Task 1

In groups, discuss:

• What representations are present (e.g. Gender)?
• Are they positive or negative?
• Why do you think this is?
How are the following represented?

- Martin/Moritz
- Leonora
- Tischbier
- Alex Edel
- General Edel
- General Jackson
- Annette
What about the women?
Is there any difference between the representation of the women of East Germany and West Germany?
WEST

- Women become oppressed through a capitalist system because as the system promotes consumerism women become commodities (Wolfgang and Arnold spending the night with prostitutes)
- Women are encouraged to compare themselves to ‘idealised versions’ of women
- Women become victims of patriarchy (Yvonne is subject to domestic abuse)
- Women are passive

EAST

- Women were expected to go to work because the politics of the East centres on equality
- A greater sense of equality transfers to the domestic space
- Women are independent and empowered
- Due to a lack of consumerism women were less likely to compare themselves to ‘idealised’ versions of ‘women’ - women as individuals and not a collective.
- Women are active

Extension reading on Marxist Feminism
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxist_feminism
http://www.feministezine.com/feminist/philosophy/Introduction-to-Marxist-Feminism.html
The representations in D83 are/are not surprising because...
Prep: Pick a character...

• Pick one character we have met in episode 1, and look at how their representation is constructed.
• Go back to the episode and find where they are introduced.
• Using the four analysis areas (cinematography, editing, sound and mise-en-scene), and screen grabs if possible, explore how this is initial representation is created.
• Create a presentation of your findings for the next lesson.
Other representations...

East v. west
It's an orange.
Say Apfelsine and no one will get you.
East
West
East
West

My daughter Yvonne, after tough negotiations,
East

you leave after all
West
Martin/Moritz E v. W
A representation implicates the audience in creating its meaning. Power – through ideology or by stereotyping – tries to fix the meaning of a representation in a ‘preferred meaning’. To create deliberate anti-stereotypes is still to attempt to fix the meaning (albeit in a different way). A more effective strategy is to go inside the stereotype and open it up from within, to deconstruct the work of representation.

Where is the power in these representations?
The media have an important but complex relationship with identities. In the modern world, it is now an expectation that individuals make choices about their identity and lifestyle.

What identities are on offer to the audience of D83?
In patriarchal culture, the way women’s bodies are represented as objects is different to the representation of male bodies as spectacle.

How are the genders represented in D83?
‘Intersectionality’ refers to the intersections of gender, race, class and sexuality to create a ‘white supremacist capitalist patriarchy’, whose ideologies dominate media representations.

What intersectional representations are there in D83?
Gender is created in how we perform our gender roles – there is no essential gender identity behind these roles, it is created in the performance. Performativity is not a singular act but a repetition and a ritual that becomes naturalised within the body.

How is gender performed in D83?
The African diaspora caused by the slave trade has now constructed a transatlantic culture that is simultaneously African, American, Caribbean and British – the ‘Black Atlantic’.

‘postcolonial melancholia’, an attachment to an airbrushed version of British colonial history, which expresses itself in criminalising immigrants and an ‘us and them’ approach to the world founded on the belief in the inherent superiority of white western civilisation.

Is Gilroy’s theory supported by D83?