

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY**  
**FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION: SUMMER 2003**  
**HI 100: HISTORY, PAPER 1**

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Answer four questions, one from each section. Use a separate answer book for each section.

Time Allowed: Three hours

**SECTION A**

**1. ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRISTIANITY**

AD 429. Agricola the Pelagian, the son of Bishop Severianus the Pelagian, corrupts the churches of Britain by the propagation of his doctrines. But at the instigation of the deacon Palladius, Pope Celestine sends Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre, in his stead, who overthrows the heretics and guides the Britons to the Catholic faith.

AD 431. Having been ordained by Pope Celestine, Palladius is sent as first bishop to the Irish believing in Christ.

AD 435. With no less care did Pope Celestine free the British Isles from the same disease of Pelagianism, and by ordaining a bishop for the Irish, while he strove to keep the Roman island catholic, he also made the barbarian island Christian.

What do these extracts from the *Chronicle* of Prosper of Aquitaine, and his book *Contra Collatorem*, tell us about the earliest phase of Christianity in Ireland, and how can they be reconciled with what St Patrick says in his writings?

**2. EUROPEAN OVERSEAS ENCOUNTERS, 1492-c.1700**

These Moors, moreover, told us that along the route which we were about to follow we should meet with numerous shoals; that there were many cities along the coast, and also an island, one-half of the population of which consisted of Moors and the other half of Christians, who were at war with each other. The island was said to be very wealthy.

We were told, moreover, that Prester John resided not far from this place; that he held many cities along the coast, and that the inhabitants of those cities were great merchants and owned big ships. The residence of Prester John was said to be far in

the interior, and could be reached only on the back of camels. These Moors had also brought hither two Christian captives from India. This information, and many other things which we heard, rendered us so happy that we cried with joy, and prayed to God to grant us health, so that we might behold what we so much desired.

What does this extract from *A Journal of the First Voyage of Vasco da Gama in 1497-9* tell us of Christian pre-conceptions of East Africa and its inhabitants?

### 3. COLONIAL SPANISH AMERICA

Also, the ministers and chief magistrates should ensure that in no town of their respective provinces be performed plays or other functions of the kind that Indians are accustomed to put on to commemorate their former Incas; and having carried out the order, these ministers shall give a certified account to the secretaries of the respective governments. In like manner shall be prohibited and confiscated the trumpets or bugles that the Indians use for their ceremonies and which they call *putatos*, being seashells with a strange and mournful sound that celebrate the mourning and pitiful memorial they make for their antiquity; and there shall be also prohibited the custom of using or wearing black clothing as a sign of mourning, a custom that drags on in some provinces in memory of their deceased monarchs and also of the day or time of the conquest which they consider disastrous and we consider fortunate since it brought them into the Catholic Church and the very loving and gentle domination of our kings.

What does this extract [from José Antonio de Areche's statement ordering the execution of the Inca leader Túpac Amaru in 1781] tell us about Inca culture and Spanish perceptions of it in the late eighteenth century?

### SECTION B: ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRISTIANITY

1. What are the principal documentary sources we have for the introduction of Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century, and how would you assess them in order of importance?
2. 'It is not possible to write an unbiased history of the Vikings in Ireland'. Would you agree or disagree with that statement? State your reasons.
3. How would you explain the views of Ireland that the Popes and some Anglo-Norman prelates in England had in the 12<sup>th</sup> century? Were they justified in their views, or were those views simply an excuse for invading Ireland?

### **SECTION C: EUROPEAN OVERSEAS ENCOUNTERS, 1492-c.1700**

1. Write a critical appraisal of Christopher Columbus as navigator, leader and reformer based on your reading of the journal of his first voyage to America.
2. How useful have you found the First Letter of Hernán Cortés from Mexico, 1519, in explaining the nature of the society that confronted him there?
3. What was the encomienda system? Explain how a system that was benevolent in intent towards the native populations in America became an instrument for their destruction.

### **SECTION D: COLONIAL SPANISH AMERICA**

1. To what extent were indigenous peoples in Spanish American colonies better off at the end of the eighteenth century than they had been in the early colonial period?
2. Examine the influence of the Catholic Church on the cultural life of Spanish American colonies.
3. Discuss the view that while Creoles in late eighteenth-century Spanish America had many grievances, they also had privileges.