

National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hEireann, Gaillimh

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2003/4

PHILOSOPHY

THIRD ARTS EXAMINATION

Professor B. Starr
Professor M.H. Woerner
Dr. F. Ó Murchadha

Time: 2 hours

PI327 Philosophy of Religion

Please attempt two (2) of the following questions. No more than one question (1) may be attempted in any section.

Section A

1. Discuss either (a) the faith in a religious sense in relation to trust (belief in ...) making reference to the story of 'doubting Thomas' (John 20: 24-29); or (b) the relation of faith and reason with reference to Kierkegaard's discussion of Abraham's 'sacrifice' of Isaac.
2. In what sense or senses can it be said that emotion or mood discloses reality. Evaluate Rudolf Otto's attempt in *The Idea of the Holy* to distinguish between the natural and non-(or,super) natural in respect of emotions.
3. In what sense or senses can it be said that discourse on God is a discourse on power? Make reference both to Biblical and Homeric accounts.

Section B

1. Discuss either (a) Hannah Arendt's account of the political significance of forgiveness in respect of the nature of action; or (b) whether there are actions which are unforgivable.

2. Discuss the account of love (agápe) as found in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and the injunction to 'love your enemies' (Luke 6: 22-35). Evaluate the centrality of love in this account.
3. Is humility simply an expression of a 'slave morality' (Nietzsche)?

Section C

1. Discuss the philosophical significance of ritual in relation to the distinction between inner and outer.
2. Gothic Cathedrals are signs of the absence of God, while the Greek temple marks the place of the gods in the world. Discuss.
3. Prayerful utterances are neither true nor false, but are nonetheless meaningful. Discuss.