

Name: _____

Maturitätsprüfungen Englisch 2010

Klassen: 4A (Wr), 4Ba (Ka), 4Bb (Lp), 4GL (Fu), 4I (Se), 4LW (Ka), 4MS (EG),
4Sb (Wr), 4W (Wr), 4WZ (HM)

Prüfungsdauer: 4 Stunden

Erlaubte Hilfsmittel: ein- oder zweisprachiges Wörterbuch für das Essay

Content

A. Comprehension and Grammar (50 %) (approx. 120 mins.)

I. Reading Comprehension: Language 15 pts.

Comprehension Questions 23 pts.

II. Grammar 34 pts.

Total A 72 pts. = Mark 1

B. Essay (50 %) (approx. 120 mins.)

Content: 50 %

Language: 50 %

Total B = Mark 2

Final Mark: 50 % (Mark 1) + 50 % (Mark 2)

All the best!

S. Furnivall
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Y. Kaspar
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H. Stone
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A. Comprehension and Grammar

I. Reading Comprehension

A. Read the following text and answer the questions on pages 6 - 8.



Different Approaches to Homeschooling

The Romeikes are not your typical asylum seekers. They did not come to the U.S. to flee war or despotism in their native land. No, these music teachers left Germany because they didn't like what their children were learning in public school — and because homeschooling is illegal there.

5 "It's our fundamental right to decide how we want to teach our children," says Uwe Romeike, an Evangelical Christian and a concert pianist who sold his treasured Steinway to help pay for the move.

Romeike decided to uproot his family in 2008 after he and his wife had collected about \$10,000 in fines for homeschooling their three oldest children and police had turned up at their doorstep and escorted them to school. "My kids were crying, but nobody seemed to care," Romeike says of the incident.
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So why did he seek asylum in the U.S. rather than relocate to nearby Austria or another European country that allows homeschooling? Romeike's wife Hannelore tells TIME the family was contacted by the Virginia-based Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), which suggested they go to the U.S. and settle in Morristown, Tenn. The nonprofit organization, which defends the rights of the U.S. homeschooling community — with its estimated 2 million children, or about 4% of the total school-age population — is expanding its overseas outreach. And on Jan. 26, the HSLDA helped the Romeikes become the first people granted asylum in the U.S. because they were persecuted for homeschooling.
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The ruling is tricky politically for Washington and its allies in Europe, where several countries — including Spain and the Netherlands — allow homeschooling only under exceptional circumstances, such as when a child is extremely ill. Legal observers say it is likely that the federal government will appeal the Romeike ruling, which was issued by an immigration judge in Memphis, Tenn. His unprecedented decision has raised concerns that the already heavily overburdened immigration courts will be flooded with asylum petitions from homeschoolers in countries typically regarded as having nonrepressive governments.
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"It's very unusual for people from Western countries to be granted asylum in the U.S.," says David Piver, an immigration attorney with offices in a Philadelphia suburb and Flagstaff, Ariz. In 2008, the

most recent year for which data are available, only five Germans received asylum in the U.S. (The Justice Department declined to comment on specific cases.) "The U.S. government will come under political pressure to appeal the Romeike case so as not to offend a close ally," says Piver, who is not involved in the case.

Successful asylum petitions typically involve applicants whose situations are more dire, such as women who were forced to undergo abortions or genital mutilation and men whose lives were threatened because they are homosexuals or political dissidents. But Piver believes the Memphis judge was right to grant the Romeikes asylum, since the law covers social groups with "a well-founded fear of persecution" in their home country.

In Germany, mandatory school attendance dates back to 1717, when it was introduced in Prussia, and the policy has traditionally been viewed as a social good. "This law protects children," says Josef Kraus, president of the German Teachers' Association. The European Court of Human Rights agrees with him. In 2006, the court threw out a homeschooling family's case when it deemed Germany's compulsory-schooling law as compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, an international treaty drafted in 1950. Under these circumstances, it's little wonder the Romeikes came up against a wall of opposition when they tried to talk to their school principal about the merits of homeschooling.

One of the Romeikes' concerns was about their kids getting bullied. But their main objection involved what was being taught in the classroom. "The curriculum goes against our Christian values," Uwe says. "German schools use textbooks that force inappropriate subject matter onto young children and tell stories with characters that promote blasphemy and disrespect."

While there are no official figures, it's estimated that up to 1,000 German families are homeschooling their children. Elisabeth Kuhnle, a spokeswoman for a German advocacy group called the Network for the Freedom of Education, says a recent homeschooling meeting attracted about 50 families in the state of Baden-Württemberg, where the Romeikes used to live. She also reckons many German homeschooling families have relocated to countries like France and Britain, where homeschooling is allowed.

In 2007, Germany's Federal Supreme Court issued a ruling — which did not specifically involve the Romeikes — that parents could lose custody of their children if they continued to homeschool them. "We were under constant pressure, and we were scared the German authorities would take our children away," Romeike says. "So we decided to leave and go to the U.S."

German officials, for their part, note that the Romeikes had other options. "If parents don't want to send their children to a public school, they can send them to alternative private schools," says Thomas Hilsenbeck, a spokesman for the Baden-Württemberg education ministry. Homeschooling advocates counter that there are few private schools in Germany, and they tend to be expensive. But beyond that, many religious parents have problems with sex education and other curricular requirements. "Whether it's a state school or a private school, there's still a curriculum that is forced onto children," says Kuhnle.

And then there are the social aspects of going to school. Homeschooling parents tend to want to shield their children from negative influences. But this desire often runs counter to the idea that schools represent society and help promote tolerance. "No parental couple can offer a breadth of education [that can] replace experienced teachers," says Kraus, of the German Teachers' Association. "Kids also lose contact with their peers."

Concerns that homeschooling could lead to insularity — or worse, as Kraus puts it, "could help foster the development of a sect" — are shaping policy debates in European countries. In Britain, for example, Parliament is considering legislation that would create a new monitoring system to ensure that homeschooled kids get a suitable education.

In Sweden, where parents have to apply for permission to teach their children at home, the govern-
75 ment is planning to impose even tougher restrictions on homeschoolers. And in Spain, parents are not
allowed to educate their children at home. If a child has special needs that prevent him from attending
school, a teacher will be sent to his home.

By contrast, homeschooling is legal in all 50 U.S. states, some of which don't require families to no-
tify authorities of their intent to teach their children at home. Tennessee is among the states that require
80 some form of notice as well as periodic assessment tests.

When Uwe and Hannelore heard that the judge had ruled in their favor, they celebrated by taking
their five children — who range in age from 4 to 12 — to Baskin-Robbins for ice cream. But the next
day, they were back to their regular schedule. Lessons start at 9 a.m. and end at around 4 p.m. The
school-age kids are learning all the usual subjects — math, science, etc. — with the help of textbooks
85 and other teaching materials, in compliance with state law. The family has also joined a local group
that organizes activities and field trips once a week for homeschooled children. Meanwhile, the
HSLDA says it is working to defend a homeschooling family in Sweden and is investigating cases in
Brazil, where homeschooling is banned.

adapted from:

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1968099-1,00.html> / (28 February 2010)

Notes Reading Comprehension:

B. Language

1. Give a contextual synonym or explain in your own words the meaning of the following words as they appear in the text: (1 point each)

a. to uproot (l. 7)

b. mandatory (l. 37)

c. schedule (l. 83)

2. Give a contextual antonym for the following: (1 point each)

a. expanding (l. 16)

b. allies (l. 19)

c. to decline (l. 29)

3. Give the verb from which the following words are derived: (1 point each)

a. abortion (l. 33)

b. opposition (l. 43)

c. suitable (l. 73)

4. Paraphrase the underlined parts:

a. rather than relocate to nearby Austria (l. 11)

(2 points)

b. parents tend to want to shield their children from negative influences (l. 65/66)

(2 points)

c. to impose even tougher restrictions (l. 75)

(2 points)

C. Comprehension Questions

1. Multiple Choice Questions: Tick the correct answers and cross the wrong answers.

½ point for each correct choice

- a. The Romeikes left Germany because
- homeschooling in Germany is illegal.
 - they were afraid of losing their children.
 - their children were being bullied.
 - they had had to sell their Steinway piano.
 - they didn't want to be punished for homeschooling anymore.
- b. Parents teaching their children at home
- is allowed in some states of the US.
 - is forbidden in Brazil.
 - is allowed in Spain under certain conditions.
 - is getting less and less complicated in Sweden.
 - are not treated equally in Austria and the Netherlands.

2. Answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible and in full sentences. Keep the whole text in mind when answering the questions. No points will be awarded for repeated answers. Up to six points will be awarded for the quality of your language.

a. What have - so far - been the most common reasons to be granted asylum in the US? 3 pts.

b. Why do the Romeikes refuse to send their children to school? 2 pts.

c. Why did the Romeikes emigrate to the United States and not to another country? 2 pts.

d. What are the German officials' arguments that speak against homeschooling by parents? 5 pts.

II. Grammar

- A. Read through the following newspaper article. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form and write them into the gap. Do not add any other words. (½ point each)

Americans stock up to be ready for end of the world

Recession and the constant threat of terrorist attacks have given new life to the ingrained survivalist instinct

Tess Pennington, 33, is a mother of three children, and (1. live) _____ in the sprawling outskirts of Houston, Texas. But she is not taking the happy safety of her suburban existence lightly.

Like a growing army of fellow Americans, Pennington is learning how to grow her own food, has stored emergency rations in her home, and over the past months she (2. take) _____ courses on treating sickness with medicinal herbs.

"I feel safe and more secure. I have taken personal responsibility for the safety of myself and of my family," Pennington said. "We have decided to be prepared. There are all kinds of disasters that can happen, natural and man-made. And when disaster (3. strike) _____, it (4. not, catch) _____ us unawares."

Pennington is a "prepper", part of a growing social movement that has been dubbed Survivalism Lite. Preppers believe that it is better to be safe than sorry and that preparing for disaster – be it a hurricane or the end of civilisation – makes sense.

Unlike the 1990s survivalists, preppers come from all backgrounds and live all over America. They are just as likely (5. find) _____ in a suburb or downtown loft as on a remote ranch in the mountains.

Prepping networks, which (6. spring up) _____ all over the country in the past few years, provide advice on how to prepare food reserves, how to grow crops in your garden, how to hunt and how to defend yourself.

John Milandred runs a website called Pioneer Living, which is one of the main forums for (7. discuss) _____ prepping. It provides a range of advice for those who just want to store extra food in case of a power cut, to those who want to embrace the "off the grid" lifestyle of America's western pioneers.

Milandred lives in Oklahoma and, should society collapse around him, he is well placed to flourish. Indeed, he might not notice that much. His house has a hand-dug well that gives him fresh water. He grows his own food. He can hunt for meat. "If something happened, it really (8. not, affect) _____ us," he said.

There are several reasons for the rise of prepping. The first is that, in the post-9/11 world, mass terror attacks (9. become) _____ a fear for many Americans. At a time when US diplomacy is focused on preventing Iran from (10. get) _____ nuclear weapons and terror experts continue (11. warn) _____ of "dirty bombs" on American soil, it is no surprise that many Americans feel (12. threaten) _____. Added to that paranoia has come the recession. Suddenly, millions of Americans have been losing their jobs and their homes, (13. reinforce) _____ a feeling that society is not as stable as it once (14. seem) _____.

"Prepping masks a wide range of stances and ideologies. But the more people are prepared, the more they are likely (15. have) _____ an apocalyptic way of thinking," said Professor Barry Brummett, of the University of Texas-Austin.

Even government officials have accepted that the financial crisis posed a threat to social order. In testimony before Congress, treasury secretary Tim Geithner admitted that a year ago top-level talks (16. hold) _____ on whether the US could enforce law and order in the wake of a collapse of the financial system.

Certainly, Tom Martin agrees. He runs the American Preppers Network, which helps provide a wide range of resources. Martin, a truck driver who lives in Idaho, believes that more and more people (17. become) _____ preppers. Talking to me last week he was sure that millions of people (18. have) _____ the mindset to be prepared for something, but they (19. not, know) _____ what to call it.

Currently Pennington (20. set up) _____ a website called Ready Nutrition, which teaches basic food skills to prepare for a time when pre-packaged goods at a supermarket might not be available: "Prepping is not taboo, like survivalism. There is no negative connotation to it. We are not rednecks." As an afterthought she added that in many ways, our ancestors (21. be) _____ preppers; and so (22. Native Americans, be) _____. Many would agree with her that prepping just (23. mean) _____ going back to (24. be) _____ able to look after oneself.

adapted from an article by Paul Harris in The Observer, Sunday 14 February 2010

B. Complete the second sentence using the word given so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (1 point each)

1. It is no problem for me to walk the five kilometres to school.

USED

I _____ the five kilometres to school.

2. This painting will take me half a year to complete.

BE

This painting _____ in half a year.

3. Would it bother you if you couldn't smoke in here?

MIND

Would _____ in here?

4. You should have called her and not just cancelled the meeting by sending a text message.

INSTEAD

_____ you should have called her.

5. Jamie is more thoughtful than Maggie.

AS

Maggie _____ Jamie.

6. They managed to reach the summit of the mountain before it got dark.

SUCCEEDED

They _____ the summit of the mountain before it got dark.

7. She hasn't seen her grandparents for 15 years.

AGO

She last _____ her grandparents _____.

8. Mike couldn't lift the suitcase. It was too heavy for him.

LIFT

The suitcase was _____ for Mike _____.

9. You are not allowed to take off your helmet.

MUST

Helmets _____ at all times.

10. Jimmy plays football for Togo. Togo has never had a taller footballer than him.

TALLEST

Jimmy is _____ has ever played for Togo.

C. Correct the mistake in the following sentences.

(1 point each)

1. It is typical for Alex to have forgotten my birthday.
2. You haven't to come to my concert tomorrow if you don't want to.
3. What I like about my dog is that he is always eating the food I give him.
4. Wait a second - I carry that heavy bag for you.
5. Congratulations on your birthday! Now that you are 18 you can do all what you want.
6. Maureen's wedding party must have be exciting. Everybody is talking about it.
7. Unless he had been speeding, he would have been fined by the police.
8. Returning from his first day at work, the telephone rang.
9. I like the changing of the seasons, but the summer is my favourite.
10. Robin and Gina finally decided to get married, what pleased us all.
11. I couldn't find out what she thought was wrong with this apples.
12. He told me that you will send me an invitation by the end of last week.



Now hand in all the sheets of part A in order to get part B (essay topics). For the essay you can use your dictionary.

B. Essay

- Choose one of the following topics to write an essay of 400 - 550 words.
- Hand in a fair copy.
- Count your words and state the number at the bottom of this sheet.

1. I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education. (Wilson Mizner, US screenwriter, 1876 - 1933)

Discuss.

2. I never think of the future - it comes soon enough. (Albert Einstein, 1879 - 1955)

Discuss.

3. We live in an increasingly lawless generation, but making more and more laws will not solve the problem.

Discuss.

4. Press photography: designed to shock or to inform?

What function should press photography have in times of war?

5. Locked Up

Create a fictional text.

Words:



Attach all the sheets you have written on to the task sheet with the paperclip and hand them in. All the sheets you have not used go onto another pile.