

2015 M. ANGLŲ KALBOS OLIMPIADA (11 KL.)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD 2015 (FORM 11)

Student A

PAIR DISCUSSION

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Your partner has also read the same news item.

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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 1.

LITHUANIA'S NATIONAL TV – AN ALTERNATIVE TO MASS PRODUCTION

The main task for Lithuania's national television, LRT, is to provide an alternative to mass production, says LRT head Audrius Siaurusevičius.

"The most important task for LRT was and still is to be an alternative to mass production and also to keep its viewers. These two very different goals make us think of ways to survive without becoming "cheap". We try to manage this by using all LRT channels. For example, a satellite TV channel *Lituanica* looked like a miracle some 20 years ago, while today we receive feedback from the viewers all over the world where Lithuanians reside".

"One of the less visible aspects of our work is recording current cultural processes. Mobile TV stations are located in Lithuania's main concert halls, we make many quality recordings of theatre and opera performances not only in Vilnius, but in other cities as well. Everything is stored in publicly accessible LRT archives. This work is of utmost importance and its significance in the future will only grow."

"However, as polls reveal, what we are appreciated for most of all is our reliability and objectivity," said the LRT chief.

Source: www.lithuaniatribune.com

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NO 2.

WORLD'S LARGEST COIN PYRAMID ERECTED IN VILNIUS

The construction of the world's largest pyramid made of over a million Lithuanian cent coins was completed at the Bank of Lithuania's Money Museum in Vilnius in December 2014.

Vytautas Jakštas and Domas Jokubauskis, two physics students behind the idea, claim that it is the largest-in-the-world coin pyramid and that the project is a symbolic farewell to the Lithuanian national currency, the Litas, which was replaced by the Euro on 1 January, 2015.

"At first, we planned to collect a bucket of 1-cent coins. But we kept on collecting more and more until it resulted in a pyramid and the pursuit of a world record. By the time we collected the coins, the Euro came, so it is a symbolic farewell to the Litas as well," Jakštas told BNS.

1 million and 935 coins were used for the pyramid. The coins will be later donated to the Mstislav Rostropovich Charity and Support Foundation "Support for the Children of Lithuania".

The pyramid was built by several dozen volunteers and took less than three weeks to complete. It's height is 1.13 meters and it weighs 831 kilos.

Source: www.lithuaniatribune.com

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NO 3.

OVER HALF OF LITHUANIANS USE THE INTERNET DAILY

Internet usage has become widespread among the EU population, with almost two-thirds (65%) of individuals aged 16 to 74 using the internet daily in 2014, compared with less than a third (31%) in 2006. During the same period, the percentage of individuals in the EU that have never used the internet dropped from 43% in 2006 to 18% in 2014, Eurostat announced.

The share of the population in Lithuania that has never used the internet was 25% in 2014, compared with 54% in 2006. 57% of Lithuanians used the internet daily in 2014, compared with 23% in 2006.

In 2014, the share of the population that had no experience of the internet was the highest in Romania (39%) and Bulgaria (37%). At the opposite end, less than 5% of the population had never used the internet in Denmark (3%) and Luxembourg (4%).

The share of daily users among the population ranged in 2014 from 32% in Romania to 87% in Luxembourg.

Compared with 2006, the share of daily internet users has considerably increased in 2014, rising by at least 20 percentage points in all Member States.

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FAMOUS ARCHITECT DESIGNS SPORTS AND WELLNESS CENTRE FOR VILNIUS

Construction of sports and wellness centre Vilnius Beacon, designed by Daniel Libeskind, should break ground in 2015 at Liepkalnis skiing course, the highest point in Vilnius.

Up to now Liepkalnis skiing centre was open only in winter, but the new centre will offer activities both in winter and summer. The project includes cultural and recreation spaces as well.

The new centre was designed by the world-renowned Polish-American architect Daniel Libeskind whose prominent designs include the Jewish Museum in Berlin and One World Trade Centre in New York.

Libeskind said it was his first project of such a minor scale, but he was inspired by the beautiful scenery, nice city and its people. His goal was to give the centre an inspiring architectural form which would fit well into the natural surroundings of the hill. According to the architect, Vilnius Beacon should become a new entertainment, leisure and cultural centre of the whole region.

Vilnius City Municipality and partners UAB Trade State and UAB Start Vilnius plan to complete the project in 2016.

Source: www.lithuaniatribune.com

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NO 5.

LITHUANIANS AMONG WORLD'S MOST CREATIVE IN COPENHAGEN COMPETITION

In 2014, Lithuania for the first time participated at the international Creative Business Cup competition. 54 countries contested at the finals in Copenhagen, where Lithuania was represented by the March Design Studio with its recent products: a minimalistic badge-reflector and chalk writable t-shirt. The achieved result exceeded all expectations – Lithuanians were ranked among the world's top 16.

According to Roma Survilienė, director of the Association of Creative and Cultural Industries, "Creative industries cover a wide variety of areas; different countries presented very interesting ideas, products and services. We were a startup and did not know what could be expected."

March Design Studio director Eglė Opeikienė said that our success depended not only on the attractive business idea, but also on the chosen tactic of presentation of the business potential – knowing how to present it and sell it.

The international nineteen-member jury, which included representatives from global companies such as Microsoft, Lego, IKEA, Google, brought still more intrigue to the competition. This year the jury favoured ideas encouraging and improving social value and life quality. The first prize was awarded to contestants from Poland for the Internet game "Professor Why-Chemistry".

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