

OLLSCOIL NA hEIREANN  
COLAISTE NA hOLLSCOILE  
GAILLIMH

SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATIONS 1999/00

THIRD ARTS EXAMINATIONS

PHILOSOPHY

Paper 1: Pi308/Pi316/Pi319

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(Time allowed: Three hours)

Answer three questions, one from each section. Use separate answer-books for each section.

Section A: Pi308 Philosophy of Religion I      Weighting 1.

1. Discuss Rudolf Otto's statement that without having had a religious experience the reader cannot understand his account of the holy. Can his account still be true in any philosophically relevant sense?
2. Discuss with special reference to ritual the claim that the experience of the holy or the sacred is not a "worldly" experience.
3. "A Gothic cathedral is a symbol of the holy; a Greek temple is a dwelling-place of the gods". Discuss.
4. Discuss with reference both to Otto and to Heidegger the claim that language cannot express anything positive about the holy.
5. "Poets are underway on the track of the holy because they experience the unholy as such." (Heidegger) Discuss.
6. The experience of the holy is for Otto a supernatural one. Discuss critically Otto's account of such supernatural experience.

**Section B: Pi316            Philosophy of Science    Weighting 1**

1.     (a)    Explain both descriptivism and instrumentalism.  
       (b)    How did Hempel's approach to scientific explanation lead on to scientific realism?
2.     Write a critical essay on the scientific realist's approach to theory.
3.     Discuss the central tenets of van Fraassen's constructive empiricism.

**Section C: Pi319            Topics in Classical Philosophy II    Weighting 1**

1.     What is meant by "eternity"? Discuss with special reference to Parmenides: "Nor was it, nor will it be, since now it is." (fr.B8DK).
2.     "When he ordered the heavens he made in that which we call time an eternal moving image of the eternity which remains for ever at one" (Plato, Tim.37c). Explain and discuss Plato's theory of time.
3.     Discuss arguments against the reality of time with special reference to Aristotle's discussion of the problem: Is time real?" (Ar. Phys. IV.10)
4.     "For time is just this - number of motion in respect of 'prior' and 'posterior'" (Ar. Phys IV, 11. Explain and discuss Aristotle's definitions of time.
5.     Discuss critically Augustine's theory of time (Aug. Confessions bk.11).
6.     What is the significance of Augustine's theory of time for Paul Ricoeur's theory of narrative? Explain and discuss.