

**Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh**

Autumn Examinations 1999  
First University Examination.  
History. Twentieth century Ireland.

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Time allowed: three hours.  
Answer **four** questions, at least one from each section.

**Section A.**

Extracts of the relevant documents are attached.

1. Discuss the background and significance of the 1916 Proclamation.
2. Discuss the extracts from Bunreacht na hÉireann below.
3. Discuss the background and significance of De Valera's statement on neutrality on 2 September 1939.
4. Discuss the context and implications of the Ireland Act, 1949.

**Section B.**

5. Assess the significance for Ireland of the 1918 general election.
6. Discuss the problems arising from the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921.
7. Discuss the reasons for tensions between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland in the period 1921-45.
8. Compare and contrast the policies of Cumann na nGaedheal and of Fianna Fáil in respect of the development of *Irish agriculture* in the period 1922-39.

**or**

How successful was Fianna Fáil's industrial policy in the period 1932-1945 ?

9. Identify and discuss the dominant features of southern Irish identity in the period 1922-48.

10. What were the main challenges which the economy of Northern Ireland faced in the period 1920-1945 ?

### Section C.

11. Discuss the view that a decline in the influence of the Catholic Church in Ireland has been evident since the Mother and Child crisis.

12. "The years of lost opportunity". Discuss this verdict on the years 1945-58 in independent Ireland.

or

Discuss the view that the 1950s was the 'crisis decade' in the history of the independent Irish State.

13. Discuss the view that the outbreak of conflict in Northern Ireland in 1968 was the result of both traditional animosities and a fear of change.

14. Discuss the development and direction of Irish foreign policy since 1945.

or

Explain the strong public support for Ireland's application for membership of the E.E.C. in the early 1970s.

15. Discuss the view that the key to the major cultural changes in independent Ireland since 1960 lies in the country's shift from being a 'closed' to being an 'open' society.

16. Identify and discuss the most significant features of the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985.

17. Account for the performance of the Irish economy in the 1990s.

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