

Ollscoil na hÉireann  
National University of Ireland, Galway

Winter Examinations 1999-2000

**MASTERS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Professor Pelle Svensson  
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Dr. Tony Varley

**SOCIOLOGY OF WORK**

Time allowed: THREE Hours  
ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS.

1. Consider the problems associated with Scientific Management as these are discussed by Stephen Hill. Are there alternatives to Scientific Management?
2. Examine Robert Blauner's argument that technology operates as the key determinant of work satisfaction and alienation. Can you point to any difficulties with the Blauner thesis?
3. Compare scientific management with bureaucratic modes of work organisation.
4. How plausible is Harry Braverman's contention that choice of technology in capitalist societies is always influenced by considerations of the control of labour?
5. EITHER  
Can the 'regulation of industrial conflict' be said to be the principal role trade unionism plays in modern society?  
OR  
Consider the manner in which trade unions have responded to the introduction of new technology.
6. EITHER  
Examine the impact of 'Japanisation' on present-day manufacturing techniques and industrial relations.  
OR  
Describe the pattern of 'Japanese-style' employment in Japan and consider the problems now confronting it.
7. 'New technology is transforming the office in our time'. Discuss.
8. Examine the ways in which the phenomenon of 'flexibility' is making its presence felt in the contemporary world of work.