

National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

WINTER EXAMINATIONS 1999/2000

3RD YEAR

SEMESTER 1

Professor Huw Beynon
Professor Palle Svensson
Professor Chris Curtin
Dr. Pete Morriss

SP406 Principles of Political Theory

Time allowed: THREE Hours.

Students **MUST** answer **THREE** Questions, **ONE** from **EACH** Section.

Section A

1. What have Benthamite utilitarians said about the ideal distribution of goods? How strong are these arguments?
2. "The main arguments that J.S. Mill advances in his books *Utilitarianism* and *On Liberty* are so different that one would think the books were written by different people." Explain and assess this statement.
3. What *utilitarian* arguments are there for state intervention in the economy?

Section B

4. Outline Nozick's account of distributive justice in *Anarchy, State and Utopia*. How successful is Nozick in demonstrating that a rights-based account of justice *must* be like that?
5. What *sorts* of rights can sensibly be included in a charter of human rights such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
6. Are there any natural rights? Justify your answer, and explore its implications for the rights we might be said to have.

P.T.O.

Section C

7. Compare and contrast utilitarian and rights-based justifications for private property.
8. Next month, let us suppose, will see the inaugural meeting of the Irish Society of Political Philosophers Concerned about the Real World, at which the motion 'The welfare state should have no place in the twenty-first century' will be debated. You have (been) volunteered to be one of the opening speakers. Give an outline of the speech you would give (for or against the motion, according to your choice) taking care to anticipate, and answer, the main arguments that will be levelled against you.
9. To what extent does Titmuss's main argument in *The Gift Relationship* succeed in providing an *alternative* to utilitarian and rights-based theories of the welfare state?