

PROBESCHULARBEIT – “THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS”

D) Text understanding (~ 20 min):

1) Read the text and fill in the missing words from the box. There are more words than necessary. (10 points)

throw ... away	issue	longingly	set out	envious	allowance
carry on	married	used to	kept	valued	throw ... around

To most people my life probably sounds like a fantasy, but I never _____ to find a rich husband. When I came to London I happened to get in with a rich set of people. I think it was more to do with my looks and confidence – I’m certainly not a gold-digger. When James and I started seeing each other, I was at college doing a secretarial course and he was already working, so he _____ pay for everything. He’s also quite old-fashioned and thinks it’s normal for the man to pay. We didn’t live together before we got married, but we went on some very exotic holidays, all of which he paid for. He wanted to do those things and he wanted me to do them with him, so the only way was for him to pay for me. I never saw anything wrong with that. I knew he had a lot of money, although for ages I didn’t know exactly what he earned. He drove a vintage Italian sports car, which was quite flash and he had a smart flat in Kensington, but he didn’t _____ his money _____.

Really, it wasn’t until after we got married two years ago that money became an _____. I gave up my job as secretary because it seemed ridiculous to be working in an office all day to earn a tiny fraction of what James earns. He didn’t want me to _____ being a secretary anyway, he thinks I should go back to college. I now have a lifestyle where I don’t have to worry about money and I’m completely secure. We can afford to go on fantastic holidays – to the Caribbean, Australia, America. We have a beautiful new six-bedroomed house with a big garden. And I can do exactly what I like. Every day I get up to have breakfast with James before he goes to work. Then maybe I’ll go for a swim or to my aerobics class. I might do the food shopping and then I’ll meet someone for lunch. I can get very lonely as most of my girlfriends work, so I go and meet them near their offices. A lot of my friends are _____ of me, but I envy them because they feel _____ in their jobs. Although James is always saying I can do exactly what I like and that his money is my money, I don’t feel that it is. He gives me a monthly _____, but in fact I spent more money on clothes when I was a single working girl. But the worst thing about being _____ is the boredom factor. I’m naturally quite an intelligent and independent person, and even though I haven’t had a great education, I hate doing nothing and having absolutely nothing to talk about. My younger sister is always telling me how lucky I am because she works and her boyfriend doesn’t earn very much. Whenever she comes round to the house she wanders round looking _____ at everything. We live in a very expensive area and my family find it very strange. I’ve got used to having such a high standard of living and it would be awful to lose it all if James and I ever got divorced – although I can’t see that happening. But before I have children I want to get some sort of job so I can be more my own person.

Susannah is 26. Two years ago she married James, whose job in the City now earns him over £100,000 a year. Susannah sees herself as a “kept woman”. In other words she depends on her husband for all her money.

2) Think about Susannah's life before and after her marriage. Try to fill in the grid below. If you can't find the information in the text, you will have to guess from what the rest of the text tells you about her. **(20 points)**

	before	after
What was/is her job?		
What car did/does she drive?		
What kind of holidays did/does she have?		
Where did/does she live?		
How did/does she feel about her friends?		
How did/does she feel about herself?		
How did/does she feel about James?		
How did/do her friends feel about her?		
Where did/does she get her money from?		
How did/does she spend money?		

II) Vocabulary (~ 10 min):

3) Translate the following words into German and use them in a meaningful English sentence:
(20 points)

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| a) effect | f) despite |
| b) to suffer | g) party pooper |
| c) fluid | h) rumour |
| d) abortion | i) addicted |
| e) to escape from | j) giggle |

III) Text writing; choose TWO out of the three topics (~ 40 min):

You can write as much/little as you want, but you should stick to the TIME LIMIT (40 min); Use good English, NO SLANG! You get a maximum of 20 points for each text.

4) Dialog:

You and your best friend are discussing about the pursuit of happiness; you should have different opinions (e.g. you are a real party animal, but your friend is a party pooper...)

5) Drugs:

Nowadays, many teenagers “try out” drugs. What is your opinion about this topic?
Write an argumentative essay (Erörterung) answering the following questions;

- What are legal/illegal drugs?
- What are soft/hard drugs?
- Which drugs are generally “preferred” by young people?
- Where do they buy their drugs?
- What are the dangers of “soft drugs” like marihuana?

6) Write a reply to the following letter to “Seventeen” magazine:

Dear Seventeen,

*I know this might sound exaggerated, but I really think I'm the unhappiest person in the whole world. It's not like I have any “real” problems, I mean, school's OK, in fact I am even quite good at school, and I also get on quite well with my parents and my sister and my friends... But still, I feel there's something wrong with me. I don't really know what it is, but sometimes – or to be true, really most of the time – I really hate my life, I hate everything about it! It just feels so empty, so lonely, totally boring and stupid...
What's wrong with me? Why can't I be happy???*

Alex (16)

Score: 1) ___/10 2) ___/20 3) ___/20 4) 5) 6) ___/40 **total: ___/90**

80-90 = 1; 69-79 = 2; 57-68 = 3; 46-56 = 4; 0-45 = 5