

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

*University of London*

## EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

*For the following qualifications:-*

*M.A.*

**M.A. German Studies: Language, Power and Ideology**

### TAKE HOME PAPER

**COURSE CODE : GERMPG36**

**TO BE COLLECTED: 28 APRIL 2005, FROM 12 NOON ONWARDS**

**TO BE RETURNED: 3 MAY 2005, BY 5 PM**

**MA in German History**  
**GERMPG36**  
**Language, Power and Ideology**

**Take-home paper**

To be collected on 28 April 2005 from 12 noon onwards.  
To be returned on 3 May 2005 by 5.00 pm.

*ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.*

*Essays should be approximately 1,000 words in length. Importance is attached to the clarity of your argument.*

*Do not use the same material as the basis for more than one answer.*

*Do not answer on substantially the same topic as that of your assessed essay for this course.*

*All questions carry equal marks.*

*DO NOT PLAGIARIZE: all quotations should be acknowledged and full references to source and page number given. A bibliography including all sources consulted should be listed at the end of each essay.*

*Please type if possible.*

1. EITHER a) 'Characterising NS rhetoric as a misuse of the German language is a subjective interpretation, which seeks erroneously to place aesthetic and moral judgements upon language.' Discuss, with examples.  
  
OR b) 'Partizipationserfahrung bei gleichzeitiger Ausschaltung realer Partizipation im Diskurs war eines der zentralen Mittel, mit denen die Nationalsozialisten im Kampfe um die Köpfe ihre Erfolge errangen und sie absicherten.' Discuss, with examples.
2. EITHER a) To what extent does far-right discourse focus on identifying out-groups rather than establishing positive in-groups?  
  
OR b) Outline the relationship between far-right and racist discourses in any German-speaking country.
3. EITHER a) Discuss the significance of the public/private dichotomy in understanding language use in the former GDR.  
  
OR b) To what extent did attempts to de-nazify the language after 1945 have lasting effects on public discourse in the FRG?

**TURN OVER**

- OR c) 'Das DDR-Deutsch war nicht nur eine schnell abzuschaffende politische Terminologie, sondern teilweise auch eine weite Bereiche des Alltagslebens betreffende 40 Jahre alte staatliche Varietät der deutschen Sprache, von der noch längere Zeit Reste als Regiolekt der neuen Bundesländer erhalten bleiben werden.' With reference to this quotation, discuss the linguistic relationship between East and West Germany since 1989.
4. EITHER a) To what extent are the difference/dominance frameworks in sociolinguistics helpful in understanding gender differences in language use? Illustrate your answer with examples from German and English.
- OR b) 'We need a dictionary, not a dick-tionary.' How far do you agree with the view that the codification of the German language, e.g. through dictionaries and/or language learning materials, contributes to discrimination against women?
5. EITHER a) 'Fernsehen als öffentliches Medium mit starker Personalisierungs-, Emotionalisierungs- und Unterhaltungstendenz gefährdet die Qualität des öffentlichen, vor allem politischen Diskurses.' Discuss, with reference to television in any German-speaking country.
- OR b) What linguistic means do the German-language press employ to express its ideological perspectives? Discuss, with reference to ONE or MORE German-language newspapers or magazines.
- OR c) 'Heute ist in der Werbesprache die ökonomisch verknappte, oft Intimität vortäuschende Andeutung einer persuasiven Textfunktion die Regel, mit fragmentarischen Mitteln des Gesprächsstils, z.B. Anredeformen, Fragen, Aufforderungen, indirekten Versprechungen eines höheren Sozialprestiges oder Lebensgenusses, mit saloppen umgangssprachlichen oder verspielten, witzigen Ausdrucksweisen.' Discuss, providing examples from German.

END OF PAPER