

Intersteno – Berlin 2017 Competition Notetaking & Reporting

English text, in accordance with the first column of the table in article 20.1 of the Regulations for the INTERSTENO competitions – Berlin 2017.

Test dictation

(1 minute, 133 syllables)

Dictation minutes

(/ = ¼ of a minute; // = 1 minute)

Once a month the representatives of the local churches and associations come together to decide about ways to offer / relief to the refugees from the Middle East who have come to our city. During a recent meeting the personal stories / of some residents of the local refugee home were presented. Thus, a Syrian man reported that he had fled the civil war / in his country by travelling to Turkey. Together with other refugees he had eventually reached Greece in a tiny boat. //

1 minute, 133 syll.

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The competition dictation

The dictation lasts 10 minutes, 1750 syllables in all; starting with 130 syllables in the 1st minute; increase per minute: 10 syllables; dictation speed in the 10th minute: 220 syllables.

Europe and the refugee crisis

1. The description of the current situation

There are about 60 million refugees / worldwide: men, women and children - whole families or single persons. They are people who were forced to leave their homes and to take / flight, for example, because of persecution, a civil war, or a natural catastrophe. Here, we are particularly / interested in the different outcomes of the refugee streams regarding the situation in Europe.

From experience //

1st minute, 130 syllables

we know that most refugees move within their home country or flee to a neighbouring country. In 2015, however, hundreds / of thousands went to Europe to apply for asylum. When we speak of the

refugee crisis in Europe, we refer to the separate / crises which very soon arose in the individual European countries, precisely because of the unprepared arrival of / these refugee streams.

In order to avoid that these people would have to camp out in the streets or in the open fields, temporary camps were // **2nd minute, 140 syllables**

quickly set up for them in various European countries. These interventions often led to protests from parts of the native population / who felt threatened by the foreign refugees whose language they did not understand and whose habits were different from what they were accustomed to. /

2. General causes of taking flight

Some causes of the need to flee have already been mentioned, such as persecution, civil war, and natural / catastrophes. These causes, which prompt entire groups of people to take flight, can be supplemented and clarified. Persecution can be political, // **3rd minute, 150 syllables**

or it may be religious persecution, both mostly with the threat of imprisonment for many people, or even the risk of life.

Then there is civil war as / a cause. The civil war in Syria, for example, is a major cause of the recent massive flows of refugees to Europe. In addition to / civil war within a country, we can distinguish war in general as a cause of taking flight; that is, war between two or more countries. In that case, national / armies are fighting against each other, thereby making it impossible for the population in the war zones to continue living there.

But there are other // **4th minute, 160 syllables**

reasons for people to flee. In the past, when there were no vaccinations against infectious diseases, epidemics were often a cause for leaving house and home. In / the case of a broad cause of fleeing, such as "natural disasters," we can distinguish separate causes like extensive crop failure, leading to famine, as well as / severe earthquakes. Let us also add that in the future climate changes, which are connected to rising temperatures, can turn people into refugees. One can think of / a rising sea level, resulting from the melting pole caps and leading to the flooding of low-lying land. Of course, the local population then will be compelled to flee // **5th minute, 170 syllables**

from their residential areas to the higher grounds.

3. Escape routes and origins of the refugees

Within the massive influx of one million refugees who went to Europe / in 2015, two large refugee streams can be identified. One stream came from the Middle East, through Turkey, and across the Greek islands. The other stream came across North / Africa, mainly via Libya and the Mediterranean. Most of the former refugees travelled from Greece to Central Europe. The flow of refugees who came via / Libya and the Mediterranean Sea, were headed for the Italian islands and went from there to the Italian mainland and further on to Western Europe.

However, // **6th minute, 180 syllables**

not every refugee succeeded in reaching Europe. About 3,700 people died on the way, mainly because of shipwreck. Most of the death tolls among the refugees / were registered on the central Mediterranean route, starting from Libya. The people smugglers equipped small, shaky boats for the refugees with just enough fuel to leave the / Libyan territorial waters. Their assumption was, of course, that as soon as these overloaded refugee boats had reached the open sea, the European ships present in that area / would take the people on board and provide them with transportation to Italy.

4. The reception of refugees in the European countries

Although, in general, the right to //

7th minute, 190 syllables

asylum is a fundamental right in European countries, certain restrictions are being observed in current decisions regarding the admission of refugees. This practice is partly / happening in response to the growing dissatisfaction among members of the indigenous populations about the many asylum seekers in their respective countries.

Rules are in force that / do not allow asylum for people entering from a safe country where refugees applying for asylum are protected. These rules concern the so-called economic refugees who are looking / for a better future for themselves and their families. Furthermore, there are rules that do not allow asylum seekers to work during the first three months after their arrival, while in the following //

8th minute, 200 syllables

twelve months there is no free choice of vacancies, as they can only take a job if there is no citizen in the receiving state available to fill the vacancy. Besides, refugees often lack / sufficient qualifications for the European labour market, and their stay in refugee camps does not improve that situation. So, here you already have some clues for taking measures to alleviate / the refugee crisis.

5. Some solutions for the refugee crisis

Solutions are necessary, which are aimed at the countries of origin of the refugees, as well as solutions, which are geared towards / the European countries themselves. First of all, peace and economic progress need to be introduced in the countries of origin, so that there is no longer a need to flee. We believe it is //

9th minute, 210 syllables

self-evident that the support of the United Nations and its relief organizations is needed, with Europe, no doubt, contributing financially.

The solutions to be implemented in Europe itself include / measures for refugees who have no chance of asylum to be quickly sent back to their countries of origin. Furthermore, the incentives for immigration should be clearly diminished. This can be done, for example, / by cancelling the direct access of new immigrants to the social services in the European countries. On the other hand, refugees who have a good chance of obtaining asylum need to be inte/grated more quickly. They should have a free choice of jobs, making it for example possible for the specialists among them, three months after their arrival, to already earn their own money as temporary workers. //

10th minute, 220 syllables

The model report
(Overview of key sentences per section, only meant for the jury.)

*Credit points
to be earned*

Europe and the refugee crisis

<u>1. The description of the current situation</u>		
1.a. Hundreds of thousands of refugees moved to Europe in 2015		6
b. and caused the refugee crisis there.		4
2.a. In the European countries refugee camps were set up,		4
b. although parts of the population protested.		4
<u>2. General causes of taking flight</u>		
1. Political and religious persecution.		6
2. Civil war and war in general.		4
3. Epidemics and natural catastrophes.		6
4. In the future climate change.		4
<u>3. Escape routes and origins of the refugees</u>		
1.a. In 2015 there were two large refugee flows to Europe:		6
b. from the Middle East to Greece;		4
c. via North Africa and Libya and across the Mediterranean to Italy.		6
2. This last refugee stream showed the most death tolls.		4
<u>4. The reception of refugees in the European countries</u>		
1.a. There are restrictions on the right to asylum in Europe:		6
b. no asylum for economic refugees;		4
c. a ban on work in the first three months;		6
d. the year thereafter no free choice of vacancies.		4
<u>5. Some solutions for the refugee crisis</u>		
1. Peace and economic progress in the countries of origin;		6
2. turning back refugees, if no chance of asylum.		6
3. Limitation of incentives for immigration;		4
4. integration and free choice of jobs when good chances of asylum.		6
Maximum achievable number of credit points		100

General remark:

Each numbered key sentence is divided into separately underscored key phrases in bold print. To earn all the credit points of a key sentence at least 80% of all its key phrases must, in his or her own words, be present in a competitor's summary. If not, only half the points are awarded — or zero points in case less than 20% of the key phrases is present.