

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

3rd ARTS EXAMINATIONS, 2002-2003

SEMESTER II

HISTORY

Course HI 318 – AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS: THE ANCIENT
CIVILIZATIONS OF THE NEW WORLDP. BEW
N.P. CANNY
E. DAL LAGOTime Allowed: Two Hours
Answer One Question from each section
Answer Three Questions in totalSECTION ONE (Answer One Question)

1. Critically describe and analyze the urban development of Teotihuacán from the foundation of the city to its sudden collapse in the seventh century AD. [Refer specifically to the urban grid and the monuments built around the Avenue of the Dead]
2. Which specific features of the Temple of the *Danzantes* at Monte Albán lend credit to the hypothesis that it was a war memorial for those who fought for the control of the Valley of Oaxaca ? [Refer specifically to the *Danzantes* and their similarities with the carved stone slab at San José Mogote]
3. To what extent is it possible to consider the Aztec state an empire ? [Refer specifically to the office of *Tlatoani* and to the system of administration of the provinces]
4. Why did the Aztecs give so much importance to human sacrifice ? [Refer specifically to Aztec religion and the Aztec view of the world]

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SECTION TWO (Answer One Question)

5. What were the origins of the ideology of kingship in Maya civilization ?
[Refer specifically to the symbolism of temple '5C-2nd' at Cerros and to the myth of the 'Hero Twins' in the Popol Vuh]
6. Simon Martin and Nikolai Grube have argued that Tikàl and Calakmùl were '*Superstates*', which held sway over most of the other Maya city-states; what evidence supports their hypothesis?
7. Critically analyze and compare the historical and architectural development of the Maya city-states of Copàn and Palenque. [Refer specifically to the work of the two great kings '18 Rabbit' and 'Pakàl the Great']
8. Which factors led to the collapse of classical Maya civilization ? [Refer specifically to the eighth-century evidence of increasing warfare at the sites of Yaxchilàn and Dos Pilas]

SECTION THREE (Answer One Question)

9. Critically discuss and analyze the most recent interpretations of the meaning and function of the giant drawings of the Nasca desert in Peru. [Refer specifically to the work conducted by Anthony Aveni and his team]
10. To what extent did the architecture and sculpture of Tiahuanaco reflect its extraordinary religious and political significance in the Andean world ? [Refer specifically to the symbolism of the 'Gate of the Sun']
11. Critically discuss and analyze the urban and historical development of Chàn-Chàn, the Chimu capital. [Refer specifically to the royal enclosures and to the tradition of 'split inheritance']
12. Critically describe and analyze the process of formation of the Inca Empire between the thirteenth and the sixteenth centuries. [Refer specifically to the role played by Pachacutec and his reforms]