

National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 1999/2000

PHILOSOPHY

FIRST ARTS EXAMINATION

First Paper (Pi105/Pi106)

Professor B. Cullen
 Professor M.H. Woerner
 Professor P.F. O'Gorman

Time allowed: Three hours

Answer four questions, two from each section. Use separate answer-books for each section.

For Visiting Students only: If taking one module only answer two questions.
 Time Allowed: One hour and a half.

Section A: Pi105 Introduction to Philosophy Weighting 1

1. "Philosophy" means "love of wisdom". What problems does it attempt to solve at the beginning of the history of Western Philosophy in ancient Greece?

Or

Why do we philosophise? Discuss motives for engaging in Philosophy.

2. Is it moral "ought" to maximise pleasure and to minimise pain for the greatest number of people? Discuss with reference to Jeremy Bentham's *Principles of Morals and Legislation*.
3. What does it mean to do you "moral duty"? Discuss with reference to Immanuel Kant's ethics.
4. Why should it be moral to pursue happiness? Discuss with reference to Aristotle's theory of "eudaimonia".
5. "God is dead" (Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*). Discuss.
6. Write a critical essay on Anselm of Canterbury's so-called "Ontological argument" in the "Proslogion".
7. Can computers think? Discuss.

**Section B: Pi106 Central Themes in the History of Philosophy
Weighting 1.5**

1. "Plato's Socrates is a consistent and extraordinarily interesting character, far beyond the power of most men to invent..." Russell. Write an extended essay on Plato's portrait of Socrates, with special reference to the Socratic method.
2. Write a brief note on each of the following:
 - (a) Plato's dualism
 - (b) Plato's theory of forms
 - (c) Plato's politics.
3. Write an extended essay on either Aristotle's ethics or his politics.
4. What are the distinguishing characteristics of modern philosophy? In your answer make special reference to Descartes' contribution.
5. According to Mill, Hume was by far the best of negative thinkers. Do you agree? Justify your answer.
6. How does J.S. Mill evaluate Bentham? In your answer make special reference to Mill's piece "Bentham".