

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN
COLÁISTE NA hOLLSCOILE, GAILLIMH

SEMESTER II, JANUARY 2001 EXAMINATIONS

MASTERS DEGREE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY OF WORK

Professor Huw Beynon
Professor Chris Curtin
Professor James Wickham

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Answer THREE questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. According to Mary O'Sullivan, whether the Irish economic boom is sustainable depends on the nature of linkages between foreign firms and the rest of the economy. What sort of evidence would be required to form a judgement on this issue?
2. The 'Celtic tiger' economy is often assumed to be based on high technology in general and on information and communication technologies in particular. How realistic is this view?
3. Contemporary management is often concerned to ensure that employees are committed to the culture of the enterprise in which they work. Critically evaluate the claim that this is a new form of totalitarianism.
4. When management seeks more flexible employees, can this benefit employees as well? Discuss with particular reference to forms of 'non-standard' employment, such as part-time work.
5. Today in Ireland a greater participation in the labour force by women is seen as one major possible contribution to solving the labour shortage. Given the experience of other European countries, what are the social policy choices involved?
6. To what extent is high technology work 'good work' for employees?
7. Can there be a European version of the 'information society'? Is the 'European social model' still of contemporary relevance?
8. What are the key features of the organisation of work in the information society? Discuss with particular reference to the arguments of Reich and/or Castells.