

# Abiturprüfung 1989

## 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.

ABITURPRÜFUNG 1989  
ENGLISCH  
als Grundkursfach

Arbeitszeit: 180 Minuten

### Textaufgabe I

#### POKING AT THE THRONE

If anyone understood the British monarchy's secret of success, it was probably Walter Bagehot. "Above all things," wrote the Victorian era's distinguished journalist and social historian, "our royalty is to be revered, and if you begin  
5 to poke about it you cannot reverence it. Its mystery is its life. We must not let in daylight upon magic."

These days, everyone seems to be out to rob the monarchy of its mystery and its magic. The tabloid press pokes about in relentless pursuit of gossip about the doings of the royal  
10 family — both public and personal. Television cameras zoom in on the queen, on this prince, on that princess. Books and magazines bare details of life inside "Buck House" — as Buckingham Palace is informally (and rather lovingly) known. Yet for all the revealing "daylight", Britain's monarchy has  
15 retained much of its extraordinary and enduring aura. Queen Elizabeth II sits firmly and confidently on her throne. Support for the monarchy remains strong at all levels of British society. In short, the House of Windsor thrives, at a time when royalty is hardly a growth industry in the rest of the world.

Nonetheless, there are those who worry about the effects of overexposure. "There's a question of how much attention the monarchy can stand," says Cambridge historian David Cannadine. Traditionalists wince at the glare of publicity surrounding the pop-star antics of some of the royal family's younger set.  
20 David Starkey, an authority on the modern monarchy who teaches at the London School of Economics, maintains that the monarchy — even if it seems somewhat anachronistic in today's Britain — plays a genuinely important role as a focus of national identity. If publicity about members of the royal

30 family turns them into little more than soap-opera stars,  
Starkey believes that the monarchy may face a fate similar  
to that of the aristocracy: irrelevance.

It is Charles, perhaps more than any other member of the  
royal family, who realizes how fragile an institution the mon-  
35 archy may be. According to at least one knowledgeable source,  
he understands full well that the British monarchy can play a  
major role in British life and international life, and that it  
is immensely important to have an institution that is above the  
political process. But the prince also knows that the institu-  
40 tion does not have a sacred survivability. It depends on who  
exercises it.

In terms of integrity, intelligence, training and experience,  
Charles has the qualities of an ideal king of England. He also  
wants to make the British monarchy more relevant to Britain  
45 today, hence his ventures into the realms of modern architecture  
and inner-city renewal. Not surprisingly, there is resistance  
among some of the old palace guard to Charles's efforts to make  
the monarchy more up-to-date. "The monarchy's relevance is  
prescribed by the Constitution," says a former palace official.  
50 "It is not something that is subject to Charles's will."

But the authority, the impact and the attraction of the  
British royal house depend as much on public perception as  
constitutional law. Public perceptions and public expectations  
change, and no one recognizes that better than Charles. "Some-  
55 thing as curious as the monarchy," he has said, "won't survive  
unless you take account of people's attitudes. After all, if  
people don't want it, they won't have it."

From: *Newsweek*, March 7, 1988

WORKSHEET: Poking at the Throne

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 was Walter Bagehot's concept of the  
British monarchy? Is this concept still  
valid today? Give reasons. 20
2. What does the text tell us about the  
position and function of the monarchy  
in British society today? 20
3. How does Charles see the British monarchy and  
his role as the future monarch? 20
4. Why is Charles's idea of a monarch's role not  
approved of unanimously? 10
5. What is the writer's opinion of Prince Charles  
and where does it become evident in the text? 10

II. Composition

Choose o n e of the following topics.  
Write about 120 to 150 words. 40

1. Explain the fascination royalty holds for  
so many people.
2. The British monarch reigns but does not rule.  
Explain this constitutional principle.

III. Translation

Translate the following text into German: 40

PLEASE TURN OVER

160

In many ways, the Glorious Revolution was what would now be regarded as a typical British compromise. The changes the politicians of 1688 - 1689 made were restricted and pragmatic. They retained those elements of the past, notably Parliament, which preserved the tradition of government by consent. But by so doing they gave Britain a constitution with the flexibility to accommodate the great social, economic and political changes of the 18th and 19th centuries, and thus saved the country from the more bloody kind of revolution which other nations suffered.

Today, the influence of the Glorious Revolution continues to be felt — principally in the way in which parliamentary government is conducted not only in the United Kingdom but around the world. The hallmarks of parliamentary democracy — regular general elections, freedom of debate in Parliament and the press, the accountability of Ministers to Members of Parliament and of MPs to the electorate — all stem directly or indirectly from the momentous events of 1688 - 1689.

From: *Parliament and the Glorious Revolution 1688 - 1988*  
(Her Majesty's Stationary Office)

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### Textaufgabe II

#### COMPUTERS

When Advertising Executive Todd Lief, 47, gave up his four-pack-a-day cigarette habit a few years ago, he put aside his tobacco money to buy a computer. His wife Jo, 44, a Chicago family therapist, supported the idea. At least at first. Then  
5 she discovered that computers, like cigarettes, can be habit forming. "He *really* got into it," she says. "After a while, I felt angry — abandoned. On a sunny, beautiful day he would sit at the computer for eight hours straight."

Fortunately, Jo has been able to adjust to her husband's  
10 obsession. While Todd fiddles with the keyboard, she goes out with friends, gabs on the phone or just immerses herself in a bubble bath. Says she: "It gives me more time to do what I want to do. I'm glad to have the independence." But their case may be a happy exception.

15 San Diego Psychologist Thomas McDonald has seen enough computer-related distress in the past two years to design psychological tests to sell to companies that want to spot victims of the new ailment. According to McDonald, the sufferers are trying to keep up with machines that never sleep and never  
20 deviate from perfect linear logic. "Since human relations are neither linear nor logical," he says, "they grow increasingly isolated from their families and the whole feeling world."

The complaint strikes hardest among top programmers and systems managers. Among the first signs: a cavalier attitude  
25 toward eating schedules and a leaning toward late-night emergencies at the office. At times, Connie Washam, 32, has nearly given up on her husband Gary, marketing director for a San Diego computer graphics firm. "We don't plan on him for dinner," she says. "We don't plan on him for anything. He's

WORKSHEET: Computers

maximum number of  
points attainable

30 kind of a drop-in guest." Says Gary in his defense: "I'm in a double bind. The computer gives me immediate rewards. I get positive strokes every time I solve a problem. On the other hand, I enjoy being with my family. But if you spend too much time with them, you lose your edge in the computer industry."

35 Jerry Gallagher of White Plains, N.Y., finds himself, at 48, in the midst of divorce proceedings. He feels the complexity of the technology contributed to his alienation from his family: "It bothers me when I tell my wife we can go to 256K bytes<sup>1</sup> of memory and it means nothing to her. I don't want to be sexist, 40 but women don't understand."

Many women, rather than join the computer revolution, have hammered out peace pacts with their mates. In Palo Alto, Calif., a woman who spent five years with a programmer finally imposed a 15-minute limit on uninterrupted talk about his work. In 45 Atlanta the wife of a former camera bug<sup>2</sup> who switched to home computers uses travel to protect their relationship. Says she: "I insist that we go to our place at the lake every week-end to get him away from the computer."

50 Says Stanford Psychologist Philip Zimbardo: "As corny as it sounds, we need to re-establish family rituals, such as family meals with meaningful conversation." Even the most hard-nosed software freak will agree in principle, but sometimes it is not easy.

From: *Time*, August 30, 1982

1) 256K bytes (256 kilobytes): A kilobyte is a unit of storage in a computer.

2) bug: (here) enthusiast

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 different reasons are mentioned in the text to explain why men spend so much time with their computers? 20
2. What general effect on the users' attitude towards their surroundings are psychologists worried about, and what remedy is suggested? 10
3. Explain what the following passage means. Do not use the underlined words.  
"a cavalier attitude toward eating schedules and a leaning toward late-night emergencies at the office" (lines 24 - 26) 10
4. According to the text, in what different ways do women react to their partners' love of computers? 30
5. Show two different ways in which the writer tries to make his article interesting. Give one example for each. 10

II. Composition

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

1. Computer-work at home — the ideal part-time job for women?
2. More and more factory work is done by computerized robots. Discuss this development.

III. Translation

Translate the following text into German: 40

PLEASE TURN OVER

160

A great deal of intellectual effort is spent these days trying to reassure everybody that, as smart as a machine can get, it can never be as intelligent as its progenitor. In part, this effort is made in order to see that the wizened, noncomputer generation feels that it has a safe and legitimate place in modernity. In part, the effort is made because the proposition is true: a computer cannot possess the full range of human intelligence. Yet, in terms of reconciling man and machine, this effort still misses the point. The cultural value of computers does not lie in perceiving what they cannot do, but what they can, and what, in turn, their capabilities show about our own. In other words, a computer may not display the whole of human intelligence, but that portion it can display could do a lot more good for man's self-confidence than continuing reassurances that he is in no immediate danger of death by robot.

From: *Time*, May 3, 1982