

National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hEireann, Gaillimh

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2004/5

PHILOSOPHY

FIRST ARTS EXAMINATION

FIRST PAPER

Professor W. Desmond
Professor M.H. Woerner
Dr. F. O'Murchadha

Time: 2 hours

PH109 Contemporary Philosophy

Answer two questions, one from section A and one from Section B. Use different answer papers for each question.

Section A

1. Philosophy is the love of wisdom. Is it? Discuss.
2. How good a case does Descartes' method of doubt make for laying the foundations of knowledge? Discuss.
3. "Postmodernism is a contemporary movement. It is strong and fashionable. Over and above this, it is not altogether clear what the devil it is" (Ernest Gellner). What, then, are characteristic features of this movement? Discuss.
4. How good (or bad) a case does Friedrich Nietzsche make for the death of God? Discuss.
5. What is meant by an "art of living" and why should I learn it?

Section B

6. Give an account of Pacificism as a form of political resistance. Is it always the morally preferable strategy to advocate in the face of violent opposition?
7. Critically discuss Ted Honderich's concept of "Terrorism for Humanity".
8. Discuss the effects of violence on its victim's identity, security and sense of worth making reference to the accounts of *either* Jean Amery (*At the Mind's Limits*) or Susan Brison (*Aftermath*).
9. The notion of "structural violence" has been criticised as incoherent and of little practical use. Critically assess this judgement.