

# SPRACHMANIA 2017



## VORRUNDE ENGLISCH

### Discussion topic:

Digital Technology, Human Control, Human Labour

Over the past few decades, technological progress in all sorts of fields has dramatically influenced and advanced our lives.

Nowadays we are confronted with self-driving cars and drone airplanes. More and more human beings are being replaced by machines; for instance, we mainly deal with computers when we do our banking business, and in the supermarket we pay at a self-checkout. Try calling a company in search for information: it is nearly impossible to get a real person on the phone. Some critics say that human jobs will disappear in the future.

Computers seem to be adopting human characteristics and imitating human behaviour and 'artificial intelligence' has become a catchword of our modern time. Human communication is changing rapidly under the influence of digital media. Are we losing something or is this just rapid progress?

Talk about your personal view on this development and speculate what other surprises technological progress might still hold for us in the future.

### **OPENING STATEMENT 1:**

The new digital economy needs less human labor and thus offers fewer jobs – or are they just different jobs? In the light of these developments, how do you feel about your professional future?

### **OPENING STATEMENT 2:**

Communication is increasingly dominated by digital media, such as Twitter, WhatsApp and Skype. Traditional forms of human communication seem to be disappearing. Is this a loss or an improvement?

### **OPENING STATEMENT 3:**

Given the present speed of technological development, more and more people feel left behind. Can we keep up with our machines and can we control them? Or will there just be a smaller and smaller group of experts who really know what is going on?

## HAUPTRUNDE ENGLISCH

### Roleplay Situation:

### Candidate's Role

You are an Austrian student, but your Dad is English. He left Great Britain 20 years ago, is perfectly happy in Austria and does not want to go back. He has raised you bilingual.

You love Britain, you like the language and you have decided that you would like to go to university in Great Britain, for which you need your father's consent and monetary support. A British University costs around £ 10.000 per year, plus food and lodging. He is very much against it. He says he didn't leave England only to see his son go back there. Austria has excellent universities – and they are (almost) free of charge...

Talk to him and get him to understand that you are quite serious and that he should help you. After all, he went to university in Britain himself.

Du bist Österreicher/in, aber dein Vater stammt aus England. Er hat sein Heimatland vor 20 Jahren verlassen, fühlt sich in Österreich sehr wohl und will auf keinen Fall zurück. Er hat dich zweisprachig erzogen.

Du magst Großbritannien sehr gern, du liebst die Sprache und du hast beschlossen, in England zu studieren. Natürlich brauchst du dazu die Zustimmung und die Unterstützung deines Vaters und vor allem Geld für die Studiengebühren. Ein Jahr an einer englischen Uni kostet ca. £ 10.000.- plus Essen und Unterkunft etc. Dein Vater ist sehr dagegen. Er sagt, dass er England nicht verlassen habe, um dann seinen Sohn wieder dorthin zurückgehen zu sehen. Es gäbe auch in Österreich ausgezeichnete Universitäten, und die seien (vor allem) fast gratis...

Sprich mit ihm und versuche ihm zu erklären, dass es dir wirklich ernst ist und dass du seine Unterstützung erwartest. Schließlich hat er selbst ja auch in England studiert.