Abi-Training: Reading comprehension

Englisch · Klasse 12 · mittel · Lösungen

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Name: _____ Datum: _____

kostenlos, mit Lösungen

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.

A meeting where volunteers repair visitors' broken things for free and teach them how to do it; unlike a shop it doesn't sell or charge, and its aim is learning rather than the repair itself.

b) What, according to Whitfield, is the real effect of the cafés? Distinguish it from what critics expect.

Critics measure the cafés by their economic or ecological effect and find them too small; Whitfield sees the effect in a changed attitude — people lose their sense of helplessness and see their possessions differently.

c) How have governments reacted, and how does Britain compare?

The EU obliges manufacturers to provide spare parts for up to ten years, France labels products with a repairability score; Britain has adopted only some of these rules since leaving the EU.

d) Explain the last sentence: what does the author mean by the contrast between shame and anger?

Shame keeps people passive and individual; anger could make them demand change from producers and politicians — that is what would turn a small movement into a real one.

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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.

a) The author opens with a scene rather than a definition. What is the effect?

The concrete scene (grey Saturday, toasters, torn jeans) makes the abstract topic vivid and human; the reader is in the queue before learning any facts.

b) Examine the author's attitude towards the movement. Is the text neutral, sympathetic or critical? Give two pieces of evidence.

Sympathetic but not uncritical: the author gives the critics one sentence and lets Whitfield answer them at length; words like „quiet revolution" and „more importantly, show visitors how" signal approval, but „For the moment … remains a quiet one" keeps some distance.

c) What is the function of the phrase „if „market" is the right word"?

It draws attention to the paradox of a „market" that gives things away, with a touch of irony towards economic language — and it shows the author reflecting on his own words.

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"

A symbolic act that looks back to a past when things were repaired, without changing anything real today; the critics' view of the cafés.

b) „has followed only partially"

Britain has adopted some, but not all, of the EU rules; the author hints at a lack of ambition after Brexit.

c) „the revolution remains a quiet one"

The movement is small and local, not yet a large political change; „quiet" contrasts with the loud „anger" the author hopes for.