

**RECOMMENDED TALK:**

*How to break down barriers and not accept limits* | Candace Parker 11:20 min.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/candace\\_parker\\_how\\_to\\_break\\_down\\_barriers\\_and\\_not\\_accept\\_limits](https://www.ted.com/talks/candace_parker_how_to_break_down_barriers_and_not_accept_limits)

2022 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.
<b>Total</b> <b>(out of 15)</b>		

**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.

**2022 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.*

**USE THIS SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES WHILE WATCHING THE TALK**

**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:**

<b>PAIR DISCUSSION ASSESSMENT SCALE</b>	
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>CRITERIA AND DESCRIPTORS</b>
<b>Content: Opinion, comment (relevance, coherence, fluency)</b>	
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.
<b>Language resources (range, appropriacy, clarity of meaning)</b>	
3	Wide range of lexico-grammatical structures used appropriately; the meaning is always clear.
2	Adequate range of lexico-grammatical structures used mostly appropriately; the meaning is generally clear.
1	Limited range of lexico-grammatical structures often used inappropriately; the meaning is often not clear.
<b>Interaction, cooperation, response</b>	
3	Excellent use of discussion strategies / response to questions / cooperation with the interlocutor.
2	Good use of discussion strategies / response to questions / cooperation with the interlocutor.
1	Adequate use of discussion strategies / response to questions/ cooperation with the interlocutor.
<b>Accuracy</b>	
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.
<b>Pronunciation</b>	
2	Accurate and clear articulation. Effective intonation.
1	Most text is articulated accurately and clearly. Adequate intonation.
<b>Total (out of 15)</b>	

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

## 2022 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 **3 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **4 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)**.*



### **Kaunas marks the start of its programme as European Capital of Culture 2022**

The Lithuanian city of Kaunas marked the start of its programme as European Capital of Culture 2022 on Saturday, January 22, with the performance 'The Confusion', the first part of the Contemporary Myth of Kaunas Trilogy. "The Mythical Beast of Kaunas" is a project designed to create a unifying narrative for the city. The three main events are co-created by artists from Lithuania and abroad.

More than 300 musicians, dancers and poets participated in bringing the show 'The Confusion' to life just outside the Žalgirio Arena. Around 40,000 spectators attended the event, despite freezing temperatures. The aim of the event, unique and ambitious in idea and scope, was to involve everyone and anyone in the city's creative uprising and use inspiration to build a new post-pandemic future.

Dozens of festivals, exhibitions, events and concerts will take place in Kaunas over the next twelve months, as the city was designated European Capital of Culture 2022 by the Commission of the European Union for the period of one calendar year in light of its exceptional cultural heritage.

This year, three European cities take the mantle of European Capital of Culture. Alongside Kaunas, there is Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg), and Novi Sad (Serbia).

## 2022 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 **3 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **4 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)**.*



#### Lithuania signs film co-production deal with Israel

Lithuania's Culture Minister Simonas Kairys and Israeli Ambassador Yossef Levy signed an agreement on film co-production.

“Until now, Lithuania has not had any film co-production project with Israel,” Kairys noted in a press release on Friday. “By clearly defining cooperation in promoting film production, this agreement between the two governments opens up greater opportunities for Lithuanian and Israeli filmmakers, including attracting additional funding,” the minister said. “All this will further strengthen the international competitiveness of the Lithuanian film industry,” he added.

According to the Culture Ministry, the agreement will create favourable conditions for both countries' film producers to receive public project funding.

“This is a great day for filmmakers in both countries,” Levy was quoted in the press release. “Israel and Lithuania take pride in the quality of their films, which open a window into our cultures and national and human identities. “We very much hope that the new agreement will strengthen the cooperation of filmmakers, which is part of the cultural dialogue between our countries,” he said.

The film co-production agreement with Israel is the second such agreement signed by Lithuania. The first one was signed with France in 2015, according to the press release.

## 2022 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 **3 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **4 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)**.*



#### **Lithuanian Post delivers 50-year-old letters interrupted by Soviet censors**

Lithuania's postal service unearthed a bundle of 50-year-old undelivered letters during a vault reconstruction. Some of them were presumably stopped by censors. The circumstances under which the letters were hidden are unknown.

About 18 letters were found in the vault. Judging by the stamps and dates in the letters, they were written 50 years ago. The letters were found opened, out of envelopes and kept separately, but post workers managed to sort them out by handwriting. Then, the Lithuanian Post started looking for their addressees.

One of the letters was delivered to the US, to the son of its original sender Motiejus Karaša who was a military officer in interwar Lithuania, a well-known public figure awarded numerous prizes for his activities. The family got dispersed during World War II.

“We knew that our letters to Lithuania were checked and sometimes wouldn't be delivered. It's incredible that this letter has survived,” Motiejus' son Alvydas Karaša said.

Alvydas has been corresponding with his cousin in Lithuania. “I preserved most of his letters, because they give rather detailed descriptions of life in the Soviet times and how it changed after 1990,” he says. “These letters have historical value for me.”

## 2022 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 **3 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **4 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)**.*



#### **What are Lithuania's chances at Winter Olympics?**

The Winter Games kick off on February 4 in Beijing. The organisers promise a colourful show and the most inventive way of lighting the Olympic flame in a hundred years. Some 2,900 athletes from all over the world will take part in the Games, which will go down in history as the most gender-balanced: 45 percent of the competing athletes are women.

Lithuania will be represented by 13 athletes who will compete in biathlon, figure skating and skiing. Lithuania has not yet managed to win any medals in winter Olympics. According to the biathlon qualification results, the Lithuanian men's team ranks 16th, and the women's team is 24th. The men's biathlon team made it to the Olympics for the first time. Lithuania got one spot in ice dancing and two in alpine skiing. There will be four Lithuanians in cross-country skiing.

“The epidemiological situation in the world is still tense, but I believe that both athletes and participants in the Olympic mission will cope with the goals set for them. It remains for us, the spectators and fans, to support the athletes with all our hearts,” said Daina Gudzinevičiūtė, president of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee and one-time Olympic champion.

## 2022 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 **3 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **4 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)**.*



#### Lithuania is to decide whether to scrap Covid certificates

The Government ministers had to discuss and make the decision whether to retire Covid certificates in Lithuania.

“I can say that the government has had a plan to suspend Covid certificates for the past several weeks, but we've been coordinating decisions with the health minister and have also had discussions with the business sector, so I think the Cabinet will decide on the suspension of Covid certificates next Wednesday,” the prime minister told reporters on Friday.

As the Omicron variant continues to spread in Lithuania, causing a milder form of Covid-19, there have been doubts raised whether Covid passes were still an effective measure. All the more so, the health minister has recently approved rules on allowing crucial workers with asymptomatic Covid-19 to continue working.

Lithuania introduced national Covid certificates – the so-called opportunity pass – last May as a measure to manage the pandemic and promote vaccination. Under the government decision, people who have been vaccinated against Covid-19, have recently recovered from the infection or have a negative test could receive such certificates to enter public spaces.

In late December, the requirement for children over the age of 12 to carry Covid certificates was introduced, but later suspended until March 1.

## 2022 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST (FORMS 9–10)

### PAIR DISCUSSION – 6

*You are going to read a news item.*

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

*You have **3 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **4 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)**.*



#### **People to declare their ethnicity to have non-Lithuanian letters in their names, says minister**

Lithuanian citizens who want to change their names to include the letters “q”, “x” and “w” will first need to declare their ethnicity, Justice Minister Evelina Dobrovolska said on Wednesday.

"The law says that an ethnicity record in the resident register is necessary to show that you are a Lithuanian Pole or of any other ethnicity. Specific bills on ethnicity records are now being drafted [...], and I am sure we will have all necessary decisions by May 1," the minister confirmed in a press conference on Wednesday.

Lithuania's parliament has recently passed a bill that broke a decades-long impasse over the spelling of names that include letters “q”, “x”, and “w” in ID documents. The amendments, which have now been signed by the president, are particularly important for the country's minorities, as well as nationals married to foreign individuals whose names include the letters that are not part of the Lithuanian alphabet.

Critics say the use of the non-Lithuanian characters runs counter to the constitutional status of the Lithuanian language. The opposition Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union (LVŽS) plans to turn to the Constitutional Court over this law.