

Reihe 4 S 1	Verlauf	Material	LEK	Kontext	Mediothek
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Glimpses of the Future in the Series *Black Mirror* – Fiktive Ideen zu technologischen Zukunftstrends diskutieren (S II)

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II/C8

Besessen von „Likes“ und digitalen Rankings? –
Welchen Einfluss nehmen die (Zukunfts-)Technologien auf unser Leben?

Welche Technologien werden unseren Alltag in der Zukunft stark ändern? Mit welchen Nebenwirkungen ist zu rechnen? Bei Anwendung dieser Unterrichtsreihe zeigen Schüler Symptome zwischen Faszination und Unbehagen, wenn sie wohl dosiert in unterschiedliche fiktive Welten der britischen Science-Fiction-Serie „*Black Mirror*“ eintauchen.

Zu Risiken und Chancen der Zukunftstrends lesen und analysieren die Schüler Zeitungsartikel. Als Packungsbeilage der Reihe kommentieren die Schüler die von ihnen gewünschte zukünftige Mischung aus Fortschritt und Ethik, indem sie Vor- und Nachteile abwägen.

Klassenstufe: 11/12 (G8), 12/13 (G9)

Dauer: ca. 14 Unterrichtsstunden (+ LEK)

Bereich: Visions of the future: ethical issues of scientific and technological progress (LK); Utopia and dystopia (GK/LK), The media (GK)

Kompetenzen: 1. Lesekompetenz: authentische Sachtexte verstehen und deuten; 2. Hör-Seh-Kompetenz: komplexe Äußerungen in authentischen Serienauszügen verstehen und die Gesamtaussage sowie Einzelinformationen entnehmen; 3. Schreibkompetenz: unter Beachtung der Textsortenmerkmale verschiedene Formen des Schreibens realisieren; 4. Sprachmittlungskompetenz: die wesentlichen Inhalte von Äußerungen und authentischen Texten sinngemäß adressatengerecht und situationsangemessen wiedergeben

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Materialübersicht

1./2. Stunde: Expectations for *Black Mirror* – activating vocabulary

- M 1 (Ab) Reflections on the worlds on display in the *Black Mirror* series
- M 2 (Wo) Useful language: Discussing
- M 3 (Ab) *The Waldo Moment*: private versus public life 🎬

3./4. Stunde: *The Waldo Moment* – discovering the main topics of the episode

- M 4 (Ab) *The Waldo Moment*: the idea of democracy 🎬

5./6. Stunde: Trump and the media – comparing the present with the futuristic fiction of *The Waldo Moment*

- M 5 (Ab) The Trump Moments with the Media
- M 6 (Wo) Vocabulary: How to talk about trends in technology
- M 7 (Tx) Charlie Brooker on his series *Black Mirror* in an interview – introduction

7./8. Stunde: Future technologies and Brooker's view on them – reading an interview

- M 8 (Tx) Charlie Brooker on his series *Black Mirror* in an interview – second part
- M 9 (Tx) Charlie Brooker on his series *Black Mirror* in an interview – third part
- M 10 (Ab) More *Black Mirror* episodes – supporting your favourite topic

9./10. Stunde: Discussing personal preferences – using topic vocabulary and mediating a text

- M 11 (Ab) Bingo! – Classroom gamification
- M 12 (Tx) Becoming digitally immortal

11./12. Stunde: *Be Right Back* – discovering the main topics of the episode

- M 13 (Ab) *Be Right Back*: augmented eternity 🎬

13./14. Stunde: AI and Robotics – reading and analysing a newspaper article

- M 14 (Tx) Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
- M 15 (Ab) Human Job Quotas

M 1 Reflections on the worlds on display in the *Black Mirror* series

Before watching the TV series *Black Mirror*, let's look more closely at its main topics by examining the following pictures.



Tasks

1. Describe the pictures: What kind of device is being used in each picture? What for? Collect expressions.
2. Brainstorming: What kind of feelings or situations do you associate with the colour black?
3. Read the information below. Are there any parallels to your associations with the series' title?

Black Mirror is a British science fiction TV series. It was created by Charlie Brooker. Every episode in this anthology series stands on its own with a specific topic and different characters, each of which depicts a different near future reality.

At a first glance, people think that it is the old idea of people fearing technology's unintended side-effects, like the crack in the mirror. Yet, the series really focusses on how some reckless human beings try to profit from the latest inventions for their own benefit, no matter what the moral consequences for society are. So *Black Mirror* discusses the balance between the assets and drawbacks of technology in order to underline the responsibility human beings have to keep this balance. Many episodes reflect unsettling, terrifying scenarios of future technologies in sinister worlds of surveillance, visual display, or simulated realities. Others represent paradise-like future worlds.

The first two seasons were broadcast by Channel 4, a British TV station, starting in 2011. Season 3 was released by Netflix in 2016. Season 4 is still being produced, with many fans looking forward to it.

4. What are your hopes and fears for the future as regards technology? Collect examples of technologies that might solve current challenges or offer comfort but also cause negative side effects.

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M 2 Useful language: Discussing

How to express your opinion

In my experience
 In my opinion
 To my mind
 I firmly believe that
 As far as I am concerned
 I take the view that



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How to present an argument

When discussing the issue of *future technologies* ..., you must bear several points in mind.
 One of the main advantages is
 The first point I would like to discuss is
 A further aspect/reason I would like to present is (that)
 Another point I would like to make is (that)
 To illustrate this argument, I would like to mention the example of
 Furthermore / in addition / moreover / on top of that
 On the one hand ... on the other hand

How to agree

Certainly, it is fully justified to
 I share the view that
 I agree entirely with
 To my mind, this argument is very strong / convincing / plausible.
 This may, indeed, offer tremendous opportunities for
 In fact, this may solve the challenge of

How to disagree

One argument against ... cannot be ignored.
 One reason for criticism is that
 However / yet / on the contrary
 I find it hard to believe that
 I am completely opposed to
 The *researcher* forgets to mention / is not aware of / ignores the fact that
 This oversimplifies the matter in question.
 It is completely irrelevant to focus on
 This also raises questions about
 ... is at stake
 We have to bear in mind that
 To have a moral objection to / to object to

How to make concessions

To a certain extent, I can accept
 I agree in principle, but
 Although ... we should accept / must admit that

How to conclude your point

Taking everything into account, I believe
 Perhaps the future will show that
 All things considered, I must say that
 To summarise, *the long-term effects could be devastating / fortunate.*
 As a result, ... *could entail far-reaching consequences for*
 To conclude, *the idea of ... represents a rather utopian / dystopian concept for me.*

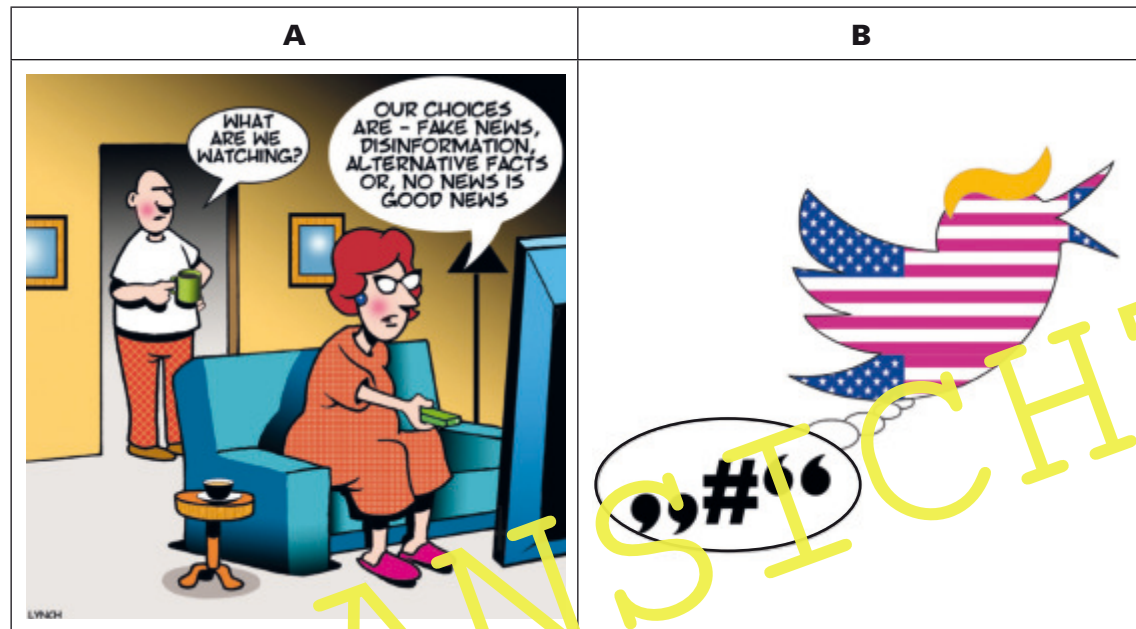
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M 5 The Trump Moments with the Media

Let's step back from science fiction for a while and consider the present-day relationship between the media and politics in the USA. We will focus on President Donald Trump and some impressions of his relationship to the media.

Tasks



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Working with the pictures:

1. Describe images A and B.
2. Analyse what kind of messages they convey about President Donald Trump and the media.

Transfer: Working with a video clip:

3. One scandal between President Donald Trump and the media revolves around a faked video. Watch this news clip by CNN on Donald Trump on YouTube to find out more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAdGPddeW40>

4. Describe and discuss Trump's private and public role in this example. Relate this to *The Waldo Moment*.

M 10 More *Black Mirror* episodes – supporting your favourite topic

Imagine you are at your friend's house during your exchange programme with a school in Hastings. As you cannot binge-watch every episode of season 3 tonight, you have to decide on the episode you prefer watching.

Task

Read the short plotlines below. Then decide which episode you like best. Find arguments in favour of your choice.

Write a short comment on your top suggestion to your English-speaking friend as an email. You can take a look at typical discussion phrases (M 2) to write your statement.

Nosedive

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This dystopian episode focuses on Lacie who lives in a world very close to our own. People, even strangers, can rank each other via smartphone and smart contact lenses for all kinds of activities. And, what is more, their social reputation depends on their ranking. This influences every sphere of life (e.g. housing, medical treatment) because people treat you according to your rank.

In this world full of happy smiles and pastel-coloured cupcakes, Lacie sees her chance for more approval which she needs to live in a stylish apartment: her former school friend Naomi asks her to be the maid of honour at her wedding. Being obsessed with receiving positive feedbacks, Lacie ends up losing her rank until she cracks down completely.

Playtest

This horror story is set in a near-future London. The American traveller Cooper is bored with his trip around the world and wants to return home. Thus, he takes on a job offer as a test person by a video game company called SaitoGemü. He accepts to have a cybernetic implant which will generate an augmented reality. He is not told that the device is programmed to discover his deepest fears. As Cooper's father died of Alzheimer's, he fears losing his own mental health. The implanted technology creates a horrifying augmented reality for him.



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Shut Up and Dance

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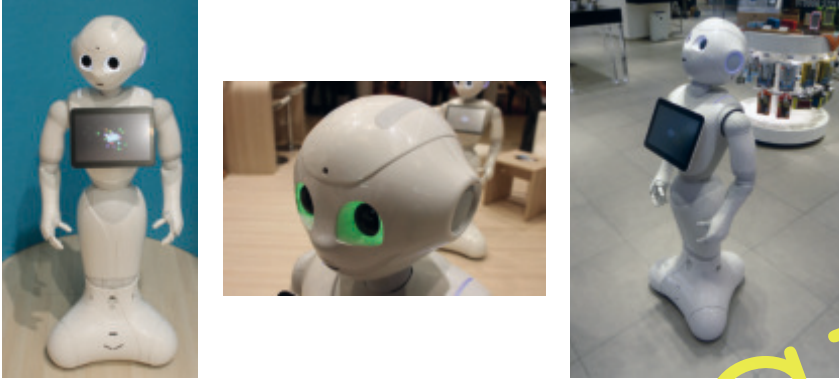


In this story in a world that seems familiar to our present, hackers have gained access to a teenager's computer. Kenny is being blackmailed into strange activities because he masturbated in front of the webcam without knowing he was filmed. Kenny realises there are other people being chased around, acting on the request of blackmailers. They are even urged to commit crimes.

M 14 Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

In this article on artificial intelligence (AI) published in the newspaper *The Guardian* on April 4th 2017, the journalist Owen Bowcott discusses the impact of robotics on the job market. Find out how he assesses the positive and negative influences of AI.

Bild 1 und Bild 2 © Xavier Caré/Wikimedia Commons, CC-BY-SA 4.0



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This is Pepper, a robot able to read human emotions and designed to be a companion and personal robot in the future. It is currently tested as a receptionist at different offices in the UK. Pepper can identify visitors using facial recognition, arranges for drinks and chats with clients.

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Rise of robotics will upend laws and lead to human job quotas, study says

Report predicts rise in robotics will usher in 'industrial revolution 4.0' altering working practices and legal frameworks

Innovation in artificial intelligence and robotics could force governments to legislate for quotas of human workers, upend traditional working practices and pose novel dilemmas for insuring driverless cars, according to a report by the International Bar Association.

The survey, which suggests that a third of graduate level jobs around the world may eventually be replaced by machines or software, warns that legal frameworks regulating employment and safety are becoming rapidly outdated.

The competitive advantage of poorer, emerging economies – based on cheaper workforces – will soon be eroded as robot production lines and intelligent computer systems undercut the cost of human endeavour, the study suggests.

While a German car worker costs more than €40 (£34) an hour, a robot costs between only €5 and €8 per hour. “A production robot is thus cheaper than a worker in China,” the report notes. Nor does a robot “become ill, have children or go on strike and [it] is not entitled to annual leave”.

The 120-page report, which focuses on the legal implications of rapid technological change, has been produced by a specialist team of employment lawyers from the International Bar Association, which acts as a global forum for the legal profession.

The report covers both changes already transforming work and the future consequences of what it terms ‘industrial revolution 4.0’. The three preceding revolutions are listed as: industrialisation,