

2025 M. ANGLŲ KALBOS OLIMPIADA (11 KL.)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD 2025 (FORM 11)

- Olimpiados užduočių struktūra (1 lapas)
- Pasirengimas (1 lapas)
- Rekomenduojamų video įrašų sąrašas (1 lapas)
- Vertinimo kriterijai (anglų kalba) (2 lapai)
- Viršeliai kodavimui (2 lapai)
- Užduotys raštu (6 lapai)
- Užduotys žodžiu (12 lapų)
- Mokinio užrašams (1 lapas)

OLIMPIADOS UŽDUOČIŲ STRUKTŪRA

OLIMPIADOS DALIS	UŽDUOTYS	TAŠKAI	LAIKAS
RAŠTU	Pusiau oficialus laiškas. Žodžių skaičius 300-350. Rašymo užduotis atliekama pažiūrėjus video įrašą lietuvių kalba (iki 15 min.) du kartus.	18	Video įrašo peržiūrai (2 kartus) skiriama iki 30 min. Rašymui skiriama 50 min.
IŠ VISO			80 min.
ŽODŽIU	Dialogas: Diskusija aptariant perskaitytą naujienų ar informacinį tekstą anglų kalba.	15	Pasirengimui skiriama 5 min. Diskusijai skiriama 4-5 min. Iš viso 10 min. mokinių porai.
IŠ VISO		33	

KOMANDINĘ UŽDUOTĮ rajono (miesto) komisija organizuoja savo nuožiūra.

Ši užduotis vertinama neformaliai.

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>Pusiau oficialus laiškas.</p> <p>Rašymo užduotis atliekama pažiūrėjus video įrašą lietuvių kalba du kartus.</p>	<p>1 lapas – užduotis ir vieta užrašams.</p> <p>1 lapas – juodraštis.</p> <p>1 lapas – švarraštis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pasirinkti video įrašą iš pateiktų. - Siekiant išvengti interneto trikdžių olimpiados dieną, patartina video įrašą išsaugoti laikmenoje. - Parengti užduoties kopijas dalyviams. - 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 olimpiadai, vertinimo lentelės atiduodamos mokiniams.
ŽODŽIU	<p>Dialogas:</p> <p>Diskusija pagal perskaitytą naujienų ar informacinį tekstą.</p>	<p>6 užduočių komplektai (Mokiniui A ir Mokiniui B).</p> <p>1 lapas – vertinimo lentelė.</p> <p>1 lapas – mokinio užrašams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parengti užduočių komplektų kopijas dalyviams ir 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 olimpiadai, vertinimo lentelės atiduodamos mokiniams. - Parengti tiek lapų mokinio užrašams, kiek yra dalyvių.

REKOMENDUOJAMI VIDEO ĮRAŠAI

1 variantas

MOKONOMIKOS pamoka „Laimės ekonomika: ar pinigai daro mus laimingesnius?“ (13 min)

(naudokite nuorodą arba atsisiųskite ir išsaugokite video įrašą laikmenoje)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W610T4h0DfE&list=PLXcBo1oFe8xkT-XFpGBg23QkvcxTbQMuz&index=5>

2 variantas

TV laidos jaunimui „ČIA DABAR?“ ištrauka (7.35 min)

(naudokite nuorodą arba atsisiųskite ir išsaugokite video įrašą laikmenoje)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Asu3of_B3IZ43zyCWuNIZrika6Dv85H4/view?usp=sharing

SEMI-FORMAL LETTER ASSESSMENT SCALE		
CRITERIA	SCORE	DESCRIPTORS
Task fulfillment and content	6	Excellent treatment of the task. Major content points covered; thorough and extensive coverage.
	5	
	4	Good treatment of the task. Some content points covered. Adequate and sufficient coverage.
	3	
	2	Treatment of the task is hardly adequate. Too few content points covered. Some irrelevant ideas.
	1	
Organisation (coherence and cohesion)	3	Effective organisation; excellent coherence and cohesion; proper layout.
	2	Adequate organisation; good coherence and cohesion; problems with layout.
	1	Lack of organisation; some coherence and cohesion; problems with layout.
Language resources / Range of vocabulary and structures	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 structures.
Accuracy (vocabulary, grammar, spelling, punctuation)	3	No errors / minimal errors.
	2	A few errors in complex structures.
	1	Errors both in complex and simple structures.
Appropriacy of register (neutral)	2	Consistent use of neutral register.
	1	Inconsistent use of neutral register.
Total score	18	

NOTES

- **Length** – between 300 – 350 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.

**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, response		
2		Effective use of strategies to initiate discussion and respond to questions.
1		Adequate use of strategies to initiate discussion and respond to questions.
Accuracy		
4		Excellent control of simple and complex language structures; no accuracy errors.
3		Good control of simple and complex language structures; occasional errors.
2		Adequate handling of simple language structures; problems may occur with complex structures.
1		Poor handling of language structures; problems occur with both complex and simple structures.
Pronunciation		
2		Accurate and clear articulation. Effective intonation.
1		Most text is articulated accurately and clearly. Adequate intonation.
Total score 15		

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

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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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ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD 2025 (FORM 11)

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)
Pusiau oficialus laiškas	18		

1 VERTINTOJAS _____ (parašas)

2 VERTINTOJAS _____ (parašas)

KOMISIJOS PIRMININKAS _____ (parašas)

WRITE A SEMI-FORMAL LETTER (1 variantas)

Your class is participating in the international project “Mindful Living”. You are responsible for corresponding with project partners. You have received an email from one of the partners. You need to write a response.

Email text from the project partner:

Dear Lithuanian team,

I'm reaching out to follow up on our project.

We're excited to continue exchanging ideas on mindful living and suggest that we focus next on the connection between money and happiness. Could you share some insights or findings on this topic before our meeting next week?

We're particularly curious to hear how young people in Lithuania view the balance between earning money and living a happy, fulfilling life. Do you think this perspective differs from the views of young people in other countries?

Finally, if you have any ideas for project activities we could develop together on this topic, please let us know.

Thank you for your time, and we're looking forward to your response.

Warm regards,

Sarah Colous

Montesclaros High School

In your response, you must:

- Refer to the ***Mokonomika lesson*** „Laimės ekonomika: ar pinigai daro mus laimingesnius?“ (imagine you have recently watched it with your classmates) and summarise its content, highlighting the key points and examples provided.
- Share your opinion on the relationship between *money and happiness*. Reflect on how young people in Lithuania view this balance.
- Propose at least one idea for a project activity related to this topic.

Before writing your response, you will watch the video lesson. The video will be shown twice.

You can take notes if you wish.

After viewing the video, you will have 50 minutes to write an email.

Write at least 300 words, but no more than 350 words.

Use neutral register.

Use the sheets provided for your notes, draft, and final version. Count the words and write the word-count in the space provided.

USE THIS SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES WHILE WATCHING THE VIDEO LESSON

USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR DRAFT

USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR FINAL VERSION

Write at least 300 words, but no more than 350 words.

..... WORDS

WRITE A SEMI-FORMAL LETTER (2 variants)

Your class is participating in the international project "Mindful Living". You are responsible for corresponding with project partners. You have received an email from one of the partners. You need to write a response.

Email text from the project partner:

Dear Lithuanian team,

I'm writing to discuss the next steps for our collaboration.

It was great to meet all the teams in our first online meeting and discuss the concept of mindful consumption.

Your group's idea was to focus on small actions that can make a big difference and mentioned the "Buy Nothing Day".

Is it a common practice in Lithuania? Do you think initiatives like "Buy Nothing Day" is possible and can make a real impact on people's attitudes toward consumerism? We're curious to learn more about it from you.

Lastly, if you have other ideas for our project activities that could help promote mindful consumption among young people, we'd love to hear about them before our next meeting.

Best regards,

Mojca Švent

Bežigrad High School

In your response, you must:

- Refer to the **TV report on "Nieko nepirkimo diena"** (imagine you have recently watched it with your classmates) and summarise its content explaining the purpose of the initiative, its key messages, and any examples or outcomes highlighted in the report.
- Share your opinion about the "Buy Nothing Day". Explain whether you think they are effective and how young people in Lithuania perceive mindful consumption.
- Propose at least one idea for a project activity to promote mindful consumption or raise awareness about the impact of consumerism.

Before writing your response, you will watch the video report. The video will be shown twice.

You can take notes if you wish.

After viewing the video, you will have 50 minutes to write an email.

Write at least 300 words, but no more than 350 words.

Use neutral register.

Use the sheets provided for your notes, draft, and final version. Count the words and write the word-count in the space provided.

USE THIS SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES WHILE WATCHING THE VIDEO LESSON

USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR DRAFT

USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR FINAL VERSION

Write at least 300 words, but no more than 350 words.

..... WORDS

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.1

STUDENT A

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 **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *summarise the content of the text (**Student A**);*
- *exchange opinions and /or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;*
- *make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).*

Seven quiet breakthroughs for climate and nature in 2024 you might have missed



Despite rising global temperatures and extreme weather, there were some significant breakthroughs for the climate this year -- seven quiet wins that may have gone under your radar in 2024.

The UK closed its last coal-fired power plant, a symbolic step as it was the first country to use coal for public power. The site will now undergo a two-year decommissioning and demolition process. It is unclear what the site will become after that, but one proposal is to turn it into a battery storage site.

Meanwhile, renewable energy is growing fast around the world. By 2030, renewable sources are expected to meet nearly half of the world's electricity needs. Most of this growth will come from China, which is predicted to contribute half of global renewable capacity.

In Ecuador, courts have protected nature by banning mining in the Los Cedros Forest and addressing pollution in the Machángara River since 2021. These legal decisions have proven effective in saving endangered ecosystems. Similarly, a new marine protected area (MPA) in the North Atlantic was announced by the Azores, safeguarding a vast area of biodiversity, including fish and marine mammals. Strict rules limit fishing and resource extraction in half the area, while the other half is made fully protected.

In Brazil, deforestation in the Amazon dropped by over 30% compared to the previous year, reaching the lowest level in nine years. This happened despite a historic drought that caused more fires in the region.

Globally, conservation efforts are showing results. A review of 665 projects found that two-thirds of conservation measures have been successful in slowing biodiversity loss. And finally, in the United States, salmon returned to the Klamath River after 100 years. This was made possible by the removal of four dams, the largest dam removal project in U.S. history. Led by the Yurok Tribe and environmentalists, this project highlights the power of community-led conservation.

While these achievements highlight progress, do they truly reflect enough action to protect nature and combat climate change, or do they reveal how much more remains to be done?

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.1

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *summarise the content of the text (**Student A**);*
- *exchange opinions and /or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;*
- *make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).*

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While these achievements highlight progress, do they truly reflect enough action to protect nature and combat climate change, or do they reveal how much more remains to be done?

PAIR DISCUSSION NO. 2

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *summarise the content of the text (**Student A**);*
- *exchange opinions and /or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;*
- *make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).*

Europe's stunning high-tech luxury train



Tracing a medieval trade route through the Swiss Alps and valleys, the GoldenPass Express (GPX) seems to be one of the world's most scenic train rides and an engineering marvel.

The GPX is a state-of-the-art panoramic train with floor-to-ceiling windows revealing impressive views of the Swiss countryside. Opened in 2023, the GPX is one of Europe's newest and most luxurious high-tech trains. Its 115 km journey follows a medieval trade route connecting Interlaken (a town in the centre of Switzerland) to Montreux (a town on the Swiss border in the east) and allows travellers to take the route without transferring, as passengers did previously. Inside, the interior is crisp and cutting-edge, but what truly sets the GPX apart from other luxury trains is something you *can't* see: it can seamlessly jump between tracks of different gauges* and voltages. In 1905, the first attempt to connect Francophone Montreux to German-speaking Interlaken – two big touristic and economic hubs – with a single trainline failed: the rail wasn't the same width along the way; the gauges varied. It took 120 years to find a system bridging the gap.

Now, instead of requiring travellers to change trains in the middle of the journey, the GPX can make the three-hour-15-minute journey directly. It's a groundbreaking new standard in rail travel! Living in a landlocked nation that's 70% mountainous and filled with some 1,500 lakes, people here have long had to negotiate the obstacles posed by their challenging landscape exemplifying determination and ingenuity. As Clarence Rook once wrote: "There are bigger mountains in the world than may be found in Switzerland. But you will nowhere find in so small a space so many triumphs of engineering. The Swiss roads and railways stand as a monument to the victory of human skill over physical obstacles."

Yet, having these advancements in engineering and infrastructure, do we still need to think about balancing human triumphs with the environmental challenges of modern times? Do we need to pursue such victories over nature, and how do we perceive their costs – if at all?

*gauge [geɪdʒ] – the distance between the rails on a railway line

PAIR DISCUSSION NO. 2

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *summarise the content of the text (**Student A**);*
- *exchange opinions and /or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;*
- *make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).*

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*gauge [geɪdʒ] – the distance between the rails on a railway line

PAIR DISCUSSION NO. 3

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *summarise the content of the text (**Student A**);*
- *exchange opinions and /or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;*
- *make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).*

A city for an easy life



Nordhavn is just a 15-minute metro ride from Copenhagen's central station. Gleaming apartment buildings, high-end office spaces and a cafe-lined boardwalk along the previously industrial harbour. It is a peaceful, serene scene, with none of the morning commuter chaos we are used to seeing in cities around the world. It's because Nordhavn has been specifically designed to make life easier. "Although it looks like any modern district, it's the world's first five-minute city," says Bente Hoffman from immersive cultural tour company *Slow Tours*. "When the project is complete, everything you need will be within a 400 m walk."

Commuting is one of the biggest challenges of modern life as it adds so much time into the daily routine. Nordhavn has been designed to make everything accessible within five minutes. It is setting a blueprint for a world where residents can fit in a morning workout before strolling to the office, grab lunch at a cute cafe, have a quick swim at the harbour and still make it home in time for a cosy candlelit dinner.

Copenhagen is currently the Unesco World's Architecture Capital (until 2026) and innovative solutions for smart living have been brewing across the Danish capital. While there are a few 10-minute cities being developed around the world, Nordhavn's concept is the most ambitious urban development project. In Nordhavn, sustainability is about more than reducing energy consumption. Every building constructed must consider its social, economic and environmental impact.

For centuries, Nordhavn was a free port filled with cargo ships, grain silos and metal containers. In 2008, a competition was held to create a sustainable neighbourhood for Copenhagen's future: 179 proposals were submitted and a group of four architectural firms were winners. The entire Nordhavn project should be finished until 2060. Whether the five-minute city concept will truly redefine urban living worldwide remains to be seen.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO. 3

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *summarise the content of the text **(Student A)**;*
- *exchange opinions and /or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;*
- *make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion **(Student B)**.*

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PAIR DISCUSSION NO.4

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *summarise the content of the text (**Student A**);*
- *exchange opinions and /or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;*
- *make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).*

Bright celebrations with hidden costs



Millions of fireworks are set off around the world each year to mark New Year's Eve. On 31 December 2024, above Sydney Harbour 9 tonnes of sparkling explosives were launched in two separate displays. Americans set off nearly 136,000 tonnes of fireworks, while Europe imports around 30,000 tonnes of fireworks yearly. Fireworks are thought to have originated in China in the 2nd century BC with the invention of gunpowder before spreading around the world. Modern chemistry has since transformed them into more spectacular forms, but their use as a celebratory crowd-pleaser has become more dangerous to wildlife, the environment and potentially human health.

Most attention about the dangers of fireworks to humans focuses on the injuries and burns caused by explosions in accidents. But there are other far-reaching effects of such spectacles. Fireworks release large amounts of smoke including pollutants that are respirable which leads to health problems, like asthma, heart disease and low birth weight.

Then, fireworks can trigger wildfires which causes widespread air pollution, and they generate waste even when the dazzling explosions fade and the smoke clears. Bioscientists at the University of East London (UK) conducted a study on microplastics levels in the River Thames in London during the New Year celebrations: "The study found microplastics increased by more than 1,000% over a 24-hour period."

Environmentally friendly fireworks do exist – they have a clean-burning nitrogen-based fuel which create little smoke. Efforts are being made to find alternatives to the harmful heavy metals without losing the bright sparks that make fireworks so appealing. Laser shows and drones are among the alternatives that have been used – they're reusable, produce no emissions barring the electricity needed to power them, and they're quiet. However, drones are not without their drawbacks – the companies that put on New Year's Eve displays say drones are too slow to fully replace fireworks, and they can disturb wildlife, if they get too close.

So, it seems the local communities involved still have to decide how they weigh the joy and cultural importance of fireworks against their hidden costs.

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.4

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *summarise the content of the text (**Student A**);*
- *exchange opinions and /or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;*
- *make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;*
- *summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).*

Bright celebrations with hidden costs



Millions of fireworks are set off around the world each year to mark New Year's Eve. On 31 December 2024, above Sydney Harbour 9 tonnes of sparkling explosives were launched in two separate displays. Americans set off nearly 136,000 tonnes of fireworks, while Europe imports around 30,000 tonnes of fireworks yearly. Fireworks are thought to have originated in China in the 2nd century BC with the invention of gunpowder before spreading around the world. Modern chemistry has since transformed them into more spectacular forms, but their use as a celebratory crowd-pleaser has become more dangerous to wildlife, the environment and potentially human health.

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PAIR DISCUSSION NO.5

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content of the text (**Student A**);
- exchange opinions and /or emotions with the partner about the news; evaluate;
- make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion (**Student B**).

Future of space travel: could robots really replace human astronauts?



On Christmas Eve, 2024, an autonomous spacecraft flew past the Sun, closer than any human-made object before it. This was a landmark moment for humanity – but one without any human directly involved. "Robots are developing fast, and the case for sending humans is getting weaker all the time," says Lord Martin Rees, the UK's Astronomer Royal. Dr. Andrew Coates, a physicist from University College London, agrees: "For serious space exploration, I much prefer robotics."

While robotic spacecraft have visited every planet in the solar system, humans have only ventured to Earth's orbit and the Moon. Humans do research to advance science, and robots enhance scientific research by exploring locations inhospitable to humans. However, Dr. Ian Crawford, a planetary scientist at the University of London asks: "AI can beat human beings at chess, but does that mean they'll be able to beat human beings in exploring environments?" He argues that robots could be useful, not to replace human explorers but to work alongside them.

There's one more thing – humans have the added bonus of inspiring people back on Earth in a way that machines cannot. Leroy Chiao, a retired Nasa astronaut, notes: "Humans relate when humans are doing something." And then he adds: "The general public is excited about robotic missions. But I would expect the first human on Mars to be even bigger than the first Moon landing."

Humans have not travelled further than Earth's orbit since December 1972, when the last Apollo mission visited the Moon. Nasa is hoping to have the next crew flying around the Moon in 2026. A further mission, scheduled for 2027, will see Nasa astronauts land on the Moon's surface.

Elsewhere, Elon Musk, CEO of the US company SpaceX, has his own plans related to space – creating a colony on Mars, where humans could land. However, there are large unknowns about living on Mars, including a myriad of technical challenges that remain unsolved. Until they are, humans can only continue their small steps into the cosmos, on a path long trodden by robotic explorers before them or do you have other thoughts?

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.5

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

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PAIR DISCUSSION NO.6

STUDENT A

You are going to read a news item.

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Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- summarise the content of the text **(Student A)**;
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- make personal comment; relate the news to your own experience or knowledge;
- summarise and conclude your discussion **(Student B)**.

Youth festival for town full of possibilities



Rotherham is to become the world's first Children's Capital of Culture in 2025. The idea came from a group of young people living in the South Yorkshire town who wanted to improve their home's reputation. Young people in Rotherham also promoted the idea to the local council, which agreed to support a year of events. Ciara, a BBC Young Reporter, was part of the project and says she is excited to see "something being done to inspire young people to stay at home".

The project means in 2025 there will be a 365-day festival celebrating the "arts, creativity and community". Organisers of the first Children's Capital of Culture have said the festival will show that its host town is "full of possibilities".

The programme is launched with the illumination of Rotherham Town Hall on 2-10 January. Theatre company *Imitating the Dog* has been commissioned to create a trail of light and sound projections across the town centre for a winter festival called "Otherham": landmark buildings will be illuminated and there will be street performances and workshops each evening on 24-26 January. The rest of the year's schedule includes youth music festival *Signals* in February and a carnival parade in March. Then, an outdoor art gallery is planned, and a literature festival will take place at Wentworth Woodhouse.

Children's Capital of Culture is expected to bring around £14 mln of outside investment into the borough and create jobs, according to Rotherham Council. It has engaged more than 260,000 people in youth-led activities and employed 112 young people in creative industry traineeships. Alumni of the scheme have secured jobs at *Netflix* and *Channel Four*.

Miss Bower, from Whiston, emphasised: "2025 isn't just about one epic year, it's about creating something that lasts and showing young people that this town is full of possibilities. It's about time we showed the world what Rotherham can do."

While believing in the power of young people to reshape communities, questions remain: can Rotherham truly transform its image and future through this ambitious project, or will it take more than one year to achieve lasting change?

PAIR DISCUSSION NO.6

STUDENT B

You are going to read a news item.

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

Your partner has also read the same news item.

*You have **5 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion. You can make notes if you wish.*

*The discussion should take up to **5 minutes**.*

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IF YOU WISH TO MAKE NOTES BEFORE THE DIALOGUE, PLEASE USE THIS SHEET

You have 5 minutes for preparation.

ŠALTINIAI:

- Pirmosios užsienio kalbos bendroji programa <https://emokykla.lt/bendrosios-programos/visos-bendrosios-programos/29>
- Nuotolinių pamokų platforma Mokonomika.lt <http://www.mokonomika.lt/>
- TV laida jaunimui „ČIA DABAR?“ <https://www.lrt.lt/mediateka/video/cia-dabar>
- Jungtinės Karalystės visuomeninis transliuotojas BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) <https://www.bbc.com/>