also theme parks for visitors.
 - b. Most tourists generally like Southern California.
 - c. Disneyland is one of the best known sights in the world.
 - d. Many celebrities and movie stars live in Southern California.

A new agreement has been recently signed, approving a \$120-million bond to be used next year in the North Point School District, not only to renovate and redecorate existing schools, but also to build new schools. Three existing high schools will be expanded, and they will also build three new elementary schools. A Career Center will also be constructed for all high school students on campus that have been looking forward to its opening. Moreover, technology in all district schools will be brought up to date, teachers will receive all the bonuses they were not given last year, and two new head masters will be hired for Smithson Middle School and Schulte Middle School.

15. The main idea of the text is:
- a. North Point School District is going to undergo major changes and improvements next year.
 - b. North Point School District has received a lot of money so that they can build many new schools and update technology in the following year.
 - c. North Point School District will be going through changes which will take place in the spring of next year.
 - d. Bond money is to be received by North Point School District which will be used next year to upgrade the entire school district in many ways.

As they grow up, a lot of children become very interested in learning to play a musical instrument at one point or another. Parents should take advantage of this desire to play the moment it appears. The main reason why very small children become fascinated with music is because they see their own parents or older siblings play. There is a method of instruction known as "Suzuki" which capitalizes on that early desire to learn how to play a musical instrument by involving both the parent and the child in the process of the child's education. Elementary-school children often come into contact with stringed instruments or band instruments during their music classes. Since kids like to do what everybody else does, parents who are not musicians themselves can benefit from both instruction and enthusiasm. Moreover, when children reach middle school age, peer pressure really functions to the benefit of parents who are keen on hearing the sound of music around the house.

16. The central idea of this paragraph is:
- a. At a certain point in their growing-up process, parents can take advantage of their children's desire to play a musical instrument.
 - b. Most very young children become fascinated with music because they see their parents or siblings play musical instruments.
 - c. Most children have a desire to learn everything, including how to play a musical instrument
 - d. Middle-school students enjoy learning to play an instrument along with their school friends.

A guy called George Crum was a cook at a small hotel in the town of Saratoga, New York. One day, in 1855, a customer complained that Crum's fried potatoes were too thick. Crum got angry. Actually, he got so angry that he decided to cut some potatoes very, very thin. Then the waiter took the very thin potato slices to the customer. Crum thought that the customer would hit the roof. Yet, the stubborn customer really liked the thin potato slices, which took Crum by surprise. Very soon, these brand new thin potato slices became so popular that they developed into a whole new business. Today people all over the world eat billions of dollars worth of potato chips every year.

17. What is the main idea of this text?

- a. Crum wanted to make his customers angry.
- b. The history of the potato chips has a funny and interesting beginning.
- c. Potato chips are not expensive and this is why everybody eats them.
- d. People all over the world enjoy eating potato chips a lot.

Have you ever wondered how far the Sun is? It's so far that it's hard to understand. If we have to express the distance factually, it's about 93 million miles. The distance is not always the same, because the Earth spins around the Sun. Imagine it were possible to book a jetliner to get there! At an average speed of a little over 550 mph, reaching the Sun would take nearly 20 years. Even if one could travel at the incredible speed of 25,000 mph, it would still take more than five months to reach the Sun.

18. Which of the following best summarizes the passage?

- a. Is the Sun far away?
- b. The Sun is so far away that it is hard to comprehend.
- c. 93 million miles is the factual distance to the Sun.
- d. Travelling to the Sun takes a long time.

Greg held the ball in his big hands. He bounced it slowly on the wooden playing surface of the court for several times. He bent his knees and jumped as high as he could. The ball flew up in the air. Everybody watched the ball go up and then down, down, right into the basket. "Yes!" the crowd cheered. "Right through the ring!"

19. The main idea in this passage is:

- a. Greg could jump having a ball in his hands.
- b. Greg is keen on basketball.
- c. How to throw a basketball.
- d. Greg scores a basket.

John went fishing with his family yesterday. On their way to the river, they stopped and bought all their favorite sweets and snacks. The first thing they did when they got to the river was to eat and then they started fishing. John caught eight fish, and his father only three. But the entire family had a good time. They laughed a lot, enjoying the time spent together. They thought it would be great if they went fishing again soon.

20. The main idea of the paragraph is:

- a. They liked to eat fish for dinner.
- b. Everybody ate their favorite snack.
- c. The family had a good time.
- d. John caught more fish than his father.

Respect **How Stripes appeared on the Chipmunk's back**

The Earth used to be covered in darkness. It was a long time ago, but creatures back then didn't even know what daylight was and what everything looked like.

It so happened that, one day, all the animals of the forest decided to meet and they all gathered in a clearing everybody knew. They were wondering whether it would be better for things to stay the same or if it would be better to change and have light. Ted the Bear, Willy the Wolf, Rick the Raccoon, Chip the Chipmunk and Dan the Deer decided to climb to the top of the highest mountain, and many other creatures from the forest followed them. The mountain was so high that, up on its top, there were no trees, no grass, only rocks everywhere. But when they looked up to the sky, they saw millions of stars twinkling in the dark. Ted the Bear, the biggest and the strongest animal in the forest, was the first to get to the top. He just stood there, contemplating the forest below, but his opinion was that they should remain in the dark. He thought darkness would allow all forest creatures to sleep better, since light would make them stay awake. The other animals were afraid of Ted, and they immediately agreed with him. So did Rick the Raccoon, saying he was smart enough to find all the food he needed in the dark, so he had nothing against darkness. Willy the Wolf himself was pleased, too. Howling was what he liked best, and he could do it whether there was light or darkness.

There was only one animal who stood up to Ted the Bear, and that was the smallest of them all, Chip the Chipmunk. He considered that both darkness and light would do them a world of good. He was so clever that he came up with many good reasons for light, whereas Ted the Bear continued to argue for darkness.

Before they could tell, the night had passed. Ted was tired of talking, but Chip went on and on as if light had given him all its energy. The other animals were all sleeping, but he kept chattering. Suddenly the most amazing thing happened: the first sunrise to be seen on top of that mountain. Everybody woke up, astonished by what they were witnessing.

Chip the Chipmunk was so thrilled that he began to dance, jumping with joy. Ted the Bear was red with anger. Things hadn't turned out the way he wanted. He roared and started to chase Chip all the way down the steep mountain. He was fast and strong, so he soon reached out his frightening paws to grab Chip. Somehow, he managed to scratch his back, but Chip got away.

This is the reason why, to this day, Chip the Chipmunk's back is striped!

21. What is the message of the story above?
 - a. The best thing to do is to agree with the crowd.
 - b. Never contradict someone who is stronger than you.
 - c. Stand up for what you believe in.
 - d. It is easy to take decisions.
22. Which of the following characterizes Ted the Bear?
 - a. He likes to listen to the others' opinion.
 - b. He is not sure about what he wants.
 - c. He is used to everyone doing things the way he wants.
 - d. All the other animals like him.
23. Why is Chip the Chipmunk different?
 - a. Chip proved to be smarter than the Bear, giving strong arguments for light.
 - b. Chip the Chipmunk hated darkness.
 - c. Chip Chipmunk was the funniest forest animal.
 - d. Chipmunk was the only animal to prefer sleeping during the day.

24. Where does everything happen?

- a. on a farm in the middle of the forest
- b. on the summit of a mountain
- c. on an exotic island
- d. on the bank of a river

25. What happened after Chip contradicted the bear?

- a. Ted was content that everything happened the way he wanted.
- b. The animals went back to the forest to live in darkness.
- c. The forest animals witnessed their first sunrise ever.
- d. Chip the Chipmunk decided that it was time to go to sleep.

26. Such folk tales ...

- a. explain the origins of facts through myths and legends
- b. present the fight between good and evil and always have a happy ending
- c. are similar in all the cultures of the world
- d. are closely related to historical fact

The Colony of South Carolina

Originally part of the Province of Carolina, South Carolina was founded in 1663 when King Charles II decided to give the entire land to eight noblemen, otherwise known as The Lords Proprietors. Back then, both North Carolina and South Carolina were included in the province. It was not until 1729 that North and South Carolina became separate colonies.

In the 16th century, the Spanish and the French fought for the coast of South Carolina. In 1562, the French soldiers tried to found a settlement on Parris Island, somewhere off the coast of South Carolina, an attempt which turned out to be unsuccessful. A few years later, the Spanish built Santa Elena, a colony located near the site of the original French settlement. In 1576, Santa Elena was attacked by Indians and, consequently, abandoned. Even if everything was rebuilt, the Spanish focused all their interests and their forces on Florida, since Sir Francis Drake, the famous British pirate, had destroyed St. Augustine. Hence, the next to colonize the region were the British.

In 1670, Albemarle Point was declared the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina. The origin of many of the new settlers, including the new governor William Sayle, was Caribbean. They had come from the island of Barbados. A year before, in 1669, the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina was written by prospective Carolina settlers including John Locke, an act which served as an early form of government for the colony.

In 1680, the colony moved to Charles Town (later Charleston). This fact would rapidly turn Charles Town into the most important cultural and economic center of the southern colonies. As a result of the influence that the Caribbean settlers had, the original economy of the colony reminded everybody of the plantation colonies of the West Indies. Charles Town would become an important center for indigo, rice and tobacco production. This made the owners of the plantations be some of the wealthiest people in all the colonies. Because the number of cotton plantations had rapidly increased by the late 1700s, the majority of the population in South Carolina was made up of slaves of African-American origin.

27. South Carolina was colonized by the British ...

- a. before the French and Spanish
- b. after the French and Spanish
- c. before the Spanish but after the French
- d. before the French but after the Spanish

28. Which of the following statements is true, according to the text?
- People living in South and North Carolina have always wanted the two colonies to be separate.
 - Only the land which is now South Carolina was originally included in the Carolina colony.
 - At a certain moment in their history, North and South Carolina went to war against each other.
 - The Lords Proprietors founded South Carolina in 1663.
29. Who established their first permanent settlement at Albemarle Point?
- the Americans
 - the French
 - the English
 - the Spanish
30. Where had many of South Carolina's original settlers come from?
- England
 - Barbados
 - India
 - France
31. What question is answered in the third paragraph?
- How did the original settlers come from Barbados?
 - When did the new colony move to Charles Town?
 - Which act served as an early form of government?
 - What was John Locke's opinion about religion?
32. Charles Town was to become a major commercial center for
- rice
 - beans
 - fruit
 - cotton
33. Decide which of the following is NOT true about the South Carolina colony.
- It would eventually have many cotton plantations.
 - Most of the population was made up by slaves.
 - The civilization of the West Indies deeply influenced that of the colony.
 - William Sayle left England to go to South Carolina.
34. The consequence of the increasing number of cotton plantations in South Carolina was that... :
- the King of England exercised more and more control over the colonies
 - Charles Town was no longer the economic center of South Carolina
 - the population of African-American slaves in South Carolina increased
 - the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina was revoked
35. Plantation owners in South Carolina were
- not wealthy enough
 - fairly wealthy
 - very wealthy
 - not mentioned in the text
36. Which question has NO answer in the text?
- Why was Santa Elena eventually abandoned by the Spanish?
 - To whom did King Charles II give all the land?
 - Who drew up the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina?
 - Why did the colony move to Charles Town?

Money

Money is something everybody uses to buy things. Money may be earned from successfully dealing with household chores, or if you get good grades; you may also get some

money for your allowance, or for losing a tooth! One thing is definitely clear: money has great importance in our world and comes in many different forms.

Money has been used for centuries. Before money appeared to give a particular material value to things, people would simply trade items. Nowadays, people in the US use the dollar as national currency or money, but different countries from different parts of the world use different currencies, although there are some other countries which also use or accept American dollars.

Generally speaking, people earn money if they have a job; they work for it and use the money for different things. Some pay for their houses or cars; others buy food and clothes, pay taxes or insurance; others simply save for the future. Even ordinary things such as the Internet connection, turning the lights on, using the air conditioning or heat cost money.

37. How long has money been used?

- a. For hundreds of years.
- b. For thousands of years.
- c. Since trade disappeared.
- d. Since people started to work.

38. What happened before money appeared?

- a. People would borrow things from one another.
- b. People would live on the things they had.
- c. People got what they needed by trading.
- d. It is not mentioned in the text.

39. The dollar ...

- a. is not largely used in the United States
- b. is the common currency in every country in the world
- c. is never accepted or used in other countries
- d. is used in the United States

40. What is the author's opinion about money?

- a. It should only be earned and used by adults.
- b. It should only be used in America.
- c. Money has no importance, whatsoever.
- d. Money is definitely important.

Britain – as dirty as it can be

The most suitable time to look around and see how dirty the country has become is early spring, just before grass starts thickening along roads and leaves start growing. Fast food cartons are thrown into gutters and all sidewalks are spotted with chewing gum that has been spat out. It seems like a long time ago, but I still remember that every time I travelled abroad I became sad at the sight of discarded bottles, plastic bags or soiled nappies that I could see on roadside verges. But Britain nowadays is just as bad, to say the least. What has gone wrong?

I think it all starts from the fact that our rubbish, which is the direct result of our increasingly mobile lives, lasts a lot longer than it used to. If it is not picked up and properly thrown away, it will become a permanent reminder of how careless we are and what a tatty little country we now have.

10 billion plastic bags are estimated to have been given to shoppers. The exact time necessary for these to rot is not really known: anything from 100 to 1,000 years. Nevertheless, there are solutions to be adopted in order to solve this problem. An example was given a few years ago by the Irish government, which introduced a tax on non-recyclable carrier bags. In no more than three months, the number of plastic bags was reduced by 90%. It is true that one of our former ministers, Michael Meacher, tried to introduce a similar agreement in