# GERMB210

## POLITICS, CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN GERMANY SINCE 1945

### Take-home paper

To be collected on Thursday 29 April from 12 noon onwards.
To be returned on Tuesday 4 May by 5.00 pm.

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

1.      'The formation of two German states in the immediate post-war period was almost inevitable.' Discuss.

2.      How do you account for the success of Christian Democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany between 1945 and 1998?

3.      To what extent, if at all, can the GDR be characterised as a 'totalitarian regime'?

4.      'The significance of 1968 as a turning-point in the post-war social history of the FRG has been exaggerated.' Discuss.

5.      In what respects did the Honecker era in the GDR differ from that of Ulbricht, and why?

6.      'Until the 1970s the opportunities for political participation, dissent and opposition (in both the GDR and FRG) remained extremely limited.' Discuss.

7.      'For all their differences, attempts in the GDR and FRG to "overcome the past" between 1949 and 1989 had remarkably similar effects: the vast majority of "ordinary Germans" were able to claim both innocence and ignorance of Nazi crimes.' Discuss.

8.      'Although high culture in the GDR and FRG remained remarkably similar, popular culture in the West came to diverge significantly from the various sub-cultures of the East.' Discuss.

9.   Why did the collapse of the GDR and the unification of Germany occur so quickly in 1989-90?

10.   'Decades of division had created two nations in Germany as well as two states by the 1980s, and developments in the 1990s confirmed that this was indeed the case.' Discuss with reference to the period since 1945.

-END OF PAPER-