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# Maturitätsprüfungen Englisch 2015

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Klassen: 4A (StT), 4AW (LaA), 4Ba (KaE), 4Bb (KeA), 4GL (FuS), 4IM (StH), 4IS (ChA),  
5KSW (KaY), 4LW (ChA), 4S (DyJ), 4SW (SnR), 4W (KeA), 4Z (RuM)

Prüfungsdauer: 4 Stunden

Erlaubte Hilfsmittel: ein- oder zweisprachiges Wörterbuch für das Essay

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## Content

A. Comprehension and Grammar (50 %) (approx. 120 mins.):

I. Reading Comprehension:

1. Language 15 pts.

2. Comprehension Questions 22 pts.

II. Grammar 37 pts.

Total A 74 pts. = Mark 1

B. Essay (50 %) (approx. 120 mins.):

Content: 50 %

Language: 50 %

Total B = Mark 2

Final Mark: 50 % (Mark 1) + 50 % (Mark 2)

**All the best!**

A. Chiappini-Fitzgerald  
J. Dyer  
S. Furnivall  
E. Kaufmann  
A. Keiser  
Y. Kaspar  
A. Langlotz  
M. Ruef  
R. Schneider  
T. Steiner  
H. Stone

## A. Comprehension and Grammar

### I. Reading Comprehension

1. Read the following text and answer the questions on pages 8 - 14.

#### Why the modern world is bad for your brain

(Text adapted from an article in the *Guardian* newspaper by Daniel J. Levitin, 2015)

**Neuroscientist Daniel J. Levitin explains how multitasking and our addiction to technology are making us less efficient.**

5 Our brains are busier than ever before. We are assaulted with facts, jibber-jabber, and rumour, all posing as information. Trying to figure out what you need to know and what can be ignored is exhausting. At the same time, we are all doing more. Thirty years ago, travel agents made our flight and rail reservations, and secretaries helped busy people with their correspondence. Now we do most of those things  
10 ourselves. We are doing the jobs of 10 different people while still trying to keep up with our relatives, our friends, our careers and our favourite TV shows.

Our smartphones have become Swiss army knife-like appliances that include such things as a dictionary, calculator, web browser, appointment calendar, guitar tuner, GPS, Facebook updater, and flashlight. They can do more things than the most  
15 advanced IBM computer 30 years ago. We use them all the time, part of a 21st-century mania for cramming everything into every single spare moment of downtime<sup>1</sup>. We text while we are crossing the street, catch up on email while queueing – and while having lunch with friends, we surreptitiously<sup>2</sup> check to see  
20 what our other friends are doing. At home, we write our shopping lists on smartphones while listening to that fascinating podcast on urban beekeeping.

However, there is a problem. Although we think we are doing several things at once, so-called multitasking, we are in fact deluding ourselves. Neuroscientist Earl Miller,  
25 an expert on divided attention, says that our brains are ‘not wired to multitask well. When people think they are multitasking, they are actually just switching from one task to another very rapidly. And every time they do, there is a cognitive cost in doing so.’ We are not expert jugglers, keeping a lot of balls in the air, but rather amateur plate spinners, frantically switching from one task to another, ignoring what  
30 is right in front of us, but afraid it will come crashing down any minute. Ironically, we think we are getting a lot done, but multitasking makes us demonstrably less efficient.

Multitasking increases the production of the stress hormone cortisol and the fight-or-flight hormone adrenaline, which can overstimulate the brain and cause mental  
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<sup>1</sup> the time during which a machine, especially a computer, is not working

<sup>2</sup> in a quick or secret way so that other people do not notice

fog or scrambled thinking. A dopamine<sup>3</sup>-addiction feedback loop is created, effectively rewarding the brain for losing focus and for constantly searching for more external stimulation. We complete a thousand little sugar-coated tasks – answering the phone, checking our email, sending an SMS, each of which stimulates the novelty-seeking and reward-seeking centres of the brain, releasing chemicals (opioids) which make us feel so good! Unfortunately, this empty-caloried brain candy prevents us from reaping the big rewards that come from a sustained, focused effort on one specific task.

In the old days, if the phone rang and we were busy, we either did not answer it or we turned the ringer off. We were not reachable at all times, because phones were wired to a wall and we might have gone out on a walk or been between places, or even not have felt like being reached. This was considered normal. Nowadays, more people have mobile phones than have toilets, creating an implicit expectation that you should be able to reach someone when it is convenient for you, regardless of whether it is convenient for them. This expectation is so ingrained that people in meetings routinely answer their mobile phones to say, ‘I’m sorry, I can’t talk now, I’m in a meeting.’ A few decades ago, those same people would have let a landline on their desk go unanswered during a meeting.

Just having the opportunity to multitask reduces mental performance, according to psychology professor Glenn Wilson, who calls this infomania. His research found that trying to concentrate on a task when an email is sitting unread in your inbox can reduce your effective IQ by 10 points. Marijuana is believed by many people to enhance creativity and reduce pain and stress. Nevertheless, marijuana’s chief ingredient, cannabinal, interferes profoundly with memory and our ability to concentrate on several things at once. Wilson has shown that multitasking has an even worse effect on mental processes than marijuana.

Stanford University neuroscientist Russ Poldrack found that learning information while multitasking causes the information to go to the wrong part of the brain. For example, if students study and watch TV at the same time, the information from their schoolwork goes into the striatum, a region of the brain specialised for storing new procedures and skills, not facts and ideas. Without the distraction of TV, the information goes into an organising and categorising region, the hippocampus, from where it is more easily retrieved. Earl Miller adds, ‘People can’t do (multitasking) very well, and when they say they can, they’re deceiving themselves.’

The metabolic costs of multitasking are another important issue. The kind of rapid, continual shifting we do with multitasking causes the brain to burn through fuel so quickly that we feel exhausted and disorientated after even a short time. We have literally used up the nutrients in our brain. This leads to compromises in both mental and physical performance. Among other things, repeated task switching leads to anxiety, which raises the levels of the stress hormone cortisol in the brain, which in turn can lead to aggressive and impulsive behaviour. By contrast, staying on task uses less energy than multitasking and actually reduces the brain’s need for glucose.

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<sup>3</sup> a chemical produced in the brain that carries messages from nerve cells to other nerve cells or muscles

To make matters worse, lots of multitasking requires decision-making: Do I answer this text message or ignore it? How do I respond to this? How do I file this email? Such  
85 decision-making is also very hard on brain resources. Little decisions appear to use up as much energy as big ones. The result is that we lose impulse control and as it spirals downwards after making lots of insignificant decisions, we can end up making truly bad decisions about something important.

90 When discussing information overload with business leaders, top scientists, writers and students, the huge number of emails we receive daily comes up again and again as a problem. When the 10-year-old son of one of my neuroscience colleagues was asked what his father does for a living, he responded, 'He answers emails.' My  
95 colleague admitted that it is not so far from the truth. Workers in government, the arts and industry report being overwhelmed by the number of emails they receive, taking a huge bite out of their day to sort through. We feel obliged to answer our emails, but it seems impossible to do so and get anything else done.

100 Before email, you had to invest time and effort composing a message and sitting down with pen and paper or typewriter to actually write it. The medium did not lend itself to dashing off quick notes, quite apart from the time involved in finding and addressing an envelope, adding postage and taking the letter to the mailbox. The time needed for all these steps meant that we did not go to the trouble unless we  
105 had something important to say. Because of email's immediacy, most of us give little thought to typing up any little thing that pops into our heads and hitting the send button. Also, email does not cost anything compared to letters.

110 The sheer ease of sending emails has also led to a change in manners, a tendency to be less polite about what we ask from others. As one professional put it, 'A large proportion of emails I receive are from people I barely know asking me to do something for them that is outside what would normally be considered the scope of my work or my relationship with them. Email somehow apparently makes it OK to ask for things they would never ask by phone, in person, or in snail mail.'

115 There are also important differences in expected response time to snail mail and email. In the old days, mail came once a day and had to be collected from the mailbox and sorted. It took a few days to arrive at its destination, so there was no expectation that you would act on it immediately. Nowadays, email arrives  
120 continuously and most emails demand some sort of action: click on this link to see a video of a baby panda, or make plans for lunch with a friend, or delete this email as spam. Our response gives us the sense that we are getting things done, but in actual fact we are interrupting priority activities and sacrificing efficiency and concentration.

125 Until recently, each of the different modes of communication signalled their relevance, importance and intent. You could assume the content and emotional value of a poem or a song communicated by a loved one, before the message was apparent. By contrast, if that same loved one communicated instead via a summons<sup>4</sup>, delivered by a law court officer, you expected a rather different message before

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<sup>4</sup> an official document that orders someone to appear in a court of law

130 even reading the document. Similarly, phone calls were typically used to transact  
different business from that of telegrams or business letters. The medium was the  
clue to the expected message. All of that has changed with email, because it is used  
for all of life's messages. We compulsively check our email, partly because we do  
not know whether the next message will be for leisure, an overdue bill, a 'to do', a  
135 query ....something you can do now, later, something life-changing or something  
irrelevant. This uncertainty causes chaos with our rapid perceptual<sup>5</sup> categorisation  
system, causes stress, and leads to decision overload. Every email requires a  
decision! Do I respond to it? If so, now or later? How important is it? What will be the  
social, economic, or job-related consequences if I do not answer, or if I do not answer  
140 right now?

Of course, most people under the age of 30 think of email as an outdated mode of  
communication used only by 'old people'. These youngsters text, and some still post  
to Facebook. They attach documents, photos, videos and links to their text  
145 messages. Many people under 20 now even see Facebook as a medium for the older  
generation. For them, texting has become the primary mode of communication. It  
offers privacy that you do not get with phone calls, and immediacy you do not get  
with email. Crisis hotlines now accept calls from at-risk youth via texting. This brings  
two big advantages: more than one person can be dealt with at a time, and  
150 conversations can be handed over to an expert without interruption.

But, texting suffers from even more problems than email. Because it is limited in  
characters, it discourages thoughtful discussion or any level of detail. Also the  
addictive problems are heightened by texting's hyper-immediacy. Emails take time  
155 to work their way through the internet and also require you to take the step of  
explicitly opening them. Text messages simply appear on your phone screen and  
demand your immediate attention. Add to that the social expectation that an  
unanswered text feels insulting to the sender, and you have got a recipe for  
addiction: you receive a text, dopamine begins to be released in your brain, you  
160 respond and feel rewarded for having completed a task, your limbic system<sup>6</sup> cries  
out 'More! More! Give me more!'

In a famous experiment, neuroscientist colleagues of mine at McGill University, Peter  
Milner and James Olds, placed a small electrode in the brains of rats in a region  
165 which regulates dopamine production. This is the region that 'lights up' when  
gamblers win a bet, drug addicts take cocaine, or people have orgasms. It is called  
the nucleus accumbens<sup>7</sup> (in the limbic system) – Olds and Milner called it the  
pleasure centre. A lever in the cage allowed the rats to send a small electrical signal  
directly to their nucleus accumbens. The rats loved pressing that little lever so much  
170 that they forgot about eating or sleeping. Long after they were hungry, they ignored  
tasty food and even ignored the opportunity for sex if they had the chance to press  
that little bar. They did it over and over again until they died of starvation and  
exhaustion. Doesn't this remind us of something? A man died in Daegu (Korea) after

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<sup>5</sup> what is understood from our senses

<sup>6</sup> a system of nerves in the brain involving several different areas, concerned with basic emotions such as fear and anger and basic needs such as the need to eat and to have sex

<sup>7</sup> is a region in the basal forebrain rostral to the preoptic area of the hypothalamus

175 playing video games almost continuously for 50 hours, stopped only by his going into cardiac arrest.

180 To sum up, each time we send an email, we feel a sense of accomplishment, and our brain gets a dollop<sup>8</sup> of reward hormones. Each time we check a Twitter feed or Facebook update, we encounter something new and feel more socially connected, getting another dollop of reward hormones. But remember, it is the dumb, novelty-seeking part of the brain driving the limbic system that induces this feeling of pleasure, not the planning, scheduling, higher-level thought centres of the brain. Make no mistake: email-, Facebook- and Twitter-checking are sure signs of neural addiction!

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<sup>8</sup> a lump of soft food, often dropped from a spoon

**Notes Reading Comprehension:**

## I.1 Language

1. **Explain** in your own words the meaning of the following words as they are used in the text **or give a contextual synonym:** (1 point each)

1. posing as (l. 6)

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2. deluding (l. 24)

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3. enhance (l. 60)

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4. appear (l. 85)

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5. barely (l. 110)

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6. intent (l. 126)

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2. Give a **contextual antonym** for the following: (1 point each)

1. ignoring (l. 29)

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2. admitted (l. 94)

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**3. Give the noun from the same word family for the following words: (1 point each)**

1. interferes (l. 61) \_\_\_\_\_

2. compulsively (l. 133) \_\_\_\_\_

3. requires (l. 137) \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. Give the adjective from the same word family for the following: (1 point each)**

1. advantages (l. 149) \_\_\_\_\_

2. characters (l. 153) \_\_\_\_\_

/ 2
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**5. Give the verb from the same word family for the following: (1 point each)**

1. differences (l. 115) \_\_\_\_\_

2. priority (l. 122) \_\_\_\_\_

/ 2
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**I.1 Language total**

/ 15
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## 1.2 Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences and in your own words.  
Your answers must be based on the text and keep the whole text in mind.  
No points will be awarded for repeated answers.  
Up to six points will be awarded for the quality of your language.

1. a) Give one example of misconceptions about multi-tasking. (1 point)

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- b) Give one reason why multi-tasking makes us feel so good. (1 point)

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2. Name four negative aspects of multi-tasking. (2 points)

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b) Why does this not apply to email as they are presented in the text and what is the effect? (2 points)

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5. In what ways does texting suffer from even more problems than email? Give four examples. (2 points)

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6. a) Why did the rats in the (neuroscientific) experiment die of starvation? (Two reasons)

(2 points)

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b) What can be deduced from this experiment for human beings?

(1 point)

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Language mark for answers to reading comprehension questions

	/	6
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**I.2 Reading comprehension total**

	/	22
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## II. Grammar

1. Read the following text. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form and write them in the gaps. Do not add any other words. (½ point each)

### *Free streaming is 'killing music industry': Ministry boss*

If Ministry of Sound<sup>9</sup> boss Lohan Presencer (1. have) \_\_\_\_\_ his way, there (2. be) \_\_\_\_\_ no free option for (3. stream) \_\_\_\_\_ music services such as Spotify, Deezer and Rdio - or YouTube for that matter.

Despite (4. settle) \_\_\_\_\_ his company's lawsuit with Spotify over copyright infringement, Presencer (5. remain) \_\_\_\_\_ an outspoken opponent of free streaming services - a point he made forcefully during last week's Mobile World Congress debate with representatives from Deezer and Rdio.

"Over the last few years, my complaint (6. be) \_\_\_\_\_ with the free aspect, the freemium model<sup>10</sup>. I just can't see how that is sustainable or supportable. The argument goes that by (7. make) \_\_\_\_\_ a free ad-funded service available, you give the pirates an alternative. I just (8. not believe) \_\_\_\_\_ it," said Presencer.

"I think what you do is you take casual consumers of music and you turn them from purchasers into browsers, into snackers. They (9. not have) \_\_\_\_\_ to engage in the subscription model. The reality of some of the bigger streaming services is that 75% of their user base is free, which has a horrific impact on the music industry and its ability (10. invest) \_\_\_\_\_ in talent going forward."

Presencer also attacked streaming services for being responsible to their investors rather than musicians. "Your objective is to grow your user base, so you can put money back in the pockets of your investors. You are not the ones (11. invest) \_\_\_\_\_ in developing talent," he said.

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<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Sound started out as a nightclub in London, but has since diversified into a multimedia entertainment business. In addition to the nightclub, an independent record label and worldwide events brand with a radio station and other media outlets. (wikipedia)

<sup>10</sup> a business model, especially on the Internet, whereby basic services are provided free of charge while more advanced features must be paid for.

“And our creative community (12. become) \_\_\_\_\_ smaller daily, as a result of the free services that don’t stop (13. give) \_\_\_\_\_ music away for free.”

On the other hand, Deezer’s Europe vice-president Gerrit Schumann said that a lot of people (14. be) \_\_\_\_\_ not willing to pay for music, but they (15. get) \_\_\_\_\_ involved with it. “We see a lot of people (16. come) \_\_\_\_\_ to us who (17. not buy) \_\_\_\_\_ CDs for about 20 years. But now, they go in the freemium funnel, or they (18. give) \_\_\_\_\_ a free trial. It’s easy, it’s on mobile, and they start paying for music again. It’s that simple.”

Rdio’s head of business development Chris Burton warned that Rdio (19. spend) \_\_\_\_\_ four years as a subscription-only service, (20. find) \_\_\_\_\_ it “very difficult” to persuade people to sign up. He said that if the music industry (21. turn) \_\_\_\_\_ away from freemium, it (22. be) \_\_\_\_\_ “extremely difficult” to keep (23. increase) \_\_\_\_\_ earnings.

Presencer’s ears (24. remain) \_\_\_\_\_ deaf to such an argument. “We need to switch off free across the board to come up with clever alternative payment mechanisms that allow people to pay as they go,” he said at the conference. “The reality is that on-demand music is a consumption medium, and giving it away for free just kills the industry.”

And YouTube? Presencer wants the music industry (25. exert) \_\_\_\_\_ more pressure on that service too. “YouTube (26. be) \_\_\_\_\_ the elephant in the room for many years. As an industry we openly, and somewhat naively, (27. welcome) \_\_\_\_\_ it as a promotional platform at the beginning,” he said after the event. “For a whole generation that (28. grow up) \_\_\_\_\_ with YouTube, it’s the primary destination for listening to music. No strategy (29. deal) \_\_\_\_\_ with the damaging nature of legal free music is complete without (30. put) \_\_\_\_\_ YouTube behind some sort of pay mechanic. I fear it may be too late, but as an industry we owe it to ourselves to try.”

*adapted from: <http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/mar/11/ministry-of-sound-streaming-switch-off-free>*

2. Complete the second sentence, using the word or words given so that it has the same meaning as the first sentence. Use no more than six words.  
Do not change the word given. (1 point each)

1. I've worked for Colin Firth as a PA for almost three years.

**WILL**

By the end of the month \_\_\_\_\_ for Colin Firth  
as a PA for three years.

2. I can't remember the last heavy rain.

**WHEN**

I can't remember \_\_\_\_\_ heavily.

3. New drugs are being discovered which are helping to fight against diseases.

**DISCOVERY**

The fight against diseases \_\_\_\_\_  
of new drugs.

4. We have given winter equipment to all the soldiers.

**PROVIDED**

All the soldiers \_\_\_\_\_ winter  
equipment.

5. People say that someone has stolen the DVD player.

**SAID**

Someone \_\_\_\_\_  
the DVD player.



6. By law, all rear-seat passengers are obliged to wear seat-belts.

**HAVE**

By law, seat-belts \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ by all rear-seat passengers.

7. Have you ever regretted not doing a gap year in New Zealand?

**WISH**

Do you ever \_\_\_\_\_ a gap year in New Zealand.

8. Kirsten started learning Italian five years ago.

**HAS**

Kirsten \_\_\_\_\_  
five years.

9. I'm not nearly as good-looking as she is.

**MUCH**

She is \_\_\_\_\_ I am.

10. Parking is not permitted here.

**PARK**

You are \_\_\_\_\_  
here.

/	<b>10</b>
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**3. In the following text, there is one grammar mistake in each sentence. Find and correct it. There are no spelling mistakes. (1 point each)**

(taken from: <http://sciencenordic.com/paper-beats-computer-screens>)

1. Numerous studies show that when you read a text on paper your understanding is deeper and longer lasting than if you would read that same text on a computer.
2. Of course, if you read the text on a screen you can recount probably what you read.
3. But you cannot readily make use from the content in other contexts.
4. Digital information disappears quicker from your memory, too.
5. Screens are the best for superficial and speedy reading.
6. A new Norwegian study of 10th graders confirm that reading texts in print rather than a computer screen is better for some aspects of comprehension.
7. It was carried out from Anne Mangen and her colleagues at the Reading Centre of the University of Stavanger.
8. They randomly divided 72 of their 10th grade teens into two groups. Both was given two texts, a fiction piece and a factual piece.
9. One group was asking to read the two texts as PDF files on standard computer screens, the other group read the texts on paper.
10. The pupils' individual reading skills and vocabularies had been charted beforehand, for making allowances for these variations.
11. The teens were then asked to answer questions that would show how good they had understood the text.
12. The results clearly demonstrated that those which had read on computer screens had understood less than the other students.

/ 12
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**1.2 Grammar total**

/ 37
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**PART A TOTAL**

/ 77
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Now hand in all the sheets of part A in order to get part B (essay topics).  
For the essay you can use your dictionary.

## B. Essay

Choose one of the following topics to write an essay of 400 - 500 words.

Hand in a fair copy.

Remember to count your words accurately and state the number in the box below.

1. "Increased longevity<sup>11</sup> without quality of life is an empty prize."  
Director General of the WHO in the World Health Report 1998  
**Discuss.**

2. "The pen is mightier than the sword." (Edward G. Bulwer) **Discuss.**

3. To defend multiculturalism is to defend liberty. **Discuss.**

4. In our media-obsessed society privacy is a myth. **Discuss.**

Words:



**Attach all the sheets you have written on to the task sheet with the paperclip and hand them in. All the sheets you have not used go onto another pile.**

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<sup>11</sup> long life