

## Prüfungsteil B

### Task 1

#### Text 1

### The Thirty Years War

They were mad to do it – reckless even. As Andreas Whittam Smith, our first editor, explains in the supplement of today’s souvenir edition, the founders and initial staff of this newspaper defied convention, common sense and the advice of countless sages to launch a newspaper in 1986.

5 Yet the product of their crazy experiment has been the most wonderful boon to the life of the nation. Today is the last edition of the printed Independent, but our journalism now reaches more people in more countries than ever before, and will continue to do so in the digital sphere. This bold transition, which history will judge an example for another newspaper around the world to follow, is a good moment to reflect on the journey so far.

10 There is such a thing as the spirit of The Independent, and the clue is in the name. [...] In character and attitude The Independent is, above all, a pioneer. But it also has a set of values – political, moral, intellectual and cultural – which have remained consistent, been the source of our best victories and will inform our journalism in the digital sphere hereafter.

[...] We did all this without hacking a single phone. Rupert Murdoch<sup>1</sup> tried to destroy us, and undoubtedly did us lasting damage. But 20 years after his infamous price war, we are still producing world-class journalism without bribing public officials, making crooks of police officers or accelerating the debasement of our country through the cheap thrills of paparazzi lenses and celebrity detritus masquerading as “popular” culture.

15 If the reputation of Britain’s boisterous, rampant media – split between two cultures, broadsheet and tabloid – is in the gutter, we have done our bit to wrench it out, and so make the case for a free press.

Today, the truth is becoming unfashionable again. Political language is increasingly designed to conflate and confuse; the campaigns and PR of officialdom and corporate power are shamelessly spreading deception as never before. Moreover, the truth is hard, expensive and sometimes boring, whereas lies are easy, cheap and thrilling. It is no wonder that that portion of the press for whom lies that sell matter more than truth that doesn’t is thriving. But, we humbly submit, that only makes our pursuit of real news more valiant.

25 In that war for truth and civilization against lies and barbarity, this institution has been a brave and honest soldier. Once a single newspaper, we now publish across several digital platforms – web, mobile, tablet – and have our biggest audience ever. That is why The Independent, far from shutting, is switching. With history on our side, and global ambitions, we encourage you to join us online at independent.co.uk, or via The Independent Daily Edition on tablet or mobile.

35 It’s been a remarkable journey, and such an honour to have had your companionship along the way. Today the presses have stopped, the ink is dry and the paper will soon crinkle no more. But as one chapter closes, another opens, and the spirit of The Independent will flourish still. Our work goes on, our mission endures, the war still rages, and the dream of our founders shall never die.

Source: The Thirty Years War. *The Independent*. Issue No. 9, final printed edition, 26.03.2016.

#### Annotation:

<sup>1</sup> Rupert Murdoch – Australian-born American media mogul (born in 1931)