

HRES 6153

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Russian and East European Studies

THE HISTORY SINCE 1918 OF POLAND

TRINITY TERM 2007

Wednesday 13 June, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Please start the answer to each question on a separate sheet.

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

Do **not** turn over until told that you may do so.

1. Assess the role of Józef Pilsudski in the re-creation of an independent Polish state.
2. Why did the Second Republic fail to develop a stable political system between 1918 and 1926?
3. How far did the *coup d'état* of 1926 satisfy the expectations of those who supported it?
4. Why did Poland's nationality problems prove so intractable during the 1920s and 1930s?
5. Examine the relative importance of diplomatic, military, and political factors in the Polish defeat of September 1939.
6. Why was the political and social reconstruction of Poland in 1945 and the years following largely determined by the Soviet Union?
7. Explain the changing fortunes of 'national communism' in Poland between 1948 and 1980.
8. How was the Catholic church able to sustain such a powerful role in Communist Poland?
9. How much did the bouts of unrest in Poland in 1956, 1968-70, and 1980-3 have in common?
10. How far does the availability of sources colour our understanding of Polish politics and society in the later Communist period, 1956-89?

HRES 6153

Last page