

Textaufgabe I

TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED?

Six years ago Nancy Jobes was injured in a traffic accident and has been in a coma ever since, sustained by a feeding tube in a New Jersey nursing home. John¹, together with Nancy's parents, wants to have the feeding tube removed. "There is no quality of
5 life," he insists. "Nancy would not want to be in this state."

There are about 10,000 other Americans in Nancy Jobes' predicament, a hopeless twilight known to doctors as a "permanent vegetative state." For their families, they are a constant source of anguish, and there is a tremendous financial burden. These
10 patients pose a knotty ethical dilemma for doctors as well - a conflict between the duty to sustain life and the obligation to relieve suffering. With few professional guidelines to help them resolve the conflict, doctors have frequently decided to continue treatment because of their moral qualms or fear of legal consequences.
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Now a bold new ruling by the American Medical Association's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs ought to make it easier for doctors to go along with a family's request to end treatment. After two years of deliberation, the seven member panel affirmed that
20 patients' wishes, as best as can be determined, should be respected and their "dignity" maintained. It is not "unethical," said the council, for doctors to discontinue all life support for patients who are in irreversible comas.

The council's decision reflects a growing concern in the medical
25 community and society at large that death in America is too often controlled by machines rather than nature. In a sharp departure from the past, when most Americans died at home, an estimated 80% now die in hospitals or nursing homes, often surrounded by a thicket of tubes and life-extending apparatus. Public opinion
30 surveys suggest that most Americans fear and oppose this invasion of one of life's most private moments.

ABITURPRÜFUNG 1987

Hinweis zu den

TEXTAUFGABEN in den Fächern Englisch und Französisch

Aus technischen Gründen sind die Arbeitsblätter nicht in die jeweilige Textvorlage eingelegt, sondern in gleicher Anzahl und Nummernfolge beige packt. Es wird daher gebeten, bei der Ausgabe der Textvorlagen und zugehörigen Arbeitsblätter an die Prüflinge - auch im Hinblick auf die Auswahlmöglichkeit zwischen Textaufgabe I und Textaufgabe II - besondere Sorgfalt walten zu lassen.

WORKSHEET: To Feed or Not to Feed?

maximum number of
points attainable

The A.M.A.² decision was hailed by many advocacy groups last week as an important step in preserving the right to die with dignity. After "a period when technology was used indiscriminately, this returns us to common-sense medicine," declared A.J. Levinson, executive director of Concern for Dying in New York City. But there were bitter objections as well.

Some raised concerns about the so-called slippery slope toward wholesale euthanasia. Said Dr. Mark Siegler, director of the Center of Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago: "We start off with dispatching the terminally ill and the hopelessly comatose, and then perhaps our guidelines might be extended to the severely senile, the very old and decrepit and maybe even young, profoundly retarded children." Adding to such worries is the current era of medical cost cutting. "That's what this is all about, to get rid of people who are a burden to their families and the state," warned St. Louis Pediatrician Anne Bannon.

With debate still vibrant, the practical impact of the A.M.A. decision is likely to be mixed. Doctors will no doubt feel more comfortable about acting quietly with family approval to hasten the dying process. The family of a patient like Nancy Jobes, whose plight is more public, will be able to make a stronger argument but may still face a legal battle. However helpful, the A.M.A.'s new ruling cannot ease the heartbreak for families weighing such a decision. It is one thing to shut off a machine that is forcing the breath of life into inert lungs. It is emotionally far harder to withdraw the staff of life, even if it is dripping through a tube.

From: *Time*, March 31, 1986

- 1) Nancy's husband
2) A.M.A.: American Medical Association (see line 16)

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. Explain why the writer calls Nancy Jobes' situation "a hopeless twilight" (line 7). 10
2. What dilemma do doctors face in cases like Nancy Jobes'? 10
3. Summarize the arguments for and against switching off life-extending apparatus. (Write about 90 words.) 30
4. What, according to the text, will the effects of the A.M.A.'s ruling be? 10
5. Does the writer believe that the A.M.A.'s decision is a satisfactory answer to the question in the title? Give evidence from the text. 20

II. Composition

Choose one of the following topics. Write about 120 to 150 words.

1. Modern medicine has increased the average life expectancy. Discuss some of the problems that might arise from this fact.
2. What is your opinion about the interference of medicine with the natural course of human life?

.. Translation

Translate the following text into German:

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PLEASE TURN OVER

The steady increase in the number of the aged in modern society and the ability of medicine to prolong life have led to demands for legalization of voluntary euthanasia. A bill that would have enabled individuals suffering from incurable illness to have their lives terminated painlessly was introduced but defeated in the British Parliament in 1970. Its advocates argued that voluntary euthanasia was "suicide by proxy" and that it required only a modification of the English Suicide Act¹ of 1961, which legalized suicide but made aiding and abetting suicide a criminal offense. The idea of legalized euthanasia has many adherents among the general public but is strongly opposed by the representatives of the religions and by the practitioners of medicine who refuse to accept the role of executioners. It has also been argued that the relationship of euthanasia to suicide is not as close as it seems because a degree of uncertainty of outcome is inherent in most suicidal acts.

From: *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Vol. 17, "Suicide"

1) nicht zu übersetzen

Textaufgabe II

TOWARD A "THIRD WAVE" CIVILIZATION¹

The child of tomorrow is likely to grow up in a society far less child-centered than our own.

The aging or "graying" of the population in all high-technology countries implies greater public attention to the needs of the elderly and a correspondingly reduced focus on the young. Furthermore, as women develop jobs or careers, the traditional need to channel their energies into motherhood is diminished.

During the Second Wave¹ era, millions of American parents lived out their own dreams through their children - often because they could reasonably expect their children to do better socially and economically than they themselves had done. This expectation of upward mobility encouraged parents to concentrate enormous psychic energies on their children. Today, many middle-class parents face agonizing disillusionment as their children - in a far more difficult world - move down, rather than up, the socioeconomic scale. The likelihood of surrogate² fulfillment is evaporating.

For all these reasons, the baby born tomorrow may well enter a society no longer obsessed with the needs, wants, psychological development and instant gratification of the child. If so, doctors of tomorrow will urge a more structured and demanding childhood. Parents will be less permissive.

Parents will love their children no less. But the family is no longer likely to be as heavily oriented around the child's demands as it has been in so many middle-class homes until now.

Nor, one suspects, will adolescence be as prolonged a process as it is today for so many. Millions of children are being brought up in single-parent homes, with working mothers (or fathers) squeezed by an erratic economy and with less of the luxury and time that were available to the flower-child generation of the 1960s.

ABITURPRÜFUNG 1987

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WORKSHEET: Toward a "Third Wave" Civilization

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. What are the reasons for the Second Wave society being child-centred? | 10 |
| 2. Why will the society of tomorrow be less child-centred? | 20 |
| 3. What will the upbringing of offspring be like in the society of tomorrow? | 20 |
| 4. How, according to the writer, will employment conditions change and why? | 20 |
| 5. What possible effects of these developments on young people does the writer anticipate? | 10 |

II. Composition

Choose one of the following topics. Write about 120 to 150 words.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Families today are too child-centred. How do you feel about this statement? | 40 |
| 2. Computers - a threat to jobs? Discuss. | |

III. Translation

Translate the following text into German:

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Others, later on, are likely to be reared in work-at-home or "electronic cottage" families. Indeed, one of the most significant developments of the coming decades will be the shift of important numbers of jobs out of the factory or office and back into the home. Since large numbers of workers are involved in moving intangible symbols and information, rather than physical goods, it is no longer necessary for them to go to the central location to do their jobs.

40 The skyrocketing cost of gas and transport and the plummeting cost of communications and minicomputers suggest that at some point it will be far cheaper to put electronic work stations in the home than to transport vast numbers of workers back and forth every day. "Telecommuting" may well replace commuting.

45 In many homes the family may well become a work-together production unit, as it typically was before the Industrial Revolution. Moreover, we can expect the children of tomorrow's electronic cottage to be drawn directly into the family's work tasks and given growing responsibility from an early age, as is often the case today where the family runs a small business.

Such facts suggest a shorter childhood and youth, but a more responsible and productive one. Working alongside adults, absorbing grown-up standards, children in such homes are also likely to be less subject to peer pressures. They may well turn out to be the high achievers of tomorrow.

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From: *Dialogue*, Number 51, 1/1981

1) The "Second Wave" civilization roughly covers the last three centuries. Today we are in a period of transition leading towards the "Third Wave" civilization.

2) surrogate: substitute

PLEASE TURN OVER

WORKSHEET: Toward a "Third Wave" Civilization

maximum number of
points attainable

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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. What are the reasons for the Second Wave society being child-centred? 10
2. Why will the society of tomorrow be less child-centred? 20
3. What will the upbringing of offspring be like in the society of tomorrow? 20
4. How, according to the writer, will employment conditions change and why? 20
5. What possible effects of these developments on young people does the writer anticipate? 10

II. Composition

Choose one of the following topics. Write about 120 to 150 words. 40

1. Families today are too child-centred. How do you feel about this statement?
2. Computers - a threat to jobs? Discuss.

III. Translation

Translate the following text into German: 40

160

PLEASE TURN OVER

When mothers work outside the home, subtle changes take place in the relationships between the parents as well as between the parents and their children. Complete financial dependence of the wife on the husband becomes a thing of the past; new pressures are put on men to share in housework and child care; traditional marriage roles begin to shift and at times to collapse. Part of the anxiety of parents springs from these shifts. Are fathers who vacuum the house "real men"? Do they provide "adequate" role models for their sons? And how can it be good for children when their parents return home at the end of the day exhausted from demanding or draining work? In the absence of widely accepted answers, the response is likely to be worry and discomfort in the parents themselves and a fear of the "breakdown of the family" in those who observe these trends nationwide.

From: Kenneth Keniston and the Carnegie Council on Children,
All Our Children