

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. George Taylor
Dr. Niall O Dochartaigh

SP102/104 Introduction to Politics/Irish Politics

Time allowed: THREE hours.

Answer THREE questions in all, at least ONE from each section

Section A: Introduction to Politics

1. To what extent does the New right still embrace the core themes of conservatism.
2. Compare and contrast the liberal and radical feminist critiques of patriarchy.
3. What are the core themes which underpin the social democratic welfare state. To what extent have these been challenged in recent years.
4. "The essence of the ecological crisis is that society is literally undoing the work of organic evolution. It is important to emphasise that humanity depends critically upon the complexity and variety of life". Assess the various environmentalist critiques of modern democracy.
5. Is anarchy the inevitable outcome of an anarchist political ideology?

Section B: Irish Politics

6. Discuss the role of the Dáil.
7. "Fine Gael and Labour are natural coalition partners". Discuss.
8. In what ways are women under-represented in Irish political life? Does this matter?
9. Does the Irish electoral system help to produce weak governments?
10. What are the obstacles to a peace settlement in the North?
11. What are the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in Ireland?
(Discuss either the Republic, the North, or both)