

Ollscoil na hÉireann
National University of Ireland, Galway
Summer Examinations, 2000

BA, Public and Social Policy

FIRST YEAR

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EC107 Issues in Public & Social Policy

Time allowed: **TWO Hours**

Please answer **TWO** of the following seven questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. "Policies are made by the powerful few for the powerless many."
Discuss this statement with reference to the theories of the state you have studied.
2. A Power and Decision-Making Perspective has a great deal to contribute to the understanding of the public policy process.' Discuss.
3. (a) Give a brief account and analysis of the differences between the following models of decision-making in government and administration:
 - Simons model of Bounded Rationality;
 - Lindblom's Incremental Model;
 - Mixed Scanning;
 - Dror's Normative Optimum Model.(b) Make a ranking of these four models, based on their practical value for decision makers. Explain your ranking.
4. (a) What are the advantages of an 'issue search' in the policy making process?
(b) Discuss the methods of active 'issue search'.
5. "A plausible but incomplete definition of the policy problem can be more dangerous than a wrong definition."
Discuss this statement with reference to the importance of 'issue definition' in the public policy process.
6. Why is the 'perfect implementation' of a policy unattainable?
7. Analyse the importance of evaluation in the public policy process and briefly discuss some evaluation methods.