

OLLSCOIL na hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

**FIRST UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION IN ARTS**

**SUMMER 2001**

**GEOGRAPHY**

TI 104 Elements of the Geography of Ireland

Weight: 5 ECTS

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Time allowed: 3 hours

Use a separate answer book for each Section

**Answer one question from each section, plus one question from the section of your choice, four questions in total**

**SECTION A**

1. Describe the geology of Ireland.
2. Discuss the present climate of Ireland.
3. Discuss an 'extreme weather event' which occurred in Ireland and the factors which compounded the problem.
4. Through the study of soils, it is possible to infer palaeo-environmental conditions. The climate was different in Ireland 70million years ago. Discuss this with particular reference to the North Antrim sub-basaltics.
5. Irish soils are varied. Discuss.
6. Discuss the factors and processes responsible for soil formation.

**SECTION B**

7. "Viewed from the air, the Irish landscape is a tangled series of inscriptions, signs and symbols which reflect the complicated prehistory and history of settlement and culture in this relatively small but diverse island" (Smyth, 1993). Discuss, with reference to the 'making' of Ireland.
8. Outline the sources and techniques/methodologies used by historical geographers to reconstruct changes in Ireland's landscape and culture from prehistory to the present.

9. Write an essay on the life and work of the Belfast geographer, Estyn Evans (1905-89).

### **SECTION C**

10. Review the main changes that took place in the size and distribution of the Irish population in the first half of the 1990s and discuss the key causative factors.
11. Lafferty, Commins and Walsh (1999) refer to regional concentration having become more marked in Irish agricultural production during recent decades. Discuss with reference to the causative factors.
12. Assess the roles of the natural and cultural environments in Irish tourism.