

Maturitätsprüfung 2003

Englisch

Name:

Class:

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Reading	~ 15 minutes		1
1. Comprehension	~ 30 minutes	40	2
2. Vocabulary	~ 15 minutes	25	2
3. Essay	~ 45 minutes	60	4
4. Grammar	~ 60 minutes	75	4-6
Reading over	~ 15 minutes		
Total:	180 minutes	200	

Please note:

- Write your name and your class on **every** sheet.
- Write **Section 1, 3 and the translation** each on a **separate** sheet of paper. The other exercises are to be written into the spaces provided.
- All questions are to be answered, except for the essay, where you must choose **one** of the three topics.
- Please write legibly and leave a margin of 2 cm on the right of every sheet.

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(Reading time: ~15 minutes)

What the Internet cannot do

“It is impossible that old prejudices and hostilities should longer exist, while such an instrument has been created for the exchange of thought
5 between all the nations of the earth.” Thus Victorian enthusiasts, acclaiming the arrival in 1858 of the first transatlantic telegraph cable. People say that sort of thing
10 about new technologies, even today. The wildest optimism has greeted the Internet. A whole industry of cybergurus¹ has enthralled audiences (and made a
15 fine living) with exuberant claims that the Internet will prevent wars, reduce pollution, and combat various forms of inequality. However, although the Internet is
20 still young enough to inspire idealism, it has also been around long enough to test whether the prophets can be right.
Grandest of all the claims are
25 those about the Internet’s potential as a force for peace. One guru, Nicholas Negroponte, has declared that, thanks to the Internet, the children of the future “are not going
30 to know what nationalism is”. His colleague, Michael Dertouzos, has written that digital communications will bring “computer-aided peace” which “may help stave off future
35 flare-ups of ethnic hatred and national break-ups”. The idea is that improved communications will reduce misunderstandings and avert conflict.
40 This is not new, alas, any more than were the claims for the peace-making possibilities of other new technologies. In the early years of the 20th century, aeroplanes were
45 expected to end wars, by promoting international communication and (less credibly) by making armies obsolete, since they would be vulnerable to attack from the air.

50 After the First World War had dispelled such notions², it was the turn of radio. “Nation shall speak peace unto nation,” ran the fine motto of Britain’s BBC World
55 Service. Sadly, Rwanda’s³ Radio Mille Collines⁴ disproved the idea that radio was an intrinsically pacific force once and for all.
The mistake people make is to
60 assume that wars are caused simply by the failure of different peoples to understand each other adequately. Indeed, even if that were true, the Internet can also be used to
65 advocate conflict. Hate speech and intolerance flourish in its murkier corners, where governments find it hard to intervene. Although the Internet undeniably fosters
70 communication, it will not put an end to war.
What about the belief that the Internet will reduce inequality? According to a recent study,
75 American households with annual incomes above \$75,000 are more than 20 times as likely to have Internet access as the poorest households. Bill Clinton, struck by
80 the “digital divide” between rich and poor, argues that universal Internet access would help to reduce income inequality.
But, as the cost of using the
85 Internet continues to fall, the true reason for the digital divide will become apparent. The poor are not shunning the Internet because they cannot afford it: the problem is that
90 they lack the skills to exploit it effectively. So it is difficult to see how connecting the poor to the

Internet will improve their finances. It would make more sense to aim
95 for universal literacy than universal Internet access.
Yet, even inequality may, in some cases, be reduced thanks to the Internet. A computer
100 programmer in Bangalore or Siberia can use the Internet to work for a software company in Seattle without leaving home, and can expect to be paid a wage that is
105 closer to that of his virtual colleagues at the other end of the cable. The effect is to reduce income inequality between people doing similar jobs in different
110 countries, but to increase the inequality between information workers in poor countries and their poorest compatriots.
The Internet changes many
115 things. It has had a dramatic impact on the world of business. Firms can now link their systems directly to those of their suppliers and partners, can do business online
120 around the clock, and can learn more than ever about their customers. For individuals, e-mail has emerged as the most important new form of personal
125 communication since the invention of the telephone.
The extent to which the Internet will transform other fields of human endeavour, however, is less
130 certain. Even when everyone on the planet has been connected to the Internet, there will still be wars, and pollution, and inequality. As new gizmos⁵ come and go, human
135 nature seems to remain stubbornly unchanged; despite the claims of the techno-prophets, humanity cannot simply invent away its failings.

From: *The Economist*,
19 August 2000
(721 words)

² to dispel a notion: to prove it wrong
³ Rwanda: African country, notorious for its ethnic conflict between the Hutu and the Tutsi tribes
⁴ Radio Mille Collines: a Hutu radio station that was accused of encouraging the massacre of large parts of Rwanda’s Tutsi population
⁵ gizmo: (inform.) a small piece of equipment, often one that does something in a new and clever way

¹ cybergurus: (derog.) computer experts

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1. Comprehension

(40 points)

Answer **each** of the following questions **in your own words**. Do not copy whole passages from the article. Each answer should be between 40 and 60 words.

You will be awarded a maximum of 8 points for your answer to each question in terms of content and a maximum of 2 additional points for each answer for language use.

- 1) Why do you think the author begins this article by mentioning the first transatlantic telegraph cable?
- 2) What does the writer of the article see as the positive benefits of the Internet?
- 3) In what way does Bill Clinton's view of the Internet support or contradict the author's?
- 4) What conclusion about the potential of the Internet for human progress does the writer reach?

2. Vocabulary

(25 points)

2.1 Meaning from context

(5 points)

Use context clues to determine the meaning of each of the following words (1-5) as used in "What the Internet cannot do". The line numbers are given in parentheses (). Underline the correct definition (a, b, c, or d), giving **only one answer** to each question.

There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Word in text	Line	a)	b)	c)	d)
0) avert	(38)	evolve into	destroy	<u>prevent</u>	encourage
1) acclaiming	(7)	discussing	praising	rejecting	arguing
2) exuberant	(15)	modest	unrealistic	illegal	enthusiastic
3) assume	(60)	believe	doubt	deny	realize
4) flourish	(66)	die slowly	disappear	grow well	exist
5) apparent	(87)	clear	problematic	confused	vague

2.2 Synonyms

(5 points)

In the following sentences (1-5), use **one word** that **fits the gap** and has a **similar meaning** to the word in **CAPITALS**.

There is an example (0) at the beginning.

- 0) Researchers usually **USE** computers in their work. Many programs have been developed over the years to ...**exploit**..... the computer's ability to retrieve and manipulate information. (line 64)
- 1) Faced with strong competition and the increasing popularity of e-mail, US Postal Service will have to **REDUCE** its massive staff and prices. (line 17)
- 2) A special body set up to **COMBAT** worldwide computer crime, now estimated at \$15 billion, has recommended a list of measures to criminal activity on the Internet. (line 17)
- 3) Online business has led to **IMPROVED** efficiency and returns on investments. (line 37)
- 4) His biggest **MISTAKE** was to buy an Internet publishing firm just before the bubble burst. It was an extremely costly (line 59)
- 5) The full **IMPACT** of changes in computer and Internet technology will be felt within the next few years. They will have a significant on our world. (line 115)

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2.3 Antonyms

(5 points)

In the following interview with Emma Potten, complete Emma's part using **one** word that is **opposite in meaning** to the word in **CAPITALS** used by the interviewer, and which **fits the gap** in Emma's answer.

There is an example (0) at the beginning.

- 0) INTERVIEWER: Good morning. On today's programme we have Emma Potten, who works for one of Britain's leading providers of Internet services. Emma, is it still the case that the **MORE** comfortably off you are, the greater the likelihood of your being hooked up to the Net? (line 40)
EMMA: I'm afraid so. The poor are still a lot**less**..... likely to have Internet access.
- 1) INTERVIEWER: There has been talk of the **FAILURE** of British Internet providers to increase their profit margins. How has this situation come about? (line 61)
EMMA: Well, providing Internet services is a highly competitive market in which depends on producing a well-priced product.
- 2) INTERVIEWER: Is the cost of using the Internet set to **FALL**? (line 85)
EMMA: Yes, it looks as if it is. If our data are anything to go by, prices are certainly not going to My expectation is that we will benefit from economies of scale and advertising revenues as more and more people get hooked up.
- 3) INTERVIEWER: It can, of course, be **DIFFICULT** for some people to exploit the Internet effectively. (line 91)
EMMA: Absolutely. There is so much information, and it isn't always to get to the sites you need.
- 4) INTERVIEWER: I take it that a lot of people still **LACK** the skills required to use the Internet. (line 90)
EMMA: True. Fewer people a working knowledge of computers than one would think. Age and income are key factors.
- 5) INTERVIEWER: Is the situation for those in lower income brackets likely to **IMPROVE**? (line 93)
EMMA: I should think so. Our statistics would certainly indicate that it is unlikely to
INTERVIEWER: Emma, Thank you very much.

2.4 Word formation

(10 points)

Complete the following sentences (1-10) using the word given in **CAPITALS** at the end of each line to form **one** word that **fits the gap** in the same line.

There is an example (0) at the beginning.

- 0) He pointed out that neither country was capable of fighting for long and reaffirmed the ..**unlikelyhood**..... of war breaking out. **LIKELY** (line 77)
- 1) During the first 40 years of the UN's there were more than 100 wars around the world. **EXIST** (line 2)
- 2) A meeting of defence ministers from the major countries was held in Geneva to discuss world peace. **INDUSTRY** (line 13)
- 3) We can go to bed happy in the that the warring groups will soon be at peace with each other. **KNOW** (line 30)

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- 4) The various ethnic and religious groups have co-existed for over a hundred years. **PEACE** (line 53)
- 5) The warring factions were enough to agree to discussions and a truce was signed on 25th May. **SENSE** (line 94)
- 6) Although everyone wanted to avoid a large-scale nuclear war, the speed with which negotiators found a solution to the conflict was still rather **EXPECT** (line 104)
- 7) When comparing different cultures, we often pay attention only to the differences without noticing the many **SIMILAR** (line 109)
- 8) I believe that men make war because they are by nature aggressive. **PERSONAL** (line 124)
- 9) In recent years the techniques of warfare have undergone a complete **TRANSFORM** (line 128)
- 10) There is some about what will happen once a ceasefire agreement has been signed. We cannot be sure whether the truce will be followed by a peace treaty or not. **CERTAIN** (line 130)

3. Essay

(60 points)

Choose **one** of the three following topics for an essay (200-300 words).

- 1) Comment on the following quotation: "Improving communication in the world is the only way to avoid wars."
- 2) The future of the book in the age of the computer.
- 3) You live in the year 2103. Describe the latest technological developments and their influence on your daily life.

4. Grammar

(75 points)

4.1 Verb forms (tenses and participles)

(15 points)

Complete the following text by placing the words in brackets in the correct form and order. **Do not** add a noun or a pronoun.

William Shakespeare, who (1) (think) today to be England's greatest dramatist, (2) (be) born of "humble origins" in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564 and (3) (die) a prosperous man in 1616. We (4) (not/know) for sure how Shakespeare (5) (employ) in the first years of his working life, but the most widely (6) (accept) theory is that for several years before he (7) (become) an actor and a playwright in London he (8) (be) a schoolmaster somewhere in the English countryside.

Many great critics and writers, from shortly after Shakespeare's death to the present day, (9) (write) on Shakespeare, including Goethe, and the first scholarly journal (10) (devote) to "the swan of Avon", the *Shakespeare Jahrbuch*, (11) (publish) in Germany for the first time in 1865.

If the performance of *Romeo and Juliet* scheduled for last year at the KSL (12) (not/cancel) at the very last moment, all students (13) (write) this exam (14) (see) at least one Shakespeare play before (15) (leave) our school.

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4.2 Re-phrasing sentences

(20 points)

Complete the second sentence so that it has **the same meaning** as the first sentence, using the word given. Do **not** change the word given. You must use between two and six words, including the word given.

There is an example (0) at the beginning..

- 0) I wonder how she learnt to speak English so well. (like)
I ... ~~would like to know~~ ... how she learnt to speak English so well.
- 1) Wars are caused by the failure of different peoples to understand each other adequately.
Wars are caused each other adequately. (because)
- 2) 10 years ago more people believed that the Internet would be a force for peace than nowadays.
Nowadays there are the Internet (who)
as a force for peace than 10 years ago.
- 3) The Victorian enthusiasts weren't right: hostilities haven't stopped.
If the Victorian enthusiasts stopped. (would)
- 4) What about the belief that the Internet will reduce inequality?
What about the belief that the Internet? (reduced)
- 5) Although the Internet is young, it has been around long enough to prove some prophets wrong.
In, the Internet has been around long (spite)
enough to prove some prophets wrong.
- 6) Companies are getting more and more experienced in doing their business online.
Companies their business online. (used)
- 7) The claims of the techno-prophets may come true only if humanity can invent away its failings.
The claims of the techno-prophets will (long)
humanity cannot invent away its failings.
- 8) A lot of people still like writing letters better than sending e-mails.
A lot of people still e-mails. (prefer)
- 9) Other people don't have any preferences regarding e-mail, telephones and letters.
Other people telephones and letters. (like)
- 10) Many Internet users find it acceptable to send personal information over the Internet unprotectedly.
Many Internet users personal (mind)
information over the Internet unprotectedly.

4.3 Gap filling

(20 points)

Read the following passage and try to think of the word which best fits each gap. Fill each of the numbered gaps (1-20) with **one** suitable word.

The first gap (0) is filled for you.

Eighty years (0) **ago** no one (1) ever heard the word 'robot'. It (2) first used by a Czechoslovakian writer, Karel Capek, (3) the 1920's. He wrote a play about a scientist (4) invents machines that he calls robots, from the Czech word robota, meaning 'slave-like work'. (5) the end of the play, the robots kill their human owners and take (6) the world.

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Science fiction films and books are full of robots that look, and even think, exactly (7) humans. Some people believe it will not be long (8) such machines become a reality. However, advanced electronic machines cannot yet think in the same way (9) a person, and some say they never (10)

Instead (11) being frightening, super-intelligent metal people, simple robots are just machines controlled (12) a computer to work (13) a set way. Many factories rely (14) such robots to carry out the sort of tasks that a human worker (15) certainly find very boring. They are generally deaf, dumb, blind, have no sense of taste, smell or touch, and have no intelligence of (16) own.

On the other hand, more advanced robots have sensors with (17) they can collect information (18) their surroundings. These robots can move (19) place to place, using tiny television cameras to navigate. Many scientists are convinced that robots will soon be intelligent (20) to explore other planets more effectively than humans.

4.4 Translation

(20 points)

Translate the following sentences into idiomatic English. Translate as freely as necessary and as closely as possible.

- 1) Seit vielen Jahren meinen die meisten Optimisten, dass Missverständnisse zwischen den Völkern der Erde vermindert werden können. (2.5 pts)
- 2) Im 20. Jahrhundert behaupteten sie sogar, die positive Kraft der Kommunikationstechnologien werde Kriege verhindern, wenn sie richtig genutzt werde. (2.5 pts)
- 3) Bist du sicher, dass es in der Welt weniger Probleme gäbe, wenn das Internet nicht erfunden worden wäre? (2 pts)
- 4) Du darfst nicht glauben, dass die Welt anders wäre, wenn jedermann einen eigenen Computer hätte. (1.5 pts)
- 5) Nein, ich bin nicht einverstanden, aber ich will trotzdem, dass du dir vorstellst, wie kompliziert das Leben früher war. (2.5 pts)
- 6) Erinnerst du dich, wie du jeden Tag zur Post gingst, um die Post abzuholen? – Nein, ich muss es vergessen haben. (2 pts)
- 7) Wie viel Zeit verbringst du normalerweise vor dem Computer? – Nun, ich surfe oft im Netz herum und ich spiele auch gern. (1.5 pts)
- 8) Und vor einem Jahr, zum Beispiel, half mir der Computer, Informationen für meine Maturaarbeit zu finden. (1.5 pts)
- 9) Übrigens, gestern fand ich eine Seite, die sehr interessant schien. Ich hatte schon jahrelang nach etwas Ähnlichem gesucht. (2 pts)
- 10) In Zukunft werden Übersetzungen wie diese wohl auf einem Computer geschrieben, ohne Fehler. – Meinst du? (2 pts)