

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SEMESTER 2 (SUMMER) EXAMINATIONS 1999/2000

SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

2nd YEAR

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SP293 THE SOCIOLOGY & POLITICS OF THE EUROPEAN PROJECT

Time allowed: Two hours (Erasmus students or non native English speakers can have 30 minutes extra)

Answer TWO questions from the following list.

1. *"The Franco-German special relationship can easily explain the EU from common control over coal and steel to a single currency today. Furthermore, the likely future viability of the EU will depend on their continued partnership."* Critically evaluate this statement.
2. Describe and explain past and recent *Euroscepticism* ?
3. To what extent is it accurate to suggest that the role and power of small states is systematically diminished by participation in EU institutions and decision-making?
4. What are the main features of the 'democratic deficit' in terms of the EU's institutional structure?
5. Evaluate the role and power of the European Parliament: is it a growing democratic watch-dog or an ineffectual talking shop?
6. Compare and contrast the European Commission and the Council of Ministers. In particular, consider which institution has more political power and why?
7. Are strong national identities an obstacle to the idea of European unity? If so, why and how?
8. Some authors argue that European project is largely an elitist idea conceptualised and undertaken by a few. Discuss with examples.