

National University of Ireland, Galway.

Semester 1 Examination

MA in Journalism.

Government and Politics in Ireland (DJ852)

Examiners:

Prof Hubert McDermott,

Mr. John Walsh,

M/S Bernadette O'Sullivan,

M/S Maureen Mescall.

Duration 2 Hours.

Please write an essay on two of the following

Q1 The constitution (*Bunreacht na hEireann*) remains of central importance within the Irish political system. Suggest the reasons for its continued significance in the light of periodic criticisms.

Q2 Evaluate and discuss the extent to which the Irish civil service is a serious player in Irish politics.

Q3 "Chairman or Chief?" Discuss the role and functions of the Irish Taoiseach and his relationship with other elements in the Irish system.

Q4 To what extent can it be claimed that the system of local government in Ireland is autonomous? Discuss in relation to financial, administrative and political relations between central and local government

Q5 'The Irish Presidency is superfluous'. Discuss.