ENGLISH LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD 2024 (FORM 11)

WRITE A SUMMARY

You are going to write a summary of information presented in a video.

Before writing, you are going to watch an informational video on life in 2050. The video will be shown twice.

You can take notes if you wish.

After viewing the video, you will have 25 minutes to write a one-paragraph summary of the video content.

In your summary, you must: • state the main idea at the beginning of your summary and rephrase it in the last sentence • present the main points in the order that they are given in the video • give only important details Write at least 200 words, but no more than 250 words. Use neutral (academic) register. (Contractions are not acceptable.) Use the sheets provided for your draft and your final version.
USE THIS SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES WHILE WATCHING THE VIDEO

USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR DRAFT	

USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR FINAL VERSION	
Write at least 200 words, but no more than 250 words.	
	words

WRITE A BLOG POST
You are going to write a blog post on what you have learnt from the given informational video.
In your blog post, you must: - share your thoughts / knowledge / emotions towards what you have seen and heard in the
video;
 reflect on at least two anticipated technological advancements; express your opinion on advantages and/or challenges of future human life.
- express your opinion on advantages and/or challenges of future human life. Write at least 250 words, but no more than 300 words.
Use neutral register. (Contractions are acceptable.)
Give a title to your blog post.
Use the sheets provided for your draft and your final version.
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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.

The discussion should take up to 5 minutes.

You are expected to:

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





Following a break of a few years, on March 15, the National Dictation will once again invite language enthusiasts to pick up a pen. The dictation will be broadcast on LRT Radio and on the portal LRT.lt. Open to all language lovers, the National Dictation this year encourages participants to reveal their affection for the Lithuanian language and make mistakes without fear, as each error becomes a stepping stone to learning. The main slogan for this year's organisers is "Write. Make mistakes. Learn." (*Lith.* "Rašyk. Klysk. Išmok").

"We invite everyone to write the dictation. Only we can take care of our language. Even if we make mistakes while writing or speaking, we can always improve together," says Vytautė Šmaižytė-Kuliešienė, the organiser of the National Dictation.

The National Dictation, organised for the 14th time, is a joint event of the Civic Thought Institute and LRT, sponsored by "Šiaulių Bankas". Lithuanian writers create texts specifically for the National Dictation. Participation is not limited to a specific location. People can come to libraries, municipalities, institutions, companies, schools. Lithuanian communities abroad are also invited to join the language celebration. Companies and organizations can write the dictation in their own premises, while Lithuanian communities abroad will receive the dictation recording from the organisers and can participate in the competition on March 16-17 at their convenience.

The National Dictation will select the most literate student, the most literate adult, and the most literate Lithuanian abroad. The final of the dictation will be held in May in Vilnius.

STUDENT B

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In the year 2024, Lithuania finds itself at the threshold of a remarkable milestone – the 100th anniversary of the Song Celebration, a cultural phenomenon that has endured through the ages and geographical boundaries. For a century, this respected celebration has not only been a source of pride for Lithuanians, but it has also captivated audiences worldwide, earning recognition from UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2003.

The Song Celebration lasts for a joyful week, which demands years of careful preparation from its participants. The eagerly awaited centennial event, named "Green Forest Forever", set to take place from June 29 to July 6, guarantees an immersive experience with 14 outstanding events, involving 37 thousand dedicated performers. With over 1 million enthusiastic spectators anticipated, the festivities promise to create unforgettable moments.

It all started in 1924 when the first Song Celebration was held in Kaunas. The tradition of such Celebrations traces its origins back to the 19th century in Switzerland and Germany, a time when amateur choirs flourished. While the festivals in those countries faded into obscurity, the Baltic States stood resilient, safeguarding the tradition as a covert yet powerful weapon against national occupations.

Beyond Lithuania's borders, local Song and Dance Celebrations thrive among Lithuanian communities worldwide. "New choirs and dance groups are emerging in the diaspora abroad, serving as a vibrant expression of our cultural identity. This is indeed a powerful means of preserving our heritage, " says Dalia Henke, the chair of the Lithuanian World Community.

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One more Lithuanian athlete will compete in the Paris Paralympic Games



Lithuanian Paralympic swimmer Edgaras Matakas has qualified for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris. Trained by swimming specialist Ramūnas Leonas, Matakas, who is visually impaired, will be participating in his third Games, marking another significant achievement in his impressive athletic career. Mindaugas Bilius, the president of the Lithuanian Paralympic Committee, expresses confidence that Matakas' target in Paris will be no less ambitious than it was three years ago in the Japanese capital.

"The fact that Edgaras has secured a place for Lithuania in the Paralympic Games reflects his elite level as a swimmer. Getting through the Paralympic qualification becomes increasingly challenging each year – the selection process becomes stricter, and the competition grows fiercer. I sincerely congratulate Edgaras and his coach Ramūnas, wishing them success in achieving their dream in Paris, for which they have worked so hard," stated Mindaugas Bilius.

According to the qualification rules, places at the Paralympic Games are allocated to countries rather than individual athletes. Lithuania has earned one invitation for swimmers, but according to the general secretary of the Lithuanian Paralympic Committee, Asta Narmontė, efforts will be made to send more Lithuanian swimmers to Paris. "Edgaras has earned his ticket to Paris through his sporting achievements, but we really want to see a larger group of swimmers," said A. Narmontė. Edgaras Matakas joins shooter Raimeda Bučinskaitė, who secured her ticket to the Paris Games earlier in the summer, becoming the Vice-Champion of the Old Continent at the European Para Championships in Rotterdam.

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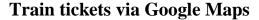
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LTG Link, the passenger transport arm of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai (Lithuanian Railways, LTG), has started selling train tickets via Google Maps, the company said on Wednesday.

LTG Link has signed a partnership agreement with Distribution Technologies, a German company that connects carriers around the world. The agreement will also provide access to more than 150 operators and sales platforms worldwide, and preparations are underway to launch the sale of tickets via other popular systems, such as Omio, The Trainline, Kiwi, Booking.com, Trip.com, and Kayak. LTG Group Chief Executive Officer Egidijus Lazauskas says that travellers from all over the world will be able to buy train tickets in advance via platforms that are convenient for them.

"Popular platforms will be another attractive tool for our train travellers. We will also further encourage foreign visitors to choose a convenient and sustainable option to reach Lithuania and travel within our country," Lazauskas said.

Highlighting the significance of train travel as an environmentally sustainable option, LTG Link's expansion onto popular global platforms successfully aligns with the growing emphasis on eco-friendly transportation. By offering easy access to train tickets through widely-used platforms, it not only improves convenience for travellers, but also promotes a more sustainable means of transportation. As global awareness of environmental issues continues to rise, the availability of train tickets on these platforms serves as a strategic move to encourage both domestic and international travellers to make environmentally conscious choices when exploring Lithuania.

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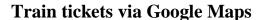
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According to the European Commission's EU-wide Eurobarometer survey, as many as 83% of Lithuanians consider corruption a threatening problem in Lithuania, but this does not indicate that corruption is spreading in the country. It is likely that this opinion primarily reflects a growing public intolerance of corruption.

Only 7% of Lithuanians say they have had direct contact with corruption, the same as last year, but this is a vast improvement compared to 2013, when as many as 25% admitted to having experienced corruption. The EU average is 6%.

In Lithuania, tolerance for corruption is declining, which may significantly impact the prevalence of this phenomenon. The number of people who think there is nothing wrong with receiving a public service in return in one way or another has fallen significantly. Until recently, many people thought they could benefit from a gift or even an envelope of money to get a service faster, of better quality, and bypass the regular queue of applicants. Now, 72% of people do not accept any form of payment for a public service, compared to 44% in 2013.

Most Lithuanians – 52% – know where to report corruption. Most believe that informing the police and journalists will help prevent such a report from going unnoticed. On the other hand, only 5% of people who say they have direct experience of corruption have reported it, which shows that there is still a deficient level of faith in justice in Lithuania.

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The Lithuanian-American heritage map fulfills its mission



The 5-year long mapping mission was completed in 2022. 750 Lithuanian heritage sites cover Lithuanian-American churches, cemeteries, monuments, museums, famous burials and more. Every site was visited in person by the author of the map Augustinas Žemaitis, who took images and recorded their stories. Most of the information is now available on the map's website.

105 Lithuanian heritage sites in Pennsylvania Coal Region alone are added to the map. This was the first area where Lithuanians settled in considerable numbers in the USA, starting in 1869. In this area alone, there still are more than 40 Lithuanian churches and many Lithuanian school buildings.

The map also features the world's best buildings and monuments of the Modern Lithuanian architectural style that had been invented by Lithuanian-American architects in the 1950s-1960s. The map also includes 44 graves of the famous Lithuanian historical figures and 179 memorials and commemorative plaques, ranging from "Monuments to those who died to Lithuanian freedom" to statues and public plaques describing the history of the local Lithuanian communities. Chicagoland is the largest treasure trove of Lithuanian heritage sites in America with 111 of them added to the map. "Destination Lithuanian America" shows 54 localities named after Lithuania or Lithuanians, including entire districts of Lithuanian streets and Lithuanian-named lakes.

Augustinas Žemaitis says that the most delighting for him is the fact that some of the Lithuanian heritage sites actually have their shapes improved since they were mapped. "It is excellent that our expeditions played a part here," Žemaitis smiles.

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IF YOU WISH TO MAKE NOTES BEFORE THE DIALOGUE, PLEASE USE THIS SHEET
You have up to 5 minutes for preparation.

SOURCES:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6 q LHq85Cs&t=453s

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