

OLLSCOIL NA hEIREANN, GAILLIMHH  
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2001-2002

## **EC225 Economics of the Welfare State**

2 B.A., 2 B.A.(PSP), 2 B.Comm, 2 B.Comm. (Int'l) and Visiting Students

Professor H. Dixon  
Professor M.P. Cuddy  
Mr. B. Kennelly

**Time allowed: TWO Hours**

**Answer THREE of the following questions. Each question carries equal marks.**

1. Outline and assess *either* the market liberal /utilitarian theory *or* the democratic equality theory as a basis for making social evaluations.
2. What are the distinguishing features of health care as an economic good? Why has spending on health care risen significantly in Western countries over the past 40 years?
3. What has been (i) the general pattern, and (ii) the Irish experience, in fertility over the past 50 years? Why are European policy makers concerned about the sustainability of public pension systems?
4. What is the difference between relative, consistent and persistent poverty (as these terms are defined by the ESRI)? Discuss the evidence from the ESRI on the dynamics of poverty in Ireland.