



The Irish Diaspora
History Past Exam Questions
Ordinary Level

2013

Section 2-Question 4

Ireland: Topic 4
The Irish diaspora, 1840-1966

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minute

This edited extract discusses Irish emigrant attitudes towards British society and British attitudes towards the Irish. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Irish emigrants to Britain had a curious attitude towards British society in general. While accepting that Britain and its people were providing them with a new life with better wages and work standards, a sense of gratitude remained absent.

This attitude stemmed from the hardship of having to leave their homes in Ireland. Moreover, they strongly believed that having to leave home was rooted in Britain's neglect and misgovernment of Ireland. For these reasons, the loyalty of the Irish diaspora in Britain lay with the home country or with their fellow Irish in Britain, and not with British society in general.

The British response was to reject the Irish and it was not long before they became the outcasts of British society based on their cultural, religious and lifestyle choices.

Source: Stephen Moore, *Gaelic Games and the Irish Diaspora in London*. Coleraine: University of Ulster, 2010.

1. What opportunities did Britain provide the Irish diaspora?
2. Why were the Irish not grateful to British society?
3. To whom did the Irish diaspora remain loyal?
4. What was the British response to the Irish diaspora?
5. Apart from Britain, to what two countries did the Irish emigrate during the nineteenth century?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Grosse Isle.
2. The Orange Order in Canada and Australia.
3. Archbishop Daniel Mannix.
4. Irish participation in politics in the US.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What was the impact on Irish-American relations of John Devoy?
2. During the period 1922-1966, what was the extent of emigration from Ireland?
3. What did Maureen O'Hara contribute to the creation of Irish images through film?
4. What were the aims of the Holy Ghost mission to Nigeria, 1945-1966, and how successful was it in achieving its aims?

2012

Section 2-question 4

Ireland: Topic 4
The Irish diaspora, 1840-1966

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract describes how an Irish girl, Annie Moore, became the first person in the world to enter America through Ellis Island in 1892. Read it and answer the questions that follow.

When Ellis Island officially opened on 1 January, 1892, the first passenger registered through the world famous immigration station was a young Irish girl named Annie Moore. Travelling with her two young brothers, Annie departed Queenstown (now Cobh) Co. Cork on 20 December 1891, on board the SS Nevada, one of 148 steerage passengers.

The ship arrived in New York on Thursday evening, 31 December. They were processed through Ellis Island the following morning, New Year's Day, and also Annie's fifteenth birthday. To her surprise, Annie was greeted by a host of city, state and federal officers. They presented her with a certificate and a ten-dollar gold coin in recognition of her being the first immigrant to enter America through Ellis Island.

Source: www.ellisland.org/Einfo/Press_anniemoore.asp-unitedstates

1. When did Ellis Island officially open?
2. How many passengers travelled steerage?
3. When did the ship arrive in New York?
4. Why was Annie surprised when she entered Ellis Island?
5. Apart from the US, to what non-European country did many Irish people emigrate?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The Orange Order in Canada.
2. Domhnall Mac Amhlaigh.
3. John F. Kennedy.
4. The creation of Irish images through film and music.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What conditions did the Irish experience in Britain and/or the US during the nineteenth century?
2. What were the aims of de Valera in America (June, 1919- December, 1920) and how successful was he in achieving them?
3. Why and to where did the Irish emigrate during the period, 1920-1966?
4. How did one or more of the following represent the Catholic Church: Archbishop Mannix; Bishop Edward Galvin; Mother Mary Martin?

2011

Section 2-question 4

Ireland: Topic 4
The Irish diaspora, 1840-1966

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This picture shows post-famine Irish emigrants preparing to cross the Atlantic. Study it and answer the questions which follow.



1. How will the emigrants cross the Atlantic?
2. Name one of the destinations shown.
3. What evidence does the picture offer that whole families are emigrating?
4. Are these people the very poorest? Explain your answer.
5. Why did the Irish emigrate in large numbers?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The Molly Maguires.
2. Emigration from Ireland, 1920-1966.
3. Archbishop Mannix.
4. Maureen O'Hara.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. Why is Grosse Isle important in the history of Irish emigration?
2. What did John Devoy contribute to Irish America?
3. What was the impact on Irish America of Éamon de Valera and/or Joe Kennedy?
4. What were the aims of the Holy Ghost mission to Nigeria, 1945-1966, and how successful was it in achieving its aims?

2009

Section 2-Question 4

Ireland: Topic 4
The Irish diaspora, 1840-1966

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from a letter from Éamon de Valera in America to Arthur Griffith in Ireland. It is headed 'The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York' and dated 9/7/1919. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

My three present objectives are:

- *Seeking unofficial recognition of the Republic.*
- *Interesting wealthy men of the [Irish] race in the industrial development of Ireland.*
- *The floating of the bond [to raise money].*

The whole trouble is to organise the sympathy for our cause, which is widespread, and harness it to a definite purpose. The press is not hostile – but the English are massing their forces against us.

Source: Diarmaid Ferriter, *Judging Dev* (2007)

1. Where was de Valera staying in New York?
2. For what was de Valera seeking recognition?
3. How was de Valera seeking financial help?
4. What source of opposition to his efforts does de Valera mention?
5. How did de Valera in America contribute to tensions between Irish-Americans?

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Anti-Irish sentiment in Britain in the nineteenth century.
2. Archbishop Daniel Mannix.
3. Domhnall Mac Amhlaigh.
4. Maureen O'Hara.

C (40 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What conditions did Irish emigrants experience at Grosse Isle?
2. Why did the Irish emigrate and to where did they go during the period, 1920-1966?
3. What was the impact on Irish-America of Joe Kennedy and/or John F. Kennedy?
4. How successful was the Holy Ghost mission to Nigeria during the period, 1945-1966?

2008

Section 2-Question 4

Ireland: Topic 4
The Irish diaspora, 1840-1966

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract gives an account of conditions at Grosse Isle which you have studied as part of your Case Study. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

By the end of May 1847 there were forty vessels in the vicinity of Grosse Isle, with as many as 13,000 emigrants under quarantine (in isolation), stretching in an unbroken line two miles down the St. Lawrence River.

Another report only a week later put the number of refugees on the island at 21,000. The situation remained beyond control for months.

The death toll at sea had been very high on many of these ships, and disease of course continued its ravages as the surviving passengers were prevented from coming ashore for long periods.

Source: James S. Donnelly, *The Great Irish Potato Famine*. Sutton (London, 2001).

1. By the end of May 1847, how many vessels had arrived on the St Lawrence River?
2. How many people were in quarantine by the second week?
3. In what country is Grosse Isle?
4. Why was the death toll at sea so high?
5. How did emigration during the Famine decade, 1845-1855, affect the Irish language?

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The Orange Order in Canada and Australia.
2. The Catholic Church and Irish emigrants.
3. The GAA and the Irish diaspora.
4. Emigration from Ireland, 1920-1966.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. Was de Valera's mission to America (June, 1919 - December, 1920) a success or a failure? Argue your case.
2. How did John Devoy use journalism and politics in America to promote Irish nationalism?
3. In what ways did Boss Croker and/or Paul O'Dwyer contribute to the life of the Irish diaspora in America?
4. What did Bishop Edward Galvin achieve as a missionary leader?

2007

Section 2-Question 4

Ireland: Topic 4
The Irish Diaspora, 1840-1966

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This extract gives an account of emigration during the Famine. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Hungry, verminous, fever-ridden, they were herded together on cargo ships hastily adapted to carry this human freight; and they were for the most part too ignorant and too apathetic to attempt the most elementary precautions against infection.

Inevitably the rate of mortality was high - of emigrants sailing from Liverpool to Canada in 1847, one in fourteen died at sea, of those sailing from Cork, one in nine; and the memory of the 'coffin ships' is firmly entrenched in the folk-tradition of the Famine.

(Source: *The Making of Modern Ireland*, J.C. Beckett, 1966.)

1. On what type of ships did the emigrants travel?
2. Why did the emigrants fail to take precaution against infection?
3. In 1847, what was the death rate of Irish emigrants travelling from Cork?
4. What is firmly rooted in the folk-traditions of the people?
5. Mention one way in which Irish emigrants helped their families in Ireland.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The Molly Maguires.
2. The Holy Ghost Mission to Nigeria, 1945-1966.
3. Archbishop Daniel Mannix.
4. Maureen O'Hara.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What happened to Irish emigrants when they landed at Grosse Isle?
2. What role did John Devoy and/or Andrew Bonar Law play in Irish history?
3. What was the impact of John F. Kennedy on Irish-America and on Ireland?
4. What do we learn about Irish emigrants in Britain from the works of Domhnall Mac Amhlaigh?

2006

Section 2- question 4

Ireland: Topic 4
The Irish diaspora, 1840-1966

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract describes discrimination against the Irish living in Scotland in the first half of the 20th century. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

Discrimination flows through all ranks of national life from the humblest manual labourer to the professions.

To take but one example: in the last fifty years Scottish-Irish have attended the Universities of Scotland in increasing numbers. Since the Education Act of 1918, the same qualifications for the teaching profession are demanded from them as from their Protestant colleagues. Yet in the high administrative posts of the profession – the inspectorate, the directorates of education, supervisorships, and so on – one will search in vain for an Irish-Catholic occupant.

Irish-Catholic doctors and dentists have a similar tale to tell.

J.E. Handley, 'The Irish in Modern Scotland', Cork and Oxford University Presses, 1947.

1. What do you understand by the word 'discrimination'?
2. According to the writer, how widespread was discrimination against the Irish living in Scotland?
3. What evidence does the extract give to show that there was discrimination in the teaching profession in Scotland?
4. Apart from the teaching profession, in what professions did the Irish experience discrimination?
5. Why was Britain a popular destination for Irish emigrants between 1840 and 1966?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. John Devoy.
2. Emigration during the Famine decade, 1845-1855.
3. The Orange Order in Canada and Australia.
4. Maureen O'Hara or Domhnall Mac Amhlaigh.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What were the successes and failures of de Valera's mission to America, June, 1919-December, 1920?
2. What part did the Kennedy family play in politics in the USA?
3. What were the aims and achievements of the Holy Ghost mission to Nigeria, 1945-1966?
4. What contribution did Mother Mary Martin make in the field of medicine and health care in developing countries?