English-AHS-CONTEST 2027



WIFI Dornbirn
Monday, March 1st, 2027, 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** (10 – 15 minutes): Each group consists of 3 - 4 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: 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 2026").

5. Our Team

Moderator:	Bronwyn Konrad
Jury:	Susanne Mille Barabara Sonner Katie Maier
Organizer:	Susanne Dalpra susanne.dalpra@gys.at

TOPICS AHS-E-CONTEST 2026:

Round 1: PANEL DISCUSSION

Social Media Ban for under 16s



In December 2025, Australia introduced legislation restricting access to social media platforms for teenagers under 16. The law aims to protect young people from harmful content, cyberbullying and negative mental health effects. Now, some other countries, such as Austria, are considering similar measures. However, is such a ban really necessary and effective?

Discuss in your group the following:

- Do you agree with a social media ban for under 16-year-olds? Why or why not?
- What positive effects could this ban have?
- What negative effects might it have?
- Would teenagers still find ways to use social media despite the ban?
- Who should be responsible for protecting young people online: parents, governments, or companies?
- Would this rule have changed your life when you were under 16?
- What other solutions could improve online safety for teenagers?
- Should other countries introduce a similar ban?

To begin the discussion, **present your opinion in a short opening statement (maximum 1 minute)**

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 the following points:

TOPIC 1



Life Balance – Myth or Achievable Goal?

- what work-life balance means today
- why it is important for young people
- challenges in achieving a healthy balance
- your expectations for your future career and personal life

TOPIC 2

The Necessity of Learning Foreign Languages Today

- why foreign languages are important in a globalised world
- advantages for education, career opportunities and intercultural communication
- challenges students face when learning foreign languages
- whether foreign languages should be compulsory in school



Round 3: ROLEPLAY

You have 10 minutes to prepare yourself for a five-minute-roleplay with our moderator.

Summer job



You are having a summer job in the tourist information centre in your hometown. Your job is to provide visitors with information about:

- places to stay
- restaurants and cafés
- indoor and outdoor activities
- local attractions and sights
- the history of the town
- the weather
- transport options
- special events

One day, an American tourist comes to your desk and asks for detailed information and advice about what to see and do during her stay.