

English-AHS-CONTEST 2019

WIFI Dornbirn
Tuesday, 26 February 2019, 08:30 – 12:30

Format

1. Conditions of Participation

See application form ("Teilnahmebedingungen").

2. Procedure

Round 1: PANEL DISCUSSION

- **Preparation time** (15 minutes): Candidates are provided with the discussion topics. In addition, each candidate receives a particular question he /she is supposed to refer to in a one-minute opening statement at the beginning of the panel discussion.
- **Panel discussion** (15 – 20minutes): Each group consists of 4 - 5 candidates. The discussion is introduced with a short **opening statement** by each candidate (see above) and is moderated by a native speaker.
- The **8 best candidates** move on to round 2.

Round 2: SELF-PRESENTATION and SPEECH

- **Preparation time** (10 minutes): For their speech the candidates are offered two topics they can choose from. Together with their topics, they are also given bullet points, which they are supposed to cover in their speeches.
- Round 2 starts with short **self-presentations** (about 1 minute long), in which the candidates talk about the meaning of languages in their lives. After this, they continue with their **speeches** (about 3 minutes).
- The **3 best candidates** move on to the final round.

Round 3: Final Round: ROLE-PLAY

- **Preparation time** (10 minutes)
- **Role-Play** (5 minutes): The remaining three candidates individually take part in a role-play with a native-speaker.

3. Assessment Criteria

Contents:

Variety of ideas and arguments, knowledge of subject, relevance, persuasiveness, coherence, awareness of audience, coverage of bullet points (speech)

Fluency and interaction:

social competence, interacting, reacting, taking initiative, identifying with a certain role

Spectrum of spoken language:

register, range of vocabulary and constructions, idiomatic expressions

Accuracy:

Vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, intonation

These criteria are based on the “Analytischer Beobachtungsbogen – B2”.

4. Topics

Examples of last year’s topics are attached below (“Topics Contest 2017”).

5. Our Team

Moderator: Bronwyn Konrad

Jury: not fixed yet

Organizer: Mag. Susanne Dalpra
susanne.dalpra@gys.snv.at

Round 1: PANEL DISCUSSION

Smoking ban in Austria

Austria stubs out looming smoking ban in name of 'freedom'

Plan to ban smoking completely in bars and eateries from 2018 scrapped by far-right Freedom party in coalition talks

[...]

"I am proud of this excellent solution in the interests of non-smokers, smokers and restaurant owners," Strache, who had made the move a key campaign pledge, said on social media.

"The freedom to choose lives on. The existence of restaurants (particularly small ones) has been secured. Thousands of threatened jobs have been saved," said Strache, himself a smoker.

Unlike in most of Europe, in Austria people can smoke in eateries under certain conditions – which are widely flouted – including that it is confined to separate rooms.

from: The Guardian: Austria stubs out looming smoking ban in name of 'freedom'. London: 12/12/2017.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/12/austria-stubs-out-looming-smoking-ban-freedom> [access: 07/02/2018]

Austria to drop planned smoking ban, bucking Western trend

VIENNA, Dec 11 (Reuters) - While much of the West has barred smoking in restaurants and bars, Austria's planned ban has gone up in smoke.

[...]

Austria passed a law banning smoking in bars and restaurants as of May 2018. But that will now be overturned under a deal between the conservative People's Party (OVP) led by Sebastian Kurz and the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) reached during their ongoing negotiations on a governing coalition, according to a person familiar with their discussions.

"The current rules will remain in place," the person said, confirming reports by local media. Smoking is banned in general in the restaurant industry but various exceptions are allowed.

[...]

"Overturning the total ban on smoking in the restaurant industry is an enormous step backwards on health policy," said Health Minister Pamela Rendi-Wagner of the Social Democrats, who plan to go into opposition once a coalition deal is reached.

from: Reuters: Austria to drop planned smoking ban, bucking Western trend. London: 11/12/2017. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-5168029/Austria-drop-planned-smoking-ban-bucking-Western-trend.html> [access: 07/02/2018]

Whereas in almost every western country smoking has been banned in restaurants and bars, Austria's current government has decided that it should still be possible under certain conditions.

Discuss in your group the following questions:

- Should smoking be completely forbidden in bars and restaurants?
- Does a smoking ban reduce the risks of second-hand smoking?
- Would a smoking ban reduce healthcare costs?
- Does a smoking ban take away the freedom of people?
- Could a smoking ban affect businesses?

Opening statements:

Present in a one-minute-speech your personal opinion on smoking in general and on smoking in restaurants, bars and other public places in particular. Relate your opinion with your personal experience in another country.

Info about the procedure in the panel discussion:

All candidates first give their one-minute opening statements and then start a discussion on the questions above.

Round 2: SPEECH

Prepare a short self-presentation (about 1 minute long), in which you talk about **the role of languages in your life.**

After this, continue with your speech (3 - 4 minutes).

For your speech choose **one** of the following topics below. You may, of course, also add your own ideas in your speech, but you need to cover as many of the following points as possible:

<p>1. Shopping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attraction of shopping • dangers of shopping • online shopping • shopping as a therapy? • personal attitude towards shopping 	   
<p>2. Social media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pros of social media like Whatsapp, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook ... • dangers of social media • how social media have changed our world • personal attitude towards social media 	   

Round 3: ROLE PLAY

(5 Minutes)

Couchsurfing.com

You and your sixteen-year-old friend are planning on travelling around Europe for a couple of weeks. As such a journey is not very cheap, you have decided to save money by using the hospitality and social networking service *Couchsurfing*¹. However, money is not the only problem you have to overcome. Your friend's mum is not at all thrilled by the idea that her underage child will be travelling throughout Europe without an adult in addition to staying overnight with complete strangers. It is now your task to persuade her to agree to your idea.

¹ The website provides a platform for members to find a place for the night for free. The members offer other members some overnight accommodation, for which they do not have to pay. By using a computer or an app the members can find places to stay in other cities easily.