

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SEMESTER 2 (SUMMER) EXAMINATIONS 1999/2000

SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

2nd YEAR

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

SP215 MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Time allowed: TWO hours

Candidates should answer **both** Section A **and** Section B.

**Section A**

1. Select **one (or more)** of the main thinkers on this course, and suggest why (if at all) anyone today should pay any attention to his (or their) ideas. [N.B. The 'main thinkers on this course' are Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Burke, Bentham, and J.S. Mill.]

**Section B**

Answer **one** of the following questions. You may **not** answer a question in Section B that names one of the thinkers you discuss in Section A.

[E.g., if you write on Hobbes and Burke in Section A, you may not answer Questions 2 or 4. You may answer Questions 7 or 8 *whoever* you write on in Section A.]

2. Outline Hobbes's argument for a strong sovereign; and assess this argument.
3. When (if at all) does Locke argue that rebellion against the state is permissible? Explain how he constructs his argument; and assess its strengths and weaknesses.
4. Why did Burke oppose the French Revolution? Were his reasons good reasons?
5. "In *Utilitarianism* and *On Liberty*, J.S. Mill claimed to improve on Bentham's utilitarianism; instead, he abandoned it." Explain and assess this view.
6. How successful was J.S. Mill in providing a justification for representative government?
7. How (if at all) do the stories of the Prisoner's Dilemma and the Tragedy of the Commons help us to understand current politics?
8. What relevance (if any) does the Athenian model of democracy have for the twenty-first century?