

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.A.

German B210: Politics, Culture and Society in Germany Since 1945

COURSE CODE : GERMB210

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

COLLECT: 5 MAY 2005 FROM 12 NOON ONWARDS

RETURN: 10 MAY 2005 BY 5PM

TAKE HOME PAPER

GERMB210
POLITICS, CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN GERMANY SINCE 1945

TAKE-HOME PAPER

To be collected on Thursday 5 May 2005 from 12 noon onwards.
To be returned on Tuesday 10 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, must be attached at the end of each essay.

1. 'It was the economy, rather than political considerations, which was the root cause of the division of Germany in 1949; and it was again the economy, in each case, which explained the very different political fates of the two German states thereafter.' Discuss.
2. Given the democratic political system, how would you account for the pivotal role of the FDP in West German politics in the period from 1949 to 1989?
3. How is the GDR political system best characterised?
4. 'The role of the 1960s in the transformation of West German politics and society has been grossly exaggerated.' Discuss.
5. 'Curiously, despite the shift from Ulbricht to Honecker in 1971, the 1960s and 1970s have a lot in common as a period of relative stability; this middle period stands in marked contrast to the more turbulent 1950s and 1980s.' Discuss.
6. 'Denazification in any real sense was an impossible task in both East and West; and difficulties rooted in a united past hung over a divided present throughout the four decades of separate existence of the two German states.' Discuss.
7. How far, if at all, do you think the cultures of the two Germanies diverged? Discuss with examples.
8. To what extent, if at all, do the labels '*Ossis*' and '*Wessis*' point to significant differences between East and West German attitudes and behaviour patterns, rooted in different social structures and institutional frameworks? Discuss with examples.

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9. Given the strength of its repressive forces, why did the GDR collapse so suddenly in the autumn of 1989?

10. In the light of its divided past, how would you characterise the 'national identity' of the Federal Republic of Germany in the early twenty-first century?

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