

English-AHS-CONTEST 2026

WIFI Dornbirn

Monday, February 23rd, 2026, 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 2024”).

5. Our Team

Moderator: Bronwyn Konrad

Jury: not decided yet

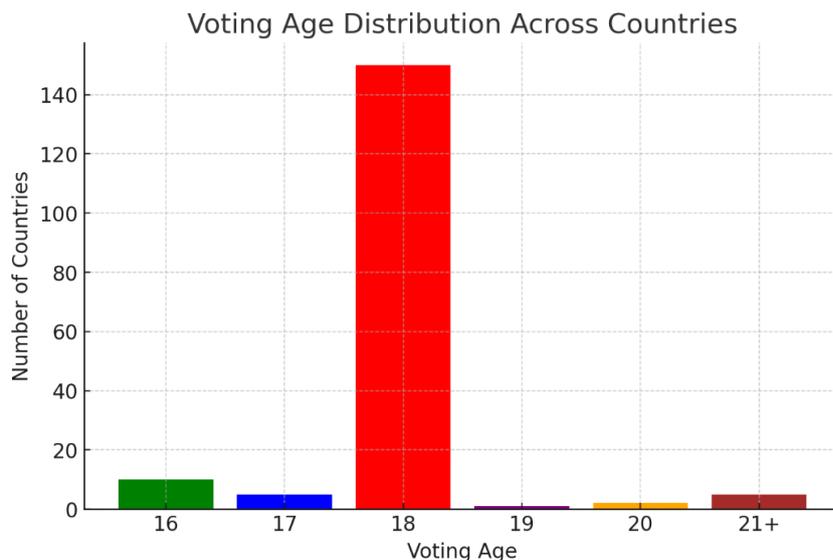
Organizer: Mag. Susanne Dalpra
susanne.dalpra@gys.at

TOPICS AHS-E-CONTEST 2024:

Round 1: PANEL DISCUSSION

The Right Age for Voting

The most common voting age worldwide is **18**. However, some countries allow voting at **16**, such as Austria, while others set the voting age at **20 or higher**, like Japan, Singapore, and Kuwait. This raises an important question: **What is the right age to vote?**



In today's panel discussion, you will debate **the appropriate voting age** as well as **the significance of voting in a democracy**.

Below are some thought-provoking quotes to consider:

- *“Young people are not the problem. They are the solution.”* — Kofi Annan
- *“The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.”* — Nelson Mandela
- *“Age is no barrier. It’s a limitation you put on your mind.”* — Jackie Joyner-Kersey
- *“If young people are old enough to pay taxes, work, and even be tried as adults in court, they are old enough to vote.”* — Anonymous
- *“We let 16-year-olds drive cars, get jobs, and be held accountable for crimes, but somehow, marking a ballot is too complicated?”* — Unknown
- *“The youth of today have more access to information than any previous generation. Maybe it’s the older generations that need a test before voting.”* — Anonymous
- *“Wisdom comes with age. Voting should too.”* — Unknown
- *“Maybe instead of arguing about age limits, we should be talking about knowledge limits—shouldn’t voters have to pass a test?”* — Unknown

To begin the discussion, **state the voting age you believe is most appropriate and justify your opinion briefly**. Include also one of the quotes above in your opening statement (about 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 | Travel and adventures

- why people love travelling and having adventures
- challenges you might face
- environmental impact of travelling
- personal experience / plans

Topic 2 | Podcasts

- what are they and why are they so popular
- types of podcasts / current trends
- impact of podcasts
- personal attitude to podcasts

Round 3: ROLEPLAY

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

Mum, please stay!

After taking care of her family for almost two decades, your mum has decided it's time to do something for herself. She is planning to travel to a retreat in India and stay there for three months to find her inner balance. She trusts you completely and believes that you are old enough to take care of yourself, and that your dad will be able to look after your twin siblings, who are currently 14 years old. However, you don't share your mother's opinion. You feel it's important to try to persuade her that leaving her family for a couple of months is not such a good idea and could lead to disaster.