

## I. Comprehension

### ► Outline the symbolic meaning of the Angel Island Immigration Station

**Tipp:**

Lies den Text zunächst aufmerksam durch und mache dir Notizen. Die erste Frage bezieht sich vor allem auf die ersten Abschnitte des Textes bis Zeile 22 (“chaos in their homelands”). Der Text erwähnt explizit die symbolische Bedeutung, die Angel Island für die Einwanderer hatte: einerseits das Tor zur neuen Welt, die Möglichkeit, ins Land der unbegrenzten Möglichkeiten zu gelangen; andererseits aber auch der Ort, an dem Einwanderer festgehalten oder gar zurückgeschickt werden, also der Ort, an dem die Hoffnung auf ein besseres Leben in Amerika genommen wurde.

America has always been a country of immigration. But not all the newcomers who wanted to immigrate into the USA were allowed to do so. In immigration stations such as the Angel Island Immigration Station, many were denied entry.

On the one hand, Angel Island was the “gateway to America” for those immigrants who were allowed into the country. For those who were rejected, however, it turned out to be an obstacle that prevented them from realizing their personal American Dream. Finally, as can be seen from the poem of the Chinese immigrant, Angel Island was a place of scrutiny and humiliation, symbolizing the hardships that awaited immigrants willing to move to the USA, even if they were admitted into the country.

### ► Summarize the authors’ position on immigration reform

**Tipp:**

Die Autoren drücken ihre Meinung zur immigration reform vor allem in den Zeilen 23 bis 44 aus. Fasse zunächst den **Inhalt** ihrer Meinung zusammen. Auf die **sprachlichen Mittel** gehst du im letzten Teil der Aufgabe ein.

Still today, immigration laws seem to be unfair to a certain extent. As a consequence, the authors think that there is a need for an immigration reform. On the one hand, they acknowledge the complexity of the immigration problem and America’s difficult economic and social problems. On the other hand, however, they state that a “functioning immigration system” (l. 32) could bring about advantages for “national security” (l. 32) and for the country’s economic situation. In addition, they point out that many poor immigrants suffer from unfair immigration laws and are “held in detention” in “substandard conditions” (l. 37ff.) and that this “broken immigration system” (l. 42f.) promotes illegal immigration. Therefore, they call for an immigration reform.

► Describe the strategies the authors employ to convince the reader of their position

**Tipp:**

Mit "strategies" sind zum einen **sprachliche Mittel** gemeint, also bestimmte **rhetorische Figuren**, die eine gewisse Wirkung auf den Leser erzielen.

Zugleich kann mit Strategie auch der **Aufbau der Argumentation** und die **Wahl der Beispiele** gemeint sein.

Lies also den Text nochmals genau durch und überlege, wie die Autoren ihre Argumentation strukturieren und formulieren.

*Hinweis:* Das Zitat "huddled masses yearning to be free" (eigentlich: "... yearning to breathe free") stammt aus Emma Lazarus' Gedicht *The New Colossus*, das im Sockel der Freiheitsstatue eingraviert ist.

The authors use different strategies to convince the reader of their position. One important strategy is to use the example of Angel Island, because it shows that a broken, unfair immigration system can have tragic consequences.

A second strategy is to inform the reader of the current situation by giving numbers and facts. This may also have a shocking effect on the reader.

Furthermore, the authors use some rhetoric figures. The repetition of "We need" (l. 31f., l. 34), for example, intensifies the authors' message. The pronoun "We" does not only include the authors but the American people as a whole.

Another feature employed to make the authors' message more urgent is their repeated reference to the current immigration system as "broken" (l. 42) "skewed" (l. 41) and "flawed", and the extensive use of words like "substandard" and "insufficient" (l. 39) and "unfair" (l. 46) to describe this system.

The most effective strategy, however, is to appeal to the readers' compassion with the immigrants who – like many people in the USA – want to live the American Dream. Particularly the notion that many immigrants are "longtime U.S. residents with no ties to terrorist activities" (l. 38) and still have to suffer from unfair immigration laws is very impressive and emotional.

Lastly, the authors repeat the idea of the American Dream by mentioning America's "promise as a nation of immigrants" (l. 49) and underline this promise with a quote from Emma Lazarus' poem on the Statue of Liberty. ("huddled masses yearning to be free", l. 46)