

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

Summer Examinations 1999
First University Examination
History. Twentieth century Ireland

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Time allowed : three hours
Answer **four** questions, at least one from each section

Section A

Extracts of the relevant documents are attached.

1. Discuss the background and significance of the Democratic Programme of Dáil Éireann.
2. Discuss the significance of the enclosed excerpts of the Anglo-Irish Treaty.
3. Discuss the background and significance of de Valera's radio broadcast on 17 March 1943.
4. Discuss the background to the Anglo-Irish Agreement and the significance of the enclosed sections.

Section B

5. "The cultural no less than the political agenda of post-1916 Sinn Féin, and of the parties it spawned, was quite different from that espoused by the Redmondite Nationalist party before 1914". Discuss.
6. "Unionist fears for the civil and religious liberties of Protestants in an independent Ireland proved justified". Discuss.
7. "The economic and social policy of Cumann na nGaedheal governments in the 1920s was cautious and conservative in the extreme". Discuss.

or

"The much-vaunted industrial base of Northern Ireland's economy faced severe difficulties in the inter-war years". Discuss.

8. To what extent were women marginalised in the early decades of the Irish Free State?
9. "While Catholics felt aggrieved at their treatment in NI, Protestants were sceptical about their complaints". Discuss.

or

To what extent did Catholics become 'a state within a state' in Northern Ireland?

10. "Fianna Fáil's economic policies in the period 1932-45 secured a significant political bonus, in terms of the expanding support-base of the party". Discuss.

Section C

11. "Militarily non-aligned, but not ideologically neutral". Discuss this verdict on Ireland's foreign policy in the period after 1945.

or

"Whatever the enthusiasm for cultural or economic protectionism, at no time in its history has the Irish state been 'isolationist' in its foreign relations". Discuss.

12. "The interparty government of 1948-51 proved as Catholic and Republican as the Fianna Fáil governments which preceded it". Discuss.
13. "In the post-war decades (post 1945), the economies of both the Republic and of Northern Ireland faced many common challenges, not least the challenge of attracting inward investment". Discuss.

or

"The same historians who in the later 1980s felt obliged to explain the 'failure' of modern Ireland's economic strategy and performance, were, within a few short years, explaining and celebrating the achievements of the Celtic Tiger. What, one may ask, caused the agenda to change?" Discuss.

14. How did Catholic grievances in Northern Ireland change between 1968 and 1972?
15. What factors have facilitated changes in the position of women in Ireland since the 1960s?

16. "The years 1958-65 are the years during which the forces which shaped 'contemporary' Ireland began to operate decisively". Discuss.

or

" 'Education' provides the key to any understanding of the cultural transformation of Ireland since the 1960s". Discuss.