

# Maturitätsprüfung 2007

## Englisch

Name: .....

Class: .....

### Table of Contents

Part	Time	Points	Page
Reading	~ 15 minutes		1
1. Comprehension	~ 20 minutes	40	2-4
2. Vocabulary	~ 15 minutes	25	4-5
3. Essay	~ 60 minutes	60	5
4. Grammar	~ 60 minutes	75	5-8
Reading over	~ 10 minutes		
Total:	<b>180 minutes</b>	<b>200</b>	

#### Please note:

- ▶ Write your name and your class on **every** sheet.
- ▶ Write **the essay 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 Dylan Evans, October 27, 2005 (adapted)

## The loss of utopia

### What has happened to our dream of a better world?

Ever since Plato, Western thinkers have dreamed of ideal societies, utopias that could perhaps never be fully realised, but which at least gave us something to aspire to – noble, beautiful visions of what society might one day be like. Sir Thomas More, the Renaissance English author and Catholic martyr (1478-1535), Tommaso Campanella, the Italian humanist, philosopher and poet (1568-1639), Francis Bacon, the English essayist and statesman (1561-1626), and the German philosopher, political economist and revolutionary Karl Marx (1818-1883) all painted pictures of a future in which there is a strong sense of community, in which work is fulfilling and leisure is used wisely and creatively. Now, at the dawn of the 21st century, this long tradition of idealism has all but vanished. We have no vision – just the paltry<sup>1</sup> consolations of consumerism.

Sixteen years ago the American political thinker Francis Fukuyama saw the collapse of the Soviet bloc as “the end of history”. What he meant was that liberal democracy had emerged triumphant over all alternative forms of human government. There is more to history, however, than government. Indeed, all the major visions of utopia place far greater importance on more mundane matters, such as the nature of work and leisure, and the structure of local

communities, than they do on the grand questions of governance.

More, Campanella and Bacon all agree that everyone must work. When work is shared out between all members of society, Campanella calculates that each person will have to work no more than four hours a day. That would leave plenty of leisure time, as well as energy to use that time wisely, Campanella suggests, by attending lectures. Even Marx, who is remembered more for his economic and political theories, started out with a vision of everyday life in his imagined communist society, where a person might “hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticise after dinner”. By reducing history to the question of governance, Fukuyama failed to answer the more difficult questions about work, leisure and community. The “end of history” was just a euphemism for the end of utopia.

Visions can be dangerous, of course. Under the Soviets, Marx’s dream became, for millions, a nightmare. In the 90s, all ideas of radical social transformation came to be regarded with suspicion. It was as if humanity had finally grown up, and left such adolescent fantasies behind.

But if idealism without a dose of reality is simply naive, realism without a dash of imagination is utterly depressing. If this really was the end of history, it would be an awful anticlimax. Look at

the way we live now, in the West. We grow up in increasingly fragmented communities, hardly speaking to the people next door, and drive to work in our self-contained cars. We work in standardised offices and stop at the supermarket on our way home to buy production-line food which we eat without relish<sup>2</sup>. There is no great misery, no hunger, and no war. But nor is there great passion or joy. Despite our historically unprecedented<sup>3</sup> wealth, more people than ever before suffer from depression.

The major political parties are reduced to tinkering with the details of our current system. Their only objective seems to be: more of the same, only perhaps a little bit more cheaply. They have no grand vision.

It is this complacency, this lack of idealism, that is in part responsible for the repugnance<sup>4</sup> with which Muslim extremists view Western society. When George Bush speaks of exporting democracy to the Middle East, he should realise that liberal democracy on its own is a limp, anaemic<sup>5</sup> idea. If the West is to provide a more inspiring ideal, then it is time we devoted more thought to the questions that Plato, More and Marx placed at the heart of their utopias; the question of how to make work more rewarding, leisure more abundant, and communities more friendly.

(~660 words)

<sup>2</sup> *relish*: enjoyment

<sup>3</sup> *unprecedented*: unparalleled, without example; here, the greatest that has ever been known

<sup>4</sup> *repugnance*: strong dislike or disgust

<sup>5</sup> *anaemic*: lacking force or vigour; weak

<sup>1</sup> *paltry*: trivial

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**1. Text comprehension****(40 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.

- 1) Thinkers like Plato believed that life on earth could be perfect.
- 2) According to the text, consumerism can be considered the fulfillment of Plato's utopian vision.
- 3) The author of the text claims that history has come to an end.
- 4) According to the author of the text, liberal democracy has triumphed over other forms of human government.
- 5) The author is an unquestioning admirer of Karl Marx.
- 6) The author believes that it is entirely a good thing that all ideas of radical social transformation have come to be regarded with suspicion.
- 7) According to the author, the age we live in is an awful anticlimax.
- 8) Dylan Evans claims that our society is richer than it ever was.
- 9) The author of the text claims that our age is characterized by individual variety and freedom.
- 10) According to the author, what is missing in our society is an idealistic vision of the future.

**1.2 Multiple choice questions****(30 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 text, thinkers such as More and Marx
  - a) were critical of the value of work.
  - b) considered leisure a problem for a society based on work.
  - c) believed work and leisure to be incompatible.
  - d) were interested in the relationship between the individual and the community.
- 2) The author of the text believes that
  - a) history is utopia.
  - b) there is more to history than forms of government.
  - c) we should forget theoretical questions of work and community.
  - d) history is not important in the long run.
- 3) According to Dylan Evans, utopian thinkers such as Plato
  - a) are not interested in such day-to-day activities as work.
  - b) pay more attention to day-to-day activities than they do to theories of government.
  - c) think that a good government must provide good laws about work.
  - d) are noble-minded and therefore naïve.
- 4) Dylan Evans believes that our society today
  - a) no longer offers us the sense of idealism that we need.
  - b) is based on greed.
  - c) has become a nightmare.
  - d) has finally overcome the fantasies of the past.

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- 5) Muslim extremists looking at the West
- a) see the triumph of democracy.
  - b) are inspired by what they see.
  - c) want to make work more rewarding in their own countries.
  - d) are disappointed in Western society.
- 6) The author
- a) praises political parties for their concern with details.
  - b) warns political parties to concentrate on producing more for less.
  - c) criticises political parties for their concern with details.
  - d) is indifferent to political parties.
- 7) In the visions of utopia mentioned in the text, work, leisure and community
- a) are essential for good governance.
  - b) are old-fashioned and out-dated values.
  - c) are more important concepts than the details of government.
  - d) should be ignored.
- 8) According to the text, liberal democracy as a concept in itself
- a) has universal appeal.
  - b) is inadequate.
  - c) can help a society to produce goods more cheaply.
  - d) leads to working in standardised offices.
- 9) The Italian humanist Campanella
- a) believed that freedom was more important than work.
  - b) considered work to be the most important element in a person's life.
  - c) thought that work should be shared by all members of society.
  - d) wanted to abolish work.
- 10) One conclusion that can be drawn from the author's arguments is that
- a) we should work more.
  - b) we need ideals if life is to be fulfilling.
  - c) we need more realism and less imagination.
  - d) only through job sharing can we develop a sense of community.
- 11) What does the writer say about the beginning of the 21st century?
- a) Utopia has been achieved.
  - b) We have such worthless comforts as the ability to buy material possessions.
  - c) Consumerism is the high point of a long tradition of idealism.
  - d) We have almost no free time.
- 12) According to the writer, the major visions of utopia emphasize
- a) forms of human government.
  - b) the importance of working hard.
  - c) everyday concerns.
  - d) eating with relish.
- 13) According to the writer, matters such as the structure of local communities and the nature of work and leisure
- a) are disregarded in Fukuyama's thesis.
  - b) legitimize liberal democracy as a system of government.
  - c) reduce history to the question of governance.
  - d) are of no importance in the major visions of utopia.



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- |   |          |            |
|---|----------|------------|
| 2) The ..... of imperialism altered the course of history.  | COLLAPSE | (line 32)  |
| 3) The philosopher ..... to answer the question.            | FAILED   | (line 68)  |
| 4) There is incredible ..... in some parts of the world.    | WEALTH   | (line 104) |
| 5) It is this ..... of idealism that has changed the world. | LACK     | (line 115) |

### 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 are two examples (0, 00) at the beginning.

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 0) Francis Bacon was an ... <del>extraordinarily</del> .. gifted writer.                     | ORDINARY |
| 00) The king imprisoned him because he thought the man .. <del>disloyal</del> .....          | LOYALTY  |
| 1) People often claim that tolerance is the ..... to our problems.                           | SOLVE    |
| 2) But is that a ..... response?   | SUIT     |
| 3) Even minor political ..... can lead to death in a dictatorship.                           | OBEY     |
| 4) Think of the thousands of ..... in Chile under Pinochet.                                  | APPEAR   |
| 5) <i>Brave New World</i> examines the ..... behind the mask of “normal” life.               | CRUEL    |
| 6) The ..... of his religious belief amazes me.  | STRONG   |
| 7) Winston thought that he had ..... escaped “Big Brother”.                                  | SUCCEED  |
| 8) I don’t agree with your ..... of an ideal society.  | DESCRIBE |
| 9) There is no such thing as a perfectly “regular” life – there is some ..... in every life. | REGULAR  |
| 10) That’s true. I am in complete ..... with you.  | AGREE    |

### 3. Essay

(60 points)

Choose **one** of the three following topics for an essay (300-400 words).

- 1) Comment on the following quotation: “Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past.” (From *1984*, by George Orwell)
- 2) You are a reporter writing from “Utopia”. Describe this country to your readers.
- 3) Comment on the following quotation: “I keep trying to understand reality, but it always defeats me. I reinvent the world so that I can handle it.” (Terry Gilliam, 2004)

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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) What time does the next train leave?  
Could ..... you tell me when ..... the next train leaves? (tell)
- 1) The last time I saw her was in August.  
I ..... August. (not)
- 2) I don't really want to read *Animal Farm*.  
I ..... *Animal Farm*. (rather)
- 3) It was so late that nothing could be done.  
It was ..... be done. (too)
- 4) Your hair needs cutting, and you need to put away your winter clothes.  
You ought ..... and put away your winter clothes. (get)
- 5) He is not as quick a reader as she is.  
She ..... does. (quickly)
- 6) Everything I know I learned from Prof. Orwell.  
I ..... Prof. Orwell. (was)
- 7) People say Aldous Huxley was a brilliant conversationalist.  
Aldous Huxley ..... a brilliant conversationalist. (is)
- 8) He did not visit her because he did not have her address.  
..... her address, he ..... her. (had)
- 9) "Do you want to read *Utopia*?" Jack asked Jill.  
Jack ..... to read *Utopia*. (whether)
- 10) It's possible that she did not understand what he said.  
She ..... what he said. (might)

**4.2 Gap-filling**

**(5 points)**

Complete each gap with **one word only**.

Welcome ..... *Utopia*, I read as soon ..... I had crossed the border. I put down my backpack and looked ..... the city. .... my surprise, ..... was no one to be seen: not ..... single human being! The streets, the buildings, the houses – ..... was deserted. "This must be some kind ..... nightmare I'm having," I said to myself. "Have you ever seen a country ..... any people, a place ..... no one wants to live?"

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

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

Although Plato (1) ..... (be) born more than two thousand years ago, his ideas (2) ..... (influence) other thinkers from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance to our own time. Today he (3) ..... (consider) the father of modern philosophy – not bad for a person who never (4) ..... (take) a university degree in the subject.

Plato (5) ..... (write) about an ideal form of government in *The Republic*. The word “utopia”, however, (6) ..... (not/appear) in England until it (7) ..... (use) by Sir Thomas More in 1516 as the title for his short novel *Utopia*, originally (8) ..... (write) not in English but in Latin.

It (9) ..... (not/be) until the twentieth century and the political horrors of Hitler’s and Stalin’s dictatorships that “utopian writing” (10) ..... (become) a genre in itself. But by this time something strange (11) ..... (happen): Plato’s and More’s early dreams of an ideal world (12) ..... (turn) into a nightmare. People (13) ..... (be) no longer (14) ..... (prepare/accept) a world (15) ..... (rule) by a single “wise” or “good” person or party.

In fact, many people today (16) ..... (think) of utopia as a synonym for dystopia, a dream (17) ..... (go) wrong. Books such as *Brave New World* and *1984*, although (18) ..... (compose) more than fifty years ago, (19) ..... (keep) their status even to this day not only as literary classics but also as serious warnings (20) ..... (concern) the limits of political power.

**4.4 Error correction (10 points)**

Some of the sentences are correct and some have one or more mistakes. If a sentence is correct, put a tick (✓) 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 at the end of each line.

- 1) After George Orwell has become disillusioned in the Spanish Civil War, he returned to England and wrote *Animal Farm*. .....
- 2) Some people are not as smart as they think they are, others are intelligenter. ....
- 3) When Bush leaves the White House, he will be president for eight years. ....
- 4) A headache? Why didn’t you say so? I’m getting you an aspirin at once. ....
- 5) He was so drunk that he did not remember dancing with her at the party. ....
- 6) She read *Fahrenheit 451* when the bomb was exploding. ....
- 7) I want that you get a good mark on this test. ....
- 8) Thomas More has been murdered in 1535. ....
- 9) She told that she would begin reading *1984* after her last exam. ....
- 10) If I would be you, I study political science. ....

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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) Thomas More, der 1478 in London geboren wurde, wurde zum Studium nach Oxford gesandt.
- 2) Nachdem More längere Zeit als erfolgreicher Anwalt gearbeitet hatte, wurde er Parlamentsmitglied.
- 3) Er gewann schnell den Ruf, gerecht zu sein und sich um die Armen zu kümmern.
- 4) Ausserdem befürwortete er eine gute Ausbildung für Mädchen; seine Tochter Margaret Roper war eine der gelehrtesten Frauen ihrer Zeit.
- 5) More war der Meinung, sein Vater sei von König Heinrich VII schlecht behandelt worden.
- 6) Auch deshalb konnte er Heinrich VIII nicht als Oberhaupt der Kirche anerkennen und trat zurück.
- 7) Wenn More dem König beigestanden wäre, hätte man ihn nicht gefangen genommen und zum Tod verurteilt.
- 8) More sagte vor seiner Hinrichtung, sein Bart solle nicht abgeschnitten werden, da dieser kein Verbrechen begangen habe.
- 9) Man darf die Bedeutung von Thomas More als Philosoph nicht unterschätzen – wir könnten auf den Begriff Utopie nicht mehr verzichten.
- 10) Seit Jahrhunderten ist *Utopia* eines der meistgelesenen Bücher und wird es vielleicht auch in Zukunft bleiben.