



Ireland and the union
History Past Exam Questions
Ordinary Level

2013

Section 2 - Question 1

SECTION 2: IRELAND

Attempt the three sections, A, B and C, from two of the topics below.

Ireland: Topic 1

Ireland and the Union, 1815-1870

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is historian Maureen Murphy's description of Asenath Nicholson. Study it and answer the questions that follow.

Had you been travelling in Ireland in 1844-1845, you might have seen – or heard about – an extraordinary American woman who was walking through the countryside singing hymns, reading the Bible and distributing religious tracts from the depths of her large, black, bearskin muff.

She wore Indian rubber shoes, a polka coat, a bonnet and – when they weren't missing – silver-rimmed spectacles. A number of doctors offered to remove the large wart on her face. She recorded with some indignation that people stared at her.

She was Asenath Hatch Nicholson: teacher, reformer, abolitionist, writer and traveller, and she had come to Ireland to investigate the condition of the Irish poor.

Source: M. Gialanella Valiulis & M. O'Dowd (eds.) *Women and Irish History*, Dublin 1997.

1. Why was Asenath Nicholson in Ireland?
2. How was she travelling through the countryside?
3. How was she dressed?
4. How is it shown that she was a religious person?
5. What, briefly, was the attitude of Charles Trevelyan to the Famine?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The Tithe War.
2. Industrial development in Belfast.
3. William Dargan.
4. The Fenians in Ireland.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What was Catholic Emancipation and how did Daniel O'Connell campaign for it?
2. What did William Carleton and/or Mother Mary Aikenhead contribute to Irish affairs?
3. What did Thomas Davis contribute to the Young Ireland movement?
4. How important was Cardinal Paul Cullen in Irish affairs?

2012

Section 2 - Question 1

Ireland: Topic 1
Ireland and the Union, 1815-1870

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from a report in the *Freeman's Journal* on the opening of the Synod of Thurles, 1850. Read it and answer the questions that follow.

Each succeeding train arriving at Thurles came fully laden with visitors, both clergy and laity. The hotels in the town were crowded from the previous day, and temporary accommodation was eagerly sought.

Even the private houses of the townspeople were required for the purpose of accommodating the crowds who could not obtain room in the hotels. The shops and warehouses were closed.

1. What sort of visitors came to Thurles by train?
2. Why was temporary accommodation eagerly sought?
3. Where did those who could not find rooms in the hotels seek accommodation?
4. Was it business as usual in Thurles? Give a reason for your answer.
5. Why did Cardinal Paul Cullen convene the Synod of Thurles, 1850?

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. William Carleton.
2. Mother Mary Aikenhead.
3. Reforms of the Liberal government.
4. Industrial development in Belfast.

C (40 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did Daniel O'Connell set about winning Repeal of the Act of Union and why did he fail?
2. What were the responses of Charles Trevelyan and/or Asenath Nicholson to the Famine?
3. What did William Dargan contribute to economy and society in Ireland?
4. What did Thomas Davis and/or Charles Kickham contribute to Irish affairs?

2011

Section 2 - Question 1

Ireland: Topic 1
Ireland and the Union, 1815-1870

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an extract from a description by a German traveller, Jacob Veneday, of Daniel O'Connell's arrival at the Athlone Repeal Meeting of 15 June 1843. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

Now there arose a cry such as never before had greeted my ears; now all hats were raised in the air, and there burst forth the unanimous shouts: 'Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah! Long live O'Connell! Long live the Liberator!'

A hundred thousand voices sent forth these salutations to the man whose magic power had circled them around him. He sat on the box-seat of a carriage drawn by four horses, and answered the salutation with head, hand, and cap.

How he made his way I do not even to this day comprehend, for there was not room for a person to fall, much less to walk. 'Make way for the Liberator!' was the charm word which accomplished the wonder that otherwise had been an impossibility.

1. Where and when did the events described take place?
2. What nickname for O'Connell is mentioned in the extract?
3. How did the huge crowd greet O'Connell as he arrived?
4. How did O'Connell himself respond to the welcome from the crowd?
5. How successful was O'Connell's campaign for Repeal?

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The Irish countryside in 1815.
2. The Tithe War.
3. Thomas Davis.
4. The Synod of Thurles, 1850.

C (40 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did Daniel O'Connell set about winning Catholic Emancipation between 1823 and 1829?
2. What was done by private individuals and groups to help the victims of the Famine?
3. What did William Carleton and/or William Dargan contribute to Irish life?
4. What part did Charles Kickham and/or James Stephens play in the Fenian movement?

2009

Section 2 - Question 1

Ireland: Topic 1
Ireland and the Union, 1815-1870

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This picture of a Society of Friends soup kitchen in Cork appeared in the *Illustrated London News* on 16/1/1847. Study it and answer the questions which follow.



1. What food is being prepared?
2. How is the food being prepared?
3. What are the people at the window doing?
4. Will the people on the right be given food? Explain your answer.
5. Why did the Famine last so long?

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Thomas Davis.
2. Mother Mary Aikenhead.
3. The Tithe War.
4. Cardinal Paul Cullen.

C (40 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How successful was Daniel O'Connell's campaign for Catholic Emancipation?
2. What did William Dargan contribute to economy and society in Ireland?
3. How did Charles Trevelyan and/or Asenath Nicholson respond to the Famine?
4. What part did Charles Kickham and/or James Stephens play in the Fenian movement?

2008

Section 2 - Question 1

Ireland: Topic 1
Ireland and the Union, 1815-1870

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from a speech given by Daniel O'Connell to a vast crowd of repealers at Mullaghmast in 1843. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

O my friends... there shall be no bargain... with England – we shall take nothing but repeal and a Parliament in College Green (Dublin)...

We come here to take advice of each other, and above all, I believe you came here to take my advice. I can tell you...I have the victory secure – I have the repeal certain, if you but obey my advice.

I have led you thus far in safety; I have swelled the numbers of repealers until they are identified with the entire population, or nearly the entire population, of the land, for seven-eighths of the Irish people are now enrolling themselves repealers...

I will go on quietly and slowly, but I will go on firmly, and with a certainty of success.

Source: Richard Aldous, 'Great Irish Speeches', Quercus. (London, 2007).

1. What is the minimum that O'Connell will accept from England?
2. According to O'Connell, why have they come to Mullaghmast?
3. According to O'Connell, what proportion of the Irish people are now enrolling themselves as repealers?
4. How does O'Connell intend to proceed in order to gain repeal?
5. Give one reason why O'Connell failed to achieve repeal of the Act of Union.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. William Dargan.
2. William Carleton and Irish culture.
3. The Romanisation of the Catholic Church after 1850.
4. Industrial development in Belfast.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What methods did Daniel O'Connell use in his attempt to achieve Catholic Emancipation in 1829?
2. How did the Society of Friends, and other non-government groups, respond to the Famine?
3. How did Thomas Davis contribute to the promotion of Irish culture and nationalism?
4. In what ways did Mother Mary Aikenhead contribute to the relief of poverty and to the promotion of education?

2007

Section 2 - Question 1

Ireland: Topic 1
Ireland and the Union, 1815-1870

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from a letter written by James Fintan Lalor, a Young Irelander, to the journal *The Irish Felon*, June 1848. It describes conditions during the Famine. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

A people whose land and lives are in the keeping of others instead of their own, are not in a position of safety. The Irish Famine is example and proof of this.

The corn crops were sufficient to feed the island. But the landlords demanded their rents in spite of the Famine, and in defiance of fever. They took the whole harvest and left hunger to those who raised the crops.

Had the people of Ireland been landlords of Ireland, not a single human being would have died of hunger.

1. Whom does Lalor blame for the Famine?
2. Despite famine and fever, what did the landlords insist on having?
3. What did the landlords leave to the people who grew the crops?
4. In Lalor's opinion, how could the Famine have been avoided?
5. James Fintan Lalor was a Young Irelander. What action did Young Ireland take in 1848?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The Tithe War in Ireland.
2. The Poor Law.
3. Charles Trevelyan and the Famine.
4. Irish Education after 1830.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did Daniel O'Connell achieve Catholic Emancipation?
2. What did Asenath Nicholson contribute to Irish life?
3. What impact had the Synod of Thurles, 1850, on the Catholic Church in Ireland?
4. What part did James Stephens and/or Charles Kickham play in the Fenian movement?

2006

Section 2 - Question 1

Ireland: Topic 1
Ireland and the Union, 1815-1870

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from Daniel O'Connell's election manifesto in 1828. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF CLARE

Dublin, June 1828

Fellow Countrymen,

Your county wants a representative. I respectfully beg your votes.

Of my qualifications, I leave you to judge. The habits of public speaking, and many, many years of public business make me suited to attend to the interests of Ireland in Parliament.

You will be told that I am not qualified to be elected: the claim, my friends, is untrue. I am qualified to be elected, and to be your representative.

It is true that as a Catholic, I cannot, and of course I never will, take the oaths as presently demanded from members of Parliament; but the authority that created these oaths (the Parliament), can get rid of them.

And I entertain a confident hope that, if you elect me, the most bigoted of our enemies will see the necessity of removing an obstacle which would prevent me from doing my duty to my King and to my country.

1. On what grounds does O'Connell claim he is suited to represent the people of County Clare?
2. Why does O'Connell say that he will never take the oaths as presently demanded from members of Parliament?
3. What does O'Connell say that parliament can do with regard to the oaths?
4. What does O'Connell confidently hope will happen if he is elected to Parliament?
5. How was it possible for O'Connell to sit in Parliament in 1829?

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Thomas Davis and Young Ireland.
2. Industrial development in Belfast.
3. Sectarianism in politics.
4. Mother Mary Aikenhead and the education of the poor.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What tactics did O'Connell use in the campaign for the Repeal of the Act of Union and why did that campaign fail?
2. How successful were private (non-government) responses to the Famine during the 1840s?
3. What decisions were reached at the Synod of Thurles in 1850?
4. What part did Charles Kickham and/or James Stephens play in promoting physical-force republicanism in Ireland?

