

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

3rd ARTS EXAMINATIONS 1998-1999

SEMESTER II

HISTORY

HI 334 - THE UNION IN CRISIS: THE CIVIL WAR ERA IN AMERICA, 1848-1877

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. "Free Soil, Free Labour, Free Men" To what extent does this term accurately describe the political and moral ideology that underpinned the Republican Party.
2. **EITHER:**

Why were antebellum Northerners so keen to preserve the Union?

OR:

Why were antebellum Southerners so alarmed at the Wilmot Proviso?
3. To what extent was the Civil War an "Irrepressible Conflict"? Answer this question with reference to **either** the period 1846-1852 **or** 1854-1859.
4. "The Compromise of 1850 was a temporary armistice-little more than a lull in the sectional battle." Critically analyse this statement.

SECTION TWO (Answer One Question)

5. "The Civil War began as a limited conflict, but ended in Total War."
Discuss the validity of this quotation?
6. To what extent did the Civil War transform Northern notions of liberty?

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7. EITHER:

Did the Emancipation Proclamation inaugurate a “New Birth of Freedom” for African-Americans in the Civil War?

OR:

Would you agree with James McPherson’s characterisation of the Civil War as the “Second American Revolution”?

8. EITHER:

“In his western campaigns, Grant laid the foundation for the North’s military success.” Discuss.

OR:

In critically assessing the wartime contributions of Presidents Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, consider the question:

Was Lincoln’s leadership central to the successful prosecution of the Union war-effort?

SECTION THREE (Answer One Question)

9. Using material gleaned from the *Valley of the Shadows Project*, compare and contrast what the principle political parties viewed as the central issues in the 1860 Presidential election.

10. Why did men volunteer to fight in the Civil War?

In answering this question, discuss the reasons men on both sides of the sectional divide gave for volunteering and refer to materials consulted in the *Valley of the Shadows Project*.

11. How did the “heavy hand of war” affect women’s lives after the outbreak of war in 1861? Refer to material from the *Valley of the Shadows Project* in answering this question.

12. In the *Valley of the Shadows Project*, you encountered a wide range of primary sources: diaries, personal papers, newspapers, memoirs, and contemporary letters. Using specific examples from the *Valley Archive*, analyse the strengths and weaknesses of these sources as reliable historical documents for the study of two Civil War communities.