

Kollegium St. Fidelis, Stans  
Mittelschule Nidwalden

Mai 2017

# Maturitätsprüfung 2017

## English

8.00 - 8.50	Part 1: <b>Listening (34 points)</b> 50 minutes
9.00 - 10.20	Part 2: <b>Comprehension (65 points)</b> 80 minutes
10.30 - 11.20	Part 3: <b>Language (66 points)</b> 50 minutes

- At the end of each part ALL your worksheets will be collected.
- Write legibly and unambiguously.

***Good Luck!***

Gabriela Bächler  
David Fux

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

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

# Listening

*You will hear each of the passages twice.*

## Part 1

*Fill the gaps with the word(s) from the text passage you will hear. You have one minute to read the text below before the audio starts. (10)*

Each of you \_\_\_\_\_ the most powerful, dangerous and subversive trait that \_\_\_\_\_ has ever devised. It's a piece of neural \_\_\_\_\_ for rewiring other people's minds. I'm talking about your language, of course, because it allows you to implant a thought from your mind directly into someone else's mind, and they \_\_\_\_\_ to do the same to you, without either of you having to \_\_\_\_\_. Instead, when you speak, you're actually using a form of telemetry not so different from the remote control device for your television. It's just that, whereas that device relies on pulses of \_\_\_\_\_, your language relies on pulses, discrete pulses, of sound.

And just as you use the remote control device to alter the internal settings of your television to suit your mood, you use your language to alter the settings inside someone else's brain to suit your interests. Languages are \_\_\_\_\_ talking, getting things that they want. And just imagine the sense of wonder in a baby when it first discovers that, \_\_\_\_\_ a sound, it can get objects to move across a room as if by magic, and maybe even into its mouth.

Now language's subversive power has been \_\_\_\_\_ the ages in \_\_\_\_\_, in books you can't read, phrases you can't use and words you can't say.

*You have one minute to revise your answers.*

## Part 2

*Answer the following questions with complete sentences. Answer as precisely as possible. You have two minutes to read the questions before you hear the recording. (18)*

1. Summarize the Tower of Babel story in a few words. (2)

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2. What arguments does the speaker present which question the intelligence of chimpanzees? (2)

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3. What is social learning and what is the benefit of it? (2)

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4. What did the *Homo erectus* do and in what way is that similar to what chimpanzees do? (2)

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5. How do humans differ from chimpanzees or the *Homo erectus* and what is the result of that? (2)

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6. What does the speaker mean when he says that social learning is visual theft? (2)

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7. Which were our species' two options to deal with the dilemma resulting from the fact that social learning corresponds to visual theft? (4)

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8. How does the speaker define language, and why is it important? (2)

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*In fifteen seconds, you will hear the text a second time. After the second time you will have ten minutes to complete your answers.*

### Part 3

*Which of the following statements are true (True) and which are false (False)? Write the word 'True' or 'False' in the box next to the sentence. You have one minute to read the statements. (6)*

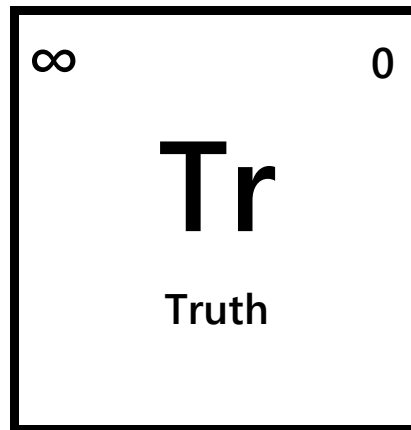
1. The two arrowhead scenarios show that language can cause misunderstandings.
2. Human beings would not have prospered without having acquired language.
3. Both humans and animals have the ability to transform the environment to suit their needs, enabling them to occupy nearly every place in the world they want.
4. Different languages only develop if people spread around the world.
5. Language can work as a means of isolating ourselves from other groups.
6. It is a big advantage in our modern, globalized world that we have different languages.

*In fifteen seconds, you will hear the text a second time.  
After the second time you will have one minute to complete your answers.*

# THE IRISH TIMES

## How do we ‘know’ anything?

By Joe Humphreys. Sun, Mar 5, 2017



**What does it mean to say we are in a “post-truth world”? A bunch of liars are in charge. Yes that but also a decline in the appreciation of reason.**

5 A relativistic streak<sup>o</sup> – always present in public debate – has overwhelmed traditional methods of distinguishing fact from fiction. *move*

10 This slide has been a long time coming, and can be traced right back to the Enlightenment when the discrediting of objective truth began. The advance of relativism – the notion that truth is relative to each individual’s standpoint – reached what might be seen as a new low with the recent claim by Donald Trump’s senior adviser Kellyanne Conway that there are such things as “alternative facts”. [...]

15 However, Trump or no Trump, there is an urgent need for some kind of public education programme surrounding truth. Few people leaving school or college have been formally instructed in logic, and there is shockingly little public understanding of how knowledge is created.

20 Prof Timothy Williamson, Wykeham Professor of Logic at the University of Oxford, has responded to the challenge by writing an entertaining and perspective-altering introduction to the

philosophy of disagreement. *Tetralogue – I’m Right, You’re Wrong* imagines a dialogue between four people with radically different outlooks on the world and how their conflict might be resolved, or at least mediated. [...]

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**It’s often said in debates “you’re entitled to your own opinion” but are you really so entitled?**

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*Tim Williamson:* “A totalitarian state where it’s illegal to have unorthodox opinions is a nightmare. But think of a Holocaust-denier who just shrugs his shoulders and says ‘I’m entitled to my opinion’ when presented with overwhelming evidence that the Holocaust really happened.

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“What he’s doing is not okay. In both a rational and an ethical sense, he’s not entitled to ignore the evidence on something so important. *shy*

*small-minded, fanatic*

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“Not to be coy° about my political opinions, the Brexit vote and the Trump election resulted from many people voting on the basis of bigoted°, ill-informed opinions they felt entitled to. Brexit is likely to have bad consequences in these islands, Trump in the whole world.

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**A critical point in ‘Tetralogue’ sees one of the characters quoting Aristotle: “To say of what is that it is not, or of what is not that it is, is false, while to say of what is that it is, or of what is not that it is not, is true.” Do you regard this manoeuvre as key to a more logical public debate?**

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“No philosophical manoeuvre can stop politicians telling lies. But some philosophical manoeuvres do help politicians obscure the distinction between truth and falsity.

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“When I visited Lima, a woman interviewed me for YouTube. She had recently interviewed a ‘postmodernist’ philosopher. When she pointed at a black chair and asked ‘Is that chair black or white?’ he replied ‘Things are not so simple’. *unjust, false*

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“The more philosophers take up such obscurantist lines, the more spurious° intellectual respectability they give to those who try to confuse the issues in public debate when they are caught out in lies. Of course, many things in public affairs are genuinely very complicated, but that’s all the more reason not to bring in bogus° complexity. *fake*

“Aristotle’s view of truth and falsity is simple, and I think fundamentally correct. Since there was no Bowling Green massacre, anyone who says there was a Bowling Green massacre is speaking

65 falsely, and anyone who says there wasn't is speaking truly, end of story.

70 "Obviously it wasn't mainly postmodernism or relativism that won it for Trump, indeed those philosophical views are presumably more widespread amongst his liberal opponents than amongst his supporters, perhaps most of whom have never heard of them. Still, those who think it somehow intolerant to classify beliefs as true or false should be aware that they are making it easier for people like Trump, by providing them with a kind of smokescreen."

75 **Whatever about the "alternative facts", how would you respond to the claim that knowledge always contains some human bias, giving rise to alternative bodies of knowledge?**

80 "Of course, all human knowledge reflects the limitations of those who get it. You know things that I don't know and I know things that you don't know. But our bodies of knowledge are only alternatives in the harmless sense that they are different from each other. They don't conflict.

"What can't happen is that two bodies of knowledge are inconsistent with each other. [...]

85 "Although we all have biases, they don't influence all our thoughts equally. We can still know plenty of stuff. On matters where we are too much under the influence, we just have opinions, not knowledge."

### **Does knowledge require proof?**

*the ability to speak*

90 "You can know that you are feeling an itch without being able to prove it to anyone else. You can know that you sneezed ten minutes ago without being able to prove it even to yourself. The ability to justify one's beliefs in words has more to do with the gift of the gab<sup>o</sup> than with whether one really knows.

95 "I'm an atheist, so I don't think anyone knows there is a god. But the mere fact that theists can't prove to anyone that there is a god is not enough to show that they don't know. [...]

### **How does moral knowledge differ from scientific knowledge? How do we know anything morally?**

100 "Most ordinary knowledge isn't like scientific knowledge – it's much less systematic, much less informed by abstract theory, not based on experiment or measurement. Moral knowledge is like other ordinary knowledge in those ways.

105 "Suppose you witness a boy teasing a girl about her skin colour. You know that he's teasing her, and you know that he's wronging her. Each bit of knowledge require an ability to recognise an abstract pattern in your experience – the teasing pattern and the wronging

pattern. Those are much subtler patterns to recognise than triangles or circles, but you can do it.

*inerrability, reliability*

- 110 “Why is it knowledge, not just opinion? Knowledge doesn’t require infallibility<sup>o</sup>; what it requires is that, in the situation, you couldn’t too easily have been mistaken.

“If you are psychologically sensitive, you couldn’t too easily have been mistaken about the teasing. If you are morally sensitive, you couldn’t too easily have been mistaken about the wronging.”

[1076 words]

<<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/unthinkable-how-do-we-know-anything-1.2992520>> (24 April 2017)



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

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

# Comprehension and Vocabulary

## A) Comprehension

*Answer the following questions by formulating complete sentences. Avoid copying from the text and do not use contracted verb forms. (Contents: 28 points / Language: 18 points)*

1. What is apparently the basis of 'alternative facts'? (2/2)

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2. In the context of knowing the truth, what is the problem with regard to education? (2/2)

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3. According to Tim Williamson, what are the limits of one's own opinion? (4/2)

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4. How do philosophers create confusion and what does Williamson refer to when using the word 'smokescreen'? (4/2)

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5. According to Williamson, are 'alternative bodies of knowledge' thinkable? Why or why not? (4/2)

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6. Why does 'ordinary knowledge' not require a proof like scientific knowledge? (2/2)

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Answer the following question by carefully formulating **your own opinion** in an elaborated and well-structured text. Avoid copying from the text and do not use contracted verb forms.  
(Contents: 10 points / Language: 6 points)

7. What are the limits of one's own opinion? (10/6)

[illegible]

**B) Vocabulary**

*Paraphrasing: explain the following passages by reformulating them, substituting the underlined words. (4)*

1. A bunch of liars are in charge. (1-2)

2. ... has overwhelmed traditional methods of distinguishing fact from fiction. (4-5)

3. ... he's not entitled to ignore the evidence on something so important. (32)

*Synonyms: give one word or one expression with the same meaning. Do not explain the words. (4)*

decline (2)		evidence (32)	
advance (8)		likely (35)	
radically (21)		to affect (38)	
unorthodox (27)		presumably (66)	

*Antonyms: give one word or one expression with the opposite meaning. Do not explain the words. (4)*

decline (2)		complexity (58)	
to obscure (47)		harmless (77)	
public (56)		belief (88)	
genuinely (56)		ordinary (97)	

*Word families: use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in the gap. (7)*

- He was a \_\_\_\_\_ man and she had never known him to shirk his responsibilities. (reason, 3)
- Being educated in the United States has long been a mark of \_\_\_\_\_ for the elites of other nations. (to distinguish, 5)
- "C'mon," he said with some \_\_\_\_\_. (urgent, 12)
- His \_\_\_\_\_ appearance and manners made me detested. (disagreement, 20)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ in his face was unmistakable. (to resolve, 22)
- It was his habit to encourage students to discuss \_\_\_\_\_ questions in science and theology. (debate, 24)
- The reporter's \_\_\_\_\_ version of the story was completely one-sided. (opinion, 37)
- He wondered when her book would be \_\_\_\_\_. (public, 45)
- He would simply have to learn by \_\_\_\_\_ and error. (try, 54)
- "I know you're in no position to \_\_\_\_\_ your father openly," she replied. (opponent, 66)
- The look on his face made her want to hug him and \_\_\_\_\_ his fear. (easier, 69)
- The wealthy and \_\_\_\_\_ invested massively in all forms of art. (influence, 81)
- Phillip was fired when he was unable to offer \_\_\_\_\_ for his repeated tardiness to work. (to justify, 87)
- He tried to determine \_\_\_\_\_ the law of magnetic force between poles. (experiment, 98)

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

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

# Language

(66 points)

## A) Transformations

*Reformulate the sentences using the word in brackets or starting it in the given way. Elements that do not change **need to be written**. (10)*

- Our teacher really hates it when he is interrupted by the students. (stand)  
Our teacher \_\_\_\_\_ by the students.
- "You must study harder, Susie", said Susie's mum. (that)  
Susie's mum \_\_\_\_\_.
- You really ought to learn how to drive, I'm so fed up with driving you around! (time / *No to-infinitive!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_. I'm so fed up with driving you around.
- All that trouble I went to wasn't necessary in the end. (needn't)  
I \_\_\_\_\_ all that trouble.
- My dentist is taking out my wisdom teeth tomorrow. (taken)  
I'm \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow.
- Jackie wishes she hadn't said that to Allie. (regrets)  
Jackie \_\_\_\_\_ that to Allie.
- Provided there are no change to the plans, we'll see you on the 19<sup>th</sup>. (unless)  
\_\_\_\_\_ change, we'll see you on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- I think you should type that essay instead of writing it in pen. (better)  
You \_\_\_\_\_ instead of writing it in pen.
- She had expected the exam to be much more difficult. (as)  
The \_\_\_\_\_ she had expected.
- Would you consider having plastic surgery to alter your nose? (by)  
Would you \_\_\_\_\_ plastic surgery?

## B) Conditionals

*Complete the following sentences with the right verb form. (4)*

- Why didn't you say that you were short of money? If I \_\_\_\_\_ (know), I  
\_\_\_\_\_ (lend) you some!
- If I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a work permit, I \_\_\_\_\_ (stay)  
another six weeks.
- Tom was driving much too close to the car in front. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) further  
away he \_\_\_\_\_ (be able) to stop in time.
- Patrick: "The hotel room was full of smoke; but I knew exactly what to do." – Fiona: "If I  
\_\_\_\_\_ (wake) up to find myself in a hotel room full of smoke, I  
\_\_\_\_\_ (have) no idea what to do."

**C) Tenses**

*Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense and form, including passive, infinitive and gerund. (17)*

*Treasure Island* is one of the best known and most loved children's adventure stories. It \_\_\_\_\_ (first / publish) in 1883 and its popularity \_\_\_\_\_ (never / decrease) since then. It \_\_\_\_\_ (believe) that the story was solely the work of Stevenson's imagination, but research \_\_\_\_\_ (recently / uncover) the true origin of this thrilling tale of hidden treasures and bloodthirsty pirates.

*Treasure Island's* author Robert Louis Stevenson \_\_\_\_\_ (be born) in Edinburgh in 1850. He \_\_\_\_\_ (live) abroad for many years when he \_\_\_\_\_ (return) to the land of his birth for a holiday in 1881. With him \_\_\_\_\_ (be) his American wife Fanny, whom he \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) five years earlier in France, and his stepchildren from Fanny's first marriage. They decided \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) their holidays in Braemar, a place in the rugged Scottish Highlands.

The family soon \_\_\_\_\_ (settle) into a relaxing routine. Each morning Stevenson \_\_\_\_\_ (take) them out for long walks over the hills. They \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) this for several days when the weather suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a turn for the worse. Trapped indoors by the heavy rain, Robert's twelve-year-old stepson Lloyd \_\_\_\_\_ (become) increasingly bored. Robert was desperate \_\_\_\_\_ (keep) the boy amused, \_\_\_\_\_ (get out) some drawing paper and asked the boy \_\_\_\_\_ (do) some painting.

After he \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) for several hours the boy \_\_\_\_\_ (return) to his stepfather with a beautiful coloured map of a tropical island. Robert noticed that his stepson \_\_\_\_\_ (draw) a large cross in the middle of the island. "What's that?" he asked. "That's the buried treasure," said the boy. The thirty-one-year-old author suddenly had a flash of inspiration. He \_\_\_\_\_ (recently / ask) to contributed stories to a children's magazine published by his friend W.E. Henley and he \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to see a germ of an adventure story in the boy's picture. While the rain \_\_\_\_\_ (beat down) on the roof of his rented holiday cottage the author \_\_\_\_\_ (sit down) by the fire to write a story. He would make the hero a twelve-year-old boy, just like his own stepson. "But who \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the villain of the piece?" he thought.

For the next four years Henley \_\_\_\_\_ (publish) Robert's stories in his magazine, and the two had become good friends. But there was something unusual about Henley; as a young man one of his legs \_\_\_\_\_ (amputate) and he walked around with the aid of an artificial wooden leg. Robert \_\_\_\_\_ (always / want) to include such a character in the story and thus Long John Silver, the pirate with a wooden leg, \_\_\_\_\_ (be born).

So, thanks to a rainy September in Scotland, a publisher with a wooden leg, and the inventiveness of a twelve-year-old American boy, we \_\_\_\_\_ (now / have) one of the greatest adventure stories in the English language which in all certainty \_\_\_\_\_ (continue) to fascinate future generations. Therefore, if you \_\_\_\_\_ (not / read) it yet you can definitely still be looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_ (enter) the fabulous world of *Treasure Island*.

**D) Phrasals**

Complete the following sentences by replacing the verbs in **bold print** with a phrasal verb from the box in the appropriate form (do not change the tense). Not all the phrasal verbs in the box are used. (10)

make off - stand up for - be off - put off - turn down - do away with -  
 turn off - let down - be into - take in - put up with - get off - make up for - lay off -  
 keep up with - take aback - brush up - put down - take on - take to

1. I took a class to **quickly improve** / \_\_\_\_\_ my English before my trip to Canada.
2. It must have been a great relieve for all coloured people when apartheid **was finally abolished** / \_\_\_\_\_ in 1994.
3. During the Great Depression companies had to **fire** / \_\_\_\_\_ thousands of workers.
4. President Trump will have to keep his promises in order not to **disappoint** / \_\_\_\_\_ his voters.
5. When Justin Bieber's concert was cancelled, the father took his children to the cinema to **compensate** / \_\_\_\_\_ it.
6. He's the kind of manager who will always **defend** / \_\_\_\_\_ his staff.
7. The council has had to **employ** / \_\_\_\_\_ twenty extra employees to handle their increased workload.
8. They offered her the job but she **rejected it** / \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The concert's been **postponed** / \_\_\_\_\_ until next month because the singer's got a throat infection.
10. I can't **tolerate** / \_\_\_\_\_ my neighbour's noise any longer; it's driving me mad!

**E) Open Cloze**

Complete the text, using one suitable word in each gap. (15)

After midnight, 1) \_\_\_\_\_ the first hours of September 28, 1994, the ferry *Estonia* foundered in the 2) \_\_\_\_\_ of a Baltic storm. The ship was the pride of the newly 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Estonian nation, recently arisen from the Soviet ruins. It was a massive steel vessel, 510 feet long and nine decks high, with accommodations for 4) \_\_\_\_\_ to 2,000 people. It had labyrinths of cabins, a swimming pool and sauna, a duty-free shop, a cinema, a casino, a video arcade, a conference centre, three restaurants, and three bars. It also had a car deck that stretched from bow to stern through the hull's insides. In port the car deck was 5) \_\_\_\_\_ through a special openable bow that could be raised to allow vehicles to drive in and out. 6) \_\_\_\_\_ sea that bow was 7) \_\_\_\_\_ to remain closed and locked. In this case, however, it did not—and indeed it 8) \_\_\_\_\_ the ship to capsize and sink when it came open in the storm and then fell entirely 9) \_\_\_\_\_.

10) \_\_\_\_\_ the night of its demise the *Estonia* had 989 people 11) \_\_\_\_\_. It departed from its home port, Tallinn, 12) \_\_\_\_\_ around 7:15 P.M., and proceeded on its regular run, 258 miles and fifteen hours west 13) \_\_\_\_\_ open waters to the Swedish archipelago and Stockholm. For the first several hours, 14) \_\_\_\_\_ dusk turned to night, it moved through sheltered coastal waters. Passengers hardly enough 15) \_\_\_\_\_ withstand the wind and cold on deck would have seen grey forested islands creeping 16) \_\_\_\_\_ to the north, and to the south the long industrial shoreline of Estonia giving way 17) \_\_\_\_\_ a low coast darkening until it faded 18) \_\_\_\_\_ the night. Gentle swells rolled in from the west, indicating the sea's unease—with significance probably only 19) \_\_\_\_\_ the crew, which had received storm 20) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ for the open water ahead but had not spread the news. There were various forecasts, and they tended to agree: an intense low-pressure system near Oslo was moving quickly to the east, and was expected to drag rain and strong winds across the route, stirring 21) \_\_\_\_\_ waves occasionally 22) \_\_\_\_\_ high as twenty feet. Such conditions were 23) \_\_\_\_\_ for the area, occurring only a few times every fall and winter, but for ferries of this size they were not considered to be 24) \_\_\_\_\_. Surviving crew members later claimed that a special effort had been made on the car deck to lash the trucks down securely—exemplary behaviour that, if it occurred, probably had more to do with 25) \_\_\_\_\_ about vehicle-damage claims than about the safety of the ship. No other preparations were made. The main worry was to arrive in Stockholm 26) \_\_\_\_\_ time. That night the ship knifed ahead 27) \_\_\_\_\_ its full 19 knots, with all four main engines fully throttled up to their combined output 28) \_\_\_\_\_ 23,500 horsepower, driving the hull across the gently accumulating seas. The vessel's motion was at first barely noticeable to the passengers. [...] Though many couples and a few groups were aboard, collectively it was a ship full of strangers, with little time to make new friends or, as people do on longer passages, to fall even temporarily in love. The experience of the sinking therefore turned 29) \_\_\_\_\_ to be lonely and highly atomized. Observers who later claimed that a social breakdown had occurred failed to take that 30) \_\_\_\_\_ account. Still, at first that night there was something of a cruise-ship atmosphere on the *Estonia*, as passengers dropped off their bags in their cramped, Pullman-style cabins and emerged to explore the possibilities for whiling away the hours.

<<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2004/05/a-sea-story/302940/>> (24 April 2017)

### F) Translation

*Translate the following sentences as precisely as possible. (10)*

1. Die Wohltätigkeitsorganisation hat schon immer versucht das Bewusstsein für die Situation älterer Menschen zu schaffen.

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2. Vor zwei Wochen überredete die Schauspielerin den Regisseur, ein Theaterstück über Eifersucht und Verrat zu inszenieren.

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3. Nachdem Tom und Sarah über Jahre miteinander gestritten hatten, entschied sie sich, die Scheidung einzureichen.

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4. Der Verteidiger versuchte vergeblich die Unschuld des Angeklagten zu beweisen, erreichte jedoch eine Milderung der Strafe.

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5. Kein Land kann die Armut nachhaltig verringern ohne stabiles, wirtschaftliches Wachstum.

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