



OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ

22 FEBRUARIE 2015

CLASA a X-a -secțiunea B

QUESTION I-

50 POINTS

Read the following paragraph by Neely Steinberg on being intimidated, and then write a 250-word essay describing someone you once found intimidating but now feel comfortable with, giving reasons for your change in feelings.

Intimidated by Twitter? Not anymore...

To be honest with you – I've tried writing this article four times now. And here's the thing: there's so much to Twitter, it's hard to boil down into one post. So instead, I'm going to do a series (there, a decision made! Can I have ice cream now?) on what I've done to take my Twitter following from nothing to over 1,400 followers in one month, and what took a friend's Twitter from 218 followers to almost 500 followers in less than a week.

If you are sporting even the smallest grin right now, you know exactly what I mean. Social media is overwhelming for the average human, but when you feel like you have to use it to market yourself, it quickly becomes a monolithic resentment.

Whether you self-publish, independently publish, or traditionally publish your books, no one is immune from the marketing beast. We need it...but we hate it. After all, it's not what we signed up for. We were told – write it. There will be an audience. Publish it. The publisher will take care of it. Alas, those golden days of publishing are over, and with it, comes the good news that just about anyone can get her/his words out there. The price: becoming your own PR agent.

So before you decide to give up and join writer's anonymous, let's talk about one of the most effective social media platforms out there, but also, one of the most intimidating: Twitter.

(<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/neely-steinberg>)

QUESTION II

50 POINTS

The following excerpts come from an article published by **The Age**- a newspaper in Australia. Write a **letter to the editor** of the newspaper, addressing the views presented and expressing your opinion (agreeing and/or disagreeing with the topics). Use arguments to support your opinions. (250words)



Killings in Paris

“In his seminal essay “Religion and Respect”, Cambridge University professor of philosophy Simon Blackburn wrote: “*Something is regarded as sacred when it is not to be sacrificed to other things, not to be weighed in a cost-benefit analysis, not to be touched.*” In a free, civilised society, freedom of speech is sacred in this sense. The Paris assassins crossed the boundary and attacked one of our sacred values. This is not to be tolerated. Many of our forebears died to establish freedom of expression as a sacred value. We must honour their sacrifice by defending it with all the strength we can muster. “

Ian Robison, Kyneton

Why it's wrong to sneer at others' beliefs

No one can justify the brutal murders in Paris and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. However, the belief that this crime constitutes an attack on free speech and freedom of the press is in danger of being overstated.

Attorney-General George Brandis said people had the right to be bigots. Many Australians disagreed – that to gratuitously insult, taunt or disparage people on the grounds of their ethnicity, religion, age, disability, or gender was unacceptable.

In the liberal West, there is a tendency to cross the fine line between satire and insult. This shows cultural arrogance. Let us use insightful cartoons to portray our politicians, prelates, prophets, police and pugilists, but let us tread sensitively and with respect when it comes to caricaturing people with whose religio-cultural experiences and understandings we are unfamiliar or ignorant. We need to ask whether *Charlie Hebdo* is as liberally innocent as its understandably outraged Western defenders would have us believe.

Allan Patience, Newport

(<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/the-age-letters/we-must-defend-sacred-value-of-free-speech-20150109-1213vr.html>)

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