Erste Staatsprüfung für ein Lehramt an öffentlichen Schulen
— Prüfungsaufgaben —

Fach: Englisch (Unterrichtsfach)

Einzelprüfung: Literaturwissenschaft

Anzahl der gestellten Themen (Aufgaben): 3

Anzahl der Druckseiten dieser Vorlage: 7

Bitte wenden!
Thema Nr. 1

Thomas Hardy, “The Darkling Thrush” (1900)

Der ursprüngliche Titel dieses Gedichts war “The Century’s End, 1900”; publiziert wurde es am 29. Dezember 1900 in *The Graphic*.

1. Analysieren Sie das Gedicht in formaler Hinsicht; achten Sie besonders auf Metrik, Bildlichkeit und Struktur!

2. Wie werden Jahreszeit, Natur und seelisches Empfinden miteinander verbunden? Wie wird die Mensch-Tier-Beziehung inhaltlich und stilistisch thematisiert?

3. Ordnen Sie den Text in den Entstehungszeitraum ein und ziehen Sie Ihnen bekannte Gedichte zum Vergleich heran!

Fortsetzung nächste Seite!
I leant upon a *coppice gate
    When Frost was spectre-gray,
And Winter’s dregs made desolate
    The weakening eye of day.
The tangled *bine-stems scored the sky
    Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
    Had sought their household fires.

The land’s sharp features seemed to be
    The Century’s corpse *ouleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
    The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
    Was shrunked hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
    Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
    The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
    Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, *gaunt, and small,
    In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
    Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
    Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
    Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
    His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
    And I was unaware.

Text:

Darkling Thrush: darkling – dark / in the dark (but rimes with ‘sparkling’); thrush – Drossel

*coppice – aus Zaunpfählen
*bine – Ranken
*outleant – dahingestreckt
*gaunt – hager
CHAPTER II

About half way between West Egg and New York the motor-road hastily joins the railroad and runs beside it for a quarter of a mile so as to shrink away from a certain desolate area of land. This is a valley of ashes — a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens, where ashes take the forms of houses and chimneys and rising smoke and finally, with a transcendent effort, of men who move dimly and already crumbling through the powdery air. Occasionally a line of grey cars crawls along an invisible track, gives out a ghastly creak and comes to rest, and immediately the ash-grey men swarm up with leaden spades and stir up an impenetrable cloud which screens their obscure operations from your sight.

But above the grey land and the spasms of bleak dust which drift endlessly over it, you perceive, after a moment, the eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg. The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg are blue and gigantic—their retinas are one yard high. They look out of no face but, instead, from a pair of enormous yellow spectacles which pass over a nonexistent nose. Evidently some wild wag of an oculist set them there to fatten his practice in the borough of Queens and then sank down himself into eternal blindness or forgot them and moved away. But his eyes, dimmed a little by many paintless days under sun and rain, brood on over the solemn dumping ground.

The valley of ashes is bounded on one side by a small foul river, and when the drawbridge is up to let barges through, the passengers on waiting trains can stare at the dismal scene for as long as half an hour. There is always a halt there of at least a minute and it was because of this that I first met Tom Buchanan's mistress.

Textauszug F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925)
Valley of the Ashes...

Fragen zum Text:

1. Beschreiben Sie das setting!

2. Analysieren Sie Stil und Metaphorik!

3. Interpretieren Sie mögliche Bezüge zur amerikanischen Gesellschaft der Zeit!

4. Stellen Sie die Passage in den Kontext der literarischen Moderne!
Thema Nr. 3

Beim nachfolgenden Text handelt es sich um den Anfang von Samuel Becketts 
*Waiting for Godot* (1953/55).

1. Analysieren Sie die sprachlichen Merkmale der Figurenrede und deren Funktion für die 
Charakterisierung und Interaktion der beiden Protagonisten!

2. Wie wird hierbei mit der Erwartungshaltung des Publikums gespielt und wozu?

3. Ordnen Sie das Beispiel in den Kontext der Kultur und des Theaters nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg 
ein!

*A country road. A tree. Evening.*

_Estragon, sitting on a low mound, is trying to take off his boot. He pulls at it with both hands, panting. He gives up, exhausted, rests, tries again. As before. Enter Vladimir._

ESTRAGON: *(giving up again).* Nothing to be done.

VLADIMIR: *(advancing with short, stiff strides, legs wide apart).* I'm beginning to come round to that 
opinion. All my life I've tried to put it from me, saying Vladimir, be reasonable, you haven't yet 
tried everything. And I resumed the struggle. *(He broods, musing on the struggle. Turning to 
Estragon.)* So there you are again.

ESTRAGON: Am I?

VLADIMIR: I'm glad to see you back. I thought you were gone forever.

ESTRAGON: Me too.

VLADIMIR: Together again at last! We'll have to celebrate this. But how? *(He reflects.)* Get up till I 
embrace you.

ESTRAGON: *(irritably).* Not now, not now.

VLADIMIR: *(hurt, coldly).* May one inquire where His Highness spent the night?

ESTRAGON: In a ditch.

VLADIMIR: *(admiringly).* A ditch! Where?

ESTRAGON: *(without gesture).* Over there.

VLADIMIR: And they didn't beat you?

ESTRAGON: Beat me? Certainly they beat me.

VLADIMIR: The same lot as usual?

ESTRAGON: The same? I don't know.

Fortsetzung nächste Seite!
VLADIMIR: When I think of it... all these years... but for me... where would you be...

(Decisively.) You'd be nothing more than a little heap of bones at the present minute, no doubt about it.

ESTRAGON: And what of it?

VLADIMIR: (gloomily). It's too much for one man. (Pause. Cheerfully.) On the other hand what's the good of losing heart now, that's what I say. We should have thought of it a million years ago, in the nineties.

ESTRAGON: Ah stop blathering and help me off with this bloody thing.

VLADIMIR: Hand in hand from the top of the Eiffel Tower, among the first. We were respectable in those days. Now it's too late. They wouldn't even let us up. (Estragon tears at his boot.) What are you doing?

ESTRAGON: Taking off my boot. Did that never happen to you?

VLADIMIR: Boots must be taken off every day, I'm tired telling you that. Why don't you listen to me?

ESTRAGON: (feeably). Help me!

VLADIMIR: It hurts?

ESTRAGON: (angrily). Hurts! He wants to know if it hurts!

VLADIMIR: (angrily). No one ever suffers but you. I don't count. I'd like to hear what you'd say if you had what I have.

ESTRAGON: It hurts?

VLADIMIR: (angrily). Hurts! He wants to know if it hurts!

ESTRAGON: (pointing). You might button it all the same.

VLADIMIR: (stooping). True. (He buttons his fly.) Never neglect the little things of life.

ESTRAGON: What do you expect, you always wait till the last moment.

VLADIMIR: (musingly). The last moment... (He meditates.) Hope deferred maketh the something sick, who said that?

ESTRAGON: Why don't you help me?

VLADIMIR: Sometimes I feel it coming all the same. Then I go all queer. (He takes off his hat, peers inside it, feels about inside it, shakes it, puts it on again.) How shall I say? Relieved and at the same time... (he searches for the word)... appalled. (With emphasis.) AP-PALLED. (He takes off his hat again, peers inside it.) Funny. (He knocks on the crown as though to dislodge a foreign body, peers into it again, puts it on again.) Nothing to be done. (Estragon with a supreme effort succeeds in pulling off his boot. He peers inside it, feels about inside it, turns it upside down, shakes it, looks on the ground to see if anything has fallen out, finds nothing, feels inside it again, staring sightlessly before him.) Well?

ESTRAGON: Nothing.

VLADIMIR: Show me.

ESTRAGON: There's nothing to show.

VLADIMIR: Try and put it on again.

ESTRAGON: (examining his foot). I'll air it for a bit.
VLADIMIR: There's man all over for you, blaming on his boots the faults of his feet. (He takes off his hat again, peers inside it, feels about inside it, knocks on the crown, blows into it, puts it on again.) This is getting alarming. (Silence. Vladimir deep in thought, Estragon pulling at his toes.) One of the thieves was saved. (Pause.) It's a reasonable percentage. (Pause.) Gogo.

ESTRAGON: What?
VLADIMIR: Suppose we repented.
ESTRAGON: Repented what?
VLADIMIR: Oh . . . (He reflects.) We wouldn't have to go into the details.
ESTRAGON: Our being born?

Vladimir breaks into a hearty laugh which he immediately stifles, his hand pressed to his pubis, his face contorted.

VLADIMIR: One daren't even laugh any more.
ESTRAGON: Dreadful privation.
VLADIMIR: Merely smile. (He smiles suddenly from ear to ear, keeps smiling, ceases as suddenly.) It's not the same thing. Nothing to be done. (Pause.) Gogo.

ESTRAGON: (irritably). What is it?
VLADIMIR: Did you ever read the Bible?
ESTRAGON: The Bible . . . (He reflects.) I must have taken a look at it.
VLADIMIR: Do you remember the Gospels?
ESTRAGON: I remember the maps of the Holy Land. Coloured they were. Very pretty. The Dead Sea was pale blue. The very look of it made me thirsty. That's where we'll go, I used to say, that's where we'll go for our honeymoon. We'll swim. We'll be happy.

VLADIMIR: You should have been a poet.
ESTRAGON: I was. (Gesture towards his rags.) Isn't that obvious?

Silence.
VLADIMIR: Where was I . . . How's your foot?
ESTRAGON: Swelling visibly.
VLADIMIR: Ah yes, the two thieves. Do you remember the story?
ESTRAGON: No.
VLADIMIR: Shall I tell it to you?
ESTRAGON: No.
VLADIMIR: It'll pass the time. (Pause.) Two thieves, crucified at the same time as our Saviour. One—

ESTRAGON: Our what?
VLADIMIR: Our Saviour. Two thieves. One is supposed to have been saved and the other . . . (he searches for the contrary of saved) . . . damned.

ESTRAGON: Saved from what?
VLADIMIR: Hell.
ESTRAGON: I'm going. (He does not move.)