

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS, 1999

FIRST ARTS EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

PAPER TWO

Professor George Watson
Professor Alastair Minnis
Professor Kevin Barry
Dr Lionel Pilkington
Dr Elizabeth Tilley
Dr Conor McCarthy

TIME ALLOWED: *THREE* HOURS

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH SECTION

ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS: AT LEAST ONE FROM EACH SECTION

SECTION A:

EN121 LITERATURE AND REPRESENTATION II: 'Representing Ireland'

1. Discuss any two of the course texts in terms of the ways in which they seek to persuade their readers or spectators of particular points of view.
2. To what extent may Swift's *A Modest Proposal* or Edgeworth's *Castle Rackrent* be seen as ironic or satirical treatments of longstanding colonial attitudes towards Ireland?
3. 'Nineteenth-century writers like Boucicault and Arnold have broadly sympathetic attitudes towards Ireland'. What are the strengths and limitations of this statement?
4. What are the links between gender and Ireland in any two of the course texts?

Contd./...

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SECTION B:

EN122 INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL WRITING I: 'Epic and Romance'

5. In *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, to what extent can we say that Gawain fails in his quest?
6. Discuss the relationship between courtesy and love in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.
7. 'Beowulf is not an "epic," not even a magnified "lay." No terms borrowed from Greek or other literatures exactly fit: there is no reason why they should.' (J. R. R. Tolkien)
What sort of poem is *Beowulf*?
8. Discuss the way that either Christianity or gender is represented in *Beowulf*.
9. 'Characters in medieval narrative poems do not appear as individuals, they appear as archetypes.' Is this an accurate description of characterisation in either *Beowulf* or *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* or both?
10. What are the differences between the ideas of heroism that we see in *Beowulf* and in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*?

SECTION C:

EN123 STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY WRITING II: 'Literature and Gender/Writing by Women'

11. Write an essay on one of the following topics, illustrating your argument with close reference to two texts on your course:
 - women and language
 - women and madness
 - gender and the creative artist
 - "rooms of one's own" and silence

END.