

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

B.A. EXAMINATIONS, 2002-3

SEMESTER 1

HISTORY

HI306 – Irish Reaction to Revolutions in America and France, 1760-1801

Paul Bew
Vincent Morley
Nicholas Canny

Time allowed : **TWO** hours

Answer **THREE** questions, with at least **ONE** from each section.

Section A

1. How great was the influence of events in other parts of the British empire on the views of Irish Patriots in the period between the accession of George III and 1775?
2. 'Here we sympathize more or less with the Americans; we are in water colours, what they are in fresco.' (Charles O'Hara MP to Edmund Burke MP, 5 June 1775). Is this an accurate representation of the initial reaction of Irish Anglicans to the outbreak of war in America?
3. Were the loyal addresses presented by the Catholic Committee throughout the American war representative of the outlook of the Catholic community as a whole?
4. To what extent did events in America influence the course and outcome of the campaign for 'free trade' in 1779?
5. In what way did the American revolution affect relations between the three principal religious denominations (Catholics, Anglicans and Presbyterians) in Ireland?
6. Are the political changes in Ireland associated with the American and French revolutions best regarded as two stages in a single process or as two distinct processes?

Section B

7. Was the failure to achieve parliamentary reform in the 1780s a significant factor in the emergence of popular republicanism in the 1790s?
8. Compare and contrast Irish reactions to Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* and to Thomas Paine's response, *The Rights of Man*.

9. How do you account for the strength of republicanism among Ulster Presbyterians in the 1790s?
10. 'The Defenders spread through Catholic Ireland, but though they spoke a language of revolution that might seem to have much in common with the United Irishmen, even with the Defender leaders the resemblance was only superficial, and with the rank and file it must have been very superficial indeed.' (Patrick Corish, *The Catholic Community in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, 1981). Discuss.
11. To what extent was the military strategy of the United Irishmen influenced by the prospect of French assistance?
12. 'The legacy of the French Revolution's impact on Ireland was a deeply polarised populace and the running sores of militantly sectarian republicanism and loyalism.' (Marianne Elliott, 'Ireland and the French revolution' in H.T. Dickinson (ed.) *Britain and the French Revolution 1789-1815*, 1989). Do you agree? Support your opinion.