

ENGLISCH

LEISTUNGSKURS

NEVER GUDE

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KOMMUNIKATIONSPRÜFUNG

SECTION 1

United Kingdom

SUBSECTION 1.1

Empire and Commonwealth

- 16th century Spain and France dominate oceans; Queen Elisabeth I. tasks pirates to attack and rob Spanish colonies and ships
- 1588 Spanish 'Armada' (navy) threatens Great Britain (GB); GB builds the royal navy ¹; next 200 years: GB wins many naval battles; proves dominance over Spain, the Netherlands and France
- 1607 – 1650 Many settlers leave GB; fleeing from religious persecution; hope for new riches in America ²
- ca. 1620 East India Company (EIC); Monopoly on trade in India; allowed to build military bases and employ private soldiers
- 17th century EIC partners with Moghal Empire; Moghal Empire falls apart; EIC expands influence; gains power over all of India
- 1756 – 1763 Seven Years' War; GB fights against French colonies and gains land in the Americas, Africa and India
- 1775 Declaration of Independence; GB loses North America as a colony; puts focus eastwards to Australia, South Africa and India
- 1789 French revolution; Napoleon becomes Head of State
- 1805 Battle of Trafalgar (GB vs. Spain and France): GB becomes largest naval power; stays largest naval power until WWII
- 1815 Napoleon capitulates; GB lost its opponent; conquers Australia, New Zealand, Burma and Malaysia
- 1857 Indian riots against EIC brutally ended
- 1858 India becomes a real colony
- 1868 Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa become dominions ³
- 1877 Queen Victoria takes on title 'Empress of India'
- since 1880 GB fights war against European settlers in South Africa; GB public pressures GB into changing cruel policies
- ca 1900 GB has monopoly on Asian trade; controls trade routes South Cape and Suez Canal; Industrialisation: GB forces colonies to take their products in turn for their resources

¹ A good navy allows smaller nations to fight successfully against larger ones, as the quality matters more than the quantity

² Beginnings of colonial empire: Mostly private undertakings, which are signed by the British Monarch

³ Dominion: Independent internal affairs, while external affairs are tied to the Empire

- 1926 Imperial conference; Dominions demand more independence: Empire restructured to become the Commonwealth of Nations ⁴
- 1947 Independence of India
- 1956 USA breaks GB power over the Suez Canal
- ca. 1960 Independence of African colonies
- 1990 Commonwealth regarded as a loose union of former colonies and other countries
- 1997 Hong Kong given back to China ⁵

⁴ British monarch meant to be accepted as Head of State; today only 16 out of 52 states do so

⁵ regarded as the end of the British Empire; in reality: fell apart decades before that

SUBSECTION 1.2

Immigration

SUBSECTION 1.3

Global role: EU and Brexit

Goal of Brexit The goal of Brexit as defined by Boris Johnson was to free the UK of the constraints put in place by the EU and refocus on the USA and the former British colonies, as well as new markets in Asia.

August 2022 Strikes and protests; highest rate of inflation in G7 countries; highest increase of prizes in 40 years; threat of recession ¹

Brexit No control free transfer of goods and people; border control when entering and exiting the UK; No customs ²

¹ UK in a state of crisis: Corona, War in Ukraine, finding Boris Johnson's successor, Brexit

² Zollabgaben

Economical role

- Exports nearly unchanged; EU is largest market of UK
- Imports from the EU decreased while USA and China increased
- Lack of workforce ³ due to Corona pandemic, foreigners leaving the country and EU citizens needing a working permission since Brexit
- Financial sector stays largest in Europe; only a few actors have left the UK; work places have increased
- Industry stays powerful until War in Ukraine

³ Mainly in hotels and restaurants, as well as in agriculture and as truck drivers

Global role

- Focus on Commonwealth ⁴
- Free-trade agreements with Canada, Australia and New Zealand; Hoping for agreement with India
- No significant changes in trade with Commonwealth since 2015
- Bilateral trade agreement with Japan
- Ambitions to join CPTPP ⁵
- USA denying free trade with UK; Joe Biden doesn't want to favor UK before EU
- Is one of five permanent members of the UN Security Council

⁴ Loose alliance of 56 countries (mostly former British colonies)

⁵ Transpacific trade partnership which drops 95% of customs between Japan, Vietnam, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Malaysia, Canada, Mexico, Peru and Chile

- Has many strategic military bases around the world
- Wants to increase nuclear power from 225 to 260 nuclear war heads
- Delivers weapons to Ukraine as first European nation (mainly anti-tank missiles); Is generally quite distant to Ukraine; Brexit could be a disadvantage with current threats

National problems

- Border between Ireland and North Ireland discussed again ⁶
- Brexit has put a defacto border between North Ireland and Great Britain; Unionists ⁷ see their British identity fading away
- Irish republican party Sinn Féin becomes strongest power of North Ireland; Referendum about reunion of Ireland and North Ireland is in view
- Ambitions for independence in Scotland ⁸

⁶ North Ireland Protocol: Free trade and no border controls between Ireland and North Ireland

⁷ North Irish people who want to be part of the UK

⁸ Percentage in favor of Brexit
England: 53%
Scotland: 38%

SECTION 2

India

SUBSECTION 2.1

Partition of British India

SUBSECTION 2.2

Poverty

SUBSECTION 2.3

Language

SUBSECTION 2.4

Technology vs. Backwardsness

SECTION 3

Globalisation

Definition 1

Globalisation 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 travelers, 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.

Globalisation changing The focus of globalisation has changed over the years. As it progressed, the world shrunk. People grew more connected and technology evolved.

	1.0	2.0	3.0
time frame	1492–1800	1800–2000	2000–today
size of world	medium	small	tiny
major players	countries	companies	individuals
driving force	countries, governments, (muscle) power	multinational companies	more diverse (non-western, non-white), empowerment through digitalisation
key technology	collaboration, trade, sailing ships	railway, steam engine	digital technology, fiber-optic cable, internet, satellites
primary question	Where does country fit in and go global?	Where does company fit in and go global?	Where do I fit in and go global?

Table 1. Change of globalisation over the years

SUBSECTION 3.1

Social aspects

SUBSECTION 3.2

Political aspects

SUBSECTION 3.3

Economic aspects

SECTION 4

United States of America

SUBSECTION 4.1

History

1607 First permanent English settlement at Jamestown (Virginia)

1620 'Pilgrim Fathers' (i.e. English Puritans) found colony at Plymouth (Massachusetts)

1775 - 1783 13 colonies fight the War of Independence against Britain

4.7.1775 The Declaration of Independence is signed

1789 US Constitution goes into effect. The former colonies are now the United States of America

1803 The Louisiana Purchase: the United States doubles in size

1861 - 1865 Civil War; slavery ends in the South

1890 The last major battle against Native American tribes. Congress officially declares the frontier closed

1917 USA enters World War I (first involvement in a European conflict)

1919 Women are given the right to vote

1919 Great depression begins

1941 USA enters World War II following Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

1945 USA drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

1945 Cold War begins as USA and Soviet Union emerge as new world powers

1954 US Supreme Court declares segregated schools illegal

1955 Civil Rights Movement begins with the Montgomery (Alabama) bus boycott

1989 - 1991 Cold War ends with the collapse of the Soviet Union

2001 Terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center

2006 US population reaches 300 million

2008 Financial crisis begins

2008 Barack Obama is elected US President. He is the first African American holding the office (2009 - 2017)

2017 Donald Trump becomes the US President. His slogan is 'America First'

2020 Storm of the Capitol

2021 Joe Biden is elected US President

SUBSECTION 4.2

Constitution

The Declaration of Independence In the Declaration of Independence the thirteen American colonies announced their freedom from British rule. One July 11th 1776, Congress appointed a committee to draft a formal Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson, one of the appointed members, was asked to write the draft, which he completed in about two weeks. The date of its adoption by the Second Continental Congress on July 4th 1776, is celebrated as the birthday of the United States.

Example | When, in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

The Preamble to the United States Constitution The Preamble to the United States Constitution, beginning with the words “We the People”, is a brief introductory statement of the Constitution's fundamental purposes and guiding principles. Courts have referred to it as reliable evidence of the Founding Fathers' intentions regarding the Constitution's meaning and what they hoped the Constitution would achieve.

Example | We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The Bill of Rights The original Constitution of the USA was concerned with the way the new government would be structured and what powers it had. People were worried that the government might become too powerful and autocratic, just like the British king, so a Bill of Rights consisting of ten amendments (i.e. changes) to the Constitution was quickly passed in 1791. These amendments were intended to protect the people from their rulers. The Bill of Rights describes the basic rights of the people and forbids the government from denying these liberties. Included are the freedoms of speech, religion, the press, and the right to assemble. Today the Bill of Rights also serves to protect minorities and individuals from the majority. Altogether there have been 27 amendments to the Constitution.

Example | **Amendment I** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers,

and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

SUBSECTION 4.3

Values

Democracy Representative government and the separation of powers in a system of checks and balances are the basis of American Democracy, which should represent American citizen's interests and be an example to the world.

The Pursuit of Happiness The American Constitution sees it as an unalienable right for every citizen to seek self-fulfilment. The Pursuit of Happiness, together with the right to life and liberty, are at the core of the US American understanding of democracy.

Individual Freedom Americans' understanding of Individual Freedom is shaped by the Founding Fathers' belief that all people are equal. Through the US Constitution's Bill of Rights, the government is responsible for protecting each individual's basic "inalienable" rights among which are freedom of speech, press, and religion.

Individualism and Self-Reliance Closely connected to the notion of freedom, the idea of Individualism and Self-Reliance encourages American citizens to trust in themselves, their abilities, and their conscience to cope with their individual fate.

Can-Do-Spirit Inventiveness and a tendency to idealize whatever works or is practical illustrate an American's Can-Do-Spirit which is often attributed to the frontier experience where man was left to his own devices when it came to survive in the wilderness.

Equal Opportunities Over centuries, the concept of the American Dream has taught Americans that self-realization can be achieved through hard work, thrift, family loyalty, and faith in free enterprise. Equal Opportunities, however, have not been within reach for all: segregation and discrimination have interfered with indigenous peoples and minorities' attempts to realize the rights and freedoms, which are also guaranteed for them by the Constitution.

Mobility For the US nation of immigrants, in which moving elsewhere and making a fresh start is seen as a practical solution to many a challenge, Mobility can be described as a form of realized optimism promising a better life ahead.

Patriotism Slogans like Proud to be American, the playing of the national anthem at sporting events or the pledging of allegiance, which starts off every school morning, are signs of a heartfelt omnipresent Patriotism which show Americans' intensified sense of national identity and pride in their nation's unique promises.

Progress Americans associate Progress with the idea of making use of the opportunities, which their nation holds in store for them. Hard work and the willingness to make sacrifices for a better tomorrow promise self-realization as well as an increase in material plenty from generation to generation.

National Security In recent years National Security has come into focus. 9/11 left Americans in a state of shock and has made certain rights negotiable (right to privacy) which were formerly undisputed.

SUBSECTION 4.4

Immigration

The English have been going to North America from the late 16th century on; Spain sent people to the southern part of the region and many Dutch and Germans also went over.

When the U.S. became independent, it was written into the *Constitution* that there could be no limits on immigration until 1808. The main period of immigration was between 1800 and 1917. Early in this period, many immigrants arrived from Britain and Germany, and many Chinese went to California. Later, the main groups were Italians, Irish, Eastern Europeans and Scandinavians. Many Jews came from Germany and Eastern Europe. Just before World War I, there were nearly a million immigrants a year. Many immigrants came to New York and Boston, and Ellis Island, near New York, became famous as a receiving station. The *Immigration Act of 1917*, and other laws that followed it, limited the number of immigrants and the countries that they could come from. Since then, immigration has been limited to a few people who are selected for an immigrant visa, commonly called green card. Hispanics and Asians now make up the largest group of immigrants.

Immigration policy, including illegal immigration to the United States, was a signature issue of former U.S. president *Donald Trump's* presidential campaign. He repeatedly said that illegal immigrants are criminals. A hallmark promise of his campaign was to build a substantial wall on the United States- Mexico border and to force Mexico to pay for the wall.

Winners Employers in industries (service, tourism) Consumers Immigrants children Federal government	Reasons Cheap labour Cheap prices Free education Much needed income, through sufficient amounts of workers
Losers Tax paying (immigrants) Local workers	Reasons Social system payed for by tax money Immigrants taking lower qualified jobs away
Unclear Illegal immigrants Community	Reasons Safety from tyrannic government but losing their home Gain diversity but new foreign members might not be compatible in values

Table 2. Winners and losers of illegal immigration

Melting pot or salad bowl? Some People argue that the US is more like a melting pot while others say it's a salad bowl. I think the US is a country with a rather bad democracy.

Melting pot	Salad bowl
New society due to cultures merging	Many societies due to cultures not merging
Immigrants fully assimilate	Immigrants coexist
Immigrants give up traditions	Immigrants usually keep their language and/or culture
Immigrants have a new identity	Multiculturalism

Table 3. Aspects of a melting pot- vs. a salad bowl-like immigration culture

SUBSECTION 4.5

American dream

Why the American Dream needs to be reinvented

- Gigantic gap in wealth, it doesn't actually provide equality; the American Dream failed to achieve its goal
- Uncertain economic conditions
- No job security, high unemployment rate
- High education costs
- Job market is difficult for young people

SUBSECTION 4.6

Racial issues

- Since 1640 Slavery is an essential part of cotton and tobacco-growing industries in the South
- 1775 American War of Independence between Britain and its American colonies begins
- 1776 Declaration of Independence adopted
- 1783 American colonies win the War of Independence against Britain
- 1860 President Abraham Lincoln tries to abolish slavery; Southern States of America try to leave the Union in protest
- 1861 Northern States of America move on the South to prevent the break-up of the USA; the American Civil War begins
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln, freeing all slaves
- 1865 American Civil War ends with a victory of the Northern States; 13th Amendment to the Constitution makes slavery illegal in the USA
- 1865–1877 Reconstruction era; remaking of the Southern United States after the Civil War

- 1865/1866 The Black Codes, a set of rules, are passed in the South to “restore all of slavery but its name” southern blacks are
- denied the right to vote
 - excluded from certain jobs
 - denied the right to own land
 - prohibited from possessing firearms
- 1866 The Ku Klux Klan is founded, resulting in lynching of and discrimination against blacks well into the 20th century
- 1870 5th Amendment to the Constitution gives all men the right to vote, regardless of race, but Jim Crow Laws make this difficult in reality and segregation of blacks is still the norm in American society
- 1880s–1920 peak years of black lynchings
- 1896 Supreme Court rules, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, that so-called “separate but equal” facilities – including public transport and schools – are constitutional
- WWI Segregated regiments of white and African-Americans fight for the U.S.
- 1916–1970 the Great Migration; the movement of six million African Americans out of the rural Southern United States to the urban Northeast, Midwest and West
- WWII ca. 1 mio African-American soldiers fight for the U.S.
- 1950s and 1960s Civil Rights Movement in America, led by Dr Martin Luther King Jr.
- 1955 Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus – Montgomery Bus Boycott begins
- 1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott ends - buses are no longer segregated
- 1957 Little Rock Nine escorted into Little Rock High School by federal troopers, signaling the end of segregated education
- 1963 Martin Luther King leads a march on Washington and delivers the speech “I Have a Dream”
- 1960s Malcolm X becomes famous leader of Black Muslims; promotion of a separate black state and acceptance of violence as a means of self-defense
- 1964 Civil Rights Act passed; last of the Jim Crow Laws regarding segregation of Blacks are abolished
- 1965 Assassination of Malcolm X; President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Voting Rights Act; literacy tests required to be allowed to vote are suspended in order to allow many illiterate southern blacks to vote
- 1968 Martin Luther King assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee
- 2008 Barack Obama elected as President of the USA

SUBSECTION 4.7

Gun laws

Gun culture in the US According to reliable estimates there are about 393 million privately owned firearms in the USA. Around 40% of Americans live in a household with a gun, which means that many gun-owners own more than one gun. The USA is the country with the highest gun ownership rate in the world, followed by Yemen and Switzerland.

Guns have played a major role in American history, especially in the settlement of the continent and in the various wars that have been fought by Americans. As a means of self-protection and as a tool for hunting guns were vital to American settlers. In American popular culture, guns have often been depicted in a positive light. Just think of Western movies or the characters played by Arnold Schwarzenegger. At the same time gun ownership has for a long time been a hotly debated topic, each school shooting serving as a trigger of another round of discussions.

Supporters of gun ownership such as the National Rifle Association (NRA) point to the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution and consider every attempt of the government to restrict gun ownership as an encroachment on their personal freedom. Claiming that hundreds of people use guns each year for self-defense, they believe that privately owned guns reduce crime rate rather than causing it. Opponents of gun ownership, on the other hand, point to studies that show a decline in homicides and suicides by firearms after the introduction of stricter gun laws. In addition they maintain that guns in households can easily lead to accidents or an escalation that wouldn't have happened if a gun hadn't been involved.

SECTION 5

Modern Media

SUBSECTION 5.1

Modern digital media

School and work Digital media has been used in business for a long time but has only recently made its way into school. A lot has changed since then.

Opportunities	Challenges
Easy access to material: Work saved in a cloud storage, research on the internet	Depends on WIFI
Saves paper and weight (books and work accessible with one device)	Uses electrical power, costly in purchase
Sharing information and material quickly	Distraction from class

Table 4. Opportunities and challenges of digital media in school and work

Digital image processing Software like Photoshop has been a huge advancement in image manipulation. Never have there been such vast options of editing images. Of course this also has come with new problems like Deep Fakes being indistinguishable from the real person.

Opportunities	Challenges
New tool for expressing creativity	Older techniques being forgotten or de-valued
Indistinguishable from real life (Photo realism, Deep Fakes)	Deep fakes can pose a threat to reputation and peace
Cheaper production costs	People losing their jobs

Table 5. Opportunities and challenges of digital image processing

Surveillance The most prominent case of abuse of surveillance systems is China. In connection with their social credit system, they lead their population to denunciate people who disagree with the government. Nevertheless, used in the right context and with the right restrictions, surveillance can help create a safer society.

Opportunities	Challenges
Prevent crime before it happens	Potential for censorship and violation of privacy guidelines
Identification of criminals (CCTV) or proof of innocence	Denunciation when connected with social credit system
Provide jobs: monitor CCTV, hacking criminal group chats	Can be expensive

Table 6. Opportunities and challenges of digital surveillance

SUBSECTION 5.2

Web 2.0: opportunities and challenges

The Web 2.0 is different from the Web 1.0 in that people can now use portals like YouTube, Instagram or TikTok to put their content out to the world. Previously, a person had to have personal Website or Blog. Maintaining that is a rather tedious task, so enterprises like Google and Meta where founded to take on the job of hosting the servers. See Table 7 for further information.

The audience of content creators grew as many people where connected on a single platform and not spread over various Blogs. But now that the enterprises hosted their users data, they technically own it if not specified differently in the terms of use.

Thus, recently there have been new projects trying the build a federated network (called the Web 3.0), which still promises far reach through a common portal but with the option of private data ownership through privately hosted servers.

SUBSECTION 5.3

English as a global language

Opportunities	Challenges
Fast spreading of information	Fast spreading of misinformation
Ability to stay anonymous	Anonymity can be abused
Huge pool of information	Risk of data leakage or doxing
Great diversity in people	Forming of political bubbles
Easy ways to communicate and share personal life	Addictive →mental health issues
New jobs	High emissions through servers using lots of electrical power
Freedom of speech	No general protection from hate speech
Quick access to entertainment	Influencers influencing decision making based on sponsors

Table 7. Opportunities and challenges of the Web 2.0

SECTION 6

Ambiguity of belonging: Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter

Definition 2 | Ambiguity means the two sides of something.

Larry

- An outsider because of his interests
- Tries to fit in and be accepted, but fails to achieve that and suffers from the consequences of this
- Has Silas as his friend for some time during his childhood, but loses that friendship due to his father forcing them to fight
- Dates a girl named Cindy Walker, who mysteriously disappears during their date and is seen as her rapist and murderer from that point on
- Lonely for most his life, realizes his loneliness when he meets Wallace
- Brother of Silas
- In the present, him and Silas take steps to repair their Relationship as friends and brothers again

Silas

- Moves at the age of 13 from Chicago down to Mississippi
- Friends with Larry until being called a racial slur during a fight
- Cindy Walkers boyfriend at the time of her “date” with Larry
- Actual last person to have ever seen Cindy before she disappears
- Comes out with this truth in the present and tries to make up for it and repair his relationship with Larry

Title Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter – from a common memory aid to remember the spelling of Mississippi; characters in the book are also crooked as ambiguous

Setting Rural Mississippi, Chabot; a small city with racial problems

Theme Belonging, friendship, guilt

Structure Narrative alternates between past and present, Larry and Silas

Conflict Larry & Silas relationship conflict