

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 1998

SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

3RD YEAR

Professor Huw Beynon
Professor Palle Svensson
Professor Chris Curtin
Dr. George Taylor

SP305 COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY (WEIGHT 2)

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

Answer THREE questions in all.

1. Does the concept of relative autonomy within contemporary Marxist theory of the state offer a way out of the impasse of economic reductionism?
2. It is impossible to read the standard pluralist texts without getting the sense that resources, information and the means of political communication are openly available to all citizens, that groups form an array of equivalent power centres in society and that all legitimate voices can and will be heard. What are the problems with such a perspective.
3. Critically assess the New Right's claim that "state intervention is the source not the symptom of the present crisis."
4. Are macro-corporatist political bargaining structures in western Europe in decline. If so why?
5. Do market based instruments hold out better prospects for democracy and public confidence in environmental administration than regulatory instruments?
6. With reference to the case studies examined in the course, assess the extent to which management in privatised industries has been subject to the competitive forces of the free market.
7. Examine critically the New Right's critique of the public provision of health care.
8. Is a basic income justifiable? If not why not?
9. Is the distinction between fordism and post-fordism useful in comparative public policy? If not why not?