



TASKS

- 1 Outline the various attitudes towards mixed-race relationships as shown in Text A. (20 %)
- 2 State the author's opinion on living in London and analyse the means she uses to convey it. (25 %)
(Text A)
- 3 Mediation (20 %)
For an international youth project about blacks in Europe, summarise the information about Naidoo's cultural identity, his childhood experiences and his attitude towards Germany.
(Text B)
- 4 Choose **one** of the following tasks:
 - 4.1 "In Germany, even a third generation of immigrants is not seen, and often does not see itself, as being German, ..." (Text A, ll. 19/20). Comment on Lobeck's opinion, referring to different traditions of migration in Germany and at least one English-speaking country. (35 %)

OR

- 4.2 Discuss to what extent living in an urban area may help mixed-race couples deal with challenges as described in Text A. In your discussion refer to your knowledge about the chances and challenges of urban life. (35 %)

OR

- 4.3 Write a letter to the editor. Discuss to what extent Katharina Lobeck's experience is typical of challenges migrants face in today's globalised world. Address your letter to: (35 %)

Readers' editor
The Guardian
119 Farringdon Road
London EC1 R3ER, UK

Text A: Excerpt from the newspaper article*Mixed blessings*

By Katharina Lobeck

Note: Katharina Lobeck wrote this article after a black teenager, out with his white girlfriend, was murdered in Liverpool.

[...] I am a German woman, a Londoner by choice like so many people in this city. I am engaged to be married to a Senegalese man, and the mother of his child. For me, news of Saturday's race attack felt like another brutal sign telling me to try my luck elsewhere, another menacing message from (and to) multicultural Britain. Not only because an axeswinging psychopath committed a race crime, but also
5 because once again, multiculturalism and mixed-race relationships find themselves under investigation as a result.

My partner and I have now spent two years trying to find a way for him to move to London permanently. He still hasn't been able to obtain a long-term visa; the chances are that we might have had a much easier ride in Germany. And yet, I didn't manage to tear myself away from London. (Having spent some
10 time in Bristol and in other communities in the UK, I do believe that the capital's multicultural spirit is unique among British cities.) Despite its dismal living conditions, its extortionate rents, despite its general aggressiveness and its never-fulfilling promise of success, London seemed to be the only place I could imagine living in. The only place where I felt my (at the time single) motherhood to a mixed-race child and my relationship with an African man could pass, not unnoticed, but without being permanently
15 commented upon. It seemed to be the only place where we would not be reduced to being a hideous cliché and, above all, where we would run a relatively low risk of being harassed. I believe that's still the case, even though Saturday's race attack in Liverpool forces Britain to ask itself some questions.

When I considered leaving London with my child, my home nation Germany was an obvious option to consider. Except that it wasn't. In Germany, even a third generation of immigrants is not seen, and
20 often does not see itself, as being German, and the idea of a nonwhite German is still a completely alien one to large parts of the population. There, comments about our "chocolate baby" or "negro doll" have accompanied me and my partner ever since my daughter was born.

[...] Praising London as one of the great multicultural capitals of the world may sound like verbal floss taken from the mayor's campaign book, but it is London reality, even though there remain many contra-
25 dictions and confrontations involved in having a multitude of ethnic, faith and cultural groups sitting side by side in one sprawling conurbation.

It's when I walk with my daughter through Brixton market that I get the most questioning, and occasionally menacing, stares, mainly from black women. If I'm with my partner, he gets them, from his male peers. On my own, I look like the archetype of the greedy white woman; the one who got off with a
30 black man, ended up with a child - and now look what you got for it. If we're together, he looks like a traitor to the black community. [...]

These days, racist judgment comes in carefully crafted news features, in conversations conducted smilingly. It comes in questions about my partner's virility, about the likelihood of his faithfulness and his assumed musical talent, asked after a few too many glasses of wine. Racial bias exists in this society, and
35 it's something that mixed-race couples have to deal with. Enter a mixed-race relationship, and you may find yourself suddenly confronted with previously unknown prejudice prevailing among close friends and family. You may find that the news will never quite sound the same again - suddenly you catch sight of society's hidden, ugly face. Relationships are hard work. Mixed-race relationships perhaps slightly more so, as outside pressures, different cultural expectations, and family discord can all increase the

- 40 burden couples have to bear. But they are also just relationships, and in London at least, they are part of ordinary city life. [...]

(651 words)

Source: Lobeck; Katharina. "Mixed Blessings" The Guardian, August 2005

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2005/aug/02/britishidentityandsociety.raceintheuk>

Annotations

Lines

11	dismal	miserable
11	extortionate	very expensive
16	to be harassed	to be attacked verbally or physically
23	verbal floss	nice description
39	discord	conflict, disagreement

Text B: Auszug aus einem Interview mit Xavier Naidoo



Quelle: <http://commons.wikimedia.org> - Smalltown Boy

Geboren in Mannheim und "froh über Deutschland": Xavier Naidoo

[...]

sueddeutsche.de: Südafrika, Indien, Irland: Herr Naidoo, Ihre Ahnen kommen aus der ganzen Welt, Sie sehen sich vor allem als Mannheimer Bürger. Wie kam es dazu?

Xavier Naidoo: Meine Familie geht wohl als ein Beispiel gelungener Integration durch. Ich bin ja in Mannheim geboren und in einem Vorort namens Wallstadt aufgewachsen. Meine Mutter hat dafür gesorgt, dass unsere Familie keine Außenseiterrolle spielte. Bei uns lief viel über die Kirche: Meine Eltern

sind beide katholische Südafrikaner, meine Mutter engagierte sich im Kirchenchor, mein Vater ging zum Männergesangsverein, dem ich dann mit 14 auch beigetreten bin - und schon war man mittendrin statt nur dabei. (lacht)

sueddeutsche.de: Sie betonen immer wieder, ein Schwarzer zu sein - warum?

- 10 **Naidoo:** Solange es diese Unterteilungen gibt, solange sich Weiße Weiße nennen, nenn ich mich Schwarzer. Schon als Kind habe ich bei Besuchen in Südafrika gemerkt, wie deutlich zwischen Hautfarben unterschieden wird.

sueddeutsche.de: Wurden Sie in Deutschland diskriminiert?

- 15 **Naidoo:** Bis zu einer gewissen Zeit habe ich einiges ertragen müssen. Als Kind war das manchmal schon schlimm. [...]

sueddeutsche.de: Haben Sie sich gewehrt?

- 20 **Naidoo:** Später schon, aber erstmal nicht, vieles habe ich geschluckt. Auf dem Heimweg habe ich 'ne Träne verdrückt. Ich hatte da kein Mittel dagegen, bei meiner Mutter wollte ich nicht petzen. Sie hätte sich nur aufgeregt und wäre dann zu den Leuten hin - für mich war das eine sehr unangenehme Vorstellung. [...]

sueddeutsche.de: Nach ähnlichen Erfahrungen wenden sich viele Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund von Deutschland ab - bei Ihnen ist das anders: Sie sind Mannheimer Lokalpatriot und singen auf Ihrem neuen Album: „Deutschland ist ein Land der Ehre.“ Wie entstanden bei Ihnen solch starke Gefühle?

- 25 **Naidoo:** Für mich war die Sprache der Schlüssel. Deutsch begeistert mich: Diese Tiefe, dieser Reichtum, diese Deutlichkeit. Bildlich gesprochen: Ich knie nieder vor dieser Sprache. Sie ist ein Geschenk. Und das dazugehörige Land kann ja nicht so schlecht sein, im Gegenteil: Deutschland ist schön. Ich habe es lieben und schätzen gelernt.

[...]

(313 Wörter)

Quelle: <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/xavier-naidoo-im-interview-ich-bin-masslos-enttaeuscht-von-merkel-1.38861>