

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

German C337: Politics in the GDR

COURSE CODE : **GERMC337**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **09-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

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TURN OVER

GERMC337

POLITICS IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Time allowed: THREE hours.

Answer THREE questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

Do NOT draw substantially on the same material for more than one answer.

1. 'The GDR was a totalitarian state. Relations between state and society were at all times primarily based on repression and coercion; for this reason, we have to use the term "power" rather than "authority" when analysing the GDR.' Discuss.
2. 'Despite all appearances to the contrary, the SED was never really in full control. It was constantly caught between the demands of Moscow, on the one hand, and the constraints of what was acceptable to the people, on the other.' Discuss.
3. 'Although often seen as a major turning point in GDR history, the transition from Ulbricht to Honecker was characterized by real continuities.' Discuss.
4. How could you explain the apparent discrepancy between the continued growth of the Stasi and its incapacity for effective action in 1989?
5. 'It could be argued that the church/state agreement of 1978 was a genuine step towards pluralism in the GDR.' Discuss.
6. What do you consider to be the major consequences of the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961?
7. 'The mass organisations were a far more important element in GDR politics than were the bloc parties.' Discuss.
8. How would you explain the differences in the character and outcome of dissenting movements in 1953, 1968 and the 1980s?
9. 'Honecker's social and economic policies cannot be blamed for the collapse of the GDR.' Discuss.
10. 'The historiography of the GDR is inevitably politicised; and there simply is not the empirical material to resolve some of the key points of contention.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER