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Abiturprüfung 2014

Englisch, Leistungskurs

Aufgabenstellung:

1. Point out the reasons Richard Stengel puts forward for *TIME*'s choice of President Obama as 2012 Person of the Year. *(Comprehension)* (16 Punkte)
2. Compare how President Obama is presented in the editorial and the cartoon. Focus on the use of language in the article and the visual elements of the cartoon. *(Analysis)* (24 Punkte)
3. Choose one of the following tasks:
 - 3.1 Discuss Richard Stengel's claim that "Obama is both the symbol and in some ways the architect of the new America" (ll. 10 – 11). Refer to the editorial, the cartoon and work done in class. *(Evaluation: comment)* (20 Punkte)
 - 3.2 As a young American you disagree with President Obama's selection as Person of the Year. Write a letter to the editor of *TIME* criticizing the magazine's choice and presenting your ideas of a new America. *(Evaluation: re-creation of text)* (20 Punkte)

Materialgrundlage:

- Ausgangstext (1): Sach- und Gebrauchstext (Kommentar der internationalen Presse)
Fundstelle: Richard Stengel, "2012 Person of the Year. The Choice", *TIME*, December 31, 2012, S. 37
Wortzahl: 486
- Ausgangstext (2): Bildliche Darstellung (*cartoon*)
Fundstelle: "Your Person of the Year", *Independent Review Journal*, December 22, 2012
<http://www.ijreview.com/2012/12/26404-cartoon-your-person-of-the-year/>
(letzter Zugriff am 19.11.2013)

Zugelassene Hilfsmittel:

- Ein- und zweisprachiges Wörterbuch



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Since 1927 TIME magazine has selected as Person of the Year a person, group, idea etc. that has done the most to influence the events of the year.

Richard Stengel

2012 Person of the Year. The Choice.

In many ways, Barack Obama is the 21st century version of this new American. But he's more than just a political figure; he's a cultural one. He is the first President to embrace gay marriage and to offer work permits to many young undocumented immigrants. There has been much talk of the coalition of the ascendant – young people, minorities, Hispanics,
5 college-educated women – and in winning re-election, Obama showed that these fast-growing groups are not only the future but also the present. About 40% of millennials – the largest generational cohort in U.S. history, bigger even than the baby boomers – are nonwhite. If his win in 2008 was extraordinary, then 2012 is confirmation that demographic change is here to stay. [...]

10 We are in the midst of historic cultural and demographic changes, and Obama is both the symbol and in some ways the architect of this new America. "The truth is," the President said in the Oval Office, "that we have steadily become a more diverse and tolerant country that embraces people's differences and respects people who are not like us. That's a profoundly good thing. That's one of the strengths of America." [...]

15 But whose America is that? Is there a battle between the old America and the new? Obama would say no. He sees his time in office as a kind of convergence of past and future. "I think about this eight-year project," he says, as one in which "we've also accommodated all the demographic changes and cultural and technological changes that are taking place and been able to marry those with some of the old-fashioned virtues of hard work and discipline and
20 responsibility – all in a way that allows us to succeed and to thrive." That's the new America. And it's finding its voice: the President we heard at the wrenching memorial service in Connecticut was more assertive, more personal, more willing to risk his political capital for what he truly believes.

At the end of *Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison's great 1952 novel about racial injustice, the
25 central character says, "America is woven of many strands; I would recognize them and let it so remain ... Our fate is to become one, and yet many – This is not prophecy, but description." Just 12 years ago, Obama was so invisible that he attended the 2000 Democratic National



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Convention in L.A. and watched it on the Jumbotron in the Staples Center parking lot. Today he is universally visible – and known. But he would agree with Ellison’s observation that
30 this change is indeed description and not prophecy. The new America is not so much the old
e pluribus unum – out of many, one – but, as Ellison says, one and yet many. That is
Obama’s America. For finding and forging a new majority, for turning weakness into
opportunity and for seeking, amid great adversity, to create a more perfect union, Barack
Obama is TIME’s 2012 Person of the Year.

Annotations:

- 1 **this new American** reference to St. John de Crèvecoeur’s book *Letters from an American Farmer* (1782). In the third letter de Crèvecoeur defined the American as a “new man” in a prosperous society in which nationalities mingle and in which despotism and class privilege do no longer exist
- 6 **millennials** the generation born between the early 1980s and the early 2000s
- 21 – 22 **the wrenching memorial service in Connecticut** reference to the President’s speech on gun control in Newtown, Connecticut, paying tribute to the twenty-six victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting
- 24 **Invisible Man** novel by an African American writer about the problems of African Americans
- 28 **Jumbotron** a large scale television screen used for sport stadiums and concert venues



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Time Magazine announced the 2012 choice of President Obama on December 19, 2012. In response to this, the cartoon below was published three days later by the Independent Journal Review, a website for news, political cartoons and commentary.

Your Person of the Year

