

Participant's name (first name, surname)	
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LITHUANIAN STUDENTS' ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTEST 2014 (FORMS 10–11)

TASK THREE: PICTURE STORY

You are going to get a series of pictures.

The pictures make a story. However, the story is incomplete. Your task is:

(1) to tell the story which is illustrated in the pictures and

(2) to continue and complete the story in any way you wish.

Preparation time is 5 minutes. You can make notes if you wish in the space below.

You will have up to 3 minutes to tell us the whole story.

Please hand this sheet to the assessors before you leave the room.

Student A

TASK FOUR: PAIR DISCUSSION

You are going to read a news item. You must respond to the issue and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has read the same news item.

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

You are expected to:

- *summarise the news item (Student A);*
- *exchange opinions with the partner about the issue;*
- *justify your opinion, provide arguments;*
- *relate the issue to your own experience or knowledge, give examples;*
- *conclude your discussion (Student B).*

Discussion time: up to 5 minutes.

NOTE:

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.

Vilija Matačiūnaitė will represent Lithuania at the Eurovision song contest in May

Vilija Matačiūnaitė will represent Lithuania at the Eurovision song contest in Copenhagen with her own song 'Attention', *Delfi.lt* reported.

In the final selection contest, which was broadcast by the LRT television, the opinion of more than 9,000 TV viewers and the 13 votes of the selection panel resulted in Matačiūnaitė going to Denmark. She overtook her contenders – performers Mia and Vaidas Baumila.

After the announcement Vilija said: "I will be accompanied by many friends who decided to go with me."

When asked whether she intends to win, Vilija replied: "There is only one place for the winner – the first place. All other places are the last and are worth nothing. We are going to Copenhagen to win."

Adapted from www.lithuaniatribune.com

Student B

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Discussion time: up to 5 minutes.

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NO 2.

Lithuania's ICT sector is amongst the most attractive in Central and Eastern Europe

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector is the fastest growing industry in the world. Investment in the ICT sector accounts for 50 per cent of total productivity growth in the European Union, *Invest Lithuania* informs.

By 2015 the shortage of ICT professionals in the EU will increase to 900,000 people.

Lithuania is in an excellent position to attract more foreign investors, since it can offer an abundance of industry professionals and a well-developed infrastructure.

According to recent statistics, Lithuania is the EU leader for the numbers of graduates in mathematics, science and technologies, including ICT. Moreover, almost all young professionals in Lithuania speak English. Therefore, Lithuania is a popular destination for foreign investors in the field of ICT.

Adapted from www.lithuaniatribune.com

Student B

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NO 3.

Documentary 'How We Played The Revolution' will be presented in London

A documentary film about rock and freedom movement in the late 1980's in Lithuania 'How We Played The Revolution' will be shown in London for the first time on 11 March 2014.

This film portrays the story of Lithuania's legendary rock group 'Antis' and its contribution to the country's regaining independence from the Soviet Union on 11 March 1990 – the day that is now celebrated as the Restoration of the Independence of Lithuania.

It was on that day that the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania voted to re-establish the independent state of Lithuania for the second time in the 20th century, declaring that the Act of Independence of 1918 had never lost its legal effect.

Adapted from www.lithuaniatribune.com

Student B

TASK FOUR: PAIR DISCUSSION

You are going to read a news item. You must respond to the issue and discuss it with a partner.

Your partner has read the same news item.

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Student A starts the conversation by summarising the news item.

Student B completes the conversation by summarising the discussion.

NO 4.

The President visited a Euromaidan participant undergoing medical treatment in Lithuania

President Dalia Grybauskaitė has visited an injured Euromaidan participant who undergoes medical treatment in Vilnius. This is the first Ukrainian citizen treated in Lithuania after he suffered injuries during the events in Kiev. His injuries are severe, requiring immediate medical attention.

The President wished the patient a speedy recovery after the serious injuries.

“It is unjustifiable that a peaceful solution to the crisis is not found in the Ukraine and that brutal force and violence is used against people. Lithuania understands democratic aspirations of the Ukrainian people and stands ready to help. Lithuanian healthcare professionals will provide the best medical assistance and care,” the President said.

Several more Ukrainian citizens will soon come to Lithuania to undergo medical treatment.

Adapted from <http://baltic-review.com>

Student B

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NO 5.

Lithuania plans to close three embassies in Europe

The countries where the Lithuanian embassies are likely to be closed are Portugal, Bulgaria and Slovenia. The suggestion to reduce the number of embassies in Europe was submitted to the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs by the Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, reported the Lithuanian newspaper "Lietuvos Žinios".

According to the article, in recent non-official discussions, Lithuanian diplomats spoke about the possibility to open new embassies in a few geographically distant countries.

It is important to open embassies in those countries where the number of Lithuanian emigrants is high, noted the article.

Presumably, the countries where the new embassies will be opened are South Africa and Australia. The post of the Consul resident in Los Angeles has also been considered.

Adapted from <http://baltic-review.com>

Student B

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NO 6.

There's a huge gap between the perceived and real corruption

"People in Lithuania believe corruption is widespread in the country and is the largest in the EU. But in fact, it is not. There's a wide gap between the perceived corruption and the real situation," Saulius Urbanavičius, head of the Special Investigation Service, told the journalists.

"If we look at the figures which show the real situation, then Lithuania is near the EU average which is 76 per cent," Urbanavičius maintained.

But a recent Eurobarometer survey shows that 95 % of Lithuanians regard corruption as widespread, which is one of the highest rates in the EU (Cf. Greece 99 %; Italy 97 %).

According to Urbanavičius, in order to improve the existing situation, more attention must be paid to corruption prevention.

Adapted from www.lithuaniatribune.com

Student B

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NO 7.

Lithuanian graduates start returning home after studying and working abroad

“Brain Drain” is one of the topical issues in Lithuania, claim the organisers of the conference ‘Let’s bring our talents back’.

The organisers present success stories of young Lithuanians who have returned. One of them is Ričardas Babič. After studying and working in Denmark and Mozambique, Ričardas decided to return to his homeland. Now he works successfully in the renewable energy sector.

“I left Lithuania as I wanted to gain international experience. But after a few years of living abroad, I felt that I miss my native language, culture, family, and friends. This is what made me come back, as well as good job opportunities in the energy sector here in Lithuania. And I have never regretted this decision,” Ričardas was sharing.

Adapted from www.lithuaniatribune.com

Student B

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