

## Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.

Autumn Examinations 1999

B.A. Degree. History.

HI 362. Party and power in 19th and early 20th century British politics.

Owen Dudley Edwards

M.A.G. Ó Tuathaigh.

Answer three questions.Time allowed: two hours.

1. Had the concept of a 'political party', as it is understood today, any meaning in pre-1832 Britain?
  2. 'A successful, minimalist adjustment by the existing landed elite'. Discuss this view of the 1832 Reform Act.
  3. Assess the contribution of Sir Robert Peel to the development of the party system in British politics.
  4. What were the main organisational developments in British party politics between the First and the Second Reform Act?
  5. Why did the Chartist challenge fail in the 1840s?
  6. Discuss the view that the handling of the 1867 Reform Act was Disraeli's finest hour as a party leader.
- or
- How significant was the pressure of public opinion in the passing of the Second Reform Act?
7. How and why did the Conservatives become pre-eminently the party of empire?
  8. Compare and contrast the party organisations developed by the Conservatives and the Liberals in the aftermath of the Second Reform Act.

9. Why did the question of Irish Home Rule prove so divisive in British party politics?

or

"In putting country before party, Gladstone proved himself a true disciple of Peel". Discuss.

10. Account for the emergence of an independent Labour party in British politics in the later 19th and early 20th century.

11. 'They were simply too long in office'. Is this an adequate explanation for the difficulties which beset the Conservative government in the early 20th century ?

12. Assess the state of health of the Liberal party on the eve of the first World War.

13. "There was no inherent reason why the war should have favoured the Labour party more than the Liberal party: but it did ". Discuss.

---