

I am delighted to commend Bruce Mitchell to your attention. He is a student whose distinctive qualities indisputably equip him for advanced study. Two years ago I would not have been so confident. Then Bruce tended to wrestle with problems without quite showing how to resolve the difficulties he confronted. He would therefore tend to immerse himself in detail in his written work without quite seeing the point. His two years in Germany and Hungary have, however matured him as a man and as a scholar of some potential. He wishes to specialize in an area that fascinates him, and about which he has built up a wealth of specialist expertise. In this sense, and in his thirst for knowledge and appetite for reading, one could say that he is already operating more like a postgraduate. I have recently marked essays on post-1945 Germany, both of which were first class, and which, in one case, showed the panache and insight missing in some earlier essays. I also marked his German dissertation, and my concluding comments bear repetition: "The result of the author's prodigious efforts is a project which is - in all the best senses - painstaking and comprehensive. The subject matter is not one which lends itself to flamboyant prose and bold generalisation, but demands application, close attention to detail, sensitivity and genuine scholarship. This dissertation shows all those qualities in abundance; it would put many masters' theses to shame. The author deserves the highest praise for his achievement." On current performance and future potential this man is ideally suited to the course of study he has chosen.

Lawson

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