

Maturitätsprüfung 2016

Grundlagenfach Englisch

Name, Vorname:

Abteilung:

Prüfungsteil 1 *Punkte*

I. Reading/Vocabulary/50

II. Use of English/50 Note 1

Teil I. und II. (50%)/100

Prüfungsteil 2 *Punkte* Note 2

III. Composition (50%)/60

Gesamtnote:

(Note 1 + Note 2 auf eine halbe Note gerundet)

Visum Examinator/in:

THE SEVEN AGES OF FAMILY LIFE (The Guardian, 5 July 2015, Yvonne Roberts)

- No other institution can have had the last rites administered so often over the centuries and with such relish only to spring back to life, transformed, reinvigorated; the death of the family postponed once more. The Greek gods were among the first to bloody the ties that bind. In *The Oresteia*, written by Aeschylus (458 BC), now adapted for the London stage at the Almeida, father kills daughter, mother kills father, son kills mother and the Furies of Greek mythology beset¹ all those who murder their kin. Nobody wins. Add to that the themes of unnatural mother-son interest (the Oedipus complex) and father-daughter machinations (the Electra complex), and the message echoing through the ages – a favourite of Shakespeare, and fodder for every television soap – is all too clear; in the bosom of the family, no one is safe. And yet ...
- In spite of the toxic framework in which the family has traditionally been framed, and the continual flow of negative statistics about divorce and breakdown, the latest news for Britain is surprisingly positive. Last week, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, drawing on an international study, reported that the UK is one of the happiest nations for family relationships, with more than 90% of respondents saying they were very happy or fairly happy with their family life, the fourth highest in the developed world. Given the dark tenor that colours kinship in popular culture and the family's regular battering by critics from left, right and centre, how can that be?
- Last year, there were 18.6 million families in the UK, including 12.5 million married couple families and two million lone-parent families (with the other parent possibly nonresident but not "absent"). Cohabiting couple families are showing the fastest growth – an increase of almost 30% in 10 years from 2004. Also growing fast are same-sex couple families and households containing two or more families. They now number 313,000 households, an increase of 56% in the decade to 2014 – a possible result of spiralling housing costs and high immigration. Add to the mix reproductive technology that allows, for instance, two gay men to have three children by as many women, and "re-blended" clans built on separation, divorce, remarriage and cohabitation, squeezed into a single family tree. The traditional nuclear family consisting of the stay-at-home mother and breadwinner father, welded² in holy wedlock and raising the standard two offspring, now struggles to call itself "the norm".
- So here is a stab at the seven modifications of family life from which, in spite of predictions of destruction and demise³, the institution has emerged battered but relatively resilient because it is wired for adaptation, increasingly democratic and anchored in the aim (if not always the delivery) of unconditional love. Chaotic and anarchic, continuing to muddle through, doing the best it can.
- 35 Past times: The DIY family**
The family often lives and works in the same place; an extended network of support. Marriage is frequently a business affair, a union of power, property and families. Cohabitation and "illegitimacy" are common for centuries at least among the lower orders.
- 40 Fifties: Happy ever after**
Increasing affluence in the postwar years shores up⁴ the myth that the twentysomething bride and groom – him out to work, her indoors – is how it has always been. Marriage – even a shotgun wedding precipitated by the scandal of sex before matrimony – has to last for life. Family life is stable, conformist, but for many that stability comes at a price. Divorce carries a stigma. In 1958, there are only 22,654 divorces in England and Wales (compared with 13 divorces an hour in England and Wales in 2012). The family is considered intensely private and highly respectable. The expectation is that the only four words a young woman wants to hear are "Will you marry me?" As many subsequently discover, marrying is the easy part, living together afterwards the challenge.

¹ to beset = to affect somebody/something in an unpleasant or harmful way

² to weld = to unite people or things into a strong and effective group

³ demise = the end or failure of an institution, an idea

⁴ to shore up = to help to support something that is weak or going to fail

Sixties: Decadence and dissent

50 In the 1960s, individualism, feminism and “free love” trigger the rage of the right. The family as the moral mirror of society is allegedly shattered. On the left, white middle-class feminists such as Betty Friedan and Ann Oakley, decry the golden cage of domesticity and “the problem that had no name” (housework, motherhood and hubby, yet still that empty feeling inside, and the question, “Is that all there is?”). Hippy notions of communal family living interest some and horrify others. Women’s Liberation supposedly means that a man doesn’t have to propose before he gets his leg over.

Seventies: The me decade

60 The 1969 Divorce Reform Act comes into law in 1971. Neither partner has to prove fault. The divorce rate shoots up from 45,794 in England and Wales in 1968 to 143,667 in 1978 – divorce is overwhelmingly initiated by women. The lone-parent family is born – and battle begins. Is it structure that matters for children in the shape of traditional marriage – or commitment and stability delivered without the nuptials? Research begins to indicate that if two parents keep their animosity under control and stay together, children are OK. Two parents openly at war whether together or apart causes grief. The right asks “Who Killed the Family?” It wants divorce to be made harder, and tax relief for husbands and wives. It still does today. In 1971, feminist Shulamith Firestone advocates artificial wombs for making babies. The family’s dark side is revealed – domestic violence, child sexual abuse.

Eighties: Children first (or not)

70 Legislation tries to put the child first in family life. Choice, personal freedom, women becoming economically independent earning a wage, all mean the family has to negotiate new terms of engagement. No couples in the UK need marriage for protection, or are obliged to stay together for fear of what the neighbours might say. A family brokers its own contract. Two wage-earners with one carrying all the domestic burden can result in stormy times. Cohabitors might drift into family life or consciously choose it, but many find it more difficult to navigate these choppy waters than husbands and wives.

Nineties: The family inside out

80 Private family life becomes a little more public as a national childcare strategy is launched; working mothers harming their babies by leaving them in nursery care become an issue. So too do the feckless⁵ dad, gay parents, the frailty of step-families – and every trend and statistic that fails to resuscitate the housewife and breadwinner. The royals divorce – Andrew and Fergie, Charles and Diana, Anne and Mark. It becomes OK to be a little bit selfish. “Good enough parents have to look after themselves to look after others. You can’t pour water from an empty jug,” says one expert.

85 Noughties⁶: Confetti RIP

90 Marriage rates continue to plunge, so divorce drops too. “Parenting” is professionalised, with courses and punishments for those who fail to make the grade. Gay couples enter civil partnerships. Some grown-up children of sperm donors ask: why me? Others couldn’t care less. Wombs to rent throw up ethical dilemmas with greater frequency – whose baby is it? The historian Jeffrey Weeks wrote in the 90s about how Aids introduced a “remoralisation” for some gay men. Promiscuity as a conscious rejection of the values of the nuclear family is increasingly replaced by “a responsibility for the self that requires a responsibility for others.” Families come in all shapes and sizes and include circles of friends. Some parents regress, behave like kids and appear on reality TV. One of the fastest growing group of divorcees is the “silver splitters”, those over 60 going their separate ways. Grandparents in their hundreds of thousands take on full-time care of grandchildren. Adult children move back home – or never leave. And while children and the very oldest are sometimes the casualties, lessons are being learned. The better educated, the older a person is before they settle down and have children, the stronger the chances are of achieving what most of us say we seek – a family we love.

⁵ feckless = having a weak character; not behaving in a responsible way

⁶ the noughties = the years from 2000 to 2009

READING & VOCABULARY

..... / 50 PTS

A) Comprehension

..... / 20

*Underline the answer that reflects the meaning given in the review most precisely.
(2 points per correct answer)*

- 1) The author of the article wonders why
 - a) despite a lot of happy families the concept of family is often depicted so negatively in the UK.
 - b) there are so many people who are content with their family life in the developed world.
 - c) coloured families are particularly happy despite the bad reputation in the public eye.
 - d) families in the UK are so happy.
- 2) According to the author, nowadays, ...
 - a) only traditional families have one family tree.
 - b) only families with more than one family tree are considered normal.
 - c) various forms of family constellations are considered normal.
 - d) despite the different family constellations, there is always still one breadwinner.
- 3) In the Sixties, ...
 - a) the stay-at-home mother is considered to be the ideal situation for a woman.
 - b) the stay-at-home mother is generally criticised.
 - c) communal family living shocks the feminists.
 - d) some people question the idealisation of the domestic role of the woman.
- 4) In the Eighties, ...
 - a) marriage has lost its advantages completely.
 - b) despite the many new possibilities, married couples occasionally still struggle less than unmarried ones.
 - c) new laws help control family life for unmarried couples with children.
 - d) if both partners earn money, negotiations about domestic work becomes obsolete.
- 5) In the Nineties, ...
 - a) several possibilities of family life are discussed more widely.
 - b) it can't be accepted that parents also care about themselves.
 - c) mothers harm their children by working too much.
 - d) the "housewife and breadwinner" model is even present in royal families.
- 6) According to the author, ...
 - a) any form of family life is successful as long as you decide on it early in your life.
 - b) AIDS has helped homosexual men to reconsider their moral responsibility.
 - c) education and age are relevant factors in creating the family you have always dreamed of.
 - d) ethical problems have drastically decreased because moral guidelines have been loosened.
- 7) The text as a whole is mainly about ...
 - a) criticism of family life.
 - b) adaptability of family life.
 - c) mocking family life.
 - d) the death of family life.

Write your answer to the following questions in full sentences. Grammar and spelling mistakes will not be penalised.

- 8) Explain in your own words what is meant by “The institution has emerged battered but relatively resilient”. (31) (*Explain the underlined part only.*)

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- 9) Explain in your own words how the author justifies the relevance of her topic “family life”.

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- 10) Explain in your own words which new understanding marks the Seventies.

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B) Vocabulary in Context (30 points)

- 1) **Word formation:** Form new words of the required word class based on the words in the list below.
No participles are allowed. (1 point per correct answer)

..... / 10

Example: transformed (line 4) → noun: transformation

(1) toxic (12)	verb	
(2) respondents (16)	noun	
(3) modification (30)	verb	
(4) prediction (30)	adjective	
(5) extended (36)	noun	
(6) feminism (50)	adjective	
(7) allegedly (51)	noun	
(8) strategy (78)	adjective	
(9) values (91)	adjective	
(10) requires (92)	noun	

- 2) Give a close ***synonymous expression*** of the underlined words and expressions in the present context. (1 point per correct answer)

..... /10

the death of the family <u>postponed</u> once more (4)		Increasing <u>affluence</u> in the postwar years shores up the myth (41)	
all those who murder their <u>kin</u> (7)		The family as the moral mirror of society is allegedly <u>shattered</u> (51)	
and <u>fodder</u> for every television soap (10)		feminist Shulamith Firestone <u>advocates</u> artificial wombs (65)	
the latest news for Britain is <u>surprisingly</u> positive (13)		The family's dark side is <u>revealed</u> (66)	
they were very happy or <u>fairly</u> happy (16)		the <u>frailty</u> of step-families (80)	

- 3) Give a clear ***opposite*** of these words in the present context. Prefixes are allowed.

(1 point per correct answer)

..... / 10

and the <u>continual</u> flow (13)		Sixties: Decadence and <u>dissent</u> (49)	
Cohabiting couple families are showing the fastest <u>growth</u> (21)		if two parents keep their <u>animosity</u> under control (62)	
the institution has <u>emerged</u> battered (31)		Two parents openly at war whether together or apart causes <u>grief</u> . (64)	
Family life is stable, <u>conformist</u> , (44)		for those who <u>fail</u> to make the grade (87)	
The family is considered intensely private and highly <u>respectable</u> (46)		Some parents <u>regress</u> (93)	

USE OF ENGLISH

..... / 50 PTS

C) Gap Text: Fill each gap with suitable words.

...../16

Parental Benefits Where One Parent Counts for More

Companies _____¹ (become) more generous with family-friendly benefits, but in many cases they have a catch. They _____²(award) not to all parents of young children, but to so-called primary caregivers.

At many companies, primary caregivers get much longer leaves and other benefits. And most often, those _____³identify themselves this way are women.

_____⁴, in families _____⁵ both parents plan to work full time and share child-rearing responsibilities, the designation can end up _____⁶(enforce) more traditional gender roles. That can potentially hurt women's careers.

"I've never liked the notion of primary caregiver, because it does force families _____⁷ (choose)," said Ellen Galinsky, president and co-founder of the Families and Work Institute, a research group. "It's defining gender roles when in reality men _____⁸(involve) much more."

At Nestlé, primary caregivers get twenty-six weeks _____⁹, fourteen _____¹⁰(usually pay), while those _____¹¹ are not primary caregivers receive two weeks, for one of _____¹² they get payment. At Accenture, women who give birth get sixteen weeks of leave, other primary caregivers get eight weeks, and secondary caregivers get two weeks. At Orrick, the law firm, primary caregivers get 22 weeks and others get four weeks.

_____¹³ the policy of designating a "primary caregiver" makes sense from a corporate perspective, it may fail to reflect the realities of modern family life.

The notion of a primary caregiver originally _____¹⁴ (appear) in family leave policy as a way to prevent people _____¹⁵ (abuse) the benefits by taking leave,

_____¹⁶ not actually caring for children. It _____¹⁷ (become) popular more recently as a way to recognize same-sex parents, adoptive parents and families

_____¹⁸ fathers stay home. Mothers who give birth also need time _____¹⁹ (recover), and if they are breast-feeding, they have primary responsibility early on. And companies cannot necessarily afford _____²⁰ (extend) generous benefits to all new parents.

Yet the notion can have unintended consequences. Social science research _____²¹ (show) that parents who use formal benefits and _____²² (see) as performing a primary parenting role, regardless _____²³ gender, get a lower pay and _____²⁴ promotions. It _____²⁵ (also, show) that when fathers play a hands-on role when the child is young, they have a stronger connection for years to come, and mothers earn more.

Some researchers say one way to decrease these penalties is to make family-oriented policies gender-neutral and apply them _____²⁶ all parents.

Some companies ask new parents to make the primary and secondary distinction even after a return to work. A new policy at Accenture allows primary caregivers to forgo travel for the first year of their future life.

"Our people really helped us shape this, and people view one person as _____²⁷ (have) primary responsibility even _____²⁸ they share responsibilities," said Ellyn Shook, Accenture's chief human resources officer.

Ms. Galinsky acknowledged that responsibilities _____²⁹ (be) rarely completely equal but said that parents _____³⁰ (need) flexibility.

"I've never believed in 50/50, because 50/50 is probably no one's real life," she said. "It's a seesaw. It goes back and _____³¹. And I think that it _____³²(never, change)." (The New York Times, Claire Cain Miller, September 3, 2015, slightly adapted)

D) Sentence Transformation

..... / 10

For tasks 1-10, complete the second sentence so that it has a closely similar meaning to the first one, using the word given. DO NOT CHANGE THE WORD GIVEN. You must use THREE to EIGHT words, including the word given. (1 point per correct answer)

- 1) Harry was going to take his mother for a drive in his new sports car but it looks as if he didn't think of it.

MUST

Harry his mother for a drive in his new sports car.

- 2) The burglar wore gloves so as not to leave any fingerprints behind.

AVOID

The burglar wore gloves in any fingerprints behind.

- 3) I don't think we'll see Simon before he goes to New York.

LIKELIHOOD

There's Simon before he goes to New York.

- 4) I prefer staying to going to a movie

RATHER

I to a movie.

- 5) It was wrong to make Jean responsible for showing visitors round the building yesterday on her first day at work.

CHARGE

Jean should showing visitors round the building yesterday on her first day at work.

- 6) It was only at the start of the following week that Kate saw Mark again.

SEE

Kate the start of the following week.

- 7) Tom missed his plane because he was late leaving for the airport.

TIME

If only for the airport, he wouldn't have missed his plane.

- 8) I put the phone down and then it rang again.

HAD

No it rang again.

- 9) Jenny felt that her friends had stayed too long at the party.

HIGH

Jenny felt it the party.

- 10) It's a waste of time to talk to him – he never listens.

GOOD

It to him – he never listens.

E) Communication Skills: Underline the best answer

..... / 8

1)	A: You will be expelled from school if you don't have your homework. B: That's absurd.
	a) You're joking me. b) You're kidding me. c) You must be choking. d) You'd got to be kidding me.
2)	A: Did you hear? Peter resigned last week. B: Oh well, to the company.
	a) fat chance b) what a shame c) bad luck d) good riddance
3)	A: Do you want me to lend you a hand? B: I'll handle it by myself.
	a) Don't bother. b) Don't care. c) Don't mind. d) Don't matter.
4)	A: Should I take the carrot or the chocolate cake? B: You do want you want.
	a) I wouldn't bother. b) I couldn't care less. c) I don't worry much. d) I shouldn't mind.
5)	A: Does he have all the necessary tools for the renovation? B: I was going to lend him a saw, but, he already has one.
	a) as I think b) how I believe c) come to think of it d) consider it or not
6)	A: Let's go to this new Indian restaurant. B: I don't like Indian food.
	a) Leave me out. b) Take me off. c) Count me out. d) Put me off.
7)	A: I have four computers at home. B: What do you do with them all?
	a) Great chance. b) What a pity. c) Join the club. d) Good grief.
8)	A: What is the school system like in your country? B: it is divided into primary, secondary and tertiary schools
	a) Broadly speaking, b) To speak generally, c) Widely speaking, d) Generally talking,

F) Translation

..... / 16

- 1) Bis spätestens Ende Juni werden wir unsere Abschlussprüfungen beendet haben, was unglaublich aufregend ist.

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- 2) Wenn sie ihr Fahrrad hätte reparieren lassen, müsste sie jetzt nicht zu Fuss gehen.

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- 3) Glücklicherweise wurden meinen Nichten und Neffen seit sie klein waren viele gute Ratschläge gegeben.

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- 4) Der Wissenschaftler, über dessen kontroversen Artikel wir seit Wochen diskutieren, soll auf mysteriöse Art und Weise verschwunden sein.

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COMPOSITION

..... / 60 PTS

Duration 120 minutes approximately, including time for counting your words.

Help *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD)*

Expected length 350-500 words approximately

Choose one of the following topics to write your composition about; **DO NOT CHANGE THE TITLE!**

We suggest you take notes first and write a draft before producing a neat copy.

The neat copy must be headed by the title, with appropriate margins left and right.

Count the words and write the total at the bottom of each page, and the grand total at the end.

1. **Picture Description.** Give a precise description of the picture (composition, details...), and then go on to describe the associations it triggers, and to discuss the message it holds for you.⁷



2. **"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."** (Winston Churchill)
➤ Discuss the meaning and implications of the above statement.
3. **"Human migration will be a defining issue of this century. How best to cope?"** (Alexander Betts, Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs, Oxford University)
➤ Give and explain your opinion on the above question.
4. **"Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell the truth."** (Oscar Wilde)
➤ Discuss the meaning and implications of the above statement.

⁷ vocabulary: test tube = Reagenzglas