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**Auszug aus:**

*Speech Analysis - Biden's State of the Union 2022*

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Titel:	<b>Speech Analysis - Biden's State of the Union address 2022 – Differenziertes und kompetenzorientiertes Unterrichtsmaterial</b>
Reihe:	Englisch in der Oberstufe
Bestellnummer:	80545
Kurzvorstellung:	<p>Dieses Material bietet eine ausführliche Erarbeitung der Rede des amerikanischen Präsidenten Biden, in der es um die Verfassung <i>der United States of America</i> geht. Somit werden aktuelle Schwierigkeiten, aber auch Bidens Visionen für ein starkes Amerika herausgearbeitet. Da Biden sehr hoffnungsvoll über Amerikas Zukunft spricht, bietet das Material hier auch ein vernetztes, kumulatives Lernen mit Rückgriff auf den <i>American Dream</i>. Die Schüler können sich den Inhalt schrittweise und differenziert erarbeiten, in dem sie auf Hilfe-Karten zurückgreifen.</p> <p>Dieses Material beinhaltet eine spielerisch gestaltete Einführung in das Thema der jährlichen <i>State of the Union</i>-Reden durch den Präsidenten. Dabei lernen die Lernenden vor dem Hintergrund der interkulturellen Kompetenz kulturelle Gegebenheiten Amerikas kennen und erweitern ihr landesspezifisches Wissen. Der eigentliche Auszug aus der Rede wird mit Aufgabenstellungen einer typischen Klausur zu einer Rede in der Oberstufe erarbeitet: <i>Summary, Analysis, Evaluation</i> und <i>Mediation</i>. Mithilfe der Lösungen können Lernende so ihre Ergebnisse vergleichen und eigenständig verbessern.</p>
Inhaltsübersicht:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Einführung in die <i>State of the Union</i>-Reden (Quiz &amp; Bingo)</li><li>• Auszug aus <i>Biden's State of the Union Address</i> mit Vokabelhilfen und klausurtypischem Aufgabenformat</li><li>• Hilfekarten für die Differenzierung</li><li>• Musterlösungen</li></ul>

## Extract from Biden's speech "State of the Union"

*In the beginning of the year, the president of the United States of America gives a speech in which he/she informs the people about America's current situation. In his speech, president Biden points out the past progress, the current challenges, and future measures on how to overcome them.*

March 01, 2022 • United States Capitol

[...] Last year COVID-19 kept us apart. This year we are finally together again. Tonight, we meet as Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. But most importantly as Americans. With a duty to one another to the American people to the Constitution. And with an unwavering<sup>1</sup> resolve<sup>2</sup> that freedom will always triumph over tyranny.

5

Six days ago, Russia's Vladimir Putin sought<sup>3</sup> to shake the foundations of the free world thinking he could make it bend to his menacing<sup>4</sup> ways. But he badly miscalculated. He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over. Instead he met a wall of strength he never imagined. [...] And I know the news about what's happening can seem alarming. But I want you to know that we are going to be okay. [...] This is a real test. It's going to take time. So let us continue to draw inspiration from the iron will of the Ukrainian people. [...]

10

We meet tonight in an America that has lived through two of the hardest years this nation has ever faced. The pandemic has been punishing. And so many families are living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to keep up with the rising cost of food, gas, housing, and so much more. I understand.

15

I remember when my Dad had to leave our home in Scranton, Pennsylvania to find work. I grew up in a family where if the price of food went up, you felt it. That's why one of the first things I did as President was fight to pass the American Rescue Plan<sup>5</sup>. Because people were hurting. We needed to act, and we did.

20

Few pieces of legislation have done more in a critical moment in our history to lift us out of crisis. It fueled<sup>6</sup> our efforts to vaccinate<sup>7</sup> the nation and combat<sup>8</sup> COVID-19. It delivered immediate economic relief for tens of millions of Americans. Helped put food on their table, keep a roof over their heads, and cut the cost of health insurance. And as my Dad used to say, it gave people a little breathing room.

25

And unlike the \$2 Trillion tax cut passed in the previous administration that benefitted the top 1% of Americans, the American Rescue Plan helped working people—and left no one behind. And it worked. It created jobs. Lots of jobs. In fact—our economy created over 6.5 Million new jobs just last year, more jobs created in one year than ever before in the history of America.

30

Our economy grew at a rate of 5.7% last year, the strongest growth in nearly 40 years, the first step in bringing fundamental change to an economy that hasn't worked for the working people of this nation for too long. [...] Vice President Harris and I ran for office with a new economic vision for America.

35

Invest in America. Educate Americans. Grow the workforce. Build the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, not from the top down. Because we know that when the middle class grows, the poor have a ladder up and the wealthy do very well.

<sup>1</sup> unwavering = steady

<sup>2</sup> resolve = will

<sup>3</sup> sought = wanted

<sup>4</sup> menacing = intimidating

<sup>5</sup> American Rescue Plan: passed by Biden in 2021 to tackle economic & health-related effects from COVID-19

<sup>6</sup> to fuel – to give energy to

<sup>7</sup> to vaccinate – to immunize

<sup>8</sup> to combat – to fight

## Tasks on the speech

- 1. Summarize the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) America currently faces. To do so, take notes first by completing the table below with the SWOTs Biden mentions for the United States of America. Use your own words.**

*SWOT can be used for business or strategic plan on assessing the current situation and for planning the future. You can find all four elements of SWOT (strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats) in Biden’s State of the Union address.*

*(Comprehension)*



**Help:** A coloured text version/marked text version is available to support you. Decide which column of the table the coloured statements refer to and insert the aspects using your own words.

✓ **Checkpoint:** Compare your notes with the solution before you write your summary.

internal	
strengths	weaknesses
external	
opportunities	threats

## Helpful material



### 1. (Comprehension)

[...] Last year COVID-19 kept us apart. This year we are finally together again. Tonight, we meet as Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. But most importantly as Americans. With a duty to one another to the American people to the Constitution. And with an unwavering<sup>25</sup> resolve<sup>26</sup> that freedom will always triumph over tyranny.

Six days ago, Russia's Vladimir Putin sought<sup>27</sup> to shake the foundations of the free world thinking he could make it bend to his menacing<sup>28</sup> ways. But he badly miscalculated. He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over. Instead he met a wall of strength he never imagined. [...] And I know the news about what's happening can seem alarming. But I want you to know that we are going to be okay. [...] This is a real test. It's going to take time. *So let us continue to draw inspiration from the iron will of the Ukrainian people. [...]*

We meet tonight in an America that has lived through two of the hardest years this nation has ever faced. **The pandemic has been punishing. And so many families are living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to keep up with the rising cost of food, gas, housing, and so much more. I understand.**

I remember when my Dad had to leave our home in Scranton, Pennsylvania to find work. I grew up in a family where if the price of food went up, you felt it. That's why one of the first things I did as President was fight to pass *the American Rescue Plan*<sup>29</sup>. Because people were hurting. We needed to act, and we did.

Few pieces of legislation have done more in a critical moment in our history to lift us out of crisis. *It fueled<sup>30</sup> our efforts to vaccinate<sup>31</sup> the nation and combat<sup>32</sup> COVID-19. It delivered immediate economic relief for tens of millions of Americans. Helped put food on their table, keep a roof over their heads, and cut the cost of health insurance.* And as my Dad used to say, it gave people a little breathing room.

**And unlike the \$2 Trillion tax cut passed in the previous administration that benefitted the top 1% of Americans, the American Rescue Plan helped working people—and left no one behind. And it worked. It created jobs.** Lots of jobs. In fact—our economy created over 6.5 Million new jobs just last year, more jobs created in one year than ever before in the history of America.

Our economy grew at a rate of 5.7% last year, the strongest growth in nearly 40 years, the first step in bringing fundamental change to an economy that hasn't worked for the working people of this nation for too long. [...] Vice President Harris and I ran for office with a new economic vision for America.

Invest in America. Educate Americans. Grow the workforce. *Build the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, not from the top down. Because we know that when the middle class grows, the poor have a ladder up and the wealthy do very well.*

America used to have the best roads, bridges, and airports on Earth. Now our infrastructure is ranked 13th in the world. We won't be able to compete for the jobs of the 21st Century if we don't fix that. *That's why it was so important to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—the most sweeping investment to rebuild America in history.*

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<sup>29</sup> American Rescue Plan: passed by Biden in 2021 to tackle economic & health-related effects from COVID-19

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summary:

According to President Biden, America is currently facing some threats and has its weaknesses, but it has also shown strength to overcome hard times of crisis and nowadays there are also new opportunities emerging.

First, America is strong because of its citizens. When Americans unite and get together, they can achieve a lot. They have already proven this endurance and their will to tackle challenges in the past. Americans are known to be brave and fight for their rights of freedom and democracy. That's why Americans can be proud to be American and their pride also shows in a growing demand for products that are made in America. Currently, America is the nation with the highest economic growth rate world-wide. The booming national economy has reached its peak in the past 40 years and created lots of workplaces.

On the downside, America is suffering. Families are weakened by the growing gap between the rich and the poor, so the middle class is shrinking. This leaves many families desperate to pay their bills. So far only the wealthy have profited from tax cuts as the former president has tried to build the economy from top to bottom. Another vulnerable point of America is its deteriorating infrastructure which permits the US to become a global player and China's direct competitor on the international market.

Even though, there are a lot of opportunities Biden mentions with his vision of America. The Americans should take Ukrainians as a role-model for standing together against all odds in today's difficult times. In addition, new plans and laws of the government create opportunities. Thus, the American Rescue Plan is going to be a help for the middle class as it cuts costs for groceries, health insurance and free vaccinations in the COVID pandemic. Biden also plans to cut costs for medicine, energy and child care while keeping wages on the same level. He wants to secure borders and enable immigration at the same time. Furthermore, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests in American businesses and improves the infrastructure so that it can withstand climate change with its severe weather events. He wants to invest in innovative technologies which provide America with environmentally friendly energy and transportation.

However, one must not neglect the threats to America and its citizens. Climate change is already leaving its negative impact on nature and economy. Even more recently, Americans can feel the inflation. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the global exchange of goods resulting in rising prices. The war between Russia and Ukraine increased prices for oil and gas. In addition, China as the main competitor on the global market poses a threat to the American economy.

## 2. (Analysis)

In his State of the Union address, given on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 at the United States Capitol, the American president Joe Biden wants to inform the US citizens and the rest of the world about the great strength of the United States of America. He brings across his message through invalidating the currently difficult situations America is facing by mentioning instead what they have already achieved so far and speaking in an optimistic tone about the future. He underlines the strong State of the Union address with facts and figures and manages to establish a personal, trusting relationship with his audience.

First of all, Biden mentions America's contemporary challenges. He thinks that the difficulties result from the COVID-19 pandemic in particular, which affected the health system and left America with an inflation. This becomes obvious through the personification of the virus: "The pandemic has been punishing." (l. 14). Also, he states that obsolete infrastructure and outsourcing present a threat to America's economy hand in hand with rising global competition, especially with China. By mentioning these problems America is facing using formal language, Biden makes sure his tone of voice is serious and his choice of words is almost intimidating. An example for this can be found in line 10: "This is a real test.". Acknowledging today's problems makes him trustworthy and realistic.



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