

Zentralabitur 2022	Englisch – Berufliches Gymnasium – Nachschreibtermin	Material für Prüflinge
Prüfungsteil 2: Textaufgabe – Aufgabe III	eA	Prüfungszeit*: 240 Min.

*Die Prüfungszeit setzt sich zusammen aus 210 Minuten Bearbeitungszeit und 30 Minuten Auswahlzeit.

Aufgabenstellung

1. Sum up the excerpt. (30 %)
2. Compare Evie with Frankenstein's creature. (30 %)
3. You are taking part in a summer school workshop called "The Role of Science in Fiction." As your contribution to the workshop, you have to write an essay commenting on the statement that "science fiction is merely escapist and has nothing to do with the real world."
Write the essay, also referring to the text at hand and materials studied in class, such as the novel *Frankenstein*. (40 %)

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Material

Text: Excerpt from Paul Braddon, *The Actuality* (2021)

The following excerpt is set in a dystopian future. Evie does not know that she is a highly advanced Artificial Autonomous Being (AAB). Matthew Davenport claims she is a family member because the possession of AABs is illegal. Now the police are in Matthew's flat to look for AABs.

“So, you are Evie,” the policewoman says, as if her presence is to clear up an inconvenient mystery, like in an old-style whodunnit. “We’ve heard all about you.”

Evie nods, wondering what she can mean by this, and feels her anxiety mount.

“I understand that you are Mr Davenport’s niece,” the woman continues.

5 “Yes,” Evie says. She is so worried about putting a foot wrong, she can barely think. Why does her husband prefer to pretend her to be what she is not?

“And how long have you lived here with Mr Davenport?”

She tries to calculate. If she came here as a small child then that would make her ... but what age is a “small child”? Five or six? Nine or ten? She needs to come up with
10 an answer.

“Since your parents died, I’ve been told,” the woman continues.

“Since my parents died,” Evie repeats, not sure whether she should feign sorrow or whether that would just make them more suspicious. [...]

Daniels¹ shows the police out and while he waits, arms folded, watching the door to
15 the elevator slide across, Evie walks slowly to the threshold and stands in the doorway gazing out. The lobby is windowless, carpeted and anonymous, mysterious to her – the foreshore of an unexplored land. She has never gone further than this point, has been prohibited from doing so from Day One. [...]

20 “What interest do these people possibly have in us?” she hears Matthew ask, standing with his stomach against the sill, staring out. “I just don’t get it.” He is perplexed and indignant and she thinks even a little shaken too. He is not used to being invaded.

“They’re suspicious of Evie,” Daniels replies.

“What do you mean?”

¹ Daniels – Matthew’s personal assistant

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25 “How she fits in. Her relationship to you. Who she is ... and maybe even ... *what* she is.”

Evie is listening hard, but still not understanding. Why should it matter ‘what’ she is?

“I told them that she is my niece, didn’t I?”

“Yep,” Daniels replies. “But it’s an explanation that’ll fall apart quicker than a cardboard shoe in a puddle of acid rain if checked out.”

30 “And will they? Check it out?”

“I don’t trust them. You may not have seen it from where you sat but while the woman plied her with all her fool questions, the man watched from the corner of his eye, cool as a cucumber, assessing her every move.” [...]

“Well what can they do about it?”

35 “They can confiscate her – she was never registered, not even during the amnesty. They could be back here this very afternoon and take her with them.”

“Ridiculous. And even if they did, I’d make it so hot for them with their superiors, they’d return her before the day was out, I can assure you ...”

40 “But who knows what would have happened in the intervening hours? Returned, yes, perhaps, but with systems wiped and memories scrubbed, cleaned. Maybe she wouldn’t even want to return.”

A burst of static stutters across her cortex and she shudders and grips the wall.

“They can’t do that,” Matthew says, but he is now less certain of himself. “She belongs to me – property rights would prevail.”

45 “Maybe,” Daniels replies, clearly unconvinced that the niceties of ownership will make much difference. “You should also know that she’s worried.”

“What on earth has she got to be worried about?” Her husband’s frustration is morphing into exasperation. She too is surprised by Daniels’s statement. What has she revealed? Sure, she has asked him things, but nothing he took notice of.

50 “What will happen to her?”

“Happen to her when?”

“If something ... were to happen to you.”

“I really don’t know what you have in mind that is going to ‘happen to me’. Is this all about the last few days? You think because I get a chill I’m at death’s door!”

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55 “Not at all, Sir,” Daniels replies hurriedly.
 Matthew continues, “The real revelation is that she confides such nonsense in you.”
 The room grows silent. “Not exactly confides,” Daniels replies, choosing his answer
 carefully, “but the poor thing is troubled.”
 “Then I think you’re the one with too much imagination! Evie is an amazing and subtle
 60 thing, able to imitate the most complex human behaviour, but that is it, it is imitation
 only – mimicry – and Daniels my man, you are letting that cleverness take you in. Poor
 thing indeed! I think you need to be getting out more.” He laughs lightly. “Evie is not
 sentient. She is blessed to be oblivious to the misery of unhappiness. She is a device,
 no more capable of worrying about what will happen tomorrow than this book is
 65 worrying about whether it will hurt the leather if I drop it.” [...]
 “Also, are you implying,” her husband continues, his tone growing defensive, “that I
 don’t appreciate her? She wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for me.”
 “Of course,” Daniels says, seeking to mollify. “But sometimes, Sir, I think you view her
 as no more than a sort of luxury collectable.” He is speaking more quietly, his voice
 70 courteous once again.
 “However much you’d have me believe otherwise, that is indeed what she is – a rich
 man’s toy – I should know! A long time ago when feeling weak, I indulged a whim. I
 was broken in the aftermath of what happened to poor Evelyn² and Evie was a crutch
 that helped me through.” He smiles and, reaching over, pats Daniels on the shoulder.
 75 “You remember what it was like for me – I was in a terrible state – if there had been
 a Daniels in the catalogue, I would have probably bought one of him too.”
 Daniels smiles weakly. “All I’m saying, Sir, is that you’ve sensibly kept her a secret all
 these years and we must hope that nothing has happened in the past twenty-four
 hours to prevent that continuing to be the case.”

(975 words)

Quelle: Paul Braddon. *The Actuality*. Inverness: Sandstone, 2021. 32-40.

Hilfsmittel

Ein- und zweisprachiges Wörterbuch der Zielsprache

² Evelyn – Matthew’s deceased wife