

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH  
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

2nd ARTS EXAMINATIONS 1998-1999

SEMESTER II

HISTORY

*Course HI 259 - THE RISE OF MODERN AMERICA, 1860-1996*

OWEN DUDLEY EDWARDS  
NICHOLAS CANNY  
RICHARD FOLLETT

Time Allowed: Two Hours  
Answer One question from each section  
Answer Three questions in total

SECTION ONE (Answer One Question)

1. To what extent would you agree with Albion Tourgée's characterisation of Reconstruction as "a fool's errand"?
2. "The widespread popularity of *Birth of a Nation* reflected little more than the nation's capitulation to racism." To what extent do you agree with this quotation?
3. "Trade union activism from 1877-1915 reflected the limits to radical class based politics in America." Discuss.
4. "A Search for Order" To what degree does this term accurately characterise the reform movements of the Gilded Age?
5. "The Uprooted" or "The Transplanted" Which term best describes the experience of European, Asian, and African-American migrants in the US from 1870-1921?

**TURN OVER.....**

## SECTION TWO (Answer One Question)

6. "A Rebellion Against Victorianism" (Stanley Coben, 1991)  
Would you agree/disagree with Coben's characterisation of 1920s America?
7. To what extent did the 1920s herald the nationalisation of American culture?
8. "The New Deal was a coherent package of reforms. Internally consistent, Roosevelt's reform programme altered but little from 1933 to 1937." Discuss the validity of this quotation.
9. "The architect of the modernity: From 1933 to 1945 Roosevelt forged the modern American State." Would agree or disagree with this quotation?
10. "There is about the lot of them an atmosphere of hopelessness, of utter despair, though not of desperation . . . they have no enthusiasm whatever and no stomach for fighting." To what extent does this quotation accurately describe American society in *Death of a Salesman*?

## SECTION THREE (Answer One Question)

11. "Hiroshima and Nagasaki inaugurated Truman's Cold War Policy, 1945-1952." Discuss.
12. To what extent does either *Dr. Strangelove* or *Easy Rider* accurately reflect the tensions of post-war America?
13. Was the US intervention in Vietnam inevitable given prevailing Cold War rhetoric?
14. To what extent would you agree that Martin Luther King initiated but never completed the Civil Rights movement for African-Americans?
15. How radical were the 1960s?