Unit 7 — Mediation: An Academic Text — Teacher copy

Track E · Klasse 12 · Niveau E (Basisfach / Leistungsfach)

Niveau E

1. Reading

Read the text and use it for the activities below.

Source — *Academic abstract (excerpt, paraphrased)*

Diese Arbeit untersucht intergenerationale Einkommensmobilität in 18 OECD-Ländern für die Geburtskohorten 1970-1990. Methodisch verwenden wir verlinkte Steuerregister-daten und einen Two-Sample IV-Schätzer. Die Hauptergebnisse legen nahe, dass die Mobilität in den meisten kontinentaleuropäischen Ländern höher ist als in den Vereinigten Staaten, dass jedoch der Abstand zwischen den 1970er- und den 1990er-Kohorten in einigen Ländern (Deutschland, Frankreich) gewachsen ist. Limitationen umfassen die unbeobachtete Heterogenität in der Migrationskohorte. Politische Implikationen diskutieren wir vorsichtig.

Mediation — academic-register conventions

Hedges to preserve: *legen nahe → suggest*; *vorsichtig diskutieren → discuss with caution*; *Limitationen umfassen → limitations include*.

Modal nuance: *kann sein → may be* (not *can*); *dürften → are likely to*.

Citation conventions: preserve the *(Author, Year)* format if present.

Disciplinary register: *Two-Sample IV* is a specific econometric estimator — keep the term, add a cultural / disciplinary note if needed.

2. Practise

Niveau E — controlled

1. Match German hedge → English: *legen nahe* → ?, *dürften* → ?, *vorsichtig* → ?
2. Decide for the addressee profile: keep, paraphrase, or drop — *Two-Sample IV-Schätzer* (for a PhD-track economist).

Niveau E — productive

3. Build a 5-sentence English mediation of the abstract above for a science-journalism reader (NOT an economist).

3. Your turn

Academic mediation, 15 sentences. Read the source above. Write 15 English sentences for an English-speaking PhD-track economist. Preserve hedges + modal nuance + disciplinary register + use 8 reporting verbs + 1 cultural-disciplinary note bracket.

Sample

Hi Jordan, here's a clean mediation of the abstract — should help your triage. The paper examines intergenerational income mobility across 18 OECD countries for the 1970-1990 birth cohorts. Methodologically, the authors use linked tax-register data with a Two-Sample IV estimator (an instrumental-variables approach combining two datasets to handle measurement issues). The main findings suggest that mobility in most of continental Europe is higher than in the United States. By contrast, the authors note that the gap between the 1970s and 1990s cohorts has, in some countries (Germany, France), widened. They stress that limitations include unobserved heterogeneity in the migration cohort — a non-trivial concern given migration patterns over the period. The paper discusses policy implications with caution; it does not claim that the mobility gap is causally attributable to specific tax-and-transfer regimes. What it does is establish a stylised fact base robust enough to reward a fuller read. The authors concede that their identification strategy depends on assumptions standard in the literature but worth checking against the appendix. They argue, nonetheless, that the headline finding — widening gap in the 1990s cohorts in some continental countries — is robust to most specifications. They warn against extrapolating to outside-OECD contexts. They note, finally, that the next paper in the project will tackle the unobserved-heterogeneity problem head-on. In short: a paper worth reading in full, particularly the methods section.

4. Further reading / listening

- Goethe-Institut — Sprachmittlungs-Beispielaufgaben Oberstufe.
- Cambridge — *Translation and Mediation* course materials.

5. Teacher answer key

Controlled. 1. suggest / are likely to / with caution.

2. keep (and add a 6-word note for a non-economist reader).

Productive. 3. Open.