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

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SP405 CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THOUGHT

Time allowed: THREE hours.

Answer **THREE** questions

1. Lukes wrote "indeed, is it not the supreme exercise of power to get another or others to have the desires you want them to have - that is, to secure their compliance by controlling their thought and desires?" Is this true?
2. "Any specific distribution of knowledge confers a generalized capacity for action upon those individuals who carry and constitute it, and that capacity for action is their social power, the power of the society they constitute by bearing and sharing the knowledge in question." What does Barnes mean?
3. Can Parsonian functionalism provide conceptual space for power?
4. How does Giddens combine agency and structure?
5. "There is no statement in general, no free, neutral, independent statement; but a statement always belongs to a series or a whole, always plays a role among other statements, deriving support from them and distinguishing itself from them: it is always part of a network of statements, in which it has a role, however minimal it may be, to play." Discuss using examples from any of Foucault's archaeological works.
6. How does Poulantzas theorize the relationship between power, state, class and the economy?
7. In what sense is social order characterized by different types of conflict and consensus?
8. Critically analyse any aspect of **Discipline and Punish** and/or **History of Sexuality** which interests you.
9. Analyse the relationship between modes of thought and social order.
10. Clegg argues that there are two traditions of power analysis. What are they and how does he integrate them into a single theory?
11. Analyse the relationship between allocative and authoritative power resources.
12. Analyse the contemporary relevance of any theory of power which particularly impressed you. Use plenty of examples.