

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

B.A. Examinations 1998-1999

Semester II

History

**HI 258 A Multi-Ethnic State: the Habsburg Lands,
1700-1815**

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Time Allowed: Two Hours

Answer: Three Questions

- 1 To what extent should Charles VI be held personally responsible for the weaknesses of the Austrian Empire in 1740?
- 2 "Throughout my life I have been careful not to draw down the envy of Austria on my head. This has forced me to pursue two passions which are really alien to me, namely unbounded avarice and an exaggerated regard for tall soldiers. Only under the disguise of these spectacular eccentricities was I allowed to gather a large treasury and assemble a powerful army. Now this money and these troops lie at the disposal of my successor, who requires no such mask."
Frederick William I of Prussia, *Political Testament*
What does this quote suggest about Frederick William's attitude to Austria ?
- 3 To what extent was the War of Austrian Succession a war for Silesia ?

please turn over...

- 4 What were the consequences of the 'Diplomatic Revolution' of the 1750s ?
- 5 Consider Frederick II's statement that "I have no other purpose than the preservation of the House of Austria".
- 6 "The War of Austrian Succession demonstrated that the Habsburg Empire could not survive as a great power without its system of administration being reformed."
Discuss Theresian domestic reforms.
- 7 Why might the Seven Years' War be described as "the first world war" ?
- 8 Why in 1763 was Austria forced to recognise the *status quo ante bellum* ?
- 9 "The War of Bavarian Succession demonstrated that nothing of importance could happen in the Holy Roman Empire without Prussian consent."
Discuss
- 10 Why was Joseph II unsuccessful in his reforming ambitions in the Habsburg Lands ?
- 11 Considering ethnic and religious diversity in the Habsburg lands, to what extent was the Empire "a non-state; a mildly centrepiedal agglutination of bewilderingly heterogeneous elements."? (R.J.W. Evans)
- 12 Writing of a soldier recommended as "an ardent patriot", Francis I, Emperor of Austria, asked "He may be a patriot for Austria but the question is whether he is a patriot for me?"
Why was a modern patriotism or feeling of nationhood missing in the turn of the century Habsburg lands ?
- 13 "The Holy Roman Empire was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire." (Voltaire)
Discuss, with regard to your period of study.