

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH  
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

3<sup>rd</sup> ARTS EXAMINATIONS 1999-2000

SEMESTER II

HISTORY

Course HI 369 - MEDIEVAL IRELAND 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

Dr. Seán Duffy  
Professor Nicholas Canny  
Anne Connon

Time allowed: **TWO** hours  
Answer **THREE** questions

1. Discuss the uses and limitations of **two** of the following as sources for early Irish history:  
(i) the Irish annals  
(ii) Irish saga literature  
(iii) Irish genealogies  
(iv) Irish hagiography  
(v) The *Expugnatio Hibernica* and the *Song of Dermot and the Earl*.
2. What was the impact of the first Viking age (c. 795-902) upon early medieval Ireland?
3. Why do historians classify the mid-tenth century as a time of dynastic crisis in Irish politics?
4. Compare and contrast the 'high-kingship' of Ireland (in terms of both concept and reality) in the ninth and twelfth centuries, accounting for any differences.
5. Analyse the significance of the Battle of Clontarf for medieval Irish history.
6. In what ways is the *Banshenchas* representative of learning and culture in pre-Norman Ireland?
7. Discuss the growth of towns in pre-Norman Ireland.
8. 'If one may judge from what many historians have written, twelfth-century Ireland was isolated from the mainstream of European life until the Norman irruption, inward-looking, and had few connections, politically or culturally with contemporary European affairs.' (Donnchadh Ó Corráin). Discuss.

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9. Compare and contrast relations between secular and ecclesiastical authorities before and after the reform of the Irish church in the twelfth century.
10. Discuss the coming of the Normans to Ireland in terms of Diarmait Mac Murchada's motives for inviting them in, the Geraldines' and Strongbow's motives for accepting his invitation, and Henry II's reasons for following his vassals across the Irish Sea.