

OLLSCOIL NA hEIREANN, GAILLIMH  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY  
SEMESTER 2 (SUMMER) EXAMINATIONS 1999/2000  
SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

THIRD YEAR

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**SP305 COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY**

Time allowed: THREE hours.

Answer THREE questions in all.

1. Since Gramsci Marxism has been engaged in a struggle with economism. To what extent have recent developments within this tradition enabled it to avoid successfully the charge of economism.
2. It is impossible to read the standard pluralist texts without getting the sense that resources, information and the means of political communication are openly available to all citizens, that groups form an array of equivalent power centres in society, that all legitimate voices can and will be heard. What are the problems with such a perspective.
3. Critically assess the New Right's claim that state intervention is the source not the symptom of the present crisis."
4. Is the distinction between fordism and post-fordism useful in comparative public policy?
5. Are macro-corporatist political bargaining structures in western Europe in decline. If so why?
6. Does the principle of the 'polluter should pay' offer a credible response to the problems of sustaining an 'EU wide' form of environmental regulation? If not, why not?
7. Have the programmes of privatisation pursued throughout western Europe introduced more competition?
8. Examine critically the New Right's critique of the public provision of health care.
9. Is a basic income justifiable? If not why not?
10. Compare and contrast attempts within the anglo-Saxon public policy world to introduce public management reform in the civil service. Is this part of a wider process of 'hollowing out' of the state?