



## Beispielklausur zur Feststellungsprüfung

Schwerpunktkurs: S  
Fach: Englisch

### The Changing Face of America

[...]

Early in the 19th century came the great flood of Irish (2 million between 1815 and 1860) and Germans (1.5 million), some driven westward by political persecution, more by hunger and hardship. Philip Hone, mayor of New York in the 1820s, regarded both the Irish and the Germans as “filthy, intemperate, unused to the comforts of life and regardless of its proprieties.” “Nativists” in Philadelphia raided Irish Catholic churches and burned Irish homes.

The next wave was more than twice as large – 10 million from 1860 to 1890 – but these were still mostly Northern Europeans: English, Dutch, Swedes, Norwegians. The third wave was even bigger: 16 million from 1890 to 1914, including a still unmatched record of 1.3 million in 1907 (when the total U.S. population was only 87 million). And to the dismay of the now established Irish and Germans, more than 80% of the newcomers were Eastern and Southern Europeans: Sicilians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Russian Jews fleeing the Czar’s pogroms. This was the era in which Emma Lazarus wrote the Statue of Liberty’s welcome to the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. [...]

Even with the best intentions on all sides, the question of how to fit all these varieties of strangers into a relatively coherent American society remains difficult. How long, how complete and how painful the process of Americanization will be remains unclear. It is true that ethnic elitists have bewailed each succeeding wave of Irish or Germans or Greeks, but it is also true that the disparities among Korean merchants, Soviet Jews, Hmong tribesmen, French socialites and Haitian boat people are greater than any the U.S. or any other country has ever confronted. On the other hand, Americans are probably more tolerant of diversity than they once were. “America is much more of a pluralistic society now,” says Peter Rose, professor of sociology at Smith College. “You don’t hear so much talk about the melting pot today. The old ideology, the concerted effort to make people the same, has been overtaken by reality.”

The question is not really whether the new Americans can be assimilated – they must be – but rather how the U.S. will be changed by that process. Economically, there will inevitably be strains, but most evidence indicates that the immigrants create more wealth than they consume. Socially and culturally, the diversity can hardly help benefiting the U.S. by acting as an antidote to everything that is bland and homogenized. The sad fact, indeed, is that uniformity is exactly what the immigrants’ children will probably strive for, and their grandchildren achieve.

420 words

by Otto Friedrich Time, July 8, 1985.

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### Annotations

- line 6: *intemperate* – showing lack of self-control  
line 6: *proprieties* – details of the rules of correct behavior  
line 11: *dismay* – feeling of shock and discouragement  
line 19: *to bewail* – to express sorrow over s. th.  
line 20: *disparity* – difference or inequality  
line 20: *socialite* – a person well known for going to many parties  
line 28: *strain* – pressure, difficulties  
line 29: *antidote* – anything that counteracts or prevents the bad effects of s. th.  
line 30: *bland* – without striking features, uninteresting

### Comprehension

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Keep to the information given in the text. Use your own words as far as possible, do not quote.

- 1) Why did people immigrate to America in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century? Give examples 4 VP
  - 2) How did many of the already established immigrants feel and behave towards the newcomers? 4
  - 3) What is the main problem the immigrants cause, and how might it be solved? 6
  - 4) What influence will these immigrants have on the future development of the USA? 6
- 20 VP

**Topic** (250 words) 20 VP

Choose **one** of the following items:

- a) Ellis Island (1892 – 1954) Island of Hope – Island of Tears  
Comment.

**or**

- b) The Melting Pot – reality or myth?

**FSP Grammar**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Put into the Passive:**

6 VP

- 1) Emma Lazarus wrote the Statue of Liberty's welcome to the huddled masses (agent).
- 2) Political persecution and hunger have driven many Europeans westward (agent).
- 3) The influx of new Americans will change the United States (agent).

**If-Clauses**

6 VP

- 1) If the Irish \_\_\_\_\_ (not emigrate) during the Famine, they  
\_\_\_\_\_ (die). (Type III)
- 2) Immigrants \_\_\_\_\_ (not receive) a warm welcome if too many  
of them \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive). (Type I)
- 3) Europeans \_\_\_\_\_ (can/emigrate) if they  
\_\_\_\_\_ (suffer) too many hardships at home. (Type II)

**Reported Speech** – Use a verb of introduction in the Past Tense

4 VP

Philip Hone, mayor of New York: "I don't like those primitive Irish and German immigrants! Why didn't they stay at home?"

Professor Peter Rose, sociologist: "America is much more tolerant now. Forget about the old melting pot ideology!"

**Infinitive or –ing form?**

4 VP

- 1) The mayor of New York was not looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_ (meet)  
the new arrivals.
- 2) Many Irish were used to \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in poverty.
- 3) Passengers sailing across the Atlantic could not avoid \_\_\_\_\_ (be)  
seasick.
- 4) Many immigrants used to \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on farms.

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20 VP