

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

2nd ARTS EXAMINATIONS, 2000-2001

SEMESTER I

HISTORY

Course HI 256 – THE BIRTH OF AMERICA, 1765-1865

O.D. EDWARDS

N.P. CANNY

E. DAL LAGO

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Answer One Question from each section

Answer Three Questions in total

SECTION ONE (Answer One Question)

1. "During the American Revolution the struggle for home rule was linked to the struggle for who should rule at home." Discuss with reference to Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*.
2. Critically analyze and discuss the Constitution of the United States as a system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative, and judiciary powers.
3. Critically analyze and discuss Alexander Hamilton's and Thomas Jefferson's different ideas about the powers and prerogatives of the federal government of the United States between 1788 and 1800.
4. Critically analyze and discuss the main differences over the economic and social development of the American Republic in the period 1824-1844 making specific reference to Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay.

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SECTION TWO (Answer One Question)

5. What were the most important economic and social consequences of the market revolution of 1815-1860 ?
6. Account for the rise of a class consciousness among the working people of the antebellum North. (Make specific reference to Lowell's textile mills)
7. Why was the antebellum South called the "Cotton Kingdom" ? (Make specific reference to the plantation economy and to its effects on the South's social structure)
8. Account for the origins of the Abolitionist movement in antebellum America.

SECTION THREE (Answer One Question)

9. Critically discuss and analyze the political crisis of the 1850s.
10. Why did the Republican Party have as its motto "Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men" ?
11. Discuss the reasons for the secession of the Southern states from the Union.
12. How did the war to preserve the Union become the war for the destruction of slavery ?