

## Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.

Summer Examinations 1999  
B.A. Degree. History.

HI 362. Party and power in 19th and early 20th century British politics.

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Answer three questions.

Time allowed: two hours.

1. "Before 1832 there were political leaders and political 'connections', but there was nothing that one would nowadays describe as a 'political party' ". Discuss.

2. "There was really no prospect of its being the 'final settlement' of a great constitutional issue. In fact, it was more the beginning than the end of a movement for reform". Discuss this verdict on the Great Reform act of 1832.

or

"The decisive prelude to the political triumph of the middle-classes". Discuss this verdict on the Great Reform act.

3. "After 1832 Peel sought to position the Conservatives as a centre party of government". Discuss.

4. "Chartism was not simply a political challenge, it was a challenge to authority and to doctrinaire ideology in a whole number of areas". (Epstein and Thompson). Did the Chartists have the resources for such a challenge?

5. "Party organisation between the first and the second reform acts is notable principally for its absence". Discuss.

6. "The second reform act (1867) was less about great constitutional principles than it was about narrow political calculations". Discuss.

7. "There were significant differences in the respective party organisations developed by the Conservatives and the Liberals in the aftermath of the 1867 reform act". Discuss.

8. "In the later 19th century the Conservative party espoused the cause of empire more thoroughly and to better advantage than the Liberals". Discuss

or

"For all his moral stature and political shrewdness, Gladstone either misjudged or was unable to convincingly espouse the imperial mood of the country in the 1880s and early 1890s". Discuss.

9. Assess the impact of the Irish Question on party politics in late 19th century Britain.

or

"In order to win Welsh and Scottish sympathy for Irish self-government, Gladstone chose to pander to those Celtic Liberals who were most conscious of the cultural distinctness of their countries" (J.Parry). Discuss, with particular reference to the significance for party politics of *either* Welsh *or* Scottish political sentiment in the age of Gladstone.

10. "The most enigmatic and most interesting figure in late 19th century British politics". Discuss this verdict on Joseph Chamberlain.

or

Discuss J.P.Cornford's explanation of 'the transformation of Conservatism in the late 19th century'.

11. "The emergence of an independent Labour force in British politics was not inevitable, nor did it represent any immediate threat to the Liberal party". Discuss.

12. Discuss the difficulties faced by the Conservative party in the early Edwardian years.

or

Assess the significance of the 1906 general election in the history of British party politics.

13. Was there any evidence of impending crisis or decline in the condition of the Liberal party on the eve of the Great War ?

or

"The real threat to Edwardian Liberalism came not from the left (since Liberal populism consigned Labour to a slow advance through local politics) but from the right. Liberals' governing practice created an acute constitutional crisis, which mounted between 1906 and 1914". (Parry). Discuss.

14. Assess the impact of the Great War on British party politics.