

Maturitätsprüfung 2004

Englisch KEY

1. Comprehension

(40 points)

1.1 True or false?

- 1) F Only some individual states recognize this “right”; in the text, special attention is paid to the ruling of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that in Massachusetts “the state constitution gives gay couples the right to marry” (lines 9-14).
- 2) F The text only speaks of “different forms of Marriage Lite” in these countries (lines 16-22).
- 3) T “Many employers, including some state and local governments, extend some benefits to domestic partners” (lines 25-28).
- 4) F According to the text, “marriage rates have declined” since the sixties (lines 42-3); “there is evidence that the United States is becoming a post-marital society” (lines 49-51).
- 5) F According to the 2000 census, single-member households outnumber those of couples with children (lines 54-56).
- 6) F Sanger claims that this position has drawn far less attention in the past five years than discussions of what she calls “alternative forms of marriage” (lines 65-69).
- 7) F This is Carol Sanger’s suggestion, not the policy of the state of Massachusetts (lines 93-95).
- 8) T According to the text, “the state may have to decide what becomes of the children and the property” (lines 108-110).
- 9) F This is not the author’s opinion but rather the opinion of what the author calls “conservatives” (line 103); in particular, he cites Glenn Stanton (line 76 ff) and James Q. Wilson (line 112 ff) as representatives of the “conservative” position.
- 10) F Silberman, a San Francisco writer, celebrated his union with another man by holding a marriage ceremony (lines 130-143).

1.2 Multiple Choice

- 1) c) the author’s term for a less binding form of relationship than traditional marriage.
- 2) d) believe marriage should be limited to unions between a man and a woman.
- 3) c) the state constitution of Massachusetts.
- 4) a) Carol Sanger.
- 5) d) the experiences of many people over several centuries.
- 6) a) marriage laws may soon vary greatly from state to state.
- 7) c) only heterosexual couples should be allowed to marry.
- 8) d) is higher now than it was forty years ago.

1.3 Information in the text

- 1) Sanger is on the “liberal” side of the issue. She is interested in what she calls “alternative forms of marriage” (lines 68-69); without excluding “religious ceremonies” (lines 51-52), she sees the possibility of “individual agreements” (lines 94-5), including “homosexual couples’ ceremonies that have nothing to do with the state” (lines 97-99). Stanton is on the “conservative” side of the issue. He believes that “the word ‘marriage’ must be reserved for the union of men and women” (lines 74-6). He believes that couples must make a permanent commitment to each other, otherwise not only the man and the woman but also the children will suffer (lines 76-83).

- 2) Glenn Stanton, James Q. Wilson and Steve Silberman. Stanton and Wilson are on what the author calls the “conservative” side of the issue: they are concerned with the problems of the family. Wilson in particular believes that “marriage is the foundation of organized society” (lines 115-6) and that therefore the state must be involved; furthermore, he thinks that without marriage problems such as “getting men to take responsibility for children”, property distribution and child custody would be without solution (lines 117-120). As a homosexual, Silberman may seem the odd man out in this group; he made a personal decision to marry for emotional and psychological reasons: “I wanted the tuxedos, the dancing, the relatives flying in and my mother crying” (lines 141-3).

2. Vocabulary

(25 points)

2.1 Meaning from context

- 1) accepted
- 2) imperfect
- 3) emphasizes
- 4) bringing up
- 5) completely

2.3 Antonyms

- 1) strengthened
- 2) heterosexual, straight
- 3) abnormal
- 4) favo(u)r, support
- 5) similar (identical)

2.2 Synonyms

- 1) period of ten years
- 2) slowly, over a long period of time
- 3) advantages
- 4) living together
- 5) reproduction

2.4 Word formation

- 1) illegal
- 2) evidently
- 3) arranged
- 4) extension
- 5) purposefully
- 6) reduced
- 7) emotionally
- 8) involvement
- 9) intolerant
- 10) celebration

3. Essay

(60 points)

4. Grammar

(75 points)

4.1 Re-phrasing sentences

(20 points)

- 1) There is now talk of creating new forms of semi-marriages.
Some people now **want to create** new forms of semi-marriages.
- 2) The idea of being married isn't so black and white anymore.
The idea of being married **used to be** black and white.
- 3) The courts are raising again a fundamental question.
A fundamental question **is being reconsidered in** the courts.
- 4) Gay partners would often like a traditional wedding, although they aren't accepted as couples in the traditional sense,
In spite of not being accepted as couples in the traditional sense, gay partners would often like a traditional wedding.

- 5) “Because we have strayed from traditional marriages, the well-being of our society has diminished seriously.”
“If we **hadn’t strayed** from traditional marriages, the well-being of our society **wouldn’t have** diminished seriously.”
- 6) “Don’t take the state out of the marriage business altogether”, conservatives said to their opponents.
Conservatives **told their opponents not to take** the state out of the marriage business altogether.
- 7) “I regret that the government used the word marriage for same-sex unions.”
“The government **shouldn’t have used** the word marriage for same-sex unions.”
- 8) “We are the first generation of gay people for whom coming out was not a problem.”
“We are the first generation of gay people **who didn’t mind coming** out.”
- 9) A lot of people say that your wedding day is the most beautiful day in your life.
Your wedding day **is said to be** the most beautiful day in your life.
- 10) David thought that he was not mature enough for marriage.
David thought that he **was too immature** for marriage.

4.2 Verb forms

(15 points)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) will be | 9) know (knew) |
| 2) remember | 10) have ended (had ended) |
| 3) had hesitated | 11) considered / had considered |
| 4) realized / realize | 12) making |
| 5) were / had been caused | 13) did / would Anna and I need |
| 6) misplaced | 14) broken / being broken |
| 7) hadn’t understood | 15) should people bother |
| 8) wouldn’t have got / gotten married | |

4.3 Gap filling

(20 points)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1) them / some / problems / difficulties | 11) might / could / would |
| 2) together | 12) of |
| 3) at / on | 13) why / that / — |
| 4) the | 14) by |
| 5) must / will | 15) which |
| 6) like | 16) hardly / not |
| 7) to | 17) from |
| 8) else | 18) itself |
| 9) their / other | 19) do |
| 10) ago / earlier | 20) far |

4.4 Translation

(20 points)

- 1) How long have your parents (already) been married? – Let me think. They got / were married in 1980. That (This) means they have (already) been living / have lived together for more than twenty-four years.
- 2) Do you know where they met for the first time / where they first met? – My father told me (that) he still remembered (remembers) their first meeting exactly.
- 3) How long did it take them to get married (did it take until they got married)? – He said that for a long time they had not planned on getting married / to get married / to marry although her parents had wished so / would have wanted / liked / wished them to.
- 4) When my mother got pregnant, her parents insisted on my father marrying her / that they got married.
- 5) If my father had not agreed, he would never have been allowed to visit me.
- 6) I don't believe your father could have been stopped / prevented / kept from seeing you from time to time / occasionally.
- 7) You may be right / you are probably right. My father would certainly have had (have been obliged) to support me. – I suppose (think) so.
- 8) Do you intend to get married / to marry one day? – I would prefer to sign a simple contract rather than (to) get married in church (I would rather sign ... than get married ...).
or: I (would) prefer signing a simple contract to getting married in church.
or: I (would) prefer to sign a simple contract instead of getting married in church.
- 9) What makes you say that? – Well, our neighbours (have) had a lot of problems in their marriage. Their children (had to) suffer(ed) a lot (from that).
- 10) When they got divorced, both their children had already been thrown out of high school.