Sample Essay Questions

A supervision essay should normally be around 1500 words long, and should contain some material gleaned from your own reading, rather than merely re-hashing the lectures.

- 'No dictionary is fully comprehensive: its compilers necessarily select from the available material. We must therefore judge it as much by what it omits as by what it includes.' Discuss.

- 'A good dictionary reports the language as it is, not as the editors would wish it to be.' Discuss with reference to either the Grimms’ Deutsches Wörterbuch or the Duden Rechtschreibung.

- ‘It can truly be said of the Deutsches Wörterbuch that less would have been more.’ Discuss.

- 'The Deutsches Wörterbuch is marred by the Grimms' assumption that the greatest days of the German language lay in the past.' Discuss.

- ‘Konrad Duden’s decision to produce a word-list rather than a set of principled rules has not proved itself over time.’ Discuss.

- ‘It is hard to account for the affection in which Germans hold the Duden Rechtschreibung.’ Discuss.