

National University of Ireland, Galway

EC301 Irish Economy

Winter Examinations 2000/2001
(Final Commerce only)

Prof. M. Keane
Prof H. Dixon
Dr. A. Kane

Please answer **THREE** questions.

Time Allowed: **TWO** Hours

1. Identify one policy issue which is important in determining Ireland's medium to long-term economic prospects, justify its importance, and describe the options available to policy makers in tackling it.
2. For the period since Independence, take a key 'turning point' in economic performance and/or policy, describe the factors leading to these events, and explain their significance for subsequent economic developments in Ireland.
3. What are good reasons for the pursuit of growth as an economic policy objective for Ireland? What are the limitations/constraints on growth as a policy objective?
4. In the case of one or two key policy activities of the State in Ireland, discuss the extent to which those activities can be rationalised as interventions in the market designed to achieve primary policy objectives.
5. Discuss the degree to which Ireland's post-war growth experience and current growth prospects can be usefully discussed in terms of economic theory.
6. To what extent do the concepts of market failure and government failure help in evaluating Irish public financial procedures and institutions?
7. What are the main trade-offs/conflicts which Irish policy makers face in continued attempts to reform the taxation system?