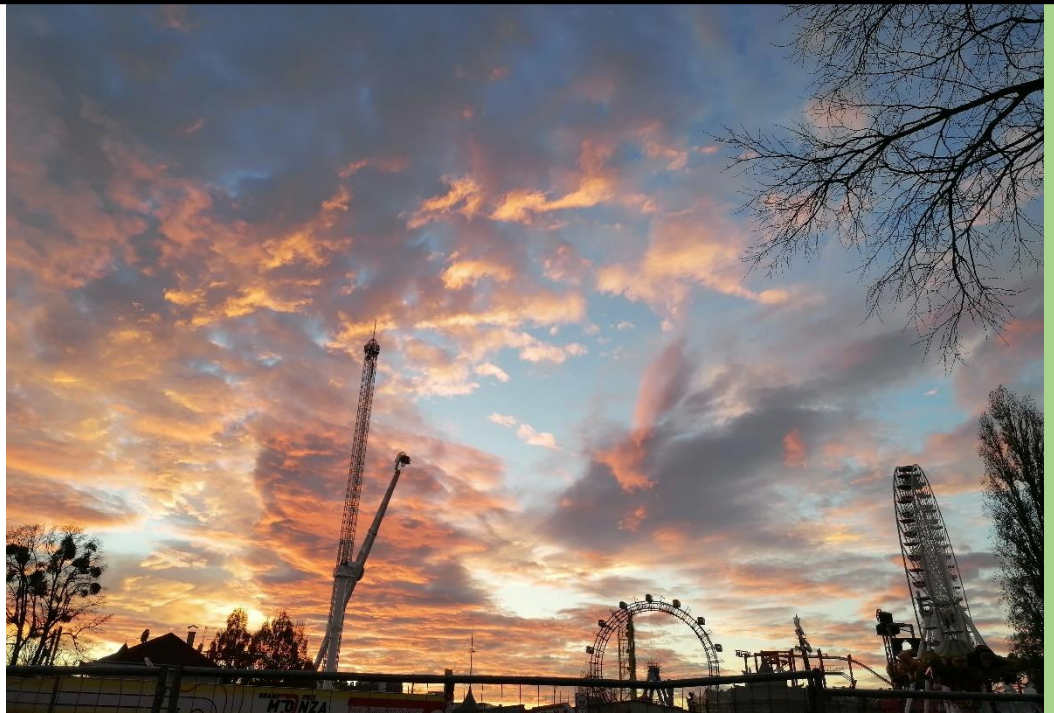


2023

Format Fremdsprachenwettbewerb BHS Englisch



Konzeption: FLORIAN WIESBAUER
florian.wiesbauer@hak-bregenz.at
3.11.2023

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Date	1
Place	1
Conditions of Participation.....	1
Requirements	2
Topics.....	2
Procedure	2
Timeline	4
Assessment Criteria.....	5
Team	5
Sample Topics.....	6

Introduction

This guideline is aimed at providing an overview of the dates, aims, and methods to be used in the 2024 Vorarlberg BHS English Language Competition.

Florian Wiesbauer

Date

February 21st, 2024, 8.30 – 13.30

Place

Room A 16 (Lefthand wing of the building)

WIFI Dornbirn

Bahnhofstraße 24

6850 Dornbirn

Conditions of Participation

- Contestants must register via the official application form by **January 26th, 2024**.
- Registrations are limited to **two (2) participants plus one (1) substitute per BHS**.
- **Students whose L1 (first language) is English cannot participate** in the competition.
- Please note that due to the recent rise in popularity of text generation algorithms such as ChatGPT, participants will be **precluded from accessing their electronic devices** throughout the competition.

Requirements

To put their skills on display, participants will be given the opportunity to prove their English proficiency in a variety of contexts. As such, they must have sufficient command of the language to perform the following acts on-stage:

- Introduce themselves and explain their relationship with English in a brief self-presentation.
- Give authentic, spontaneous reactions to visual stimuli.
- Participate in a group debate about a given topic.
- Give a prepared speech about a given topic.

Topics

The topics chosen for this competition will be in line with the [National Austrian BHS Curriculum 2014](#). As such, they may be selected from areas pertaining **to cultures, societies, politics, economy, ecology, technology, work and travel, the world of work, current societal issues, and personal experiences**. Sample topics will be provided below.

Procedure

- **Round 1: Impromptu Round** (Self-Presentation and Reaction to Visual Stimuli)
 - **No preparation time** provided.
 - Participants must wait their turn in a separate back-stage room.
 - Speakers will have 2-3 minutes to **present themselves and their relationship with the English language**.
 - Subsequently, speakers will be confronted with a **sequence of three (3) images**. They must produce **spontaneous language output** relating to these images, ideally by weaving them into one coherent narrative.
 - Speakers will then be asked to engage in an **impromptu roleplay** with the presenter. This sequence will last approximately **one (1) minute**.
- **Jury Intermission 1**
 - Jury members will judge the participants based on the criteria outlined below. Depending on the total number of participants, the best **9 or 12 contributors will advance into Round 2**.
 - The jury decisions will be narrated by the presenter and visualized on-screen by the organizer.

- **Round 2: Debate Round** (Panel Discussions)
 - **No preparation time** provided.
 - Participants must wait their turn in a separate back-stage room.
 - **Separated into three (3) groups** of equal size, speakers will **participate in panel discussions** moderated by the presenter.
 - Speakers must give an **opening statement** of around one minute that may not be interrupted by the other debaters and that outlines their stance on the given topic.
 - The topic will be provided by the presenter.
 - The presenter or organizer may intervene to ensure that proper debating etiquette is maintained.
 - The discussions last for **15 minutes**. The presenter will ensure that all candidates are provided with ample opportunities for contribution.

- **Jury Intermission 2**
 - Jury members will judge the participants based on the criteria outlined below. Depending on the total number of participants, the best **5 or 6** contributors will advance into Round 3.
 - The jury decisions will be narrated by the presenter and visualized on-screen by the organizer.

- **Round 3: Oration** (Individual Speeches)
 - The speech topic will be given to each participant individually and in a staggered manner to ensure equal preparation time for all.
 - Speakers must **choose between two (2) topics** provided.
 - **15 minutes of preparation time** provided.
 - Participants must wait their turn and prepare for their speeches in a separate back-stage room.
 - The topic will be revealed to the audience by the presenter.
 - The speeches last for **4 minutes each**. Performance assessment will be based on the criteria outlined below.

- **Jury Intermission 3**
 - Jury members will judge the participants based on the criteria outlined below.
 - Subsequently, participants will be ranked from **last to first** based on their individual scores.
 - The jury decisions will be narrated by the presenter and visualized on-screen by the organizer.

Timeline

This timeline is tentative and may be subject to change based on unforeseeable events.

Time (Approx.)	Event Stage
8.30	Ceremony Opening Speech (organizer)
8.35	Introductory Speech (Presenter)
8.40	Round 1
9.30	Jury Intermission 1
9.40	Round 2
10.40	Jury Intermission 2
10.50	Break (Preparation time for candidate #1 starts here)
11.20	Round 3
11.50	Jury Intermission 3
12.00	Announcement of Rankings and Winners
12.30	Closing statements (Winner, presenter, organizer)

Assessment Criteria

- **Fluency and Interaction:**
 - Interaction with other members, adherence to debate rules, spontaneity, taking initiative, identification with a given role.
- **Language Competency:**
 - Range, register, situationally adequate language use.
- **Accuracy:**
 - Vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, intonation
- **Contents:**
 - Persuasiveness of arguments, coherence, cohesiveness of speech, coverage of bullet points, relevance, subject knowledge, variety of ideas and arguments, creativity.
- **Presentation Skills:**
 - Situational awareness, body language, recovery from mistakes.

The criteria mentioned above are based on the [B2 Foreign Language Assessment Scale according to the CEFR](#).

Team

- Organizer: Florian WIESBAUER, HAK Bregenz
- Moderator: Bronwyn KONRAD, WIFI Dornbirn
- Assistant: Paramvir CHOCHAN, Teaching Assistant HAK Bregenz

For further inquiry: florian.wiesbauer@hak-bregenz.at

- **Impromptu Round:**

- Within the next three (3) minutes, introduce yourself to the audience.
 - Who are you and where are you from?
 - What is your relationship with the English language?
 - What made you decide to enter the English language competition?
- Next, you will be shown a series of three (3) images. After they have appeared on-screen, tell the audience what comes to your mind in reaction to these images.



- Now, imagine the following situation:
 - You are walking down London's famous Tower Bridge as a tourist.
 - Suddenly, you are approached by a stranger who has mistaken you for a local and is asking you about the history of Tower Bridge.
 - You are in a mischievous mood: Rather than admitting that you do not know its history, you decide to be their "tour guide" and provide them with a completely made-up history of Tower Bridge.

- **Debate Round:**

- Topic: ***Locally Sourced Papayas from Vorarlberg, or: Does Climate Change have Potential Benefits?***
- It is an undisputed fact in the scientific world that the climate is rapidly changing. This does have obvious and severe consequences, such as a rise in sea levels, the reduction of biodiversity, and a surge in draughts and famines. But the question remains: Does this drastic change to our environment create opportunities to exploit potential beneficial aspects? Or is it a strictly negative force that threatens the future of mankind?
- Discuss the impact of climate change on your immediate surroundings, on the local economy, and on society at large.
- Discuss whether you can find any positive aspects to climate change.
- Candidates begin with an opening statement of around one (1) minute wherein they must state their thesis on the topic.
- Opening statements will be given by candidates in alphabetic order.



- **Oration Round:**

- You have 15 minutes to prepare and memorize a speech about **one of the two topics** given below. Your speech should last **4-5 minutes**.
- You must address the content points listed below the topics, but you are also free to add your own ideas.

- **Option #1: Why I would be the Ideal President of Austria**
 - What makes you a suitable candidate for that role?
 - How would you improve the country?
 - What laws and policies would you seek to implement or abolish?
 - How do you envision your average working day as president?



- **Option #2: Nickeled and Dimed: The Rise of Subscription Services**
 - More and more companies are switching their business models to a subscription-based service. What is your stance on the matter?
 - Do you want the market to be more regulated, or are consumers mature enough not to fall prey to predatory subscription tactics?
 - Outline the potential upsides and downsides for the consumers.
 - Where do we go from here? Elaborate on the future of the subscription model.

