

Abiturprüfung 2007

ENGLISCH

als Leistungskursfach

– Textteil –

Arbeitszeit: 270 Minuten

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

Textaufgabe I**Taking liberties****What the war on terror and the war on anti-social behaviour have in common**

What's a government to do when faced with a bunch of undesirables whose guilt is difficult to prove in a court of justice? Lock them up without a proper trial, of course.

That's how the British government is dealing with people it suspects of terrorism. Its actions, including its shocking announcement last week of a new power of house arrest, have rightly been condemned as an attack on civil liberties. But cases of suspected terrorism are not the only ones in which the principles of the criminal justice system have been abandoned. The state has given itself new powers to deal with minor offences and other crimes which are scarcely less draconian than those to deal with suspected terrorism.

Over the past decade, anti-social behaviour – hellish neighbours, beggars, teenage gangs – has become a big worry in Britain. Rightly or wrongly, people think that drunkards and beggars are more aggressive these days, that teenagers are more threatening and that bad children have got worse. Explanations vary, with some blaming 1960s liberalism and others 1980s individualism. But all agree that the normal remedies for dealing with neighbourhood tyrants are not up to the task. The police lack the time to collect evidence; witnesses are too scared to testify; wrongdoing is difficult to prove; and sentences are too mild.

In response to such difficulties, the government has created a new set of legal tools. Chief among them is the anti-social behaviour order, or ASBO. This is a list of restrictions tailored to an individual offender that can now be obtained either in a civil hearing or following a criminal conviction.

Troublemakers as young as ten years old can be barred from entering neighbourhoods, ringing doorbells, using public transport and mobile phones

or even uttering certain words for a minimum of two years. Securing an ASBO is easy. Hearsay evidence, for instance, is admissible in court. The consequences of stepping out of line are weighty: a maximum of five years in prison for doing something that is not necessarily an offence in law. Not surprisingly, such a powerful weapon is popular: more than a thousand ASBOs were handed out in the first half of 2004.

That delights MPs, who were sick of hearing stories from their constituents about local teenagers who have terrorised the neighbourhood by blasting music, breaking windows and spitting at passers-by. Prosecutors and the police are also pleased. Their powers to deal with low-level offences used to be weak. Now they are so draconian that they undermine the principles on which the criminal justice system is built.

The power to obtain anti-social behaviour orders was granted to the police and local authorities on the assumption that they were to be used with restraint. Just as the government promises to subject only genuinely scary terrorists to house arrest, so the forces of law and order are supposed to aim their most potent weapon only at the most dedicated and egregious troublemakers. Don't worry, goes the typically British assurance: our powers may be draconian, but decency and common sense will ensure we don't overuse them.

That's not what has happened. Obtaining an ASBO is so easy (fewer than one in 70 applications are turned down) that they have been used to tackle a wide range of undesirable behaviour. ASBOs allow the police to nail people for offences too minor to be criminal. Orders have been secured against crotchety old neighbours, prostitutes, beggars and mothers who argue with their children. Some of these people have subsequently been jailed for breaching their ASBOs: most absurdly, one man was sentenced to four months in prison for howling like a werewolf.

More worryingly, ASBOs allow the police to bypass the normal procedures of criminal justice when they suspect somebody of serious criminal activity but can't prove it. A suspected drug dealer, for instance, can be

banned from using a mobile phone – a crucial tool, in his supposed profession. When he is caught doing so, he can be jailed.

60 It is not surprising that ASBOs are being used so frequently and so unwisely. After all, the English legal system is founded not on the assumption that everybody will behave with decency and restraint but on the rather more reliable conviction that most people, including the police, are capable of lying and may do so if it is to their advantage. Faced with two competing accounts of what one person has done to another, the courts normally give both of them
65 a hard time. Accusations are minutely examined; witnesses are accused of fabricating their stories. Fail to make your case¹ and you lose.

As the police point out in defence of their enthusiasm for ASBOs, the criminal justice system does not always work well. If the police catch villains, prosecutors sometimes don't charge them; if they charge them, witnesses
70 don't turn up to give evidence; if witnesses do turn up, the case is all too often adjourned because the courts' administration is chaotic. These are, indeed, serious problems; but the government needs to deal with them, not create new, lazy ways around them. The safeguards built into the criminal justice system are there for a good reason. If the police think a man is a drug dealer
75 but can't prove it, he shouldn't go to jail, however often he uses his mobile phone.

The defence of civil liberties is rarely a vote-winner. People are, understandably, moved more easily by violence against people than by attacks on systems. Politicians are keener to be seen to be protecting victims than
80 defending the rights of suspects. In a country without a written constitution, the rules that underlie a properly-run society are particularly vulnerable to the whims of populist politicians, and vigilance is therefore especially important.

Britons are lucky people, and complacent ones. The liberties they take for granted have evolved over a thousand years or so. The idea that any one
85 government should seriously undermine them seems implausible. It isn't.

From: *The Economist*, February 5th 2005

Annotation

1 to make your case here: to present your arguments in a convincing way

Textaufgabe II

Turning Thirty

I walked into the pub off the Gray's Inn Road¹ and saw him slouching at the bar, and it was as if no time had passed.

The pub was one where we'd often met, and which I'd not visited since. I went in there today because I wanted a drink. It wasn't nostalgia or anything; to tell the truth, I'd hardly taken in where I was. The pub just happened to be the one I was passing at the moment I realized I really could not face the tube just then without a little lubricant.

With the end of our affair, we'd ceased to see each other. It wasn't something that had to be arranged: we had never moved in the same circles, and our one mutual acquaintance had moved to America soon after she'd introduced us.

Now at the sight, so familiar five years ago but not since, of my one and only adulterous lover, I came unanchored in time. I felt a little jolt, as if I'd seen a ghost, and then I shivered as that old sado-masochistic cocktail of lust and anger and loneliness began to spread throughout my system, and I went up to him with a sort of casual, sort of wicked grin, the way I used to, as if we'd planned this meeting and I was pretending we hadn't.

We drank; we flirted; we fought. And all of a sudden the barman was calling time. That couldn't be right. But the clock on the wall said it was, and I looked around and realized we were the only customers left.

We walked all the way down to Holborn¹ tube station, hand in hand, like innocent lovers. The hour and the darkness gave us that freedom.

"You're driving me crazy," he said, low-voiced. "This is no good. I want to make love to you. Come back with me."

"To Kent? Your wife won't mind?"

"I'm on expenses. We can get a hotel room. I said I might have to stay overnight... In fact, I do; I've missed the last train."

All our lovemaking had been in dark corners or in cheap hotels. We'd only spent the whole night together twice. I'd planned and chosen nights Peter was away, but Nick had had to call home, once from a pay phone in a station, once from the hotel room.

I wanted sex with him, violent and annihilating, but I couldn't deal with the emotions of before and after.

"I can't," I said abruptly, pushing him off, fixing my clothes. "I haven't missed my train and I'm not going to." I began walking towards the station.

"I'm sorry," he said humbly. Although we'd both been married, both, therefore, equally guilty, I'd reserved the role of the innocent. Of course, the husband I betrayed had already betrayed me, but I didn't tell Nick that. From his readiness to shoulder all the guilt I guessed that I was not the first woman his wife might have cause to hate. This, of course, added to the anger I felt at him and at faithless men everywhere.

"If you knew how much I've missed you – how much you still mean to me – can I see you again?"

"I don't think so," I said. "Nothing's changed. Has it?"

He looked very sad. "I guess not."

I had a ticket, he didn't, so I pushed through the turnstile and left him without looking back. In my mind, though, I never stopped looking back. I had plenty of time to think, for it's a long journey from Holborn to South Harrow², with a long, cold wait on the platform at Acton Town² making it even longer at that time of night.

Tears came to my eyes and then dried up. Older recollections – highly charged sexual moments – mingled with the memories of a few hours before. Things he'd said to me, things we'd done. Even more powerfully: all the things we hadn't done.

I was fairly drunk. Feeling no pain, as they say – except in my heart. As I walked up the hill from South Harrow station I cursed myself for not having gone with him, for not having seized a precious few hours of joy. Why did I

PLEASE TURN OVER

always worry about what came next, why was I so desperate never to be caught out, always to behave correctly? What was the big deal about faithfulness and propriety, and getting home before dawn? It had never made me happy.

All too soon I was standing on the doorstep, trying to dig out my key from the clutter in the bottom of my handbag. I couldn't find it, but that didn't mean a choice between dumping everything out on the ground or ringing the bell – long ago, and without telling Peter, I had hidden a spare as insurance. The brick was still loose and the key was still there. It was a bit stiff turning in the lock, but it let me in.

The house was dark and silent. He hadn't even left a light on for me. I felt annoyed and yet relieved that I wouldn't have to hide my guilt and lie. With luck, I wouldn't wake him. I switched on the light in the corridor and opened the bedroom door and then I stared in horror feeling everything, my own sense of identity, swirling madly.

The bedroom furniture had changed. The bed was in a different position. And in the bed, sleeping beside Peter, was a woman. Peter's wife.

Not me – I wasn't Peter's wife any longer. I wasn't anything to Peter. Not since our divorce had become final, more than two years ago. And for two years before that we had ceased to live as man and wife.

I stared and stared as if seeing a ghost, but the only ghost in that house was me, the ghost of myself as I had been five years ago, when I was turning thirty. Meeting Nick tonight had brought that troubled young woman back to life, made her more real than the woman I thought I was now, thirty-five and single, living in a shared flat in Kilburn², with a room and a life of her own. What sort of a life was it that could vanish so completely after a brief meeting with an old lover?

From: Lisa Tuttle, "Turning Thirty", in: *The Time Out Book of London Short Stories*, 1993

Annotations

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Gray's Inn Road, Holborn | places in central London |
| 2 South Harrow, Acton Town, Kilburn | London suburbs |

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

WORKSHEET: Taking libertiesmaximum 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. Explain how ASBOs work and describe the kinds of 'offences' that may lead to an ASBO. Do not make a list of individual examples but categorise your findings instead. **20**
2. Why have ASBOs been welcomed in British society? **20**
3. Analyse what goes wrong with the ASBOs. Include the recurrent example of the suspected drug dealer in your answer. **20**
4. Why does the writer use the example of terrorism to introduce an article on ASBOs? How does the headline comment on both of these aspects? **20**
5. What type of text is this and what kind of reader is it intended for? Justify your answer. **10**
6. "Britons are lucky people, and complacent ones." (l. 83) Explain the sentence in its context. Show that it reflects the writer's main intention. **10**

II. Composition**50**

Choose one of the following topics. Write about 250 to 300 words.

1. "Big Brother is watching us." – Is our privacy endangered by permanent surveillance?
2. Fighting crime means fighting the reasons for crime. Discuss.
3. Crime doesn't pay. Show how this theme is dealt with in a literary work by an English-speaking writer.

4. Imagine you are an English lawyer who represents somebody who is about to be sent to prison for breach of his ASBO. Write a convincing final speech for your client in court summing up the case and pleading clemency.

III. Translation**50**

Translate the following text into German:

Tony Blair talks incessantly about respect, yet there are few who have done more to degrade authority's respect for the public. Nowhere is that better seen than in the behaviour of the police, which gradually becomes more coercive and imbued with the idea that we are all bad hats until we prove otherwise. We now live in a country where anyone can be arrested for the slightest offence and compelled to become part of the government's DNA database.

We live in a country where young boys are taken aside and questioned for trying to knock conkers out of chestnut trees on public ground. Where a grandmother whose neighbour accused her of not returning a ball kicked into her garden was arrested and required to give her DNA.

What runs through all this seems to be a rather surprising dislike of the British people. The prevailing account¹ of Britain in the current political establishment has become deeply pessimistic and, to my mind, wrong. Yes, we have problems with home-grown terrorism, a swelling underclass, unintegrating minorities, but there is another story. Britain is also a success and it should occur to one of our political leaders to compliment the nation on its adaptability and deep reserves of virtue.

From: *The Observer*, October 29th 2006**Annotation**

1 account

here: image

WORKSHEET: Tuttle, Turning Thirtymaximum 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 how and where the meeting between the narrator and Nick comes about. **10**
2. Sum up the information the text contains about their relationship up to the meeting in the pub. **10**
3. Do the couple's words and actions that night confirm the narrator's impression that "no time had passed" (l. 2) since their affair? Give evidence from the text. **20**
4. Examine the narrator's feelings and reflections after she has left Nick. Why does she refuse to have sex with him, and how does she herself feel about her decision later? **20**
5. What is the surprise at the end of the story? Analyse as precisely as you can how the writer prepares us for it and how we and the narrator are disillusioned step by step. **20**
6. What do the ending and the title reveal about the narrator's state of mind and her situation in life? **10**
7. How does the narrative technique affect the reader's perception of the story? Show that the narrative perspective is important for the surprise ending. **10**

II. Composition**50**

Choose **o n e** of the following topics. Write about 250 to 300 words.

1. Do gender roles as presented in British and/or American media reflect reality in modern society?
2. Faithfulness – a concept of the past?
3. The power of passion in literature. Choose one work by an English-speaking writer and say why it has impressed you.
4. You have been asked to contribute an article for the student magazine *Happy Scholar* on different aspects of life in a shared flat. Speaking from your own experience advise a newcomer on the advantages and disadvantages.

III. Translation**50**

Translate the following text into German:

Culturally unique to the UK, pubs¹ are the sociable drinking establishments that often act as the focal point of the community particularly in villages and small towns.

The drinking of alcohol in pubs has a long history in the UK, dating back to Roman England when inns were opened for weary travellers to buy refreshments during their long journeys. By the time the Romans left, the beginnings of the modern pub had been firmly established. During the early Middle Ages the demand for inns began to grow as pilgrimages and travel became more popular. In 1393 King Richard II passed a law stating that all landlords must erect signs outside their pubs, or else risk losing their right to sell ale. This was how the 'pub sign' came into being with most pub signs containing pictures rather than words because most pub patrons were illiterate. Today, many British pubs still have decorative signs hanging over their doors.

The mid 19th century saw restrictions being placed on the opening hours of licensed premises. However, the Licensing Act² 2003 has allowed pubs to apply to the local authority for opening hours of their choice. It is worth noting here, though, that licensing laws in Scotland differ from the rest of the UK, and pubs there generally have more flexible opening hours.

From: http://www.lookupapub.co.uk/uk_pub_guide.asp

Annotations

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 pub(s) | nicht übersetzen |
| 2 Licensing Act | nicht übersetzen |