

Maturitätsprüfung 2005

Englisch

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Part	Time	Points	Page
Reading	~ 15 minutes		1
1. Comprehension	~ 20 minutes	30	2-3
2. Vocabulary	~ 15 minutes	25	4-5
3. Essay	~ 60 minutes	70	5
4. Grammar	~ 60 minutes	75	6-8
Reading over	~ 10 minutes		
Total:	180 minutes	200	

Please note:

- Write your name and your class on **every** sheet.
- Write **Section 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.

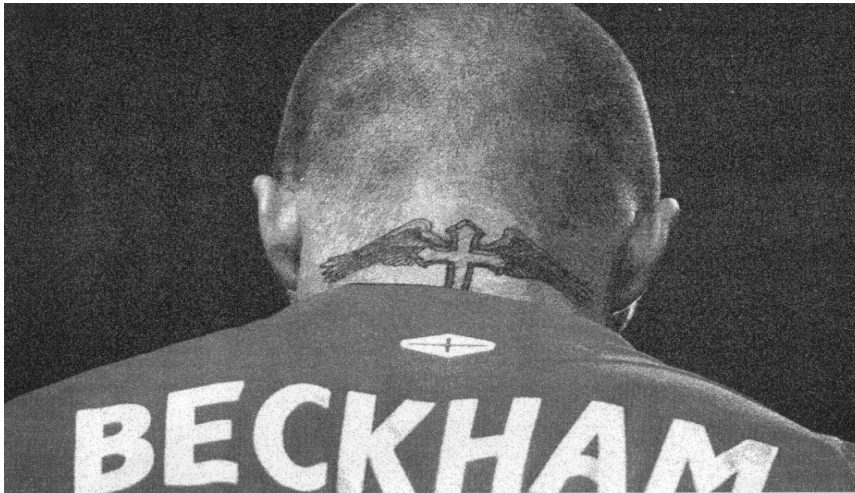
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(Reading time: ~15 minutes)

The Guardian, by **Karen Armstrong**, June 12, 2004 (adapted)

From Buddha to Beckham



Stories about Prometheus, Buddha, Jesus and Mohammed all conform to this paradigm. They were essentially calls to action, designed to show followers how to awaken the heroic potential within themselves. The heroic myth was not popular simply because it sounded good, but because experience showed that this was the best way for human beings to live.

But our modern cult of celebrity is different. We no longer require our celebrities to go out into the wilderness to bring spiritual benefit to others. Today you can become a star, a luminary of our time, simply by appearing in a soap opera. We do not expect our celebrities to challenge us, as Socrates did, or, like Buddha, to shock us out of our habitual selfishness by making us more aware of human suffering. We want our stars to distract us from uncomfortable realities.

An increasing number of people simply want to be famous. A questionnaire recently circulated in a New York high school asked its students: "What do you hope to be?" Two thirds replied: "A celebrity."

It is easy to blame the media for this unhealthy obsession with celebrity. But we get the kind of heroes we deserve. Our celebrities reflect our values and desires. The photographers would not have chased Diana down that Parisian tunnel if the public had not been avid for pictures of the princess. Our cult of a fame that is not accompanied by the requirement of heroic altruism³ may symbolise a chronic selfishness and triviality in western culture that are symptomatic of cultural decline and also politically dangerous.

Our democratically elected politicians, who reflect the values of society, sometimes behave like celebrities. Some of them have actually been celebrities. They should recall the myth of the hero. In this time of unprecedented danger, heroic leadership must question old certainties and chauvinisms. Instead of pursuing cold war policies, governments must find new solutions. Like celebrity, national prosperity cannot be an end in itself. In a global world, our best security lies in a creative and courageous altruism.

(781 words)

Posh and Becks are having problems; Michael Jackson stands accused of child abuse; a new batch of celebrity wannabes¹ seeks fame and fortune in the Big Brother house. For many, these events are of more immediate interest than the catastrophically unfolding drama in Iraq. Is this simply harmless fun, a light-hearted diversion from the grim headlines? Or does it reveal a serious flaw in our culture?

Celebrity has political importance in the west. The fact that we call people "stars" is itself significant. A star sheds light in darkness. Travellers once used the constellations to help them to find the right path. We have always looked to exemplary human beings for guidance and inspiration. Throughout history, heroes and sages have become paradigmatic figures. They show us what humanity can be, they define our values, and fill us with profound emotion, because they touch an inchoate² but powerful yearning for human excellence.

Thus Socrates, who taught his pupils to question everything, evoked a kind of rapture in his contemporaries. His disciple Alcibiades spoke of the "extraordinary effect his words have had on me. For the moment I hear him speak I am struck with a kind of sacred frenzy and my heart jumps into my mouth and the

tears start into my eyes – and not only myself, but lots of other men."

This sounds familiar: it reminds us of the ecstasy of fans today who weep, shriek and swoon in the presence of their idols. But there is a crucial difference. Alcibiades continued: Socrates "has often left me in such a state of mind that I've felt that I simply couldn't go on living the way I did ... He makes me admit that while I'm spending my time on politics, I am neglecting all the things that are crying out for attention in myself." A celebrity like Socrates demanded that his pupils fundamentally transform their lives for the better. It is unlikely that Justine Timberlake or Geri Halliwell will do the same.

Hero worship is one of the oldest enthusiasms in the world; it probably dates back to the Palaeolithic period, when the hunter left his tribe, went out into the forest, and risked his life to bring food back to the community. The myth of the hero has followed the same basic pattern in all cultures, and expresses a universal ideal. The hero is motivated by a disinterested desire to fill a lack that he sees in his society; he turns his back on the familiar and sets forth on a lonely, frightening quest. But eventually, at great personal cost, he brings something of immense value back to his people.

¹ people who want to be celebrities

² lacking order, incoherent

³ concern for the other, selflessness

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1. Text comprehension

(30 points)

1.1 True or false

(10 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**.

An example has been done for you (0).

- 0) Many people today prioritise political news over popular news.
- 1) According to the author, students have begun to question the importance of being famous.
- 2) According to the author, the worship of heroes is alike in all cultures.
- 3) According to the author, the meanings of the words “celebrity” and “hero” are synonymous.
- 4) According to the text, we want modern heroes to rescue us from uncomfortable situations.
- 5) Alcibiades was annoyed at Socrates for disturbing his inner peace.
- 6) In the myth of the hero, the hero is motivated by personal interests.
- 7) The author believes that the world would be a better place without heroes.
- 8) The author sees significant parallels between the reaction of Socrates’ students and the behaviour of fans today.
- 9) The writer believes that heroes can help us to shape the values by which we live.
- 10) The writer is certain that our culture is in decline.

F

1.2 Multiple choice questions

(20 points)

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

- 1) According to the article, what David Beckham and Michael Jackson have in common is the fact that
 - a) they are both in trouble with the law.
 - b) they have both violated moral standards.
 - c) they reveal a serious flaw in our culture.
 - d) they attract more attention than international politics.

- 2) According to the author, heroes have played an important role throughout history because
 - a) every culture needs celebrities to admire.
 - b) politicians use heroes to manipulate the public.
 - c) human beings have a profound inner need for heroes.
 - d) national prosperity is not enough for a healthy society.

- 3) The author believes that, in the myth of the hero,
 - a) the hero must die for his cause.
 - b) the hero should admit his personal needs.
 - c) the hero is essentially altruistic.
 - d) the hero distracts us from unpleasant realities.

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- 4) According to the text, the myth of the hero can help politicians to
- a) call into question old certainties.
 - b) achieve national prosperity.
 - c) find new solutions to cold war policies.
 - d) make government more popular by working with celebrities like Beckham.
- 5) The fact that we call people “stars” is significant because
- a) “stars” is another word for “celebrities”.
 - b) stars were once used for navigation.
 - c) stars are paradigmatic figures.
 - d) stars show us what human beings can be.
- 6) According to the text, Princess Diana’s accident
- a) was caused by consumers of the media.
 - b) shows how dangerous hero cults can be.
 - c) should make us boycott the media.
 - d) is what made her famous.
- 7) The author believes that politicians and celebrities
- a) can learn a lot from each other.
 - b) sometimes act similarly.
 - c) must not confuse their roles.
 - d) should focus on their national interests.
- 8) According to the author, Alcibiades admired Socrates because of
- a) his intellectual brilliance.
 - b) what Socrates’ language made him feel like.
 - c) Socrates’ rhetorical gift.
 - d) Socrates’ fame.
- 9) The myth of the hero developed in prehistoric times because
- a) it stopped people from following only their own interests.
 - b) it is a basic human need to live up to the ideals of heroes.
 - c) individuals like setting an example for others.
 - d) people had to risk their lives for their communities.
- 10) According to the text, Prometheus, Buddha, Jesus and Mohammed led to successful cults because
- a) they gave their followers a feeling of strength.
 - b) they had already become heroes during their own lifetime.
 - c) they managed to arouse the desire to act heroically.
 - d) every follower of their cult was regarded as a potential hero or heroine.

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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) paradigmatic	(22)	important	<u>model</u>	paradoxical	examples
1) profound	(25)	discovered	sudden	deep	incoherent
2) flaw	(12)	fail	refusal	mistaking	imperfection
3) yearning	(26)	youth	longing	emotion	work
4) crucial	(42)	important	extraordinary	crossed	similar
5) lack	(66)	absence	problem	situation	burden

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) chased (line 107) pursued
- 1) catastrophically (lines 7-8)
- 2) importance (line 13)
- 3) sacred (line 35)
- 4) transform (line 52)
- 5) benefit (line 85)

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.

Two examples (0, 00) have been done for you.

- 0) I'm afraid I can't help you. I'm totally unfamiliar with her work. FAMILIAR (line 39)
- 00) What interests me is the similarity in the way they think. DIFFERENCE (line 43)
- 1) It is important to have some distance to the events you describe so that your judgement will be objective and PERSONAL (line 69)
- 2) What he said was of value to me. IMMENSE (line 70)
- 3) The number of people prepared to enter public service is a problem in our society. INCREASING (line 96)
- 4) Too many politicians make decisions that are politically without examining their long-term consequences. DANGEROUS (line 116)
- 5) That was a thing to say. COURAGEOUS (line 130)

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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) Socrates was an extraordinarily gifted thinker. | EXTRAORDINARY |
| 1) What is it about modern society that has created so much | LONELY |
| 2) Unfortunately, I was not the day he spoke. | PRESENCE |
| 3) of need is the first step toward its fulfillment. | ADMIT |
| 4) It is rare to find a person who is about literature today. | ENTHUSIASM |
| 5) If your are too high, you are likely to be disappointed. | EXPECT |
| 6) is no guarantee of excellence. | POPULAR |
| 7) There can be no solutions without an of the problem. | AWARE |
| 8) Individuals who have no sense of community often do not even realize that they are acting | SELFISHNESS |
| 9) People who are inwardly can admit mistakes. | SECURITY |
| 10) What you've said has been a to me. | REVEAL |

3. Essay

(70 points)

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

- 1) Comment on this statement from the text: “[...] we get the kind of heroes we deserve.” (lines 104-105)
- 2) Discuss the following statement: “Heroes exist only in literature; there are no heroes in real life.”
- 3) Who could be a role model for your generation? Justify your answer.

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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 seven 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) It will be nice to see Julia Roberts again at the party.
I'm again at the party. (looking)
- 2) We last went to Spain three years ago.
It we last went to Spain. (years)
- 3) "You broke my camera!" the photographer said to Justin Timberlake.
The photographer his camera. (accused)
- 4) I cannot come because I must study for a test.
If join you. (time)
- 5) We are serving breakfast right now.
Breakfast (now)
- 6) "You should smoke less", her mother said.
Her mother (not)
- 7) Can you do the washing-up for me, please?
..... the washing up? (mind)
- 8) They went walking even though it rained.
They went walking (spite)
- 9) "I will phone you tomorrow", he said last Friday.
Last Friday he told me that (me)
- 10) "Would you like a table by the window?" the waiter asked.
The waiter asked a table by the window. (we)

4.2 Prepositions

(5 points)

Write one suitable preposition in each space.

- 1) Her fans were all upset, and some were (1) tears, because nothing at the concert was (2) control.
- 2) Most people are (3) the impression that doing something (4) mistake is quite different from doing something (5) purpose.
- 3) She agrees with him (6) some extent but (7) general she would have put things differently.
- 4) He has looked tired recently, and we've started to wonder (8) his health. He suffers (9) stress and he doesn't seem to care about the effect smoking has on him.
- 5) We are very much aware of the need to look (10) our environment.

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4.3 Verb forms (active and passive voice and participles) (20 points)

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

Beckham’s Christmas family fall out

Adapted version based on a text published on www.femalefirst.co.uk, December 13, 2004

At the beginning of December, David and Victoria Beckham’s families (1) (have an argument) after David’s family (2) (not / ask) to spend Christmas Day with them. The England football captain and the former Spice Girl reportedly (3) (already / ask) Victoria’s relatives to join in with their festive celebrations. A source (4) (say) a couple of days ago: “Up to now, David’s family (5) (completely / overlook). They even (6) (not / ask) to celebrate with Victoria’s family. But after everything that (7) (happen) this year, David (8) (approve) of everything Victoria (9) (want). David (10) (be) very keen on (11) (keep) the peace at the moment.”

Sources (12) (claim) that Victoria’s family (13) (be) still furious at David for allegedly (14) (cheat) on Victoria with his former personal assistant, Rebecca Loos. And now David (15) (do) everything it (16) (take) to keep them happy.

David’s dad, who (17) (divorce) from David’s mother Sandra, (18) (say) of the arrangements yesterday: “I (19) (spend) Christmas Day with my daughter. That decision (20) (already / make) in the summer.”

4.4 Error correction (10 points)

Some of the sentences are correct and some have a mistake. If a sentence is correct, put a tick (✓) in the space provided at the end of each line. If the sentence has a word which should not be there, cross it out. If a word or a structure is incorrect, cross it out and correct the mistake in the space provided at the end of each line.

- 1) When we arrived at the airport, we were told that the police were looking for a girl who lost her parents.
- 2) A student asked her teacher what he had meant by saying “I’m surrounded by idiots”.
- 3) He claims he speaks very well English, but I still have my doubts.
- 4) I have no idea why Clarissa made Rupert to sell his fantastic Jaguar. He was so fond of it.
- 5) Some people mean that stricter punishments will reduce the amount of crime.
- 6) When she suggested that he should leave at once, he refused and added that he wouldn’t want that she left if she were in his situation.
- 7) What I didn’t realise was that we had received to many applications and that we didn’t have enough time to reply to all of them.
- 8) The information Rupert gave me was useful, but I wasn’t agree with the advice his girlfriend gave me.
- 9) Ah, this dish smells wonderfully. You must taste it.
- 10) The most people find it difficult to cope with the increasing amount of information that is available nowadays.

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4.5 Translation

(20 points)

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

- 1) David Beckham, der 1975 geboren wurde, wird von vielen als einer der besten Fussballspieler der Welt betrachtet.
- 2) Nachdem er acht Jahre (lang) für Manchester United gespielt hatte, unterschrieb er einen Vierjahresvertrag mit Real Madrid; jetzt spielt er seit zwei Jahren in Spanien.
- 3) Er ist bekannt für seine ungewöhnlichen Frisuren; er liess sie häufig ändern.
- 4) Sein Manager wollte jedoch nicht, dass er sein Haarband während den Spielen trug.
- 5) Da Fussball in Nordamerika nicht beliebt ist, würden ihn nur wenige Amerikaner kennen, wenn der Film „Bend It Like Beckham“ nicht so erfolgreich gewesen wäre.
- 6) Der Film handelt von einem indischen Mädchen, dessen Ehrgeiz (es) ist, eine berühmte Fussballspielerin zu werden.
- 7) Letztes Jahr behauptete eine britische Zeitung, Beckham habe eine Affäre mit seiner persönlichen Assistentin gehabt.
- 8) Beckham bestritt jedoch, seiner Frau, mit der er drei Kinder hat, untreu gewesen zu sein.
- 9) Vor einem Jahr wurde ein Mann verhaftet, als er versuchte, in Beckhams Haus einzubrechen. Er hatte einen Kanister Benzin bei sich, weil er vorhatte, das Haus niederzubrennen.
- 10) Viele Leute erwarten, dass Beckham nach England zurückkehrt, aber Beckham selber sagte, es mache ihm nichts aus, bis 2006 in Madrid zu bleiben.