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There were 4 optional dissertations for this paper and 18 candidates for the take-home examination. Of the latter, 8 chose the one-question option and 10 two questions. For both the dissertations and the examination scripts, there was a fairly even distribution overall between more political/historical and more cultural topics, with a leaning towards the former.

The dissertations were at their best where they supplemented a general argument with detailed analysis of aspects of the material in hand. For both historical and cultural topics a broad sweep will not suffice to achieve first-class marks.

Candidates generally dealt well with the take-home format for the examination, with very competent performances both for the single-essay and two-essay options and grades ranging from lower 2.1 to low First. As for the dissertations, particular credit was given for arguments that engaged more closely with salient detail, rather than relying on overview. For historical topics, it was encouraging to see some candidates going beyond narrative exposition to engage with historiographical debates, including drawing on German-language secondary sources. For cultural topics, the best performances teased out the implications of particular features of texts/films for their assessment of the material under consideration, taking formal as well as thematic aspects into consideration. In all cases, the examiners rewarded close and sustained attention to the precise terms of the question, including analytical engagement at a conceptual level.