

## **Central concepts to the different topics dealt with in class and relevant for your English Abitur**

### **The American dream - then and now**

Manifest Destiny - immigration - illegal immigration - Progress - from rags to riches - material possessions - Arthur Miller: Death of a Salesman: plot and characters - what role does the American Dream play in "Death of a Salesman"? - religion - God's chosen people - New Canaan - Pilgrim Fathers - first settlements - Civil War - history of Blacks in the US - Civil Rights Movement - going west - pioneers - financial crisis - the road to presidency - the Frontier - the new Frontier- America Frontier spirit - equality and inequality in the US - the Green Card - Puritan work ethics - self-reliance vs. individual freedom - equality of opportunity vs. competition - material success - hard work and self-discipline - wheel of fortune - ladder of success - the land of milk and honey - Obama's politics - the US as the "world's policeman" - 9/11 - war on terror

### **genetic engineering**

DNA - embryonic / adult stem cells - PGD - therapeutic cloning - reproductive cloning - designer babies - donor children - DNA screening - the Human Genome Project - GM food - GM crops - human enhancement - transhumanism - bionic - the economic aspects of genetic manipulation

### **Utopia / Dystopia: the example "Brave New World"**

utopia - dystopia - sci-fi - Aldous Huxley: Brave New World: plot and characters - means of state control - Bernard Marx - Helmholtz Watson - Lenina Crowne - John the Savage - Linda - Mustapha Mond - Bokanovsky's process - conditioning and hypnopaedia - hierarchical society - mass production and consumerism - soma - Fordism - warning - ideal society - extrapolation - satire -in how far was the novel visionary at the time of writing? - extrapolation - which aspects of genetic engineering and human advancement are dealt with in the novel?

### **Shakespeare**

Elizabethan world - Elizabeth I - microcosm - macrocosm - Spanish Armada - chain of being - four humors - supernatural power - William Shakespeare: Othello: plot and characters - Elizabethan sonnet - pentameter - volta - imagery - prose - blank verse - Shakespeare's relevance for audiences today - universal topics - features of Early Modern English

### **British colonial history**

Empire - British East India Company - British Raj - Queen Victoria - Ghandi - - Partition - the Commonwealth - benefits for the colonies - oppression - concepts of post-colonial literature - othering - the third space - hybridity - ambivalence - identity - culture clash - the subaltern - finding a voice - British empire - The White Man's Burden - Why is the novel "Things fall apart" by Chinua Achebe symbolic of the nature of British colonization in Africa?

### **British politics and immigration in Britain**

Britain and Europe - House of Lords - House of Commons - majority vs. proportional vote - The King's Speech: plot and characters - institutional racism - fanaticism - assimilation vs. integration - multiculturalism - short story collection: Britain rewritten: plot, message and characters of the short stories - first generation vs. second and third generation immigrants - arguments for and against the abolition of the British monarchy

### **post-colonial India**

IT boom - new middle class - outsourcing - caste system - Hindus vs. Muslims - the role of women - arranged marriages - rural and urban disparities - Latika - Jamal - Slumdog Millionaire - foeticide - dowry business - gender inequality - the role of globalization in the changes in modern India - the movie "Outsourced"

### **Globalization**

food miles - sweatshops - lean production - multinationals /MNCs - global cities - free market economy vs. protectionism - the global village - Friedmann's three eras of globalization - (ethical) consumerism - global warming - the greenhouse effect - the role of the UN - global inequalities - low-wage jobs - outsourcing - India vs. China

### **methods**

political speeches - rhetorical devices (see list in Level Crossing) - stage directions - direct and indirect characterization - plays and playwrights - props - stage design - monologues / dialogues / interior monologues / soliloquies - forms of newspaper articles - informative / persuasive / argumentative / instructional texts - the analysis sun - target groups - analysis of atmosphere - setting - characterization - mode of narration - narrators - first person narrator - omniscient narrator - limited / unlimited point of view - unreliable narration - discuss vs. comment - introductory sentence for task 1- introduction to task 2 - linking words - topic sentences - conclusion - analysis of imagery - analysis of statistics - analysis of cartoons - writing argumentative comments - writing a good speech - writing a letter to the editor - writing formal / informal letters - writing an e-mail

**You might also read the strategy pages in your Level Crossing!**