

Frage 1: Compare and contrast the language you have chosen to study and your native language (and any other languages you have studied, if you like). Consider each languages' syntax and grammar, as well as vocabulary matters, such as cognates, derivatives or borrowed words. (minimum 300 words)

There are some similarities between the German and Dutch languages. Both originated from Old Franconian, but while large parts of Germany underwent the 2nd vowel shift, this did not happen in the Netherlands. So modern Dutch can be described as the only surviving modern variant of the language of the West Franks. German then developed pluricentrically: A somewhat different German is spoken in Switzerland and Austria than in Germany itself, and within Germany, there are clear differences from region to region, so that on television some speakers are subtitled in High German.

On the other hand, several other languages have emerged from Dutch, such as Afrikaans. German is the most widely spoken language in Europe, with Dutch in 6th place. Between 90 and 105 million people worldwide speak German and around 30 million people speak Dutch. Both languages have the verb tense common in all Germanic languages except English. Then it gets a little more complicated:

German has 3 genera, represented by corresponding articles (der, die, das). There are also four different cases as well as singular and plural forms. This leads to a large number of different inflections. Dutch also has 3 genera, but only two different articles (de, het). The form remains largely unchanged in the different cases.

Typical for Dutch is the high proportion of diminutives by adding the suffix -(t)je. For example, a 'versterker' (intensifier) can become a 'versterkertje'. Dutch is also characterized by a high proportion of swear words concerning genitals or diseases ('Donder op!', 'kut').

A grammatical form that does not exist in German, but does in Dutch, is the progressive form. In Dutch it is common to say one is 'iets aan het doen'. In German, this form does not exist except on the Lower Rhine on the Dutch-German border. There, people also say that they are 'etwas am machen' (doing something).

Some pronouns also exist in two different forms in Dutch. For example, the pronoun 'you' can be translated as 'jij' or 'je'. 'Jij' emphasizes the difference to other people more strongly, 'je' is more informal and common.

A grammatical form that does not exist in German, but does in Dutch, is the progressive form. In Dutch it is common to say one is 'iets aan het doen'. This form does not exist in German except in the Lower Rhine region on the Dutch-German border. There, people also say that they are 'doing something'.

Some pronouns also exist in two different forms in Dutch. For example, the female pronoun 'du' can be translated as 'jij' or 'je'. 'Jij' emphasizes the difference to other people more strongly.

Both languages have a high proportion of loan words from Romance languages. In German, there are also numerous loan words from the Middle Ages from ancient Greek, as well as English loan words since the 20th century and false Anglicisms, i.e. words that either do not exist in English or have a different meaning, for example, 'cell phone' or 'public viewing'. Slavic and Yiddish words

also appear in German. Dutch words are mainly borrowed in the field of seafaring, for example, the word 'Matrose'.

Conversely, around 6.2% of all loan words in Dutch come from German and 10.3% from English. Some words are present in both languages but do not necessarily have the same meaning. Unlike in German, where Latin and Greek loan words characterize the technical terminology, Dutch words are often preferred in Dutch, for example, 'wiskunde' instead of mathematics.

Studies have shown that Dutch speakers often find it easier to understand German than vice versa. Since the 19th century, there has been an attitude in large parts of Germany that Dutch was an inferior language and it was ridiculed. Partly due to Germany's vast expanse, there are fewer Germans who understand Dutch. However, a similar dialect has developed along the border, which is still spoken by older people, and the group of people who speak the other language is significantly larger.

(657 words)

Frage 2: Based on what you understand about the language studied, linguistics in general, and your knowledge of the associated culture(s), briefly describe how the characteristics of the language may reflect the attributes, history or values of the associated culture(s). (minimum 300 words)

The Netherlands was one of the countries that conquered others, and the influence from Asia and the Caribbean can still be felt in the Netherlands today. Especially in the cuisine. Classic Dutch cuisine tends to be down-to-earth: Stampot (mashed potatoes) and fish or seafood, cheese of course, or deep-fried dishes in all variations (friet/patat, kipcorn, kaassoufflée, frikandel, bitterballen, etc.) In addition, the typical dishes also include numerous dishes whose roots lie in Indonesia, and the supermarket shelves are correspondingly well-stocked. In contrast, the once-conquered cultures have left little trace in the language.

The Dutch see themselves as a cosmopolitan people who welcome everyone and are good friends with everyone. For me as a German, this sometimes borders on the superficial: I don't feel friends with everyone I've seen briefly, but the friendships I do make, I try to maintain.

For me, this relaxed attitude towards the world is also reflected in the charm of the many diminutives. At the same time, the Dutch are also proud of their language and use their terms for many words that have Latin or Greek roots in other Germanic and Romance languages. Unfortunately, right-wing extremist tendencies are also on the rise in the Netherlands, which is ironic in that I was once called a 'Nazi' and 'moffe' by young people when I was a student there.

As Dutch is only spoken to a limited extent worldwide, the Dutch don't bother to dub media reports, but subtitle everything. For the Dutch, this has the great advantage that they build up good foreign language skills along the way. Most Dutch people speak at least passable English and, depending on the region, often also German or French.

From a religious point of view, the Netherlands is Protestant, Calvinist, or Puritan. Rumor has it that the typically Dutch huge windows on the first floor can be traced back to this: People wanted

to show the world that they had nothing to hide, even in their homes. What may also be due to this, but this is a guess on my part, is how God or higher beings are addressed. While under normal circumstances Dutch very quickly switch to "jij" and first names, even in business relationships, it remains very formal with "u" when it comes to god(s). Until a few years ago, it was also common for parents to be addressed as "u". This is comparable to the medieval church language in English ("thee, thou, thy"). In German, on the other hand, God, no matter which one is addressed as 'du'. We haven't had a common equivalent for the English 'sir' or 'madam' for a century either. Dutch, on the other hand, does. They just use 'meneer' or 'mevrouw' ("Mr./ Mrs.") without a suffix.

(457 words)

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deutsche_Sprache#Erbw%C3%B6rter,_Lehnw%C3%B6rter_und_Fremdw%C3%B6rter

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niederl%C3%A4ndische_Sprache#Grammatik

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatik_des_Niederl%C3%A4ndischen

Frage 3: Create a tape recording and accompanying “phrase-book” of a minimum of 25 phrases or sentences in the Indo-European language of your choice. Try to choose phrases and sentences that will a) be useful to you in your studies and/or spiritual practices; and b) reflect the cultural uniqueness of the native speakers of that language.

English	German	Dutch
We are here to honor the kindred.	Wir sind hier, um die Kindred zu ehren.	We zijn hier om de verwanten/ Kindred te eren.
May we be purified by water and the smoke of fire.	Mögen wir durch das Wasser und den Rauch des Feuers gereinigt sein.	Mogen we gezuiverd worden door het water en de rook van het vuur!
Earth Mother, hold us fast in this ritual.	Mutter Erde, halte uns in diesem Ritual	Moeder Aarde, houd ons vast in dit ritueel!
Heaven above us, land below us, waters surround us, and in our hearts burns a living flame.	Himmel über uns, Land unter uns, Wasser um uns herum, und in unseren Herzen brennt eine lebendige Flamme.	Lucht boven ons, land onder ons, water om ons heen, en een levende vlam brandt in onze harten.
Join your magic with mine to open the gates!	Vereine deine Magie mit der Meinen, um die Tore zu öffnen!	Verenig uw magie met de mijne om de poorten te openen!
Through your and with your magic: Let the gates be open!	Durch deine und mit deiner Magie: Mögen die Tore sich öffnen!	Door uw magie en met uw magie: mogen de poorten opengaan!
I stand in front of the well, in the center of all realms, and I call out to my ancestors!	Vor der Quelle stehe ich, in der Mitte der Welt, und rufe meine Vorfahren!	Ik sta voor de bron, in het centrum van de wereld, en roep mijn voorouders aan!
I stand in front of the fire, in the center of all realms, and I call out to the divine powers!	Vor dem Feuer stehe ich, in der Mitte der Welt, und rufe die göttlichen Kräfte!	Ik sta voor het vuur, in het centrum van de wereld, en roep de goddelijke krachten aan!
I stand in front of the world tree, in the center of all realms, and I call out to the nature spirits!	Vor dem Weltenbaum stehe ich, im Zentrum der Welt, und rufe die Naturgeister!	Ik sta voor de wereldboom, in het centrum van de wereld, en roep de geesten van de natuur aan!
Take my offerings!	Nehmt meine Opfergaben an!	Accepteer mijn offergaven!
What do you have to tell me?	Was habt ihr mir zu sagen?	Wat heeft u mij te zeggen?
Give us the waters of life!	Schenkt uns das Wasser des Lebens!	Geef ons het water des levens!
See (Behold?), the waters of life!	Siehe, das Wasser des Lebens! Seht, das Wasser des Lebens!	Zie, het water des levens!
We are now going to ask you for your blessings:	Wir bitten euch nun um euren Segen:	We vragen nu om uw zegen:

We have given freely, and now you give us something in return.	Wir haben euch unsere Geschenke überbracht, und im Gegenzug macht ihr uns nun ein Geschenk.	We hebben u onze cadeautjes gebracht en in ruil daarvoor geeft u ons nu een cadeau.
May the gates close!	Mögen die Tore sich schließen!	Mogen de poorten zich sluiten! (informeel: Mogen de deuren dicht gaan!)
Earth Mother, take back what I didn't need.	Erdmutter, nimm zurück, was ich nicht gebraucht habe.	Moeder Aarde, neem terug wat ik niet heb gebruikt.
I thank everybody who has celebrated here today with me.	Ich danke euch allen, dass ihr hier gemeinsam mit mir gefeiert habt.	Dank u allen om hier met mij te vieren bij dit feest vandaag.
From the gods to earth to us, from us to the earth to the gods!	Von den Göttern zur Erde zu uns, von uns zur Erde zu den Göttern!	Van de goden naar de aarde naar ons, van ons naar de aarde naar de goden!
Stay if you want and leave if you must!	Bleibt, wenn ihr wollt, und geht, wenn ihr müsst!	Blijf als u wilt en vertrek als u moet!
May everything return to normal except for the magic that did happen!	Sei alles, wie es vorher war, bis auf die Magie, die hier geschah!	Laat alles zijn zoals het was, behalve de magie die hier gebeurde!
Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill, join with our common Hearth, that these flames be one.	Entzündet an der Großen Flamme, bewahrt durch kluges Geschick, verbinde dich mit unserem gemeinsamen Herd, auf dass diese Flammen eins werden.	Ontstoken uit de Grote Vlam, bewaard door voorzichtige vaardigheid, sluit u aan bij onze gemeenschappelijke haard, zodat deze vlammen één zijn.
I'll leave now, alone, but knowing that I am part of a bigger community.	Ich gehe nun, alleine, doch in dem Bewusstsein, Teil einer Gemeinschaft zu sein.	Ik sta er nu alleen voor, maar in de weet dat ik deel uitmaak van een gemeenschap.
This ritual is over now.	Dieses Ritual ist nun beendet.	Dit ritueel is nu voltooid.
We stand between land and sea, forever on the border that the North Sea coast sets for us.	Wir stehen zwischen Land und Meer, ewig auf der Grenze, die die Nordseeküste uns vorgibt.	We staan tussen land en zee, voor altijd op de grens die de Noordzeekust voor ons bepaalt.