

OLLSCOIL NA HÉIREANN, GAILLIMH  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

B.A. DEGREE HISTORY  
AUTUMN EXAMINATIONS 1998-9  
POPULAR CULTURE IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL EUROPE (HI376)

Owen Dudley Edwards  
Niall Ó Ciosáin  
Nicholas Canny

TIME: TWO HOURS; ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND TWO OTHER QUESTIONS

1. The term 'popular culture' presents apparently insurmountable problems of definition. (Connolly)  
Discuss some of the attempts which have been made to define it.

OR

What social purposes did a belief in witches or fairies serve in Irish rural society?

OR

'The absence of witchcraft trials in Ireland represents an expression of Irish passive resistance to the English authorities'. (Lapoint). Do you agree?

OR

When Kearney refers to Father Mathew as 'the apostle of modernisation', what does he mean?

2. In what ways did medieval and early modern popular religion reflect life in pre-industrial society?

3. Were there any differences as regards popular culture and mentality between rural and urban areas in the early modern period?

4. Carnival: social control or social protest?

5. What were the "guiding myths" of early modern popular revolt?

6. Discuss some of the ways in which economic change, particularly commercialisation and the growth of a market economy, influenced popular mentalities and practices.

7. 'The mentality of a literate society (or person) is fundamentally different from that of an oral one'. Do you agree?

8. How effective were the Protestant and Catholic reformations in changing popular religion?

9. Witch trials in western Europe declined rapidly towards the late seventeenth century. Why was this?

10. How justified, in your opinion, is Eugen Weber in treating folk tales as realistic narratives?

11. What was the appeal of the bandit-hero in folk literature?

12. In what ways did the folklore studies of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries influence the perception of pre-industrial popular culture?

13. What, in your view, was the most striking way in which pre-industrial popular mentalities differed from ours?