

OLLSCOIL Na hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SEMESTER II EXAMINATIONS, 1998/99

THIRD ARTS EXAMINATION

EN388 MODERN IRISH LITERATURE

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TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS

ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS: AT LEAST ONE FROM EACH SECTION

SECTION ONE: YEATS

1. Write on Yeats's use of polarities or oppositions (such as life/art, action/contemplation, soldier/scholar) in his later poetry and *A Vision*.
2. Discuss the range of themes expressed by Yeats in *The Tower* volume of poems, and consider why many critics consider this his most accomplished collection.

3. "She walked awhile and blushed awhile
And on my pathway stood." ("First Love")

Consider Yeats's representations of women in his later poetry, choosing poetry from different volumes to illustrate your discussion.

4. "All three plays set Yeats a similar problem: the intelligible representation of the life of the dead". Discuss this statement with reference to one of the following plays: *The Dreaming of the Bones* (1917); *The Words upon the Window-Pane* (1930); *Purgatory* (1939).

.../Contd.

5. "Now that my ladder's gone,
I must lie down where all the ladders start,
In the foul rag-and-bone shop of the heart."
(*"The Circus Animals' Desertion"*)

Write an essay on Yeats's reconsideration of his life and work in *Last Poems* and *A General Introduction for my Work*.

SECTION TWO: JOYCE

6. "Joyce boasted that if the city of Dublin were to be destroyed it could be reconstructed from his books, yet at the same time he made large claims for the timeless and universal significance of those narratives." Write on Joyce's use of Dublin as a setting for *Ulysses*, taking this comment as your starting point.
7. "Joyce reconstructed the basic forms of fiction so that myth, history, intellectual theory and naturalistic detail could coexist within a narrative frame". Respond to this view of *Ulysses* with appropriate reference to the text.
8. "Reading character is a potent method for reading *Ulysses*. Instead of unnerving and frustrating shifts from one kind of language to another, you recognise that you are tracking a mind in action" Choose one of the central characters in *Ulysses* to illustrate your agreement or disagreement with this statement.
9. Bloom says in "Cyclops": "It's no use... Force, hatred, history, all that. That's not life for men and women, insult and hatred." Discuss the attitudes to Irish history in the "Cyclops" episode of *Ulysses*, making some reference to Joyce's essay "Ireland, Island of Saints and Sages".
10. "In *Ulysses*, treachery and its accompanying loneliness is a pervasive preoccupation." Do you agree with this statement? Suggest at least one other preoccupation of the text in the course of your discussion.

END.