

# ENGLISCH

## 8A (bilingual)

### Teil A: OPINION ESSAY

#### Globalization

*'We must ensure that the global market is embedded in broadly shared values and practices that reflect global social needs, and that all the world's people share the benefits of globalization.'*

*(Kofi Annan, Ghanaian diplomat, 7<sup>th</sup> secretary-general of the United Nations, Nobel Peace Prize in 2001.)*

Write an essay of about 400 words in which you

- interpret Kofi Annan's statement
- outline some of the benefits and drawbacks of globalization
- conclude with a personal outlook on the issue

### Teil B: Choose one of the following tasks

#### 1. ARTICLE

##### Lifestyles / Family values

You have recently been doing some research on changing trends and tendencies concerning family values in Austria.

In an article for a European youth magazine write about the results of your investigations. Discuss which changes have taken place and then state your opinion about whether these changes are negative or positive. Write about 200 words.

#### 2. FORMAL LETTER

##### Ireland

You were born into a family in Belfast where a wall divides the Catholic from the Protestant community. You live in one of these communities and you have heard about efforts on behalf of the government to tear the wall down.

In a letter to the local government express your views either for or against this pending initiative. Back up your arguments by considering some of the major political steps in the more recent history (1990s onwards) of the country. Write about 200 words.

## 8B (Gruppe Nehsl)

### Teil A : OPINION ESSAY

The only way to cut crime in our country is to make punishment more severe. Without capital punishment our lives are less secure and crimes of violence increase. Capital punishment is essential to control violence in society.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion ?

Write an essay (450 words) in which you

- give some background about criminality in your country/area
- and mention the possible reasons for the situation
- discuss attitudes and reasons in favour of and against death penalty
- provide examples and facts where possible
- give your own personal opinion about the topic

### Teil B : Choose one of the following tasks

#### 1. FORMAL LETTER

After taking your A-levels, you and your classmates are considering to take part in an "Amazonian Adventure" holiday the advertisement of which you came across in The Mirror.

Write a letter ( 180 – 250 words ) to the holiday company to find out details about

- costs ( what / include ; reduction ; extras ? )
- accommodation
- equipment
- insurance
- ... other ...

#### 2. REPORT

The municipal authorities of Villach want the town to be a most interesting destination for exchange students.

Support their effort by writing them a report (180 – 250 words) in which you state what makes Villach attractive for young people and what should be improved.

Mention at least 5 different points.

## 8B (Gruppe Adlbrecht)

### Part A: OPINION ESSAY

“Does globalization affect modern society?”

Using the following definition as well as the two statements printed below as a starting point, discuss the present situation of the world. Write **an opinion essay** of about **450 words** in an appropriate structure and style.

Globalization [ˌɡloʊˈbʌˌliːzɪˈzeɪʃən]

Globalization means the process by which the world is gradually becoming unified on an economic, technological and cultural level. The idea includes the increasing mobility of people (as business travellers, tourists, immigrants or refugees) and the steady flow of money and goods between international markets and production sites. It also stands for the global spread (and clash) of ideas and values as well as the rapid distribution of information through the media.

*Source: The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Modern English, Oxford Uni Press*

“The modern world has expanded our notion of identity and at times undermined our sense of belonging, to a family, a tribe, a culture or a nation [...]”

*Tom Brady, The New York Times, Feb 27, 2012*

“The negative side to globalization is that it wipes out entire economic systems and in doing so wipes out the accompanying culture.”

*Peter L. Berger, 1929, US sociologist and theologian*

In your essay you should

- analyse the
  - economic
  - political
  - social and cultural manifestations of globalization
- describe what globalization actually means in everyday life – give examples
- discuss in what ways globalization influences future generations with reference to
  - education
  - job perspectives
  - lifestyle

## Part B : Choose between the following two options

### 1. FORMAL LETTER

One of your schoolmates has been expelled from school because he wrote offensive comments about your principal on an internet networking site. A teacher spotted the comments and reported the boy to your principal. He expelled the student because he was worried about the image of the school. You, the student representative, decide to write **a letter of about 250 words** to the principal.

Your letter should address the following aspects:

- the principal's decision to expel the student
- the impact on the school's image
- necessary social skills for using the net responsibly

### 2. ARTICLE FOR A YOUTH MAGAZINE

In many countries in Europe, smoking is prohibited in public areas. Read the following statements about the present situation in Austria.

"A lazy compromise," the daily Salzburger Nachrichten said of the new legislation, noting that "almost nobody is happy with this law: smokers feel restricted and non-smokers poorly protected."

(source: <http://www.austriantimes.at/?id=10347>)

"What's positive is that Austria is now seeing some movement (on the smoking issue), but it is a half-hearted measure," Austrian Medical Chamber spokesman Martin Stickler said.

(source: <http://www.austriantimes.at/?id=10347>)

You are asked to write **an article of about 250 words** for a youth magazine in which you

- describe the atmosphere in smoking and non-smoking restaurants
- discuss the costs caused by smoking
- identify health problems related to smoking
- suggest realistic solutions for your country

## 8C

### Part A: OPINION ESSAY

“Does globalization affect modern society?”

Using the following definition as well as the two statements printed below as a starting point, discuss the present situation of the world. Write **an opinion essay** of about **450 words** in an appropriate structure and style.

Globalization [ˌɡloʊˈbʌːlɪˈziːʃən]

Globalization means the process by which the world is gradually becoming unified on an economic, technological and cultural level. The idea includes the increasing mobility of people (as business travellers, tourists, immigrants or refugees) and the steady flow of money and goods between international markets and production sites. It also stands for the global spread (and clash) of ideas and values as well as the rapid distribution of information through the media.

*Source: The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Modern English, Oxford Uni Press*

“The negative side to globalization is that it wipes out entire economic systems and in doing so wipes out the accompanying culture.”

*Peter L. Berger, 1929, US sociologist and theologian*

“The modern world has expanded our notion of identity and at times undermined our sense of belonging, to a family, a tribe, a culture or a nation [...]”

*Tom Brady, The New York Times, Feb 27, 2012*

In your essay you should

- analyse the
  - economic
  - political
  - social and cultural manifestations of globalization
- describe what globalization actually means in everyday life – give examples
- discuss in what ways globalization influences future generations with reference to
  - education
  - job perspectives
  - lifestyle

## Part B: Choose between the following two options

### 1. FORMAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A friend just sent you the link to an article that deals with healthy school lunches which were introduced after a public campaign by TV chef Jamie Oliver. However, now they are in danger as the government no longer wants to pay for them. You decide to write **a letter to the editor** of **250 words** in which you offer your opinion.

#### **Jamie Oliver's school lunch programme is in jeopardy**

Five years ago the great one went on a public rampage about the terrible quality of the lunches served to children in schools. Due to his zealous campaign, the hated deep-fried "turkey twizzlers" were replaced by healthy food in schools across the country. That is set to change now, as school budgets are reduced. Oliver is incensed and said that he hopes the government will continue to invest in "quality school food, and the integral support and training of kitchen staff". He writes: "I believe that any compromise on a child's right to a healthy school lunch... is child abuse on an unimaginable scale." The government has already scrapped the proposed extension to free school meals, and earlier this year the Minister of Health criticised the 'Jamie Oliver' approach to school dinners. He believes parents should take over the responsibility.

*Bonnie Alter; April 7, 2011; writer for the online magazine 'TreeHugger'*

*<http://www.treehugger.com/culture/jamie-olivers-school-lunch-programme-is-in-jeopardy.html>*

In your letter, you should

- comment on the government's decision to cut down on financial aid for school lunches
- discuss the importance of healthy school lunches
- outline the government's responsibilities in contrast to the parents' responsibilities
- make suggestions for improving the situation

## 2. ARTICLE FOR A SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Since the development and emergence of the internet, we have seen the eruption of social networking sites such as *Twitter* and *Facebook* as well as more business-oriented sites such as *LinkedIn*. It is no secret that there is a very clear, inverse relationship between face-to-face communication versus the internet.

After reading the following quotations, you are asked to write an article of 250 words for your school magazine.

You should

- write about the impact of social networking on communication skills
- discuss its impact on social skills in general
- refer to personal experience with reference to such sites

***I can understand why fear pervades the social space. Some psychologists have argued that social networking will contribute to the death of emotional intelligence. I don't share this paranoia. Email didn't kill the conversation, so why should social networking?***

***James Gurd, business consultant***

*(source: <http://econsultancy.com/uk/blog/4636-does-social-media-kill-communication-and-people-skills>)*

*Social networking sites should allow us to embellish our social lives, but what we find is very different. The tail is wagging the dog. These are not tools that enhance, they are tools that displace.*

***Dr Aric Sigman***

*(Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/7898510.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7898510.stm))*

## 8D

### Part A: OPINION ESSAY

#### "Has Europe been Americanized?"

Globalization is often seen as the Americanization of other countries. Since the European way of life has become more and more similar to the American one, this trend seems to be especially strong in Europe. This may be the reason why the issue has become the center of discussion over the last decades. Use the following two statements discussing globalization as a starting point to write an opinion essay of about 450 words in the appropriate structure and style, in which you look at the impact of Americanization on Europe and the areas that have been influenced.

"The most visible sign of globalization seems to be the spread of American hamburgers and cola to nearly every country on earth."

**Allan Brian Ssenyonga, a Ugandan freelance writer for *The New Times***

(source: <http://www.globalenvision.org/library/33/1273>)

"As often as I listen to the worries about China eating the jobs of the West, I hear the concern about the influence of the American way of life in the East. The question is: "Does globalization mean Americanization?" My short answer is no. In measuring globalization, we can count telephone calls, currency flows, trade sums, and so on, but the spread of culture and ideas cannot be so easily measured. Embedded in the present is the unrecognized paradox that culturally, America itself is changing more dramatically than America is changing the world. It is the world that is changing the world. Immigration is reshaping America more profoundly than America's influence around the world."

**John Naisbitt, US-author**

(source: <http://blog.gaiam.com/quotes/topics/globalization>)

In your opinion, can Europe be seen as totally Americanized as a result of the developments in the last 50 years? Do you think that Europe's cultural and traditional values have suffered from this Americanization?

Your essay should:

describe the impact of the United States in terms of

- the media and mass culture
- nutrition and eating habits
- clothing and fashion
- changes in language

determine whether these influences are positive or negative and refer to personal experiences with Americanization.



**Part B: Choose one of the following topics**

**1. FORMAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Censorship on Social Media

In a London underground station you saw the following two posters discussing social media released by 'The Economist' in February 2012 as part of a campaign trying to raise discussions concerning current topics. You decide to take a stand and write a letter of about 250 words to the editor.

- Your letter should
- argue why social media should or should not be censored.
  - explain the importance of social media to the public.
  - give your opinion on campaigns like this one.

<p><b>SOCIAL MEDIA SHOULD NOT BE CENSORED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Authoritarian governments often shut down social networks. If democracies do the same, they can hardly preach to dictators.</li><li>• Rescue services increasingly rely on social networks for real-time information during emergencies. Any restrictions could cost lives.</li><li>• Nobody supports blanket censorship for books, films or the press any more. Social media are no different in principle from other media.</li></ul> <p><b>Where do you stand?</b></p>	<p><b>SOCIAL MEDIA SHOULD BE CENSORED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social media can be used to organise mass violence: instant messaging services fuelled the London riots.</li><li>• False rumours can spread like wildfire and sow panic. Tweets about gunmen attacking schools in Mexico allegedly led to 26 car crashes.</li><li>• Parents can choose to block adult websites on a child's computer, but they can't currently block pornography on a social network.</li></ul> <p><b>Where do you stand?</b></p>
---	---

*(source: <http://www.economist.com/where-do-you-stand/social-media>)*

## 2. ARTICLE

### „Popularity vs. eating disorders“

After having read the following information about a newly developing eating disorder among teenagers called „wannarexia“ in class, you decide to write an article of about 250 words for the school magazine in which you discuss several different forms of eating disorders and their possible causes. Also find an appropriate title.

Your article should include

- a definition of „wannarexia“
- at least two different forms of eating disorders and their symptoms
- reasons why mostly young adults develop eating disorders, referring to
  - the media
  - societal expectations
  - peers

Some teenagers think "If they become thin, or get an eating disorder, they will be popular," said Kreipe, the medical director at the Western New York Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders in Rochester.

While Kreipe had seen this phenomenon before, only recently has it acquired a name: wannarexia.

Most commonly found among teenage girls, wannarexia is a label describing those who claim to have anorexia, or wish they did. While wannarexia hasn't been studied, experts say a growing number of girls have a misguided desire to be anorexic to gain popularity or to lose weight. [...]

"Kids simply do what other kids do," said Dr. Tom Kersting, a New Jersey-based psychotherapist, school counselor and author of *Losing Weight When Diets Fail*. "They strive to be popular ... find me a popular girl who's not thin. You won't find many. These 'wannarexics' are exactly that, girls who 'wanna' fit in."

(source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2007-08-04-wannarexic\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2007-08-04-wannarexic_N.htm))