

ANGLU VALODA

(augstākais mācību satura apguves līmenis)

KODS

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Darba burtnīca

1. daļa. Lasīšana

2. daļa. Klausīšanās

Norādījumi

Iepazīsties ar norādījumiem.

Darba burtnīcā un katrā atbilžu lapā ieraksti kodu, kuru tu saņēmi, ienākot eksāmena telpā.

Eksāmenā veicamo uzdevumu skaits, iegūstamo punktu skaits un paredzētais izpildes laiks:

Daļa	Uzdevumu skaits	Punktu skaits	Laiks (min)
1. Lasīšana	4	25	70
2. Klausīšanās	3	25	35
Starpbrīdis			
3. Rakstīšana	1	20	80

Rakstīšanas daļas darba materiāla un atbilžu lapas saņemsi pēc starpbrīža.

Darbu veic ar tumši zilu vai melnu pildspalvu. Raksti salasāmi.

Eksāmena izpildes laikā darba burtnīcā, tekstu lapā un rakstīšanas daļas darba materiāla lapās drīkst izmantot krāsu zīmulus vai flomāsterus.

Atbilžu lapās atbildes raksti tieši tām paredzētajās vietās.

Ar zīmuli rakstītais netiek vērtēts.

Eksāmena norises laikā eksāmena vadītājs skaidrojumus par uzdevumiem nesniedz.

Eksāmenā izmantotie teksti adaptēti atbilstoši eksāmena uzdevumu mērķim.

Pie izglītojamajiem un personām, kuras piedalās eksāmena nodrošināšanā, no brīža, kad viņiem ir pieejams eksāmena materiāls, līdz eksāmena norises beigām nedrīkst atrasties ierīces (planšetdators, piezīmjdators, viedtālrunis, viedpulkstenis u. c. saziņas un informācijas apmaiņas līdzekļi), kuras nav paredzētas Valsts pārbaudes darbu norises darbību laikos.

2026

READING**Task 1 (8 points)**

Read the article about teenagers' sleeping habits and school policies and do the task. For questions (1–8), choose and circle the answer (A, B, C or D) that you think fits best based on the text.

1. What is the main purpose of the article?

- A To inform the reader why schools are being urged to start later.
- B To provide ideas on how to start an initiative at school.
- C To explain the negative impact of early morning on teenagers.
- D To argue that hormones are the main reason for sleep problems.

2. What does “silent solitude” suggest about Jilly’s arrival at school?

- A She waited quietly before the next lesson began.
- B She came in alone after the school had started.
- C She was detained for 20 minutes as punishment.
- D She was late to protest the early start at school.

3. How does Jilly’s change into a “sleep activist” relate to the general argument about school start times?

- A It proves that one student’s experience can influence school policies.
- B It suggests that her school start times match her biological clock.
- C It highlights how her choices are the primary shapers of her day.
- D It illustrates how one student’s concerns can align with scientific research.

4. How do later school start times impact the learning process?

- A They reduce absences and improve focus in lessons.
- B They allow students to study less but still perform well.
- C They reduce tiredness but affect the academic results less.
- D They show a significant influence on exam results.

5. Why does the author include Dr. Miller’s opinion in the text?

- A To point out the serious problems with the research.
- B To question the validity of sleep studies in general.
- C To attract attention to the need for more research.
- D To emphasize that all schools can benefit from this change.

6. According to the text, which of these statements is NOT mentioned?

- A Proper sleep results in better choices teenagers make.
- B Melatonin is released later during puberty.
- C Students should refrain from using technology.
- D Light from screens can delay sleep in teenagers.

7. Why are many parents resistant to later school times despite the scientific evidence?

- A It would mean too many drastic changes.
- B It would mean homework would take too long.
- C It would be too expensive to implement.
- D It would be difficult to do everywhere in the country.

8. What was the school board’s response to the Jilly Santos’ campaign?

- A They considered the change but postponed its final vote for several months.
- B They agreed to adopt a new start time for a one-month trial period.
- C They approved a later high school start time despite some opposition.
- D They formally made an exception for Jilly, allowing her to come to class later.

For Tasks 2–4, read the three texts (A, B and C) on pages 2–4 of the Text Booklet (Tekstu lapa).

Task 2 (5 points)

For questions 9–13, decide which text (A, B or C) each question refers to. Write the corresponding letter (A, B or C) next to the question. You can use each letter more than once.

Which text		Letter
9.	encourages breaking the cycle of everyday mundanity?	
10.	explores an inherent conflict between the desire and ability to act meaningfully?	
11.	emphasises the problem of external pressure on a person's ability to act on their beliefs?	
12.	focuses on minute actions having a large impact?	
13.	contrasts being stuck metaphorically and literally?	

Task 3 (6 points)

For questions 14–19, choose and circle the answer (A, B, C or D) that you think fits best based on the three texts (A, B and C).

14. Which of the following statements is true about the three texts?

- A The texts explore the problem of various obstacles constraining the way people act.
- B The texts argue that ability to speak freely is key to overcoming everyday pressures.
- C The texts discuss the ability to act on one's political beliefs without feeling repercussions.
- D The texts note the different obstacles to freedom to enact societal change.

15. Which statement reflects the idea about conscious choice in Text A and Text C?

- A People assume they can make conscious choices, but this is actually illusory.
- B People fundamentally cannot go beyond their personal perspective and fail because of it.
- C People often act on their personal feelings but fail to consider the broader context.
- D People should always consider others' perspectives when making an important choice.

16. Which of the statements best express the importance of choice in Text B?

- A Freedom of choice is not only a societal need but a psychological and biological one.
- B Only societies with freedom of choice can meet all the needs of its members.
- C Societies where people cannot express themselves freely will face mass protests.
- D A person can only lead a fulfilling life with freedom of conscience and religion.

17. How is the link between captivity and saving of the world demonstrated in Text A?

- A People's ignorance of captivity can be remedied by studying nature, thus saving the world.
- B By breaking captivity at different levels of society world peace can be achieved.
- C Understanding Ishmael's captivity shows how it can be overcome for humans.
- D Overcoming different types of captivity is the most important human struggle.

18. In the section of Text C: "But anyway, you finally get to the checkout line's front, and you pay for your food, and you get told to "Have a nice day" in a voice that is the absolute voice of death" – why is the wishing of a nice day linked with *voice of death* in the context of the text?

- A It suggests that these social rituals, such as wishing a nice day, are meaningless clichés.
- B Consumer culture means that such exchanges are devoid of happiness.
- C Grocery shopping marks the end of the day, symbolising the passing of one's days, leading to their death.
- D The everyday grind wears down the person expressing these pleasantries making them sound horrific.

19. In Text A and Text B, what is identified as the main reason people struggle to escape forms of captivity or constraint that harm their wellbeing?

- A The constraints are enforced mainly through physical force or explicit punishment.
- B The internalized constraints mean that individuals are unaware of how their autonomy is limited.
- C People value social stability more than personal freedom and therefore resist change.
- D People lack sufficient education about political rights and democratic institutions.

Task 4 (6 points)

For questions 20–25, answer the questions with quotes (words or phrases) from Texts A, B or C.

20. In Text A, which phrase summarizes Ishmael's attempts to teach his students so far?

21. In Text A, which description is used to describe the role of humans in their society?

22. In Text B, which phrase is used to identify points which are outside the scope of the text?

23. In Text B, which diplomatic phrase is used to describe the problems that may come from expressing oneself in an undemocratic society?

24. In Text C, which metaphor is used to describe the formal obstacles that one must overcome when interacting with a governmental department?

25. In Text C, which phrase could be used to substitute the phrase "everyday boredom"?

Neaizmirsti aizpildīt „Lasīšanas daļas” atbilžu lapu!

LISTENING

Task 1 (8 points)

You will listen to a podcast about happiness. Read the questions (1–8) and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C) based on what you hear in the podcast. You will hear the recording twice.

HAPPINESS

1. What can people gain by doing something unpleasant?

- A An improvement in their social status.
- B Alignment of their actions with their principles.
- C A strongly built structure of values.

2. What characterizes the atmosphere of growth?

- A A sense of meaning and purpose.
- B Absence of significant challenges.
- C Learning from enjoyable activities.

3. What does the author agree is one of the most important conditions for happiness?

- A Prioritizing personal well-being.
- B Finding the key to a stress-free life.
- C Maintaining meaningful connections.

4. Why is it challenging for people to know themselves?

- A They are affected by external influences or aspirations.
- B They struggle to see how helpful it is to know themselves.
- C They are unwilling to engage in genuine self-reflection.

5. Why does the author use the example of night and morning people?

- A To argue that personal routines can reflect character.
- B To show that people tend to lack awareness of themselves.
- C To suggest that everyone should try to change their behaviour.

6. What mistake regarding happiness does the author warn against?

- A Using too many self-help practices.
- B Ignoring the experience of others.
- C Believing in a universal method.

7. How can knowing themselves help people?

- A It helps them do the hard things today for a better future.
- B It helps them identify the obstacles on their way to happiness.
- C It helps them view failure at acquiring habits more positively.

8. What is the author's attitude towards happiness and temptations?

- A She believes moderators tend to be happier than abstainers.
- B She thinks her personal approach might make others happier.
- C She feels whatever people decide for themselves is correct.

Task 2 (7 points)

You will listen to an interview with an author Richard Cytowic, who published a book on effects of smartphone use. For questions (9–15), choose and circle one correct answer (A, B, C or D) based on what you hear in the interview. You will hear the recording twice.

LIVING IN THE SCREEN AGE**9. What message does Richard convey to the listeners at the beginning of the programme?**

- A He challenges the listeners to reflect on their digital habits.
- B He warns the listeners about the risks of digital overload.
- C He praises the listeners for addressing digital challenges.
- D He urges the listeners to trust the use of digital technology.

10. What is suggested by comparing the brain to a muscle?

- A Pushing the brain too hard may weaken the brain's efficiency.
- B The brain becomes more efficient with the right kind of training.
- C Mental strain has varying effects on brain performance.
- D The brain needs constant exercise to ensure its function.

11. What does Richard state about the impact of smartphones on learning?

- A They harm the learning process more than anything else does.
- B They gradually weaken the brain's ability to access knowledge.
- C They significantly undermine students' motivation to learn.
- D They compromise several conditions essential to learning.

12. How do people feel about reducing screen use?

- A People recognize the possible risks of screen use as they age.
- B People half-acknowledge the problem of excessive screen use.
- C People show no inclination to change their screen use habits.
- D People regard any alternative to smartphones as unappealing.

13. What is the underlying belief about interaction that Richard conveys?

- A Parents are primarily responsible for socialization.
- B Early social interaction builds essential life skills.
- C Social media supports those who feel isolated.
- D Students overcome their anxiety during college.

14. According to Richard, can smartphones be used without the negative aspects they present?

- A He supports phone use solely for adults, not for children.
- B He doubts it given the numerous conditions required.
- C He thinks phone use is harmless with the right skills.
- D He believes smartphones inevitably lead to addiction.

15. What does Richard say regarding research on the effects of phone use?

- A The tech enthusiasts chose to ignore the data on the negative impact of phone use.
- B The scientific evidence is sufficient to conclude that phone use should be restricted.
- C Critics hold a firm position that phone use is damaging, regardless of research data.
- D By the time research provides definitive data, the harm may already be irreversible.

Task 3 (10 points)

You will hear a talk on activism in which the host of the programme and Dr. Dana Fisher are talking about protests. For questions 16–25, complete the notes on the talk with a word or short phrase (no more than three words) from the talk. You will hear the recording twice.

SCIENCE OF VIRAL ACTIVISM

16. The protesters use different ways to attract attention to the issue of _____.
17. Dr Fischer aimed to examine the _____.
18. The protesters measure success by the amount of _____ they generate.
19. The host shifts focus to the rise in _____ as another dimension of activism.
20. Performing extreme acts of protest often costs activists _____.
21. In the past, some tactics proved effective, despite being disruptive and _____.
22. The host raises concerns that certain actions could be viewed as _____.
23. There is a lack of _____ on whether specific protests alienate people from the cause.

There are two possible outcomes for societal reactions to confrontational forms of protest:

24. either there is no significant shift in _____
25. or public concern about the issue intensifies when protesters _____.

Neaizmirsti aizpildīt „Klausīšanās daļas” atbilžu lapu!

Read the article and do Task 1 on page 2.

TEENAGERS' SLEEPING HABITS

Jilly Santos really did try to get to school on time. She set three successive alarms on her phone. Skipped breakfast. Hastily applied makeup while her father drove. But last year she rarely made it into the frantic rush at the doors of Rock Bridge High School by the first bell at 7:50 am. Mostly, it was the opposite – she joined the first lesson in silent solitude, 20 minutes late. Then she heard that the school board was about to make the day start even earlier, at 7:20 am.

"I thought, if that happens," recalled Jilly, "I will drop out of school!" That was when the sleep-deprived teenager turned into a sleep activist. She was determined to convince the board of a truth she knew in the core of her tired body: teenagers are developmentally driven to be late to bed and late to rise. Could the board realign the first bell with that biological reality?

New evidence suggests that later high school starts have widespread benefits. Researchers at the University of Minnesota, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, studied eight high schools in three states before and after they moved to later start times. The results showed that the later a school's start time, the better off the students were on many measures, including mental health, attendance, attention in class and, in some schools, grades and standardized test scores.

Dr. Elizabeth Miller, chief of adolescent medicine at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, who was not involved in the research, noted that the study was not a randomized controlled trial, which would have compared schools that had changed times with similar schools that had not. But she said its methods were pragmatic and its findings promising. "Even schools with limited resources can make this one policy change with what appears to be advantages for their students," Dr. Miller said.

Researchers have found that during adolescence, as hormones surge and the brain develops, teenagers who regularly sleep eight to nine hours a night learn better and are less likely to be tardy, get in fights, or sustain athletic injuries. Sleeping well can also help moderate their tendency toward impulsive or risky decision-making.

During puberty, teenagers have a later release of the "sleep" hormone melatonin, which means they tend not to feel drowsy until around 11:00 pm. That inclination can be further delayed by the stimulating blue light from electronic devices, which tricks the brain into sensing wakeful daylight, slowing the release of melatonin and the onset of sleep.

Despite growing support for a change in school policy in hundreds of schools in dozens of districts across the country, many parents and some students object to shifting the start of the day later. They say doing so makes sports practices end late, jeopardizes student jobs, bites into time for homework and extracurricular activities, and upsets the morning routine for working parents and younger children.

Jilly Santos contacted the nonprofit Start School Later, gathered research, and organized a campaign with friends, teachers, and students using emails, petitions, and posters. Her efforts and community outreach prompted the school board to meet and consider later start times. "It is really reassuring to know that students can have a say in the matter," Jilly wrote. "So, thank you, guys, for that." One month later, the decision was made at the board's next meeting. The board voted, 6 to 1, to push back the high school start time to 9:00 am.

At 8:53 am, Jilly burst through the north entrance door, long hair uncombed and flyaway, wearing no makeup, lugging her backpack. "Even when I am late to school now," she said, dashing down a corridor to make the 8:55 am bell, "it's only by three or four minutes."

Adapted from nytimes.com

Read texts A, B and C and do Tasks 2–4 on pages 3–5.**CHOICES****TEXT A**

Note: In the extract, the narrator is talking to a captive gorilla, Ishmael, who acts as a mentor.

There are times when having too much to say can be as dumbfounding as having too little. I could think of no way to respond adequately or gracefully to such a tale. Finally I asked a question that seemed no more or less inane than the dozens of others that occurred to me.

“And have you had many pupils?”

“I’ve had four. My efforts were a complete failure.”

“Oh. Why did you fail?”

He closed his eyes to think for a moment.

“I failed because I underestimated the difficulty of what I was trying to teach, and because I didn’t understand the minds of my pupils well enough.”

“I see,” I said. “And what do you teach?”

Ishmael selected a fresh branch from a pile at his right, examined it briefly, then began to nibble at it, gazing languidly into my eyes.

At last he said, “On the basis of my history, what subject would you say I was best qualified to teach?”

I blinked and told him I didn’t know.

“Of course you do. My subject is: captivity.”

I sat there for a minute, then I said, “I’m trying to figure out what this has to do with saving the world.”

Ishmael thought for a moment. “Among the people of your culture, which want to destroy the world?”

“Which want to destroy it? As far as I know, no one specifically wants to destroy the world.”

“And yet you do destroy it, each of you. Each of you contributes daily to the destruction of the world.”

“Yes, that’s so.”

“Why don’t you stop?”

I shrugged. “Frankly, we don’t know how.”

“You’re captives of a civilizational system that more or less compels you to go on destroying the world in order to live.”

“Yes, that’s the way it seems.”

“So, you are captives – and you have made a captive of the world itself. That’s what’s at stake, isn’t it? Your captivity and the captivity of the world. And you yourself are a captive in a personal way, are you not?”

“How so?”

Ishmael smiled, revealing a great mass of ivory-coloured teeth. I hadn’t known he could, until then.

I said: “I have an impression of being a captive, but I can’t explain why I have this impression.”

“A few years ago – you must have been a child at the time, so you may not remember it – many young people of this country had the same impression. They made an ingenuous and disorganized effort to escape from captivity but ultimately failed, because they were unable to find the bars of the cage. If you can’t discover what’s keeping you in, the will to get out soon becomes confused and ineffectual.”

“Yes, that’s the sense I have of it.” Ishmael nodded.

“But again, how does this relate to saving the world?”

“The world is not going to survive for very much longer as humanity’s captive. Does that need explication?”

Adapted from *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn, 1992

TEXT B

In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which outlines many manifestations of freedoms that are essential to preserve human dignity and autonomy. Accordingly, all individuals are, among other essential liberties, entitled to freedom of thought, expression, assembly, and religion. These facets of freedom, to different degrees, are defining characteristics of democratic societies, vital for their civic functioning and democratic as well as peaceful governance and, consequently, contribute to human development (Diamond, 2007).

Beyond their importance for democratic societies, these freedoms are pivotal in the mental health and wellbeing of individuals (Dahl, 1998). They provide individuals with the autonomy that they need to determine their choices, define and pursue goals, express their unique identities, and engage with their environment, all of which are crucial for mental health and wellbeing (World Health Organization, 2019).

Although a detailed discussion of each facet of freedom on mental health is beyond the remit of the present paper, it aims to provide a brief overview of studies that have explored the dynamic and complex relationship between freedom and mental health and highlight the enduring need and necessity for further comprehensive research.

Undoubtedly, freedom of speech is the most widely discussed and studied freedom in the context of defining a society as democratic (Singh et al., 2020). It refers to the right to express one's opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation or censorship. Empirical studies have consistently demonstrated that this freedom is essential for personal autonomy and self-expression, which are key components of psychological wellbeing (Borba, 2022). Accordingly, individuals who feel they can express themselves freely tend to have higher levels of self-esteem and self-efficacy, and lower levels of anxiety and depression (Krause and Van Tran, 1989).

Conversely, the fear of expressing one's opinions due to potential repercussions can lead to significant psychological distress (Førde and Aasland, 2013). This phenomenon, known as self-censorship, can create a sense of isolation and helplessness, which are detrimental to mental health (Hayes et al., 2005). The impact of self-censorship on mental health is particularly pronounced in environments where political or social pressures inhibit free expression (Appel, 2022). Studies have demonstrated that individuals in such contexts often experience heightened anxiety, stress, and feelings of powerlessness (Martin et al., 2017).

Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is another central dimension of human rights that substantially impacts mental health and wellbeing (Pargament, 2001). This freedom allows individuals to choose and practice their beliefs without interference or coercion. It is closely linked to personal identity and moral integrity, which are essential for individual growth and personality development (Saroglou, 2011).

Curiously, these fundamental rights are not always accurately identified by the subjects, leading to self-doubt and mental distress that is seen as mostly a problem of the individual, rather than being seen as a socio-cultural, systemic issue.

Adapted from
Freedom and mental health: an overview of the impact of fundamental rights on psychological wellbeing by
Changiz Mohiyeddini, 2025, www.frontiersin.org

TEXT C

By way of example, let's say it's an average adult day, and you get up in the morning, go to your challenging, white-collar, college-graduate job, and you work hard for eight or ten hours, and at the end of the day you're tired and somewhat stressed and all you want is to go home and have a good supper and maybe unwind for an hour, and then hit the sack early because, of course, you have to get up the next day and do it all again. But then you remember there's no food at home. You haven't had time to shop this week because of your challenging job, and so now after work you have to get in your car and drive to the supermarket. It's the end of the work day and the traffic is apt to be very bad. So getting to the store takes way longer than it should, and when you finally get there, the supermarket is very crowded, because of course it's the time of day when all the other people with jobs also try to squeeze in some grocery shopping. And the store is hideously lit and infused with soul-killing easy listening or corporate pop and it's pretty much the last place you want to be but you can't just get in and quickly out; you have to wander all over the huge, over-lit store's confusing aisles to find the stuff you want and you have to manoeuvre your junky cart through all these other tired, hurried people with carts and eventually you get all your supper supplies, except now it turns out there aren't enough check-out lanes open even though it's the end-of-the-day rush. So the checkout line is incredibly long, which is stupid and infuriating. But you can't take your frustration out on the frantic lady working at the register, who is overworked at a job whose daily tedium and meaninglessness surpasses the imagination of any of us here at a prestigious college.

But anyway, you finally get to the checkout line's front, and you pay for your food, and you get told to "Have a nice day" in a voice that is the absolute voice of death. Then you have to take your creepy, flimsy, plastic bags of groceries in your cart with the one crazy wheel that pulls maddeningly to the left, all the way out through the crowded, bumpy, littery parking lot, and then you have to drive all the way home through slow, heavy, SUV-intensive, rush-hour traffic, et cetera et cetera.

But most days, if you're aware enough to give yourself a choice, you can choose to look differently at this angry, over-made-up lady who just screamed at her kid in the checkout line. Maybe she's not usually like this. Maybe she's been up three straight nights holding the hand of a husband who is home, very sick. Or maybe this very lady is the low-wage clerk at the motor vehicle department, who just yesterday helped your spouse resolve a horrific, infuriating, red-tape problem through some small act of bureaucratic kindness. Of course, none of this is likely, but it's also not impossible. It just depends on what you want to consider. If you're automatically sure that you know what reality is, and you are operating on your default setting, then you, like me, probably won't consider possibilities that aren't annoying and miserable. But if you really learn how to pay attention, then you will know there are other options. It will actually be within your power to experience a crowded, hot, slow, consumer-hell type situation as not only meaningful, but sacred, on fire with the same force that made the stars: love, fellowship, the mystical oneness of all things deep down.

Adapted from *This Is Water* by David Foster Wallace, 2005

	A	B	C	D
1.	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.	☐	☐	☐	☐
5.	☐	☐	☐	☐
6.	☐	☐	☐	☐
7.	☐	☐	☐	☐
8.	☐	☐	☐	☐

A B C D

	A	B	C
9.	☐	☐	☐
10.	☐	☐	☐
11.	☐	☐	☐
12.	☐	☐	☐
13.	☐	☐	☐

A B C

	A	B	C	D
14.	☐	☐	☐	☐
15.	☐	☐	☐	☐
16.	☐	☐	☐	☐
17.	☐	☐	☐	☐
18.	☐	☐	☐	☐
19.	☐	☐	☐	☐

A B C D

20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

KODS

ANGAL

Task 1. Ar „X” atzīmē izvēlēto atbildi!

A B C

1. ☐ ☐ ☐
2. ☐ ☐ ☐
3. ☐ ☐ ☐
4. ☐ ☐ ☐
5. ☐ ☐ ☐
6. ☐ ☐ ☐
7. ☐ ☐ ☐
8. ☐ ☐ ☐

1.–8. jautājuma kļūdu labojumam

A	B	C
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Task 2. Ar „X” atzīmē izvēlēto atbildi!

A B C D

9. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
10. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
11. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
12. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
13. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
14. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
15. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

9.–15. jautājuma kļūdu labojumam

A B C D

Task 3. Ieraksti atbildi!

16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

Task A

You are reading *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens and you have come across this passage that you think would be of interest to other readers.

Write an essay in which you:

- introduce what you consider to be the main issue raised in the passage,
- justify why this issue is relevant to readers today,
- summarise your key points and suggest who would particularly benefit from reading this passage.

You should summarise, paraphrase or quote from the text to support your arguments.

Write your answer in 300–350 words. You have 80 minutes to complete the task.

Putting on the best clothes I had, I went into town as early as I could hope to find the shops open, and presented myself before Mr. Trabb, the tailor, called me in to him.

“Well!” said Mr. Trabb, “How are you, and what can I do for you?”

“Mr. Trabb,” said I, “it’s an unpleasant thing to have to mention, because it looks like boasting; but I have come into a handsome property.”

A change passed over Mr. Trabb. He got up from the bedside, exclaiming, “Lord bless my soul!”

“I am going up to my guardian in London,” said I, casually drawing some guineas out of my pocket and looking at them; “and I want a fashionable suit of clothes to go in. I wish to pay for them,” I added – otherwise I thought he might only pretend to make them, “with ready money.”

“My dear sir,” said Mr. Trabb, as he respectfully bent his body, “don’t hurt me by mentioning that. May I venture to congratulate you? Would you do me the favour of stepping into the shop?”

Mr. Trabb’s boy was the most audacious boy in all that country-side. When I had entered he was sweeping the shop, and he had sweetened his labours by sweeping over me. He was still sweeping when I came out into the shop with Mr. Trabb, and he knocked the broom against all possible corners and obstacles, to express (as I understood it) equality with any blacksmith, alive or dead.

“Hold that noise,” said Mr. Trabb, with the greatest sternness, “or I’ll knock your head off! – Do me the favour to be seated, sir. Now, this,” said Mr. Trabb, taking down a roll of cloth, and tiding it out in a flowing manner over the counter, preparatory to getting his hand under it to show the gloss, “is a very sweet article. I can recommend it for your purpose, sir, because it really is extra super. But you shall see some others. Give me Number Four, you!” (To the boy, and with a dreadfully severe stare).

[...]

I selected the materials for a suit, with the assistance of Mr. Trabb’s judgment, and re-entered the parlour to be measured. So, Mr. Trabb measured and calculated me in the parlour, as if I were an estate and he the finest species of surveyor, and gave himself such a world of trouble that I felt that no suit of clothes could possibly remunerate him for his pains. [...] I saw [the boy] collapse as his master rubbed me out with his hands, and my first decided experience of the stupendous power of money was, that it had morally laid upon his back Trabb’s boy.

After this memorable event, I went to the hatter’s, and the bootmaker’s, and the hosier’s, and felt rather like Mother Hubbard’s dog whose outfit required the services of so many trades. It was not necessary to explain everywhere that I had come into a handsome property; but whenever I said anything to that effect, it followed that the officiating tradesman ceased to have his attention diverted through the window by the High Street, and concentrated his mind upon me.

From Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Task B

Read the following extract from a research article concerning the problem of genetic engineering.

Write an essay in which you:

- introduce the general topic and identify the precise issue(s). Outline what your essay will be about,
- discuss the issue(s), supporting your opinion with arguments and examples, including from the text,
- summarise your key points and suggest how society should approach such projects in the future.

You should summarise, paraphrase or quote from the text to support your arguments.

Write your answer in 300–350 words. You have 80 minutes to complete the task.

Recently the biotech company Colossal Biosciences announced the birth of a lab-born mouse with mammoth DNA, which features shaggy mammoth-like fur and has cold-adapted traits such as the way in which it stores and burns fat. Researchers retrieved and sequenced ancient mammoth DNA. They altered the corresponding genes in lab mice and made other alterations in the rodents' genome.

What was the purpose of this feat of genetic engineering? Colossal's pitch is that, with biodiversity, saving existing species will require tweaking their DNA to make them more resilient. The researchers at the company also claim that bringing back extinct species can help the environment. Company co-founder and CEO Ben Lamm puts the approach in startling terms: "Why leave nature to chance?" In pursuit of such "de-extinction" goals, Colossal has raised hundreds of millions of dollars from everyone from celebrities to the CIA.

But many experts in genetic engineering and conservation are sceptical. Rewilding is risky; species such as wolves and elephants have come into conflict with humans, and others have fallen victim to predators and poachers. No one knows what would happen if a mammoth – or, more technically, an elephant-mammoth hybrid – was released: What would it eat? How would we protect it? Could it reproduce?

As for saving the climate, "we're looking at a warming world, and [Colossal's researchers] want to bring back creatures that are adapted to the cold?" says Elsa Panciroli, a palaeontologist at National Museum Scotland. "I study animals from the past, and they should stay in the past."

Gene editing has a high rate of failure, often killing surrogates and offspring, notes Robert Klitzman, a Columbia University bioethicist who questioned the value the woolly mouse beyond a "wow" factor. Not all of the genetically modified mouse embryos led to successful pregnancies, Colossal's chief science officer Beth Shapiro says, but "every mouse that was born is still alive." (The mice were born in mid-October 2024.) She adds that "our mice have enhanced living conditions and are under the full-time care of our veterinary staff. All of our work is overseen by an external ethics board, and only trained scientists interact with the mice." However, if a mouse were to somehow escape the lab, the potential biological implications pose another concern because the animal could mate with members of wild populations. "Anyone who's kept pet mice knows they can get out through very small holes," Panciroli says.

There are also other risks to gene editing. "In certain ancient species' DNA, you don't know what the function of this DNA is, so there are more than ethical problems; there are biological hazards from moving and editing the DNA. I'm not sure about the potential risks of this type of work, as the function of ancient DNA in live mice may be difficult to predict," says Yale University geneticist Jiangbing.

Shapiro points to the genetic mutations that happen naturally with reproduction and notes that most of these have no impact. "Genetic changes are not, in and of themselves, a cause for concern. That said, we are selecting genetic variation that we intend to have an impact on the way the organism looks or acts, and so more caution is necessary," she says. "Our approach is to evaluate the impact of edits in as many ways as possible before making them."

But others are not convinced, especially by the creation of organisms such as the woolly mouse. "It's arrogance," says Sue Lieberman, vice president of international policy at the Wildlife Conservation Society. "I'm not against technology. I'm not saying nature's perfect. But this is such a waste of money when conservation is dying for lack of funds. To make some strange animal we can gawk at – we should be past that."

Adapted from "Company Seeking to Resurrect the Woolly Mammoth Creates a 'Woolly Mouse'" by Adam Popescu (2025, March 4)

Izmanto šo lapu uzmetumam!

3. daļa. Rakstīšana

Write between 300–350 words.

Task _____

EKSĀMENS ANGLŪ VALODĀ

(augstākais mācību satura apguves līmenis)

Mutvārdu daļa, 1. diena

Skolotāja materiāls

Pie izglītojamajiem un personām, kuras piedalās eksāmena nodrošināšanā, no brīža, kad viņiem ir pieejams eksāmena materiāls, līdz eksāmena norises beigām nedrīkst atrasties ierīces (planšetdators, piezīmjdators, viedtālrunis, viedpulkstenis u. c. saziņas un informācijas apmaiņas līdzekļi), kuras nav paredzētas Valsts pārbaudes darbu norises darbību laikos.

2026

Paper 1

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Digital Communication”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

Social media is changing the way we communicate and the way we are perceived, both positively and negatively. Every time you post a photo, or update your status, you are contributing to your own digital footprint and personal brand.

Amy Jo Martin, an American author, speaker, entrepreneur, and investor

Villainizing technology when it comes to our close relationships masks the benefits that these tools can have when it comes to improving our communication, offering us more opportunities to connect, and our ability to understand each other better.

*Ardena Bašič,
How technology can strengthen relationships*

Digital Communication

As for conversing with our fellow Americans, we've all tried, unsuccessfully, to have a conversation on these platforms, which has so quickly devolved into a shouting match, or pile-on from perfect strangers because your belief isn't the same as theirs. Years ago, a Facebook executive told me that the biggest reason people unfriend each other is because they disagree on an issue. "Who knows, if this keeps up, maybe we'll end up with people only having a few friends on Facebook," the executive joked.

Nick Bilton, The End of the Social Era Can't Come Soon Enough, vanityfair.com

The greatest problem with communication is we don't listen to understand. We listen to reply. When we listen with curiosity, we don't listen with the intent to reply. We listen for what's behind the words.

*Roy T. Bennett,
The Light in the Heart, 2016*

A new experimental task, involving a mock social networking site, can group people into three distinct styles of social media use – passive, reactive and interactive. Moreover, data from a large online sample suggests that these styles may be related to psychological well-being, with more interactive users reporting greater feelings of social connectedness than passive or reactive users.

*Daniel Shaw of Aston University,
sciencedaily.com*

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. In his text, Nick Bilton quotes an executive; what is the executive making fun of?
3. Why do people tend to have such different experiences with social media?

Paper 2

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “The Power of Ignorance”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

Many people believe that Knowledge is Power, but not many people have seriously considered the Power of Ignorance. While it takes a lot of time to build up Knowledge, Ignorance can pull it all down in an hour.

*George Eliot,
novelist, editor and critic, 1874*

Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.

George Bernard Shaw

Willful ignorance occurs when someone intentionally avoids information about the negative consequences of their actions. A new meta-analysis found that 40% of people will choose to remain ignorant of how their decisions affect others. The evidence suggests that willful ignorance provides people with a built-in excuse to act selfishly.

*Kevin Dickinson,
40% of people willfully choose to be ignorant,
bigthink.com*

The Power of Ignorance

Think about the gift that ignorance can sometimes be. How many great things over the course of human history would have been accomplished if humans had known the obstacles that lay ahead? Often, it is our ignorance that allows us to begin an endeavour and then it is sheer will and momentum that get us the rest of the way there. If we as leaders always really understood the true nature of the tasks before us, many of us would never get started.

Chris Stathakis, The Surprising Benefits of Ignorance, stathakis.com/blog

In an era where everyone seems confident – sometimes arrogantly so – Socrates’ philosophy “I know that I know nothing” offers a vital counterpoint. It reminds us that admitting ignorance is a strength, not a weakness. This mindset fosters genuine learning, critical thinking, and humility – qualities that are crucial for anyone serious about personal growth, academic success, or societal progress.

*Unlocking Wisdom: What Socrates Taught Us
About Knowing Nothing, sleepyclasses.com*

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. How do you understand George Eliot’s thoughts?
3. How can ignorance be a starting point for learning?

Paper 3

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Appreciation”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

Every man supposes himself not to be fully understood or appreciated.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson,
journal entry (May 6, 1840)*

Research shows that employers who show their appreciation for their employees' efforts by publicly recognizing the quality of their work have lower rates of employees leaving the workplace for other jobs.

achievers.com/blog/employee-recognition-statistics/

Appreciation comes from the Latin root *appretiāre*, which means “to set a price on; to value.” In the beginning, the word had a strictly financial connotation, and that continues to this day when, for example, we describe the increased value of an investment as an appreciation. When the word entered English in the 16th century, it conveyed the original idea of setting a price on something, but by the 17th century, the meaning was figuratively extended to refer to the worth or value of a person.

Dr. Mardy's Quotes of the Week

The way to develop the best that is in a man is by appreciation and encouragement. Praise, gratitude, and appreciation stimulate serotonin and dopamine, neurotransmitters that create feelings of happiness and connection.

Alex Korb, in The Upward Spiral (2015)

Appreciation

Self-appreciation builds self-esteem, self-love, and self-confidence. Do you often find that you give yourself a hard time about things you didn't do, things you didn't do right, or what you didn't change? For instance, maybe you give yourself a hard time about not being able to meet a certain deadline, skipping a workout, or cancelling a social commitment. People all too often focus only on what they feel they have done wrong and disregard all the many things they have done well.

www.psychologytoday.com

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. What do Ralph Waldo Emerson's words imply?
3. How can appreciation in a family and at school impact lives of young people?

Paper 4

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Sustainability”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

Refuse what you do not need; reduce what you do need; reuse what you consume; recycle what you cannot refuse, reduce, or reuse; and rot (compost) the rest.

Bea Johnson, a French-American environmental activist and a pioneer of the zero-waste lifestyle movement

No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced.

Sir David Frederick Attenborough, a British broadcaster, biologist, natural historian and writer

Regional attitudes toward sustainability differ quite significantly.

- Consumers in Brazil (44%), China (43%), Austria (42%), and Italy (41%) are the most likely to have made a significant or total change towards a sustainable lifestyle – although it is noted that the respondents in Brazil and China had a higher proportion of younger and better-educated individuals.

- Japan (16%) had the lowest percentage of consumers who had made sustainability changes.

Statistics at theroundup.org

Sustainability

Consumers say sustainability is an important factor in their purchasing decisions. Almost two-thirds (65%) are willing to spend more money on sustainable products, and 62% would go with a retailer if they offered more sustainable delivery. Despite all of this, only 20% of consumers have switched their brand loyalty toward companies they perceive as exhibiting more sustainable practices. Although this is an impactful change, it's a big gap compared to the large number of consumers who express a strong commitment to sustainability.

“Only 20% of Consumers Believe Brand Sustainability Claims” by Danielle Strouther, 2025

Wildness puts us in our place. It reminds us that our own plans are small and somewhat absurd. It reminds us why, in those cases in which our plans might influence many future generations, we ought to choose carefully.

Barbara Kingsolver, Small Wonder, 2002

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. What does Sir David Attenborough's quote imply?
3. How can schools promote sustainability and help students make sustainable choices?

Paper 5

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Life’s Purpose”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

Imagine life is a game in which you are juggling five balls. The balls are called work, family, health, friends, and integrity. And you're keeping all of them in the air. But one day you finally come to understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. The other four balls – family, health, friends, integrity – are made of glass. If you drop one of these, it will be irrevocably scuffed, nicked, perhaps even shattered.

*James Patterson,
Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas (2001)*

The happiest people I know are people who don't even think about being happy. They just think about being good neighbours, good people. And then happiness sort of sneaks in the back window while they're busy doing good.

*Harold Kushner,
an American author and theologian*

Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.

*Oprah Winfrey,
talk show host and television producer*

The purpose of life is not to be happy. The purpose of life is to matter, to be productive, to have it make some difference that you lived at all.

*Leo Rosten,
American writer and humourist*

Life's Purpose

We are in the early days of the AI revolution, and a lot of people are panicking about what it will mean for their livelihoods. While that is an important problem to solve, the deeper problem is how we will find purpose – so that we not only survive but thrive. Without a sense of purpose, we ultimately become just consumers, dopamine addicts to a world that no longer needs us.

*Giovanni Dienstmann,
“Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Purpose”
at highermind.com/blog*

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. To what extent do you agree with Harold Kushner?
3. In what ways can society help young adults craft a meaningful life?

Paper 6

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Art and Society”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

There are two kinds of truth: the truth that lights the way and the truth that warms the heart. The first of these is science, and the second is art.

Raymond Chandler, in The Notebooks of Raymond Chandler (1976)

Drawing is not what one sees, but what one can make others see.

Edgar Degas

When it comes to art and social change, there are really no limits. Art can be used as a form of protest, to raise awareness about important issues, and even to call for change and social justice. For centuries now, artists have been using their creativity to shed light on the world's problems and fight for justice. And today, more than ever before, we need art that speaks truth to power.

“Artists as Agents of Social Change Past and Present” by Lee Down from artsartistsartwork.com

Art and Society

It has been discovered that visual arts, including paintings and sculptures, are especially good at illustrating cultural symbols and stories that capture the distinct identity of a certain society. It was also observed that dance and music might encapsulate the spirit of local customs and forge emotional bonds between disparate groups. Theatre and literature have become effective storytelling and narrative exploration platforms for cultural identity. The participants discovered that engaging with characters from different ethnic origins through theatre and reading a variety of literary works promoted a greater understanding of diversity.

Al-Zadjali, Z. (2024) “The Significance of Art in Revealing a Culture’s Identity and Multiculturalism”

Art is not the possession of the few who are recognized writers, painters, musicians; it is the authentic expression of any and all individuality.

John Dewey, in Time and Individuality (1940)

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. What does the quote by Edgar Degas imply?
3. Why do you think art is a powerful way to speak the truth and inspire social change?

Paper 1

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Digital Communication”.

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In your talk:

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*Daniel Shaw of Aston University,
sciencedaily.com*

Paper 2

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “The Power of Ignorance”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

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*Unlocking Wisdom: What Socrates Taught Us
About Knowing Nothing, sleepyclasses.com*

Paper 3

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www.psychologytoday.com

Paper 4

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Sustainability”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
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Statistics at theroundup.org

Sustainability

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Barbara Kingsolver, Small Wonder, 2002

Paper 5

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In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
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You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

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*Oprah Winfrey,
talk show host and television producer*

The purpose of life is not to be happy. The purpose of life is to matter, to be productive, to have it make some difference that you lived at all.

*Leo Rosten,
American writer and humourist*

Life's Purpose

We are in the early days of the AI revolution, and a lot of people are panicking about what it will mean for their livelihoods. While that is an important problem to solve, the deeper problem is how we will find purpose – so that we not only survive but thrive. Without a sense of purpose, we ultimately become just consumers, dopamine addicts to a world that no longer needs us.

*Giovanni Dienstmann,
“Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Purpose”
at highermind.com/blog*

Paper 6

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Art and Society”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

There are two kinds of truth: the truth that lights the way and the truth that warms the heart. The first of these is science, and the second is art.

Raymond Chandler, in The Notebooks of Raymond Chandler (1976)

Drawing is not what one sees, but what one can make others see.

Edgar Degas

When it comes to art and social change, there are really no limits. Art can be used as a form of protest, to raise awareness about important issues, and even to call for change and social justice. For centuries now, artists have been using their creativity to shed light on the world's problems and fight for justice. And today, more than ever before, we need art that speaks truth to power.

“Artists as Agents of Social Change Past and Present” by Lee Down from artsartistsartwork.com

Art and Society

It has been discovered that visual arts, including paintings and sculptures, are especially good at illustrating cultural symbols and stories that capture the distinct identity of a certain society. It was also observed that dance and music might encapsulate the spirit of local customs and forge emotional bonds between disparate groups. Theatre and literature have become effective storytelling and narrative exploration platforms for cultural identity. The participants discovered that engaging with characters from different ethnic origins through theatre and reading a variety of literary works promoted a greater understanding of diversity.

Al-Zadjali, Z. (2024) “The Significance of Art in Revealing a Culture’s Identity and Multiculturalism”

Art is not the possession of the few who are recognized writers, painters, musicians; it is the authentic expression of any and all individuality.

John Dewey, in Time and Individuality (1940)

EKSĀMENS ANĢĻU VALODĀ

(augstākais mācību satura apguves līmenis)

Mutvārdu daļa, 2. diena

Skolotāja materiāls

Pie izglītojamajiem un personām, kuras piedalās eksāmena nodrošināšanā, no brīža, kad viņiem ir pieejams eksāmena materiāls, līdz eksāmena norises beigām nedrīkst atrasties ierīces (planšetdators, piezīmjdators, viedtālrunis, viedpulkstenis u. c. saziņas un informācijas apmaiņas līdzekļi), kuras nav paredzētas Valsts pārbaudes darbu norises darbību laikos.

2026

Paper 7

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Privacy in the Digital Age”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

There are public lives, personal lives, and private lives. The public life is the one everyone sees in your daily routine; the personal one you reveal to your family and closest friends, but your private life, that's just what you know about yourself, what you hide from everyone else.

Lisa Jackson, in Deep Freeze, 2005

A child born today will grow up with no conception of privacy at all. They'll never know what it means to have a private moment to themselves – an unrecorded, unanalysed thought. And that's a problem because privacy matters; privacy is what allows us to determine who we are and who we want to be.

Edward Snowden, former intelligence contractor for the U.S. government, 2013

Privacy in the Digital Age

Frankly, it's too late to put the privacy genie back in the bottle. For example, your smartphone is constantly tracking you. The best you can do is minimize your exposure by turning off location tracking services. If you're serious about protecting your privacy from your smartphone, you can switch to privacy-first mobile operating systems such as e/OS. I could give far more examples, but there's no point. Today, unless you go totally off-grid, you'll never have the privacy people took for granted at the end of the 20th century.

Steven J. Vaughan Nichols, Privacy died last century, the only way to go is off-grid

The human animal needs a freedom seldom mentioned, freedom from intrusion. He needs a little privacy quite as much as he wants understanding or vitamins or exercise or praise.

Phyllis McGinley, "A Lost Privilege," in The Province of the Heart (1959)

Analysing how customers interact on social media and how they react to different posts can help in marketing strategies. At present, marketing cannot perform too big without a digital social presence. So, in marketing data collection, data from social media also counts. It helps companies understand the latest trends and gauge sentiments.

Marketing Data Collection: Reality of Marketing Success, inputix.com

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. What do McGinley's words imply?
3. As technology advances, what steps could be made to protect privacy?

Paper 8

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Reputation”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

If one's reputation is a possession, then of all my possessions, my reputation means most to me. Nothing comes even close to it in importance.

Arthur Ashe, the opening words of Days of Grace: A Memoir (1993)

It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently.

Warren Buffett, an American investor and philanthropist

- 98% of individuals look at reviews for local businesses (which is everyone).
- Over 90% of people are more likely to visit a business with good reviews, and 86% trust online reviews as much as recommendations from friends or family.
- It's a myth that only very happy or very upset customers leave reviews; only 4% of consumers have never written a review.

electroiq.com/stats/reputation-management-statistics/

Reputation

Our research shows that 21% of people have been harmed by their online reputation, whether it's losing out on a new job or a promotion, damaging a friendship, or having difficulty finding a romantic partner. Information online can be surprisingly persistent. A University of Washington study in 2022 found that 63% of deleted online content remains retrievable through various means.

Jennifer Bridges, 7 new eye-opening statistics about online reputation for 2024, www.reputationdefender.com/blog/

Reputation management is the process of monitoring, maintaining, and improving a company's or individual's reputation both online and offline. It involves managing public perceptions, opinions, and feedback to build a positive image and maintain a strong reputation. Effective reputation management strategies include monitoring online mentions, responding to reviews, and engaging with customers on social media.

Simon Wadsworth, reputations.org.uk/blog/

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. What do Warren Buffett's words warn us about?
3. Should an employer have access to all of a person's social media activity before they offer the person a job?

Paper 9

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Learning in the Information Age”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

The Information Age offers much to mankind, and I would like to think that we will rise to the challenges it presents. But it is vital to remember that information – in the sense of raw data – is not knowledge, that knowledge is not wisdom, and that wisdom is not foresight. But information is the first essential step to all of these.

Arthur C. Clarke, in “Humanity will survive information deluge” (2003)

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

Alvin Toffler (1928–2016), an American writer, futurist and businessman

Educational technology promises depend on access, making digital equity a 2025 priority. Mobile learning, boosted by expanding 5G, offers flexibility, while AI tools like speech recognition support students with disabilities. A \$42.5 billion initiative launched in 2023 aims to connect rural schools, yet 258 million children globally still lack basic digital access [UNESCO, 2024].

From axonpark.com/education-technology-trends-for-2025

In recent years, we are seeing more of an acknowledgement that learning takes many forms; there is not just one way to go about it. One way schools can allow students to discover what works best for their individual personalities is by moving away from lectures and toward a collaborative learning model, which focuses on small group exploration more than formal instruction by one teacher.

Education Trends for the Upcoming School Year: 2024-2025, ghent.com/blog/

Learning in the Information Age

Life is an open book test. Learning how to learn is your most valuable skill in the online world.

Mark Cuban, American entrepreneur and investor

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. How can we interpret Toffler's quote?
3. How can we make sure that the information we find online really helps us learn and think better?

Paper 10

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Leadership”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without the strategy.

Norman Schwarzkopf, an American General

The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers.

Ralph Nader, an American political activist, author, lawyer, consumer advocate

Courage is the main quality of leadership, in my opinion, no matter where it is exercised. Usually it implies some risk – especially in new undertakings. Courage to initiate something and to keep it going, pioneering and adventurous spirit to blaze new ways, often, in our land of opportunity.

Walt Disney

Leadership

Leadership is a journey. But are organisations doing enough to develop their leaders? Let's look at the stats.

- Only 29% of employees say their leader is ready to embrace outside ideas and practices.
- 63% of employees feel they aren't receiving enough leadership training for future roles.
- 58% of employees say they would stay longer at a company that offers leadership growth opportunities.

Companies that invest in leadership development are far more likely to achieve financial success.

Surprising Leadership Statistics To Take Note Of (2025), elearningindustry.com

The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.

Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. To what extent do you agree with Ralph Nader?
3. How can schools create more opportunities for students to practise real leadership?

Paper 11

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of "Social Activism".

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
- present your arguments, supporting them with information from the material provided;
- draw conclusions on the topic.

You have 20 minutes to prepare your talk. You can make notes on the paper.

To really change the world, we have to help people change the way they see things. Global betterment is a mental process, not one that requires huge sums of money or a high level of authority. Change has to be psychological. So if you want to see real change, stay persistent in educating humanity on how similar we all are rather than different.

Suzy Kassem, Rise Up and Salute the Sun: The Writings of Suzy Kassem (2011)

The secret message communicated to most young people today by the society around them is that they are not needed, that the society will run itself quite nicely until they – at some distant point in the future – will take over the reins. Yet the fact is that the society is not running itself nicely, because the rest of us need all the energy, brains, imagination and talent that young people can bring to bear on our difficulties.

Alvin Toffler, an American writer, futurist and businessman

In terms of benefits, social media has enabled social movements to amass large amounts of success. The online world provides the power to organise without any formal organisations, which speeds up the process of mobilisation and allows for greater scale in rapid time frames. Additionally, these online movements are able to sustain attention across borders, something that was not possible before.

Social Media and Social Movements from moveme.studentorg.berkeley.edu

Social Activism

There is also the phenomenon of "slacktivism" or "clicktivism" which refers to superficial political engagement through social media, where users only show political support by "liking" or sharing content without actually engaging in real action in the physical world.

Rachimoellah, M. (2024), Digital activism and political change

While digital transformation has revolutionized activism, it also presents challenges and ethical considerations. Issues like online harassment, misinformation, and privacy concerns have emerged as significant obstacles. Furthermore, questions surrounding the ethics of digital activism, such as hacktivism and cyber-attacks, require careful examination.

Laksana, M. W., & Abduh, M. (2023), The power of social movements

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. Who does Suzy Kassem mean by saying that 'global betterment is a mental process'?
3. How can digital activism truly create change?

Paper 12

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Space Exploration”.

Read the materials below and select at least three points and opinions that you will use to support your argument. You can use other ideas as well, but you must discuss the ideas you selected from the material first. After your talk, you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.

In your talk:

- introduce the topic and outline the structure of your talk;
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The crossing of space may do much to turn men's minds outwards and away from their present tribal squabbles. In this sense, the rocket, far from being one of the destroyers of civilization, may provide the safety-value that is needed to preserve it.

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I don't think the human race will survive the next thousand years, unless we spread into space. There are too many accidents that can befall life on a single planet. But I'm an optimist. We will reach out to the stars.

Stephen Hawking, 2001

Even if there are benefits to space exploration, spending so much money and effort in reaching other planets is highly questionable. That money and brain power could be used to solve other more important problems for us. For instance governments could invest much more to prevent global warming, reduce crime rates and find a cure for cancer or Alzheimer's Disease.

*Space exploration pros and cons: Are space programs a waste of money?
From netivist.org/debate*

Space Exploration

In this new era of human spaceflight, NASA is contributing to economies locally and nationally, fuelling growth in industries that will define the future, and supporting tens of thousands of new jobs in America. With an investment of just one-half of 1% of the federal budget, NASA generates significant total economic output annually. This study confirms and puts numbers to what we have long understood – that taxpayer investment in America's space program yields tremendous returns that strengthen our nation on several fronts – a stronger economy, advances in science and technology, and improvements to humanity.

Jim Bridenstine, NASA administrator

In 2024, global government expenditure for space programs hit a record of approximately 135 billion U.S. dollars. The United States Government spent around 79.7 billion U.S. dollars on its space programs in that year, making it the country with the highest space expenditure in the world. The U.S. was followed by China, with expenditure of over 19 billion U.S. dollars.

Statista Research Department, 2025

Now, I am going to ask you three questions about the topic. Justify your opinions:

1. What criteria did you use to select the most relevant information for your talk? Why?
2. What does the quote by Stephen Hawking imply?
3. Is the amount of money currently invested in space exploration reasonable?

Paper 7

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of “Privacy in the Digital Age”.

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Marketing Data Collection: Reality of Marketing Success, inputix.com

Paper 8

Prepare a 5-minute talk on the topic of "Reputation".

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Simon Wadsworth, reputations.org.uk/blog/

Paper 9

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From axonpark.com/education-technology-trends-for-2025

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Paper 10

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Paper 12

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*Space exploration pros and cons:
Are space programs a waste of money?
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Space Exploration

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Jim Bridenstine, NASA administrator

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Statista Research Department, 2025

