

MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES TRIPOS Part IA
Option B: post A-level
MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES TRIPOS Part IB
(For those candidates who took Option A, *ab initio*, in Part IA German.)

Friday 29 May 2009 1.30 to 4.30

Paper Ge. 2

INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN HISTORY AND THOUGHT SINCE 1750

Answer THREE questions, AT LEAST ONE from EACH section.

Do NOT use substantially the same material for more than ONE answer.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 Page Answer Book x 1
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) 'The Enlightened Absolutist monarchs were philosophers in the study, but kings in the cabinet chamber.' Discuss with reference to ONE OR MORE German rulers of the eighteenth century.

OR (b) 'The French had a greater impact on the German lands than any German rulers of the time.' Discuss with reference to the period 1790-1815.

2 EITHER (a) 'The German national movement was reactive and divided. It was liberalism that gave it a clear political direction.' Discuss with reference to the period 1815–1848.

OR (b) 'The German revolutions of 1848/1849 were hindered not helped by German nationalism.' Discuss.

3 EITHER (a) 'No Bismarck, no unification.' Discuss with reference to the period 1862-1871.

OR (b) 'Germany's rulers were unable to comprehend the problems of the new industrial and mass society in the German Empire.' Discuss with reference to EITHER the period 1871-1890 OR 1890-1914 OR BOTH.

4 EITHER (a) 'The Nazis did not so much destroy the Weimar Republic as take advantage of its prior decomposition.' Discuss.

OR (b) 'Nazi Germany was a paradox: a brutal dictatorship that enjoyed the support of the people.' Discuss with reference to the period 1933-1945.

5 EITHER (a) 'The division of Germany was the necessary precondition for the survival and stability of the GDR.' Discuss with reference to the period 1949-1989.

OR (b) 'The "economic miracle" was central to the establishment of a well-functioning and stable democracy in West Germany.' Discuss. You may confine your answer to the period 1949-1972 if you wish.

SECTION B

6 EITHER (a) ‘Lessing and Kant were radical thinkers, but they respected the traditions of their society and culture.’ Discuss with reference to EITHER Lessing OR Kant OR BOTH.

OR (b) ‘Novalis viewed the Enlightenment as a regrettable but necessary stage in the development of mankind.’ Discuss with reference to *Die Christenheit oder Europa*.

7 EITHER (a) ‘Hegel’s account of the modern age is deeply conservative.’ Discuss with reference to the *Vorlesungen über die Philosophie der Geschichte*.

OR (b) ‘Die Waffen, womit die Bourgeoisie den Feudalismus zu Boden geschlagen hat, richten sich jetzt gegen die Bourgeoisie selbst.’ Discuss Marx’s *Thesen über Feuerbach* and the *Manifest der kommunistischen Partei* in the light of this statement.

8 EITHER (a) ‘Es macht schon etwas aus, wenn man weiß, daß man auf seine eigene Kraft angewiesen ist. Man lernt dann, sie richtig zu gebrauchen.’ Discuss Freud’s *Die Zukunft einer Illusion* in the light of this statement.

OR (b) ‘National Socialism was a symptom of the “sickness” of German society.’ Discuss with reference to ‘Die Unfähigkeit zu trauern, womit zusammenhängt eine deutsche Art zu lieben’ by A. and M. Mitscherlich.

9 EITHER (a) ‘To abandon objectivity and the discipline of “Wissenschaft” is to lose any hope at all of achieving understanding and orientation in Western society.’ Discuss with reference to Weber’s *Wissenschaft als Beruf*.

OR (b) ‘The particular problems of the German past are central to Habermas’s ideas about modernity.’ Discuss with reference to ‘Die Moderne – ein unvollendetes Projekt’.

10 EITHER (a) ‘German intellectual history since the eighteenth century can be characterized as a crisis of reason.’ Discuss with reference to ANY TWO OR THREE writers you have studied for this paper.

OR (b) ‘Contrary to appearances, German thought since the eighteenth century is characterized by moderation, even conservatism.’ Discuss with reference to ANY TWO OR THREE writers you have studied for this paper.

END OF PAPER