

RECOMMENDED TALKS:

- (1) The real reason why we are tired and what to do about it | Sandra Dalton-Smith 9:34 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGNN4EPJzGk>
- (2) How to Get Up in the Morning | Zibby Lindholm 8:47 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-RGg4puMOM>

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)		
ARTICLE ASSESSMENT SCALE		
CRITERIA	POINTS	DESCRIPTORS
Content	3	All content points covered. Thorough and extensive coverage.
	2	Major content points covered. Adequate and sufficient coverage.
	1	Too few content points covered. Insufficient coverage. Some irrelevant material.
Organisation (coherence and cohesion; layout)	3	Effective organisation; excellent coherence and cohesion; proper layout.
	2	Adequate organization; good coherence and cohesion; problems with layout.
	1	Lack of organization; some coherence and cohesion; problems with layout.
Language resources (range of vocabulary and structure)	4	Wide range of vocabulary and structures.
	3	Good range of vocabulary and structures.
	2	Adequate range of vocabulary and structures.
	1	Limited range of vocabulary and structure.
Accuracy (vocabulary, grammar, spelling, punctuation)	3	No errors / minimal errors.
	2	A few errors in complex structures.
	1	Frequent errors, both in complex and simple structures.
Appropriacy of register	2	Consistent use of neutral / semi-formal register.
	1	Inconsistent use of neutral / semi-formal register.
Total (out of 15)		

NOTES

- **Length** – between 250 – 300 words. If the text is shorter or longer, the final score is adjusted as agreed by the evaluation committee.
- **Spelling** – British and American varieties are acceptable.
- **Contractions** are acceptable.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

WRITING TASK: AN ARTICLE

You are going to write an article for an English website.

Before writing, you are going to watch a short video presentation.

The video will be shown twice.

You can take notes if you wish. Use this sheet for your notes.

After viewing the video presentation, you will have 60 minutes to write your article.

You must follow this plan:

- *give a short summary of the content of the talk;*
- *express your opinion / emotions, describe your experience in relation to the topic discussed;*
- *comment on the speaker's presentation skills (manner of speaking, visuals etc.).*

Write at least 250 words, but no more than 300 words.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

PAIR DISCUSSION ASSESSMENT SCALE

CRITERIA	SCORE	DESCRIPTORS
CONTENT		
Opinion, comment (Relevance, coherence, fluency)		
3		All ideas relevant; coherent; easy to follow.
2		Most ideas relevant; quite coherent; rather easy to follow.
1		Too few ideas; lack of coherence; may be difficult to follow.
Language resources (Range , clarity, precision)		
4		Wide range of lexico-grammatical structures; the meaning is always clear and precise.
3		Good range of lexico-grammatical structures; the meaning is always clear and precise.
2		Adequate range of lexico-grammatical structures; the meaning is generally clear and precise.
1		Limited range of lexico-grammatical structures; the meaning is often not clear or precise.
DELIVERY		
Interaction, cooperation		
3		Excellent use of strategies to initiate discussion and respond to questions; excellent cooperation with the interlocutor.
2		Good use of strategies to initiate discussion and respond to questions; good cooperation with the interlocutor.
1		Adequate use of strategies to initiate discussion and respond to questions; adequate cooperation with the interlocutor.
Accuracy		
4		Excellent control of simple and complex language structures; no / minor accuracy errors.
3		Good control of simple and complex language structures; occasional errors in complex structures.
2		Adequate handling of simple language structures; problems occur with complex structures.
1		Poor handling of language structures; problems occur with both complex and simple structures.
Total		
(out of 14)		

NOTE: Summary by Student A and conclusion by Student B are NOT assessed.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

PAIR DISCUSSION – 1

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

*You have **2 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **3 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *give a short summary of the text **(Student A)**;*
- *exchange opinions with the partner about the news;*
- *comment on the events / people described in the text;*
- *relate the news item to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion **(Student B)**.*



Man survives 14 hours 'clinging to sea rubbish'

Vidam Perevertilov spent 14 hours in the water after he fell off the cargo ship into the Pacific Ocean. The 52-year-old, who was not wearing a life jacket, credits his decision to swim towards a "black dot" several kilometres away with saving his life. It turned out to be a fishing buoy, which he held onto until his rescue.

"He looked very tired but he was alive," his son Marat told New Zealand news site. Mr Perevertilov is the Lithuanian chief engineer of the Silver Supporter. Following a shift in the engine room pumping fuel, he felt "hot and dizzy". He walked out onto the deck, before falling off. Unaware that a man had fallen overboard, the ship sailed away.

After struggling to stay afloat, Mr Perevertilov noticed a black speck on the horizon and decided to swim towards it. "It was just a piece of sea rubbish," said Marat.

It took ship crew about six hours to notice that their engineer was missing, at which point the captain turned the ship around. When Mr Perevertilov finally saw his ship in the horizon, he waved and called out. Remarkably, one of the ship's passengers heard the "weak, human shout". A lookout spotted a raised hand later on, and eventually pulled the sailor on board.

"His will to survive was strong... I probably would have drowned straight away, but he always kept himself fit and healthy and that's why I think he could survive," said Marat.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

PAIR DISCUSSION – 2

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

*You have **2 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **3 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *give a short summary of the text **(Student A)**;*
- *exchange opinions with the partner about the news;*
- *comment on the events / people described in the text;*
- *relate the news item to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion **(Student B)**.*



China court orders man to pay wife for housework

According to Beijing court, Chen filed for divorce last year from his wife Wang, after getting married in 2015. She was reluctant to a divorce at first, but later requested financial compensation, arguing that Chen had not shouldered any housework or childcare responsibilities for their son. Beijing Court ruled in her favour, ordering him to pay her monthly alimony of 2,000 yuan for the housework she has done.

The ruling was made according to the new civil code in the country, which came into effect this year. Under the new law, a spouse can to seek compensation in a divorce if he or she bears more responsibility in child raising, caring for elderly relatives, and assisting partners in their work.

On social media, the case sparked heated debate, with a related hashtag viewed more than 570 million times. Some social media users pointed out that 50,000 yuan for five years' of work was too little. Others said that men should assume more household duties in the first place.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Chinese women spend nearly four hours a day on unpaid work - roughly 2.5 times that of men. It is higher than the average in OECD countries, where women spend twice the amount of time as men on unpaid work.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

PAIR DISCUSSION – 3

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

*You have **2 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **3 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *give a short summary of the text **(Student A)**;*
- *exchange opinions with the partner about the news;*
- *comment on the events / people described in the text;*
- *relate the news item to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion **(Student B)**.*



Some Australian states ease curbs on dancing

Two Australian states will loosen restrictions on dancing at indoor venues and ease other curbs after several weeks of no COVID-19 cases.

In New South Wales, 30 people will be allowed to dance at weddings and 30 people will be able to sing indoors together, up from 5 currently. Households will also be allowed to host 50 guests, up from 30. The move comes after the state had no locally acquired infections for 38th day and as the country entered a nationwide vaccination programme. "With the rollout of the vaccine now underway and no new cases, we are able to make further changes," state Premier told reporters.

Restrictions are also being eased in South Australia. Dancing will be now allowed at smaller venues with capacity of less than 200 people, while at bigger venues, 50 can dance at a time at a designated area.

The state will also drop testing requirements for visitors from Melbourne. Although there have been cases among returning citizens from abroad, Australia has largely contained community transmission of the virus with mandatory mask-wearing on public transport and snap lockdowns.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

PAIR DISCUSSION – 4

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

*You have **2 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **3 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *give a short summary of the text **(Student A)**;*
- *exchange opinions with the partner about the news;*
- *comment on the events / people described in the text;*
- *relate the news item to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion **(Student B)**.*



Hi, Robot: Japan's android pets ease virus isolation

Nami Hamaura says she feels less lonely working from home thanks to her singing companion Charlie, one of a new generation of cute and clever Japanese robots whose sales are booming in the pandemic. Technology firms in Japan are reporting huge demand for humanlike robots, as people seek companionship during isolation.

"I felt my circle became very small," Hamaura, who has worked remotely since April 2020. With socialising limited, her first job is nothing like she imagined when she was a student. So she adopted Charlie, a mug-sized robot with a round head, red nose and flashing bow-tie, who converses with its owner in song. "He is there for me to chat with as someone other than family, or friends on social networks," Hamaura said.

"Charlie, tell me something interesting," she asks while typing at her dining table. "Well, well... balloons burst when you spray lemon juice!" he replies in a singing voice, cheerfully tilting his head to each side.

Among other robot pets offered by Japanese manufacturers are Robohon, which talks, dances and is also a working phone; Qoobo, a fluffy pillow with a mechanical tail that wiggles like a real pet; and Lovot, a robot the size of a small toddler, with big round eyes and penguin-like wings that flutter up and down.

In Japan, robots feel normal in everyday life because they are in so many Japanese children's films and cartoons.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

PAIR DISCUSSION – 5

You are going to read a news item.

You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

*You have **2 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **3 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *give a short summary of the text **(Student A)**;*
- *exchange opinions with the partner about the news;*
- *comment on the events / people described in the text;*
- *relate the news item to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion **(Student B)**.*



LRT launches English language podcast – Culture Nerve

LRT RADIO is launching the first English-language podcast, Culture Nerve.

In each bi-weekly episode, a Lithuanian and a foreign expert will sit down for a virtual talk to share their thoughts on what matters most in culture. This podcast is created together with the network of Lithuania's cultural attachés in foreign countries.

“The Lithuanian cultural attachés wish to contribute even more to the creation of LRT's cultural content. Our cultural professionals maintain extensive international relations: they constantly encounter interesting people from the world of culture whose ideas do not always reach Lithuania,” said Juta Liutkevičiūtė-Kiudė, host of the podcast.

“Their valuable conversations about society, culture in general, and remarkably similar or radically different contexts – depending on the country – often remain in closed circles; thus, the Lithuanian cultural attachés suggested that we create this type of podcast. The main idea of Culture Nerve is to stimulate discussion about culture and art among different countries”.

In the first episode, Italian professor Roberto Farneti meets historian and diplomat professor Irena Vaišvilaitė to discuss what the Soviet and fascist regimes have left behind in their native countries and how to deal with difficult historical events and their legacy in different countries.

All episodes will be available to listen on LRT's Audioteka, LRT English, and on Spotify.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)**INDIVIDUAL TALK ASSESSMENT SCALE**

SCORE	DESCRIPTORS
Summary of text	
3	Effective summary of the Lithuanian text in English.
2	Adequate summary of the Lithuanian text in English.
1	Poor summary of the Lithuanian text in English.
Opinion, comment (relevance, coherence)	
3	All ideas relevant and coherent; easy to follow.
2	Most ideas relevant and coherent; quite easy to follow.
1	Some irrelevance or incoherence may be noticed.
Language resources (lexico-grammatical structures)	
3	Wide range of language resources; always used clearly and precisely to convey the content.
2	Good range of language resources; most often used clearly and precisely to convey the content.
1	Adequate range of language resources; lack of clarity and precision may be noticed.
Fluency	
2	Maintains a smooth flow of language with natural hesitation.
1	Maintains a flow of language; hesitation occurs when searching for language resources.
Accuracy	
3	Excellent control of simple and complex lexico-grammatical structures; no errors / a few minor errors in complex structures.
2	Good control of simple and complex lexico-grammatical structures; occasional errors in complex structures.
1	Adequate handling of simple lexico-grammatical structures; problems may occur with both simple and complex structures.
Pronunciation	
2	Clear articulation. Effective intonation.
1	Most text is articulated clearly. Adequate intonation.
Total (out of 16)	

INDIVIDUAL TALK – 1

- *Read a short text in Lithuanian*
- *Summarise the text in English*
- *Share your thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic*

Preparation time 2-3 minutes.

You can make notes if you wish.

You will have 1-2 minutes to give your talk.



Muziejai nusivylė – Vyriausybė net nesvarstė kultūros įstaigų atvėrimo klausimo

Ilgai laukę galimybės atnaujinti veiklą muziejai ir galerijos liko nusivylę – Vyriausybė net nesvarstė kultūros įstaigų atvėrimo klausimo.

Nacionalinio Čiurlionio dailės muziejaus vadovė teigia, kad atidarymui jau pasirengę visi padaliniai. Per karantiną muziejus prarado 54 tūkstančius eurų, tačiau bilietų nebrangins.

O Trakų salos pilies muziejus nusprendė kelti bilietų kainas nuo 8 iki 12 eurų. Muziejus sukūrė naujų edukacijos programų ir norėtų atverti duris bent jau Kovo 11-ąją.

Apie bilietų kainų didinimą svarsto ir šiuolaikinio meno muziejus MO Vilniuje. Planuojama, kad bilietas kainuos ne 7, o 9 eurus. Muziejaus vadovė sako, kad Vyriausybė galėtų priimti lankstesnių sprendimų – nedaryti totalinio muziejų uždarymo arba atidarymo, o reguliuoti, atsižvelgiant į situaciją, plotą ir žmonių kiekį per valandą.“

INDIVIDUAL TALK – 2

- *Read a short text in Lithuanian*
- *Summarise the text in English*
- *Share your thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic*

Preparation time 2-3 minutes.

You can make notes if you wish.

You will have 1-2 minutes to give your talk.



Įsimintiniausiu 2020 m. Kauno menininku išrinktas šokėjas Mantas Stabačinskas

Šokėjas Mantas Stabačinskas įvertintas už brandžių kūrybą bei aktyvią visuomeninę veiklą. Šiuo metu Mantas kuria šokio spektaklį neregiamams, anksčiau rengė kūrybines laboratorijas negalią turinčių asmenų centre. Menininkas domisi socialiniu šokiu ir kaip šokis gali pagerinti asmens dvasinę savijautą.

„Šokis išlaisvina. Aš noriu tą laisvės potyrį duoti kitiems žmonėms, kurie sako „aš tikrai negaliu šokti, nes aš sėdžiu vėžimėlyje“. Aš juos paskatinu, ir tada tie žmonės patys atranda judesio džiaugsmą“, – pasakoja šokėjas.

„Reikia būti atviru ir smalsiu, jei nori pažinti šiuolaikinį šokį. Yra žmonių, kurie sako, „šokis ir šokio teatras ne man“, bet aš sakau, jums būtina pamatyti ne vieną spektaklį, kuo daugiau pamatai, tuo daugiau ateina patirties ir tada yra lengviau „susikalbėti“ šokėjams ir žiūrovams“, – tikina šokėjas.

INDIVIDUAL TALK – 3

- *Read a short text in Lithuanian*
- *Summarise the text in English*
- *Share your thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic*

Preparation time 2-3 minutes.

You can make notes if you wish.

You will have 1-2 minutes to give your talk.



Kodėl virtualioje realybėje daugiau pramogaujame nei mokomės?

Virtualios realybės (VR) akinių naudojimas pramogoms yra paplitęs, tačiau, pasak VGTU profesoriaus Artūro Serackio, VR technologijos švietimo srityje dar mažai pažengusios.

„Šiuo metu VR akinių paplitimas yra labai mažas. Net jeigu įtrauktume visas alternatyvas, kai VR akiniai sukonstruojami iš išmaniojo telefono ir laikiklio, turime nepamiršti, kad bus reikalingi išmanieji valdikliai, o tam reikia, mokynys turėtų visavertį kompiuterį“.

VR akiniai nerekomenduojami jaunesniems nei 12 metų vaikams, nes vaikai gali prarasti pusiausvyrą, susižaloti, o ilgesnis naudojimas gali padaryti neigiamą įtaką jų koordinacijai.

Kaip pandemija paveikė kompiuterinių žaidimų industriją galima nesunkiai nuspėti. JAV kompiuterinių žaidimų pardavimai padidėjo 34 proc., rinkoje jautėsi VR akinių trūkumas. Pramogų paslaugas teikiantys verslininkai pradėjo organizuoti gimtadienius nuomodami VR technologijas. „Tai lyg proga draugams pabūti kartu gimtadienio metu, o taip pat ir proga susipažinti ir pažaisti su VR įranga“, – sako profesorius.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

INDIVIDUAL TALK – 4

- *Read a short text in Lithuanian*
- *Summarise the text in English*
- *Share your thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic*

Preparation time 2-3 minutes.

You can make notes if you wish.

You will have 1-2 minutes to give your talk.



Vilniaus knygų mugės 2021-aisiais nebus

Dėl pandemijos ir renginių ribojimo Vilniaus knygų mugės (VKM) organizatoriai nusprendė 2021-aisiais mugės nerengti.

„Norėdami išlaikyti ilgametės tradicijas susitikti su knygų autoriais bei įsigyti knygų, informuojame, kad Vilniaus knygų mugė vyks 2022 m. vasario 24–27 d. Pasimatysime kitąmet didžiausiame ateinančių metų renginyje ir mėgausimės knygų pristatymais, aktualiomis diskusijomis, unikaliais koncertais ir susitikimais su autoriais“, – pabrėžia mugės organizatoriai.

„Tai, be abejo, nestebinantis sprendimas, to ir buvo tikimasi, bet vis dėlto knygoms skirti renginiai vyksta, kad ir per atstumą. Dėkui visiems už jų darbą įrašant knygų pristatymus, pokalbius, diskusijas ir davusiems galimybę tai pamatyti online. Liūdėjau, negalėdama skristi į Lietuvą ir apsilankyti mugėje, bet vaizdo įrašai tikrai džiugina. Lauksim kitos knygų mugės, gyva šventė dar tikrai bus,“ – komentavo nuolatinė mugės lankytoja.

2021 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

INDIVIDUAL TALK – 5

- *Read a short text in Lithuanian*
- *Summarise the text in English*
- *Share your thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic*

Preparation time 2-3 minutes.

You can make notes if you wish.

You will have 1-2 minutes to give your talk.



Kviečia moksleivius dalyvauti konkurse

Kino mokykla „Youngblood“ ir festivalis „Kino pavasaris“ kviečia moksleivius įsijausti į kino režisieriaus profesiją ir dalyvauti trumpųjų filmų (2 min. ilgio) konkurse.

Užduotis – sukurti filmą tema „Ką pastebėjau savo aplinkoje ir norėčiau pakeisti?“ Filmai gali būti įvairių žanrų (vaidybinio, dokumentinio, eksperimentinio), techniškai vizualūs arba nufilmuoti mobiliuoju telefonu. Tikimės sužinoti, apie ką šiandien mąsto paaugliai ir kaip naudoja kino kalbą savo mintims išreikšti“, – teigė organizatoriai.

Geriausių kūrinių autoriai bus apdovanoti festivalio „Kino pavasaris“ „watch party“ (filmų peržiūros vakarėliu sau ir savo draugams). Tikimasi, kad šis konkursas moksleivius paskatins ne tik kurti filmus, bet ir kalbėti apie legalų turinį kino pasaulyje.

„Lietuvoje vis dar opi nelegalaus filmų žiūrėjimo problema. Todėl labai svarbu apie tai kalbėtis su jaunąja karta. Tokį pokalbį lengviausia užmegzti per kūrybinį procesą, kuriame atsiskleidžia kino kūrimo grožis ir iššūkiai“, – teigė organizatoriai.

