

Abiturprüfung 2007

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

Fill Notebooks, And Then A Few Bellies

By MICHAEL WINES

JOHANNESBURG – I recently bought an elaborate dinner for some of my sources. Given the jaundiced eye some people train on journalists these days that may sound tawdry, if not downright corrupt.

So be it. These particular sources live outside Lusaka, the capital of
5 Zambia. They are stone-crushers, a class of laborers who cling to the lowest social rung even in this, one of the world's poorest nations. Mostly women and children, they live by reducing boulders to gravel and powder, which are sold to local construction workers at starvation-level prices. Their lives are as miserable as those of almost any group I have seen in three years in Africa.

10 So after a few hours of interviews about their struggle to survive, I left them and drove to a grocery. There I bought about \$75 worth of food: commeal, cooking oil, rice, orange concentrate, bread, milk, a big bag of candy. Then I returned and unloaded it, to undiluted pandemonium – mothers' riotous joy; youngsters mobbing for sweets; actual dancing in the street; for 30
15 people, a real live Christmas in July.

They were that hungry.

No Westerner can travel the less developed world, at least outside the lobbies of the three- and four-star hotels that now populate most major cities, and not be struck by the immense gulf between their own personal wealth and
20 the utter destitution of the masses around them.

How to respond to it is a moral dilemma that lurks in the background of many interviews. Reputable journalists are indoctrinated with the notion that they are observers – that their job is to tell a story, not to influence it. So what to do when an anguished girl tells a compelling story about her young brother,
25 lying emaciated on a reed mat, dying for lack of money to buy anti-AIDS

drugs? Is it moral to take the story and leave when a comparatively small gift of money would keep him alive? If morality compels a gift, what about the dying mother in the hut next door who missed out on an interview by pure chance?

30 In reputable journalism, paying for information is a major sin, the notion being that a source who will talk only for money is likely to say anything to earn his payment. So what to do when a penniless father asks why he should open his life free to an outsider when he needs money for food?

Sometimes, an article moves generous readers to contribute their own
35 money toward bettering the situation of a source, or his family, or even an entire village. Two years ago, after my fellow correspondent and wife Sharon LaFraniere and I profiled a Swaziland town hit hard by AIDS, readers of *The New York Times* offered about \$10,000 to give its residents lifesaving access to antiretroviral¹ drugs.

40 But here, too, there are hurdles. How can money be funneled² securely to villages without banks? Even if the money can be transferred, can people to whom \$10,000 is a vast fortune be trusted to spend it wisely? What if money is misused or goes for naught? Have readers been misled?

Most wrenching³ of all, what happens when the money runs out?
45 Outsiders' gifts are balms, but many needs – for food, AIDS drugs, tuition – are chronic. In passing out small amounts of money, is it right to raise hopes that are destined to be dashed?

Even skeptical journalists are occasionally misled. Playing on the compassion – or guilt – of outsiders is a basic survival tactic among some of
50 the poor.

There are few fixed rules to cover such situations. My own code is simple: I never give people money in advance of an interview. I argue that the value of educating the world about their problems is reason enough to talk. When I am personally moved by an individual's situation, I sometimes offer
55 help after completing an interview, and tell myself that I cannot also help all his neighbors and friends without impoverishing myself.

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Those rules are no panacea. But better to light one candle, so to speak.

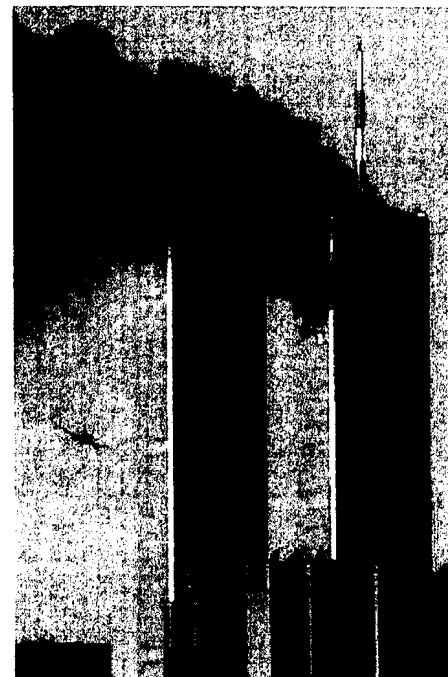
That said, it can be haunting to realize that it is in fact usually just one candle, and usually in places where bonfires are needed.

From: *New York Times*, September 4, 2006

Annotations

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 antiretroviral | used to treat HIV |
| 2 funneled | <i>here</i> : transferred, sent |
| 3 wrenching | <i>here</i> : saddening |

Textaufgabe II



From: <http://www.september11news.com/Sept11WTCSouthTowerUA175.jpg>

A couple of years after 9/11 Oskar, a boy living in New York City, is still haunted by the events of that day.

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After forever, I got out of bed and went to the closet where I kept the phone. I hadn't taken it out since the worst day. It just wasn't possible. A lot of the time I think about those four and a half minutes between when I came home and when Dad called.

5 I opened the apartment door, put down my bag, and took off my shoes, like everything was wonderful, because I didn't know that in reality everything was actually horrible, because how could I? I went to the phone to check the messages and listened to them one after another.

MESSAGE ONE: 8:52 A.M.

10 MESSAGE TWO: 9:12 A.M.

MESSAGE THREE: 9:31 A.M.

MESSAGE FOUR: 9:46 A.M.

MESSAGE FIVE: 10:04 A.M.

15 I thought about calling Mom. I thought about grabbing my walkie-talkie and paging Grandma. I went back to the first message and listened to them all again. I thought about running away and never talking to anyone again. I thought about hiding under my bed. I thought about rushing downtown to see if I could somehow rescue him myself. And then the phone rang. I looked at my watch. It was 10:22:27.

20 I knew I could never let Mom hear the messages, because protecting her is one of my most important *raisons d'être*, so what I did was I took Dad's emergency money from on top of his dresser, and went to the Radio Shack on Amsterdam¹. It was on a TV there that I saw that the first building had fallen. I bought the exact same phone and ran home and recorded our greeting from
25 the first phone onto it. I wrapped up the old phone, and put that in a grocery bag, and I put that in a box, and I put that in another box, and I put that under a bunch of stuff in my closet.

That night I really needed to hear him.

30 I was extremely careful not to make any noise as I took the phone out of all its protections. Even though the volume was way down, so Dad's voice wouldn't wake Mom, he still filled the room, like how a light fills a room even when it's dim.

MESSAGE TWO. 9:12 A.M. IT'S ME AGAIN. ARE YOU THERE? HELLO? SORRY IF. IT'S GETTING A BIT. SMOKY. I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD. BE. HOME. I
35 DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED. BUT. I. JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT I'M OK. EVERYTHING. IS. FINE. WHEN YOU GET THIS, GIVE GRANDMA A CALL. LET HER KNOW THAT I'M OK. I'LL CALL AGAIN IN A FEW MINUTES. HOPEFULLY THE FIREMEN WILL BE. UP HERE BY THEN. I'LL CALL.

40 I stared at the fake stars forever.

I invented.

I gave myself a bruise.

I invented.

45 I got out of bed, went over to the window, and picked up the walkie-talkie. "Grandma? Grandma, do you read me? Grandma? Grandma?" "Oskar?" "I'm OK. Over." "It's late. What's happened? Over." "Did I wake you up? Over." "No. Over." "What were you doing? Over." "I was talking to the renter."

50 The renter had been living with Grandma since Dad died, and even though I was at her apartment basically every day, I still hadn't met him. He was constantly running errands, or taking a nap, or in the shower, even when I didn't hear any water. Mom told me, "It probably gets pretty lonely to be Grandma, don't you think? Maybe she needs an imaginary friend. There's nothing wrong with someone needing a friend." "Are you actually talking about
55 Ron now?" "No. I'm talking about Grandma." "Except actually you're talking about Ron." "No, Oskar. I'm not. And I don't appreciate that tone." "I wasn't

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using a tone." "You were using your accusatory tone." "I don't even know what
'accusatory' means, so how could that be my tone?" "You were trying to make
me feel badly² for having a friend." "No I wasn't." She put her hand with the
60 ring on it in her hair and said, "You know, I actually *was* talking about
Grandma, Oskar, but it's true, I need friends, too. What's wrong with that?" I
shrugged my shoulders. "Don't you think Dad would want me to have friends?"

From: Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, 2005

Annotations

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 Amsterdam | street name |
| 2 feel badly [sic] | feel bad |

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– Aufgabenteil –

Arbeitszeit: 210 Minuten

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

**WORKSHEET: Fill Notebooks,
And Then A Few Bellies**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 did Michael Wines experience in Zambia and how did he react? Refer to lines 4 to 20. | 10 |
| 2. Analyse the moral dilemma he and many of his colleagues find themselves in. | 20 |
| 3. What personal journalistic "code" (l. 51) has Wines developed to find a way out of this dilemma? | 10 |
| 4. How effective, according to Wines, are money donations? | 20 |
| 5. What is the function of the very first sentence of the text? | 10 |
| 6. Analyse two rhetorical devices the writer uses to appeal to the reader and to make his article interesting. | 10 |

II. Composition**40**

Choose one of the following topics. Write about 150 to 200 words.

- By helping others we also help ourselves. Discuss.
- Write a newspaper leader entitled "Poverty in the USA/Britain today".

- You have seen a shocking picture in a newspaper. Write a letter to the editor pointing out why you find this particular picture so appalling.

III. Translation**40**

Translate the following text into German:

No one is likely to adopt Hermia. At 14 she is too old and she also has a younger brother. So, because their father disappeared some years ago and their mother died last year at 32, probably of AIDS, the pair rely on the generosity of others. The family next door has taken them under their wing, making sure they go to school.

While Madonna's controversial adoption of a 13-month-old boy from a Malawi children's home has focused attention on Africa's orphans, Hermia's plight is more typical of that of millions of children across sub-Saharan Africa orphaned by AIDS, malaria or conflicts.

Adoptions by foreigners are welcomed by many Africans working with distressed children, despite concerns about plucking youngsters from their own culture. But foreigners almost always want to adopt babies, overlooking the older children and that for every child taken overseas, hundreds of thousands remain in institutions or grapple to survive on their own.

From: *The Guardian*, October 18th 2006

WORKSHEET: Foer, Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

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.

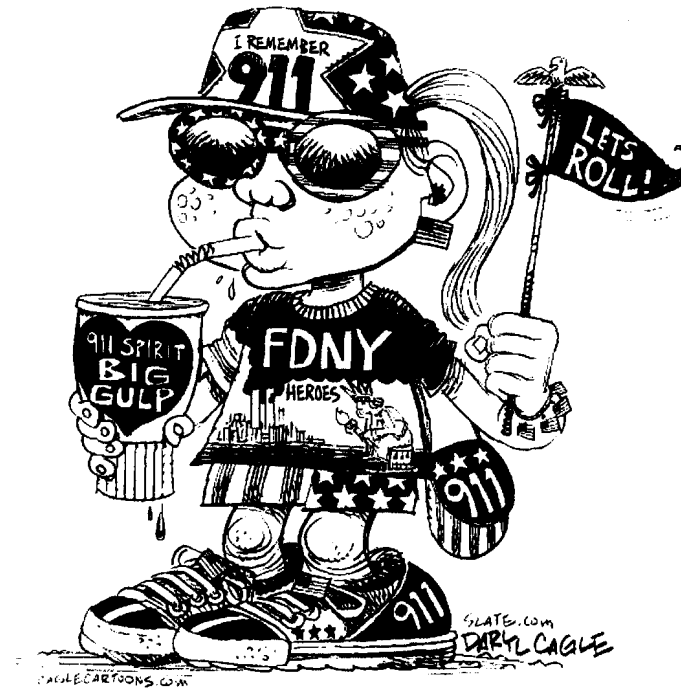
1. Sum up what happens on the day Oskar's father dies and what Oskar, alone in his room, does a couple of years later. **20**
2. Examine Oskar's father's message. What do the message and its language tell you about the situation he finds himself in and about his feelings? **20**
3. Analyse Oskar's relationship with his mother and his grandmother. To what extent does his behaviour towards these two people characterize him? **20**
4. Examine the protagonists' strategies of coping with the loss of a father, a son or a husband. **10**
5. How does the author use language to convey Oskar's distress? **10**

II. Composition**40**

Choose one of the following topics. Write about 150 to 200 words.

1. A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.
2. Security versus individual liberties: have the measures taken since 9/11 gone too far?

3. Describe the cartoon as precisely as you can. Sum up what you regard as its intention.



FDNY:
New York City
Fire Department

From: <http://cagle.msnbc.com/news/9-11Anniversary2003/gifs5/cagleannive.gif>

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III. Translation**40**

Translate the following text into German:

That September 11th changed America dramatically is hardly open to debate: George Bush's presidency has been about little else since then. But some of the changes have been unexpected. Who would have guessed, as a shocked country rallied round the flag, that five years later partisan divisions would be deeper than ever? Who would have guessed, as the president pledged that "the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon," that five years later Mr bin Laden would still be at liberty?

The attacks brought an abrupt end to the "holiday from history" that followed the fall of the Soviet Union. They also brought an abrupt end to America's sense of invulnerability: for all its military might, the country was wide open to attack from fanatics living in caves in Afghanistan.

All this produced a mood of soul-searching. It also produced something more visceral: a desire for revenge.

From: *The Economist*, September 2nd 2006