

German Writing Preparation

GCSE Grades 6-9
Higher Tier
A survival guide



A guide to achieving your MTG

This booklet contains essential and guidelines to follow to maximise your chances of achieving your MTG in your German Writing exam. At Foundation, the exam equates to 25% of your overall grade and includes

- a 90-word answer
- a 150-word answer
- a short paragraph to translate into German.

Needless to say, you must prepare EXTREMELY THOROUGHLY for this exam and you will need to be very independent and resourceful. With preparation you will feel equipped to deal with any question which comes up on the day.

When you are revising for your Writing, you must have the following resources to hand at all times:

- This booklet (which you will complete as part of your preparation)
- Your German best book with your written work from over the course
- Your Grammar and Translation book
- Your vocab book
- Your Toolkit

With focus and dedication, you can achieve a good grade!

Viel Glück!

Question One – Higher

Tips to survive the 90-word question

This question is in the form of 4 bullet points and you will have a choice of TWO QUESTIONS. Answer **ONLY ONE** 90- WORD QUESTION. Read both questions through carefully first before you decide which one to do. Choose the one you know most about...

You **MUST** cover ALL 4 bullet points.

With 90 words that is approximately 23 words per bullet point, but it doesn't matter if you write a little bit more on one than another, do not waste all of your time counting how much you've written for each.

There are 16 marks available- 10 for CONTENT and 6 for QUALITY OF LANGUAGE.

To score the full 10 marks for Content, you need to communicate a **very good answer** for EACH bullet point, giving a lot of information and giving opinions and reasons.

To get the full 6 marks for QUALITY OF LANGUAGE you need to include a **variety of vocabulary and structures/ some correct present, past and future verbs/give opinions, even if not asked specifically and be generally accurate.**

Question One 90-word question – Higher Answer ONE of a choice of two questions

EITHER Question 1.1

0 1 . **1** Dein Freund, Moritz, aus der Schweiz hat dich über deinen Wohnort gefragt. Du schreibst Moritz eine E-Mail über deinen Wohnort.

Schreib:

- etwas über den Ort, wo du wohnst
- warum du deine Region magst oder nicht magst
- was du letztes Wochenende in deinem Wohnort gemacht hast
- wo du in der Zukunft wohnen möchtest.

OR Question 1.2

0 1 . **2** Deine Freundin, Jana, aus Deutschland hat dich über deine Familie und dich gefragt. Du schreibst Jana eine E-Mail.

Schreib:

- etwas über deine Familie
- warum du gern Zeit mit deiner Familie verbringst
- was du letztes Wochenende gemacht hast
- was du für deine persönliche Zukunft planst.

Du musst ungefähr **90** Wörter auf **Deutsch** schreiben. Schreib etwas über alle Punkte der Aufgabe.

Mach einen Plan! – EITHER Question 1.1

etwas über den Ort wo du wohnst

warum du deine Region magst oder nicht magst

was du letztes Wochenende in deinem Wohnort gemacht hast

Wo du in der Zukunft wohnen möchtest

STEPS:

- READ THE INTRODUCTORY SCENARIO CAREFULLY. IT WILL GIVE YOU A CLUE ABOUT THE TENSES YOU NEED TO WRITE IN
- READ EACH BULLET POINT CAREFULLY- WHAT KEY INFORMATION IS IT ASKING YOU TO GIVE? IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT IT MEANS, TAKE A SENSIBLE GUESS ON OTHER THINGS THAT YOU KNOW HAVE COME UP IN THAT TOPIC BUT **DO NOT LEAVE BLANKS**
- NEXT TO THE BULLET POINTS, PLAN EACH SECTION LIKE THE ABOVE IN 4 SEPARATE BOXES
- THINK OF THE KEY VERBS YOU WILL NEED e.g AND THINK ABOUT THE TENSES YOU NEED (Past, Present or Future?).
- ALWAYS GIVE OPINIONS AND REASONS (WHETHER YOU ARE ASKED FOR THEM OR NOT)
- **ONLY** WHEN YOUR PLAN IS COMPLETE, WRITE THE FOUR ANSWERS IN FOUR SEPARATE PARAGRAPHS ON THE LINES

Mach einen Plan! – OR Question 1.2

etwas über deine Familie

warum du gern Zeit mit deiner Familie verbringst

was du letztes Wochenende gemacht hast

was du für deine persönliche Zukunft planst

STEPS:

- READ THE INTRODUCTORY SCENARIO CAREFULLY. IT WILL GIVE YOU A CLUE ABOUT THE TENSES YOU NEED TO WRITE IN
- READ EACH BULLET POINT CAREFULLY- WHAT KEY INFORMATION IS IT ASKING YOU TO GIVE? IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT IT MEANS, TAKE A SENSIBLE GUESS ON OTHER THINGS THAT YOU KNOW HAVE COME UP IN THAT TOPIC BUT **DO NOT LEAVE BLANKS**
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01 . 1

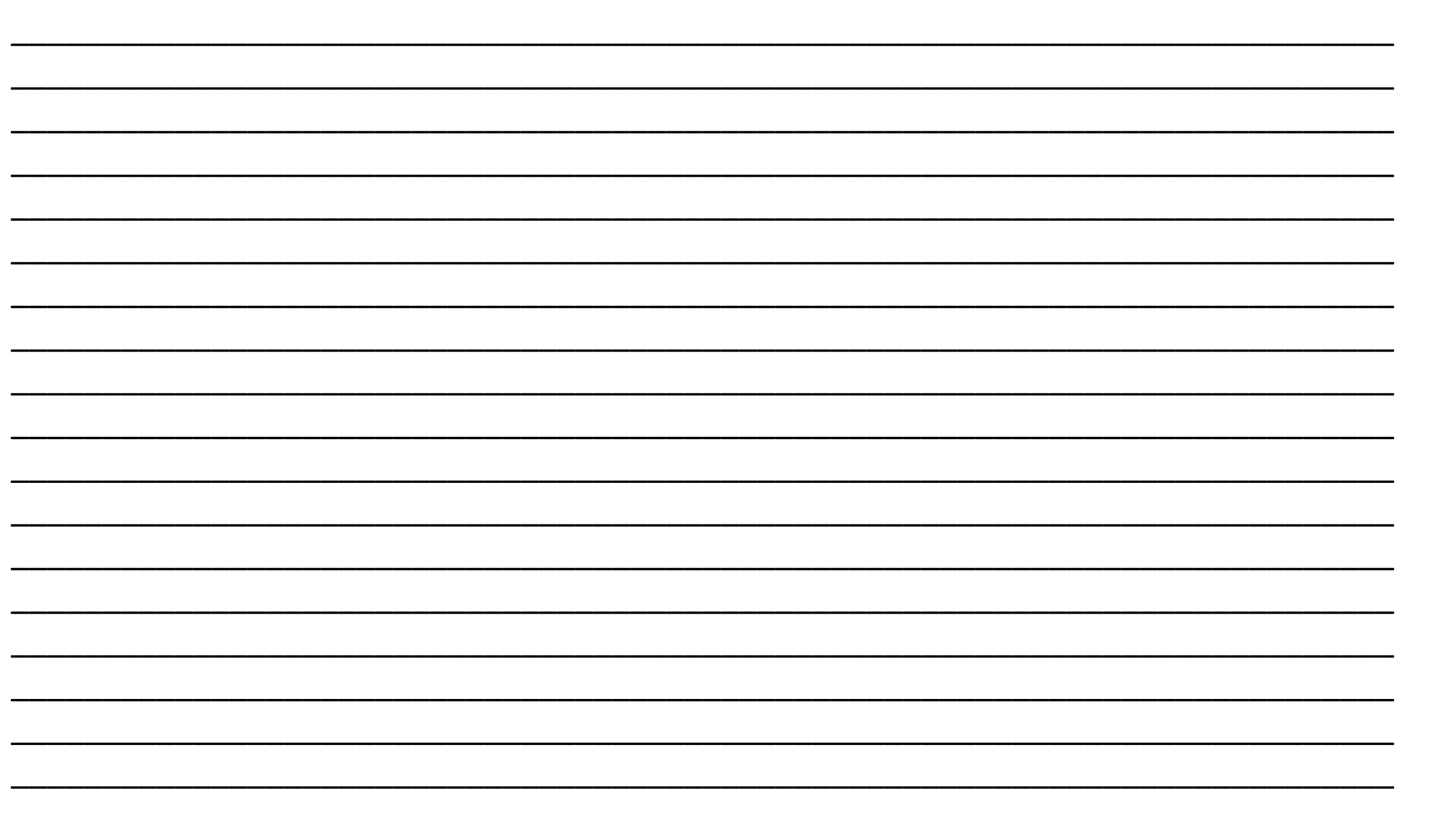
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Schreib:

- etwas über den Ort, wo du wohnst
- warum du deine Region magst oder nicht magst
- was du letztes Wochenende in deinem Wohnort gemacht hast
- wo du in der Zukunft wohnen möchtest.

Du musst ungefähr **90** Wörter auf **Deutsch** schreiben. Schreib etwas über alle Punkte der Aufgabe.

[16 marks]



Question One 90-word question – Higher

OR Question 1.2

01

2

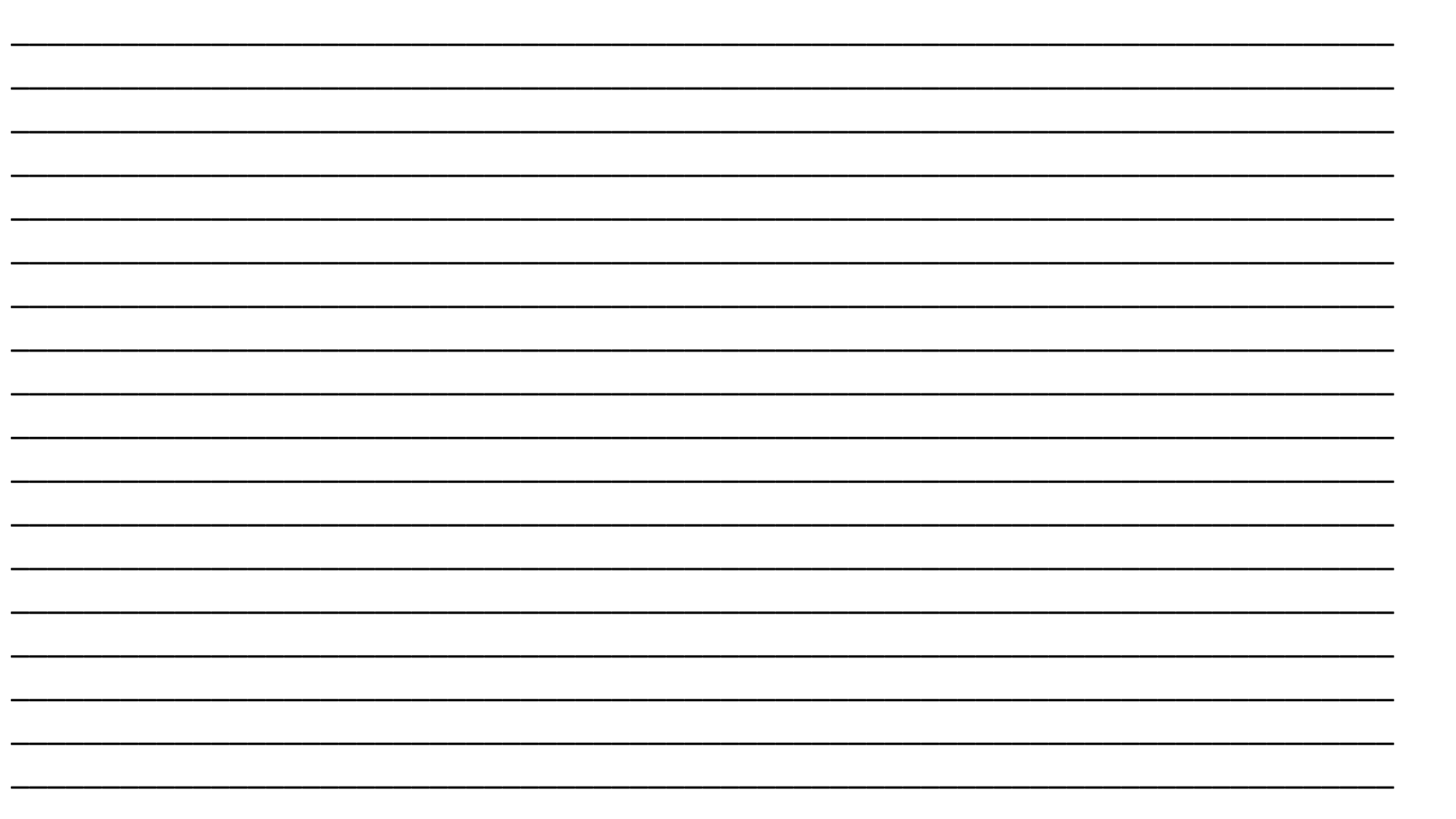
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Schreib:

- etwas über deine Familie
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- was du letztes Wochenende gemacht hast
- was du für deine persönliche Zukunft planst.

Du musst ungefähr **90** Wörter auf **Deutsch** schreiben. Schreib etwas über alle Punkte der Aufgabe.

[16 marks]



Tips to survive writing the 150 WORD PARAGRAPH

-This question is in the form of 2 bullet points and you will have a choice of TWO QUESTIONS. ANSWER ONLY ONE QUESTION. Read them both through carefully first before you decide which one to tackle. These questions are intended to be more open-ended to allow you to be independent/creative. They will not be obviously THEMED.

You MUST cover both of the 2 bullet points. With 150 words, that is **APPROX 75 words per bullet point**, however, you could write more or less for each, as long as you have covered both bullet points. Do not waste all of your time counting!

There are 32 marks available

15 for CONTENT

12 for RANGE OF LANGUAGE

5 for ACCURACY

➤ To score the full 15 marks for Content, you need to communicate an excellent response, fully relevant and detailed,

conveying lots of information, expressing and justifying opinions.

➤ To get the full 12 marks for RANGE OF LANGUAGE, you need to use a very good variety of vocab and structures, use more complex language fluently and use a style of writing which is appropriate to the task e.g. a blog, article for a magazine etc.

➤ To get the full 5 marks for ACCURACY, you need to ensure that your verbs and tenses are accurate. However, you are allowed a few errors, and especially in attempts at more complex language.

Question Two 150-word question – Higher Choose either Question 2.1 or 2.2

0 2 . **1** Du schreibst einen Artikel über die Umwelt für ein deutsches Blog.

- Schreib etwas über Umweltprobleme in deiner Region.
- Wie wird deiner Meinung nach die Zukunft für die Umwelt sein?

Du musst ungefähr **150** Wörter auf **Deutsch** schreiben. Schreib etwas über beide Punkte der Aufgabe.

[32 marks]

OR Question 2.2

0 2 . **2** Du liest ein österreichisches Blog über junge Leute und die Arbeit. Schreib einen Artikel für dieses Blog.

- Was machst du freiwillig, um anderen Leuten zu helfen?
- Wie wird deiner Meinung nach die Arbeitswelt in der Zukunft sein?

Du musst ungefähr **150** Wörter auf **Deutsch** schreiben. Schreib etwas über beide Punkte der Aufgabe.

[32 marks]

Mach einen Plan! – EITHER Question 2.1

Du schreibst einen Artikel über die Umwelt für ein deutsches Blog

Schreib etwas über Umweltprobleme in deiner Region

Wie wird deiner Meinung nach die Zukunft für die Umwelt sein?

STEPS:

- READ THE INTRODUCTORY SCENARIO CAREFULLY.
- READ EACH BULLET POINT CAREFULLY- WHAT KEY INFORMATION IS IT ASKING FOR? AND IN WHICH TENSE(S) WILL YOU NEED TO WRITE?
- IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT A BULLET POINT MEANS, TAKE A SENSIBLE GUESS ON OTHER THINGS THAT YOU KNOW HAVE COME UP IN THAT TOPIC, BUT YOU MUST COVER EACH BULLET POINT
- PLAN EACH BULLET POINT SEPARATELY, AS ABOVE.
- THINK OF THE KEY VERBS YOU WILL NEED AND THINK ABOUT THE TENSES
- ALWAYS GIVE OPINIONS AND REASONS (WHETHER YOU ARE ASKED FOR THEM OR NOT)
- **ONLY** WHEN YOUR PLAN IS COMPLETE, WRITE THE ANSWERS TO EACH BULLET POINT IN TWO SEPARATE PARAGRAPHS ON THE LINES.
- PUT A LINE THROUGH YOUR PLAN TO SHOW THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE MARKED.

Mach einen Plan!

–

OR Question

Du liest ein österreichisches Blog über junge Leute und die Arbeit. Schreib einen Artikel für dieses Blog

Was machst du freiwillig, um anderen Leuten zu helfen?

Wie wird deiner Meinung nach die Arbeitswelt in der Zukunft sein?

STEPS:

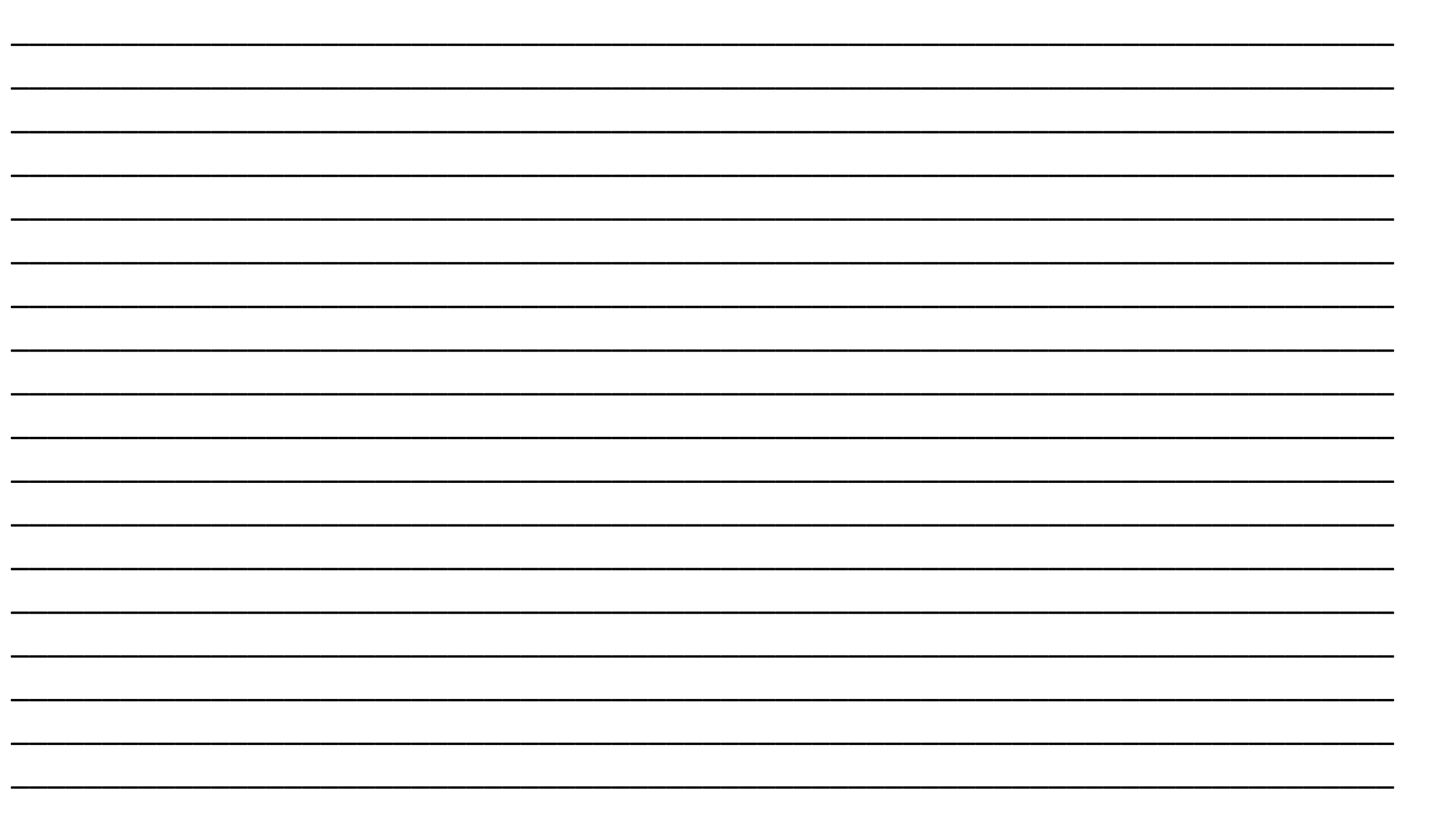
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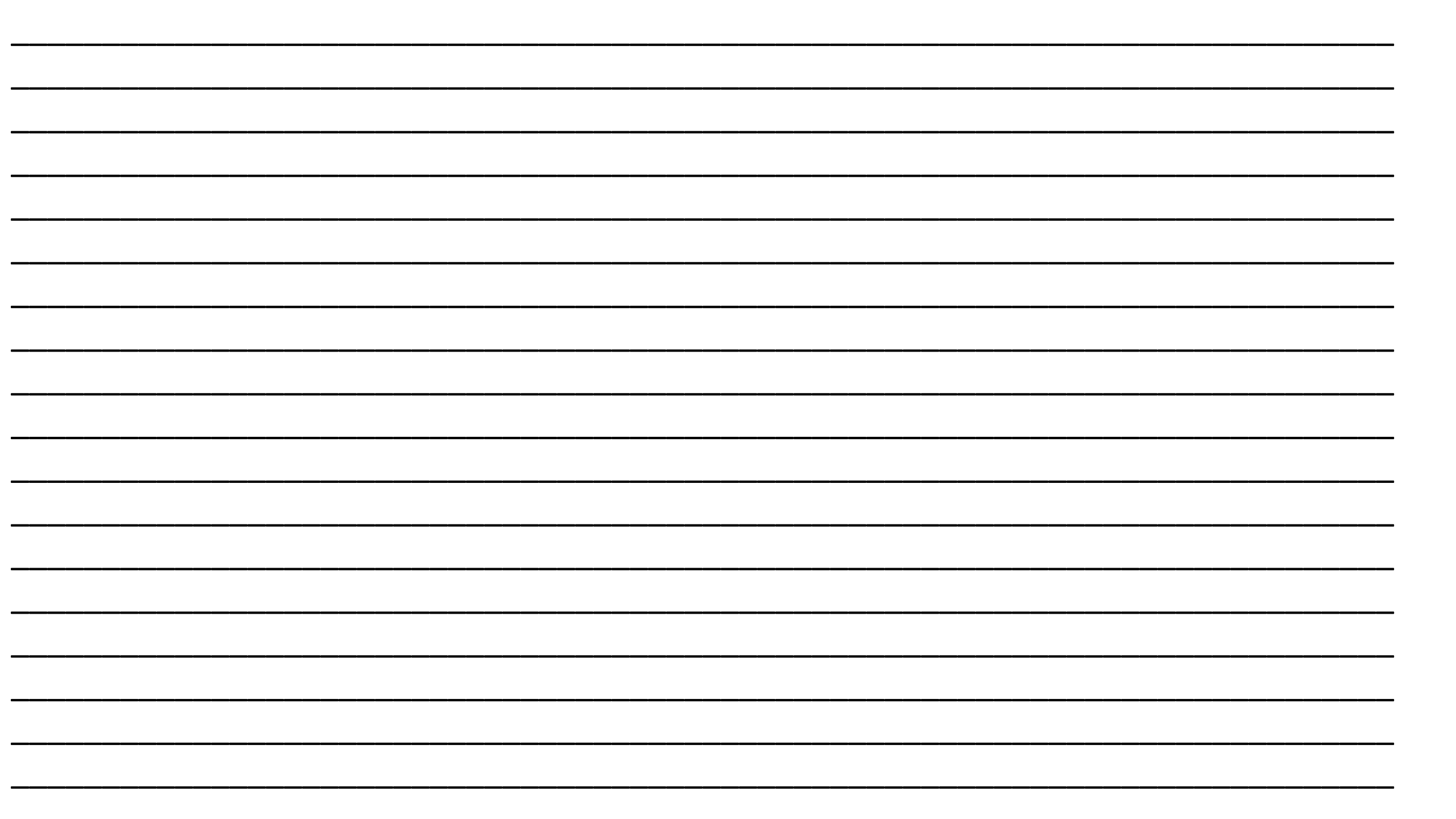
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- Wie wird deiner Meinung nach die Zukunft für die Umwelt sein?

Du musst ungefähr **150** Wörter auf **Deutsch** schreiben. Schreib etwas über beide Punkte der Aufgabe.

[32 marks]





OR Question 2.2

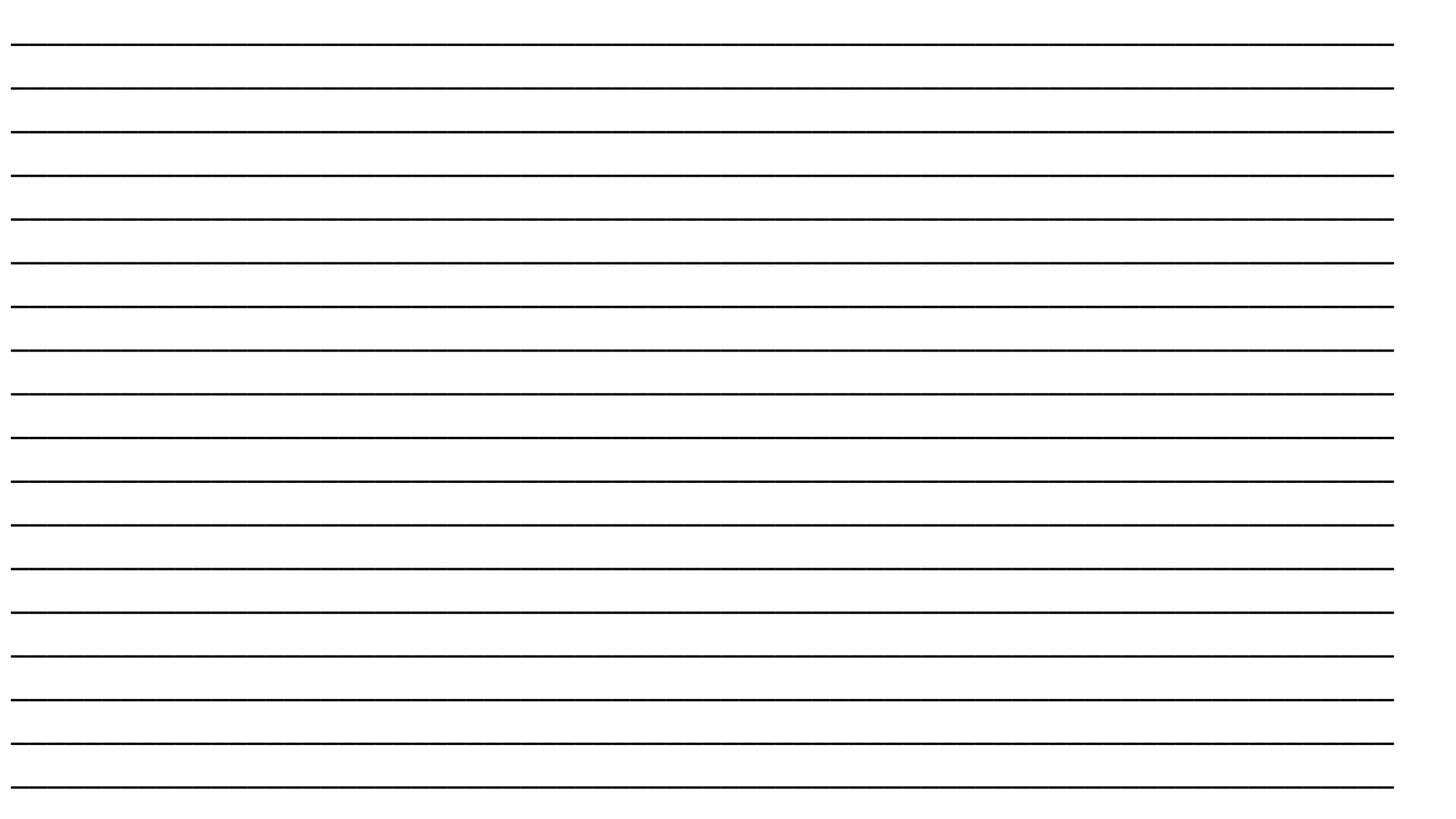
0 2 . 2

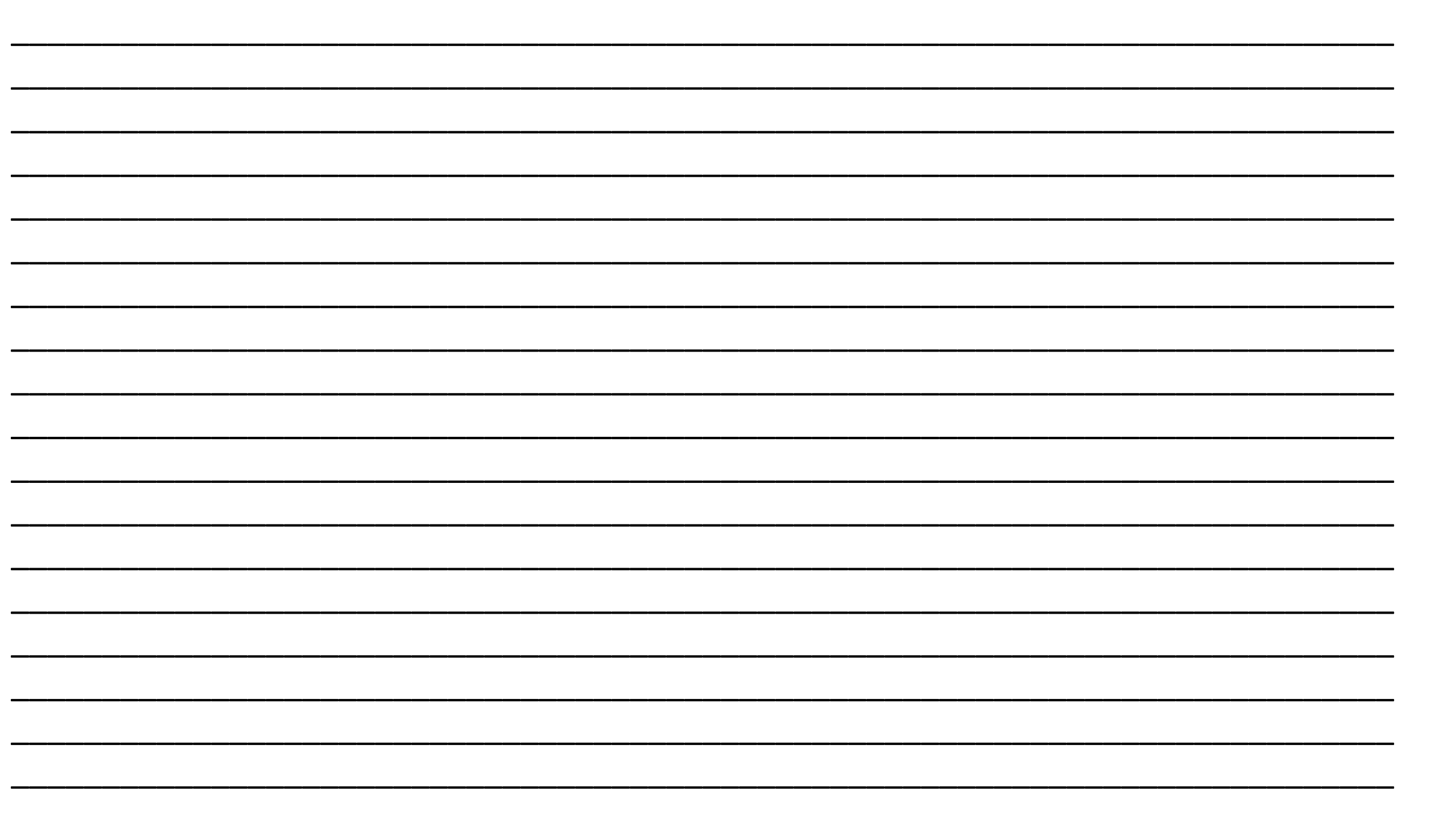
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- Was machst du freiwillig, um anderen Leuten zu helfen?
- Wie wird deiner Meinung nach die Arbeitswelt in der Zukunft sein?

Du musst ungefähr **150** Wörter auf **Deutsch** schreiben. Schreib etwas über beide Punkte der Aufgabe.

[32 marks]





Question Three – Higher

Tips to survive the Translation (short paragraph)

The translation passage is marked out of 12

6 marks for CONVEYING KEY MESSAGES

6 marks for APPLICATION OF GRAMMATICAL KNOWLEDGE AND STRUCTURES.

You must therefore ATTEMPT ALL of the paragraph to maximise your chance of gaining a higher mark.

To be successful, you must have revised your vocabulary and verb forms/structures/grammar for HIGHER (see next page)

Read the whole passage through once. Then break each sentence into clauses (sections of writing up to a connective/full stop and make notes around each part. Try to think in logical German constructions and remember word order rules.

Do not panic if you cannot remember a word; use a synonym or a similar word or think of using a German word or phrase which you do know.

Check your spelling, umlauts, capital letters on nouns, verb endings, tenses and word order.

If you have time, try to translate what you have written back into English to see if it really matches the translation you were asked to do.



QUESTION THREE HIGHER: THE BASICS FOR TRANSLATION!

- ✓ Opinions/points of view
- ✓ Adjective endings
- ✓ Time phrases: heute, gestern, morgen, vorgestern, übermorgen, in der Vergangenheit, in der Zukunft, jetzt, zur Zeit, im Frühling/Sommer/Herbst/Winter, letztes Wochenende, nächstes Jahr
- ✓ Weather
- ✓ Frequency markers: *immer, nie, manchmal, ab und zu, normalerweise, oft*
- ✓ *If and when = wenn,*
- ✓ *BUT: Als is when in the past e.g. Als ich jung war... – when I was young....*
- ✓ Key common verbs/verb forms in **all forms** of the verb- present/perfect/imperfect/future/conditional/pluperfect/present subjunctive
- ✓ Key TOPIC verbs (e.g. *recyclen, schützen, trennen, sparen*) would be key TOPIC verbs for ENVIRONMENT)
- ✓ Modal verbs in present and imperfect (can/must/want/should/may) +INFINITIVE
- ✓ Reflexive verbs
- ✓ Pronouns
- ✓ Possessive adjectives My/ her/his/our/their – **mein/dein/sein/ihr/unser/ihr**
- ✓ Because = *weil, denn, da*
- ✓ A lot/many= *viel/viele* too much/many *zu viel/viele*
- ✓ Very= *sehr*
- ✓ Connectives= but/*aber*, however/*jedoch*, also/*so, therefore*, deswegen/*for this reason, trotzdem/despite this*
- ✓ Comparatives and superlatives gut, besser (als), am besten, gern, lieber, am liebsten, wichtig, wichtiger (als), am wichtigsten
- ✓ A range of structures not mentioned above: obwohl, dass, um....zu, ob, bevor, nachdem

USE YOUR GRAMMAR WORKBOOK TO PRACTICE GRAMMAR AND TRANSLATION SKILLS

0 3

Translate the following passage into **German**.

My father and I do lots of sport to keep fit. We go to the gym every day and last week we cycled for ten hours and collected money for the homeless. Next year I will study geography at university and later I hope to work in an African country.

[12 marks]

Practice Tranlations

Technology in everyday life

Translate the following passage into German.

I use my mobile phone to stay in contact with my friends. Yesterday, I watched a film on my phone but it was boring. My grandmother doesn't have a phone because she thinks they are complicated. She will get a phone in the future and we will send her photos.

Free-time activities – Sports

Translate the following passage into German.

My favourite sport is athletics because I love running. I hate rugby, however, because it is too violent. My dad played tennis last weekend and he injured his hand. Next weekend, I am going to play football with my friends in the park. I hope that it will be sunny!

Checklist: working
towards Grade 5

Verbs:
Present
Past (perfect or
imperfect)
Future tense
Regular/irregular/reflexiv
e/verbs

Opinions/Verbs of
Opinion and Reasons

Range of Structures

Varied Adjectives

Connectives

Negatives

Time Phrases, and
Adverbs of Frequency



Refer to your questions in your toolkit for this topic and your best book with your prepared answers

3.1.1 Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 1: Identity and culture covers the following four topics with related sub-topics shown as bullet points:

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends

- Relationships with family and friends
- Marriage/partnership

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life

- Social media
- Mobile technology

Topic 3: Free-time activities

- Music
- Cinema and TV
- Food and eating out
- Sport

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in German-speaking countries/communities

Checklist: working
towards Grade 5

Verbs:

Present

Past (perfect or
imperfect)

Future tense

Regular/irregular/reflexiv
e/verbs

Opinions/Verbs of
Opinion and Reasons

Range of Structures

Varied Adjectives

Connectives

Negatives

Time Phrases, and
Adverbs of Frequency



Refer to your questions in your toolkit for this topic and your best book with your prepared answers

3.1.2 Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest covers the following four topics with related sub-topics shown as bullet points:

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues

- Charity/voluntary work
- Healthy/unhealthy living

Topic 3: Global issues

- The environment
- Poverty/homelessness

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

Checklist: working
towards Grade 5

Verbs:
Present
Past (perfect or
imperfect)
Future tense
Regular/irregular/reflexiv
e/verbs

Opinions/Verbs of
Opinion and Reasons

Range of Structures

Varied Adjectives

Connectives

Negatives

Time Phrases, and
Adverbs of Frequency



Refer to your questions in your toolkit for this topic and your best book
with your prepared answers

3.1.3 Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment covers the following four
topics:

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/college

Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions