

# Maturitätsprüfung 2004

## Englisch

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Reading	~ 15 minutes		1
1. Comprehension	~ 30 minutes	40	2-3
2. Vocabulary	~ 15 minutes	25	4
3. Essay	~ 45 minutes	60	5
4. Grammar	~ 60 minutes	75	6-8
Reading over	~ 15 minutes		
Total:	<b>180 minutes</b>	<b>200</b>	

#### 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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INTERNATIONAL  
Herald Tribune

(Reading time: ~15 minutes)

## The meaning of 'I do'

By Tamar Lewin, *International Herald Tribune*, November 24, 2003

Traditionally, the idea of being a little bit married made no more sense than being a little bit pregnant: You either were or you weren't.

5 But that isn't so black and white anymore. As the courts deal with the issue of same-sex unions, they are reconsidering a fundamental question: What is marriage? And the recent  
10 ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that the state constitution gives gay couples the right to marry opens the way for more litigation<sup>1</sup> over the shades of gray.

15 For more than a decade, European countries have experimented with different forms of Marriage Lite: from the registered partnerships that started in Norway and Denmark to France's  
20 "civil solidarity pacts," which can be dissolved by either party on three months' notice.

The United States, too, has gradually recognized more nontraditional  
25 unions, gay or straight. Many employers, including some state and local governments, extend some benefits to domestic partners. And Vermont recognizes "civil unions" between same-  
30 sex couples.

In different realms – and different political circles – there is now talk of creating new forms of semi-marriages, about blurring<sup>2</sup> the lines between  
35 marriage and cohabitation, even "delegalizing" marriage by taking the state out of the whole business of recognizing private relationships, and leaving people to solemnify their  
40 unions in religious ceremonies or private contracts.

Since the 1960's, marriage rates have declined, while births to unmarried persons, cohabitation and  
45 divorce all increased, along with criticism of marriage as a flawed institution. Cohabitation and out-of-wedlock<sup>3</sup> births are not going away.

In fact, there is evidence that the  
50 United States is becoming a post-marital society. Americans living alone made up 26 percent of all households in the 2000 census, the first in

which single-member households outnumbered married-couple households  
55 with children.

But these days, in part because of the debate over same-sex marriage, the institution of marriage is getting a rosy  
60 rethinking, one that stresses both the profound human yearning for lasting love and the practical benefits that marriage brings to both children and marital partners.

65 "In the last five years, there's been much less written on 'why do we need marriage, it's an oppressive relationship,' and much more on alternative forms of marriage," said Carol Sanger,  
70 who teaches family law at Columbia Law School.

The very idea of alternatives is an unhappy one for conservatives, who maintain that the word "marriage"  
75 must be reserved for the union of men and women. "Whenever we have strayed from the idea of men and women committing themselves permanently in a caring relationship, and  
80 committing themselves to raising their children, that has meant the serious diminishment of well-being for men, women and children," said Glenn Stanton, senior analyst for marriage  
85 and sexuality at Focus on the Family, a conservative group in Colorado.

The most radical structural change being discussed these days is taking the state out of the marriage business  
90 altogether.

"People who wanted religious ceremonies could still have them," Sanger said. "People could also write their own contracts formalizing individual agreements. To some extent,  
95 it's already happening, with prenuptial<sup>4</sup> agreements, and homosexual couples' ceremonies that have nothing to do with the state. We're not used to  
100 thinking of commitment outside marriage, so the social status of other arrangements is unclear."

Most conservatives say that the state must keep its central role in marital  
105 arrangements, both because marriage is such a central institution and, as a practical matter, because when a private union dissolves, the state may

have to decide what becomes of the  
110 children and the property.

"The state has to be involved in marriage," said James Q. Wilson, author of "The Marriage Problem: How Our Culture Has Weakened Families."  
115 "Marriage is the foundation of organized society, our way of coping<sup>5</sup> with intractable<sup>6</sup> problems like getting men to take responsibility for children, managing the allocation<sup>7</sup> of property, settling questions of [child] custody."

Undoubtedly, marriage maintains unique symbolic value. For many homosexuals as well as heterosexuals, a civil union, a commitment ceremony  
125 or a registered partnership simply lacks the emotional, psychological and spiritual weight that centuries of tradition have added to marriage.

Witness the proliferation of same-  
130 sex weddings. "I am part of the first generation of gay people for whom coming out<sup>8</sup> was not a big problem," said Steve Silberman, a San Francisco writer who last summer celebrated his  
135 union with his partner, Keith Karraker. "So when I met a guy I wanted to spend the rest of my life with, and we thought about how to celebrate, the word marriage came to mind because I  
140 never thought of myself as anything other than normal. I wanted the tuxedos<sup>9</sup>, the dancing, the relatives flying in and my mother crying."

But is it marriage, if it is unrecognized by the state? What defines marriage? And what is it for? Procreation? Sex? Property distribution? Religion?

In recent surveys, most Americans say they disagree with the statement  
150 that having children is the main purpose of marriage. At the same time, polls find, most Americans oppose gay marriage.

"We have largely collapsed one  
155 model of marriage, where gendered identities were relatively clear, and we don't know where we are going with whatever the next one is going to be," said Hendrik Hartog, a history professor at Princeton. "We may end up with differing worlds of marriage in differing parts of the country, just as, up to the 1940's, we had differing worlds of divorce in different states."  
(911 words)

<sup>5</sup> coping: dealing

<sup>6</sup> intractable: difficult

<sup>7</sup> allocation: distribution

<sup>8</sup> coming out: admitting you are gay (slang)

<sup>9</sup> tuxedos: formal wear for men

<sup>1</sup> litigation: lawsuit(s)

<sup>2</sup> blurring: making unclear

<sup>3</sup> out-of-wedlock births: children born to parents who are not married

<sup>4</sup> prenuptial: before marriage

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**1. Text comprehension**

**(40 points)**

**1.1 True or false**

**(20 points)**

The following sentences are either true or false. Mark those that are true with a **T**, and those that are false with an **F**. If a sentence is true, give the line(s) where the supporting evidence can be found. If a sentence is false, write one sentence correcting what is false. Two examples have been done for you.

- 00) The state of Vermont recognizes marriages between same-sex couples. **F**  
Vermont only recognizes civil unions between same-sex couples (ll. 28-30).
- 01) Some homosexuals prefer marriage to a civil union because of the former's symbolic value. **T**  
In line 122 it says that "For many homosexuals [...] a civil union [...] lacks the emotional, psychological and spiritual weight that centuries of tradition have added to marriage."
- 1) The American government recognizes the right of all its citizens, heterosexual or homosexual, to marry the person they choose.
- 2) In France and Denmark the state no longer plays a role in marriage.
- 3) Many employers in the United States have extended benefits previously given only to married couples to couples that are not married.
- 4) Marriage as an institution has become increasingly fashionable among young people in the United States.
- 5) There are fewer singles than married people with children in the United States.
- 6) Carol Sanger believes that marriage is an oppressive form of relationship.
- 7) In the state of Massachusetts people can write their own contracts formalizing individual agreements.
- 8) According to many conservatives, the state must step in when marriages fail.
- 9) The author believes that the state must continue to play an essential role in marital arrangements.
- 10) According to Steve Silberman, the centuries-old tradition of marriage presents homosexuals with an unsolvable problem.

**1.2 Multiple choice questions**

**(8 points)**

Please circle the letter before the line that **best** completes the sentence according to the information given in the text.

- 1) "Marriage Lite" is
  - a) an attack on the values of marriage.
  - b) a form of marriage invented in Europe.
  - c) the author's term for a less binding form of relationship than traditional marriage.
  - d) a name given to "gay" marriages.
- 2) According to the text, most Americans
  - a) think procreation is the purpose of marriage.
  - b) tolerate same-sex marriages.
  - c) get divorced at least once in the course of a lifetime.
  - d) believe marriage should be limited to unions between a man and a woman.

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- 3) The right for people to marry regardless of sexual orientation is recognized by
  - a) all societies.
  - b) some San Francisco writers.
  - c) the state constitution of Massachusetts.
  - d) Columbia Law School.
- 4) Taking the state out of marriage is favoured by
  - a) Carol Sanger.
  - b) Glenn Stanton.
  - c) James Q. Wilson.
  - d) Hendrik Hareng.
- 5) Marriage has acquired important symbolic value in the United States because of
  - a) a recent decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.
  - b) an increase in births to unmarried mothers.
  - c) the way we deal with problems like family responsibilities, property and child custody.
  - d) the experiences of many people over several centuries.
- 6) Hendrik Hareng claims that
  - a) marriage laws may soon vary greatly from state to state.
  - b) the concept of gender has lost its meaning.
  - c) the laws governing divorce are not clear enough.
  - d) the traditional model of marriage could collapse in the near future.
- 7) According to the text, conservatives are of the opinion that
  - a) alternatives to marriage are necessary, no matter how unhappy they may seem.
  - b) the state should have no part in marriage at all.
  - c) only heterosexual couples should be allowed to marry.
  - d) we should create new forms of semi-marriages.
- 8) The author claims that the divorce rate in the United States
  - a) has ceased to be a problem because people now live together without marrying.
  - b) has declined in recent years.
  - c) has gone up in this century.
  - d) is higher now than it was forty years ago.

### 1.3 Information in the text

(12 points)

Answer **both** of the following questions **in your own words**. Use only information from the text. Do not use the language of the text unless you place quotations in quotation marks. Please limit your answer to **40 to 60 words** for each question.

- 1) Compare Carol Sanger's views on marriage with those of Glenn Stanton.
- 2) Name the three people in the text who are for marriage and then give the reason(s) for their position as stated in the text.

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**2. Vocabulary**

**(25 points)**

**2.1 Meaning from context**

**(5 points)**

Underline the expression that has approximately **the same meaning** as the given word **as used in the text**. The line numbers are given in parentheses ( ).  
The first example (0) has been done for you.

Word in text	Line	a)	b)	c)	d)
0) declined	(43)	reclined	<u>decreased</u>	refused	subtracted
1) recognized	(24)	accepted	met	noticed	understood
2) flawed	(46)	mistaken	imperfect	bad	dangerous
3) stresses	(60)	worries	pressurizes	emphasizes	burdens
4) raising	(80)	rising	bringing up	growing	lifting
5) altogether	(90)	gradually	in the end	completely	with everyone

**2.2 Synonyms/Paraphrases**

**(5 points)**

Replace each word with a **word or a phrase** that has a **similar meaning** and can be used in the **original context**.

An example (0) has been done for you.

- 0) ruling (line 10) ..... decision .....
- 1) decade (line 15) .....
- 2) gradually (line 23-24) .....
- 3) benefits (line 27) .....
- 4) cohabitation (line 44) .....
- 5) procreation (line 146) .....

**2.3 Antonyms**

**(5 points)**

In each gap put **one word** that is **opposite in meaning** to the word in **CAPITALS** given at the end of each line, and which **fits the gap** in the same line.

One example (0) has been done for you.

- 0) According to recent surveys, most Americans ..... agree ..... with alternative forms of marriage. **DISAGREE** (line 149)
- 1) Her position in the relationship has ..... **WEAKENED** (line 114)
- 2) I am part of the first generation of ..... people for whom coming out was not a big problem. **GAY** (line 131)
- 3) His parents thought it was ..... for a boy to be attracted to other boys. **NORMAL** (line 141)
- 4) Many European countries ..... non-traditional forms of marriage. **OPPOSE** (line 152)
- 5) I think that parents should have ..... views on child care. **DIFFERING** (line 161)

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**2.4 Word formation**

**(10 points)**

In the following sentences (1-10), use **one word** that **fits the gap** and belongs to the **same word family** as the word in **CAPITALS**.

There is an example (0) at the beginning.

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 0) ... <b>Pregnancy</b> ..... is no reason to get married.  | PREGNANT    |
| 1) It used to be ..... for unmarried couples to live together.  | LEGAL       |
| 2) It is ..... a fact that the United States is becoming a post-marital society.  | EVIDENCE    |
| 3) ..... marriages have long ceased to be a custom in Europe.   | ARRANGEMENT |
| 4) The Alaska Court recently rejected arguments in favour of granting an ..... of marital benefits to same-sex couples. | EXTEND      |
| 5) Most people considering a long-term commitment ..... seek out a like-minded partner.                                 | PURPOSE     |
| 6) The ..... role of the church may be the result of Western governments trying to decentralize church power.           | REDUCTION   |
| 7) In some traditional families, fathers are accused of being ..... absent.   | EMOTION     |
| 8) Today many people are against the ..... of the state in marriage.  | INVOLVE     |
| 9) Homosexuals and lesbians often suffer from the fact that there are many people who are ..... of same-sex unions.     | TOLERANCE   |
| 10) Many people want some form of public ..... when they commit themselves to living together.                          | CELEBRATE   |

**3. Essay**

**(60 points)**

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

- 1) Comment on the following quotation: "It is absolutely unreasonable for a person to commit himself or herself to another person for the rest of a lifetime."
- 2) Relationships, marriage and the role of the state.
- 3) Compare modern marriage to marriage 100 years ago.

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**4. Grammar**

**(75 points)**

**4.1 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) There is now talk of creating new forms of semi-marriages.. (want)  
Some people now ..... new forms of semi-marriages.
- 2) The idea of being married isn't so black and white anymore. (used)  
The idea of being married ..... black and white.
- 3) The courts are raising again a fundamental question. (reconsidered)  
A fundamental question ..... the courts.
- 4) Gay partners would often like a traditional wedding, although they aren't accepted as couples in the traditional sense. (spite)  
In ..... as couples in the traditional sense, gay partners would often like a traditional wedding.
- 5) "Because we have strayed from traditional marriages, the well-being of our society has diminished seriously." (not)  
"If we ..... from traditional marriages, the well-being of our society ..... diminished seriously."
- 6) "Don't take the state out of the marriage business altogether", conservatives said to their opponents. (told)  
Conservatives ..... the state out of the marriage business altogether.
- 7) "I regret that the government used the word marriage for same-sex unions." (shouldn't)  
"The government ..... the word marriage for same-sex unions."
- 8) "We are the first generation of gay people for whom coming out was not a problem." (mind)  
"We are the first generation of gay people ..... out."
- 9) A lot of people say that your wedding day is the most beautiful day in your life. (said)  
Your wedding day ..... the most beautiful day in your life.
- 10) David thought that he was not mature enough for marriage. (too)  
David thought that he ..... for marriage.



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**4.2 Verb forms (active and passive 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.

**How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Marriage (part I)**

*Adapted version based on a column by David Swanson*

In two months, on 30 August 2004, it (1) ..... (be) Anna’s and my first wedding anniversary. I (2) ..... (remember) the wedding and the days around it as a wonderful time, even though I (3) ..... (hesitate) to get married. However, I (4) ..... (realize) that my hesitations (5) ..... (caused) by a (6) ..... (misplace) desire for independence and fear of being conformist. If I (7) ..... (not understand) this, I (8) ..... (not get married). I (9) ..... (know) that in the last decades more and more marriages (10) ..... (end) in divorce in this country. Because of that I (11) ..... (consider) the possibility of (12) ..... (make) our commitment an informal and non-legal matter, without the ceremony and the paperwork. Why (13) ..... (Anna and I, need) to have a ceremony and sign forms? With similar promises (14) ..... (break) all the time around us, why (15) ..... (people, should, bother) with one?

**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.

**How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Marriage (part II)**

*Adapted version based on a column by David Swanson*

I expected hard times, and we have had hard times. We had (1) ..... before we married, and even before we decided to live (2) ..... I’m willing to work (3) ..... our relationship, because the knowledge people have gained over thousands of years teaches (4) ..... advantages of doing so. I (5) ..... confess that it doesn’t feel (6) ..... work at all, and promoting marriage (7) ..... others isn’t really fair because nobody (8) ..... will have Anna for a wife. But there is the possibility that other people see something like Anna in (9) ..... lovers or spouses, and that they are mature enough to be ready for marriage. Because I have to admit that some years (10) ..... I was rather immature and that I (11) ..... not have been capable (12) ..... meeting Anna. There were various other reasons (13) ..... I hesitated to get married, concerns I now think were misguided. For one thing, I was bothered (14) ..... the historical tradition of marriage, (15) ..... for so long treated the young woman as property. There’s (16) ..... a detail in the traditional wedding ceremony that lacks that origin. The best man originated as the best man to help kidnap a girl (17) ..... a neighbouring village. The honeymoon was a period of hiding from angry relatives. The “giving her away” by the bride’s father speaks for (18) ..... Anna and I had to work out the details of our ceremony so that we were comfortable that they did not draw on this tradition. We were able to (19) ... so. Marriage is (20) ..... from unique among common practices in having evolved through the ages, and marriage has much more good in its history than evil.

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**4.4 Translation**

**(20 points)**

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

- 1) Wie lange sind deine Eltern schon verheiratet? – Lass mich nachdenken. Sie haben 1980 geheiratet. Das heisst, sie leben nun schon seit mehr als 24 Jahren zusammen. (3 pts)
- 2) Weisst du, wo sie sich zum ersten Mal trafen? – Mein Vater sagte mir, er erinnere sich noch genau an die erste Begegnung. (2.5 pts)
- 3) Wie lange dauerte es, bis sie heirateten? – Er sagte, sie hätten lange nicht geplant zu heiraten, obwohl ihre Eltern das gewünscht hätten. (2.5 pts)
- 4) Als meine Mutter schwanger wurde, bestanden ihre Eltern darauf, dass mein Vater sie heiratete. (1.5 pts)
- 5) Wenn mein Vater nicht einverstanden gewesen wäre, hätte er mich nie besuchen dürfen. (1.5 pts)
- 6) Ich glaube nicht, dass dein Vater hätte (daran) gehindert werden können, dich gelegentlich zu sehen. (1.5 pts)
- 7) Du hast wahrscheinlich Recht. Sicher hätte mich mein Vater unterstützen müssen. – Ich nehme es an. (1.5 pts)
- 8) Hast du vor, einmal zu heiraten? – Ich würde lieber einen einfachen Vertrag unterschreiben, anstatt in der Kirche zu heiraten. (2 pts)
- 9) Was veranlasst dich, dies zu sagen? – Tja, unsere Nachbarn hatten viele Probleme in ihrer Ehe. Ihre Kinder mussten sehr darunter leiden. (2.5 pts)
- 10) Als sie geschieden wurden, waren die beiden Kinder schon aus dem Gymnasium raus geworfen worden. (1.5 pts)