

Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos 2008
Examiners' Report on Paper Ge 9
German literature, thought, and history, from 1815 to 1914

There were 7 candidates for the examination and three optional dissertations. While statistical analysis of results for that number would be unreliable, the standards of achievement were in line with averages: three firsts, five II.1, and two II.2.

The examiners were pleased to see candidates tackling a good range of topics across the fields of literature, thought, and history. At Part II level in particular, the expectation is that candidates will not just reproduce the arguments and examples provided in lectures but show evidence of further exploration of the topics, adducing their own illustrations and showing adept critical handling of both the broad lines of the argument and the particular implications of the chosen examples. This applies equally to Sections A and B, and the best performances in both displayed these more advanced capabilities. Candidates are reminded that accuracy in detail is expected, and that slips in quotations, names, or reference to events tend to undermine the authority of an argument.

The dissertations showed the value of this exercise for those students who wish to develop a more intensively researched and extensively argued piece of work. They offer an opportunity for genuine originality of achievement, and this was in evidence in the best of the work seen this year.

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