

National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hEireann, Gaillimh

SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS 2003/4

PHILOSOPHY

SECOND ARTS EXAMINATION

Professor B. Starr
Professor M.H. Woerner
Dr. T. Duddy
Dr. F. O'Murchadha

Time: Two (2) hours

Answer two (2) questions, one from section A and one from Section B. Use separate answer books for each question.

PI217 Philosophy of Art & Literature

Section A

1. Discuss the relation of colour and the object in the paintings of any two of the following: Monet, Cézanne and Kandinsky.
2. Discuss Cézanne's use of colour to achieve depth in terms of the distinction between the geometric and lived perspective.
3. Cézanne's emotion is that of the feeling of strangeness, according to Merleau-Ponty. Discuss this feeling in relation to the inhuman view of nature in Cézanne's painting.
4. "Cézanne's difficulties are those of the first word". (Merleau-Ponty) Discuss.
5. "The meaning of his [Cézanne's] work cannot be determined from his life." (Merleau-Ponty). Discuss.

Section B

1. 'Aristotle undertakes to examine the nature of imaginative literature with a view to demonstrating that it is true, serious, and useful, whereas Plato had shown it to be false, trivial, and harmful.' Explain and discuss.
2. What, in your view, is the best reply to the question: what is the good of literature? In the course of your answer, give some attention to the views of Nussbaum, Mill, and Booth.
3. 'Becky sharp never existed, yet the world is full of Becky Sharps.' (Hospers) Explain and discuss this statement in the context of attempts to defend the concept of literary truth.
4. Outline and discuss Hirsch's argument against the view that there may be more than one valid interpretation of a literary text.

OR

Outline and discuss Hirsch's response to the contrasting interpretations of Wordsworth's poem, 'A slumber did my spirit seal'.

5. Contrast Ducasse's 'aesthetic liberalism' with Beardsley's attempt to establish objective criteria for aesthetic judgement.

OR

Outline and discuss the main points of Hume's essay, 'Of the standard of taste'.