

Die Textsorte *Essay* bei der schriftlichen Reifeprüfung (AHS) in der ersten lebenden Fremdsprache Englisch B2

Informationen, Beispielaufgaben und Performanzen für Lehrende und Lernende

Inhalt

Was ist ein Essay?	2
Essay-Schreibaufträge in der SRP	2
Charakteristika des Essays	2
Relevante GERS-Deskriptoren für die Textsorte <i>Essay</i> (exemplarisch)	3
Anschauungsbeispiele	4
Anschauungsbeispiel 1	5
Beispiel-Performanz 1	6
Beispiel-Performanz 2	7
Beispiel-Performanz 3	8
Anschauungsbeispiel 2	9
Beispiel-Performanz 1	10
Beispiel-Performanz 2	11
Beispiel-Performanz 3	12

Was ist ein Essay?

Ein Essay ist ein argumentativer Text, in dem ein Thema diskutiert wird. Die Autorin/der Autor vertritt eine Haltung zu einem Thema oder einer Fragestellung und versucht, der Leserschaft den eigenen Standpunkt durch Argumente näherzubringen oder wägt Standpunkte gegeneinander ab. Eventuell will die Autorin/der Autor die Leserschaft auch von einem Standpunkt überzeugen. In der Argumentation bezieht die Autorin/der Autor einen oder mehrere Standpunkte ein und untermauert die Argumente mit Beispielen, Erklärungen etc. Essays können somit eine einseitige Argumentation aufweisen oder mehrere Standpunkte beleuchten.

Essay-Schreibaufträge in der SRP¹

Essay-Schreibaufträge bestehen aus einem Schreibanlass ((kontroverse) Fragestellung oder Zitat) und drei Inhaltspunkten. Der Operator, der im Text umgesetzt werden muss, ist „discuss“. Im Laufe der Entwicklung der Prüfungsaufgaben hat sich gezeigt, dass für die Textsorte *Essay* ein einziger argumentativer Operator, der auf den gesamten Text angewendet wird, zielführender ist und zu kohärenteren Essays führt als Inhaltspunkte, die von drei unterschiedlichen Operatoren eingeleitet werden. Nach mehreren Feldtestungen und eingehenden Analysen wurde entschieden, den Operator „discuss“ als einzigen Operator bei Essays einzusetzen (siehe Anschauungsbeispiele ab S. 4). Der Operator „discuss“ ermöglicht sowohl die Argumentation eines Standpunktes als auch das Beleuchten/Diskutieren verschiedener Standpunkte.

Charakteristika des Essays

Zweck:

- die Leserschaft von einem Standpunkt überzeugen
- die Leserschaft informieren, einen Sachverhalt/ein Problem darstellen
- Standpunkte gegeneinander abwägen

Aufbau:

- Titel: stellt den Bezug zur Aufgabenstellung her
- Einleitung: leitet das Thema ein und nennt die Kernaussage/These
- Hauptteil: entwickelt Argumente (und/oder Gegenargumente) in Bezug auf die Kernaussage, wobei jeder Absatz mit einem Einleitungssatz beginnt, der das Argument des Absatzes präsentiert, welches dann durch Beispiele, Erklärungen etc. erläutert wird
- Konklusion: beantwortet die Eingangsfrage; bewertet die Kernaussage/These; fasst die Position der Autorin/des Autors noch einmal zusammen

Register und Stil:

- formell/neutral (keine Kontraktionen)
- Leser/in wird nicht direkt angesprochen

¹ ab dem Haupttermin 2021

Relevante GERS-Deskriptoren für die Textsorte *Essay* (exemplarisch)

Essays können eine Bandbreite an kommunikativen Kompetenzen abbilden, wie sie in den folgenden Ausschnitten des GERS (Council of Europe 2001²) und des Companion Volume (Council of Europe 2018³) beschrieben sind. Die folgenden Deskriptoren entstammen dem GERS und dem Begleitband mit neuen Deskriptoren. Bei den Elementen in Grün handelt es sich um die neuen Deskriptoren.

Overall written production	
B2	Can write clear, detailed texts on a variety of subjects related to his/her field of interest, synthesising and evaluating information and arguments from a number of sources.

Written reports and essays	
B2.2	Can write an essay or report that develops an argument systematically with appropriate highlighting of significant points and relevant supporting detail. <i>Can write a detailed description of a complex process.</i> Can evaluate different ideas or solutions to a problem.
B2.1	Can write an essay or report which develops an argument, giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view and explaining the advantages and disadvantages of various options. Can synthesise information and arguments from a number of sources.

² Council of Europe (2001): Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Online: <http://rm.coe.int/1680459f97>

³ Council of Europe (2018): Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment: Companion volume with new descriptors.

Online: <http://rm.coe.int/cefr-companion-volume-with-new-descriptors-2018/1680787989>

Deutsche Übersetzung: Europarat (2020): Gemeinsamer europäischer Referenzrahmen für Sprachen: lernen, lehren, beurteilen: Begleitband. Stuttgart: Klett.

Anschauungsbeispiele

Auf den folgenden Seiten finden Sie Beispiel-Schreibaufträge und dazugehörige Performanzen. Die Performanzen wurden dem BMBWF dankenswerterweise von österreichischen Schülerinnen und Schülern zur Verfügung gestellt. Alle Texte sind **authentische, von Schülerinnen und Schülern verfasste Texte**, die im Rahmen der Feldtestung für die SRP geschrieben wurden. Zur Wahrung der Anonymität wurden die Texte von der Handschrift in die Druckschrift digitalisiert. Dabei wurden die Absatz- und Zeichensetzung, sowie etwaige Rechtschreibfehler etc. wie in der Originalperformanz beibehalten. **Die folgenden Beispiele sind keine perfekten Modelltexte, sondern illustrieren, wie ein Aufsatz auf Niveau B2 aussehen kann. Sie wurden nicht korrigiert oder beurteilt. Der Zweck dieser Handreichung ist die Abbildung der Textsorte.**

Den Schülerinnen und Schülern stand zum Schreiben der Texte **kein Wörterbuch** zur Verfügung.

Anschauungsbeispiel 1

The European Film Association (EFA) wants to know what young people think about the future of cinema. They have asked for teenagers' essays on the following question:

“Is going to the cinema outdated?”

The best essays will be published on the EFA's website. You have decided to send in an essay.



You should answer the question above and give reasons for the position you take.

In your **essay** you should discuss:

- social aspects
- technological aspects
- economic aspects

Give your essay a **title**. Write around **400 words**.

Beispiel-Performanz 1

The future of the cinema

The cinema has always been a good option for a Friday evening program. The film industry is booming right now, but is the cinema still up to date or is it slowly getting overtaken by Netflix and Amazon Prime? One thing is clear to say, it is getting more expensive. On the other hand, there are good reasons for going to the cinema.

One reason for the rising costs of one cinema ticket is the technological aspect. With movies shown in 3D or 5D the prices are increasing tremendously. Instead of immediately agreeing to a cinema evening, people think more than twice about it, if they want to pay ten to twelve euros for one ticket. On the other hand, a 2D movie seems kind of boring.

If the film is not that good, at least there are friends to talk to. Cinemas increase social contact, and that is an important part, because the social aspect of the cinema is without a doubt the most relevant one. It can build friendship and is always a great decision for a first date. Especially for a date it is a perfect place to cuddle or to just have a good time with your dearest. For friends it is a nice opportunity to discuss some gossip and the latest news. But a cinema is more than only that, it is also a place to feel comfortable, laugh and in general have an enjoyable time together.

Another positive argument for the cinema is the economical aspect. With more films the cinema makes more money, and with more money the cinema can get more advanced, for example with bigger screens and comfortable seats. But not only does the cinema gain profits, also the country earns money through taxes. With more and bigger cinemas there are more jobs so everybody receives a positive impact.

In my personal opinion cinemas are still alive, more than ever. I think this will not change in the next two or three decades. The positive aspects are more important than the only negative point, the price. I hope and believe that this will also change and develop, like the technology. But one point has to remain, the social aspect of cinemas, the time you spend their with your friends and family. Netflix and Amazon Prime cannot compete with the cinema, yet.

394 words

Hinweis: Es handelt sich bei diesem Text um eine authentische, nicht korrigierte Schülerperformanz zur Illustration eines B2-Essays.

Beispiel-Performanz 2

Cinemas do count

Everybody has already experienced what it is like going to the cinema to watch a movie which has just been released. With the monthly appearance of new, romantic, funny, thrilling and adventures movies, visits to the cinema have become much more recommendable. This essay will argue that going to the cinema is not outdated but very important for society, the economy and technological progress.

Going to the cinema does not only provide you with thrilling new experiences but also people get the chance to stay in touch with friends or might even meet new friends or someone special. Visiting the cinema could be a monthly fun experience when all of your friends gather around and talk before or after the movie. Socializing does affect your personal feelings and might even enable someone to gain more confidence and joy concerning life in general.

Furthermore the movie industry is always developing since technological progress is significantly being made over the past decade. New technology such as the invention of 3D-movies, efficient sound effects and a better quality enables to experience movies out of a different view and has the side effect, that viewers are able to follow new inventions and developments in the movie industry. If people continue visiting the cinema, new revolutionary inventions will be made and visitors can experience them vividly while watching a movie.

To end it is important to address that cinemas are extremely influencing the economy. A lot of viewers do not only invest on the movie-ticket but also are willing to spend a big amount of money on food, like popcorn or nachos. Additionally, the incomes of a movie, depending on the movie, are extremely high and assure that the actors, the director and everyone who is important to create a movie has a good salary. Even the employees of the cinema profit from every movie, since they get a job out of it.

Creating movies and searching for new technology is in today's society very important and I cannot imagine people not going to the cinema. Going to the cinema can be a stress-releasing leisure activity everybody is able to do once a month.

362 words

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Beispiel-Performanz 3

Going to the cinema is dead

A typical evening in the early 2020s consists of going to the cinema or meeting friends on a public place. Nowadays it has changed a lot. The activity "Going to the cinema" is today very different than in the past. It can be said that cinema is not that popular among people as earlier. What could be the reason for this change? This essay will explain this change.

First of all the social aspect has changed. Today you do not have to go outside to meet friends. Especially young adults are always in contact with each other. The experience to watch a movie physically together is not necessary for them. The priority is more on the communication after they have seen the movie. It is also possible to talk without watching the film in the cinema, which also has changed.

When it comes to the technological aspect, it can be said that caused by streaming platforms like Netflix or illegal websites it is possible to watch movies at home, while they are in the cinemas. For many people it is enough to just watch the movie. These people are not very interested in the newest technological invention at the cinemas. If someone watches movies on the internet, you not only have the advantage that you could stay at home, another positive aspect is that it is for free.

When you think about the past going to the cinema watching a film and eating popcorn costs around 10 to 12 euro. Nowadays the ticket alone costs around 12 euro and if you want to add popcorn and a coke you are at around 20 euro. So it is obvious that the activity "going to the cinema" became more and more expensive and young adults often have other priorities to leave their money than for cinema.

To summarise it can be said that going to the cinema is not that popular among young adults nowadays than in the past when the cinema was a brand new invention. Also the community has changed because of new things like Netflix. People are more likely to stay at home together and watch the movie instead of going to the cinema and lose 20 euro.

375 words

Hinweis: Es handelt sich bei diesem Text um eine authentische, nicht korrigierte Schülerperformanz zur Illustration eines B2-Essays.

Anschauungsbeispiel 2

The European Youth Forum is discussing a general voting age of 16 for countries in the EU. It is asking for essays from young people who have already been allowed to vote. The topic is:

“Voting age 16 – yes or no?”

The best essays will be published online. You have decided to send in an essay.



You should answer the question above and give reasons for the position you take.

In your **essay** you should discuss the effects of changing the voting age to 16 on:

- teenagers' interest in politics
- election campaigns
- future political decisions

Give your essay a **title**. Write around **400 words**.

Beispiel-Performanz 1

Giving young people the chance to change their own future

As the European Youth Forum asks for opinions of teenagers regarding the question of the right voting age, I have decided to give you an insight in my thoughts and feelings about the rather low voting age of 16. In this essay I will discuss both sides to this question.

As an Austria citizen, I am confronted with elections at an early age, as Austrians are allowed to take part in them at the age of sixteen. Observing my peer group, I noticed that they have not gained much knowledge in politics and history, which I am convinced gives us the opportunity to learn from and helps us to understand the impact of politics on our lives. Some would say that our educational system failed. However, I do not believe that lessons would mobilise young people to simply read newspapers or watch the news. Maybe the young generation has to find the curiosity about their surrounding again and must learn to estimate the opportunities and benefits that go along with a democracy, before they have the right to form politics in their countries

But when it comes to seeking for information about parties etcetera, the mind of a young person is threatened by manipulative advertising. If a general voting age of 16 realises, parties and politicians will focus on the new target group. As a result, more attention will be on problems teenagers are confronted with.

Looking into the future, a lower voting age may have a positive impact on the youth, as issues about education, job market and especially apprenticeships will rise in importance. That would be a wonderful addition to political topics as lower taxes or the age of retirement. Still, it has to be considered if it makes sense to give rather uninterested citizens access to politics. However, so many great developments have their beginnings in schools or universities. Thinking of the amazing progress in the economics of Mauritius that was possible because a good educational system which was subsidized by the state properly, I am wondering why we should not take the risk. Of course, this would mean to spend much money on further initiatives to inform the youth. But should not everybody profit from our greatest breakthrough of politics, a fair democracy which exists in peace with democracy-critical neighbor countries that cooperate in an diplomatic way? Consequently, looking at the arguments for and against above, I would argue for a general voting age of 16 for countries in the EU.

425 words

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Beispiel-Performanz 2

Voting at 16

We live in a world with different political systems. The most common one around the world is democracy. Though there are different ways to pursue democracy in a country, the main idea is always the same: people are able to raise their voices and decide with elections how they want their country to be. This is quite a big responsibility for every member of a society. With what age should the members of a society be allowed to use their right to vote? In this essay I will try to persuade you that politics concern the future, and we are the future so everywhere should have 16 as a voting age.

Many schools in Europe teach politics. Therefore, young people often have quite much knowledge on politics. Nevertheless are not all teenagers in Europe are allowed to vote until they reach the age of 18. Young people are often very interested in politics and want to fulfil their role as a member of the society. Yet they are not able to do so. This seems quite unfair for teenagers because the age of one does not refer to their knowledge on politics. If the voting age started at 16, teenagers' would be even more interested and willing to get information than now.

Candidates and parties would eventually discuss the needs of younger people and would change their election campaigns to something that actually matters to youngsters. Young people will get the feeling that their voice has an impact on politics and furthermore ones country. The earlier one can see the effect of one's voice the more serious it will be to them. If democracy is not taken seriously, it cannot achieve its aim.

Not only will election campaigns be changed, but also the issues teenagers are dealing with, will be brought up and discussed. When people vote, they vote for the future of their country. However not all that concern the future, are able to decide. Does this seem fair?

Nowadays it seems that young people are showing more initiative to fight against topics like sexism and racism, than people who are actually allowed to vote. For example the average age of one who is attending a march or a protest, is according to a study 18 years old. That shows that younger generations want to raise their voice.

To sum up, every member of the European Union should be allowed to vote from the age of 16. Politics concern the future, young people should be able to fulfil their role as a member of their democratic state. The earlier one starts to discuss politics, the less one has to fear populism and dictators.

447 words

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Beispiel-Performanz 3

Losing interest and confidence in politics

At the age of 16 teenagers are not enough expected with the topic of politics. They have other thoughts about different subjects. The most important factor for adolescents is to fit in the age group. If they are much more different, they will be left alone. In my opinion teenagers should not be allowed to vote at 16 years.

These days teenagers have other interests. Although politics is an important and interesting subject to deal with, it is for older people. Although there are teenagers, who have an interest in politics, they do not have much experience in this sector. This will lead to misjudgement of their current political situation. Due to the lack of knowledge in politics, teenagers are not suitable for voting. That is why they develop other interests, which are often influenced by other adolescents. Such as Social Media or other activities. These interests are shared globally, which influences the teenagers more. Also teenagers are also misjudged by elders, since they think they do not have their own opinion and so are not able to develop. This led the teenagers to lose their interest in politics. So just a few of them try to engage themselves with the topic.

Therefore the kind of campaign does not matter. Even if election campaigns focused on topics that teenagers are interested in like the environment, teenagers are simply too inexperienced in the details and policies of these kinds of topics, that it risks the country. Politics are important for the future, since the upcoming presidents decides about laws, finances and the economy. Therefore it has to be thought thoroughly.

Although it may help the adolescents to come in contact with politics, it is too much of a risk. Students should get in contact with this important subject in school to develop their own opinions about politicians and in general about their country. This may help the teenagers understand their rights, their opinion about politics and of course their future. If the 16 year olds are not allowed to vote, then the election for any kind of campaign is decided by the older generation. Due to the knowledge of the older generation they will vote for a politician, who has experience and understands the details of issues.

Therefore teenagers should not be allowed to vote. And if someone loses their interest and does not think through all of the consequences, they are not suitable for voting.

411 words

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