

Abi-Training: Reading comprehension

Englisch · Klasse 12 · mittel

Name: _____ Datum: _____

Text (invented, non-fictional, 260 words): The Quiet Revolution of the Repair Café. On a grey Saturday in Leeds, thirty people queue in a church hall with broken toasters, torn jeans and a laptop that „just died". None of them will pay a penny. The Repair Café movement, which began in Amsterdam in 2009, now counts more than 3,000 groups worldwide, and Britain has become one of its fastest-growing markets — if „market" is the right word for something that refuses to sell anything. Volunteers, many of them retired engineers and seamstresses, fix what they can and, more importantly, show visitors how. „People arrive ashamed that they can't change a fuse," says organiser Dee Whitfield. „They leave knowing they can." The movement's critics call it a nostalgic gesture that cannot compete with cheap replacement goods; a new kettle costs less than the bus fare to the café. Whitfield does not disagree. „We're not going to save the planet with soldering irons," she admits. „But we change how people look at their things — and at themselves." Governments have started to notice. Since 2021, EU rules oblige manufacturers to supply spare parts for washing machines and televisions for up to ten years, and France now prints a „repairability score" on electronic goods. Britain, post-Brexit, has followed only partially. For the moment, then, the revolution remains a quiet one: a church hall, a queue, a toaster that works again. Whether it grows louder depends on whether the shame Whitfield describes turns into something more useful — anger.

1 Comprehension: Answer in your own words.

Abitur operator „explain": give the information from the text and make the connections clear. Own words, no long quotes.

- a) Explain what a Repair Café is and what makes it different from a repair shop.
.....
- b) What, according to Whitfield, is the real effect of the cafés? Distinguish it from what critics expect.
.....
.....
- c) How have governments reacted, and how does Britain compare?
.....
.....
.....
- d) Explain the last sentence: what does the author mean by the contrast between shame and anger?
.....
.....

2 Analysis: Language and structure.

Point - quote - explanation. Look at word choice (revolution, gesture, quiet), irony and the position of the critics in the text.

Abi-Training: Reading comprehension (Fortsetzung)

Englisch · Klasse 12 · mittel

Name: _____ Datum: _____

- a) The author opens with a scene rather than a definition. What is the effect?
-
-
- b) Examine the author's attitude towards the movement. Is the text neutral, sympathetic or critical? Give two pieces of evidence.
-
-
-
- c) What is the function of the phrase „if „market" is the right word"?
-
-

3 Vocabulary in context: Explain the meaning of the phrase as it is used in the text.

Paraphrase in a short sentence; then say what it refers to in the text.

- a) „a nostalgic gesture"
-
-
- b) „has followed only partially"
-
-
- c) „the revolution remains a quiet one"
-
-