

OLLSCOIL NA hEIREANN
COLAISTE NA hOLLSCOILE
GAILLIMH

SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATIONS 1999/00

THIRD ARTS EXAMINATIONS

PHILOSOPHY

Paper 2: Pi302/Pi322/Pi303/Pi317

Professor B. A. Cullen
Professor M.H. Woerner
Professor F.P. O'Gorman,
J. Mahon, M.A.
Dr. T. Duddy

(Time allowed: Three hours)

Answer three questions, one from either Section A or Section B, and one from each of the remaining sections. Use separate answer-books for each section.

Section A: Pi302 Marxism Weighting 1

1. Write a general introduction to the works of Marx and Engels.
2. "Marxism is dead." Is it?
3. Write an essay on Marx's contribution to social history.
4. "Despite the many criticisms levelled against it, Engels's *The Origin of the Family* deserves its status as a Marxist-feminist classic." Do you agree?
5. "Marx was not as hostile to religion as is commonly supposed." True or false?
6. Write an essay on the Marxist-Catholic dialogue of the 1960s.
7. What is Marx's theory of history? How good a theory of history is it?
8. G.A. Cohen writes of his *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defense* that it "defends historical materialism, by offering arguments in its favour, but more by presenting the theory in what I hope is an attractive form." Does Cohen succeed?
9. Write an essay on Engel's contribution to the nineteenth-century cultural debate concerning cities.
10. Write an essay on Marx's contribution to philosophical anthropology. What, if anything, is distinctive about it?

11. "The Marxist rejection of morality begins with Marx himself." Do you agree with Alan Wood?
12. What does classical Marxism have to say about the good society?

Section B Pi322 Philosophy of Literature Weighting 1

1. 'Aristotle undertakes to examine the nature of imaginative literature with a view to demonstrating that it is true, serious, and useful (whereas Plato had shown it to be false, trivial, and harmful)' (Daiches). Discuss.
2. What, in your view, is the best reply to the question: What is the good of literature? In the course of your answer, give some attention to Nussbaum's 'argument from perception' and Mill's 'argument from internal culture'.
3. 'Becky Sharp never existed, yet the world is full of Becky Sharps' (Hospers). Explain and discuss.
4. Outline and discuss Hirsch's argument against interpretive pluralism.

OR

Outline and discuss Hirsch's response to the contrasting interpretations of Wordsworth's poem, 'A slumber did my spirit seal'.

5. Outline and discuss Beardsley's attempt to establish objective criteria for aesthetic judgement.

Section C: Pi303 Philosophy of Human Sciences I Weighting 1

1. Write a critical essay on Mannheim's analysis of ideology.
2. Compare and contrast Ricoeur's approach to ideology with that of Mannheim.
3. Does Ricoeur succeed in achieving a Marxist-neutral analysis of ideology? Justify your answer.

Section D: Pi317 History of Contemporary Philosophy II Weighting 1

1. Is it possible to say, with some precision, what existentialism is?
2. "Can one be happy following an evil deed?" Discuss Camus' answer to this question in his posthumous novel *A Happy Death*.
3. Write an essay on any one of the following themes in *The Outsider*; (i) metaphysical nihilism; (ii) virtue ethics; (iii) the representation of women; (iv) French Algeria.

4. What are the main philosophical ideas in *Le Malentendu*? Which of these ideas, in your opinion, is the most important?
5. Write an essay on any one of the following themes in *The Plague*:" (i) God and collective punishment; (ii) the problem of evil; (iii) the possibility of a secular ethics; (iv) the ethics of capital punishment; (v) occupation and exile.
6. Write an essay on Simone de Beauvoir's contribution to existentialism in her *Pyrrhus et Cineas*.
7. "A preoccupation with death is a notable feature of Simone de Beauvoir's writing." Discuss.
8. Write an essay on Simone de Beauvoir's contribution to existentialist ethics in her book *The Ethics of Ambiguity*.
9. "I must," declares Jean-Paul Sartre on 7 December 1939, "set my ideas about morality in order." What does Sartre have to say about morality in his *War Diaries*? Are his ideas as close to those of Simone de Beauvoir as has often been supposed?
10. "No rule of general morality can show you what to do: no signs are vouchsafed in this world." Write an essay on Sartre's contribution to existentialist ethics in his *Existentialism and Humanism*.
11. Sartre refers to *bad faith* as one of those "unusually subtle behaviours, the description of which will lead us further into the inwardness of consciousness." How successful a description of bad faith does he provide in *Being and Nothingness*?