

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

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 1998

SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

FIRST YEAR

Professor Huw Beynon
Professor Palle Svensson
Professor Chris Curtin
Dr. Ricca Edmondson
Ms. Anne Byrne

SP101/103 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY/IRISH SOCIETY

Time allowed: Three hours.

Answer THREE questions.

1. How convincing is the secularisation thesis in the study of religion in contemporary Ireland?
2. How effective have Irish policy measures been in reducing poverty and/or inequality in Ireland?
3. What roles are played by the media in influencing behaviour in Ireland today?
4. Is gender an important issue in Irish education?
5. Is Ireland's natural environment being adequately protected? What problems remain to be resolved?
6. Some commentators claim that Ireland is a more equal society than others in Europe. Is this the case?
7. Can gender be 'undone'?
8. How effective is incarceration as an approach to criminality?
9. Outline the main features of the Irish family as documented by Arensberg and Kimball. How does this model of the family relate to the making of Irish identity and to national myths?
10. Irish commentators have often feared that the Irish culture would be obliterated by an Anglo-American world culture. Are we in fact now experiencing an age of 'cultural imperialism'?
11. Does 'world systems theory' yield a better account of Ireland's place in Europe and the world than does modernisation theory?
12. Is the idea of class important for understanding contemporary Ireland? Illustrate your answer with examples of the social consequences of class.