

Englisch

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15.09.2005

Teil I

Englisch

1 Hausaufgaben

1.1 1. Hausaufgabe

1.1.1 Zusammenfassung der Punkte 7–10 von „10 tips for improving your writing skills in Englisch“

7.
Using positive expressions is usually better than being negative.
8.
Avoiding „I“ and „we“ and instead using „you“ is more reader-friendly.
9.
It's important to accommodate to the medium used (snail mail, email, etc.).
10.
Asking for feedback is particularly useful to get input on aspects of writing where computers can't help you.

17.09.2005

1.2 2. Hausaufgabe

1.2.1 „Buchtour“ : Britain and America, Tradition and Change

„The United Kingdom“, chapter 2: „Education and Class“ (p.37 - p.60)

Kinds of texts: plays (1, 7, 11), documentations (2), novels (3), commercials (4), short stories (5), leaflets (6), articles (8), report (9), biography (10)

Still not outdated: 1, 2, 3 (?), 5, 7

„The United States“, chapter 6: „Religion and Education“ (p.139 - p.162)

Kinds of texts: short stories (1, 6, 8), documentations (2, 3, 7, 10), speech (4), statistics (5), interviews (9)

Still not outdated: 2, 4, 5, 8

„Universal topics“, chapter 10: „Language and the Media“ (p.237 - p.264)

Kinds of texts: documentations (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), interviews (6), comics (9)

Still not outdated: 1, 2 (mostly), 3 (mostly), 4 (?), 5, 6 (some points probably still true), 7, 8 (some points true again), 9, 10 (some points probably outdated now)

Texts of special interest: 2, 8

1.3 3. Hausaufgabe**1.3.1 Look up words**

Word	Meanings
parade (identity parade march	Exerzierplatz, Corso, Parade, Vorbeimarsch, Vorführung polizeiliche Gegenüberstellung) Fußmarsch, Grenzgebiet, Mark (an den Reichsgrenzen gelege- nes Gebiet)
Hurrikan	hurricane
Luftschicht	air film
Durchmesser	bore, caliber/calibre, diameter, cross section dimension
Tornado (Windhose	tornado weak tornado)

05.10.2005

1.4 4. Hausaufgabe**1.4.1 Look up words**

Word	Meanings
dam	Damm, Hirschkalb, Muttertier, Stauanlage, Talsperre, Wehr
levee	Damm, Deich, Lever, Morgen- empfang

Word	Meanings
tornado	violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud
hurricane	type of low pressure system which generally forms in the tropics
typhoon	(ditto)
creationism	belief that humans, life, the Earth, and the universe were created by a supreme being or deity's supernatural intervention. The intervention may be seen either as an act of creation from nothing (ex nihilo) or the emergence of order from pre-existing chaos

06.10.2005

1.5 5. Hausaufgabe

1.5.1 Look up words

Word	Meanings
swine	Drecksau, Schwein, Schweinehund
pork	Schwein, Schweinefleisch
subtitle	Untertitel
subhead	Untertitel

08.10.2005

1.6 6. Hausaufgabe

1.6.1 Übersetzung des Abschnitts „What's happening in classrooms“

[Englischer Originaltext: „Evolution: Just teach it“ von Eugenie C. Scott und Glenn Branch]

Was sollte im naturwissenschaftlichen Unterricht an High Schools gelehrt werden? Die grundlegenden Methoden und Ergebnisse, wie der Großteil der naturwissenschaftlichen Gemeinschaft sie sieht.

Die Evolutionstheorie ist ein Teil – und ein unerlässlicher Teil – dieser Übereinstimmung; Kreationismus und „Intelligent Design“ sind es nicht. Schüler sollten die Evolution verstehen, sowohl wenn sie vorhaben, aufs College zu gehen, als auch für ihre wissenschaftliche Allgemeinbildung. Aber Schüler lernen sie in zu vielen Orten Amerikas nicht.

Und das ist ein Problem, weil weithin bekannt ist, dass das 21. Jahrhundert das Jahrhundert der Biologie sein wird, in dem Erkenntnisse in der Genforschung, in der Medizin und in der Biotechnologie sicherlich unsere Wirtschaft und unsere Leben – und die unsere Kinder – von Grund auf verändern wird. Amerika muss die Wissenschaftler hervorbringen, die auf diesen Gebieten Vorreiter sein werden, was bedeutet, dass die Qualität wissenschaftlicher Erziehung aufrecht erhalten und verbessert werden muss – und das schließt eine gesunde Dosis Evolutionstheorie ein, unbeeinflusst von sekten-artigen Dogmen, schlechter Wissenschaft und angeblichen „kritischen Analysen“. Weil die High School Schüler in Indien, China, Korea und Singapur die Evolutionstheorie auch lernen, wenn unsere es nicht tun.

1.6.2 Look up words

Word	Meanings
causal	begründend, kausal, ursächlich
casual	beiläufig, gelegentlich, lässig, locker, salopp, zufällig, zwanglos
spurious	falsch, gefälscht, störend, unberechtigt, unecht, unehelich, nicht echt
vital	vital, entscheidend, grundlegend, lebendig, lebensnotwendig, lebenswichtig, unerlässlich, wesentlich, zentral

16.10.2005

1.7 7. Hausaufgabe

1.7.1 Frage 2

The area a family lives in can affect a child's educational prospects in a number of ways. Firstly, „universities are paid extra for taking students from poor districts“ (l. 21f). This means that moving to such an area raises the chance of a child's application being accepted.

Alternatively, moving to the „catchment area for a good state primary school“ (l. 25) is a good option. The disadvantage that „house prices may be up to 20 % higher“ (l. 27) is qualified by the fact that selling or renting these houses usually pays off.

1.7.2 Frage 3

There are various ways to ensure good education and easy university access for a child. Firstly, sending a child to an independent school is a guarantee for good education and maximises the chances for easy university access later. The disadvantage is that independent schools are usually costly.

Secondly, if you want your child to attend a church-run school, getting a „letter from your priest, saying that you attend Sunday worship regularly“ (l. 32), is beneficial.

1.7.3 Comment on the cartoon

The cartoon shows the educational problems Britain faces. The school system is far too complicated to be easily understandable: there are plenty of different kinds of schools, and the possible decisions for later schools depend heavily on the schools a child had attended previously.

Furthermore, class war is never far away. If a child used to attend a costly school, his chances for acceptance at a university are usually pretty low.

Additionally, even parents have not received as much education as would be actually needed. This is shown by the father saying „I'd put his name down for Eton if I could spell it!“.

1.8 8. Hausaufgabe

1.8.1 Look up words of the article

Word	Meanings	
stirred	aufgerührt, gerührt, umgerührt	
(to) stymie	hindern, matt setzen	
(to) promulgate	öffentlich bekannt geben	
VAT (value added tax)	Umsatzsteuer	30.10.2005
non-wage labour costs	Lohnnebenkosten	
fait accompli	vollendete Tatsache	
incidentally	übrigens, zufällig	
flat tax	Pauschalsteuer, pauschale Ertragssteuerbelastung	

1.9 9. Hausaufgabe

1.9.1 Look up words of the article

Word	Meanings	
stalemate	patt, zugunfähig, in die Enge treiben, patt setzen	
resistance	Beständigkeit, Festigkeit, Gegenwehr, Widerstand	
swarm of locusts	Heuschreckenschwarm	07.11.2005
to crack up	durchdrehen	
British manufacturing spending	Kaufkraft	
gross domestic product (GDP)	Bruttoinlandsprodukt (BIP)	

1.10 10. Hausaufgabe**1.10.1 Look up words**

Word	Meanings
scum	Abschaum, Ausblühungen, Rand, Schaum
lout	Flaps, Flätz, Flegel, Knülch, Lümmel, Runks, Rüpel, Tölpel
Molotowcocktail	Molotov cocktail, petrol bomb, gasoline bomb
electricuted	

10.11.2005

1.11 11. Hausaufgabe**1.11.1 Vokabeln**

Word	Meanings
(to) make ends meet	mit seinen Einkünften auskommen, sich durchbringen, über die Runden kommen
(to) assert one's power differing interests curfew	Abendglocke, Abendläuten, Ausgangssperre, Ausgehverbot, Sperrstunde
raft of run-down suburbs	[große Zahl an] baufällig, abgetakelt, heruntergekommen, verwahrlost
(to) curb	dämpfen, drosseln, einschränken, hemmen, zügeln, einer Sache Einhalt gebieten
lucid	deutlich, hell, klar, leuchtend, bei klarem Verstand
National Assembly	Nationalrat, Nationalversammlung

1.11.2 Übersetzung beliebiger vier Zeilen

Mr de Villepin sagte, dass sich Frankreich einem entscheidenden Punkt im Kampf gegen Rassendiskriminierung stellen müsse. Während er zu einer Sondersitzung des Nationalrats sprach, die einberufen wurde, um die Welle von Unruhen zu behandeln, sagte er, dass sich Frankreich der Wahl zwischen „Spaltung oder friedlichem Zusammenleben“ stellen müsse.

(Quelle: The Scotsman, „French curfew will keep rioters off streets“¹) 14.11.2005

1.12 12. Hausaufgabe**1.12.1 Look up words**

Word	Meanings
council estate	Sozialwohnung/Sozialwohnungsghetto
state prosecutor	Generalstaatsanwalt
witness	Zeuge
residents	Anwohner

¹<http://news.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=2215032005>

1.12.2 Phrasenübersetzung

Phrase	Bedeutungen
Ausgangssperre	curfew
Tränengaskatusehe	tear gas granade (XXX?)
zwei Schulen gingen in Flam- men auf	two schools went up in flames
die Polizei beschießen	to attack the police
Effekt der Ausgangssperre	effect/result of the curfew
Ausgangssperre verhängen	to impose curfews
jmdn. aufgreifen und zur Wa- che bringen	to arrest and to take to the po- lice station
lückenlos überwachen	to completely control
natürliche Verbündete	natural allies
Ausrufung des Notstands in zahlreichen Städten und De- partments	declaration of a state of emer- gency in numerous cities and departments
ein Notstandsgesetz aus der Zeit des Algerien-Kriegs her- vorkramen	to dig up a state of emergency law from the times of the Alge- ria war
überwältige Mehrheit	overwhelming majority
begrüßen	to welcome
Verständnis zeigen	to understand, to be apprecia- tive of sth.
Benzinflaschenwurf	throw/lob (XXX?) of a Molotov cocktail
Krawalle hatten begonnen nach dem Tod zweier Immi- grantenkinder	riots had been triggered by the death of two immigrant child- ren
Lage in den tristen Vorstädten verbessern	to improve the situation/the circumstances in the deprived suburbs

17.11.2005

1.13 13. Hausaufgabe**1.13.1 Eight correct and wrong statements**

- The riots began after two teenagers died in a **store**.
- The prime minister, **Mr de Moriati**, said curfews would be imposed „wherever it is necessary“.

- Officials in the **southern** city of Amiens were the first to take up the offer, announcing they were preparing to bring in a curfew.
- **Non-governmental organizations** also announced a range of schemes designed to help people.
- He **did not** apologize for a recent incident in which a police tear-gas bomb landed near a mosque.
- The curfews were welcomed by the **left-wing opposition**.
- The curfews were welcomed by the centre-right majority.
- The Internet is **thought to be** used for communication amongst the rioters.

19.11.2005

1.13.2 Vokabeln

Word	Meanings
to rebuilt riot-damaged areas	
run-down suburbs/troubled areas/problem areas	
in all of/part of France	
to pass a state-of-emergency law	
to be welcomed by	
effectiveness of measures/the integration model	
to set fire to, to set alight/ablaze/afire, to torch	anzünden, abfackeln
under-achievers	

19.11.2005

1.14 14. Hausaufgabe

1.14.1 Zusammenfassung von „Ethnic Minorities in Britain“

Education

The education of members of minority groups is insufficient. This is because of language difficulties and cultural differences. Steps were taken to remedy this situation, but the overall situation is still pretty bad. Making the public aware of these problems is very important.

Employment

The average unemployment rate among ethnic minorities is more than double that of whites. This is partly because in some cultures, girls are to remain in the family and not to get ahead.

The situation gets better, luckily: Now many non-whites are in the catering industry or the National Health Service, some are even Members of Parliament.

Housing

The housing situation for ethnic minorities is another big problem. In the 50s and 60s, rentings for members of minorities were often not granted. Thus many flats were shared by several families, leading to overcrowding.

Today, there are still inequalities, but partly due to discrimination-outlawing laws, significant improvements have been made.

Police

Abuse of police power is a big problem; it is widely claimed that far more blacks than white people are subject to suspicion. Luckily, the situation has improved recently: There's a wide network of organisations helping groups to ethnic groups live side by side. Large funds are raised to help these organisations.

21.11.2005

1.14.2 Vokabeln

Word	Meanings
a flat of their own	
a flat of one's own	
Nadja's own flat	
insufficient education	
to treat sb.	
to handle problems	
[mother tongue]	
compulsory extra courses	
measures are taken	
private affair	Privatsache
programs should be offered	

01.12.2005

1.15 15. Hausaufgabe

1.15.1 Author's attitude towards smoking

- sees the negative aspects of smoking (l. 39ff.)
- but she misses the „great conversations“ (l. 39)
- and is glad that [her] „misspent youth occurred when Smoke Got in Your Eyes“ (l. 72)
- and if people smoke less, they'll probably drink more, and drink-related accidents are usually worse than the smoke-triggered ones (l. 62ff.)
- the smoking ban causes a loss of jobs (l. 51ff.)
- smoking ban against freedom of will (l. 18f.)

[Article: Guardian Unlimited, „Virtue can seriously damage your fun“²]

09.12.2005

1.16 16. Hausaufgabe

1.16.1 Comment on topic 3

All schools should, like schools in Hessen, be smoke free areas. This means no opportunity for both students and teachers to smoke while at school. Discuss.

I agree with the author of above sentence. But several measures will have to be taken in order to achieve this goal.

Firstly, teachers who smoke will have to stop smoking. This step is necessary for several reasons: pupils, especially younger ones, often take a leaf out of the teachers' book. If teachers sort of ignore the ban – even only privately – they aren't as good role models as they could be, thus reducing the effectiveness of the ban („what's so bad about smoking, given that even my teachers smoke“).

Additionally, we may not forget that the realisation of the ban will surely cost a pretty penny. This money will have to be raised by the

²<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1311744,00.html>

taxpayers, the teachers included. People who smoke are unlikely to accept to have to pay for the realisation of a ban against smoking, possibly resulting in an indirect boycott of the ban by some teachers.

More importantly, I don't think a smoking ban is sufficient for achieving the goal of less young people smoking: the ban has to be accompanied by appropriate education, children have to be cleared up about the dangers of smoking from the very beginning on.

15.12.2005

1.17 17. Hausaufgabe

1.17.1 Zusammenfassung des Texts in Stichpunkten

- Britain's closing time will be/is repealed.
- Some welcome this change, others don't.
- Because pubs won't all close at the same time any longer, drunkards will be released to the streets more gradually, resulting in a lower count of drunkards per time interval.
- The police union warns of the possibility of an increase in rapes, marital violence, and robberies.
- The city council of London wants the art galleries and museums to stay open the whole night as well. The author of the article doesn't like this idea at all.

(Text: „The last last orders“ der TAZ³)

17.12.2005

1.18 18. Hausaufgabe

1.18.1 What do Germans think about drinking?

- depends on social group
- drinking popular on many youths

³<http://www.taz.de/pt/2005/11/23/a0196.nf/textdruck>

- government (tries to) keep alcohol away from people younger than 16
- ...

14.01.2006

1.19 19. Hausaufgabe

1.19.1 Vokabeln

Phrase	Meanings
fight against global warming	Kampf gegen die Erderwärmung
dramatic boost	dramatischer Anstieg
humiliating blow	beschämender/erniedrigender Schlag/Hieb/vernichtender Schlag
gases blamed for global warming	Gase verantwortlich für die Erderwärmung
hailed	bekanntgemacht
proposed wording	vorgeschlagene Formulierung/Ausdrucksweise/Wortlaut
torrent of domestic criticism	Flut/Schwall von nationaler (und internationaler) Kritik/-punkten
to relent	nachgeben
held out	ausgeharrt
stance	Einstellung/Haltung

18.01.2006

1.20 20. Hausaufgabe

1.20.1 Zusammenfassung

Even though the climate summit was considered to have been a success, the goal of the Kyoto Protocol won't be reached until the USA join, because the US are the largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Additionally, the now-small states will have to be included as well; for the treaty to be successful it has to be applied worldwide.

28.01.2006

1.21 21. Hausaufgabe

1.21.1 Zusammenfassung

Canada tries to meet the terms of the Kyoto Protocol, but it needs help to do so successfully: while the Kyoto Protocol demands a cut of emissions to 6 % below 1990-levels by 2012, in 2003, emissions were 24 % above 1990-levels.

This is because of the boom of the oil and gas industry and the carbon-trading market.

Not only whole countries can sign the Kyoto Protocol, but mere cities can do so, too. These local communities – for example Montreal – contribute greatly, too – not only because they help to cut emissions, but also because they set a „psychological sign“, indicating the willingness of the general public to help.

For the Kyoto Protocol to be successful, the various problems have to be tackled at all government levels.

12.02.2006

1.22 22. Hausaufgabe

1.22.1 Zusammenfassung

On 2006-01-31, Mr. Bush announced a 22 per cent increase on research on general alternative energy sources and on new sources of fuel for cars. This statement contradicts Bush's earlier announcements, which indicated that Bush searched for new supplies of old energy sources.

It remains questionable whether this new stance will manifest. But it is definitely a ray of hope on the horizon that the note of Bush's change in attitude was included in the State of the Union address.

(Artikel: Telegraph, „America's oil addiction“⁴)

16.02.2006

⁴<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/core/Content/displayPrintable.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2006>

1.23 23. Hausaufgabe

1.23.1 Aufgaben zu einem Ausschnitt aus Oscar Wildes Text „The Importance of Being Earnest“

Structure (different parts and development of action)

1. Introduction (l. 1–8)
2. Lady Bracknell not being in favour of the engagement (l. 9–40)
3. Lady Bracknell changing/having changed her attitude (l. 41–68)
4. Ending (l. 69–79)

Aspects important to Lady Bracknell

- „Society“ (l. 63)
e.g.: „chin a little higher“ (l. 56f.)
- „age of surfaces“ (l. 45)
- „fortune“ (l. 38)
- Lady Bracknell is not in favour of long engagements (l. 77)
- Lady Bracknell is not in favour of mercenary marriages (l. 65; this is a contradiction; cf. l. 38)
- appearance (l. 46ff.)

20.02.2006

1.24 25. Hausaufgabe

1.24.1 Übersetzung des zweiten Teils der Übersetzungsaufgabe des Englisch-LK-Abiturs von 1983

Wilde betätigte sich in verschiedenen Bereichen – jedoch nicht willkürlich – gegen zeitgenössische Auffassungen über Geschmack und Moral, und – noch wichtiger – gegen die Gesellschaft schlechthin. Er kritisierte die Gesellschaft wahrscheinlich so aufrichtig wie es

ihm nur möglich war; aber man merkt, dass Wilde eine freie Gesellschaft eher aus Eigennutz anstatt fürs Allgemeinwohl anstrebte. Sein „Sozialismus“ war, genau wie sein Schönheitssinn, das Ergebnis seiner eigenen sehr sinnlichen Gefühle.

19.03.2006

1.25 27. Hausaufgabe

1.25.1 Warum sollten nativ englisch sprechende Menschen Fremdsprachen lernen?

- Not all people speak English
- Learning a foreign language helps grokking concepts of language design
- Elitarian standpoint bad
- Understanding foreign languages to research (think Latin)

1.25.2 Zusammenfassung der Stunde

- Talked about „A Politically Correct Fairy Tale“; differences to the original fable:
 - cake and wine ↔ diet-food
 - grandmother sick ↔ healthy
 - Little Red Riding Hood dreads the wood ↔ is confident
 - wolf as evil animal ↔ wolf as outcast from society
 - wolf's behaviour evil ↔ wolf's behaviour valid in its own way
 - hunter rescues grandchild and grandmother ↔ gets killed
 - wolf gets killed ↔ wolf lives together with grandchild and grandmother happily ever after
- Discussed „The wolf and the seven little goats“

1.25.3 Todesarten der Bösen in Märchen/Fabeln

- burn (witch of „Hansel and Gretel“)
- drown (wolf of „The wolf and the seven little goats“)
- intoxication
- ...

20.03.2006

1.26 28. Hausaufgabe

1.26.1 Struwwelpeter

- „Hoffmann, a Frankfurt physician, wanted to buy a picture book for his son for Christmas in 1844. Not impressed by what the stores had to offer, he instead bought a notebook and wrote his own stories and pictures. Hoffmann was persuaded by friends to anonymously publish the book as »Lustige Geschichten und drollige Bilder mit 15 schön kolorierten Tafeln für Kinder von 3–6 Jahren« in 1845. It was not until the third edition in 1858 that the book was published under the title »Struwwelpeter«. The first English translation appeared in 1848.“ (Wikipedia)
- The Story of Cruel Frederick
- The Dreadful Story of Pauline and the Matches
- The Story of the Inky Boys
- The Story of the Wild Huntsman
- The Story of Little Suck-a-Thumb
- The Story of Augustus who did not have any Soup
- The Story of Fidgety Philip
(tablecloth; to waggle/wiggle/wobble; to turn/tip over/keel over/overbalance)
- The Story of Johnny Look-in-the-Air
- The Story of Flying Robert

1.26.2 What languages should we learn?

- English (most common language used in computer science)
- France, Spain (upcoming global languages)
- Chinese (China going to be a very influential factor on global economy)
- Not Latin

31.03.2006

1.27 29. Hausaufgabe**1.27.1 Zehn idiomatische Ausdrücke finden und übersetzen**

Phrase	Meaning
to demonstrate one's opposition	seinen Widerspruch demonstrieren/darlegen
to go into the streets	auf die Straße gehen
embattled	bewährt
the protests drew up <i>n</i> people	<i>n</i> Leute beteiligten sich am Protest
to maintain a law	ein Gesetz beibehalten
to place sb. between a proverbial rock and a hard place	jemanden zwischen Baum und Borke stecken, jemanden in die Klemme bringen, jemanden in eine Zwickmühle führen/bringen
to climb down (on the law)	nachgeben/(das Gesetz) fallenlassen
to harbour	beherbergen
beneficiaries	Nutznießler
to scrap	verschrotten, ausrangieren, aussondern, zum alten Eisen werfen

07.10.2006

1.28 30. Hausaufgabe

1.28.1 Fünf Ausdrücke finden und übersetzen

Ausdruck	Übersetzung
to witness	bezeugen
greengrocer	Gemüsehändler(in)
atavistic sense	Als Atavismus (von lat.: atavus = Vorfahre, Urahne) wird ein Rückfall in überholte Verhaltensweisen oder das Auftreten von anatomischen Merkmalen bei Organismen bezeichnet, die eigentlich für ihre Urahnen typisch waren. (Wikipedia)
entrepreneurs	Unternehmer
corner shop	Laden an der Ecke/Tante-Emma-Laden

14.02.2007

1.29 31. Hausaufgabe

1.29.1 The „infinite amount of information“ provided by cable TV and the Internet – a blessing or a curse?

Television and the Internet – or media in general – play a downright predominant role in our modern society. Television receivers exist in 95 percent of all German households and 98 percent of American households, according to [[WikiDeFernsehenInDeutschland]] and [[WikiDeFernsehenInDenUSA]] respectively; 68 percent of German´s adults have direct access to the Internet ([[Heise68]]).

Because of their plangent distribution, consequences caused by television and the Internet have to be reflected upon very seriously – much more seriously than would be needed in a society not permeated by medias.

In the following, I´ll ponder the question whether the „infinite amount of information“ provided by television and the Internet are to be considered a blessing or a curse. This cannot be decided in general, of course; instead I´ll give several arguments for both views.

„Infinite amount of information“ provided by television and the Internet as a curse

This section lists arguments for the view that the „infinite amount of information“ provided by television and the Internet is a curse. It is divided in arguments concerning the quality of the obtainable information, the accessibility of television and the Internet, and miscellaneous other arguments.

– Quality of the obtainable information

To gauge the relevance of the „infinite amount of information“ obtainable, one should first contemplate the quality of the information broadcasted on television and downloadable on the Internet.

Unintentional misinformation

The most common cause of wrong information on television and the Internet is probably constituted by unintentional oversights. As it is acknowledged that it takes approximately ten years to become an expert on any given topic [unfortunately I have a lost the reference to a study supporting this statement], information is often compiled by laymen who have only a rough knowledge on the relevant area.

This argument is often used against Wikipedia, rendering Wikipedia as full of errors. Other examples include the presentation of scientific relations in so-called „popular science“; these explications are often simplified to a great extent – one popular misconception of natural sciences, namely that natural sciences Explain The World instead of just providing accurate (but in no case exact or true!) models, forms the root of the discussions on Intelligent Design in the USA.

Unrepresentative information

The quality of the information provided by television and the Internet is further downgraded by the unrepresentative assembly of the corresponding authors: The opinions and views broadcasted and displayed on television respectively the Internet are influenced by the views of the persons in charge.

This problem surfaces especially on the Internet – the people who publish on the Internet obviously belong to the group of people who have the ability to publish on the Internet. This means that

the views of, say, the typical 90-year-old grandparents are under-expressed.

Directed disinformation

Directed disinformation has the potential to degrade the information quality in most severe ways. The sources of such disinformation range from companies which „exaggerate“ facts about their products over politicians to whole countries which enact over a consolidated apparatus spreading targeted disinformation.

A prominent example of such directed disinformation is the actively enforced censorship in the People’s Republic of China: If you search for „Tiananmen“, the name of the place the 1989 massacre took place (in which several hundreds of people were killed [[WikiEnTiananmen]]), Google Germany presents you with a host of pictures of tanks [[GoogleDeTiananmen]]. By stark contrast, Google China shows pictures of smiling tourists [[GoogleCnTiananmen]].

- Accessibility of the information

The Internet introduces new technological barriers to the accessibility of the information. To access all the information of the Internet, one not only needs appropriate hardware (which, of course, costs money), an Internet provider free of censorship, and the physical abilities to use computers, but knowledge on using computers as well.

This means that certain groups of people are excluded – for example older people who can’t read computer screens or handle the keyboard or mouse appropriately and disabled persons.

Finding useful information on the Internet is further impeded by its vast size; it takes practice to develop the keen sense necessary to use search engines effectively.

- Potential harm to children by pornographic content

To the „infinite amount of information“ retrievable on the Internet and broadcasted on television, pornographic content are a part of. It is believed that pornographic pictures and movie constitute the greatest part of all Internet traffic [[PornTraffic]]. (But note that the amount of traffic as measured in (peta) bytes is not a good measure

of the proportion of pornographic sites, as images and movies take up much more space (i.e., bytes) than texts do.)

Considering the television programme broadcasted at night, one obtains similar impressions.

Barriers to pornographic contents on the Internet can be circumvented even by the average child in many cases, as it's technically challenging to automatically classify the raw information retrieved from the Internet as information with pornographic content – computers do not (yet?) have access to the semantic level of information.

The few necessarily-not-perfect-but-deemed-to-be-sufficient techniques to automatically block access to porn sites which exist today can easily be fooled.

– Sensory overload caused by the „infinite amount of information“

The probably most important problem caused by the „infinite amount of information“ broadcasted on the 500-and-counting channels of television and retrievable on the Internet is probably the sensory overload intimately associated with the way television and the Internet are used.

Many studies show that in the so-called process of „zapping“, in which individual channels are rarely watched for longer than a few seconds, the senses are overly stressed.

In the case of the Internet, the problem is slightly less severe, as active instead of passive use is necessary for the problem to manifest. Also, as websites used to be mostly visual-only, only the sense of sight was affected. With the increasing popularity of movie websites like YouTube [[YouTube]], this last point has lost validity, unfortunately.

„Infinite amount of information“ provided by television and the Internet as a blessing

The previous section outlined arguments for the view that the „infinite amount of information“ of television and the Internet are a curse. As with any technology, down- and upsides coexist; in the following, I'll elaborate on some of the advantages of the „infinite

amount of information“ obtainable, with a slight focus on the role of the Internet.

I'll not mention that television with its 500⁺ channels and the Internet with its millions of sites are superb examples of counter-measures against boredom.

- Economic advantages

One of the reasons for the wide-spread distribution of television and the Internet is certainly that they result in economic advantages. In societies governed by the principles of free market economy, economic considerations carry a lot of weight.

Economic advantages through the use of television and the Internet as means of distributing advertising material

There exists a wide spectrum of possible types of advertising on television and the Internet. More encompassing than ads in printed media, thousands of targets can be reached very time- and cost-efficiently.

Economic advantages through the possibility of efficient transactions

Many companies, especially companies which operate in the logistical sector, profit from the very efficient conductability of transactions attainable on the Internet. Committing and equating deals (i.e., effectively rolling back) are matters of seconds; one can act to new information in a timely matter.

- Quality of the information obtainable

Contrary to what I said above, the information broadcasted on television and receivable on the Internet is of a very high niveau – presuming that one knows the right ruses to distinguish high-quality from low-quality information.

Wikipedia, for example, is a source of very high quality. Barring few problem areas, Wikipedia is factual and actual (attributes stemming from the encouraged possibility that anyone can improve Wikipedia), and attains a good structure by the extensive use of links.

Grassroot and citizen journalism is covered on so-called blogs: independent journalists can publish their results without pressure

resulting from commercial and political interests as they often influence more regularly edited print media magazines. [[WikiEnCJ]]

- Advantages – blessings – resulting from the decentral nature of the Internet

These new movements profit from the technical difficulty the creation of a point of central control over the Internet would have.

Because of the Internet's decentral nature, it is infeasible that a single company or country could gain control over the entire Internet; thus the Internet is the ideal medium for guaranteeing the continued validity of one of the most fundamental human rights, namely the freedom of speech.

In addition to providing a great platform for asynchronous communication, i.e. the point in time of creation differs from the point in time of reading (mails, blogs), the Internet serves as the basis for a variety of real-time chat services.

Examples of serious uses of chats include real-time updates about the Gulf War in 1991 (an archive may be found at [[IRCGulf]]) and live reports about the unstable situation in Moscow during the coup against Boris Yeltsin in 1993, disclosed directly by the affected people and not layered through several news agencies. [[IR-CRT]]

Finally, contemplated from an ideological point of view, one might have the belief that it's better that information is stored decentrally, accessible to everyone, instead of being property of a few rich millionaires and heads of states.

Conclusion

I remark that **in conclusio**, the benefits of the „infinite amount of information“ provided by television and the Internet outweigh the downsides. To a more complete report on this topic advantages and disadvantages of television and the Internet itself, not the „infinite amount of information“ provided, would have to be considered.

Important parts of such an extended exposure to the topic would include: the social and sanitary consequences of daily use of television and the Internet; an **en detail** explication of threats emerging from the Internet (the corresponding buzzwords are „phishing“ and

„cracking“) and risks for the Internet (including China’s ongoing censorship as a political component and various technical difficulties arising from the continued exponential development of the world population).

Literatur

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1.30 32. Hausaufgabe

1.30.1 Composition: To what extent do parents have the right or the duty to participate in the decisions of their children who have reached the age of majority? (Abitur 2005/II/II/2)

An ever-recurring theme in the conflict between teenagers and their parents is about the question, to what extent parents should participate in their grownups' decisions.

Instead of simply affirming the view of the children, namely that their decisions are none of their parents' business, a more detailed explication is in order; the question cannot simply be answered by considering only the legal aspect, that is that children who have reached the age of majority count as self-responsible persons with all the associated rights and duties, of which the right to make own decisions, as guaranteed by the Constitution, is of importance in this context.

People who have this strict opinion on the problem do not consider, that parents participate in their childrens' decisions not to annoy or importune their offsprings, but rather to attempt to help them by sharing their experience; this help is not based on antipathy, but on parental love.

Thus I'm of the opinion, that the so-called teenagers should accept the support they receive from their parents, remembering, that potential discussions should be based on mutual respect.

Also, from a meta point of view, it's interesting that the question is raised at all – both respecting helpful support and knowing when to stop giving unhelpful suggestions should be naturally understood.

(213 words)