

2019 M. ANGLŲ KALBOS KONKURSAS (9–10 KL.)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST 2019 (FORMS 9-10)

- Konkurso užduočių struktūra (1 lapas)
- Pasirengimas (1 lapas)
- Rekomenduojamų video prezentacijų sąrašas (1 lapas)
- Vertinimo kriterijai (anglų kalba) (3 lapai)
 - Rašinio / straipsnio
 - Monologo / pasisakymo
 - Dialogo / diskusijos
- Užduotis raštu (5 lapai)
- Užduotys žodžiu
 - Monologas / Pasisakymas (6 lapai)
 - Dialogas / Diskusija (12 lapų)

KONKURSO UŽDUOČIŲ STRUKTŪRA

UŽDUOTIES TIPAS	UŽDUOTYS	TAŠKAI	LAIKAS
RAŠTU	Rašinys / Straipsnis. Minimalus žodžių skaičius – 250. Maksimalus žodžių skaičius – 300. Rašymo užduotis atliekama pažiūrėjus trumpą (apie 10 min.) video prezentaciją. Prezentacija žiūrima du kartus.	15	Video prezentacijos peržiūrai (2 kartus) skiriama apie 20 min. Rašymui skiriama iki 60 min. Iš viso apie 80 min.
ŽODŽIU	Monologas: Pasisakymas aptariant perskaitytą trumpą naujieną (naujienos tekstas lietuvių kalba).	16	Pasirengimui skiriama 2-3 min. Pasisakymui skiriama 1-2 min. Iš viso mokiniui iki 5 min.
	Dialogas: Diskusija aptariant perskaitytą naujienų (anglų k.) tekstą.	14	Pasirengimui skiriama 2 min. Diskusijai skiriama 3 min. Iš viso 5 min. mokinių porai.
	Abiejų kalbėjimo užduočių taškai sudedami ir dalijami iš dviejų. Maksimalus taškų skaičius už kalbėjimą – 15 taškų.		
	IŠ VISO	30 taškų	

KOMANDINĘ UŽDUOTĮ rajono (miesto) komisija organizuoja savo nuožiūra.

Ši užduotis vertinama neformaliai. Rekomenduojamos užduotys:

LOBIŲ PAIEŠKA IR PRISTATYMAS

Temos: Mano miestas / Mano regionas / Mano šalis.

Potemės: Vietovės / Žmonės / Istorija / Renginiai.

Formatai: skelbimas, skrajutė, plakatas, eilėraštis, daina, vaidybinis etiudas, skaidrių šou, filmukas.

Užduoties pavyzdžiai::

- Sukurkite skaidrių šou „Aplankykite mano miestą“.
- Sukurkite vaidybinį etiudą „Susipažinkite su mano miesto žmonėmis“.
- Sukurkite skelbimą „Kviečiame į miesto tradicinius renginius“.
- Sukurkite eilėraštį / dainą „Mano miestas – pats šaunias“.

PROTŲ MŪŠIS

Temos: Lietuvos istorija, garsūs žmonės, lankytinos vietos ir pan.

Formatai: Protų mūšis su vaizdine megžiaga / be vaizdinės medžiagos.

PASIRENGIMAS			
UŽDUOTYS	LAPAI	PASIRENGIMAS	
RAŠTU	Viršeliai kodavimui.	2 lapai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parengti kopijas kiekvienam mokiniui. - Surašyti kodus prieš išdalijant užduotis dalyviams. - Surinkti pirmuosius viršelius su dalyvių pavardėmis.
	<p>Rašinys / Straipsnis.</p> <p>Rašymo užduotis atliekama pažiūrėjus trumpą video prezentaciją.</p> <p>Prezentacija žiūrima du kartus.</p>	<p>1 lapas – užduotis ir vieta užrašams.</p> <p>1 lapas – juodraštis.</p> <p>1 lapas – švarraštis.</p> <p>1 lapas – vertinimo lentelė.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pasirinkti video prezentaciją iš rekomenduojamų. - Siekiant išvengti interneto trikdžių olimpiados dieną, patartina video prezentaciją išsaugoti laikmenoje. - Parengti užduoties lapų kopijas dalyviams. - Parengti vertinimo lentelės kopijas vertintojams. - Jei vertinimo rezultatus norime pateikti mokiniams, reikia parengti tiek kopijų, kiek yra mokinių. Vertintojai apveda balų skaičių pagal kiekvieną kriterijų, o bendrą balą įrašo apačioje. Pasibaigus konkursui, vertinimo lentelės atiduodamos mokiniams.
ŽODŽIU	Monologas :	<p>6 užduočių lapai su skirtingomis naujienomis.</p> <p>1 lapas – vertinimo lentelė.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pasirinkti norimas citatas. - Parengti užduočių kopijas dalyviams ir vertintojams. - Parengti vertinimo lentelės kopijas komisijai. - Jei vertinimo rezultatus norime pateikti mokiniams, reikia parengti tiek kopijų, kiek yra mokinių. Vertintojai apveda balų skaičių pagal kiekvieną kriterijų, o bendrą balą įrašo apačioje. Pasibaigus konkursui, vertinimo lentelės atiduodamos mokiniams.
	Dialogas: Diskusija pagal perskaitytą naujienų tekstą.	<p>6 užduočių komplektai (Mokiniui A ir Mokiniui B).</p> <p>1 lapas – vertinimo lentelė.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parengti užduočių komplektų kopijas dalyviams ir vertintojams. - Parengti vertinimo lentelės kopijas komisijai. - Jei vertinimo rezultatus norime pateikti mokiniams, reikia parengti tiek kopijų, kiek yra mokinių. Vertintojai apveda balų skaičių pagal kiekvieną kriterijų, o bendrą balą įrašo apačioje. Pasibaigus konkursui, vertinimo lenteles galima atiduoti mokiniams.

REKOMENDUOJAMOS VIDEO PREZENTACIJOS

How can we become more self-motivated?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuncctBhC4s>

Being an introvert is a good thing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oAJsPFH2wk>

ARTICLE ASSESSMENT SCALE		
CRITERIA	SCORE	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 structure.
	3	Good range of vocabulary and structure.
	2	Adequate range of vocabulary and structure.
	1	Limited range of vocabulary and structure.
Accuracy (vocabulary, grammar, spelling, punctuation)	3	No errors / minimal errors.
	2	A number of errors, but they do not obscure communication.
	1	Frequent errors, some of which may obscure communication.
Appropriacy of register	2	Consistent use of neutral / semi-formal register.
	1	Inconsistent use of neutral / semi-formal register.
Total	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.

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)	Assessor's signature and comment.

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)	Assessor's signature and comment.	

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Šis viršelis skirtas kodavimui.

Dalyvio kodą įrašo komisija prieš išdalindama užduotis dalyviams.

Dalyvis užpildo savo duomenis ir grąžina šį viršelį komisijai prieš atlikdamas užduotis.

Dalyvio kodas (pildo komisija)	
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Dalyvio vardas, pavardė (pildo dalyvis)	
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Dalyvio mokykla (pildo dalyvis)	
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Šis viršelis skirtas rašymo užduoties vertinimo fiksavimui.

Dalyvio kodą įrašo komisija prieš išdalindama užduotis dalyviams.

Dalyvis grąžina šį viršelį komisijai kartu su atliktomis užduotimis.

Dalyvio kodas (pildo komisija)	
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UŽDUOTIS RAŠTU	MAKSIMALUS TAŠKŲ SKAIČIUS	SURINKTA TAŠKŲ (1 vertintojas)	SURINKTA TAŠKŲ (2 vertintojas)
Straipsnis (article)	15		

1 VERTINTOJAS _____ (parašas)

2 VERTINTOJAS _____ (parašas)

KOMISIJOS PIRMININKAS _____ (parašas)

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;*
- *formulate the main message;*
- *respond to the message of the talk (your opinion / emotions / knowledge / experience in relation to the topic discussed);*
- *comment on the speaker's presentation skills (manner of speaking, visuals etc.).*

Use the sheets provided for your draft and your final version.

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

Give a title to your article.

USE THIS SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES WHILE WATCHING THE PRESENTATION

USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR DRAFT

You can use both sides of the sheet if necessary.

USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR FINAL VERSION

You must write at least 250 words but no more than 300 words.

You can use both sides of the sheet if necessary.

TITLE:

INDIVIDUAL TALK -1

You have just read a short text in Lithuanian. Your task is:

- *to summarise the text in English;*
- *to share your own thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic.*

Preparation time 2-3 minutes. You can make notes if you wish in the space below.

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



Nacionaliniam diktantui aktyviausiai rengiasi Vilniaus įmonės ir Žemaitijos mokyklos

Trisdešimt Vilniaus verslo įmonių ketina rašyti Nacionalinį diktantą, kuris vyks kovo 8 dieną. Diktantui itin aktyviai rengiasi Žemaitijos mokyklos. „Reikalavimas dalyviams yra vienas – turėti popieriaus, rašiklį ir galimybę klausyti radijo transliacijos. Džiaugiamės sulaukę dalyvių, kurie dalyvaus projekte jau ne pirmą kartą, o šiemet pasikvietė ir kolegų. Būrys tikinčių, kad rašyti lietuviškai taisyklingai yra svarbu, kasmet didėja“, – sakė organizatorė Vytautė Šmaižytė. Diktantą planuoja rašyti bankininkai, inžinieriai, informacinių technologijų specialistai, medikai, kariškiai, policininkai. Prie diktanto gerbėjų būrio aktyviai jungiasi Mažeikių, Plungės, Rietavo, Šilutės ir Raseinių ugdymo įstaigos.

INDIVIDUAL TALK–2

You have just read a short text in Lithuanian. Your task is:

- to summarise the text in English;
- to share your own thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic.

Preparation time 2-3 minutes. You can make notes if you wish in the space below.

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



„Kino pavasarį“ šiemet aplankys net 19 Lietuvos miestų

„Kokybišku kinu siekiame pradžiuginti kuo daugiau žiūrovų. Pernai festivalis vyko 11 miestų, šiemet jau 19. Tai įrodo, kad auga įdomaus ir prasmingo turinio filmų poreikis. Visus kviesime atėjus į kino salę pabudinti savo vaizduotę“, – sako festivalio organizatorius Algirdas Ramaška. Atrinkti 27 ilgametražiai filmai, tarp jų – 5 lietuvių darbai. Bus parodyti ir 5 trumpametražiai lietuvių filmai. Visus miestus sujungs bendras dienos filmas. „Mažesnių miestų gyventojai galės pamatyti Kanų kino festivalio laimėtoją tuo pat metu, kaip ir didžiųjų miestų gyventojai. Šiemet tarp dienos filmų bus ir romantinių komedijų, ir veiksmo istorijų“, – sako A. Ramaška.

INDIVIDUAL TALK-3

You have just read a short text in Lithuanian. Your task is:

- to summarise the text in English;
- to share your own thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic.

Preparation time 2-3 minutes. You can make notes if you wish in the space below.

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



Jauniausia troleibuso vairuotoja seka tėvo pėdomis

Prieš porą savaitių Vilniaus gatvėmis išriedėjo jauniausia troleibuso vairuotoja Justina. Jai neseniai suėjo 21-eri, o pirmą kartą prie vairo sėdo 14-os. Mergina tęsia šeimos profesiją, mat troleibusų vairuotojais dar dirba jos tėtis, brolis ir teta. Dukra ir tėtis važinėja tuo pačiu troleibuso maršrutu. Kasdien jie nuvažiuoja po 120 kilometrų. Tėvai ir draugai jos sprendimą palaiko, mat mergina nuo pat vaikystės to atkakliai siekė. „Kai pasakau, kuo užsiimu, aplinkiniai stebisi: stotelėse kai kurie žmonės j mane spokso, o pažįstami galvoja, kad tai sunkus darbas. Tačiau aš šio darbo labai norėjau, tad man tikrai nėra nei sunku, nei baisu“, – pripažįsta Justina.

INDIVIDUAL TALK–4

You have just read a short text in Lithuanian. Your task is:

- *to summarise the text in English;*
- *to share your own thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic.*

Preparation time 2-3 minutes. You can make notes if you wish in the space below.

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



Tokijo olimpinėse žaidynėse – neįprasti medaliai: juos gamins iš atliekų

Kasmet pasaulyje išmetama milijonai tonų naudotų mobiliųjų telefonų ir kitų elektroninių įrenginių, nors juose yra daug vertingų metalų. Vienas geriausių pavyzdžių, kaip atliekos panaudojamos naujiems gaminiams, yra 2020 metų Tokijo olimpinės ir parolimpinės žaidynės – šių žaidynių nugalėtojai bus apdovanojami medaliais, kurių gamybai bus naudojami iš Japonijos namų ūkių surinkti seni mobilieji telefonai ir kiti smulkūs elektroniniai įrenginiai (skaitmeniniai fotoaparatai, delniniai žaidimai, nešiojamieji kompiuteriai). Panaudojant elektroninės įrangos atliekose esamus tauriuosius metalus iš viso bus pagaminta maždaug 5 tūkst. aukso, sidabro ir bronzos medalių.

INDIVIDUAL TALK-5

You have just read a short text in Lithuanian. Your task is:

- to summarise the text in English;
- to share your own thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic.

Preparation time 2-3 minutes. You can make notes if you wish in the space below.

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



Sužaistas devintas LRT organizuojamas interaktyvus žaidimas „Prototo“

Šįkart laimėti pagrindinį prizą – išmanųjį telefoną „iPhone XS“ – panoro daugiau nei 8 tūkst. žmonių. Sėkmė nusišypsojo moksleivei Mildai. Milda viktoriną žaidė kartu su sese, kuri ir paskatino parsisiųsti šią programėlę. Mergina sako žaidusi trečią kartą ir, nors teko paspėlioti, trečias kartas tikrai nemelavo. Anot Mildos, laimėti ji nesitikėjo. „Tai buvo sėkmės reikalas“, – sako ji. Laidą „Tūkstantmečio vaikai“ mėgstanti žiūrėti moksleivė sako, kad klausimai buvo įdomūs dėl to, nes ne dažnai pasitaikantys ir iš įvairių sričių. Paskutinio klausimo teisingą atsakymą pasirinko 9 žmonės, iš kurių burtų keliu išrinkta laimėtoja. Sveikiname Mildą!

INDIVIDUAL TALK-6

You have just read a short text in Lithuanian. Your task is:

- to summarise the text in English;
- to share your own thoughts / emotions / knowledge / experience related to the topic.

Preparation time 2-3 minutes. You can make notes if you wish in the space below.

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



Į tarptautinę kosmoso stotį iki 2021 metų pabaigos bus išskraidinti du kosmoso turistai

Rusijos kosmoso agentūra "Roskosmos" pranešė, kad susitarė su JAV bendrove "Space Adventure" iki 2021 metų pabaigos nusiųsti į Tarptautinę kosmoso stotį (TKS) du kosmoso turistus. Šios dvi kompanijos pasirašė sutartį dėl dviejų neprofesionalių kosmonautų trumpalaikių skrydžių vienu erdvėlaiviu į TKS". Rusijos ir JAV įmonė bendradarbiauja nuo 2001 metų, kai į orbitą išskrido pirmasis kosmoso turistas amerikietis Dennisas Tito. Per tą laikotarpį į TKS pagal kosmoso turizmo programą skrido septyni žmonės, vienas jų – Charlesas Simonyi – du kartus. Jau pradėta gaminti nauja raketa ir erdvėlaivis. Šių aparatų gamybos išlaidas padengs patys keleiviai, kurių vardų kol kas neskelbiama.

Student A

PAIR DISCUSSION

You are going to read a news item. You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner. Your partner has also read the same news item.

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 describe in the text;
- relate the news item to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

Note: if you start the discussion, your partner will have to complete the discussion and vice versa.

Student A and Student B read the same news item.

Student A starts the conversation by summarising the news item.

Student B completes the conversation by summarising the discussion.

NO 1.



Sam Kerr the 'female version of Ronaldo and Messi'

After being confirmed as the new Matildas captain for the 2019 Women's World Cup, Sam Kerr has been described as the female equivalent of the football legends Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Sam Kerr will lead Australia into action against New Zealand, as the Matildas hope to win the Cup of Nations in their home country. It will be Kerr's first hit as team captain out in the green.

Kerr most recently guided Perth Glory team to the grand final and finished as the top scorer, leaving football commentator Andy Harper in awe of her footballing ability. "We're going to be privileged to watch an internationally recognised athlete through the prime of her career and enjoy the ride," Harper told.

"Hopefully things can work out with the team in the short term and they can really aim up at the World Cup. If they do, Sam Kerr will be at the centre of what they're achieving, and it will be thrilling viewing. "I've had the privilege of watching her many, many times live through W-League and Matildas matches and it's exhilarating.

"When she drops the clutch, turns on the ball and runs past defenders, she's quite seriously, in my opinion, the female version of Ronaldo and Messi – she's electrifying."

Student B

PAIR DISCUSSION

You are going to read a news item. You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner. Your partner has also read the same news item.

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 describe in the text;
- relate the news item to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

Note: if you start the discussion, your partner will have to complete the discussion and vice versa.

Student A and Student B read the same news item.

Student A starts the conversation by summarising the news item.

Student B completes the conversation by summarising the discussion.

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"Hopefully things can work out with the team in the short term and they can really aim up at the World Cup. If they do, Sam Kerr will be at the centre of what they're achieving, and it will be thrilling viewing. "I've had the privilege of watching her many, many times live through W-League and Matildas matches and it's exhilarating.

"When she drops the clutch, turns on the ball and runs past defenders, she's quite seriously, in my opinion, the female version of Ronaldo and Messi – she's electrifying."

Student A

PAIR DISCUSSION

You are going to read a news item. You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner. Your partner has also read the same news item.

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 describe in the text;
- relate the news item to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

Note: if you start the discussion, your partner will have to complete the discussion and vice versa.

Student A and Student B read the same news item.

Student A starts the conversation by summarising the news item.

Student B completes the conversation by summarising the discussion.

NO 2.



The Easiest Way to Immigrate to the United States

Studying in the United States is not a direct pathway to permanent residence, but a student visa is much easier to get than many others. And while you are in the U.S. on your course of study, you will have a chance to network with people in your chosen industry.

Making those connections can go a long way toward getting the job offer you need to live there, because someone who has a personal relationship with you is likely to help you get through the hoops required to support your application for permanent residence.

In order to get a student visa for the U.S., you need to first be accepted to an approved study program. Acceptance will put you in the Student Information System, to which you must pay a fee. After you've done that, your school will issue you a form that can be used to apply for a student visa.

Your visa will be either for academic institutions, or for vocational training. Students between the ages of 14-79 will need to attend an in-person meeting with an official at the U.S. Embassy in their own country during the process.

If you are married or have minor children, they will need their own visas. Children are allowed to attend school in the United States during the time that they reside there with you. Note that citizens of Canada and Bermuda do not need visas to enter the U.S. as students.

Student B

PAIR DISCUSSION

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

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- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

Note: if you start the discussion, your partner will have to complete the discussion and vice versa.

Student A and Student B read the same news item.

Student A starts the conversation by summarising the news item.

Student B completes the conversation by summarising the discussion.

NO 2.



The Easiest Way to Immigrate to the United States

Studying in the United States is not a direct pathway to permanent residence, but a student visa is much easier to get than many others. And while you are in the U.S. on your course of study, you will have a chance to network with people in your chosen industry.

Making those connections can go a long way toward getting the job offer you need to live there, because someone who has a personal relationship with you is likely to help you get through the hoops required to support your application for permanent residence.

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NO 3.



Sightings of green snow concerns residents of a Russian city

Repeated sightings of green-coloured snow in the Russian city of Pervouralsk is deepening concern among residents over the possible effects of pollution, poor waste management and the activities of a nearby factory.

The most recent sighting sparked discussions between locals, many of whom believe it is caused by emissions from a local chrome plant.

Natalya Solovey, the resident who filmed a video about this issue, told the newspapers that she spotted the oddly-hued "poisonous snow" outside a pre-school adjacent to the factory. "The children got sick, they had a cough and their skin turned red, with rashes on their faces," Solovey told. On social networks, people described the situation as "scary."

But the chrome plant administration has insisted that this had nothing to do with its work. A press spokesperson for the factory said no accidents had occurred recently, and that the green colour could be due to the thawing of snow rather than anything dangerous.

This is not the first incident of green snow being spotted around the city. In 2016, an acid green stream was spotted spilling out across the snow in another district close to the plant.

Student B

PAIR DISCUSSION

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Student B completes the conversation by summarising the discussion.

NO 4.



Don't expect to have a smoke at next year's Tokyo Olympics

Tokyo is still a smoker's heaven. Despite tougher laws introduced last year, smokers still can light up in some restaurants and bars. Tobacco advertising is allowed on television, cigarette packages don't contain graphic health warnings, and tobacco is cheap compared to other major cities.

However, don't expect to enjoy your cigarette at next year's Tokyo Olympics. Smoking will be banned at all indoor and outdoor venues. Organizers say the regulations are tougher than those for the last two Summer Olympics in London and Rio de Janeiro. "Tokyo 2020 aims to improve health for the country at large," organizers said.

Tokyo's city government enacted tougher rules last year to protect from second-hand smoke. However, smoking is still allowed in small cafes and bars. They make up half of Japanese establishments, where it's common to see a customer with chopsticks in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

The city's smoking policy will be reviewed in five years. But more regulation will always face opposition despite the fact that smoking has declined in recent years.

According to World Health Organization data for 2015, 32.7 percent of Japanese males smoke, compared to 24.4 in the United States. The highest figures were East Timor (78.0) and Indonesia (74.9), and the lowest two were in Africa: Ethiopia (7.6) and Ghana (7.1).

Student B

PAIR DISCUSSION

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NO 5.



Balloons found to be deadliest marine plastic for seabirds

We associate balloons with parties and fun. But while they may disappear out of sight, it turns out lost balloons can have terrible consequences. Researchers studying the gut contents of dead seabirds found balloon fragments is the most deadly type of plastic the birds can swallow.

The waters off Australia have the greatest diversity of seabirds in the world. Because of this diversity, this is where the worst consequences of plastic pollution are felt. Although most plastic removed from dead birds was degraded, researcher Lauren Roman, from the University of Tasmania, said they were mostly party balloons. "I've removed a balloon from a bird that had 'happy birthday' written on it."

Dr Roman examined more than 1,700 birds killed by eating plastics and found that birds that swallowed balloon fragments were 32 times more likely to die than birds that had only eaten hard plastics, such as Lego pieces. The reason balloons are so dangerous is that they squeeze into stomach and get stuck. Dr Roman hypothesised that the birds may be attracted to the balloon fragments floating on water as they resemble squid — common food for sea birds.

Although there are laws against releasing balloons into the environment, replacing plastic polymers with biodegradable alternatives could be an option to prevent seabird deaths, researchers say.

"Balloons are made from material that will persist in the environment for a long time. Developing material to replace those plastics is an important research issue now."

Student B

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NO 6.



'We need more children to go by bike': meet Amsterdam's nine-year-old junior cycle mayor

During Amsterdam's chaotic rush hour, nine-year-old Lotta Crok cycles to a very busy junction. "Look," she says. "There's traffic coming from everywhere. Four trams from four different directions. For a child on a bike that's really confusing!"

Lotta is the first junior cycle mayor in the world and her working area is Amsterdam. It is her mission to inspire children to cycle every day and draw attention to the obstacles that kids on bikes are facing.

You would think this is not necessary in the bicycle capital of the world. The number of bicycles in Amsterdam is estimated at 881,000 – more than the city's 850,000 inhabitants – and 63% of the population cycle daily. But children who cycle face challenges, Lotta says: "The three biggest problems for us are cars, cycling tourists and scooters. The cars take up too much space, the tourists are always swaying side to side and stop when you least expect it, and the scooters simply run you over."

Lotta became junior cycle mayor last year when she won a contest in which schoolchildren were asked to come up with plans to make cycling safer. Her idea was to add children's bikes to the bike share programme run by the state-owned railway operator. "My parents don't have a car, so when we go to another city we always take the train and then a railway-bike," she says. "But because they don't have bicycles for children, I have to go on the back of my father's bike, which is a bit dangerous."

Student B

PAIR DISCUSSION

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