

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

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 1999/2000

**PHILOSOPHY**

**SECOND ARTS EXAMINATION**

First Paper (Pi201/Pi223)

Professor B. Cullen  
 Professor M.H. Woerner  
 J. Mahon, M.A.  
 Dr. T. Duddy

(Time allowed: Three hours)

Answer two questions in 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: Pi201 Theory of Knowledge Weighting 1**

1. Write an essay on perception, with particular reference to the arguments for and against indirect realism.
2. 'There is no God's Eye point of view that we can usefully imagine; there are only the various points of view of actual persons reflecting various interests and purposes that their descriptions and theories subserve.' (Putnam) Explain and discuss.
3. Write an essay on the concept of knowledge, with particular reference to the view that knowledge may be defined as 'justified true belief'.
4. Write an essay on scepticism, with particular reference to the view that there is hardly anything we can know with absolute certainty.
5. Outline three of the main theories of truth, and say which one you prefer, giving reasons for your preference.
6. Attempt an account of Rorty's critique of 'glassy essence' representationalism, and explain why he attaches so much importance to the concept of conversation.

**Section B: Pi223 Ethics and Politics Weighting 1.**

1. What is the basic question asked in political philosophy? What are the main answers to this question?

2. Write an essay on *one* of the following theories of democracy: (a) protective democracy; (b) developmental democracy; (c) equilibrium or pluralist democracy; (d) socialist democracy.
3. "The object of this essay is to assert one very simple principle..." What principle does J.S. Mill have in mind in his *On Liberty*, and how is it to be understood?
4. Explain the difference between Left and Right libertarianism, and write an essay on Left libertarianism.
5. How well does J. Baker argue for equality in his *Arguing for Equality*?
6. Do you share T. Nagel's pessimism concerning the prospects of achieving an equal society, as expressed in his *Equality and Partiality*?
7. "Human rights treaties, agencies, and instruments multiply, and yet the volume and scale of human rights abuses keep pace." (M. Ignatieff) Write an essay on human rights in the post-war era.
8. Does nationalism endanger democracy?
9. Write an essay on the political philosophy of Isaiah Berlin.
10. Has history ended, as F. Fukuyama claims?
11. Does, or can liberal democracy satisfy the need for recognition?