



Prüfungsaufgaben der schriftlichen Matura 2004

Fach: Englisch

Klassen 8A, 8B, 8D, 8E (Eugen Nägele, Ulrike Mayer, Oscar Wüst, Martin Matt)

Part I: Comprehension

The Nanny State

By the time they get to school, it's too late. The realisation that neglectful parenting in a child's earliest years can ruin its chances for life is shaping a new, expensive and interventionist approach to families in Britain. The government has increased spending on financial support to children by 64 %, to £24 billion, since

5 Labour came to power in 1997. In the latest splurge, it announced an extra £1 billion for childcare, advice for struggling parents and cash benefits. Intervention in infancy is increasingly popular in America and in Europe, among all shades of opinion. Most leftwingers accept that bad parenting is not only about poverty; most conservatives accept that working mothers are not its sole cause.

10 Disadvantage is clearly passed on early, and not just through the genes. There is evidence that, by the time they get to school, many dim two-year-olds from good homes have overtaken bright children from bad ones. Being read to, played with, properly fed and cuddled all hugely increase the likelihood of success in later life. Conversely, bad parenting increases the risks of everything from dropping out of

15 school to illness, and eventually jail. The problems are working out what to do and then making it happen. The British approach, under the overall title Sure Start, has several strands. One, aimed at 400'000 children in the poorest fifth of the country, is, in effect, supplemental parenting: free places in high-quality nurseries and creches, coupled with energetic advice-giving, a new network of children's centres, and home

20 visits of volunteers. Then there is the general expansion of nursery education. Already every four-year-old has the right to 2 ½ hours of state-financed nursery care a day. In 2004 that will include three-year-olds. Third is the plan to cut child poverty by a quarter by next year, and "end" it in 2020. But poverty, like cruelty, is hard to define. The government's definition, based on 60% of the median income, is a

25 shifting target: as earnings rise, so does poverty. Moreover, not all cash-strapped parents are bad at raising children.

Nonetheless, the government has energetically raised family benefits and tax credits. The poorest 20% of families with children, it says, will be £2'900 a year better off in real terms than before Labour took power in 1997. For single-earners with two or
30 more children, policies are even more redistributive.
The money and effort that have gone into improving life for Britain's infants 35 are the government's proudest boasts – especially as other public-service reforms are looking increasingly tattered and battered. But problems lurk behind the determination. For a start, these policies are not necessarily compatible. Generous
35 benefits distort the labour market and may encourage feckless behaviour.
F. Fields, a Labour MP, notes that benefits for single mothers penalise those in stable relationships, which are clearly associated with good parenting.
Encouraging mothers of young children to find jobs is another good thing: it benefits both them and the family budget. But if it means their children are
40 dumped in front of the telly at a cheap childminder, the kids may be worse off than if they were at home with mum.
The government's unwillingness to pass judgement on bad parents also weakens this approach. The rhetoric around Sure Start is swathed with waffle about "inclusivity" and being "non-judgemental". "I don't have the right to call someone a
45 bad parent," says Jane Cole, a senior Sure Start adviser. But studies of similar intervention in early childhood in America show it works best when programmes clearly tell parents what to do and why.
Sure Start has almost nothing to say about the benefits of reading aloud, or the perils of too much television. According to a sceptic close to the scheme, there is too much
50 about boosting parents' self-esteem and too little attention to making a real difference to children's lives.
That leads on to the biggest question of all: whether this sort of intervention works. The statistical evidence from well-established programmes in America is at best mixed: the children in greatest need tend to benefit least. A big study due out in
55 2006 will answer the question definitively, but Krista Kafer of the Heritage Foundation, an American think-tank, fears that "all it really does is make us feel better as a society". Scandinavian countries have spent heavily on infants for decades, and the inheritance of disadvantage seems to have decreased – though it is difficult to prove that the two are connected. The British government's splurge on
60 children is based on the hope that they are.

from: The Economist, December 20th 2003

Annotations:

- l. 5 splurge = an act of spending a lot of money on something you do not really need
- l. 33 tattered = in bad condition
- l. 33 lurk = to be present, but not in an obvious way
- l. 43 swathed = to wrap or cover something in something
- l. 43 waffle = language that uses a lot of words but does not say anything important

1. Vocabulary: Find the words requested in brackets (only 1st answer accepted)

- I. 4 increased (antonym) _____
- I. 8 poverty (antonym) _____
- I. 10 genes (adjective) _____
- I. 11 evidence (synonym) _____
- I. 13 likelihood (synonym) _____
- I. 13 success (verb) _____
- I. 23 to cut (synonym) _____
- I. 36 penalise (noun) _____
- I. 42 weakens (antonym) _____
- I. 48 perils (synonym) _____
- I. 48 benefit (noun) _____
- I. 60 hope (adverb) _____

2. Define the following expressions using your own words (in full sentences)

II. 1-2 neglectful parenting:

I. 8 leftwingers:

I. 25 a shifting target:

II. 33/34 lurk behind the determination:

I. 50 boosting parents' self-esteem:

I. 56 think-tank:

3. Answer these questions in complete sentences using your own words

a) What are – for the writer – successful criteria for a positive development of children?

b) What is “Sure Start” and what does it want to achieve?

Part II: Grammar

1. Finish each of the sentences in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence printed above it

a) "Boys, please, don't make such a mess in your room.", their mother said.
Their mother asked _____

b) Although he is intelligent, he does not do well at school.
Despite _____

c) They managed to return to London five months later.
They succeeded _____

d) I regret not having gone to the airport to say good-bye.
I wish _____

e) Anne always did the crossword puzzle first when she got the newspaper.
Anne used _____

f) They took away his passport so that he would not leave the country.
They prevented _____

2. Put each verb in brackets into a suitable tense

a) Be quiet! I am busy; I (work) on the computer
and I (think) hard!

b) My friend (know) the answer to every
question.

c) When I looked round the door, the baby (sleep)
quietly.

d) Ron (be) ill for three weeks. He is still in
hospital.

- e) When Martin (repair) the car he took it out for a drive.
- f) I think you (pass) the exam next week.
- g) We (have) a party next Saturday. We have sent out the invitations.
- h) I will tell Anna the news when I (see) her.
- i) I (wait) for him since ten o'clock and I (stay) here until he arrives.
- j) I am very tired. I (drive) 400 miles today.
- k) If I (know) something about cars, I could change the tires myself.
- l) I(work) in London for 6 years. I (return) last month.

3. Adjust the stem of the word in capitals at the end of each sentence to form one word that fits into the space

- a) In the war in 1776 the Americans fought for DEPEND
- b) It was extremely of you to drive so fast. CARE
- c) Come on, do not act so childishly and be more SENSE
- d) Our secretary is wonderful, she is 100 % RELY
- e) When a lot of workers are out of work, the EMPLOY
rate is high.
- f) They often quarrel because they each other. UNDERSTAND
- g) I hope you have completed this exercise SUCCESS

4. Translate the following sentences

a) Falls man eine Wanderung plant, kommt es selten zu bösen Überraschungen, weil die Wettervorhersagen meistens extrem genau sind.

b) Nachdem wir etwa zwei Stunden unterwegs gewesen waren, erreichten wir ein Restaurant, wo wir das Mittagessen einnahmen.

c) Er wollte wissen, ob diese Informationen richtig waren.

d) Vor ein paar Tagen hat man dem Manager viel Geld angeboten, aber er wollte nicht nach London umziehen. (Passiv)

e) Wir hätten keine Hausaufgaben machen müssen, wenn wir rechtzeitig gewusst hätten, dass der Lehrer schwer krank war.

Part III: Essay

Write a well-structured essay of about 350 words on one of the following subjects. Please count the words in groups of 50 and write the total at the end of your essay. Give your essay your own title.

8A Eugen Nägele und 8B Ulrike Mayer

1. Do you personally think that the state is allowed to intervene in education as strongly as it is suggested in the “Sure Start” programme?
2. The modern family of the future. What will it look like?
3. Shakespeare’s play Macbeth deals, among others, with the opposition and the war against the tyrant Macbeth. From the very first signs of opposition, the knights fight with God’s help:

“God’s bension go with you, and with those
That would make good of bad, and friends of foes.” (II, 4, 40 ff)

or

“[...] Some holy angel
Fly to the court of England and unfold
His message ere he come, that a swift blessing
May soon return to this our suffering country [...].” (III, 6, 46-49)

Malcom is going to “[...] tread upon the tyrant’s head” (IV, 3, 45) and Macduff curses Macbeth as a “[...] hell-hound [...].” (V, 8, 3). The knights fight against a godless tyrant and that is why we can call the war against Macbeth a “holy war”, a “bellum iustum” or a “just war”.

Please discuss the question, if a so called “holy war” or “just war” (“bellum iustum”) is or would be acceptable in our time, at the beginning of the 21st century.

8D Oscar Wüst

1. Do you personally think that the state is allowed to intervene in education as strongly as it is suggested in the “Sure Start” programme?
2. The modern family of the future. What will it look like?
3. Which image of America do you acquire from Fitzgerald’s novel The Great Gatsby? Does this image coincide with what you think about America at present?

8D Martin Matt

1. Do you personally think that the state is allowed to intervene in education as strongly as it is suggested in the "Sure Start" programme?
2. The modern family of the future. What will it look like?
3. In Look Back in Anger we meet Jimmy, quite an extraordinary character. Describe his character and show his relationship to two women of different classes and to two institutions, please.