

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:—

B.A.

German B106: An Introduction to German History

COURSE CODE : GERMB106

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

COLLECT: 29 APRIL 2005 FROM 12 NOON ONWARDS

RETURN: 3 MAY 2005 BY 5PM

TAKE HOME PAPER

GERMB106
INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN HISTORY

TAKE-HOME PAPER

To be collected on Thursday 28 April 2005 from 12 noon onwards.

To be returned on Tuesday 3 May 2005 by 5:00 pm.

ANSWER **TWO** QUESTIONS. Please type or use a word processor.

Essays should be approximately 1000 words in length. Do not draw substantially on the same material for more than one answer. All questions carry equal marks. Importance is attached to the clarity of your argument.

DO NOT PLAGIARISE. All quotations must be acknowledged and full references to source and page number given. Do not rely extensively on a single source for your essay. A bibliography listing *all* sources consulted, including not only books and articles but also internet sites if used, should be attached to the end of each essay.

1. 'The long-term consequences of the Reformation were far more significant than the short-term effects; the only problem is, they are so hard to pin down with any precision.' Discuss.
2. 'The Thirty Years War served not merely to devastate German society, economy and population; by consolidating Germany's pattern of *Kleinstaaterei*, it inaugurated a century or more of petty absolutism in a cultural backwater.' How far, if at all, do you agree with this assessment?
3. How would you characterise the relations between political context and the German Enlightenment?
4. Given the social and economic developments of the preceding years, why did the revolutionary upheavals of 1848 not bring about the unification of Germany under liberal auspices?
5. What do you consider to be Bismarck's principal legacies for the character of Imperial Germany?
6. How far did the First World War transform the character of German society and politics?
7. 'The principal problem with the Weimar constitution was that it was essentially too democratic; but had it not been for the Wall Street Crash, this would not have mattered so much in the long term.' Discuss.

8. 'Hitler's role in the Third Reich is often exaggerated; guilt and responsibility for the Third Reich should be spread far more widely.' Discuss.
9. Given the repressive character of the GDR dictatorship, what grounds, if any, are there for thinking that it was possible to lead a 'perfectly normal life' in the GDR?
10. 'The political stability of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1949 to 1989 had more to do with economic success than constitutional arrangements; and this interpretation has been confirmed by developments since unification in 1990.' Discuss.