Spot on facts

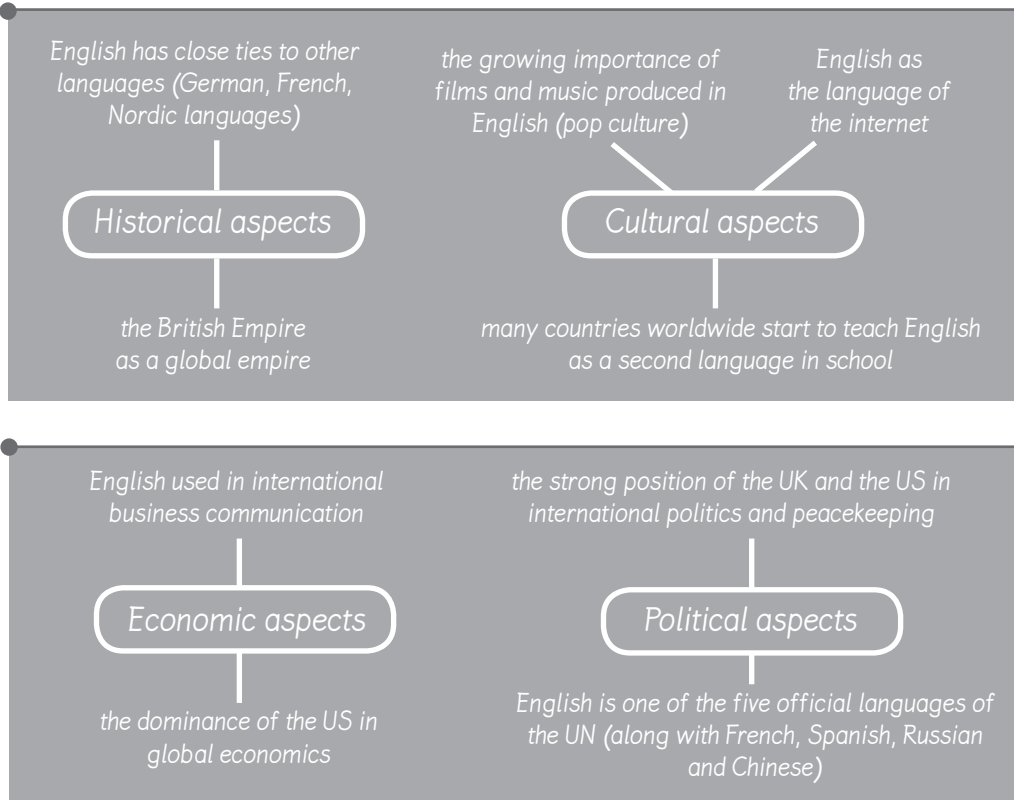COMPREHENSION   **1** 👥 **Explain the influences of important historical events on the ...**

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG   Various foreign influences (Latin, Celtic, Greek, Old Norse, French) have shaped the English language over time. While Old English was mainly a Germanic language, brought to the British Isles by the Anglo-Saxons, Middle English was heavily influenced by the French language due to the Norman conquest of England in 1066. In the 15th and 16th century Early Modern English was mainly influenced by the languages of science (Greek and Latin). Furthermore, some words from languages spoken in the territories that had belonged to the British Empire (e.g. Hindi, Malay) found their way into the language. In the 18th century English spread across the world as the principal language in the US and other former British colonies (New Zealand, West Indies, Australia, West Africa).

◎ S 🎬 L   **2** 👥 **Divide into groups. Each group watches one or more of the ...**   → S22

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG
- **Chapter 1: Anglo-Saxon – Whatever Happened to the Jutes?**
  After the end of the Roman invasion of Britain Germanic tribes (Anglo-Saxons) invaded the country and brought their language with them. Additionally, Christian missionaries brought Latin words to English. Finally, the Vikings arrived in the country and their language had a strong influence on English as well.
- **Chapter 2: The Norman Conquest – Excuse my English**
  In 1066 William the Conqueror invaded England, and French became the official language in Britain for nearly 300 years. When the Hundred Years War between France and Britain started in 1337, the French influence on English gradually decreased.
- **Chapter 3: Shakespeare – A Plaque on Both of His Houses**
  William Shakespeare not only wrote various plays and poems in (Early Modern) English, he also invented about two thousand new words, which made English a very rich, vibrant language with unlimited expressive and emotional power.
- **Chapter 4: The King James Bible – Let There be Light Reading**
  The publication of the King James Bible in 1611, made it possible for everyone to read the Bible in English and helped to establish a wide range of metaphors and sayings in English.
- **Chapter 5: The English of Science – How to Speak with Gravity**
  In the 17th and 18th century the languages of science (Latin and Greek) helped to establish new words in English.
- **Chapter 6: English and Empire – The Sun Never Sets on the English Language**
  With the expansion of the British Empire to territories in the Caribbean, India, Australia and Africa, English quickly spread across the world, and in some places new forms of English emerged. At the same time, the British borrowed new words from these territories.
- **Chapter 7: The Age of the Dictionary – The Definition of a Hopeless Task**
  When Samuel Johnson published his Dictionary of the English Language in 1755, it helped to define a standard spelling of English and shaped the form of English as we know it today.
- **Chapter 8: American English – Not British English, but Somewhere in the Ballpark**
  After the settlers had landed in America, they borrowed words from the Native Americans and their respective languages influenced American English, which gradually differentiated American English from British English.
- **Chapter 9: Internet English – Language Reverts to Type**
  The technical revolution has introduced several new terms which have become part of the English lexicon.
- **Chapter 10: Global English – Whose Language is it Anyway?**
  Due to the influence of the British Empire and the use of English as a global lingua franca many hybrid forms of English, such as Hinglish (Hindi-English) and Chinglish (Chinese-English), have become distinct languages and are used by speakers worldwide.

Green Line
Oberstufe

VOCABULARY

3 **Make a mind map of the factors which have contributed to the . . .**

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

English has close ties to other languages (German, French, Nordic languages)

the growing importance of films and music produced in English (pop culture)

English as the language of the internet

Historical aspects

Cultural aspects

the British Empire as a global empire

many countries worldwide start to teach English as a second language in school

English used in international business communication

the strong position of the UK and the US in international politics and peacekeeping

Economic aspects

Political aspects

the dominance of the US in global economics

English is one of the five official languages of the UN (along with French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese)

COMPREHENSION

4 **Describe in your own words the different kinds of English . . .**

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

English has developed into a wide range of varieties, which sometimes differ in pronunciation, vocabulary and even grammar. While some of today's varietal differences can be explained by the continual language contact between English and other languages (like Gaelic and Nordic languages in the North or Germanic in the South), some differences can only be explained as an effect of historical developments in the context of the expansion of the British Empire in places beyond the British Isles (the US, India, the Caribbean, Australia etc.). Finally, English is used in many countries as an official language where several native languages exist (e.g. Nigeria) and English is needed to make communication among fellow countrymen possible.

RESEARCH

5 **Do some research to find out more about the current role of . . .** → S32

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

- English as a lingua franca in international business communication (e.g. stock markets, trading and communication among multinational companies)
- English as the lingua franca in the media (English on the internet and the role of English in pop music, films and computer games)
- English as a lingua franca in international politics (role of English in the EU/UN and at international conferences)
- English as a language of science and research

Spot on language

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

1 a) 👥 The role of English as a lingua . . . b) With the help of a dictionary . . .

a) (Solution in **bold face**.)

English has **become increasingly** important as a means of communication in international contexts. Some people **state that** this **has had a negative effect on** other languages, **while** others **refer to the fact** that people have a common language for communication. While some non-native speakers **point out** that the use of English limits their ways of **expressing** things, others **claim** that they now can **put forward** the same idea in different ways. More and more Anglicisms **enter** the German language year after year, a trend which **isn't seen positively by everyone**. Young people think it's cool to use English words; they **consider** English **to be** more cosmopolitan, so companies **hold the view that** young people will notice products if they are advertised in English. This **view raises questions** because older people often don't understand the slogans, which **can only be regarded negatively** as **it means they don't understand the overall message**.

b) Overused word 'think' and possible synonyms

- think = believe: assume, hold that, be of the opinion, conclude, esteem, conceive etc.
- think = anticipate: expect, suppose, reckon, presume, foresee etc.
- think = judge: consider, estimate, deem, regard as etc.
- think = remember: recall, recollect, review etc.

2 Formal English is generally considered to be more appropriate . . .

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

Informal English	Formal English
○ meeting students from our partner school ○ writing a postcard to our former exchange student ○ talking to my relatives in the UK	○ applying for a summer job in the US ○ writing a letter to the editor of an English sports magazine ○ creating a website about a school project with our partner school from the UK

3 a) Turn the following text from . . . b) 👥 Share your results with a . . .

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

- ll. 1–9: The internet has definitely changed our life. As a matter of fact, we can now communicate worldwide – all we need is a common language, a lingua franca. Accordingly, some people have argued, Esperanto could take the role as a global lingua franca due to its cultural neutrality. However, this has to be reconsidered as in the EU less than 0.02 per cent of the population speaks Esperanto, while more than 50 per cent is fluent in English.
- ll. 10–20: My father always pointed out that we do not need to learn French or other languages as many people worldwide already speak English. Furthermore, he argued that people who are not fluent in English might get in trouble because they could encounter difficulties of communicating in a globalised society. However, I am not quite convinced of his opinion as there is a broad variety of languages worldwide which all have their own cultural value and are spoken by many people. A global lingua franca could discourage people from learning other languages. These languages and cultures could disappear altogether.
- ll. 21–23: I recently discovered that Chinese, for instance, is spoken by more people worldwide than English. Consequently, one should start learning Chinese as soon as possible.
- ll. 24–29: Finally, many speakers of English as a foreign language are quite concerned that they are not able to thoroughly express their feelings and thoughts in English. In conclusion, it could be argued that we all need to be fluent in at least two languages in order to successfully communicate in international contexts.

Green Line
Oberstufe

4 a) Tell him what Denglish is . . . b) Write a comment on the . . . → S26.1, S14.2

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

a) **What is Denglish and why is it problematic?**

In Germany Denglish, a mixture of German and Anglicisms, is becoming more and more popular and this sometimes makes the German nearly unintelligible. Denglish even has an entry in the official dictionary of the German language: a negative term for German containing (too) many Anglicisms.

When these words are used with German flexions, they not only sound strange, they also cause misunderstandings, because the English original is no longer recognisable, even to proficient speakers of English. For instance, flights are gecancelt, which looks and sounds like the German word *abgekanzelt* (which means 'reprimanded'). Moreover, the German system of flexions suggests that the German spelling should be used, which would mean it should be spelt *gezanzelt*. Similarly, *spacig* (meaning futuristically designed and taken from the English word 'space') could also be seen as a typographical error for *spaßig*, which means 'funny').

The author argues that the only way to avoid these problems is to abandon Denglish altogether even if those words are listed in German dictionaries (e.g. words like tough, chillen, hippe, canceln, recyceln) and use proper German terms instead. This might prevent misunderstandings because flights would no longer be gecancelt, but gestrichen. There is always an alternative to Denglish: proper German!   (202 words)

b) **Should we avoid Anglicisms in German and use German words instead?**

Although some people say that there are already by far too many Anglicisms in German, one has to take into consideration that in many contexts these have a very specific meaning that cannot simply be replaced by a German equivalent (e.g. *Comic, Doping, Handy, Software, quizmaster, Wellness-Center* etc.). Furthermore, one has to take into consideration, that only 1–3 per cent of the average German's vocabulary is made up of Anglicisms, which illustrates that there is no real threat to German, and there is no real danger that German might become extinct. On the contrary, these English loan words might help to culturally enrich the language. However, as recent surveys show, many Germans do not approve of the high number of Anglicisms entering the German language at the moment. Some of these Anglicisms seem ridiculous and a bit far-fetched and could easily be replaced by a German equivalent. Additionally, many of these Anglicisms have been easily modified using German grammar and sentence structure (e.g. *einchecken, ausflippen, brandneu*); therefore many people do not consider them Anglicisms any more but would consider them to be German instead. Therefore, it seems unlikely that we can fully avoid Anglicisms in German although one should be careful not to use too many of them and think of a possible German equivalent first.

Spot on vocabulary

1 Create a table with words belonging to the same word family. . . . → S3

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

(Solutions in **bold face**.)

noun	verb	adjective
aspiration	aspire	aspirational
commitment	**commit**	committed
communication	**communicate**	communicative
competition	compete	**competitive**
confidence	**confide**	confident
intention	**intend**	**intent**
prosperity	**prosper**	prosperous

2 **Find the false friends in the following sentences and correct them.**

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

1. In their **advertisment**, the German brand "Du darfst" used a slogan that has raised criticism not only among language purists.
2. The **current** form of English is heavily influenced by a number of languages, including Latin, German, French, Norse, Dutch and many others.
3. Most multinational **companies** have started to use English as means of communication.
4. Many German speakers of English make the same **mistakes** with respect to the use of tenses, word order and prepositions.
5. **Mobile phones** have become an intrinsic part of modern life, so that owning the latest products has become a status symbol.
6. Some people think Chinese will become a lingua franca, but this **opinion** isn't generally accepted.
7. In countries like Sweden or the Netherlands nearly all the **channels** show English and American films in English.
8. There is a lot of **criticism** when German firms use English for their advertising slogans.

3 **Use the following vocabulary from this topic to complete the text: . . .**

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

1. confident, 2. dominant language, 3. RP English, 4. native speaker, 5. variety, 6. aspire, 7. proficiency, 8. misunderstanding, 9. endangered, 10. prevalence, 11. competitive, 12. varieties, 13. dialects