

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:—

B.A.

MES 203: German Political and Social Thought

COURSE CODE : MEST0203

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 21-MAY-04

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours

MEST0203 GERMAN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT

- Answer TWO questions.
- Do NOT answer a question on the topic of your assessed course essay.
- Do NOT draw substantially on the same material for more than one answer.

1. *Either* (a) To what extent was Marx's theory of history and society 'deterministic'?
- Or* (b) 'Marx's economic analysis of capitalism played a central part in his study of politics.' Discuss.

2. *Either* (a) 'Weber rightly warns against using the methods of the natural sciences in the field of sociology; he fails, however, to establish a convincing alternative methodology and philosophy specifically for the social sciences.' Discuss.
- Or* (b) How convincing do you find Weber's analysis of the relationship between religion, capitalism and rationalization?

3. *Either* (a) "'Critical theory" extends well beyond criticism of social conditions to a re-evaluation of language and ways of thinking.' Discuss.
- Or* (b) 'Adorno's concept of a "culture industry" was much more than an attack on modern forms of entertainment; it was an effective critique of modern societies and modern forms of communication.' Discuss.

4. *Either* (a) To what extent is Habermas' notion of 'communicative action' fundamental to his philosophy of social science?
- Or* (b) 'Habermas' distinction between "life-world" and "system" is flawed, undermining his assessment of the functioning of modern societies.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER