

Eignungsprüfung Englisch

Sommersemester 2016

Qualifikationsphase

Arbeitszeit: 90 Min.

Name: _____

Assignments:

- 1) Summarize the main ideas of the article "The Facebook resisters". (50 %)
- 2) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a Facebook-free life. (50 %)

The Facebook resisters

(...) It has more than 800 million users around the world, Facebook says, and roughly 200 million in the United States, or two-thirds of the population.

But the company is running into a *roadblock* in this country. Some people, even younger ones, just refuse to participate, including people who have given it a try.

- 5 One of Facebook's main selling points is that it builds closer ties among friends and colleagues. But some who *steer clear* of the site say it can have the opposite effect of making them feel more, not less, *alienated*.

10 "I wasn't calling my friends anymore," said Ashley Elser, 24, who is in graduate school in Charlottesville, Virginia. "I was just seeing their pictures and updates and felt like that was really connecting to them."

To be sure, the Facebook-free life has its disadvantages in an era when people announce all kinds of major life milestones on the Web. (...)

15 Facebook executives say they don't expect everyone in the country to sign up. Instead they are working on ways to keep current users on the site longer, which gives the company more chances to show them *ads*.(...)

Many of the *holdouts* mention concerns about privacy. Some people make the decision not to use it because they are afraid of what might happen.

Will Brennan, a 26-year-old Brooklyn *resident*, said he had “heard too many horror stories about the privacy *pitfalls* of Facebook. But I get *harangued* for ruining friends’ plans by not
20 being on Facebook.” (...)

“People always raise an eyebrow,” said Chris Munns, 29, who works as a system administrator in New York. “But my life has gone just fine without it. I’m not a shut-in. I have friends and quite an enjoyable life in Manhattan, so I can’t say it makes me feel like I’m missing out on life at all.”

25 But the peer pressure is going to increase. Susan Ettliger, an analyst, said society was adopting new behaviors and expectations in response to the near *ubiquity* of Facebook and other social networks. “People may start to ask the question that, if you aren’t on social channels, why not? Are you hiding something?” she said. “The norms are shifting.”

Mr. Munns said his dating life had benefitted from his lack of on-line dossier: “They haven’t
30 had a chance to dig up your entire life on Facebook before you meet.” (...)

(ca. 415 words)

Source: Jenna Wortham, published in “The New York Times”, 02 April 2012.

Annotations:

- l. 3: **roadblock** - sth. that stops a plan from going ahead
- l. 6: **to steer clear** - to stay away from sth. / avoid sth. because it may cause problems
- l. 7: **to alienate** - to make sb feel that they don’t belong to a group
- l. 15: **ads** - commercials
- l. 16: **holdouts** - here: people who do not use Facebook
- l. 18: **resident** - inhabitant
- l. 19: **pitfall** - hidden danger
- l. 19: **to harangue** - to offend sb. / call sb. names
- l. 26: **ubiquity** - state of being everywhere

Good luck!

