

Abiturprüfung 2006

ENGLISCH

als Grundkursfach

– Textteil –

Arbeitszeit: 210 Minuten

Der Prüfling hat **e i n e** Textaufgabe seiner Wahl
nach den Arbeitsanweisungen des beiliegenden Aufgabenteils zu bearbeiten.

Textaufgabe I

A New Irish Migration

Mr. Riley Wells is four years old this summer. His brother, Mr. Liam Wells, is two. They live in Arklow, County Wicklow, about an hour's drive south of Dublin. In Ireland.

5 The two high points of the summer so far were near-simultaneous visits from two exotic travelling delegations. Tom Duffy's legendary circus pitched its tent in a field outside Arklow for two nights. Uncle Paul¹ and Christina from Ottawa pitched their tent in the guest room of the Wells residence for a little while longer. Tom Duffy's circus came with tigers, prancing llamas, and three elephants. After the show one of the elephants wandered through the parking
10 lot, munching distractedly on underbrush, until a circus handler tracked the beast down and scolded it back to its trailer. Paul and Christina came with a plastic dinosaur encased in a toy iceberg. Scale differences notwithstanding, this too was a hit.

Riley and Liam's father, my brother Mark, works these days for a pharmaceutical company. He didn't move to Ireland because our family comes
15 from there. This wasn't a return to cultural roots. It was simple economic migration: Mark moved to good work for good pay in a good place to live.

Which makes him part of a revolution.

20 Practically everyone has heard of Ireland's economic miracle, which transformed the country from perennial loser to Celtic Tiger². From 1993 to 2001, its economy grew at a staggering annual rate of 8.4 per cent, three times that of the rest of the European Union.

What's less obvious is that success has reversed a historic flow of human traffic. For 100 years after the Irish potato famine of the 1840s, Ireland
25 was a place you left if you possibly could. In 1961, Ireland's population

reached its lowest point in modern history, 2.8 million people, less than half its pre-famine tally of 6.5 million in 1841.

For generations, as the former Irish prime minister Garret FitzGerald put it during a recent speech, "no more than half of each age cohort was alive in
30 Ireland at 35. In the early part of the period, they died of TB or some other mortality. And the rest emigrated."

Irish emigration fueled Canadian politics (Brian Mulroney, Jean Charest), U.S. presidential races (Kennedy, Reagan, Clinton), Argentine literature (Juan José Delaney). The Irish found fortune everywhere except
35 Ireland. We visited Kilkenny Castle, which becomes a little less grand when you learn its story: its owner had to auction off all the furniture in 1955 and finally sold the old hulk to the Irish state for £50 12 years later. By 1958, the wreck of Ireland was complete.

So Ireland's leaders asked themselves, "Suppose we do the opposite to everything we're doing so far and see how that works?" Ireland replaced
40 protectionism with a wide-open economy. Ireland joined the European community, cut business taxes sharply, invested heavily and for decades in public education. It took decades for these changes to pay off, but eventually the Irish discovered good luck makes good luck. Irish citizens stopped flooding
45 out of the country in the 1960s. By the 1990s, there weren't enough Irish to do all the work. The work started coming to Ireland.

Ireland's population is only four million, yet by one estimate, from 1995 - 2000 a quarter of a million people immigrated to Ireland, only half of them returning Irish. Since then the pace has only increased. In May 2004, 10 new
50 countries joined the European Union. Only Sweden, Britain and Ireland allowed residents of those countries to move in and work right away. In hardly more than a year, 85,000 Eastern Europeans have arrived to work. The woman who checked us into our Dublin hotel was Czech. There's a Polish pub in Limerick, where the local newspaper runs weekly columns in Polish and
55 Chinese.

PLEASE TURN OVER

Dan McLaughlin, chief economist of the Bank of Ireland Group, has predicted that this immigration will fuel a new "Celtic Tiger II" boom: in an economy constrained only by the amount of manpower, every new arrival contributes directly to the nation's bottom line. Ireland was always a good place to visit, but as the Wellses of Arklow have learned, now you want to live there. After giving so much to the world for so long, Ireland is finally ready to take some of the world back.

From: Paul Wells in: *Maclean's, Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine*, August 22nd 2005

Annotations

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 Uncle Paul | Paul Wells, writer of the article |
| 2 Celtic Tiger | term used for the recent economic boom in Ireland |

Textaufgabe II

Berto looked up at the Underground map for what seemed like the hundredth time, and still it made no sense to him. Where was Hackney¹? The map was a jumble of confusing names. The English language seemed to have no rules. Names didn't sound like they were written. That had been made clear to him after Cathy had left the train and he'd tried to ask a man for help. He hadn't been able to make himself understood and in the end the man had simply laughed and shook his head. It had been humiliating. He hadn't found the courage to ask again. Now he was lost, but he wasn't going to let himself get scared. As long as he was moving it was OK... If he just sat here on this train, in this warm carriage, he would eventually work out what to do. As long as he acted sensibly and didn't panic, things would work out.

But London was vast and confusing. Not like Venice. In Venice, when he'd met Cathy, everything had seemed clear and easy. Even though they hadn't been able to talk they had understood each other, and as they'd spent most of their time in bed, talking hadn't been important. So he'd come to England, like she'd said he should... Only it wasn't what he'd expected. For one thing, she had a boyfriend. She hadn't told him that before. She'd tried to talk to him about the boyfriend yesterday in the taxi, on the way to her place from the station, but he wasn't sure he understood. She'd told him about something called a "trial separation" and an "open relationship", and even though he looked the words up, he still didn't understand what they meant. So he nodded and went along with it. To him it all seemed crazy.

She still saw the boyfriend. Last night, his first night in England, they had all had dinner together. Afterwards the boyfriend had kissed Cathy goodnight and gone home. Berto had gone to bed with Cathy and they had started to make love but he could tell that she was tense, that she didn't really want to do

PLEASE TURN OVER

it, so he had stopped. All those miles, thinking about her, and now this. If only he'd been able to talk to her about it.

30 Today had been even stranger. Cathy had been at work, so the boyfriend had shown him around London. Trying very hard to be friendly, telling him about everything they saw, too fast for Berto to understand. That was when Berto realized just how big the city was, how spread out. You couldn't walk, always it had to be buses and what the English called the tubes. So he had no sense of the layout, no internal map.

35 They had stayed out all day, then met Cathy in a Chinese restaurant. Afterwards they had gone to a party somewhere called Clapham². He hadn't enjoyed the party. Cathy had ignored him, spent the whole time with the boyfriend. Everyone had got drunk, shouting and laughing. He could talk to nobody. He sat on the stairs by himself and people pushed past him all the
40 time as if he didn't exist. He had begun to wonder what he was doing in this country.

Luckily, Cathy wanted to leave early, and luckily the boyfriend didn't come with them. But Cathy hadn't been happy. She said she had had an argument with the boyfriend. Berto tried to talk about this but she only became
45 more upset. They had got on the tube, and Berto had said something which made Cathy angry, he had no idea what. She'd shouted at him – too fast, too many words he didn't understand – and at the next stop she got off the train, swore at him (the few words he did understand) and told him not to follow. And like a fool he didn't.

From: Charlie Higson, "The Red Line" in: *The Time Out Book of London Short Stories*, 1993

Annotations

- | | | |
|---|---------|---|
| 1 | Hackney | part of London, north-east of the City |
| 2 | Clapham | one of the suburbs in the south of London |

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Der Prüfling hat **e i n e** Textaufgabe seiner Wahl zu bearbeiten.

WORKSHEET: A New Irish Migrationmaximum number of
points attainable**I. Questions on the text**

Read all the questions first, then answer them in the given order.
Use your own words as far as is appropriate.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Describe the economic situation of Ireland in the 19 th century and its demographic consequences. | 10 |
| 2. Explain the demographic 'revolution' that has taken place in recent years and analyse its reasons. | 20 |
| 3. Why does the writer mention the example of Kilkenny Castle? Show how he uses language to prove his point in lines 35 to 38. | 10 |
| 4. How does the writer see the impact of immigration on host countries? Give precise examples. | 20 |
| 5. In what ways is the introduction (ll. 1-17) different from the rest of the text? Analyse two characteristic features of each part. | 20 |

II. Composition

40

Choose **o n e** of the following topics. Write about 150 to 200 words.

1. Migration: a chance and a risk.
2. "The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work."
(Harry Golden) Discuss.
3. At the end of an exchange year in an English-speaking country you give a farewell speech at a school assembly. Write up the speech, including some of your experiences there.

III. Translation

40

Translate the following text into German:

Forget those turn-of-the-century images of Dublin. The prewar city of James Joyce¹ is, of course, long gone. Dublin today is the base of an immigration surge that is transforming Ireland at a rate un-paralleled in speed and scale anywhere in Europe. And that has made the Emerald Isle² a test case for how Europe will deal with one of its greatest dilemmas – the need for, and discomfort with, immigrant labor.

Irish laws are still playing catch-up³ with immigration. And they reflect the conflicting views the Irish have. Even as the country welcomes new workers, it is cracking down on immigration in other ways. Last year lawmakers modified legislation so as to deny automatic citizenship to children born in Ireland. This year the Supreme Court ruled that non-EU immigrant parents of Irish-born children are not automatically entitled to residency. This has created a great panic.

From: *Newsweek International*, Dec. 15 2003

Annotations

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 James Joyce | (1882 - 1941); one of the most important Irish writers, famous for his short stories and novels set in Dublin |
| 2 the Emerald Isle | dt. die Grüne Insel |
| 3 to play catch-up | to try to make as much progress as someone or something you are competing with |

WORKSHEET: Higson, "The Red Line"maximum number of
points attainable**I. Questions on the text**

Read all the questions first, then answer them in the given order.
Use your own words as far as is appropriate.

1. Describe Berto's situation and state of mind as shown in the first paragraph. **10**
2. Analyse Cathy's relationship and behaviour to Berto. **20**
3. Outline her relationship to her English boyfriend. How does Berto feel about it? **10**
4. Explain the way Berto reacts to London. Show that his view of Venice and London is symbolic of his state of mind. **10**
5. What role do language and communication play in Berto's relations to Cathy and her friends? **20**
6. Comment on the narrative perspective used in this text and determine its effect on how the reader sees the characters. **10**

II. Composition**40**

Choose **o n e** of the following topics. Write about 150 to 200 words.

1. 'Fun society' – Are we amusing ourselves to death?
2. The deepest satisfaction a traveller can get is to come to terms with unforeseen problems and difficulties in foreign countries. Do you agree?

3. A few days after Berto's disappearance, Cathy tries to explain her behaviour and the situation in a letter to him. Write Cathy's letter.

III. Translation**40**

Translate the following text into German:

The reasons for London's growth were not simple. Partly, it took place because London's middle-class population was growing so fast, and these people, unable to afford a second home in the country, but able to pay a daily bus or train fare into their City offices, were the ones most likely to choose a suburban existence.

The mixture of town and country had a particular appeal to middle-class Londoners. Perhaps this was because it enabled them to mimic, at modest expense, the country life of the aristocracy. No matter how strongly the suburbs were criticized by moralists and architects for their dull uniformity, for their failure to be either real town or country, they were places in which most middle-class, and many working-class, Londoners chose to live when improving wages, working hours and transport links made it possible. Suburban life, in their view, offered not the worst of both worlds, but the best.

From: Stephen Inwood, *A History of London*, 1998