

**Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh**  
**National University of Ireland, Galway**

**Semester II Summer Examinations, 2004/2005**  
**Front Page Template**

Exam Code(s)	<u>1BA1, 1BA6, 1BA7, 1OA1, 1EM1</u>
Exam(s)	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Arts</u>
Module Code(s)	<u>SP101</u>
Module(s)	<u>Introduction to Sociology/Irish Society</u>
Paper No.	<u>1</u>
Repeat Paper	<u>Special Paper</u>
External Examiner(s)	<u>Professor Richard Jenkins</u>
Internal Examiner(s)	<u>Professor Chris Curtin, Dr. Anne Byrne, Dr. Su-ming Khoo</u> <u>Dr. Henrike Rau, &amp; Ms. Marilyn Moylan</u>

**Instructions:**                      **Answer THREE questions in all.**

Duration                      3hs  
 No. of Answer books                

**Requirements:**                                  
 Handout                                  
 MCQ                                          
 Statistical Tables                          
 Graph Paper                               
 Log Graph Paper                          
 Other Material                          

No. of Pages                                  
 Department(s)                Political Science & Sociology

# **SP101 Introduction to Sociology/Irish Society**

**Time allowed: THREE Hours**

**Answer THREE questions in all.**

1. Do you think that the sociological ideas of the classical sociologists have any relevance today? Discuss with reference to the ideas of **at least one** of the following: Durkheim, Marx and/or Weber.
2. Sociology cannot give us prescriptive answers to social problems, but it does give us a way of thinking that helps to question assumptions, clarify thinking and move towards better understandings of social issues and problems. Discuss in relation to a social issue or problem of your choice.
3. '[I]t is possible to conceive of social structures and the patterns and features of our social lives as at once enabling and constraining' (Bilton et al., 2002:19). Discuss and refer to values and practices in modern Irish society to show the opportunities and drawbacks of collective activity for individuals.
4. Does the spread of global commodities and brands imply a globalisation of culture? Discuss and use examples of recent changes in Ireland to support your argument.
5. Do you think that class or gender stratification is the greatest source of inequality in Irish society today? Include examples of both types of inequality in your answer.
6. Discuss the relationship between class inequality and crime in Irish society.  
OR  
What are the main explanations given for the growth in crime rates after modernization in Ireland?
7. An understanding of Gender, Sexuality and Family is basic to a sociological understanding of social change in Ireland. Discuss.  
OR  
In considering the significance of gender difference, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the individual and social theories of how people and societies become gendered.
8. Despite policy change and investment in education, why does access to education remain so skewed by social class? What analysis of and solutions to the problem are provided by educational research from a variety of sociological perspectives?