

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
SUMMER (SEMESTER 2) EXAMINATIONS 1998

SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

3RD YEAR

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

SP301 METHODS II (WEIGHT 2)

Time allowed: Three hours.

Answer TWO questions.

1. Are there sociological questions which can only be answered qualitatively, or is the choice between qualitative and quantitative approaches chiefly a matter of preference?
2. How important is it to understand meaning in social life? How can this be done?
3. What is going on when we give interpretive accounts of other people's views and behaviour?
4. Critically discuss the accepted methodology of interview research as presented by qualitative sociologists.
5. Describe and analyse the qualitative research methods which have most interested you. What advantages and problems do they bring with them?
6. Why is the feminist paradigm so strongly associated with qualitative research?
7. Is writing a productive analytical tool in qualitative research?