

MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES TRIPOS Part II

Wednesday 28 May 2008 1.30 to 4.30

Paper Ge. 13

A SPECIAL PERIOD OR SUBJECT IN GERMAN LITERATURE, THOUGHT,
AND HISTORY:
ASPECTS OF GERMAN-SPEAKING EUROPE SINCE 1945

Answer ANY THREE questions.

Use SEPARATE booklets for EACH answer and hand them in SEPARATELY.

Candidates for this paper may NOT draw substantially on material from their dissertations or material which they have used or intend to use in another scheduled paper. Candidates may NOT draw substantially on the same material in more than ONE question on the same paper.

The term 'German', as used in this paper, should, where the context permits, be understood to include reference to the German-speaking territories in general.

*STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**8 Page Answer Book x 3**Rough work pad**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**None*

**You may not start to read the questions
printed on the subsequent pages of this
question paper until instructed that you
may do so by the Invigilator**

SECTION A

1 EITHER (a) 'Every life is an attempt to clothe itself in its own metaphors.' Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE examples of modern German autobiography or autobiographical fiction.

OR (b) 'Language itself is both the problem and the solution for those attempting to write about the self in postwar German literature.' Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE examples of modern German autobiography or autobiographical fiction.

2 EITHER (a) 'German reunification came about following a revolution of the people of the GDR made possible by Moscow's abandonment of the SED leadership.' Discuss.

OR (b) 'The speeches made by Horst Köhler marking the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the war and the launch of the *Land der Ideen* campaign underline the emergence of Germany as a normal country since 1989; the problems of reunification do not weigh heavily against that.' Discuss.

SECTION B

3 EITHER (a) 'Since 1945, it is certainly clear *that* football in Germany has meant a great deal to a great many people. Establishing *what* it has meant, however, is an altogether more difficult task.' Discuss.

OR (b) 'In the 1960s and 1970s, West Germany's diplomats continually defeated their East German counterparts in the Cold War. In the Olympic arena, it was quite a different matter.' Discuss.

4 EITHER (a) 'The literary treatment of contemporary German history can afford the writer only a limited amount of freedom if credibility is to be maintained.' Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE works which deal with the *Wende*.

OR (b) 'Soul-searching, but usually in an ironic or even flippant mode, is the most distinctive aspect of works dealing with the *Wende* and its aftermath.' Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE works.

5 EITHER (a) 'Films on Berlin since the *Wende* fluctuate between austerity and flamboyance.' Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE films.

OR (b) 'The representation of Berlin in post-*Wende* film suggests a place of disorientation that is ultimately unmappable.' Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE films.

6 EITHER (a) 'The term "literarisches Fräuleinwunder" is both artificial and misleading: it is an attempt to create some grouping largely on the basis of gender, whilst also producing a memorable headline.' Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.

OR (b) 'Although Draesner, Duve, Hermann, and Mlynkec all belong in the literary landscape of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, their approaches and styles vary far more than one might expect.' Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.

7 EITHER (a) 'The European integration process between 1945 and 1989 was shaped by practical solutions to concrete and complex challenges rather than by any overarching philosophical framework.' Discuss.

OR (b) 'The Lisbon Treaty of December 2007 represented little more than the logical summary of the changes that have taken place in Europe since 1989.' Discuss.

8 Answer ONE of the following:

(a) 'Wer heute in Deutschland über die Einheit und das vereinigte Deutschland spricht, spricht über sich selbst. Erst die nächste oder die übernächste Generation soll über ein Denkmal zur Wiedervereinigung nachdenken und irgendwann darüber entscheiden.' Discuss.

(b) 'Die Nachkriegsgeschichte beider deutscher Staaten ist ein fünf Jahrzehnte langer Weg aus der Barbarei zurück zur Zivilisation.' Discuss.

(c) 'There is little optimism in German writing since 1945, and especially since 1989: only the negative has proved attractive.' Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts (you may include films) produced in Germany since 1945.

END OF PAPER