



Sovereignty & The Impact of Partition

History Past Exam Questions

Ordinary Level

2013

Section 2-Question 3

Ireland: Topic 3

The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract discusses Ireland's policy of neutrality during World War II. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

When war broke out in Europe in September 1939, de Valera declared a policy of neutrality for the Irish state. All parties in the Dáil supported this policy. When James Dillon, Deputy Leader of Fine Gael, broke ranks in 1942 to declare that Ireland should join with the United States in opposing Hitler, he was promptly expelled from the party.

Neutrality was popular amongst the general population and de Valera knew that invasion by Germany or by Britain was not in their best interests.

When the war ended in May 1945, de Valera had successfully maintained Ireland's position as a neutral country.

Source: J.J. Lee, *Ireland, 1912-1985*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1989

1. What policy did de Valera declare in September 1939?
2. How did James Dillon break ranks in 1942?
3. What action did the Fine Gael party take in relation to Dillon?
4. Did Ireland succeed in maintaining neutrality throughout the war years?
5. What major impact had World War II on Ireland, North or South?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The Home Rule Bill, 1912-1914.
2. Patrick Pearse.
3. The 1918 general election.
4. Evin Hone.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did Michael Collins play in negotiating and defending the Anglo-Irish Treaty?
2. What was the importance of the 1932 Eucharistic Congress for both Church and State?
3. What did Éamon de Valera achieve as head of government during the period 1932-1939?
4. How did the Unionist Party govern Northern Ireland between 1920 and 1949?

2012

Section 2- Question 3

Ireland: Topic 3

The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this photograph Mass is being celebrated on O'Connell Bridge, Dublin during the Eucharistic Congress, 1932. Study it and answer the questions that follow.



1. When and where is the event taking place?
2. What religious ceremony is taking place?
3. What evidence is there in the photograph that the event has been organised carefully?
4. How is the location decorated?
5. In what way was the Eucharistic Congress, 1932, a success for the government and/or the Catholic Church?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The importance of the 1918 election.
2. Countess Markievicz.
3. Evie Hone.
4. The Unionist Party in power in Northern Ireland.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What was discussed at the Treaty negotiations in London (October-December, 1921) and how did these discussions affect Ireland?
2. What did W.T. Cosgrave achieve as head of government, 1923-1932?
3. How did Éamon de Valera conduct Anglo-Irish relations between 1932 and 1945?
4. What was the impact of World War II on Belfast?

2011

Section 2-question 3

Ireland: Topic 3

The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from a broadcast by a war correspondent, Ernst von Kuhren, who flew with a Luftwaffe squadron that bombed Belfast on Sunday, 4 May 1941. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

I can really say that I could not believe my eyes. When we approached the target, at half-past two, we stared silently into a sea of flames such as none of us had seen before.

In Belfast there were not a large number of fires, but just one enormous fire which spread over the entire harbour and industrial area.

Here the English had concentrated an important part of their war industries because they felt themselves safe, far up in the North. This had come to an end.

1. What evidence does the extract provide that von Kuhren was surprised by what he saw?
2. What part of Belfast was attacked?
3. Why was Belfast an important target?
4. What lesson would be learned?
5. How did the Irish government in Dublin respond to the bombing of Belfast?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The Home Rule Bill, 1912-1914.
2. Patrick Pearse.
3. The 1918 election.
4. Richard Dawson Bates.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did Michael Collins play in the Treaty negotiations, October-December, 1921, and in later events?
2. In what ways was the Eucharistic Congress, 1932, a success for both Church and State?
3. How did Éamon de Valera deal with Anglo-Irish relations during World War II?
4. As Prime Minister, what part did James Craig play in the affairs of Northern Ireland?

2009

Section 2-Question 3

Ireland: Topic 3

The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract from *The Belfast News-Letter* reports a sermon given by Dr. J.B. Woodburn, the retiring moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly, on 2 June, 1941. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

After the big Blitz of a few weeks ago I was inexpressibly shocked by the sight of people I saw walking in the streets. I have been working 19 years in Belfast, and I never saw the like of them before – wretched people, very undersized and underfed down-and-out looking men and women.

They had been bombed out of their homes and were wandering the streets. Is it a credit to us that there should be such people in a Christian country?

We have got to see that there is more talk of justice; we have got to see it put into action, and the work will have to begin immediately. If something is not done now to remedy this rank inequality, there will be revolution after the war.

1. Who was Dr. J.B. Woodburn?
2. Why were people wandering the streets?
3. What shocked Dr. Woodburn?
4. Why does the sermon call for action as well as talk?
5. How did the Dublin government react to the Belfast Blitz in mid-April, 1941?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The 1916 Rising.
2. Countess Markievicz.
3. William T. Cosgrave.
4. James J. McElligott.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did Arthur Griffith play in the Treaty negotiations, October-December, 1921 and in later events?
2. What was the importance of the Eucharistic Congress, 1932?
3. As Prime Minister, what part did James Craig play in the affairs of Northern Ireland?
4. What part did Éamon de Valera play in Anglo-Irish relations between 1932 and 1945?

2008

Section 2-Question 3

Ireland: Topic 3

The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract from *The Irish Independent* newspaper (4 May 1916) criticises those who led the Easter Rising, 1916. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

No terms of denunciation (criticism) that pen could write would be too strong to apply to those responsible for the insane and criminal rising of last week.

Around us, in Ireland's capital city is a scene of ruin which is heartbreaking to behold. Some of the proudest buildings in what was one of the finest streets in Europe are now reduced to shapeless heaps of smouldering ashes ...

On the battlefields of France and Flanders ...the outpouring of Irish blood is in direct contrast to the acts which have destroyed the reputation of their native land . . .

They set out to establish an Irish Republic. They held a few strong positions in certain parts of the city for about 28 hours. From that time onwards they were surrounded, many of them surrendering, others escaping and many of them being shot.

1. What words suggest that the newspaper did not approve of the Easter Rising?
2. What has happened to some of the proudest buildings in the city?
3. What did the leaders of the Easter Rising set out to achieve?
4. After about 28 hours, what happened to those who went out to fight in the Easter Rising?
5. Name two leaders of the Easter Rising, 1916.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Why Sinn Féin won the 1918 general election.
2. The War of Independence, 1919-1921.
3. Richard Dawson Bates.
4. Evie Hone.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did Countess Markievicz play in Irish affairs between 1913 and 1922?
2. Following the Treaty negotiations, what were the main terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty signed in London on 6 December 1921?
3. In what ways did the Eucharistic Congress 1932 help to promote the Catholic cultural identity of the Irish Free State?
4. What was the impact of World War II on life in Belfast between 1939 and 1945?

2007

Section 2-Question 3

Ireland: Topic 3

The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from a speech by John Redmond to an Irish Volunteer parade at Woodenbridge, Co Wicklow on 20 September 1914. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

The duty of the manhood of Ireland is to defend the shores of Ireland against foreign invasion. It is also a duty of proving that Irish courage proves itself on the field of war as it has always proved itself in the past.

The interests of Ireland are at stake in this war. The war is undertaken in defence of religion and right. It would be a disgrace to our country if young Ireland were to confine her efforts to defending Ireland from an unlikely invasion, and shrunk from the duty of proving on the field of battle that courage which has distinguished the Irish all through her history.

I say to you, therefore: 'Go on drilling and make yourself ready for the work, and then account yourselves as men, not only in Ireland, but wherever the firing-line extends, in defence of right, of freedom, and of religion in this war.'

1. What does the speaker say is the duty of Irish manhood?
2. According to the speaker, what is at stake in this war?
3. What does the speaker advise the Volunteers to continue doing?
4. According to the speaker, what is this war defending?
5. Mention one way in which the Volunteers responded to this speech.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The Third Home Rule Bill, 1912.
2. The Easter Rising, 1916.
3. How partition affected Ireland.
4. William T. Cosgrave.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What role did Arthur Griffith play in Irish affairs?
2. In what ways was the Eucharistic Congress, 1932, a memorable event?
3. What part did Eamon de Valera play in Anglo-Irish relations between 1932 and 1945?
4. How did World War II impact on the city of Belfast?

2006

Section 2-Question 2

Ireland: Topic 3

The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

These are the general election results of June, 1922.
Study the results and answer the questions below.

GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS – JUNE 1922

<i>PARTY</i>	<i>SEATS</i>
<i>Pro-Treaty Sinn Féin</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Anti-Treaty Sinn Féin</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Labour</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Farmers</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Unionists</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Independents</i>	<i>7</i>

1. As the Anti-Treaty Sinn Féin deputies did not take their seats in Dáil Éireann, which group of deputies could form the government with an overall majority?
2. What do the election results reveal about the attitude of voters towards the Treaty?
3. From the election results, was the debate on the Treaty the only concern of the voters? Explain your answer.
4. Following the election of June 1922, the pro-Treaty Sinn Féin deputies formed a new political party. What was the name of the new party?
5. Mention one major achievement of the new Irish government during its ten years of office between 1922 and 1932.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Countess Markievicz.
2. The Civil War, 1922-1923.
3. The impact of World War II on economy and society.
4. The artistic achievements of Evie Hone.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did Patrick Pearse play in Irish affairs?
2. What agreements were reached during the Treaty negotiations, October 1921-December 1921?
3. In what ways was the Eucharistic Congress, 1932, a success?
4. In what ways did World War II impact upon Ireland, North and South?

