

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
National University of Ireland, Galway

Summer Examinations, 2004/2005

Exam Code(s)	1BA1
Exam(s)	1 st Arts
Module Code	TI106
Module	Foundations in Physical Geography
External Examiner(s)	Professor M. Dunford
Internal Examiner(s)	Professor Micheál Ó Cinnéide Dr. John McDonagh Pro. Ulf Strohmayr
<u>Instructions:</u>	Answer <u>Four</u> questions in total Answer <u>2</u> questions from <u>Section A</u> , <u>2</u> questions from <u>Section B</u> Use a separate answer book for each section All questions carry equal marks
Duration	3 hrs
No. of Answer books	2
No. of Pages	2
Department(s)	Geography

Section A

- Physical geography has gone through a number of phases in its evolution. Briefly summarize **either** three key developments **or** the contributions of three key 'thinkers', who you feel have influenced the advancement of physical geography as a discipline. Give reasons and examples in your answer.
- Only in recent decades has the concept of a dynamic earth model whose continents are on the move and whose ocean basins 'open and close' been accepted. Briefly outline the main theoretical contribution to this 'dynamic model' and, using illustrations and examples, discuss some of the impacts this has had on our understanding of the landscape.
- Explain the main processes of denudation that occur in the Irish landscape and describe how these processes have been instrumental in sculpting specific features and locations. Use illustrations and examples in your answer.
- The coastal zone is a dynamic environment where flows of water, energy and sediment interact with the terrestrial landscape. Discuss briefly what you understand by this

statement and explain the processes involved, and the range of features associated with, the evolution of coastal zones.

Section B

5. Examine, with the aid of an energy balance diagram, the critical role of the atmosphere in determining the earth's climate and comment briefly on the climatic implications of increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
6. Briefly outline the physical processes that lead to precipitation and explain the conditions that favour rain, snow, sleet and hail.
7. Give an illustrated explanatory account of the main factors that determine wind speed and direction at the global scale.
8. Explain the principal controls of temperature by reference to the prevailing temperature regime in Western Europe.