

Englisch VBS 8C/D

Prof. Mag. Frank Weilguny

Choose one of the following topics:

1) Poetry interpretation:

a) Write a full interpretation (general meaning - detailed meaning - devices - intention) of the poems Sea-Fever by John Masefield and The Shell by James Stephens. (500 words)

b) Compare them. (100 words)

c) Write a reflective essay (400 words) on the topic: The Call of the Sea. Why has man - even land-locked people like the Austrians - always been so fascinated by the sea?

Make a plan for your essay. Total amount of words: ca. 1,000

2) Argumentative essay:

topic: Knowledge Is Power.

task: Read the following input and texts and write an argumentative essay (type 2) in the form of a letter to the editor of a British or American newspaper / magazine covering the ideas / questions and adding your own ideas, opinions and conclusion.

input: Being adults now, each of you has got duties and rights in our democratic society. One of the most important political rights is the right to vote. But reading and hearing what is promised in election campaigns and how many of these promises are actually kept often makes it difficult to maintain one's belief in the honesty, integrity, good will and public interest of politicians. Many voters feel fooled and betrayed by the half-truths and doublespeak used by politicians and the media. So what can we do about it?

text 1: G.Orwell: The Principles of Newspeak. - 1984, p.312 f.

text 2: N.Chomsky: What Uncle Sam Really Wants (1993)

ideas / questions:

- Comment on "The Principles of Newspeak" and "What Uncle Sam Really Wants".
- How can politicians control people by means of language, media manipulation and propaganda? Give two examples: One from the 20th, one from the 21st century.
- How important is common sense and education in order to avoid falling into the traps of manipulation?
- Use your own ideas and give an example from Orwell's 1984.
- Apart from common sense and profound education, how else can citizens defend themselves?
- Can we ever arrive at "democracy, in the PC sense of the word"?

Make a detailed plan. Total amount of words: ca. 1,000

3) Argumentative essay:

topic: The Battle of the Sexes - a Never-ending Story?

task: Read the following input and write an argumentative essay (type 1) weighing the pros and cons. Cover the following ideas / questions and add your own ideas, opinions and conclusion.

input: If each partner followed the five basic elements essential to true love, namely empathy, desire for your partner's presence, sharing, sacrifice and joy, there would be no battle of the sexes.

"The reason husbands and wives do not understand each other is because they belong to different sexes." Dorothy Dix

"Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays." Henny Youngman

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:

Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.

Let there be spaces in your togetherness,

And let the wind of the heavens dance between you.

ideas / questions:

- Comment on each of the statements mentioned in the input section.
- Which (positive and negative) role models have influenced your attitude so far?
- Which mistakes would you try never to make in your relationships?
- What is your idea of love and a fulfilling and lasting relationship?

Make a detailed plan. Total amount of words: ca. 1,000