

SP421: Women in Irish Society

Time Allowed: 3 hours. Please answer 3 questions.

1. Outline the key economic and ideological changes that occurred in Ireland from the late 1950's onwards and evaluate their impact on the lives of women in Irish society.
2. Outline the current legal situation regarding abortion in Ireland and discuss the events that unfolded as a result of the insertion of Article 40.3.3 into the Irish Constitution.
3. Critically evaluate the provisions concerning women and the family contained in Article 41 of the Constitution.
4. Discuss feminist analyses of work, including in your answer details of the characteristics of women's patterns of participation in paid work in the Irish labour market.
5. Liam O'Dowd has argued that the hegemony of catholic nationalism was undermined by the emergence of 'ideological competitors'. Analyse the key 'ideological competitors' that emerged to challenge the ideology of catholic nationalism from the 1960's onwards.
6. Making reference to feminist analyses of sexuality, discuss the phenomenon of violence against women in Irish society, illustrating your answer with information regarding the incidence of violence against women in Ireland.
7. Critically evaluate (a) the successes and (b) the limitations of the implementation of employment equality measures in Ireland.
8. Illustrating your answer with examples, discuss the argument that heterosexuality is hegemonic in Irish society.