

2027

>30 Millionen  
bestandene  
Prüfungen

50  
Jahre  
STARK

**STARK**  
Prüfung

**MEHR  
ERFAHREN**

**Abitur**

Berlin/Brandenburg

**Englisch GK/LK**

- ✓ Original-Prüfungsaufgaben mit Lösungen
- ✓ Lernvideos zur Textaufgabe



# Inhalt

Vorwort  
Hinweise zu den digitalen Inhalten

## Hinweise und Tipps

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<b>Allgemeine Hinweise und Tipps</b> .....	I
Ablauf der Prüfung .....	I
Inhaltliche Schwerpunkte .....	II
Aufbau der Prüfung .....	III
<b>Hinweise zu den Aufgabenstellungen</b> .....	IV
1 Textzusammenfassung .....	IV
2 Analyse .....	VI
3 Persönliche Stellungnahme/Kommentar und kreatives Schreiben .....	IX
4 Sprachmittlung .....	XI
Hinweise zur Bewertung .....	XII
<b>Die Arbeit mit dem Buch</b> .....	XIII
<b>Die wichtigsten (Stil-)Mittel zur Textanalyse</b> .....	XV

## Lernvideos zur Textaufgabe

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Step-by-Step – Textaufgaben bearbeiten .....	V 1
Video-Set 1: Sachtext .....	V 2
Video-Set 2: literarischer Text .....	V 4

## Übungsaufgaben zum Leseverstehen und Schreiben

---

Aufgabe 1: <i>Say what you like about ‘Sadiq Khan’s no-go hellscape’ – Britain’s cities prove the rightwing agitators wrong</i> .....	1
Aufgabe 2: <i>American democracy might be stronger than Donald Trump</i> .....	13
Aufgabe 3: <i>‘Don’t ask what AI can do for us, ask what it is doing to us’: are ChatGPT and co harming human intelligence?</i> .....	24

## Abiturprüfungsaufgaben Berlin/Brandenburg

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### Grundkurs 2023

Aufgabe 1.1:	<i>Once There Were Wolves</i> (Roman) .....	GK 2023-1
Aufgabe 1.2:	<i>A Young Naturalist Inspires With Joy, Not Doom</i> (Artikel) .....	GK 2023-4
Aufgabe 2.1:	<i>Wetter migrantisch: Tief Ahmet, Hoch Dragica</i> (Artikel) .....	GK 2023-7
Aufgabe 2.2:	<i>Jedes fünfte Start-up in Deutschland wurde von Migranten gegründet</i> (Artikel) .....	GK 2023-9

### Leistungskurs 2023

Aufgabe 1.1:	<i>Trust Exercise</i> (Roman) .....	LK 2023-1
Aufgabe 1.2:	<i>The rise of apocalyptic novels</i> (Artikel) .....	LK 2023-4
Aufgabe 2.1:	<i>Der Spargel kommt per Lastenrad</i> (Artikel) .....	LK 2023-7
Aufgabe 2.2:	<i>Studie „Vielfalt im Film“ Du hast den Farbfilm vergessen!</i> (Artikel) .....	LK 2023-9

### Grundkurs 2024

Aufgabe 1.1:	<i>Normal People</i> (Roman) .....	GK 2024-1
Aufgabe 1.2:	<i>We're not here for doom and gloom': meet the hosts of climate change podcast</i> How to Save a Planet (Artikel) ....	GK 2024-5
Aufgabe 2.1:	<i>Barsch und Basilikum: Die Farm auf dem Supermarkt-Dach</i> (Artikel) .....	GK 2024-8
Aufgabe 2.2:	<i>Geflüchtete Journalisten machen Berliner Lokaljournalismus</i> (Artikel) .....	GK 2024-10

### Leistungskurs 2024

Aufgabe 1.1:	<i>The Every</i> (Roman) .....	LK 2024-1
Aufgabe 1.2:	<i>What Western Society Can Learn from Indigenous Communities</i> (Artikel) .....	LK 2024-5
Aufgabe 2.1:	<i>Die Verkehrswende steckt im Stau</i> (Artikel) .....	LK 2024-8
Aufgabe 2.2:	<i>Regisseure über Hamburger Mitmachtheater: „Menschen, die nie jemand fragt“</i> (Artikel) .....	LK 2024-10

### Grundkurs 2025

Aufgabe 1.1:	<i>Black Cake</i> (Roman) .....	GK 2025-1
Aufgabe 1.2:	<i>Graeme Green: A Native American faces tear gas, baton charges and rubber bullets – Camille Seaman's best photograph</i> (Artikel) .....	GK 2025-4
Aufgabe 2.1:	<i>Die fehlende Diversität im deutschen Frauenfußball</i> (Artikel) .....	GK 2025-8
Aufgabe 2.2:	<i>Wie wirkungsvoll ist digitaler Protest?</i> (Artikel) .....	GK 2025-10

## Leistungskurs 2025

Aufgabe 1.1: <i>Savage News</i> (Roman) .....	LK 2025-1
Aufgabe 1.2: <i>Today it's cool, tomorrow it's junk. We have to act against our throwaway culture</i> (Artikel) .....	LK 2025-4
Aufgabe 2.1: „ <i>Etwas fürs Land tun</i> “: <i>Debatte über sozialen Pflichtdienst</i> (Artikel) .....	LK 2025-7
Aufgabe 2.2: <i>Tyron Ricketts: „Es müssen Plätze am Tisch freigeräumt werden</i> “ (Artikel) .....	LK 2025-9

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## Abiturprüfungsaufgaben 2026 ..... [www.stark-verlag.de/mystark](http://www.stark-verlag.de/mystark)

Sobald die Original-Prüfungsaufgaben 2026 (Brandenburg) freigegeben und die zugehörigen Musterlösungen ausgearbeitet und redaktionell geprüft sind, können sie als PDF auf der Plattform MySTARK heruntergeladen werden (Zugangscode vorne im Buch).

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# Vorwort

## Liebe Schülerinnen, liebe Schüler,

Mithilfe der folgenden Informationen, Aufgaben und Lösungen haben Sie verschiedene Möglichkeiten, sich auf das Abitur im Fach Englisch vorzubereiten:

- Der erste Teil des Buches enthält **Hinweise und Tipps** zur schriftlichen Abiturprüfung im Fach Englisch in Berlin und Brandenburg. Hier finden Sie Informationen zu häufigen Aufgabenstellungen, wichtigen Stilmitteln und zu einer geschickten Vorgehensweise in der Abiturprüfung.
- Im Bereich der **Übungsaufgaben** finden Sie drei Textaufgaben passend zu den aktuellen Schwerpunktsetzungen.
  - Übungsaufgabe 1 bezieht sich auf die Lebensbedingungen in GB (Kurshalbjahr 2: *Nations between tradition and change*),
  - Übungsaufgabe 2 betrachtet gesellschaftliche Herausforderungen in den USA (Kurshalbjahr 1: *Aims and ambitions*) und
  - Übungsaufgabe 3 befasst sich mit neuen technischen Entwicklungen im Bereich der Medien (Kurshalbjahr 3: *Science and technology – Visions of the future* und Kurshalbjahr 4: *The impact of the media on society*).

Die Aufgaben sind im Schwierigkeitsgrad ansteigend angeordnet.

- Im Anschluss folgt eine Auswahl von **Original-Prüfungsaufgaben der Grund- und Leistungskurse** der letzten Jahre.
- Lernen Sie gerne am PC, Tablet oder Smartphone? Auf den nächsten Seiten finden Sie Hinweise zu den digitalen Inhalten in diesem Band.

Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Erfolg bei der Abiturprüfung,

Ihre Autorinnen und Autoren



# Hinweise zu den digitalen Inhalten

Auf alle digitalen Inhalte können Sie online über die Plattform MySTARK zugreifen. Ihren persönlichen Zugangscodes finden Sie vorne im Buch.

## PDF der Original-Prüfungsaufgaben 2026

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Um Ihnen die Prüfung 2026 schnellstmöglich zur Verfügung stellen zu können, bringen wir sie in digitaler Form heraus.



Sobald die **Original-Prüfungsaufgaben 2026** zur Veröffentlichung freigegeben sind, können sie als PDF auf der **Plattform MySTARK** heruntergeladen werden.

## Kurzgrammatik

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Mit der Kurzgrammatik können Sie sich eine knappe und verständliche Übersicht über die wichtigsten Themenfelder der englischen Grammatik herunterladen. Schlagen Sie hier die Grammatikregeln zu Fehlern nach, die Sie noch häufig machen.



## Lernvideos

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Textaufgaben sind Teil vieler Prüfungen und Klausuren – und machen oft einen Großteil der Prüfungsleistung aus. Mithilfe der **Lernvideos zum richtigen Umgang mit Textaufgaben** können Sie sich optimal auf die Anforderungen in diesem Bereich vorbereiten. Am Beispiel von zwei Texten mit je drei Aufgabenstellungen wird gezeigt, wie man an eine Textaufgabe herangeht und sie erfolgreich löst.



### Die Lernvideos beinhalten:

- **Schritt-für-Schritt-Anleitungen** zum richtigen Vorgehen in der Prüfung
- **Sachtext** und **literarischer Text** als Grundlage
- nützliche Hinweise zu **häufigen Operatoren** und **Zieltextsorten**

Lesen Sie sich die Texte und Aufgabenstellungen zunächst durch, bevor Sie sich die Videos ansehen.

Zusätzlich finden Sie bei MySTARK ein Lernvideo mit Tipps und Hinweisen zum Bearbeiten von **Hörverstehensaufgaben**.

## Interaktives Training

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Im **Online-Training „Basic Language Skills“** erhalten Sie Zugriff auf zahlreiche **interaktive Aufgaben** zu Grundlagen wie **Hörverstehen**, **Leseverstehen** und **Sprachverwendung im Kontext**. Dies sind ganz wichtige „Basics“, die Sie für eine gute Sprachbeherrschung brauchen.



### Das interaktive Training bietet Ihnen:

- **„Listening“** – authentische Hörtexte mit vielfältigen Aufgaben, die Ihr Hörverstehen testen
- **„Reading“** – abwechslungsreiche Lesetexte und dazugehörige Aufgaben
- **„English in Use“** mit gemischten Aufgaben rund um den Gebrauch der englischen Sprache
- Alle Aufgaben sind interaktiv, d. h., Sie können sie direkt am PC oder Tablet bearbeiten und erhalten sofort eine Rückmeldung zu Ihren Antworten.

## Web-App „MindCards“

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Mit der Web-App **„MindCards“** können Sie am Smartphone Vokabeln lernen. Auf diesen interaktiven Karteikarten finden Sie hilfreiche Wendungen, die Sie beim Schreiben von Texten oder im mündlichen Sprachgebrauch einsetzen können.





## Lernvideos zur Textaufgabe

### Step-by-Step – Textaufgaben bearbeiten

Es gibt Aufgabenstellungen, die in Englischprüfungen immer wieder auftauchen. Grundlage für diese Aufgabenstellungen sind sogenannte **Operatoren** wie „describe“, „analyse“, „comment on“ und viele mehr. Auch wenn sich die Aufgabenstellung für die Textarbeit im Detail je nach Text unterscheidet, bleibt die grundsätzliche Vorgehensweise bei den jeweiligen Operatoren gleich.

In den Videos auf der Plattform **MySTARK** (Zugangscode vgl. Umschlaginnenseite) erklären wir Ihnen, wie Sie bei den wichtigsten Operatoren in Textaufgaben vorgehen müssen. Außerdem erfahren Sie etwas zu häufigen **Zieltextformaten** wie Leserbriefen, Blogbeiträgen und Reden.

#### TIPP

Lesen Sie die Aufgaben und die dazugehörigen Texte, **bevor Sie sich die Videos ansehen!** Sie können auch schon überlegen, wie Sie selbst bei der Aufgabenstellung vorgehen würden und welche inhaltlichen Aspekte für die Lösung interessant wären – und im Anschluss Ihre Lösung/Vorgehensweise mit den Videos vergleichen. Viel Spaß!





**Ausgangstext:** newspaper article

**Operatoren:** outline, analyse, write

**Themen:** social media, the impact of the media on society

**Zielformate:** letter to the editor, blog entry, speech

### Aufgabenstellung

1. **Outline** the author's view on social media. (*Video 1*)
2. **Analyse** the means he uses to convey his attitude and the effect they have on the reader. (*Video 2*)
3. **Write a letter to the editor/blog entry/speech** expressing your own opinion on the chances and dangers of social media. (*Video 3*)

**Text: "I used to think social media was a force for good. Now the evidence says I was wrong"** by Matt Haig

*More and more, it's clear these platforms create divisions, exploit our insecurities and risk our health. They're as bad as the tobacco industry.*

- 1 I used to think social media was essentially a force for good, whether it was to initiate the Arab spring of 2011, or simply as a useful tool for bringing together like-minded people to share videos of ninja cats. Having spent a lot of time thinking about mental health, I even saw social media's much-maligned potential for anonymity as a good
- 5 thing, helping people to open up about problems when they might not feel able to do so in that physical space we still quaintly call real life. [...]
- 10 Yes, I would occasionally feel that maybe staring at my Twitter feed near-continuously for seven hours wasn't that healthy [...]. Yes, I'd see articles warning of the dangers of excessive internet use, but I dismissed these as traditional, reactionary takes. I saw social media naysayers as the first reviewers of Technicolor movies, who felt the colour distracted from the story, or were like the people who walked out on Bob Dylan at Newport folk festival for playing an electric guitar, or like those who warned that radio or TV or video games or miniskirts, or hip-hop or selfies or fidget spinners or whatever, would lead to the end of civilisation. [...]
- 15 Then I started the research for a book I am writing on how the external world affects our mental health. I wanted to acknowledge the downsides of social media, but to argue that far from being a force for ill, it offers a safe place where the insanities of life elsewhere can be processed and articulated.
- 20 But the deeper into the research I went, the harder it was to sustain this argument. Even the internet activist and former Google employee Wael Ghonim – one of the initiators of the Arab spring and one-time poster boy for internet-inspired revolution – who once saw social media as a social cure – now saw it as a negative force. [...]: "The same tool that united us to topple dictators eventually tore us apart." Ghonim saw social



**Berlin/Brandenburg**  
**Übungsaufgabe 1**

**Leseverstehen und Schreiben**

**Aufgabenstellung – Tasks**

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- 1 Outline the different views of London presented in the text. (20 %)
- 2 Analyse how the author challenges negative perceptions of London in the text. Focus on communicative strategies and use of language. (40 %)
- 3 Choose **one** of the following tasks. (40 %)
- 3.1 Taking London’s portrayal in the text as a starting point, evaluate the claim that there can be “an ‘authentic’ homeland [...] of which the city itself is a kind of betrayal” (ll. 35–37).

OR

- 3.2 After your exams, you take part in an Erasmus project focusing on the diversity of lifestyles among young people in Europe. You decide to share your thoughts on the perfect place to live in a blog post on the project’s website. Write this blog post.

**Jonathan Liew, “Say What You Like about ‘Sadiq Khan’s No-Go Hellscape’ – Britain’s Cities Prove the Rightwing Agitators Wrong”**

*To rightwing populists who try to portray the world in simple terms, places of fluidity and freedom will always be the enemy*

- 1 I write these words to you from the jaws of hell. Here in my favourite north London café, among the bare lightbulbs and the £ 3.80 cinnamon buns, I take shelter from the screaming terrors of Sadiq Khan’s no-go hellscape. Toddlers in pushchairs scream for salvation. A Lime bike comes dangerously close to running a red light. Like the
- 5 Roman, I see the Blackstock Road foaming with much blood, albeit from this distance it may actually be a discarded pastrami sandwich. [...]

I have spent close to two decades travelling up and down the country covering football, and one of the most striking insights has been how openly disparaging people from outside London can be about it. London is perhaps the only place in England

- 10 where you can tell people where you’re from, and instantly they feel empowered to inform you what a terrible place it is. Occasionally, your interlocutor will deploy the pre-emptive qualifying phrase “it’s a great city, but ...”, before launching into a tirade about the traffic, or the cost of West End theatre tickets, or a dog turd their aunt once stepped in 1998.

15 Allied to this is the misguided idea that to be from London is to partake of some  
sort of category privilege, a place where life is effortlessly gilded and indulged. I met  
a Newcastle fan who assured me that there were three motorways connecting the capi-  
tal with Brighton. I have met multiple people labouring under the impression (“no,  
seriously, look it up”) that London buses are free. Here in Sadiq Khan’s no-go hell-  
20 scape, everything is too expensive and yet everything is endlessly subsidised: a kind  
of practical joke at the expense of everyone else.

And of course London condescension is a phenomenon as old as London itself. But  
in the social media age, where those with big platforms have long been able to create  
their own reality as they go along, this kind of myth-making has real-world conse-  
25 quences. It is why pollsters consistently find people saying London gets more than its  
fair share of public spending. It is why working-class Londoners, mostly clustered in  
safe Labour seats, are perhaps the most politically disenfranchised group of voters in  
Britain. And it is why Khan, one of the country’s mildest and most inoffensive politi-  
cians, is forced to travel with a similar level of 24-hour security to the king. [...]

30 And of course to the rightwing demagogue, the demonisation of the city is often  
little more than a convenient vehicle for airing baser, more impolite grievances. When  
Nigel Farage referred to London, Birmingham and Manchester in 2022 as “minority-  
white cities” – wrongly, as it turned out – he was simply saying out loud the part that  
the right has long been content to leave as subtext. Anti-urbanism has long been a first  
35 cousin of white supremacy, each feeding into the other, the idea that there is an  
“authentic” homeland – the bits outside the city – of which the city itself is a kind of  
betrayal.

This is not an argument that can really be won with facts and figures. It makes no  
odds to point out that, according to the Office for National Statistics, knife crime in  
40 London neither rose nor fell in the last year. Or that violent crime in Washington D.C.  
was at a 30-year-low when Trump chose to unleash the national guard, or that there is  
only one motorway to Brighton. What the anti-urbanites find distasteful about cities –  
often while living in those very same cities – is so rarely a genuine concern for eco-  
nomic inequality or law and order.

45 Rather, it helps to see rightwing populism as an attempt to process an increasingly  
complex world in increasingly simple terms. Cities, by contrast, are messy places:  
places of fluidity and freedom and possibility, places of chaos and collaboration and  
conflict. And sometimes they work and sometimes they don’t, but we embrace them  
nonetheless because in their forced intimacy, in their inexorable flow of ideas and in-  
50 fluences and cuisines, they are the fullest expression of what it is to be human.

Despite the pandemic, the cost of living crisis and the best efforts of lads with flag  
bios on X, the percentage of the UK population living in urban areas is still growing at  
about 1 % a year. And so to wish the city away, to dream of cleansing or restoring it to  
a fictional state of authenticity, is ultimately as futile as separating the cake back into  
55 its constituent ingredients. So get stuck in traffic. Date someone from a different race.  
Eat all the food. Lose yourself in Sadiq’s no-go hellscape. As it ever was, and always  
will be, the greatest advocate for the city will be the city itself. (781 words)

*Jonathan Liew: “Say What You Like about ‘Sadiq Khan’s No-Go Hellscape’ – Britain’s Cities Prove  
the Rightwing Agitators Wrong”, 03. 11. 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentsfree/>*

**Annotation**

1. 4 *Lime bike*: a brand of rental bike
  1. 5 *Like the Roman, ... much blood*: refers to Tory MP Enoch Powell's 1968 anti-immigrant "Rivers of Blood" speech ("As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding; like the Roman, I seem to see 'the River Tiber foaming with much blood'".)
- 
-

## Lösungsvorschläge

### Leseverstehen und Schreiben

1 In this task, you should focus on the contrasting views of London the author mentions in his text: that of those criticising London as a “no-go hellscape” on the one hand and the author’s own much more positive perspective on the other. Remember that in a task like this you should only mention key aspects, leave out examples and not quote from the text. Make sure you also stay clear of evaluations, analysis or giving your own opinion. Start your answer with a topical sentence to introduce the topic and state basic information like title, author and source of the text.

The **main part** of your text should include these aspects:

- **negative views** held by people not living in London:
  - exaggerated stereotypes about traffic, high costs of living, pollution and crime rates (cf. ll. 3–5, 12–14)
  - resentment and envy of London’s imaginative privileges (cf. ll. 15–21)
  - political agenda: racist narratives about London’s ethnic make-up feed into populist propaganda (cf. ll. 31–37)
- **positive view** held by the author:
  - crime rates in London (as well as other big cities) are stable or falling (cf. ll. 38–41)
  - ethnic diversity is perceived as an asset (cf. ll. 46–50, 55/56)
  - growing urban population proves cities are still attractive (cf. ll. 51–53, 56/57)

In his text “Say What You Like about ‘Sadiq Khan’s No-Go Hellscape’ – Britain’s Cities Prove the Rightwing Agitators Wrong”, published in *The Guardian* in November 2025, Jonathan Liew juxtaposes contrasting views on urban life, with a particular focus on London. On the one hand, cities remain popular and attractive places to live. On the other, they are often met with an ill reputation and various prejudices.

First, Liew outlines a widespread resentment towards London among people living outside the capital. They often describe the metropolis as overcrowded, expensive and polluted. At the same time, they believe that Londoners enjoy unfair privileges and receive a disproportionate share of public spending.

Liew also points out how right-wing populists portray the city as a symbol of moral decline and failed multiculturalism by making false claims about its ethnic make-up and suggesting that there is an excessive number of immigrants in London. The author believes that these attacks often disguise deeper ideological concerns rather than sincere worries about crime or inequality.

introduction

main part  
negative views

political agenda

- “knife crime in London neither rose nor fell in the last year.”, “violent crime in Washington D.C. was at a 30-year-low”, “there is only one motorway to Brighton.” (ll. 39–42)
  - parallelism showing Liew’s exasperation with fact-resistance of London naysayers: “It is why pollsters consistently find people saying London gets more than its fair share of public spending. It is why working-class Londoners, mostly clustered in safe Labour seats, are perhaps the most politically disenfranchised group of voters in Britain. And it is why Khan, one of the country’s mildest and most inoffensive politicians, is forced to travel with a similar level of 24-hour security to the king.” (ll. 25–29)
- **means of language to show London criticism in a negative and the city itself in a positive light**
- use of imagery to evoke negative or positive associations:
    - ♦ personification: “a first cousin of white supremacy, each feeding into the other” (ll. 34/35)
    - ♦ comparison: “as futile as separating the cake back into its constituent ingredients” (ll. 54/55)
  - use of parallelisms to create a rhythmic, poetic effect:
    - ♦ “places of fluidity and freedom and possibility, places of chaos and collaboration and conflict” (ll. 47/48)
    - ♦ “And sometimes they work and sometimes they don’t” (l. 48)
    - ♦ “in their forced intimacy, in their inexorable flow of ideas and influences and cuisines” (ll. 49/50)
  - use of imperatives to invite readers to experience and cherish urban life: “So get stuck in traffic. Date someone from a different race. Eat all the food. Lose yourself in Sadiq’s no-go hellscape.” (ll. 55/56)

In his article, Jonathan Liew challenges negative perceptions of London by using a great variety of communicative strategies to ultimately expose anti-urban narratives as exaggerated, politically motivated and detached from reality. Simultaneously, he also presents the city as vibrant and attractive, thereby further contradicting its opponents.

Right from the start, Liew attempts to win his readers over by adopting a personal, familiar tone. He opens by situating them in his immediate surroundings, juxtaposing an atmosphere of idyllic urban serenity (cf. ll. 1/2) with a hyperbolic description of an apparent pandemonium outside his favourite café, where “[t]oddlers in pushchairs scream for salvation” (ll. 3/4) and the remains of somebody’s lunch might be mistaken for blood flowing in the street (cf. ll. 5/6). Apart from the headline, the word “hell” is used four times in the text (ll. 1, 3, 19, 56). Mimicking the overly dramatic language of anti-urbanist populists, Liew creates a comic contrast to his banal everyday reality and thereby undermines the

**introduction**

**tone part 1**

text opens on a personal and sarcastic note, with use of hyperbole



## Aufgabenstellung 1.2 – Tasks

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**Themenschwerpunkte:** *Saving the planet; Nations between tradition and change – USA; The impact of the media on society; Aims and ambitions*

- 1 Outline the information on the Dakota Access pipeline and the resistance to it. (30 %)
- 2 Analyze how indigenous people are portrayed in the article. Focus on communicative strategies and use of language. (30 %)
- 3 Choose one of the following tasks:
  - 3.1 “My job as a photographer is to show people something they’ve maybe never seen before, or show something in a new way, to create greater empathy and compassion and to expand people’s knowledge of our world.” (ll. 55–57)  
Taking the quotation and the photograph as a starting point, assess to what extent the perception of global challenges is shaped by visuals in media coverage. (40 %)

OR

- 3.2 *The New York Times* has invited young people to take part in its annual Students Editorial Contest and hand in articles about issues that matter to them.  
You have decided to hand in an article commenting on the potential youth protests have in drawing attention to environmental issues. Write this article. (40 %)

Text (excerpt from the article)

**Graeme Green: A Native American faces tear gas, baton charges and rubber bullets – Camille Seaman’s best photograph**

*Graeme Green based this article on an interview with photographer Camille Seaman in which she talks about the context of her best picture.*



'If people needed help, he was there' ... Dan Nanamkin, from the Colville Confederated Tribes.  
Photograph: Camille Seaman

- 1 In the United States, there have been hundreds of treaties made with Native peoples and not one – not a single one – has ever been upheld. Reservations were created, and it was said: “This land will be yours for time immemorial”, but then it always shrinks and shrinks.
- 5 In 2016, there was a massive protest against the Dakota Access pipeline. The original plan was for this pipeline to run from the oil fields up in the north-west corner of North Dakota through Bismarck, the wealthy state capital, and then down to wherever it was going. But someone in Bismarck said, “That won’t do. That’s dangerous,” because they knew it’s not a question of *if*, but *when* a pipeline will leak.
- 10 So the course of the pipeline was changed to go through Standing Rock reservation and across the Missouri river. Standing Rock belongs to the Hunkpapa Lakota tribe, or

Sioux. This is the land of Sitting Bull's people, and the Missouri river gives clean drinking water to more than 80 million people in the US.

One woman, LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, put out a call on social media, saying:  
15 "Please come and stand with us to protect the water." I don't think she had any idea how big it would become. At one point, there were over 30,000 people. They came from Africa, the Maori came from New Zealand, the indigenous Japanese came from Hokkaido, and there were Sami people and Tibetan monks. People came from all over the world to say: "Enough is enough." They came to protect nature and water and  
20 indigenous people's rights, and to protest that another treaty was not being upheld. It was about not poisoning *our* water.

The protest was also about trying to physically keep work from being done on the pipeline. When the protests began I was working on *We Are Still Here*, a series of photographs of Native Americans. I heard about Standing Rock and knew I had to go  
25 and record it. I knew it was a historic moment. My mother is part African American, descended from slaves, and my father is Shinnecock Montaukett, a small whaling tribe from the tip of Long Island. I didn't participate in the actual protests but I was documenting what was happening. I thought it was important, as an indigenous person, to have the opportunity to tell the story through an indigenous lens.

[...] This particular image was the last I made there. The six weeks I was there I had been seeing Dan everywhere. I kept saying, "I really want to make a portrait of you," but there was never an opportunity. The day I was leaving, I saw him on the road and said: "I have to leave. But let me make this photo." That's what I got.

Dan Nanamkin is from the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington State.  
35 Every day, he'd show up in full regalia. He is one of the most prayerful, peaceful people. He sang all the time, and anywhere people needed help, he was there. I didn't ask him to do anything for this photo. I literally had just seconds to make two frames of him, and this was one of them. His body language seems to be saying: "Why? Why?"

This road we were standing on was the actual path Sacagawea led Lewis and Clark  
40 along, on the expedition heading west back in the early 1800s on their mission to explore and map the newly acquired territory of Louisiana.

The people of Standing Rock created a blockade on this road, on the other side of which was a massive force with batons, tear gas, rubber bullets and sonic cannons. This was all being used against peaceful people: in defence of oil. The black smoke is  
45 from someone burning tyres as part of the roadblock.

This first protest was during Obama's administration, and finally Obama said: "OK, no pipeline." When Trump was elected, the first thing he did was sign an order for the pipeline to be completed. He ordered a much larger force of National Guard and law enforcement to dismantle the protest, and the pipeline went ahead.

50 A lot of the protesters went to prison; many have endured incredible hardships. The tribe has all the while been fighting this pipeline in court, and now they're just waiting and hoping for Biden to shut it down. The most recent update is that they found the pipeline was made unlawfully, because the company didn't do the full environmental evaluations, so now what? That's where they are.

55 My job as a photographer is to show people something they've maybe never seen before, or show something in a new way, to create greater empathy and compassion and to expand people's knowledge of our world. (791 words)

*Green, Graeme. "A Native American faces tear gas, baton charges and rubber bullets – Camille Seaman's best photograph." The Guardian. May 4, 2022. Accessed on September 5, 2022 from <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2022/may/04/standing-rock-pipeline-protest-native-american-tear-gasbatons-rubber-bullets-camille-seamans-best-photograph>, Copyright Guardian News & Media Ltd 2025*

#### **Annotations**

- 1. 12 Sitting Bull: tribe leader (1837–1890) who led his people during years of resistance against US government policies
- 1. 18 Sami: member of the indigenous population of northern Scandinavia and Russia
- 1. 39 Sacagawea: Lemhi Shoshone woman who joined Lewis and Clark on their expedition to explore the American Northwest between 1804 and 1806

## Aufgabenstellung 1.2

---

- 1 You should mention the following information on the pipeline and the protests:
- original route through Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota
  - changed plan because they feared that the pipeline might leak
  - new route runs through Standing Rock reservation, which belongs to a Native tribe (Hunkpapa Lakota/Sioux) across the Missouri river (drinking water to 80 million people in the US)
  - in 2016 a local resident asked for support on social media and 30,000 people from all over the world (mostly indigenous people) came to protest
  - planned to stop the construction of the pipeline through peaceful protest
  - were turned down with massive force (batons, tear gas, rubber bullets, sonic cannons)
  - Obama stopped the construction of the pipeline, Trump immediately resumed the process after election and sent massive police forces, this resulted in many protesters being imprisoned
  - the tribe is trying to stop the pipeline being built in court; first success because the construction company failed to conduct the required environmental research
  - when the article was written, it was unclear how the situation would develop under the Biden administration

The original plan was for the Dakota Access pipeline to run from the north-west corner of North Dakota, through the state capital, Bismarck, and down south. However, the path was changed due to fears by politicians in Bismarck that the pipeline would leak. The pipeline was then rerouted to run through the Standing Rock reservation instead, home to the Hunkpapa Lakota tribe, and across the Missouri River, which provides drinking water to 80 million people.

In 2016 there was a massive protest against the new path of the pipeline. The protest began by one resident of the reservation putting out a call on social media for people to come protect the water. Soon 30,000 indigenous people attended the protest from all over the world. The protesters tried to prevent the pipeline from being built as they blockaded a crucial road. The police over-responded to peaceful protesters with tear gas, batons, rubber bullets and sonic cannons.

Obama gave in to the protests and cancelled the new pipeline route but Trump reversed that decision as soon as he was elected while increasing the police presence. Some protesters went to jail. The tribes have taken the case to court and have found that the company acted illegally by not conducting a complete environmental impact assessment. A final ruling though has not yet been determined.

(221 words)

original plan

fear of leak

new plan through reservation

beginning of protests

Indigenous people from all over the world

protest forcefully broken up

stopped under Obama  
resumed under Trump  
taken to court

- 2 The whole article is built around the image of the Native American Dan Namamkin which was taken at the protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline and an interview with the photographer of the picture. So the image is at the centre and is part of the communicative strategy of the author.

**Communicative strategies:**

- photo shows an older Indigenous man in full tribal costume with smoke in the background and his hands raised as if he is powerless to do anything about the chaos behind him; the title puts what we see into words: “A Native American faces tear gas, baton charges and rubber bullets” (title) → Indigenous people willing to fight, but powerless against violence of the government
- first sentence reflects that Native tribes have always been oppressed by the US government and this is an ongoing process which is likely to continue: “there have been hundreds of treaties made with Native peoples and not one – not a single one – has ever been upheld.” (ll. 1/2)
- the text quotes the empty promise the government tells the tribes vs what happens in reality: “‘This land will be yours for time immemorial’, but then it always shrinks and shrinks.” (ll. 3/4)
- the text refers to a famous historical location and event, and a commonly known Indigenous person: “Standing Rock belongs to the Hunkpapa Lakota tribe, or Sioux. This is the land of Sitting Bull’s people,...” (ll. 11/12); “This road we were standing on was the actual path Sacagawea led Lewis and Clarke along.” (ll. 39/40) → context of repetitive injustices
- peaceful resistance vs force by the government (on behalf of the oil industry): e.g. “The people of Standing Rock created a blockade on this road, on the other side of which was a massive force with batons, tear gas, rubber bullets and sonic cannons. This was all being used against peaceful people: in defence of oil. The black smoke is from someone burning tyres as part of the roadblock.” (ll. 42–45)
- Camille Seaman has Indigenous heritage and therefore a connection with the plight of the Sioux tribe: “my father is Shinnecock Montaukett, a small whaling tribe from the tip of Long Island [...] I thought it was important, as an Indigenous person, to have the opportunity to tell the story through an Indigenous lens.” (ll. 26–29) → it is not surprising that the text takes sides with the Native Americans
- tribal members are portrayed as modest, media savvy and well connected, they show solidarity with each other: “One woman, LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, put out a call on social media, saying: ‘Please come and stand with us to protect the water.’ I don’t think she had any idea how big it would become. At one point, there were over 30,000 people.” (ll. 14–16)

**Language:**

- simplified “quotes” to make complex messages more accessible: “That won’t do. That’s dangerous.” (l. 8); “Enough is enough.” (l. 19); “Why? Why?” (l. 38) and “OK, no pipeline.” (l. 47)
- full Indigenous names to show respect for Indigenous people vs. only last names of politicians who are representatives of the oppressors
- strategic repetition to emphasize repeated betrayal: “shrinks and shrinks” (l. 4), and “not one – not a single one –” (l. 2)

*The following solution contains many different aspects you could mention. In the exam, you will not have time to mention all of them. So, concentrate on the aspects that seem most important to you, but make sure to include examples and talk about the effect of the communicative strategies and the rhetorical devices you mention.*

The author wants the reader to sympathize with the Indigenous cause by building up an argument against diverting the route of the Dakota Pipeline through their territory.

**introduction**

The article is based on the interview with the photographer Camille Seaman. She tells the story of the picture displayed on the article. The photo shows an older Indigenous man in full tribal costume with smoke in the background and his hands raised as if he is powerless to do anything about the chaos behind him. This shows that the Indigenous people are willing to stand up for their cause, but are powerless when they face the violent force the government puts up against them.

**communicative strategies**

photo →  
Indigenous  
people powerless

Camille Seaman reveals that she is herself of Indigenous origin: “my father is Shinnecock Montaukett, a small whaling tribe from the tip of Long Island.” (ll. 26/27). Her partial Native American heritage allows her to tell the story from the perspective of the marginalized group and offers authenticity to the story.

perspective =  
Camille Seaman,  
who is of  
Indigenous origin

At the beginning of the article, the Indigenous tribe at the Standing Rock reservation is portrayed as the oppressed by showing how their fight is just one small part of hundreds of broken treaties made with Native people in history (cf. ll. 1/2).

Native tribe  
portrayed as  
oppressed

Camille Seaman mentions that the conflict is based on a historical location and refers to a commonly known Indigenous person: “Standing Rock belongs to the Hunkpapa Lakota tribe, or Sioux. This is the land of Sitting Bull’s people.” (ll. 11/12) She presents historical facts important to the Indigenous tribe: “This road we were standing on was the actual path Sacagawea led Lewis and Clark along.” (ll. 39/40). By doing so, she emphasises the statement from the beginning that this injustice stands in a line with hundreds of injustices done to Native Americans.

historical refer-  
ences to show  
how long Natives  
have been  
oppressed

The Indigenous people are portrayed as the innocent victims and the government and oil industry as evil oppressors: “The people of Standing Rock created a blockade on this road, on the other side of which was a massive force with batons, tear gas, rubber bullets and sonic cannons. This was all being used against peaceful people: in defence of oil.” (ll. 42–45) Here, peaceful resistance is met with undue force and brutality by the government protecting the interests of the oil industry.

Indigenous  
people portrayed  
as peaceful  
protesters

Members of Indigenous groups are shown as modest, media savvy and well connected. When LaDonna Brave Bull Allard asked for support on social media, Indigenous people from all over the

modest, media  
savvy and well  
connected

**Prüfungsteil 1: Leseverstehen und Schreiben**

(70 %)

Der Prüfungsteil 1 besteht aus zwei Aufgabenstellungen, von denen Sie eine zur Bearbeitung auswählen.

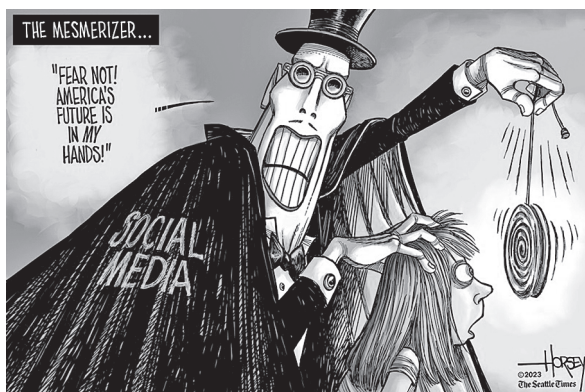
**Aufgabenstellung 1.1 – Tasks**

**Themenschwerpunkte:** *The impact of the media on society; Aims and ambitions*

- 1 Sum up the information on Natalie Savage and what she does while waiting for the media briefing to start. (20 %)
- 2 Analyze how Savage’s experiences on her first day in her new job are conveyed. Focus on narrative techniques and use of language. (40 %)
- 3 Choose one of the following tasks:
  - 3.1 “[...] *the posts glorified the most banal aspects of politics, sucking any whiff of substance from a story [...].*” (ll. 47–49)  
Taking the quotation as a starting point, assess the effects quality journalism and sensationalist journalism have on political discourse. (40 %)

OR

- 3.2 The cartoon below has shown up in your social media feed and has caught your attention. Write an email to the award-winning cartoonist David Horsey, in which you comment on the message of his cartoon. (40 %)



Source: David Horsey (2023). “The Mesmerizer.” *The Virginian-Pilot*. 26 May, 2023. Accessed 18 June, 2023 from <https://pilotonline.com/2023/05/26/david-horsey-the-mesmerizer/>.

**Text** (excerpt from the novel)

**Savage News**

by Jessica Yellin

*Natalie Savage has just arrived at her first White House media briefing.*

1 [...] Flooded with relief, Natalie pushed into the scramble of bodies and felt the intensity of a breaking news event in the air: a pupil-dilating flush of oxygen, the heart-pounding thrill of being at the center of an all-eyes-on-this story. She made her way to the American Television Network's (ATN) seat in the third row and relaxed enough  
5 to look around. At the back of the room was a warren of cubicles, each assigned to a network. A row of cameras stood in front of the cubicles like leggy sentries, and in front of those were the seats for the correspondents. She closed her eyes and inhaled deeply.

It smelled of mold and sweat.

10 *Why does success always smell like a men's locker room?* she wondered.

Objectively, it was a crap hole. Despite the administration's claims to have no money for infrastructure projects, Natalie suspected that the shabbiness of the tiny press room was by choice, not necessity, like an aging duchess who uses chipped Limoges not because she can't afford better but because she likes it and relishes the  
15 discomfort of her judgmental guests.

She heard the crackle of static and a young man's voice came through an overhead speaker. "Sorry for the change folks. The White House briefing will now be delayed by fifteen minutes."

All around Natalie reporters collapsed back into their chairs, shaking their heads  
20 and murmuring as they began angry-texting on their phones. Everyone had rushed here and now this delay would throw live shots and lunch plans into chaos. But for Natalie it was a relief. Fifteen minutes to get used to breathing the air of a White House correspondent.

One of Natalie's phones buzzed and she pulled it out to watch it fill with messages  
25 from her mother [...].

She had gotten used to torturing her hair into silky straightness and wearing one percent of her body weight in foundation and eye shadow, but the lashes were now a compulsory, and already itchy, new addition applied at the insistence of ATN's head of talent. "*Everyone* at the White House has lashes. They are a *must*. Otherwise viewers  
30 won't see you!"

When Natalie had protested, "But *I* can't see so well when I wear them," the head of talent had given her a pained look and said, "Many people can't see at *all*, dear," as though Natalie had been brazenly taking sight for granted up to that point.

Natalie angled the screen so it was easier to read through the forest of lash and  
35 watched it fill with the dress pictures from her sister [...] when a smug male voice over her shoulder said, "The one on the left."

"I beg your pardon?" Natalie twisted toward the guy speaking. [...]

He glanced up from his screen and held out his hand. “Matt Walsh. Beltway dot com. Uh-oh. I see the nickel dropping. Now you’re thinking, ‘Ah, that explains the  
40 smell of sulphur in the air.”

Natalie laughed but her guard shot up. Beltway. The website was the gossipy mean girl of the political set, bringing the same cannibalistic enthusiasm *US Weekly* brought to uncovering affairs and baby bumps to its coverage of the Bubble. The Bubble being what Washington Insiders – the types who read Beltway – called themselves, as opposed  
45 to everyone else, whom they referred to with subtle condescension as “regular” or “real” Americans. That sorry-not-sorry superiority suffused Beltway. Written in the key of snark with an undertone of kissed-it-fucked-it-over disdain, the posts glorified the most banal aspects of politics, sucking any whiff of substance from a story with the efficiency of a college student taking a bong hit.

50 She was shocked when her first news boss had told her every important political reporter reads Beltway and if she cared to be one, she’d better start. The last Beltway story Natalie had read covered a White House meeting about the president’s energy goals as “Kiss My Fat Ass? Elizabeth Warren Eats a Cookie for the First Time in Six Weeks While Talking Solar in the Oval Office!”

55 What kind of reporter would do that, she’d wondered.

Well, now the answer was sitting right next to her. The man who had, in fact, written that very story. She was wary but fascinated, as if she’d found herself dining with someone who’d asked the waiter to remove his steak knife, explaining, “I don’t trust myself around weapons.” She aimed for a warm but not too friendly tone and shook  
60 his hand. “Natalie Savage, ATN.” Matt appeared impressed. [...]

[...] First day at the White House?” he went on. “Nervous?”

“No.”

“Liar?”

“Yes.”

65 He snickered. “Good, we have something in common.” Typing on his phone, he continued, “If you’ll take a bit of advice from someone who got here before you, there’s no reason to be nervous. You’re thinking it’s the White House, the big top. Screw up here and it’s available for viewing on YouTube for the rest of your life! Worse, YouTube is the only place you’ll ever be seen. But the truth is, it doesn’t matter  
70 what you say at this briefing. Nobody listens or cares.”

Natalie gave him a look of wide-eyed admiration. “Are you a doctor? I feel so much better now.”

75 He laughed again, but didn’t look up. “It’s not just you, it’s everyone. The Reals think there’s news at the White House briefing, but inside the Bubble we know it’s just theater. Everyone plays a part. It doesn’t matter what you say, only how you say it. Nothing worth reporting gets said here.”

Natalie performed a mental eye roll (a physical one was counter-indicated by the fake lashes) at the posture of bland unconcern that he was working so hard to effect. As if not caring about the issues or the state of democracy was proof of his objectivity  
80 and superior reporting. [...]

(968 words)

*Yellin, Jessica. Savage News. Toronto: Mira Books. 2019, 11–17*

## Annotations

- 1. 12 ore seam – underground layer of a natural material from which a valuable mineral can be extracted profitably
- 1. 14 conflict minerals – minerals often linked to war and weapons, human rights abuses, and corruption
- 1. 15 tungsten and tantalum – metals used especially in electronic components
- 1. 34 shallows – *here*: place lacking in depth of serious thought or feeling
- 1. 53 pipe dream – illusionary plan or hope

## Prüfungsteil 2: Sprachmittlung

(30 %)

Der Prüfungsteil 2 besteht aus zwei Aufgabenstellungen, von denen Sie eine zur Bearbeitung auswählen.

### Aufgabenstellung 2.1 – Task

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**Themenschwerpunkte:** *Aims and ambitions*

For an international youth project that deals with different approaches to civic engagement in countries all over the world, you have been asked to provide a German perspective on the matter.

Write a blog entry for the project website in which you summarize the different views on the proposal of compulsory community work in Germany.

**Text** (Auszug aus dem Artikel)

#### „Etwas fürs Land tun“: Debatte über sozialen Pflichtdienst

Von der Deutschen Presse-Agentur

- 1 Regelmäßig kocht in Deutschland eine Diskussion darüber hoch, ob Menschen einen Pflichtdienst absolvieren sollen, beispielsweise im sozialen Bereich. Dieses Mal hat Bundespräsident Frank-Walter Steinmeier die Debatte angestoßen. Der Vorschlag stößt allerdings weitgehend auf Ablehnung.
- 5 „Es geht um die Frage, ob es unserem Land nicht guttun würde, wenn sich Frauen und Männer für einen gewissen Zeitraum in den Dienst der Gesellschaft stellen“, hatte Steinmeier der „Bild am Sonntag“ gesagt [...]  
Momentan leisten annähernd 100.000 Menschen einen Jugend- oder Bundesfreiwilligendienst – vorwiegend junge Leute. Pläne, eine Dienstpflicht einzuführen, gibt
- 10 es einem Regierungssprecher zufolge nicht. Die Freiwilligendienste sollten aber „nachfragegerecht“ ausgebaut werden. [...]  
Wohlfahrtsverbände machten ebenfalls deutlich, dass sie von Pflichteinsätzen nichts halten. Dann müsste man auch „Menschen rekrutieren, die überhaupt keine Lust haben und vielleicht auch ungeeignet sind. Das wollen wir nicht“, sagte der Hauptge-
- 15 schäftsführer des Paritätischen Gesamtverbands, Ulrich Schneider, im SWR. Das

könne beispielsweise in einem Pflegeheim den Bewohnern und Angehörigen nicht zugemutet werden.

20 Steinmeier hatte die Debatte mit der Begründung angestoßen, dass eine Dienstpflicht die Gemeinschaft stärken könnte: „Gerade jetzt, in einer Zeit, in der das Verständnis für andere Lebensentwürfe und Meinungen abnimmt, kann eine soziale Pflichtzeit besonders wertvoll sein. Man kommt raus aus der eigenen Blase, trifft ganz andere Menschen, hilft Bürgern in Notlagen. Das baut Vorurteile ab und stärkt den Gemeinsinn.“

25 Für eine solche Sicht der Dinge gebe es „beachtliche Argumente“, sagte der ehemalige Bundestagspräsident Norbert Lammert (CDU) der Deutschen Presse-Agentur. Der heutige Vorsitzende der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung kritisierte eine „bemerkenswert schnelle und schroffe Reaktion“ auf den Vorstoß. Die Ablehnung sei „voreilig“.

30 Doch selbst wenn es den politischen Willen gäbe, eine Dienstpflicht einzuführen: Die Umsetzung wäre schwierig. Nach Einschätzung des Wissenschaftlichen Dienstes des Bundestags müsste das Grundgesetz geändert werden. Dafür bräuhete es Zweidrittelmehrheiten in Bundestag und Bundesrat.

35 In Grundgesetz Artikel 12 steht: „Niemand darf zu einer bestimmten Arbeit gezwungen werden, außer im Rahmen einer herkömmlichen allgemeinen, für alle gleichen öffentlichen Dienstleistungspflicht.“ Unter „herkömmlich“ fallen demnach nur Bereiche wie Feuerwehr oder Deichschutz. Justizminister Marco Buschmann (FDP) brachte noch ein anderes Argument: „Wir leiden überall unter Fachkräftemangel. Da gehören junge Menschen in Ausbildung, Studium oder Beruf, nicht in Beschäftigungstherapie.“

40 Bundesratspräsident Bodo Ramelow (Linke) hat in der Debatte um die soziale Dienstpflicht Parallelen zur Schulpflicht gezogen. „Statt reflexartig einfach nur auf dem Bundespräsidenten rumzuhacken und wieder von neuem Zwang zu reden und dabei die Schulpflicht einfach auszublenden, werbe ich dafür, mit ein bisschen mehr Gelassenheit das Thema anzugucken“, sagte Ramelow der Deutschen Presse-Agentur. Die Schulpflicht sei auch ein Zwang und der Staat greife in das Leben von jungen Menschen ein. Er frage sich, weswegen man nicht noch ein Jahr mehr „dazudefinieren“ könne.

45 Ramelow hatte sich bereits in der Vergangenheit immer wieder für eine Pflichtzeit für junge Erwachsene ausgesprochen. Seiner Meinung nach könne das eine Zeit zwischen neun und zwölf Monaten bedeuten für alle Menschen zwischen 18 und 25 Jahren. „Das kann das Soziale sein, das kann das Ökologische sein, das kann das Militärische sein“, sagte er. Wichtig sei, dass es kein verlorenes Jahr sei – sondern etwa bei einer Ausbildung anerkannt werden könne. Steinmeier hatte in dem Interview mit der „Bild am Sonntag“ allgemein von einer Pflichtzeit gesprochen, nicht explizit für junge Leute.

55 Jugendorganisationen verschiedener Parteien wiesen Steinmeiers Vorschlag zurück. Die Vorsitzende der SPD-Jugendorganisation Jusos, Jessica Rosenthal, nannte die Debatte auf dem Nachrichtenportal „Watson“ „abstrus und aus der Zeit gefallen“. „Einen Pflichtdienst einzufordern, sei „ein Schlag ins Gesicht aller jungen, engagierten Menschen“. Franziska Brandmann von den Jungen Liberalen sagte, eine Dienstpflicht

60 einzuführen, sei übergriffig. Bürgerinnen und Bürger arbeiteten in der Regel jahrzehntelang und befähigten durch hohe Steuern und Abgaben den Staat dazu, seinen Aufgaben nachzukommen.

Junge Menschen in Deutschland sehen einer Umfrage zufolge eine allgemeine Dienstpflicht ebenfalls eher skeptisch. 49 Prozent der 16- bis 26-Jährigen sind demnach dagegen, 40 Prozent befürworten eine solche Pflicht, wie eine Befragung der TUI Stiftung zeigt. [...] (626 Wörter)

Deutsche Presse-Agentur. „,Etwas fürs Land tun‘: Debatte über sozialen Pflichtdienst.“ *Zeit Online*. 14. Juni 2022. Zugriff am 24. November 2022 von <https://www.zeit.de/news/2022-06/13/etwas-fuers-land-tun-debatte-ueber-sozialen-pflichtdienst>

#### Annotationen

Z. 15 Paritätischer Gesamtverband – Dachverband von Wohlfahrts- und Sozialhilfeorganisationen

Z. 15 SWR – Südwestrundfunk

Z. 65/66 TUI Stiftung – Stiftung des Touristikkonzerns TUI, deren Studien und Projekte sich vor allem mit Jugendlichen in Deutschland und Europa befassen

### Aufgabenstellung 2.2 – Task

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**Themenschwerpunkte:** *The impact of the media on society; Aims and ambitions*

You are taking part in the “International Youth Media Summit 2025,” which aims to push boundaries and break barriers in the media.

Write an article for the project website in which you sum up the information on the series “Sam – A Saxon” and about diversity in the German film industry.

**Text** (Auszug aus dem Interview)

**Tyron Ricketts:** „Es müssen Plätze am Tisch freigeräumt werden“

Von Doreen Hinrichs

**„Geschichten, die das Leben schreibt“ ist eine gern verwendete Phrase. Im Fall von „Sam – Ein Sachse“ hat sich das Leben eine Handlung ausgedacht, mit der ein Drehbuchautor wohl kaum durchgekommen wäre.**

- 1 Die Serie, die seit Mittwoch auf Disney+ zu sehen ist, beruht auf der Lebensgeschichte von Samuel „Sam“ Njankouo Meffire. 1970 als Sohn eines Studenten aus Kamerun in der Nähe von Leipzig geboren, wurde er als erster Schwarzer in der DDR Volkspolizist, nach der Wende Medienstar und Werbegesicht, rutschte später in die Kriminalität
- 5 ab – um nach seiner Zeit im Gefängnis als Sozialarbeiter und Autor ein neues Leben zu beginnen.

Mitverantwortlich dafür, dass das Leben von Meffire nun als erste deutsche Produktion des Streamingdienstes zu sehen ist, ist Tyron Ricketts. [...]

## Lösungsvorschläge

### Prüfungsteil 1: Leseverstehen und Schreiben

#### Aufgabenstellung 1.1

---

##### 1 **Natalie Savage:**

- newly appointed White House correspondent for ATN
- excited about her new job
- typical look of a news reporter with a lot of make-up, which she does not like

##### **What she does:**

- waits in her assigned place in the White House press room
- observes her surroundings (run-down and stuffy press room)
- distracts herself by looking at her mobile phone (messages from mother/photos sent by sister)
- engages in a conversation with another journalist
  - works for an online news website she is critical of
  - talk about the relevance of White House briefings

In the extract from Jessica Yellin’s “Savage News” from 2019, Natalie Savage is portrayed as an excited, newly appointed White House correspondent who works for the American Television Network. She has the typical look of a news reporter with straight hair and lots of make-up, which she does not like at all. It is her first day at work and she is quite nervous.

Savage sits in her assigned seat in the White House press room and observes how run-down and stuffy it is. To distract herself, she starts to read messages from her mother and looks at photos sent by her sister on her mobile phone. Later, she engages in a conversation about the relevance of White House briefings with another journalist, who works for an online news website she does not approve of.

(135 words)

information on  
Natalie Savage

what she does  
while waiting

## 2 **Savage's reaction to the location she is sent to on her first day in her new job:**

- limited point of view, third-person narrator

### **Excitement at being at the White House:**

- choice of words: e. g. “intensity of a breaking news event” (ll. 1/2), “pupil-dilating flush of oxygen” (l. 2), “heart-pounding thrill” (ll. 2/3), “all-eyes-on-this story” (l. 3)

### **Disgust at state of press room:**

- presents information about the issue
- words with a negative connotation: “smelled of mold and sweat” (l. 9), “crap hole” (l. 11), “shabbiness of the tiny press room” (ll. 12/13)
- enumeration of details of how the room is set up: “a warren of cubicles ... correspondents” (ll. 5–7)

### **Savage's disapproval of certain elements of her new job, e. g.**

#### – **her own appearance:**

- words with a negative connotation: “torturing her hair” (l. 26)
- exaggeration: “wearing one percent of her body weight in foundation and eye shadow” (ll. 26/27)
- quoting ludicrous claims using italics: “Everyone at the White House has lashes. They are a must. Otherwise viewers won't see you!” (ll. 29/30) → critical distance from the uniform looks; “Many people can't see at all, dear” (l. 32) → ridicules the head of talent as this remark makes no sense in this context

#### – **dubious colleagues and their publications:**

- choice of strong/vulgar words: “shocked” (l. 50), “snark with an undertone of kissed-it-fucked-it-over disdain” (l. 47)
- imagery: “with the efficiency of a college student taking a bong hit” (ll. 48/49)
- comparison: “as if she'd found ... around weapons.” (ll. 57–59)
- metaphorical language: “cannibalistic enthusiasm” (l. 42)

#### – **aversion to sensationalist journalism:**

- cautiously engaging in a conversation with Walsh → contrast: “wary but fascinated” (l. 57), “warm but not too friendly” (l. 59)
- standing her ground → short and confident replies: “No.”/“Yes.” (ll. 62, 64); sarcasm: “Are you a doctor? I feel so much better now.” (ll. 71/72); imagery: “performed a mental eye roll” (l. 77); reported thought judging Walsh's statements: “As if ... superior reporting.” (ll. 79/80) → highlighting that she does not let Walsh intimidate her

On her first day at work, Natalie Savage takes in the location she has been sent to, realizes the negative elements of her job and has to deal with other journalists she does not approve of. The following text is about how narrative techniques and language are used to convey all her experiences at the White House.

**introduction**

Using a third-person limited narrator, the author makes it easy for the reader to understand the protagonist's feelings and thoughts. Additionally, Natalie Savage's excitement at the beginning of the text is conveyed through phrases like "intensity of a breaking news event" (ll. 1/2), "pupil-dilating flush of oxygen" (l. 2) or "heart-pounding thrill" (ll. 2/3).

**main part:**

3rd-person narrator

choice of words

This is not the only emotion she feels, however. Later on, she is disgusted by the state of the press room, which becomes clear as the author uses words with a negative connotation ("smelled of mold and sweat", l. 9; "crap hole", l. 11; "shabbiness of the tiny press room", ll. 12/13) as well as an enumeration of details about the setup of the room ("a warren of cubicles ... correspondents", ll. 5-7).

choice of words

enumeration

Apart from the state of the press room that Natalie does not like, there are some more elements of her job which she disapproves of. First of all, she dislikes the fact that she is forced to change her own appearance. By using words with a negative connotation ("torturing her hair", l. 26), an exaggeration ("wearing one percent of her body weight in foundation and eye shadow", ll. 26/27), and quoting ludicrous claims using italics ("Everyone at the White House has lashes. They are a *must*. Otherwise viewers won't see you!" ll. 29/30), Savage's critical distance from the uniform looks of the journalists is expressed.

words with a negative connotation, exaggeration

italics

Secondly, she disapproves of some of the colleagues present. This becomes clear because of the use of strong and even vulgar words ("shocked", l. 50; "snark with an undertone of kissed-it-fucked-it-over disdain", l. 47), imagery ("with the efficiency of a college student taking a bong hit", ll. 48/49), a comparison ("as if she'd found ... around weapons.", ll. 57-59) and metaphorical language ("cannibalistic enthusiasm", l. 42).

choice of words

imagery, comparison, metaphorical language

Moreover, Savage is highly sceptical of sensationalist journalism in general, which is why she only cautiously engages in a conversation with Matt Walsh. To convey this cautiousness, the author uses contrasts ("wary but fascinated", l. 57; "warm but not too friendly", l. 59). During a conversation with Walsh, however, she does not let him intimidate her and stands her ground. To show this, short and confident replies are used ("No."/ "Yes.", ll. 62, 64) as well as sarcasm ("Are you a doctor? ... better now", ll. 71/72), imagery ("performed a mental eye roll", l. 77) and reported thought judging Walsh's statements ("As if ... superior reporting", ll. 79/80).

contrast

short and confident replies, sarcasm, imagery, reported thought

All in all, the protagonist's experiences are conveyed vividly through a third-person narrator and a wide range of stylistic devices.

**conclusion**

(494 words)

3.1 **Note:** Make sure that you refer to the quote at the beginning of your essay.

**Effects of sensationalist journalism:**

- provokes scandals (can ruin political careers)
- distraction from relevant political debate
- reinforces extreme, populist opinions
- reaches a large audience as it is easy to understand

**Effects of quality journalism:**

- offers detailed and reliable information on political topics
- people can form educated opinions on political topics
- enables political debate as it offers different perspectives on a topic
- as its language is more complex, it only reaches an educated audience

In “Savage News” by Jessica Yellin, the protagonist, Natalie Savage, is highly sceptical of sensationalist journalism. When she says “the posts glorified the most banal aspects of politics, sucking any whiff of substance from a story” in line 48, she criticises the fact that sensationalist journalism focuses on irrelevant details instead of balanced, substantiated information. Does journalism as mentioned in the book affect political discourse, and if so, how? What role does quality journalism play? This essay attempts to shed light on these questions.

By focusing on irrelevant or simplified information, sensationalist journalism aims to evoke emotional reactions in their readers or even to provoke scandals. Quite frequently, political candidates have been discredited in this way. Furthermore, the attention of a large number of people is diverted away from relevant political issues if the focus is on quite unimportant details. In my opinion, however, the main problem of this kind of journalism is that people reading it are not enabled to make informed political decisions and that their political views are often directed in an extreme, polarised and populist direction.

The question that arises here is why so many people read such one-sided, inaccurate and exaggerated content. It might be because it is easier to understand than quality journalism, and you can understand what the author is trying to say even if your level of education is not particularly high. Additionally, a large number of people like a good scandal to talk about.

Quality journalism also has an effect on political discourse of course. Its aim is to provide detailed and reliable information on political developments and it therefore makes sure that its readers are aware of the complexity of problems and enables them to come to differentiated and well-founded opinions. Through this kind of coverage, it is possible to have constructive debate about political issues that takes different perspectives into account. Sadly, quality

**introduction**  
reference to  
quote

**main part**  
**sensationalist**  
**journalism**  
provokes  
scandals  
distracts from  
relevant issues

polarised and  
populist positions

reaches large  
number of people  
because it is easy  
to understand

**quality**  
**journalism**  
detailed and  
reliable  
information  
well-founded  
opinions  
different  
perspectives

### Aufgabenstellung 2.1

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#### **Contentious debate:**

- sparked by German Federal President
- proposal of making communal work for the common good compulsory

#### **Views in favour:**

- support people in need and strengthen a sense of togetherness in society
- chance to meet people from different backgrounds → broaden one's horizons
- helps overcome prejudices
- work could be acknowledged as work experience for future training
- could be seen as extension of compulsory school attendance

#### **Views against:**

- would do more harm than good if people with little or no motivation were forced to do a job
- changes in constitution necessary → difficult
- labour shortage → young people should study or do an apprenticeship and start working as soon as possible
- devaluation of current voluntary services
- state already supported by citizen's work and taxes

– seen by youth organisations and different political parties as intrusive

**Tip:** Remember that you have to combine two text types: blog and summary.

- For the blog, don't forget to think of a catchy heading. You can also use slightly informal language if you like, as your target audience is young.
- As it's a summary, definitely mention the source you are referring to and stick to the most important facts.

#### **Compulsory social work – a good idea or an awful suggestion?**

by Emily Maier

Have you ever done any voluntary social work? Do you think everyone should do that once in their lives? For all those of you out there who are interested in how the topic is being discussed in Germany, I'll give a summary of an article from a popular German newspaper called "Die Zeit". It was written by the German Press Agency, the title could be translated as something like this: "Doing something for your country: A debate on compulsory social work" and it is from 14 June 2022.

The German Federal President sparked huge debate in the German population by suggesting that everyone should have to do compulsory communal work for the common good for up to one year. Most people, including politicians, are against a new regulation like that. However, there are some who have arguments in favour as well.

Those who think President Steinmeier's suggestion is worth thinking about argue that it would strengthen society if people supported each

headline

introduction  
source

ongoing debate

arguments in  
favour



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