

National University of Ireland, Galway  
*Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh*

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 1999/2000

**PHILOSOPHY**

**THIRD ARTS EXAMINATION**

First Paper (Pi301/Pi305/Pi320)

Professor B. Cullen  
 Professor M.H. Woerner  
 J. Mahon, M.A.

Time allowed: Three hours

Answer three questions, one in each section.. Use separate answer-books for each section.

**For Visiting Students only:** If taking one or two modules only answer one question in each module.

Time Allowed: One hour per module.

**Section A: Pi301 Philosophical Anthropology Weighting 1**

1. Write an essay on that area of philosophy known as *philosophical anthropology*.
2. Write an essay philosophical objections to the concept of human nature.
3. What philosophical insights, if any, can be derived from paleoanthropology?
4. Summarise, and comment on T. Laqueur's narrative of the transition, in Western thought, from the one-sex to the two-sex model of humankind.
5. "The female is the victim of the species." Do you agree with Simone de Beauvoir?
6. "We are, clearly, a multi-sexed species which has its sexuality spread along a vast continuum where the elements called male and female are not discrete." Do you agree with Andrea Dworkin and John Stoltenberg?
7. Write an essay on J. Trebilcot's paper "Two Forms of Androgynism."
8. Write an essay on the topic "Analytic philosophers and the concept of a person."
9. Discuss some of the various ways in which human needs have been classified in the philosophical literature.
10. Write an essay on reductionism in philosophical anthropology

11. Write an essay on the philosophical issues raised by the dementing illness known as Alzheimer's.
12. "An entity is a human being if, and only if, it possesses the characteristics of a human being." But is it possible to say, with some precision, what these characteristics are?

## Section B: Pi305 Foundations of Ethics Weighting 1

1. According to Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, "eudaimonia" is the ultimate end in a human life. Is it?

**OR**

**Discuss Aristotle's definition of happiness as the "activity of soul in accordance with perfect virtue".**

2. How do we learn to be good? Discuss
3. What is “virtue”? Discuss with reference to Aristotle’s theory of ethics.
4. What is “practical wisdom” and its function in moral decision-making?
5. How good a case does Aristotle make for friendship as part of happiness?

**Section C: Pi320 History of Medieval Philosophy II**  
**Weighting 1**

1. Write an extended essay on the role of the (seven) liberal arts in medieval education.
2. How good a method for philosophy is the “scholastic method”? Discuss.
3. Discuss critically the answer of Aquinas to the question whether anyone can be happy in this life or not.
4. How good a case does Aquinas make for ‘perfect happiness’ (beatitude)?
5. What does Aquinas mean by “soul”?
6. How good a case does Aquinas make for the immortality of the human soul? Discuss.
7. Write an extended essay on John Scottus Eriugena’s metaphysics (Periphyseon).