

OLLSCOIL NA hEIREANN, GAILLIMH
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2005

**Master's Degree in Rural Development
Second Year Examination**

**FIFTH PAPER (EC539)
Research Skills & Data Management II**

Professor Malcolm Moseley, M.A., M.Sc.(Econ), Ph.D.
Professor Michael P. Cuddy, M.Agr.Sc., Ph.D.
Dr. T. Van Rensburg, B.Sc, PG. Dip., Ph.D.
Mr. E. Garvey, M.A.

Time allowed: Three hours.

THREE questions to be answered. One question must be answered from each section. The third question can be from either section.

Use separate answer books for each section.

Section A

1. Describe carefully the five steps usually taken in running a regression. Which, in your opinion, are the most important steps and why?
2. Discuss briefly three of the following assertions, using examples where appropriate:
 - i. 'Regressions are always better than qualitative methods at explaining relationships between social variables.'
 - ii. 'Leaving out a relevant X variable is unlikely to harm regression results'.
 - iii. 'Regressions cannot capture non-linear relationships'.
 - iv. 'There have been more variables used in models of international growth than there are countries'.
3. Critically discuss the state of research using regression methods in either of the following areas: Social Capital and Rural Development **OR** Communications Technology and Rural Development.

Section B

1. Critically consider the different values that comprise "Total economic value" (TEV) in relation to the appraisal of an environmental project.
2. Consider how far and in what circumstances, decisions about environmental policy should be based on cost-benefit analysis.