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Englisch Sekundarstufe

A Country Divided? – Opinions on Brexit

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Titel:	A Country Divided? – Opinions on Brexit
Reihe:	Arbeitsblatt aus der Reihe „Englisch – aktuell“
Bestellnummer:	71672
Kurzvorstellung:	<p>Eine Mehrheit hat sich in Großbritannien für den Brexit, also den Ausstieg aus der Europäischen Union entschieden. Diese fertig ausgearbeiteten Arbeitsblätter zur englischen Landeskunde setzen sich mit dem Meinungsbild zu diesem sehr kontroversen Thema auseinander. Dabei wird die aktuelle politische und gesellschaftliche Situation ebenso beleuchtet wie der übergreifende Komplex der Globalisierung.</p> <p>Die Schüler können den Inhalt selbständig erarbeiten und das individuelle Lerntempo jeweils anpassen. Dies gewährleistet die Binnendifferenzierung ohne gesonderte Aufgabenstellung.</p>
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Globalisation in Crisis?

1. Read the following text¹ and do the tasks below.

In a referendum on June 23, 2016, a close majority of UK citizens voted to leave the EU. Many who voted Leave were worried about the ever-growing influence of globalisation in Britain, regarding issues such as job and financial security, immigration, health care, the growing divide between rich and poor, and the economy. Brexit can be understood as a rejection of globalisation on these issues and shows a growing dissatisfaction with globalisation as a political concept.

This dissatisfaction with globalisation can be seen in many countries across the globe: In Austria, a right-wing populist party, which is sceptical of the EU and promotes rigid immigration policies, achieved its second-best election results in the history of the party and thus won third place in the legislative election in 2017. In the USA, President Donald Trump continues to promote policies which oppose globalisation especially on an economic level. These countries are only examples of growing sentiment against globalisation which seems to be spread across the globe.

In the midst of this anti-globalisation sentiment, the EU and the UK must come to a deal – and quickly. If a deal is not reached by the end of March 2019, the UK must leave the EU without any binding agreements regarding trade, immigration, or borders. A “No-Deal” Brexit would leave all of these issues unresolved and could have a strong impact on the global economy – Brexit thus does not affect just the UK and the EU, but rather the entire globalised world. With Brexit and anti-globalisation sentiment all over the world, globalisation is truly in crisis.

a. What is the text about? Summarize the key aspects of the text.

b. What is each paragraph about? Check (✓) the correct answer.

The first paragraph is about

- ... the meaning of the word ‘globalisation’.
- ... the issues which led many people to vote Leave during the Brexit referendum.
- ... the results of the Brexit referendum.

The second paragraph is about

- ... dissatisfaction with globalisation in many countries.
- ... the Austrian legislative election.
- ... global policies on immigration and economy.

The third paragraph is about

- ... the meaning of the term ‘No Deal’ Brexit.
- ... binding agreements between the EU and the UK.
- ... the impact which a ‘No Deal’ Brexit might have on the global economy.

¹ Sources: <https://www.cnbc.com/2016/06/28/how-brexit-impacts-globalization.html>;
<https://inews.co.uk/news/brexit/no-deal-brexit-what-meaning-uk-leave-uk-consequences/>

Working beyond the text

On January 24, 2018, Emmanuel Macron, the president of France, gave a speech to international business and political leaders at the meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. In this speech Macron stated that *“globalisation is currently in crisis, a significant crisis. And this huge challenge requires a joint effort from international organisations, states, businesses and civil society to find and implement solutions.”*

2. Use the tasks you have worked on so far (for more information use the Internet or other resources to do more research) to fill in the following list of pros and cons regarding the question “Is globalisation in crisis?”

Is globalisation in crisis?	
Yes, globalisation is in crisis	No, globalisation is not in crisis

3. Comment on Macron’s statement that “globalisation is currently in crisis”.