

Abschlussprüfung 1998

an den Realschulen in Bayern

ENGLISCH

Nachtermin

Zu- und Vorname:

Klasse:

LAS VEGAS: MORE THAN JUST CASINOS

WHERE DO YOU GET THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION?

Write the number of the line/lines in the boxes.

1 Years ago the Russians didn't like the life-style of Las Vegas.

3 lines:

1

2 It is possible to get married in a car.

1 line:

1

3 Nevada is not the only state in the U.S. where gambling is allowed.

2 lines:

1

4 Families in Las Vegas don't complain about the city's situation.

1 line:

1

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT.

Write complete sentences.

5 Who founded Las Vegas?

_____ 1/1

6 In what way was 1931 the turning point in Las Vegas's history?

_____ 1/1

7 Why do you need more money to run a business in California than in Nevada? (Give two items.)

_____ 2/2

8 What was Las Vegas like before the boom? (Give two items in your description.)

_____ 2/2

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Write complete sentences! You may get one extra point for each answer.

9 Why do you think gambling can be dangerous? Give two reasons in about two sentences.

+1

2/2

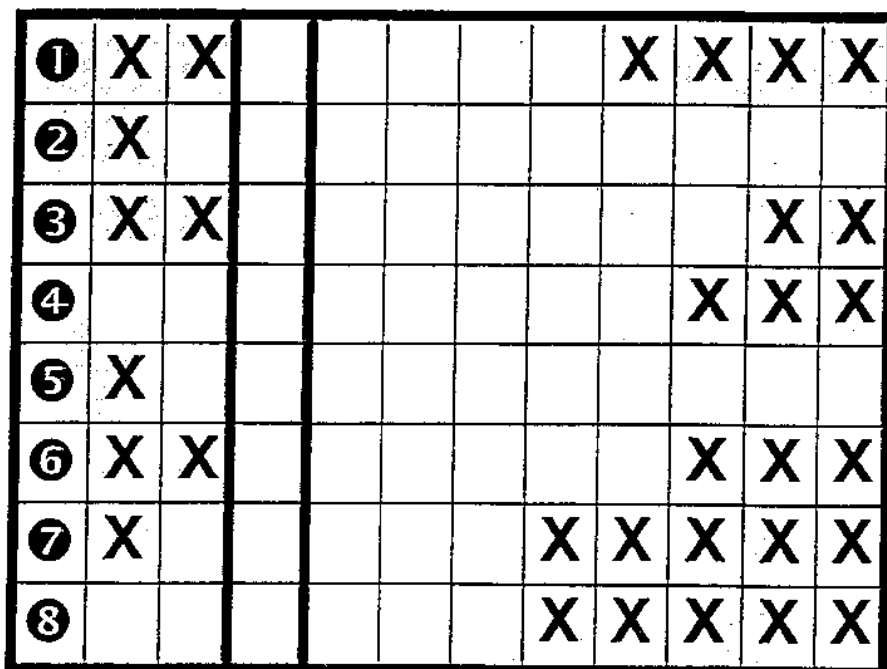
10 Imagine you've won a trip to the U.S.. Which two cities apart from Las Vegas would you like to visit and what would you like to do there?

+1

2/2

SOLVE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE. Fill in words from the text.

11



- 1 not against the law
- 2 U.S. state next to Nevada
- 3 a good result or effect
- 4 no longer married
- 5 what people think of someone or something
- 6 an increase in size
- 7 a person who heads the government of a town
- 8 a building where people play games to win money

8

FIND THE DEFINITIONS OR EXPLANATIONS WHICH BEST FIT THE UNDERLINED WORDS AS USED IN THE TEXT. Mark the correct answers with a cross.

12 You can get married for a fee of \$ 50 or \$ 100. (line 18)

- a) a prize
- b) a fare
- c) a salary
- d) an amount

1

- 13 Las Vegas is trying to get rid of its *sin city* image. (line 22)
 a) wants to change b) does not care about
 c) has accepted d) is proud of 1
- 14 It has the highest percentage of churches of any U.S. city. (lines 25/26)
 a) The number of churches in Las Vegas is higher than in any other U.S. city. b) There is no city in the U.S. which has more churches than Las Vegas.
 c) No city of the same size as Las Vegas has more churches. d) No city in the U.S. has a number of churches comparable to Las Vegas. 1
- 15 The casinos enable the state to offer a life with fewer taxes. (line 29)
 a) make it necessary for b) make it possible for
 c) make it difficult for d) make it dangerous for 1

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

- 16 settler (line 5): _____ 1/2
_____ 1/2
- 17 tax (line 30): _____ 1/2
_____ 1/2

PARAPHRASE THE UNDERLINED WORDS OR EXPRESSIONS FROM THE TEXT. Do not change the meaning of the sentences.

- 18 If you _____, choose the drive through-version. 1/1
are in a hurry (line 18/19)
- 19 _____ 1/1
Las Vegas is the home of gigantic casinos. (line 20)
- 20 Many people _____ 1/1
come from abroad (lines 21/22)
- 21 The _____ about casinos. 1/1
press only writes (line 26)
- 22 _____ 1/1
The crime rate has risen. (lines 36/37)

USE WORDS OF THE SAME FAMILIES AS THE ONES IN BRACKETS TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

- 23 Many _____ who come to Las Vegas in the summer 1
(visited) line 2
- 24 suffer from the terrible _____ 1
(hot) line 6
- 25 The Nevada government reached a _____ quickly; 1
(decided) line 14
- 26 as they were short of money, they actually had no _____ 1
(choose) line 19



27 In spite of the _____ caused by cars many citizens 1
(polluted) line 36

28 think that it is a real _____ to live in this area. 1
(pleased) line 38

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TEXT.

Use the correct form of the words in brackets and find words of your own to replace the question marks.

Las Vegas

The springs and grasslands of Las Vegas [= Spanish for *the meadows*] _____ 1

_____ in 1829. Since then, Las Vegas _____ 1
29 (discover) 30 (grow)

from nothing to almost a million _____. It's the 1
31 ???

_____ attraction in the whole country, _____ 1/1
32 (big) 33 (attract)

nearly 30 million visitors a year. _____, this 1
34 (amazing)

has been achieved in an isolated _____ in the middle of a desert. 1
35 ???

Las Vegas is one of the _____ gambling places in the 2
36 (good, know)

world. Huge moving walkways take you into the casinos. Once you are inside, it 2
is _____ your way out again. Long rows of slot 2
37 (hard, find)

machines, all beeping , ringing and occasionally _____ the 1
38 (rattle)

winnings into a metal container with _____ much noise _____ possible. 1
39 ??? 40 ???

The action keeps _____ day and night, and in this windowless 1
41 (go)

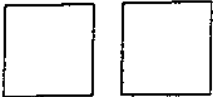
environment you rapidly lose track of place and time. Casinos make money if 1
they succeed _____ the customers through their 2
42 (get)

doors. In Las Vegas the _____ is so intense that most 1
43 (compete)

casinos offer _____ at bargain prices; it starts with breakfast 1
44 ???

_____ as little as 99 cents, followed by a \$ 5 buffet lunch, 1
45 ???

_____ until about 5 p.m. Then it changes into dinner. 1
46 (serve)





WRITING A DIALOGUE

Susanne and Thomas from Germany have just got married in Las Vegas. A reporter is interviewing them as they leave the Little White Chapel.

Reporter: Congratulations! Where do you come from?

48 Susanne: _____ 2
(aus einem kleinen Ort in der Nähe von München in Deutschland)

Reporter: Why have you come all the way to get married here in Las Vegas?

49 Thomas: _____ 4

(Freunde von uns haben auch hier geheiratet, und wir dachten, das ist ein Riesenspass.)

Reporter: And your parents, do they know about it?

50 Susanne: _____ 4

(Sie haben keine Ahnung. Das wird eine große Überraschung, wenn sie unsere Postkarte bekommen!)

Reporter: How much did you pay for the wedding licence?

51 Thomas: _____ 2
(nur 35 Dollar, viel billiger als zu Hause)

Reporter: Don't you miss a real wedding with a big reception?

52 Susanne: _____ 2

(Überhaupt nicht! Das brauche ich nicht um glücklich zu sein.)

Reporter: And where are you going to spend your honeymoon?

53 Thomas: _____ 2
(Wir sind auf dem Weg nach Kalifornien.)

Reporter: I wish you two the very best for a happy future together.

Susanne und Thomas: Thanks a lot. Bye!

TRANSLATE INTO GERMAN.

The following text has been taken from a travel brochure encouraging tourists to visit America's Southwest:

54 Las Vegas, situated in Nevada, has been a popular place among foreign visitors for decades.

_____ 4



55 What makes this city so attractive is the fact that it is open 24 hours a day.

2

56 In addition to casinos, it also offers a variety of shows with well-known performers.

3

57 Its many admirers as well as critics agree that it is a Disneyland for adults, a fairyland in the desert.

4

58 California, the neighbouring state, is also worth a visit.

2

59 It seems to have everything - mountains and a beautiful coastline with marvelous beaches.

3

60 It is not surprising that America's Southwest belongs to the most frequently visited areas in the world.

3

61 But why don't you see for yourselves?

1

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Maximum Score: 130 points

Good Luck

First Examiner:

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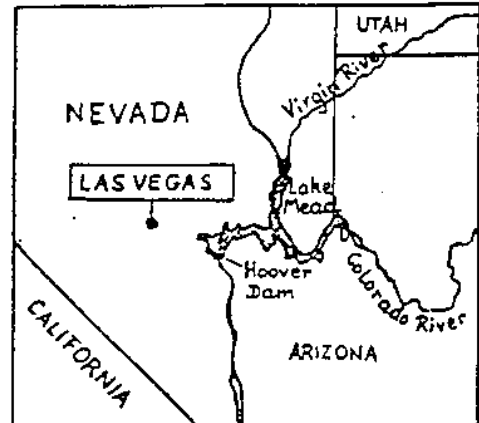
Second Examiner:

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TEXT

LAS VEGAS: MORE THAN JUST CASINOS

Twenty years ago, Russian cosmonauts who visited the US didn't want to go to Nevada because of Las Vegas's bad reputation as *sin* city*. The first
5 settlers there were Mormons from Utah, a strictly religious group of people who crossed the hot, dry desert in the middle of the 19th century. Today Las Vegas is somewhere between two extremes. It is
10 still a gambling and entertainment centre, but also a place where ordinary families live, work and go to school.



In 1905, Las Vegas became a railroad town when the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake line was built. 25 years later, the city had 5,100 inhabitants. Las Vegas's
15 rapid growth began in 1931, when the state of Nevada needed money and decided to allow gambling. Thanks to this new kind of industry Las Vegas grew and managed to become rich. The authorities also made it very easy to get divorced or to get married. Las Vegas has wedding chapels that are open 24 hours a day. For
a fee of \$ 50 to \$ 100 you can get married in 10 minutes. If you are really in a hurry, choose the drive-through version - you don't even have to leave your car!

20 For most people, Las Vegas is still the home of gigantic casinos, flashy shows and bright lights. 30 million people go there every year, many of them coming from abroad. However, Las Vegas is trying to get rid of its *sin city* image. For one thing, it is not the only place in the US where you can go and gamble your money away. Casinos are now legal in at least 20 other states as well. Secondly, it is also a
25 place of many family homes and it has the highest percentage of churches of any U.S. city. "And yet the press only writes about the casinos," complains the mayor of Las Vegas.

The casinos are an important part of Las Vegas's success story, though. They have made Nevada rich, and enable the state to offer citizens a life with fewer
30 taxes, cheaper housing and a lower cost of living than the neighbouring states of Arizona, Utah and California. Life is cheaper for business here, too. Lower taxes, lower pay and lower energy prices mean it costs 30 per cent less to run a business here than in California. In 1994, 50 companies moved to the area and most of them came from California.

35 The boom in Las Vegas has also brought the usual problems of modern cities. The cars that fill the city's streets have polluted the once clear air. The crime rate has also risen and there is not enough water in the desert for such a big city. Despite these problems Las Vegas's citizens are pleased with life there and more and more young people are interested in the city itself and not just the casinos.
40 Stephen, a 17-year-old high school student says: "People have the idea that we all grow up in casinos. They are surprised to find that we lead a normal, happy life here."

* *sin*: breaking of moral laws

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Lösungsvorschlag

LAS VEGAS: MORE THAN JUST CASINOS

- 1 lines 2-4 2 line 19 3 lines 23/24 4 line 38
- 5 Las Vegas was founded by Mormons from Utah.
- 6 The state of Nevada decided to allow gambling.
- 7 In California there are higher taxes and energy prices, and the workers are better-paid.
- 8 The crime rate was lower and the air was clean / clear. There were fewer cars
- 9 A lot of people become addicted to gambling. If they lose money they want to win it back, and therefore they can't stop gambling. (+1 Very often they lose all their money.)
- 10 I would like to visit New York and watch the New York Marathon there. I would also like to go to San Francisco and take a ride in one of the famous cable cars (+1 and visit all the places which are on the telly so often).
- 11 ① legal, ② California, ③ success, ④ divorced, ⑤ reputation, ⑥ growth, ⑦ mayor, ⑧ casino
- 12 d 13 a 14 c 15 b
- 16 A **settler** is a person who decides to live at a certain place/in a certain country and makes his home there.
- 17 **Tax** is the money (that) you have to pay to the state / government.
- 18 ...haven't got a lot of time.
- 19 Las Vegas has huge / very big casinos.
- 20 ...travel to Las Vegas from other countries / countries outside the USA.
- 21 ...newspapers only have / publish articles about casinos.
- 22 There are more and more crimes. / The number of crimes has gone up.
- 23 visitors 24 heat 25 decision 26 choice 27 pollution 28 pleasure
- 29 were discovered 30 has grown 31 inhabitants / people 32 biggest
- 33 attracting / which attracts 34 Amazingly 35 area / place / town 36 best-known
- 37 hard to find 38 rattling 39 as 40 as [only one point for 39 and 40] 41 going
- 42 in getting 43 competition 44 meals / food 45 for / which costs
- 46 served / which is served
- 47 individuelle Schülerlösung
- 48 Susanne: "From a small place near Munich in Germany."
- 49 Thomas: "Friends of ours got married here as well, and we thought it would be great fun."
- 50 Susanne: "They have no idea. It'll be a big surprise when they get our postcard."
- 51 Thomas: "Only / It's only 35 dollars, much cheaper than at home."
- 52 Susanne: "Not at all. I don't need that to be happy."
- 53 Thomas: "We're on our way to California."