



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Abiturprüfung 2008

## Englisch, Grundkurs

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### Aufgabenstellung:

1. Describe the situation as depicted in the excerpt from the screenplay and point out how the Queen, the other members of the Royal Family and the Prime Minister react to it.  
*(Comprehension) (16 Punkte)*
2. Explain how the scriptwriter uses stage directions and dramatic dialogue to paint a portrait of the Queen.  
*(Analysis) (24 Punkte)*
3. Choose one of the following tasks:
  - 3.1 Discuss in general to what extent the Queen and the other Royals ensure or endanger the continuity of the monarchy in a democratic country like the United Kingdom. To support your position, consider the special needs of the British population as well as the personal qualities of a monarch and assess how the present Royal Family fulfil their roles.  
*(Evaluation: comment) (20 Punkte)*
  - 3.2 A journalist from a British popular newspaper writes a comment describing the atmosphere in London. The article stirs up emotions, expresses disappointment at the way the Queen is handling the death of Diana and questions the monarchy in general. Write the journalist's article and find a suitable headline.  
*(Evaluation: re-creation of text) (20 Punkte)*

### Materialgrundlage:

- Ausgangstext: Literarischer Text (Drehbuchauszug)  
Fundstelle des Textes: Peter Morgan, *The Queen*, 2007.  
<http://www.miramaxhighlights.com/pdfs/TheQueenScreenplay.pdf> (25.05.2007), S. 51 – 54  
Wortzahl: 590

### Zugelassene Hilfsmittel:

- Ein- und zweisprachiges Wörterbuch



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Text:**

**Extract from the screenplay of the film *The Queen* (2007)**

*The extract is set against the background of the death of Princess Diana who died after a high speed car accident in Paris along with Dodi Al-Fayed and their driver on 31 August 1997. After Prince Charles' and Princess Diana's divorce had been finalised on 28 August 1996, Buckingham Palace stated that Diana was still officially a member of the Royal Family, since she was the mother of the second- and third-in-line to the throne.*

*In this extract, Prime Minister Tony Blair and his adviser Alastair are watching a news programme on TV in which several members of the public complain about how the Royals have reacted to the death of Princess Diana.*

ALASTAIR

There!

*One member of the public complains about the flag ...*

TONY

5 Don't tell me. There isn't a flag flying at half mast above Buckingham Palace.

*TONY rolls his eyes to himself.*

TONY

God. Will someone save these people from themselves ...  
*(irritated)*

10 Fine. I'll call Balmoral ...

*TONY turns away, walks towards the door.*

ALASTAIR

'Planet Zog'?

TONY

15 Because as Prime Minister of this country, I've really got nothing better to do ...

*TONY walks out ...*

**EXT. BALMORAL ESTATE – DAY**

*The ROYAL FAMILY is gathered for a barbecue lunch. At a distance, the BOYS are in the river, being taught fishing by a GHILLIE.*

20 *PRINCE PHILIP stands by a barbecue, struggling to get the fire to light.*

*The QUEEN MOTHER is in another corner.*

*A LAND ROVER pulls up. The QUEEN gets out with her dogs. She notices PHILIP's struggle with the barbecue ...*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ELIZABETH

25 Those fire-lighters no good? (*carrying tupperware boxes*)  
I brought some stew just in case. I think it's lamb. We could always have that cold ...

PRINCE PHILIP

No, we'll be all right.

*The QUEEN throws some food to her dogs, but makes several hand gestures forbidding*  
30 *them to eat. The DOGS salivate, and whimper, but dutifully show their forbearance.*  
*Staring at the food.*  
*The QUEEN, meanwhile, starts setting places at the table with plates, knives and forks.*

ELIZABETH

Robin had a call from the Prime Minister. Who expressed his concern.

35 *PHILIP turns, an exasperated look ...*

PRINCE PHILIP

About WHAT?

ELIZABETH

The flag above Buckingham Palace. He thinks it should be flying at half-mast.

40 *The DOGS continue to whimper hungrily.*

PRINCE PHILIP

Then I hope Robin told him there ISN'T a flag above Buckingham Palace ...  
(*angrily jabs coals with a long, sharp fork*)  
... only the **Royal Standard**, which flies for one reason only. To denote the presence of the  
45 Monarch. Since you're **here**, the flag pole is bare. Which is as it should be.

*CHARLES clears his throat ...*

CHARLES

Isn't it possible ... that to **some** people ... the Royal Standard is just ... a flag? And that the  
flag pole being bare sends out the wrong signal.

50 *The QUEEN turns. A withering look ...*

ELIZABETH

That's not the point.

PRINCE PHILIP

The point is it's more than four hundred years old. It has never been lowered for ANYONE  
55 ...



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

QUEEN MOTHER

Your grandfather didn't get that flag at half-mast when he died and if your mother were to die tomorrow, **she** wouldn't get it either.

CHARLES

60 Yes ... but sometimes ... in a situation like this ... one has to be flexible ...

*All heads turn. And stare at CHARLES.*

CHARLES (shrugs)

It is just a flag.

ELIZABETH

65 "What about the Union Jack?", was Mr. Blair's next suggestion.

QUEEN MOTHER (rolling eyes)

Oh, for heaven's sake.

PRINCE PHILIP

The next thing he'll be suggesting you change your name to Hilda and mine to Hector?

70 *(angry gesture)*

Who does he think he's talking to? You're the Sovereign. The Head of State. You don't get dictated to.

*(a beat)*

You've conceded the idea of a public funeral. You've opened up the parks. That's

75 ENOUGH.

*The QUEEN indicates to PHILIP to keep his voice down, to avoid upsetting the BOYS, who are still fishing ...*

PRINCE PHILIP (cont'd)

You wait. In forty-eight hours it [will] all have calmed down.

80

ELIZABETH

Like those condolence books.

PRINCE PHILIP

Quite right.

*(a defiant snort)*

85 When we started with one, everyone predicted they would grow and grow. But we've heard nothing more about that, see?

*CHARLES clears his throat ...*

CHARLES

Apparently there are now fifteen.

90

ELIZABETH

What ...?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CHARLES

And people are queuing through the night.

*PHILIP* stares. *The QUEEN's expression changes.*

**Anmerkungen:**

- 10 **Balmoral** *here*: Balmoral Castle, the traditional summer residence of Queen Elizabeth II in Scotland
- 13 **Planet Zog** general name for any science-fiction planet
- 19 **ghillie** Scottish guide for fishing or hunting
- 22 **Land Rover** British all-terrain vehicle
- 25 **tupperware box** high-quality box made by a well-known American company
- 30 **to salivate** to produce watery liquid in your mouth when you see or smell food
- 42 **Robin** adviser to the Royal Family
- 44 **Royal Standard** the monarch's personal flag
- 50 **withering** intended to make sb feel silly or ashamed
- 65 **Union Jack** the flag of the United Kingdom