



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ 30 MARTIE 2026

CLASA A IX-A

VARIANTA 1

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *Spanish Armada, Henry VII, Catholic, Edward VI, Mary I, Protestant, Elizabeth I, Henry VIII, Reformation, Act of Supremacy.*

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

The Tudor Dynasty

The Tudors ruled England from 1485 to 1603, a period marked by significant political, religious, and cultural changes. The dynasty began with (1) _____, who became king after defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, ending the Wars of the Roses.

His son, (2) _____, is known for his six marriages and the separation of the Church of England from Rome. This event, known as the (3) _____, led to the establishment of a national church independent of the Pope's authority.

Following his death, his son (4) _____ became king at a young age and promoted (5) _____ reforms. However, his early death led to a period of instability, with his half-sister (6) _____ taking the throne and attempting to restore England to (7) _____ rule.

After her death, (8) _____ became queen, strengthening the Protestant Church through the (9) _____. Her reign saw England face challenges from Spain, including the naval conflict with the famous fleet known as the (10) _____, which ended in an English victory and secured the nation's power on the seas.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/House-of-Tudor>

II. Match the two columns:

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

1. Over the course of the poem, Beowulf matures from a valiant combatant	a. the restoration of order and harmony to the Danish people.
2. Henry VIII ascended the throne	b. weaving a pattern of ongoing change, conflict, and resolution.
3. Both Lancaster and York houses fought in the War of the Roses, which started	c. Queen Victoria.
4. The last monarch of the House of Hanover was	d. into a wise leader.
5. Whereas the youthful Beowulf, having nothing to lose, desires personal glory,	e. in 1509.



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

6. The last two countries to join the Commonwealth were Togo and Gabon	f. in 1455.
7. Throughout the poem, the reader sees old kings pass on and new kings rise and grow old themselves,	g. embodiments of evil, representing the idea that evil is a mysterious, inhuman force.
8. Many readers have seen Beowulf's monsters as	h. in 2022.
9. The great banquet at Heorot after the defeat of Grendel represents	i. the aged Hrothgar, having much to lose, seeks protection for his people.
10. The international headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat is located in	j. Marlborough House in Pall Mall in London.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There are THREE extra headings you do not need to use. (20 points: 5 x 4p)

A. ROYAL CEREMONIES AND EVENTS	B. ROYAL CONTROVERSIES	C. ROLE OF THE CURRENT MONARCH	D. IN THE BACKGROUND
E. WITHIN THE ROYAL RESIDENCE	F. GLOBAL ROLE OF THE MONARCH	G. RESTRICTIONS ON THE MONARCH	H. HEIR TO THE THRONE

The royal role of Britain's kings and queens

1

While coronations are the symbolic high point of a monarch's accession, Charles became King immediately on the death of his mother on 8 September 2022, quickly followed by official public proclamations and his declaration to uphold the constitutional government at a meeting of the Accession Council. In an address to the nation and Commonwealth he pledged to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.

Such historic moments prompt a closer look at just what a constitutional monarch does. In typical British fashion, there is no single constitutional rulebook, but rather a tangled mix of events, laws, customs and conventions that have, by force, accident or agreement, shaped the



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a V-a

sovereign's role over more than 1,000 years; it is certainly far removed from the days when might was right and the monarch wielded absolute political power.

2

Royal power was constantly challenged, particularly when wielded unfairly, as England's King John discovered when his barons obliged him to set limits on his authority through Magna Carta in 1215. Subsequent English kings who summoned parliaments, to gain support for taxation and statutes, also found their royal powers diluting. Stuart kings, believers in their divine right to rule, notoriously clashed with parliament but ultimately lost their battles, though the country decided its flirtation with republicanism (1649-1660) was not to its liking either.

The Glorious Revolution of 1688, when Protestant William III and Mary II were invited to replace King James II, cemented the foundations for our constitutional monarchy, through the Bill of Rights (1689) and its Scottish counterpart the Claim of Right Act (1689). Among other things, the right of regular parliaments was established and there was a constitutional requirement for the Crown to seek the consent of the people as represented in parliament.

The Act of Settlement (1701) underlined the Protestant succession, stipulating that the monarch must be a member of the Church of England – King Charles III is Supreme Governor of the Church of England (a role stemming from Henry VIII's reformation in the 1530s), though spiritual leadership rests with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

3

Today, the monarch reigns but does not rule. Political and executive power is exercised by the government, usually in the monarch's name and on the advice of the prime minister.

As Head of State, the King's most visible duty is the State Opening of Parliament, where he delivers a speech written by the government outlining its plans. He must remain politically neutral and does not vote in elections.

The monarch also carries out daily responsibilities, such as reviewing official documents and holding weekly private meetings with the prime minister. In these meetings, he has the right to be consulted, to encourage, and to warn.



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a V-a

Other important duties include appointing the prime minister, giving royal assent to laws, and acting as a symbol of unity and stability across the United Kingdom.

4

As Head of State the monarch receives foreign ambassadors, and hosts banquets for visiting world leaders – an opportunity to charm and deploy soft power amid glittering palace or castle surroundings. On state visits abroad international ties can be strengthened through friendly diplomacy, and the King is Head of the Commonwealth whose roots go back to the British Empire but is now a voluntary association of 56 independent countries working together for prosperity, democracy and peace. As well as the UK, 14 Commonwealth Realms including Australia, Canada and New Zealand have the King as their monarch.

As Head of Nation – a more informal role – the monarch acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognises success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service.

5

Traditions connect the monarchy to history, such as Trooping the Colour, which marks the sovereign's official birthday. At events like Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph, the monarch reflects the nation's feelings. The King's Christmas broadcast and special speeches also bring people together.

The monarch leads the Royal Family in public duties, meeting people from all walks of life. This includes honouring achievements at investitures, hosting garden parties, and visiting the armed forces, charities, schools, and hospitals.

Although royal political power has declined, the monarchy remains a symbol of duty, service, and national identity, continuing to evolve over time.

<https://www.discoverbritain.com/heritage/rovals/role-of-britains-kings-and-queens/>

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (180-220 words). Please remember to give a title to your text. (30 points)



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL
DE
CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ
QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a



(A Midsummer Night's Dream – AI Generated)

*NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** din care 10puncte din oficiu.*

Timp de lucru 90 de minute.





CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

**ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ
30 MARTIE 2026**

**CLASA A X-A
VARIANTA 1**

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: London Declaration, Commonwealth Summit, healthcare, 56, King Charles III, Commonwealth Games, Rwanda, hereditary, voluntary, democracy **(20 points: 10 x 2p)**

The Commonwealth of Nations

The Commonwealth is a (1) _____ association of (2) _____ independent and sovereign states, most of which were formerly part of the British Empire. It was officially established in 1949 with the signing of the (3) _____. The Commonwealth promotes values such as (4) _____, human rights, and sustainable development.

One of the key events of the organization is the (5) _____, which takes place every two years and allows leaders to discuss global challenges. A major event is the (6) _____, an international multi-sport event held every four years.

The head of the Commonwealth is currently (7) _____, though the position is not (8) _____ and is chosen by member states. In recent years, the Commonwealth has focused on helping member countries improve their (9) _____ systems, with a special emphasis on prevention to combat infectious diseases.

In recent years, the Commonwealth has continued to grow, welcoming new members such as (10) _____ in 2009, reflecting the organization's commitment to inclusivity and global cooperation.

<https://thecommonwealth.org>



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL

DE

CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ

QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

II. Match the columns:

1. The years 1066-1485 in England were marked by a turbulent political landscape, including the	a. in the 19th century, long after the conflicts had ended.
2. The conflict between the houses of York and Lancaster began in	b. monarchy, with a parliamentary system.
3. The form of government in the United Kingdom is a constitutional	c. 1455, marking the start of the Wars of the Roses.
4. William Shakespeare's <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> is a romantic comedy that explores themes of love and	d. the Tudor dynasty's rise to power in England.
5. The main claim to the throne was disputed	e. Norman Conquest and the Battle of Hastings.
6. The first battle of the War of the Roses took place at	f. the Battle of Bosworth Field on August 22, 1485.
7. The conflict ended in 1485 with	g. magic, as well as the conflict between fairies and mortals.
8. The House of Tudor began with Henry VII after he defeated Richard III in	h. St Albans on May 22, 1455.
9. Key figures in the conflict included	i. through the right of descent from Edward III.
10. The phrase The Wars of the Roses is believed to have been coined	j. Richard III and Henry VI, each representing their respective houses.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There are **THREE** extra headings you do not need to use.

A. HOW TO DRINK TEA	B. THE ROYAL RETREAT ASSESSMENT	C. THE QUEEN AND THE CAPTIVE LAWMAKER	D. YOUNG BOYS IN SHORTS UP TO AGE EIGHT
E. UP IN THE HEIR	F. THE DUCHESS'S SIDEWAYS POSTURE	G. QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S RITUAL BOUQUET	H. THE QUEEN'S REST COMES FIRST



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

Royal etiquette rules and traditions

1

Royals are required to stay up until the queen herself has gone to bed as a mark of respect, according to the queen's former private secretary Sir William Heseltine.

His book, *The Royals in Australia*, details the struggle Princess Diana had waiting for Elizabeth to retire for the night.

For Diana the long royal evenings were agony, he wrote. There'd be an hour or so in the sitting room of everyone sitting around making conversation.

And Diana was driven to such extremes that she'd excuse herself and go to bed, which was thought to be rather bad form, going to bed before the Queen.

2

There is a correct way to sit for female royals, with the knees together and angled to one side, rather than the legs crossed, in a position known as the Duchess Slant.

Meghan was photographed sitting with her legs folded alongside Elizabeth during an event for the Queen's Young Leaders Awards in June 2018, *Harper's Bazaar* reported.

However, she was not the first to break with etiquette as Kate Middleton and Princess Diana have both sat with legs crossed before.

Myka Meier, a royal etiquette expert, told *People* crossing at the knee was among the biggest etiquette mistakes a lady can make.

3

The queen carries a bunch of flowers known as a nosegay during her Maundy Thursday service, just before Easter each year.

Since the 13th century, British monarchs have handed out gifts to the poor, or in Elizabeth's case her ordinary subjects received specially-minted coins, the BBC reported.

However, originally the monarch would bathe people's feet during the event and took a bunch of flowers along to help deal with the bad smell.

The foot washing was to honor Jesus Christ, who washed the feet of his disciples. But that royal tradition stopped under the rule of King James II in the 17th century.

The nosegay tradition, however, continues and by appointment to HM The Queen, Rosemary Hughes currently holds the job title Supplier of Nosegays.

4

Royal etiquette rules do not just affect the family and their partners but also visitors to their world, including British prime ministers.

One rite of passage for U.K. political leaders is the visit to the queen's Scottish retreat, Balmoral, which is famous for its ability to show up the ill-prepared.

One aspect of the Balmoral Test made famous by Netflix series *The Crown* is a chair which no one is allowed to sit in because it was Queen Victoria's and has remained vacant since her death.

However, there are many other oddities as former PM Tony Blair discovered on his first visit.



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

Quoted by the Daily Mail, he said: Yes, you get your own valet. He asked me if he could fold my clothes and generally iron the underpants and that type of thing.

This so disconcerted me that when he then asked if he could ‘draw the bath,’ I lost the thread completely and actually thought for a moment that he wanted to sketch the damn thing.

5

Many a royal family portrait has seen young princes dressed in eccentric outfits, rather than the trousers and T-shirts a lot of families opt for.

One reason, according to etiquette expert Grant Harrold, is the tradition dates back to the 16th century.

Formerly a butler to Prince Charles, Harry and William, he told the BBC: This saw young boys wearing gowns or dresses until the age of eight, if not before.

Thankfully in late 19th Century and early 20th century this developed into shorts. This tradition is carried on by the Royal Family to this very day.

However, the tradition has not always gone down well with the young royals in question.

In a 2017 ITV interview, Prince Harry reminisced over the outfits Princess Diana dressed him and Prince William in.

He said: I genuinely think she got satisfaction out of dressing myself and William up in the most bizarre outfits – normally matching.

It was weird shorts and little shiny shoes with the old clip on. Looking back at the photos it just makes me laugh and I think, ‘How could you do that to us?’

<https://www.newsweek.com/21-rules-royal-etiquette-you-had-no-idea-about-1590498>

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (180-220 words). Please remember to give a title to your text. (30 points)



(Gulliver's Travels – AI generated)

*NOTĂ: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. * Total 100p * dintre care 10p se acordă din oficiu*

Timp de lucru 90 de minute.



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

JUDEȚEANĂ
30 MARTIE 2026

CLASA A XI-A

VARIANTA 1

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *honours, coronation, offspring, declare, appoint, powers, hereditary, Parliament, Church of England, secular, declare*

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

The Constitutional Role of the British Monarchy

The reigning monarch is not only the head of state but also a symbol of the unity of the nation. The monarchy is Britain's oldest (1) _____ institution, its continuity for over 1,000 years broken only once by a republic. The monarchy is (2) _____, the succession passing automatically to the oldest male child, or in the absence of males, to the oldest female (3) _____ of the monarch. By Act of Parliament, the monarch must be a Protestant. Succession is automatic on the death of the monarch, confirmed later by a formal (4) _____ ceremony.

In law, the monarch is head of the executive and of the judiciary, head of the (5) _____, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. However, since 1689, the monarch's sovereign (6) _____ have been formally limited by the idea that national sovereignty resides in 'the Crown in Parliament'.

The remaining functions of the monarch are basically to summon, suspend, and dissolve (7) _____; to give royal assent to legislation; to (8) _____ government ministers and judges; to confer (9) _____, such as peerages and knighthoods; and finally to (10) _____ war on or make peace with an enemy power. In practice, the monarch discharges almost all these functions on the direction of the government.

(Adapted from an English-language worksheet on British royal succession and the Hanoverian dynasty. <https://consoc.org.uk/the-constitution-explained/the-monarchy/>)



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL

DE

CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ

QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

II. Match the two columns:

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

1. James I's belief in the "Divine Right of Kings" unified the crowns, yet	A. the creation of the Metropolitan Police by Robert Peel.
2. Charles I's refusal to negotiate his royal prerogative eventually	B. a satire of Soviet Communism and the corruption of power.
3. Following the 1688 Glorious Revolution, the Bill of Rights was signed to	C. his government struggled with financial strain and foreign-policy challenges.
4. As the first Hanoverian King, George I's lack of English language skills	D. ensure that national sovereignty resided in the Crown in Parliament.
5. George III's long reign is often remembered for the loss of the American colonies, but he also	E. led to the outbreak of the Civil War and his subsequent execution.
6. A landmark reform in the history of British internal security was	F. led to the rise of the Prime Minister's office under Robert Walpole.
7. In the world of 19th-century literature, the flamboyant Regency era is mirrored by characters like	G. the psychological complexities of obsession and an unreliable narrator.
8. George Orwell's <i>Animal Farm</i> remains a powerful literary tool because it serves as	H. championed major domestic agricultural and infrastructure improvements.
9. While <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> focuses on social manners, Nabokov's <i>Lolita</i> explores	I. Mr. Darcy, who represents the rigid social hierarchy of the time.
10. Despite centuries of tradition, the modern British monarchy continues to	J. face ongoing debates regarding its role in a democratic society.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There are THREE extra headings you do not need to use:

(20 points: 5 x 4p)

A. THE SOVEREIGN'S CONDEMNATION AND DEMISE	B. CULTURAL RENAISSANCE AND EMPIRICAL PROGRESS	C. INTERNAL STRIFE AND THE CHALLENGE TO ABSOLUTISM	D. THE CONSOLIDATION OF TWO CROWNS
E. AN INTERLUDE OF REPUBLICAN EXPERIMENTATION	F. DIPLOMATIC FRAGILITY AND RELIGIOUS TENSIONS	G. THE COLLAPSE OF LOYALTY AND THE GLORIOUS TURNING POINT	H. THE TRIUMPH OF THE NEW MODEL ARMY



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

STUART ENGLAND (1603-1714)

1

The astute James I, who simultaneously held the Scottish throne as James VI, effectively navigated the unification of the long-warring neighboring realms. Despite facing existential threats to his authority, most notably the 1605 Gunpowder Plot, he managed to preserve stability both domestically and on the international stage. However, the untimely death of his charismatic heir, Prince Henry, shifted the line of succession to his younger son, the ill-fated Charles I.

2

At the core of this historical upheaval was a fundamental interrogation of the monarch's absolute prerogative. This era witnessed the unprecedented trial of a reigning king and the only interval of non-monarchical rule in the nation's history. These conflicts permanently recalibrated the power dynamic between the Crown and the legislature, sparking the gradual yet inexorable ascension of Parliament as the primary engine of national governance.

3

By 1647, the parliamentary forces, led by figures such as Oliver Cromwell, had secured a decisive military advantage. Although Charles I was detained, he clandestinely sought to incite a second wave of hostilities while feigning interest in peace treaties. Upon being defeated once more, the military leadership ignored moderate pleas for clemency and insisted upon a formal judicial process, resulting in the monarch's public execution in 1649.

4

Distinctly immortalized in the personal chronicles of Samuel Pepys, the subsequent reign of Charles II is celebrated for its vibrant court life, the reopening of theatres, and a resurgence in architectural innovation. This period was not merely defined by social hedonism but also by significant intellectual leaps, particularly those encouraged by the Royal Society, which transformed the landscape of British science and discovery.



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

5

While James II initially managed to suppress the 1685 Monmouth Rebellion, his subsequent pro-Catholic strategies and the harshness of the "Bloody Assizes" alienated the Protestant elite. The arrival of a male Catholic heir intensified fears of a permanent religious shift. Consequently, Protestant leaders solicited the intervention of William of Orange. His 1688 arrival prompted the king's flight, leading to a nearly bloodless transition of power that redefined the constitutional framework of the kingdom.

(Adapted from an English-language worksheet on British royal succession and the Hanoverian dynasty.
<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/stuarts/stuarts-introduction/>)

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (220 -250 words). Please remember to give a title to your text. (30 points)



(Pride and Prejudice – AI generated)

*NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** din care 10 puncte din oficiu.*

Timp de lucru 90 de minute.



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ 30 MARTIE 2026

CLASA A XII-A

VARIANTA 1

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *younger, monarchy, kingdom, maintains, declared, disputed, ensured, cadet, ministers, inherited* (10 x 2p= 20points)

A New Royal Era

When Queen Anne died in 1714, the British (1) _____ faced a serious problem of succession. Although there were closer Catholic relatives, the 1701 Act of Settlement (2) _____ that the crown must pass to a Protestant ruler. Instead, the throne was (3) _____ by George I, a German prince from the House of Hanover. This family was actually a (4) _____ branch of the House of Welf. In dynastic systems, such a branch is formed by a (5) _____ son, while the firstborn typically (6) _____ the bulk of the family's power and wealth.

This change was not entirely accepted by everyone. Many people, known as Jacobites, (7) _____ the right of a foreign king to rule Britain, especially since he spoke very little English. George I and his son, George II, were sometimes criticized for spending too much time outside Britain. However, they were supported by able (8) _____, such as Robert Walpole, who helped manage the (9) _____ effectively during a period of change.

By the time George III became king, he proudly (10) _____ that he was "born and bred a Briton." He wanted the monarchy to unite the people and represent the whole nation. Through his efforts, the family was no longer seen as "foreign," but as a central part of British identity.

(Adapted from an English-language worksheet on British royal succession and the Hanoverian dynasty. https://www.worldhistory.org/Anne,_Queen_of_Great_Britain/)



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

II. Match the two columns:

1. A major reform implemented by Robert Peel is	A. solitude and intimacy are seen as threats to social stability.
2. The author known for criticizing totalitarianism is	B. the psychological complexities of obsession.
3. The British monarch is not	C. the creation of the Metropolitan Police
4. In Huxley's dystopia, individuality is eradicated because	D. a delicate balance between financial necessity and mutual respect.
5. In <i>Lord of the Flies</i> the conch shell symbolizes	E. George Orwell.
6. The World State's motto illustrates a society where	F. law and order.
7. In Austen's novels, marriage is portrayed as	G. required to vote in general elections.
8. Narrated by the unreliable Humbert Humbert, <i>Lolita</i> examines	H. valuing personal merit and integrity over inherited privilege.
9. William Golding's novel depicts a group of stranded schoolboys whose attempts to	I. technology is used to sanitize thought and mechanize human reproduction.
10. Elizabeth Bennet serves as a critique of her society by	J. establish a functional society quickly succumb to their primal instincts.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(10 x 2p= 20points)

III. Match the headings to the extracts. There are THREE extra headings you do not need to use: (5 x 4p= 20points)

A. EARLY HISTORY	B. EARLY LIFE	C. MODERNITY	D. THE MODERN MONARCHY
E. SAVAGERY	F. SIMPLICITY, DUTY AND PASSION	G. WARTIME EXPERIENCES	H. ACCESSION TO THE THRONE



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

1

Elizabeth was the elder daughter of Prince Albert, duke of York, and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. As the child of a younger son of King George V, the young Elizabeth had little prospect of acceding to the throne until her uncle, Edward VIII (afterward duke of Windsor), abdicated in her father's favour on December 11, 1936, at which time her father became King George VI and she became heir presumptive.

2

The princess's education was supervised by her mother, who entrusted her daughters to a governess, Marion Crawford; the princess was also grounded in history by C.H.K. Marten, afterward provost of Eton College, and had instruction from visiting teachers in music and languages. During World War II she and her sister, Princess Margaret Rose, performed much of their time safely away from the London blitz and separated from their parents, living mostly at Balmoral Castle in Scotland and at the Royal Lodge, Windsor, and Windsor Castle.

3

In the summer of 1951 the health of King George VI entered into a serious decline, and Princess Elizabeth represented him at the Trooping the Colour and on various other state occasions. On October 7 she and her husband set out on a highly successful tour of Canada and Washington, D.C. After Christmas in England she and the duke set out in January 1952 for a tour of Australia and New Zealand, but en route, at Sagana, Kenya, news reached them of the king's death on February 6, 1952. Elizabeth, now queen, at once flew back to England.

4

The queen seemed increasingly aware of the modern role of the monarchy, allowing, for example, the televising of the royal family's domestic life in 1970 and condoning the formal dissolution of her sister's marriage in 1978. In the 1990s, however, the royal family faced a number of challenges. In 1992, a year that Elizabeth referred to as the royal family's



CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA



Ediția a V-a

annushorribilis, Prince Charles and his wife, Diana, princess of Wales, separated, as did Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, duchess of York.

5

Elizabeth was known to favour simplicity in court life and was also known to take a serious and informed interest in government business, aside from the traditional and ceremonial duties. Privately, she became a keen horsewoman; she kept racehorses, frequently attended races, and periodically visited the Kentucky stud farms in the United States. Her financial and property holdings made her one of the world's richest women.

(Adapted for an English-language exercise. www.britannica.com)

IV. Write a text based on the picture below (220 -250 words). Please remember to give a title to your text. (30 points)



(AI generated – Lord of the flies)

*NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. *** Total 100p *** din care 10 puncte din oficiu.*

Timp de lucru 90 de minute.