

Quereinsteiger-Test – Englisch Abendgymnasium Frankfurt am Main	Aufnahme in die Q1
Name:	Vorname:

Of elephants and computers (559 words)

"At school we had heard of India, its towns and rivers, religions and customs. We had seen films and videos about Delhi, the Taj Mahal and Rajasthan," said 23-year-old Andrew, who works in the export department of a big manufacturer in **Aberdeen**.

"But when I was asked to go to Bangalore in Karnataka for six months, I just asked, "Where's that? What should I do there?" At home he and his girlfriend Sue looked at the map and found Bangalore in the south of India.

"You can learn a lot from them," Andrew's managing director said. "Bangalore has become a centre for high-tech firms. It will be a great opportunity for you." Andrew talked it over with Sue, and at last he accepted the new job.

Three weeks later Andrew arrived in Bangalore. Within minutes he **was immersed** in its fascinating atmosphere. In his first e-mail home to Scotland he wrote:

Hi Susi,

*I arrived safely here in southern India. It's terribly **sultry**, but Bangalore is really impressive. Shops offer the whole range of well-known brands, from T-shirts and trousers to shoes and bags. And there's always a strange smell in the air, probably a mixture of flowers, spices and different exotic perfumes. When I entered the company's offices for the first time, I was really surprised. The young women, dressed in traditional **saris** and American sneakers, were sitting in front of their computer screens. They are engineers who **supply** software to the world's high-tech companies. The manager welcomed me and introduced me to the others. Everyone was very friendly. I learned that India had been training computer experts for years. Universities and other institutions will offer even more special computer courses in the coming years. The manager proudly added that many countries, including Great Britain and Germany, were looking for experts from India. He also told me that computer experts here could easily earn ten times as much as a doctor who was employed by the state. Now I understand why Bangalore is called the 'Silicon City of Asia'. There seem to be hundreds, perhaps thousands of computer companies and experts here.*

*After a hard day's work, two of my colleagues invited me to go to the newly opened NASA Pub, a futuristic bar in Church Street. Every night **laser beams** flash through the rooms, which look more like **space capsules** than a disco. It's true. Bangalore really is a place of contrasts.*

Still five more months and nine days till I see you again. I miss you.

Love, Andrew

Andrew soon got **accustomed to** daily life in Bangalore. Then one Friday morning while he was waiting for his bus, he had an interesting experience. In his second e-mail he wrote:

*I really miss you, my darling. Still four months and 27 days. This morning when I was waiting for the bus in one of Bangalore's busiest streets, I thought I must be dreaming. I couldn't believe my eyes. Suddenly two wild elephants slowly walked past me. They ignored every car, every biker, every **pedestrian** and just walked on. Perhaps it was their first excursion to town. They really seemed to enjoy it. For a moment the connections to the outside world via modem, Internet and satellite had almost made me forget where I was - almost.*

I'm always thinking of you. How are you doing at college?

Vocabulary: Aberdeen – city in Scotland; to immerse – G: eintauchen; sultry – hot and humid; sari – traditional long cotton or silk dress; to supply – G: versorgen; laser beam – laser light; space capsule – G: Raumkapsel; accustomed to sth. – used to sth.; pedestrian – person walking (in the street)

Assignments:

1. Text comprehension:

____/35 BE

Describe in your own words and in detail what the newspaper article says about

- Andrew's reaction to the job offer in India;
- Andrew's first impressions of Bangalore and his new company;
- India's progress in IT-industries;
- Andrew's experience in a Bangalore main street;
- Andrew's relationship to Sue.

Try to make your text as coherent as possible, please.

2. Grammar and Style:

(total: 30 BE)

2.1 If-clauses:

Make if-sentences types 1, 2, 3, or mixed types using the two statements on the basis of the text. (Use the sentence beginnings given). _____/10 BE

Example: Andrew goes to India. - He has to leave Sue for six months.
If Andrew didn't go to India, he wouldn't have to leave Sue for six months.

1 Andrew accepts the job offer. – Later he will be promoted in his job.

But if _____

2 Andrew hopes that Sue will accept his job offer. – Andrew wants to go to India.

Therefore if Sue _____

3 Germany and Great Britain don't have enough IT-experts. – They have to look for them in India.

But if _____

4 Andrew is in India now. He misses his girl friend Sue very much now.

But if (he not go) _____

5 One morning Andrew was waiting for the bus. – He saw two elephants walking slowly past him.

But if _____

2.2 Choose the adequate connectors from the list:

____/8 BE

while, although, consequently, in addition, (in order) to, nevertheless, as a result, moreover, therefore, whereas, finally, that's why, accordingly, and yet, above all, however

**Use different connectors in each sentence, please.
Sometimes there is more than one possible solution.**

- 1 _____ he had heard of India at school, Andrew didn't know where Bangalore was.
- 2 Andrew's managing director told him that working in Bangalore would be a great opportunity for him, _____ Andrew accepted the offer.
- 3 Andrew wouldn't see his girlfriend for a very long time, _____ he decided to go to India.
- 4 The climate in Scotland is quite cold, windy and rainy, _____ in Bangalore it is terribly sultry.
- 5 In Bangalore you can buy everything, it is extremely busy and there is the smell of hundreds of exotic perfumes in the air: _____ it is absolutely fascinating.
- 6 On his first day in the firm Andrew saw young women dressed in traditional saris and American sneakers, _____ he was really surprised.
- 7 The manager welcomed him and showed him to the offices _____ introduce him to the other employees.
- 8 One morning, _____, Andrew was confronted with a completely different situation.

2.3 Put the following sentences - wherever possible - either from active to passive or from passive into the active voice. Add any necessary information from the context, please.

____/12 BE

- 1 Andrew was asked to go to Bangalore for six months.

- 2 The manager welcomed me and introduced me to the colleagues.

- 3 Universities and other institutions will offer even more special computer classes in the coming years.

- 4 Although the firm had offered Andrew a nice apartment in the suburbs of Bangalore, he decided to stay in his small room in the city centre.

5 When the bus station had been passed by the elephants, the noise of the cars reminded Andrew where he was.

3. Text production:

____/35 BE

“Life in India is a dream.”

Do you agree with this statement?

Discuss positive and negative aspects of life in India. Relate to the text, to what you have learned in class and your personal ideas.

Write about 200 words, please.

1 Sentence  Exposition of the task	
2/3sentences  Pro arguments: supporting a positive view on India	
2/3 sentences  Counter-arguments: supporting negative views on India	
1 sentence  Final statement/ conclusion	

Total:

____/100 BE

Lösungsteil

Assignments:

1. Text comprehension:

____/35 BE

Describe in your own words what the newspaper article says about

- Andrew's reaction to the job offer in India;
- Andrew's first impressions of Bangalore and his new company;
- India's progress in IT-industries;
- Andrew's experience in a Bangalore main street;
- Andrew's relationship to Sue.

Try to make your text as coherent as possible, please.

Mögliche Lösungen in Stichworten:

Die Studierenden formulieren einen zusammenhängenden Text weitestgehend in eigenen Worten:

- a) information from school, but no concrete idea of geographic location and possible tasks; at home looks at map together with girl-friend Sue; discusses offer with Sue – argument: will be a great opportunity; then accepts;
- b) Bangalore is fascinating, impressive; Andrew is immediately immersed; climate sultry; shops sell everything and all well-known brands; air smells of flowers, spices and exotic perfumes; company: many women wearing mixture of traditional and modern western clothes; manager and everyone else friendly, colleagues invite him to bar after work;
- c) India supplies software and IT-experts to high-tech companies all over the world; continuous training programmes in universities and other institutions supply thousands of highly specialized computer experts every year; Bangalore = Silicon City of Asia; computer experts earn ten times as much as a doctor;
- d) Morning – bus station in B.'s busiest street; two wild elephants ignoring everything around them, probably first time in the city, enjoying it; A. thinks he is dreaming, can't believe his eyes; his work in the world of technology has made him almost forget where he is – realizes India as a country with two faces;
- e) Sue, studying at college, his girlfriend, lives with her in Aberdeen, Scotland; discusses his plans with her, decides only after she has agreed; misses her, loves her; counts the months and days till he can see her again, is always thinking of her.

2. Grammar:

(total: 30 BE)

2.1 If-clauses: (je richtiger Satz 2 Punkte = 10p – auch andere Zeitenfolgen sind denkbar, nur die richtigen Kombinationen akzeptieren!)

Make if-sentences types 1, 2, 3, or mixed types using the two statements on the basis of the text. (Use the sentence beginnings given). _____/10 BE

Example: Andrew goes to India. - He has to leave Sue for six months.

If Andrew didn't go to India, he wouldn't have to leave Sue for six months.

1 Andrew accepts the job offer now. – Later he will be promoted in his job.

*But if A. **didn't accept** the job offer, he **wouldn't be promoted** in his job later.*

2 Andrew hopes Sue will accept his job offer. – Andrew wants to go to India.

Therefore if Sue **accepts/doesn't accept** A.'s job offer, he **will/won't go** to India

3 Germany and Great Britain don't have enough IT-experts. – They have to look for them in India.

But if Germany and GB **had** enough IT-experts, they **wouldn't have to look** for them in India.

4 Andrew is in India. He misses his girl friend Sue very much.

But if Andrew **hadn't gone** to India, he **wouldn't miss** his girlfriend Sue so much now.

5 One morning Andrew was waiting for the bus. – He saw two elephants walking slowly past him.

But if Andrew **hadn't been waiting for** the bus one morning, he **wouldn't have seen** the elephants

2.2 Choose the adequate connectors from the list: _____/8 BE

while, although, consequently, in addition, (in order) to, nevertheless, as a result, moreover, therefore, whereas, finally, that's why, accordingly, and yet, above all, however

Use **different connectors** in each sentence, please.
Sometimes there is more than one possible solution.

1 **Although** he had heard of India at school, Andrew didn't know where Bangalore was.

2 Andrew's managing director told him that working in Bangalore would be a great opportunity for him, **as a result/therefore/that's why/consequently** Andrew accepted the offer.

3 Andrew wouldn't see his girlfriend for a very long time, **nevertheless/and yet** he decided to go to India.

4 The climate in Scotland is quite cold, windy and rainy, **whereas** in Bangalore it is terribly sultry.

5 In Bangalore you can buy everything, it is extremely busy and there is the smell of hundreds of exotic smells in the air: **in other words/therefore** it is absolutely fascinating.

6 On his first day in the firm Andrew saw young women dressed in traditional saris and American sneakers, **that is why** he was really surprised.

7 The manager welcomed him and showed him to the offices **in order to** introduce him to the other employees.

8 One morning, **however**, Andrew was confronted with a completely different situation.

2.3 Put the following sentences wherever possible either into the passive or in the active voice. Add any necessary information from the context, please.

(pro richtigem Satz 2 Punkte!!)

____/12 BE

1 Andrew was asked to go to Bangalore for six months.

The managing director asked A. to go to Bangalore for six months.

2 The manager welcomed me and introduced me to the colleagues.

I was welcomed and introduced to the colleagues.

3 Universities and other institutions will offer even more special computer classes in the coming years.

*Even more special computer classes **will be offered by** universities and other institutions.*

4 Although the firm had offered Andrew a nice apartment in the suburbs of Bangalore, he decided to stay in his small room in the city centre.

*Although A. **had been offered** a nice apartment in the suburbs **by** his firm he decided to stay in his small room in the city centre.*

5 When the bus station had been passed by the elephants, the noise of the cars reminded Andrew where he was.

*When the elephants **had passed** the bus station, A. **was reminded by** the noise of the cars where he was.*

3. Text production:

____/35 BE

“Life in India is a dream.”

Do you agree with this statement?

Hier sollen in einem kohärenten Text und unter Verwendung angemessener Redemittel (pro-con-essay) Argumente diskutiert werden.

1. General remark about life in India, its diversity, contrasts, differences

2. Aspects which might support a positive view:

- wonderful landscape and nature
- tasty food
- ancient culture
- democratic country since 1947
- discrimination forbidden
- big cities: anonymity / modern lifestyle / education / emancipation
- IT and software industry / economic power

3. Arguments which might support a negative view:

- religious conflicts
- success / future only for privileged castes
- big cities / slums / poverty / dirt
- rural areas: dominance of traditional lifestyle / arranged marriages widely accepted / illiteracy.
- child labour / poverty and exploitation contradict human rights
- men dominate / women chained to the household / gender disparity / violence and rape
- traditional farming / starvation

4. caste system still regulates the social system and dominates the law

5. Ein aus den Argumenten hergeleitetes Fazit soll den Text abschließen.