



SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Guidelines for Hausarbeiten

An excellent Masters-level 'Hausarbeit' essay will have the below characteristics.

Analysis

Devises a manageable and significant question that reflects class themes.

Strikes an excellent balance between description and analysis.

Arguments are backed up by quality evidence. Acknowledges and refutes possible counter-arguments to the case advanced. Displays an outstanding awareness of key issues/debates relevant to the topic, and is positioned relative to those.

An excellent paper is distinguished by elements of originality of argument and may be close to a publishable standard.

Research

Draws upon an excellent number and range of sources (not just those in the course guide).

Clear and nuanced command of what constitutes a primary source. Sources selected are of a uniformly high quality. Quantity of sources is appropriate to the assignment task.

The research is up-to-date and shows an awareness of key texts in the field.

Structure

Strong organisation, with headings.

Follows a clear and logical structure that supports the answer provided.

Written in a precise and accessible style that is always easy for the reader to follow. Tone of writing is at or close to publishable standard. Excellent sentence structure. Contains few, if any, grammatical or spelling errors.

Presentation/Citation

Strictly adheres to GSA requirements (see GSA Guidelines for Citation, and AI use)

Footnoting and bibliographic techniques are impeccable, with all sources consistently and fully documented. Formatting is excellent, font clearly legible. Word limit is adhered to.