



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a V-a

**ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ
27 MARTIE 2026**

CLASA A IX-A

Varianta 3

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *authority, executive, hereditary, legislation, symbolic, elected, framework, reign, balance, limited.*

The coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in 2023 reaffirmed the United Kingdom's enduring (1) _____ monarchy, a system in which centuries of tradition coexist with contemporary democratic structures. Within this system, the monarch serves as head of state, upholding rituals, ceremonies, and public duties that exemplify national identity, while political governance is carried out through modern institutions. This unique arrangement combines centuries of (2) _____ succession with the democratic legitimacy of elected representatives, ensuring that historical continuity is respected even as society evolves politically and socially.

Although the sovereign formally possesses considerable (3) _____— including powers such as granting royal assent to laws, appointing ministers, and representing the nation abroad – their role is largely (4) _____ in practice. The monarch acts as a unifying and ceremonial figure, embodying the traditions and heritage of the realm without intervening directly in policy-making or day-to-day governmental affairs. This duality allows the crown to maintain its prestige and influence while respecting the principles of parliamentary democracy and political neutrality.

Actual political authority resides with (5) _____ officials, particularly the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, who are responsible for proposing, debating, and enacting (6) _____ that guide national governance. Through this delegation of power, the British system preserves a careful separation between symbolic authority and the practical mechanisms of government. The monarch's presence reinforces the historical legitimacy of the state, but the exercise of governmental powers remains firmly within the domain of elected representatives, ensuring that democracy functions within a constitutional framework.

The (7) _____ of a monarch, encompassing decades of public service and ceremonial duties, highlights the importance of tradition, continuity, and stability. During their reign, the monarch performs constitutional functions such as opening Parliament, attending state occasions, hosting foreign dignitaries, and participating in national



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commemorations. These responsibilities emphasize the enduring nature of the monarchy as an institution, while also illustrating the careful balance between ceremonial prominence and the limitation of political intervention.

Ultimately, the UK's constitutional system is founded upon a delicate (8) _____ between historical convention and democratic governance. While the monarch retains significant prestige and national influence, their powers are (9) _____ by law, parliamentary precedent, and political convention. This arrangement ensures that the (10) _____ of the state is preserved, combining the symbolic authority of the crown with the practical administration of elected officials, thereby guaranteeing stability, continuity, and adaptability in one of the world's oldest functioning constitutional systems.

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

II. Match the information in column A with the information in column B:

1. The Wars of the Roses were fought between two rival houses,	A. the symbols of the red rose (Lancaster) and white rose (York)
2. The conflict lasted from 1455 to 1485	B. marking the end of the medieval period and the beginning of a new era
3. The name "Wars of the Roses" comes from	C. and ended with the victory of Henry Tudor
4. Henry Tudor became king after the Battle of Bosworth	D. from 1485 to 1603
5. The Tudor dynasty ruled England	E. and had no children to continue the dynasty
6. Henry VIII is remembered for	F. and it still reigns in the United Kingdom today
7. Elizabeth I was the last Tudor monarch	G. the Houses of Lancaster and York
8. The Tudor period is often associated with	H. establishing the Church of England
9. The House of Windsor is the current royal house	I. during World War I to sound more English
10. The name "Windsor" was adopted in 1917	J. known as Henry VII, founding a new royal dynasty

2

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 are THREE extra headings you do not need to use:

A. Formal Greetings and Bowing	C. Dining Etiquette in the Presence of Royalty	E. Rules of Conversation	G. The History of Buckingham Palace
B. Dress Code at Royal Events	D. The Role of the Prime Minister	F. The Importance of Punctuality	H. Acceptable Physical Contact

Rules of Protocol in the British Royal Household

1	
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When meeting a member of the British royal family, there are certain traditional gestures that are expected. Men are usually expected to perform a slight bow of the head, while women may offer a small curtsy. These gestures, although not legally required, are considered signs of respect and awareness of centuries-old traditions. Verbal greetings should also follow formal etiquette: the first address should be “Your Majesty,” followed by “Ma’am” or “Sir” in subsequent conversation. Observing these rules correctly helps guests demonstrate courtesy and understanding of royal protocol.

2	
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Attending royal events requires attention to dress codes, which vary depending on the occasion. Men are typically expected to wear formal suits, morning dress, or military uniforms, while women should choose conservative, elegant dresses complemented by hats, gloves, or subtle jewelry. Bright or casual clothing is considered inappropriate, and invitations often specify the required attire. Dressing according to the guidelines reflects respect for the royal hosts and the formal nature of the occasion, and helps guests blend seamlessly into the ceremonial atmosphere.

3

3	
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Conversation with members of the royal family is carefully structured. Guests should not initiate conversation unless invited to speak, and topics must remain polite, neutral, and free from political or personal controversy. It is considered improper to interrupt, speak too loudly, or dominate the discussion. Attentive listening, polite responses, and measured speech demonstrate respect and social awareness, which are essential for maintaining proper decorum in any royal setting.

4	
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Physical contact with royals is very limited and must be approached with caution. Handshakes are acceptable only if offered first by the royal individual. Other gestures, such as hugs, patting, or touching, are considered inappropriate and overly familiar. Even seemingly minor actions, such as resting a hand on a shoulder, should be avoided unless explicitly invited. Adhering to these rules ensures dignity is maintained and prevents awkward social situations.



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5

Punctuality and the correct use of titles are crucial aspects of royal etiquette. Guests must arrive on time, as being late is considered disrespectful and can disrupt formal proceedings. Additionally, addressing members of the royal family using their proper titles is essential: princes and princesses are addressed as “Your Royal Highness,” while dukes, duchesses, and other nobles each have specific forms of address. Following these rules demonstrates both respect and knowledge of royal customs, ensuring guests maintain proper decorum throughout the event.

(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.



(<https://deepai.org/machine-learning-model/text6img>)

(30 points)

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