

HANDOUT 2.6 C - QUIZ ON GERMAN CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES

True or False:

As a German citizen....

1. According to the law men and women have equal rights.
2. In all legal matters, only a man may represent his family.
3. Parents have the responsibility to care for and educate their children.
4. When children don't listen, adults may inflict corporal (physical) punishment.
5. Every resident of Germany is allowed to vote.
6. All citizens have to pay tax according to their income.
7. Before the law everybody is equal.
8. Nobody can tell me what to do and what not to do in my home.
9. The neighbors have to tolerate when I'm listening to loud music
10. Owners of property (e.g. a house or a car) can do with it whatever they want.
11. All Germany citizens over the age of 18 must vote.
12. The police can check my home at any time in order to see if everything is okay.
13. If the state doesn't like a political opinion, it can be forbidden in order to protect the society.
14. If somebody has taken my parking space, I can block his car. That's my right.
15. You have to have an identity card on you and be prepared to show it upon request of the police.

Answers:

1. True.
2. False. The law does not discriminate against either men or women.
3. True.
4. False. Corporal (physical) punishment is forbidden by law and can be penalized.
5. False. German citizens have the right to vote when they are 18 and older.
6. True.
7. True.
8. True.
9. False. Disturbing the peace constitutes an offence and the violator can be penalized.
10. False. Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany, Article 14 (2): "Property entails obligations. Its use shall also serve the public good." This means you are not allowed to throw things out anywhere even if you don't need them anymore. Instead you have to dispose of them properly.
11. False. There is a right to vote, but not an obligation to vote.
12. False. Normally the police can only enter a home with a judicial order (search warrant).
13. False. Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany, Article 15 (1): "Every person shall have the right freely to express and disseminate his opinions in speech, writing and pictures, and to inform himself without hindrance from generally accessible sources. Freedom of the press and freedom of reporting by means of broadcasts and films shall be guaranteed. There shall be no censorship". The limits of this law are regulated by further laws e.g. in case of insult or defamation.
14. False. Self-administered justice is forbidden.
15. False. You do not necessarily always have to have your ID with you, but in case you might have to go the police later and present it there.