

National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

WINTER EXAMINATIONS 1999/2000

SECOND YEAR

SEMESTER1

SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

Professor Huw Beynon
Professor Palle Svensson
Professor Chris Curtin
Dr. Tony Varley
Mr. Brendan Flynn

Time allowed: Three Hours in all. Candidates are advised to spend TWO hours on Section A and ONE hour on Section B.

Answer **THREE** questions in all, **TWO** questions from Section A (SP212) and **ONE** question from Section B (SP216). Please use separate answer books for each Section

SECTION A: SP212 Classical Social Thought

Answer **TWO** questions.

1. Can the differences to be found in the portrayal of modern society in the writings of Marx, Weber and Durkheim be attributed to their differing ideological standpoints?

2. EITHER

Can the necessity to find an antidote to the 'pathological' division of labour be said to lie at the heart of Durkheim's general account of the division of labour in industrial society? Discuss.

OR

Where do classes and class struggle fit in Marx's theory of historical materialism?

3. EITHER

In Weber's view, what contribution did religious ideas make to the origins of modern, rational capitalism? Discuss.

OR Examine how Durkheim concluded that the social function of religion is to re-affirm and uphold collective beliefs and sentiments and, ultimately, the solidarity of the group.

P.T.O.

4. EITHER

'The executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie'. Discuss in relation to the range of Marx's views on the state.

OR

Show how Weber's discussion of relationships of domination centre around the distinction he makes between traditional, charismatic and legal-rational ideal types of legitimacy.

SECTION B: SP216 European Politics

Answer ONE question.

5. "Nordic politics may be distinctive, but it remains boringly predictable. Nothing much has really changed in the politics of these societies." Evaluate whether this comment is accurate by examining the historical distinctiveness and recent political changes in at least two Nordic states.
6. Compare the similarities and differences in the survival of the former Communists in any TWO east-central European states; have they simply vanished or are they still in power?
7. Why and how do Europeans typically vote the way they do?
8. What have been the main changes in Italian politics during the 1992-1996 period?