

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH

2nd ARTS EXAMINATIONS 1998-9

SEMESTER II

HISTORY

COURSE: HI 261 – COLONIAL INDIA

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N. Canny

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Time allowed: TWO hours

Answer THREE questions

- 1) Why was the East India Company able to rise in power and extend its territorial holdings in the second half of the eighteenth century?
- 2) Critically assess the function and development of British Orientalism in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century.
- 3) 'Far from westernizing or modernizing India, the British in the nineteenth century invented and consolidated the traditional India of peasant and Brahman' (Bose and Jalal). Critically evaluate this view.
- 4) National War of Independence? A feudal reaction? Military mutiny? What were the causes of the rebellion of 1857-8?

*Please turn over*

- 5) In what ways did race shape political authority and social life in India between 1857 and 1885?
- 6) 'Debates over gender in nineteenth century India were in reality debates over the nature and value of cultural tradition.' Is this an accurate assessment?
- 7) To what degree was communal conflict a product of colonialism?
- 8) What was the relationship between religious revivalism and Indian nationalism up to 1914?
- 9) Explain *satyagraha*.
- 10) Critically evaluate the historical value of Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*.
- 11) Why did 'Pakistan' become such a potent idea for South Asian Muslims?
- 12) 'Like the Mughals before them, the British succumbed to the centrifugal forces that undercut centralised authority. The sheer weight of India's ethnic, religious and regional diversity caused the ultimate collapse of the colonial state.' Assess this view.