

Hinweise für den Prüfling

Einlese- und Auswahlzeit: 45 Minuten

Bearbeitungszeit: 240 Minuten

Auswahlverfahren

Wählen Sie von den drei vorliegenden Vorschlägen einen zur Bearbeitung aus. Die nicht ausgewählten Vorschläge müssen am Ende der Einlesezeit der Aufsicht führenden Lehrkraft zurückgegeben werden.

Erlaubte Hilfsmittel

1. ein Wörterbuch zur deutschen Rechtschreibung
2. ein einsprachiges Wörterbuch
3. ein zweisprachiges Wörterbuch mit maximal 150.000 Stichwörtern und Wendungen
4. eine Liste der fachspezifischen Operatoren

Sonstige Hinweise

keine

In jedem Fall vom Prüfling auszufüllen

Name: _____	Vorname: _____
Prüferin / Prüfer: _____	Datum: _____

Redefining the Melting Pot

Assignments

1. Summarize the text. (25 BE)

2. Taking the given text as a starting point, examine central aspects of the American Dream, including its historical roots. (35 BE)

3. *“Immigration Without Assimilation Equals Invasion”* (The American Daily, March 24, 2005)
Comment on this headline taking into account the situation in Great Britain. (40 BE)

Material

Immigrants Shunning Idea of Assimilation

By William Branigin, Washington Post Staff Writer, Monday, May 25, 1998

OMAHA – Night is falling on South Omaha, and Maria Jacinto is patting tortillas for the evening meal in the kitchen of the small house she shares with her husband and five children. Like many others in her neighborhood, where most of the residents are Mexican immigrants, the Jacinto household mixes the old country with the new.

5 As Jacinto, who speaks only Spanish, stresses a need to maintain the family's Mexican heritage, her eldest son, a bilingual 11-year-old who wears a San Francisco 49ers jacket and has a paper route, comes in and joins his brothers and sisters in the living room to watch "The Simpsons". Jacinto became a U.S. citizen last April, but she does not feel like an American. In fact, she seems resistant to the idea of assimilating into U.S. society.

10 "I think I'm still a Mexican," she says. "When my skin turns white and my hair turns blonde, then I'll be an American."

In many ways, the experiences of the Jacinto family are typical of the gradual process of assimilation that has pulled generations of immigrants into the American mainstream. That process is nothing new to Omaha, which drew waves of Czech, German and Irish immigrants early this century.

15 But in the current immigration wave, something markedly different is happening here in the middle of the great American "melting pot".

Not only are the demographics of the United States changing in profound and unprecedented ways, but so too are the very notions of assimilation and the melting pot that have been articles of faith in the American self-image for generations. *E Pluribus Unum* (From Many, One) remains the national motto, but there no longer seems to be a consensus about what that should mean.

20 There is a sense that, especially as immigrant populations reach a critical mass in many communities, it is no longer the melting pot that is transforming them, but they who are transforming American society.

American culture remains a powerful force – for better or worse – that influences people both here and around the world in countless ways. But several factors have combined in recent years to allow immigrants to resist, if they choose, the Americanization that had once been considered irresistible.

In fact, the very concept of assimilation is being called into question as never before. Some sociologists argue that the melting pot often means little more than "Anglo conformity" and that assimilation is not always a positive experience – for either society or the immigrants themselves. And with today's emphasis on diversity and ethnicity, it has become easier than ever for immigrants to avoid the melting pot entirely. Even the metaphor itself is changing, having fallen out of fashion completely with many immigration advocacy and ethnic groups. They prefer such terms as the "salad bowl" and the "mosaic", metaphors that convey more of a sense of separateness in describing this nation of immigrants.

30 "It's difficult to adapt to the culture here," said Maria Jacinto, 32, who moved to the United States 10 years ago with her husband, Aristeo Jacinto, 36. "In the Hispanic tradition, the family comes first, not money. It's important for our children not to be influenced too much by the *gueros*," she said, using a term that means "blondies" but that she employs generally in reference to Americans. "I don't want my children to be influenced by immoral things." [...]

40 Among socially conservative families such as the Jacintos, who initially moved to California from their village in Mexico's Guanajuato state, then migrated here in 1988 to find jobs in the meatpacking industry, bad influences are a constant concern. They see their children assimilating, but often to the worst aspects of American culture. [...]

Immigrants such as the Jacintos are here to stay but remain wary of their adoptive country. According to sociologists, they are right to be concerned.

45 "If assimilation is a learning process, it involves learning good things and bad things," said Ruben G. Rumbaut, a sociology professor at Michigan State University. "It doesn't always lead to something better."

50 At work, not only in Omaha but in immigrant communities across the country, is a process often referred to as "segmented" assimilation, in which immigrants follow different paths to incorporation in U.S. society. These range from the classic American ideal of blending into the vast middle class, to a "downward assimilation" into an adversarial underclass, to a buffered integration into "immigrant enclaves". Sometimes, members of the same family end up taking sharply divergent paths, especially children and their parents.

55 The ambivalence of assimilation can cut both ways. Many native-born Americans also seem to harbor mixed feelings about the process. As a nation, the United States increasingly promotes diversity, but there are underlying concerns that the more emphasis there is on the factors that set people apart, the more likely that society will end up divided.

With Hispanics, especially Mexicans, accounting for an increasing proportion of U.S. population growth, it is this group, more than any other, that is redefining the melting pot.

(829 words)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/meltingpot/meltingpot.htm> [retrieved on July 13, 2010]