

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 1999/2000

SOCIOLOGICAL & POLITICAL STUDIES

FIRST YEAR

Professor Huw Beynon
Professor Pelle Svensson
Professor Chris Curtin
Ms. Anne Byrne
Ms. Marilyn Moylan
Dr. Su-ming Khoo

SP101/103 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY/IRISH SOCIETY

Time allowed: Three Hours

Answer **THREE** questions.

1. How do Marx, Weber and Durkheim explain the relationship between the social and the individual in industrial society? Refer to the differences and commonalties in their theoretical frameworks, specifically discussing structure, ideology, modes of thought and the concepts of alienation and anomie. Do their theories continue to have relevance?
2. Assess the contribution of TWO of the following theorists to our understanding of socialisation and human development. For your chosen theorists, how is the significance of culture in shaping individual identity treated?

Sigmund Freud
Jean Piaget
Lawrence Kohlberg
Carol Gilligan
George Herbert Mead

3. What do sociologists mean by the term 'culture'? Discuss in relation to the components of culture and the relationship between culture and other aspects of society.
4. Discuss the relationship between social inequality and crime.
5. Does the class structure produce inequality in society? Discuss.
OR
Evaluate the ideas of **TWO** theorists on the way class operates in a modern society?

P.T.O.

6. Can Travellers be considered a minority group in Irish society?
7. Has economic growth in the Celtic Tiger led to equal benefits for all sections of society?
8. Discuss the idea of a "gender division of labour" and the issues which arise from it. You may use examples from contemporary Irish society to illustrate your discussion.
9. Does the expansion of education help to reduce disparities of wealth and power?
10. What changes have occurred in the family structure in recent decades? Discuss the implications of these changes for Irish society.
11. Why has Child Care become such an important political issue in Ireland? Evaluate the various arguments suggested by the key participants in this debate.