

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY  
 OLLSCOIL na hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH

2<sup>nd</sup> B.A. EXAMINATIONS 2002-2003

SEMESTER I

HISTORY

HI 265 RUSSIA & POLAND 1533-1796

Professor John Horne  
 Professor Nicholas Canny  
 Dr William O'Reilly

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS  
 ANSWER: THREE QUESTIONS.

- 1 "The Russian Empire was long in the making, and the expansion was as often as not unsteady, unplanned, often unpremediated and inconsistent – assuredly no Grand Design." (C.M. Foust)  
 Discuss
- 2 "Its meaning is best sought in the realms of psychology".  
 Discuss this verdict on the reign of Ivan IV ('the Terrible') of Muscovy.
- 3 How useful is Sergi G. Platanov's periodisation of the years 1598-1613 in understanding the 'Time of Troubles'?
- 4 "The popular discontent that fueled the [1648] uprising involved more fundamental issues than the conduct of corrupt individuals or specific taxes and imposts. Intensifying the people's agitation was the clash of a traditional, highly personalized, and theocratic ideological system with a newly arising, impersonal, rationalizing state order." (Valerie A. Kivelson)  
 Discuss, with reference to Church-State relations in Russia.
- 5 How did the power of the Polish King change, vis-à-vis the *Seym*, *Szlachta* and *Liberum veto*, 1573-1725?

Please turn over...

- 6 "The Tsar is a long way away and God a long way up." (Russian proverb)  
How important was centralisation of government for the Romanov dynasty, 1613-1796?
- 7 "Through Peter the Great, Russia moved from the medieval world to the Age of Enlightenment in a single, painful move." (Dale Harris)  
Discuss, in relation to Peter I's 'Great Embassy' and his internal and external reforms.
- 8 Account for political and domestic instability in Russia from the reign of Catherine I (1725) to the abdication of Peter III (1762).
- 9 "How many beautiful villages there would be around Moscow, if those handiworks, which in the city make great uncleanness and a certain ugliness, were settled separately in suitable places." (Catherine the Great)  
What were the reasons and motivations behind Catherine's decision to move Russian manufacturing to a factory-based system?
- 10 "Frederick [the Great] usually receives the credit of having conceived the idea of a division of the territories of Poland among the three confederates, but such a conception was so in keeping with the political principles of the age that it cannot be said to have originated with any one man."  
Discuss.
- 11 Can Stanislas II Augustus (Stanislaw Antoni Poniatowski), King of Poland, be fairly termed a 'Russian Puppet King'?
- 12 How did Catherine the Great's crushing of the Pugachev Revolt (1772-1774) highlight the merging of interests between the nobility and the monarchy?
- 13 "The lack of a hereditary monarchy, the existence of the *Liberum veto* and the role of the *Szlachta* all contributed to the partitions of Poland."  
Discuss.