

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY
THIRD ARTS EXAMINATION
ALL STUDENTS
**HI399 : APPROACHES TO THE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN EUROPE
1700-1939**

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TIME: TWO HOURS
ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS.

1. Why, how and when did eighteenth-century women get involved in politics and public life? Refer to all social classes in your answer.
 2. 'It is often assumed that housework itself is a constant feature of all societies. But even though the activities may be timeless, the context and meaning are not.' (Davidoff) Discuss with reference to women's UNPAID household work from the beginning to the end of the period.
 3. Discuss the view, held by some historians, that domestic service as an occupation for women was an anachronism, a survival of feudalism, which hardly changed at all between 1700 and 1939.
 4. 'Women are badly-paid and badly-treated because they are not organized, and they are not organized because they are badly-paid and badly-treated.' (Mary Macarthur, trade unionist 1880-1921). Discuss, with reference to working-class women's work and trade unionism in Europe from c.1870-1914.
 5. Did women's philanthropic and local government activity (in Britain), pave the way for feminist activism and/or the empowerment of women in another way? Confine yourself to the nineteenth century in your answer.
 6. 'Nursing demonstrated the limitations of a separate female world that lacked an effective power base within its own domain' (Vicinus) Is this too harsh a verdict on 'communities of women' (nuns and girls' schools included) in the nineteenth century? Discuss.
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- What kind of schooling gave girls the best 'start in life', in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?
7. What, in your opinion, were the most effective tactics used by the suffragists, in the twenty-year period before 1918?
 8. 'The few short years of World War One ushered in a world in which the premises of social organization were essentially changed...feminists had to re-group over the next half-century..' (Smith). Around what issues did feminists, and women in public life, 're-group' in Europe between 1919 and 1939?