

Name: _____

Maturitätsprüfungen Englisch 2011

Klassen: 4A (Lp), 4Ba (Da), 4Bb (Cp), 4GL (Wr), 4IS (HM), 4IZ (Cp), 4LW (Fb),
4MW (Dy), 4S (Cp/Lp), 4Sb (Km), 4Wa (Bn), 4Wb (EG), 5KSW (Ka)

Prüfungsdauer: 4 Stunden

Erlaubte Hilfsmittel: ein- oder zweisprachiges Wörterbuch für das Essay

Content

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

I. Reading Comprehension: Language	18 pts.
Comprehension Questions	22 pts.
II. Grammar	34 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!

C. Beckert
A. Chiappini
M. Dambach
J. Dyer
B. Finkbeiner
E. Güntert
Y. Kaspar
E. Kaufmann
L. Leppich
H.U. Müller
C. Wirz

A. Comprehension and Grammar

I. Reading Comprehension

A. Read the following text and answer the questions on pages 6 - 9.



Tiger Moms: Is Tough Parenting Really the Answer?

By Annie Murphy Paul, *Time Magazine*, Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011

It was the "Little White Donkey" incident that pushed many readers over the edge. That's the name of the piano tune that Amy Chua, Yale law professor and self-described "tiger mother," forced her 7-year-old daughter Lulu to practice for hours on end — "right through dinner into the night," with no breaks for water or even the bathroom, until at last Lulu learned to play the piece.

For other readers, it was Chua calling her older daughter Sophia "garbage" after the girl behaved disrespectfully — the same thing Chua had been called as a child by her strict Chinese father.

Even before *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, Chua's proudly politically incorrect account of raising her children "the Chinese way," arrived in bookstores on Jan. 11, her parenting methods were the incredulous talk and outrage of every playground, supermarket and coffee shop.

Chua's reports from the trenches¹ of authoritarian parenthood are worrying, even shocking, in their open admission of maternal cruelty. Though Chua was born and raised in the U.S., her invocation² of what she describes as traditional "Chinese parenting" has hit hard at a national sore spot: our fears about losing ground to China and other rising powers and about adequately preparing our children to survive in the global economy. Her stories of never accepting a grade lower than an A, of insisting on hours of math and spelling drills and piano and violin practice each day (weekends and vacations included), of not allowing playdates or sleepovers or television or computer games or even school plays, have left many readers outraged but also defensive. The tiger mother's cubs³ are being raised to rule the world, the book clearly implies, while the offspring of "weak-willed" Westerners are growing up ill equipped to compete in a fierce global marketplace.

One of those permissive American parents is Chua's husband, Jed Rubenfeld (also a professor at Yale Law School). When he protested at Chua's tirade over "The Little White Donkey," for instance, Chua informed him that his older daughter Sophia could play the piece when she was Lulu's age. Sophia and Lulu are different people, Rubenfeld pointed out reasonably. "Oh, no, not this," Chua shot back, adopting a

¹ narrow channel dug in the ground by soldiers to provide a place of shelter from enemy fire

² pleading for, voicing a strong opinion in favour of

³ young ones

30 mocking tone: "Everyone is special in their special own way. Even losers are special in their own special way."

With a stroke of her razor-sharp pen, Chua has set a whole nation of parents to wondering: Are we the losers she's talking about?

35 Americans have more than enough reason to wonder these days, starting with our distinctly loserish economy. And if our economy suffers by comparison with China's, so does our system of primary and secondary education. That became clear in December, when the latest test results from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) were released. American students were stuck in the middle: 17th
40 in reading, 23rd in science and 31st in math — 17th overall. For the first time since PISA began its rankings in 2000, students in Shanghai took the test — and they blew everyone else away, achieving a decisive first place in all three categories.

The document that finally focused the nation's attention on these crucial questions was not an academic study or a large government report, but a slender book that sprang from one mother's despair over her daughter's teenage rebellion.

45 When I visit Chua at her home, the first thing she wants me to know is that she is not a monster. "Everything I do as a mother builds on a foundation of love and compassion," she says. Love and compassion, plus punishingly high expectations: this is how Chua herself was raised. When Chua took her father to an awards assembly at which she received second prize, he was furious. "Never, ever disgrace
50 me like that again," he told her.

The second thing Chua wants you to know is that the hard-core parenting she set out to do didn't work — not completely, anyway. "When my children were young, I was very arrogant," Chua acknowledges. "I thought I could maintain total control. And in fact my first child, Sophia, was very cooperative." Then came Lulu.

55 From the beginning, Chua's second daughter was nothing like her obedient sister. As a fetus, she kicked — hard. As an infant, she screamed for hours every night. And as a budding teenager she refused to go along with her mother's academic and extracurricular program. In particular, the two fought epic battles over violin practice. Finally, after a screaming, glass-smashing, very public showdown, the tiger
60 mother admitted defeat: "Lulu," she said, "you win. It's over. We're giving up the violin."

That was a year and a half ago. Today, Chua has worked out some surprising compromises with her children. Sophia can go out on dates and must practice the piano for an hour and a half each day instead of as many as six hours. Lulu is
65 allowed to pursue her passion for tennis. And Chua says she doesn't want to script her children's futures. "I really don't have any particular career path in mind for Sophia and Lulu, as long as they feel passionate about it and give it their best."

Most surprising of all to Chua's critics may be the fact that many elements of her approach are supported by research in psychology and cognitive science.⁴ Take, for
70 example, her assertion that American parents go too far in insulating their children from discomfort and distress. Chinese parents, by contrast, she writes, "assume strength, not fragility, and as a result they behave very differently." In the 2008 book *A Nation of Wimps*⁵, author Hara Estroff Marano, editor of *Psychology Today*

⁴ the study of thought, learning, and mental organization, which draws on aspects of psychology, linguistics, philosophy, and computer modeling.

⁵ a person who is not strong, brave or confident

75 magazine, provides evidence that shows Chua is correct. "Research demonstrates that
children who are protected from struggling with difficult tasks don't develop what
psychologists call 'mastery experiences,' " Marano explains. "Kids who have this
well-earned sense of mastery are more optimistic and decisive; they've learned that
they're capable of overcoming misfortune and achieving goals." Children who have
80 never had to test their abilities, says Marano, grow into emotionally fragile young
adults who are more vulnerable to anxiety and depression.

One more way in which the tiger mother's approach differs from that of her Western
counterparts: her willingness to "drill, baby, drill". When Sophia came in second on
a multiplication speed test at school, Chua made her do 20 practice tests every night
for a week, clocking her with a stopwatch. "Strict practice, practice, practice is
85 crucial for excellence; mechanical repetition is underrated in America," she writes. In
this, Chua is right, says Daniel Willingham, a professor of psychology at the
University of Virginia. "It's virtually impossible to become proficient at a mental task
without extensive practice," he notes.

All that said, however, psychologists universally condemn the use of threats and
90 name calling — verbal weapons frequently used by Chua — as harmful to children's
individual development and to the parent-child relationship. So just what does she
have to say about the scandalous episodes recounted in her book?

About "The Little White Donkey": she was perhaps too severe in enforcing long
hours of practice, Chua says now. Still, she says, it was important for Sophia and
95 Lulu to learn what they were capable of. "It might sound harsh, but kids really
shouldn't be able to take the easy way out," she explains. "If a child has the
experience, even once, of successfully doing something she didn't think she could do,
that lesson will stick with her for the rest of her life."

100 On calling Sophia "garbage": "There are some things I did that I regret and wish I
could change, and that's one of them," Chua says. But, she notes, her father used
similar language with her, "and I knew it was because he thought well of me and was
sure I could do better." Chua's parents are now in their 70s, and she says she feels
nothing but love and respect for them.

So should we all be following Chua's example? She wrote a memoir, not a manual.
105 And Marano points out: "Kids can grow and flourish under a wide variety of
parenting styles," she says. "But American parenting, at its best, combines ambitious
expectations and a loving environment with a respect for each child's individual
differences and a flexibility in parental roles and behavior. You can set high
standards in your household and help your children meet them without resorting to
110 the extreme measures Chua writes about." Western parents have their own highly
effective strategies for promoting learning, such as free play — something Chua
never mentions.

But hard work, persistence, no patience for excuses: whether Chinese or American,
that sounds like a prescription for success with which it's very difficult to argue.

adapted from: <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2043313,00.html>

B. 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)

a. garbage (l. 6)

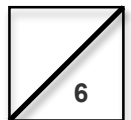
b. account (l. 10)

c. offspring (l. 23)

d. ill equipped (l. 24)

e. crucial (l. 42 + 85)

f. virtually (l. 87)



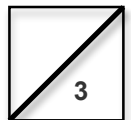
2. Give a contextual **antonym** for the following:

(1 point each)

a. despair (l. 44) _____

b. refused (l. 57) _____

c. defeat (l. 60) _____



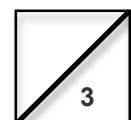
3. Give the **noun** for the following words:

(1 point each)

a. achieving (l. 41 + 78) _____

b. furious (l. 49) _____

c. similar (l. 101) _____



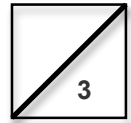
4. Give the verb for the following words:

(1 point each)

a. obedient (l. 55) _____

b. threat (l. 89) _____

c. variety (l. 105) _____



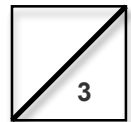
5. Give the adjective for the following words:

(1 point each)

a. rebellion (l. 44) _____

b. passion (l. 65) _____

c. persistence (l. 113) _____



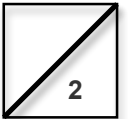
B. Language total



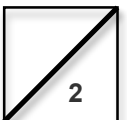
C. Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible and in full sentences.
Keep the whole text in mind when answering the questions.
No points will be awarded for repeated answers.
Up to six points will be awarded for the quality of your language.

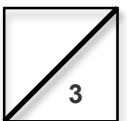
1. a. Which two incidents of parenting have caused most criticism? (2 pts.)



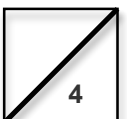
b. How does Chua justify these two incidents? (2 pts.)



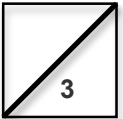
2. What is meant by the expression “national sore spot” in line 16 [1 pt.] and what are the examples given for the US [2 pts.]? (3 pts.)



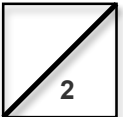
3. Why did Chua’s parenting style change [1 pt.] and how [3 pts.]? (4 pts.)



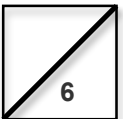
4. Why do psychologists support some aspects of Chua's parenting methods? (3 pts.)



5. What does the author think of Chua's parenting style? Find two arguments in the text to support your answer. (2 pts.)



Language mark for answers to reading comprehension questions



C. Reading comprehension total



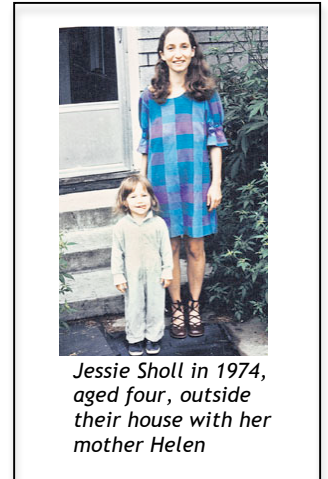
D. Grammar

1. Read through the following newspaper article. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form and write them into the gap. Do not add any other words.

(½ point each)

Our family's hidden shame

As a child, Jessie Sholl conspired to hide her family's secret, tidying the garden so no one would guess the horrors that lay inside the house. Only recently could she finally confront her mother's problem - and walk away.



Jessie Sholl's mother, Helen, was always messy, always disorganized, but 13 years ago her behaviour (1. become) _____ more worrying. Roger, her long-term partner, had died, and on visiting her afterwards, Sholl says she found "everything about her house was different". On one memorable trip to her mother's house, "The scene was just frightening," she says. "I could tell she wasn't able to cook, pans and dishes (2. lie) _____ all over the place, so I said: 'What (3. go on) _____? Why (4. you / not / clean) _____ the house yet?' And my mother just said that she (5. not / have) _____ time to clean."

Jessie Sholl and her husband decided to clean up and, with Helen fighting them all the way, they (6. throw) _____ away piles of rubbish. Still the house was a mess. The state of the place (7. eat) _____ away at Jessie, reminding her of the uncomfortable relationship between herself and her mother. Jessie Sholl's parents (8. break up) _____ when she was seven, and Jessie (9. clean) _____ for her much loved mother from then on, looking after the front garden so that friends wouldn't guess at the mess beyond the porch.

Four years ago when Helen (10. diagnose) _____ with colon cancer and had to go into hospital Jessie had the opportunity to clean up the mess. When confronted with the chaos in the house, she realized that her mother had a huge hoarding problem.

Sholl and her mother live in the US but there (11. be) _____ cases of hoarding on every continent except Antarctica; in Melbourne, Australia, a quarter of all deaths in house fires in the last 10 years (12. cause) _____ by hoarding.

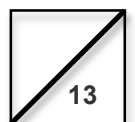
In fact, hoarding is so common that Sholl found online support groups for children of hoarders. There were people terrified that the emergency services would not be able to get inside the house if something (13. happen) _____ to their parents. "I was so shocked at those message boards - I had no idea there were so many of us", says Sholl. Before discovering the support groups, she (14. tell) _____ only her husband about her mother. But since confessing all, she (15. be) _____ surprised by the number of positive, open-minded responses.

There are thought to be genetic factors in hoarding - nearly every hoarder (16. have) _____ a close relative with similar tendencies. Brain scans (17. show) _____ decreased activity in areas related to memory, decision-making, spatial orientation and emotions and these problems (18. often / link) _____ to psychiatric illness. It is easy for relatives of hoarders to think the problem (19. solve) _____ if they just cleaned up the mess but it is not as easy as that.

While cleaning her mother's house 4 years ago, Jessie (20. catch) _____ a skin infection from an infected pillow and she decided never to set foot in the house again. Jessie said that she (21. spend) _____ many hours fantasizing about cleaning her mother's house. In the past she had thought she (22. can) _____ fix her relationship with her mother if she just fixed her house. Jessie added that she (23. have) _____ regular therapy at the moment and that (24. help) _____ her deal with her feelings about her mother.

"Accepting that she is a hoarder, and that it isn't my problem, and she isn't even particularly unhappy about it, has been incredibly positive for me. It's horrible to say, but I (25. deal) _____ with the mess in the house when my mother dies. There's nobody else. But I (26. wear) _____ a protective suit when I go in. I really am."

(Adapted from *The Guardian*, Saturday 5 February 2011 - Kira Cochrane)



2. Complete the second sentence using the word given so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (1 point each)

a. Though he had prepared himself carefully, he failed the exam.

DESPITE

_____ himself carefully, he failed the exam.

b. The dictator forced his people to fight for him.

MADE

The dictator _____ for him.

c. It is normal for me to have no lunch.

USED

I am _____ no lunch.

d. Sandy didn't see the other car and collided with it.

IF

_____, she wouldn't have collided with it.

e. The Air Canada flight was \$ 1200, but the British Airways flight was \$ 1800.

EXPENSIVE

The British Airways flight _____ the Air Canada flight.

f. He said that he had not drunk the whiskey.

DENIED

He _____ the whiskey.

g. She regretted being so rude to him.

WISHED

She _____ so rude to him.

h. Sue said to Joe: "If I were you, I would buy a new car."

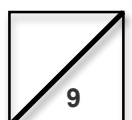
ADVISED

Sue _____ a new car.

i. The collapse of the house meant that the firemen were not able to rescue all the people trapped inside.

PREVENTED

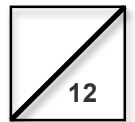
The collapse of the house _____ all the people trapped inside.



3. Find 12 of the 13 mistakes in the following text. Each mistake found and corrected equals 1 point. If a non-mistake is 'corrected' with a mistake, one point will be deducted. There are no punctuation mistakes.

Hydropower

The main sources of energy in the world is fossil fuels - coal, oil and natural gas. Fossil fuels are non-renewable - this mean that nature cannot recreate them as fast as people using them up. Sometime in the future, all of them will run out and we will need other, renewable, sources of energy. Some renewable energy sources are being available now. One of them is water, what has been used to create energy since thousands of years. Today, hydro- or water power, generating by huge dams, is a major source of electricity in many parts of the world. But the hydropower has its own costs. When dams are build, the area above them is flooded, sometimes for miles. At some places, people loose their homes as well the rich soil in which they once grew their crops. In other places, wonderful wild landscapes buried forever under new, artificial lakes. Below the dams, the natural habitats of fish and wildlife in the river valley are destroyed as the course of the river is changed.



D. Grammar total



PART A TOTAL



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 - 550 words.
- Hand in a fair copy.
- Count your words and state the number at the bottom of this sheet.

1. *Is Tough Parenting Really the Answer?*

Discuss this question and present your own opinion.

2. *"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."*

William Blake (English poet, 1757-1827)

What does Blake mean exactly? Discuss how far you agree and disagree with this quotation.

3. *Do inequality and poverty cause revolution and crime?*

In his work "Politics", the Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC) points out that inequality and poverty in societies can cause revolution and crime.

Discuss this idea by considering its relevance in our times.

4. *"Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites."*

(William Ruckelshaus, Business Week, 18 June 1990)

Explain the quotation and discuss it.

5. Write a creative text ending in this sentence: "... and so he cleaned up the mess."

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.