

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

SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATIONS, 2000/01

EC384 History of Economic Thought and Economic Methodology  
Third Year

Professor H. Dixon  
Professor M.P. Cuddy  
Professor M.J. Keane  
Professor T.A. Boylan  
Professor P.F. O'Gorman  
Dr. T. McDonough

**Time allowed: TWO hours.**

**Students must answer one question from each Section.**

**Use separate answer books for each section.**

**SECTION A**

1. Write a critical essay on either Popper's or Kuhn's approach to the methodology of science.
2. Outline J.S. Mill's methodology of political economy with particular reference to (i) his characterization of political economy as an abstract science and its method as that of the *à priori* method, and (ii) his analysis of the role of disturbing causes.

**OR**

Critically evaluate J.S. Mill's prescribed mode of reasoning in political economy, in particular his analysis of the respective roles of the *à priori* and *à posteriori* methods within the subject.

**SECTION B**

3. In Marx's system, explain the origin of surplus value in a capitalist economy. According to Marx, how is it that the apparent exchange of equivalents in the marketplace could result in the perpetuation of exploitation.
4. Different economic theories provided a rationale for state action in favour of and/or against specific groups of interests within the economy. Briefly state who was favoured by the arguments of the mercantilists, Smith, Ricardo, Marx, the marginalists, and Veblen. Briefly, what arguments were given in favour of these groups. Whose interests were opposed by these same thinkers. Briefly, why were these thinkers opposed to these interests.