The English language State Exam (text production and translation)

In your written English language State Exam, you take the translation and text production papers at the same time.

Vertieft (Gymnasium)	**Unterrichtsfach (Grund-/Mittel-/Realschule)**
Time: **5 hours for TP and Übersetzung** Number of tasks in the TP section: **2** Total number of words written in the TP exam: **750** **1** text to translate into German	Time: **4 hours for TP and Übersetzung** Number of tasks in the TP section: **2** Total number of words written in the TP exam: **600** **1** text to translate into German

Text production (revised format as of spring 2025)

Part A

Students must write a **short authentic text** based on a communicative context. A short input text in English (100–150 words), picture and/or statistics may be provided.

Number of words the students will have to write for this part of the exam:

- Unterrichtsfach: 250 words
- Vertieft: 300 words

The level of formality required should be appropriate to the task and the clearly defined audience.

This task will be worth 40% of the final text production grade.

Part B

Students must write an **essay** based on a different topic than in Part A. This task should be written in a formal register.

Number of words the students will have to write for this part of the exam:

- Unterrichtsfach: 350 words
- Vertieft: 450 words

This task will be worth 60% of the final grade.

You are not given a choice of tasks in the exam.

- You will be assessed on **task fulfilment (including length), coherence, linguistic range, stylistic appropriateness, register and accuracy**.
- You will be asked to indicate the approximate number of words you have written. Note that 10% plus or minus is acceptable. Any more or less than this will be penalised.
- Each task will each be based on a specific aspect of a more general subject, which could be:

political systems	*international/European relations*	*the working world*
leisure	*education*	*science/technology*

environment *people, families, communities* *communication*
culture *religion*

- All the tasks in the exam should specify an authentic audience, text type and communicative purpose.
- The type of task that students will have to write a response to in part A will be one of the following:
    - comment
    - formal letter
    - semi-formal letter
    - email
    - letter to a newspaper editor
    - article

Translation

In the translation section of the exam, students must translate a text from English into German. The text for students taking the *vertieft* exam is intended to be slightly more challenging than that used in the *unterrichtsfach* exam.

Students can divide the overall amount of time given for the exam (either 5 or 4 hours) as they wish between the two sections. However, they are recommended to spend no longer than 90 minutes on the translation section.

The courses we offer to help prepare students for this exam are:

1. Text Production 3

This course aims to:

- broaden students' vocabulary on certain possible exam topics
- revise task types from Writing 1 and 2
- allow students to practise writing a variety of tasks under exam conditions

2. Vocab-building for *Staatsexamen*

This course encourages students to:

- activate their passive vocabulary
- learn new vocabulary

by exposing them to a range of vocabulary and expressions relating to a variety of topics and by allowing them to practise using the words and phrases they have acquired.

3. Grammar Revision for State Exam Candidates

A self-study course on the main grammar topics in English with explanations, exercises and answers. Students should work through the materials made available each week on Wuecampus in their own

time and check the answers to the exercises themselves. If they have any questions, students can contact Martyn Ford via email to arrange a time to meet to discuss any problems individually.

4. Text Production 4

An intensive block course held in the final few weeks before the exam takes place which is intended to provide students with further practice in writing text production tasks under exam conditions and to help them overcome any remaining difficulties they may have in writing in English by focusing on their individual needs. Students are recommended to attend Text Production 3 before taking this course.

5. Übersetzung

This is a compulsory course for all students in which they gain practice in translating English texts into German. The texts used for practice are either taken from previous state exam papers or are similar in terms of language level, style and length.