



Republic- government, economy, society

History Past Exam Questions

Ordinary Level

2013

Section 2-Question 6

Ireland: Topic 6

Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract from *Window and Mirror: RTE television, 1961-2011* (Dublin, 2011), John Bowman quotes from a critical report on the RTE newsroom (dated May, 1971). Study it and answer the questions which follow.

Foreign news was covered 'in a slap-dash, meaningless way'. The provinces were largely ignored.

There was 'a lack of discipline, rehearsal and pride'; also a lack of analysis or any elements of news creation in the bulletins.

As for newsroom reporters, they 'dressed badly, wore shaggy jackets, kept their hands in their pockets, and had poor diction'.

1. How was foreign news covered?
2. What criticism is made of the news bulletins?
3. What is said to be the newsroom's attitude to the provinces?
4. What evidence do you find of 'a lack of pride' on the part of the newsroom reporters?
5. How did Breandán Ó hEithir contribute to the impact of RTE on Irish society?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Changes in education, health and social welfare.
2. The impact of the EEC on Irish fisheries.
3. The impact of Vatican II on Irish society.
4. Garret FitzGerald.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did Seán Lemass attempt to strengthen the economy and improve relations with Northern Ireland?
2. What did Jack Lynch achieve as Taoiseach?
3. How did Sylvia Meehan and/or Mary Robinson contribute to the changing role of women?
4. How did T.K. Whitaker and/or Archbishop J.C. McQuaid influence Irish affairs?

2012

Section 2-Question 6

Ireland: Topic 6
Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract from his memoir, *Hurler on the Ditch* (2005), Michael Mills describes, as political correspondent of the *Irish Press*, breaking news in May, 1970. Read it and answer the questions that follow.

On 6 May, 1970 the country awoke to the news that Jack Lynch had sacked two of his most senior ministers, Charles J. Haughey and Neil Blaney.

I was woken from my sleep at 2 a.m. by a sub-editor on the staff of the Irish Press. He had been instructed, by the editor, to take a taxi out to my house and to make sure that I arrived back at the office to prepare a story on the dramatic announcement.

The result was a story in that morning's Irish Press, which asked more questions than it answered. By eleven o'clock that morning, however, I felt I had sufficient information to say publicly, on an RTE current affairs programme, that the sackings were connected with an attempt to bring in guns for Northern Ireland through Dublin Airport.

1. On 6 May, 1970, what news did the people of Ireland hear?
2. What instructions did the sub-editor give Mills?
3. When had Mills sufficient information to make a public statement on RTE?
4. According to Mills, with what were the sackings of the two ministers connected?
5. Why did the government of Jack Lynch fail to win the general election of 1973?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Irish involvement in the UN.
2. The impact of RTE, 1962-1972.
3. Sylvia Meehan.
4. Archbishop John Charles McQuaid.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did T. K. Whitaker contribute to economic development in Ireland?
2. Did membership of the EEC in 1973 help or hinder Irish fisheries? Explain your answer.
3. What were the successes and failures in the political career of Charles Haughey as Taoiseach?
4. How did Garret FitzGerald influence Irish affairs?

2011

Section 2-Question 6

Ireland: Topic 6
Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes.

This is an edited extract from an assessment by the British ambassador, Peter Clutterbuck, of Seán Lemass. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

His references in the Dáil to partition have been couched (expressed) in moderate terms. Perhaps the most encouraging was the absence of any suggestion that partition was, in some way, the fault of, and maintained by, Britain. He seems to recognise that it is a matter for agreement between Irishmen themselves. That, indeed, is an advance.

Mr. Lemass said quite frankly to me that he fully realised, on looking back, that a great number of mistakes had been made, by the Dublin government, in relation to the North. These he wanted to work to rectify. It was totally wrong, for instance, to bring pressure on the North. Any such pressure would be self-defeating.

Source: Tom Garvin, *Judging Lemass*, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, 2009.

1. Who is the writer of the assessment?
2. What does the writer find encouraging?
3. In relation to Northern Ireland, what example of mistakes made, does the writer attribute to Lemass?
4. Has the writer had direct contact with Lemass? Give a reason for your answer.
5. With which Northern Ireland leader did Lemass exchange visits in 1965?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. T.K. Whitaker.
2. Changes in education, health and social welfare.
3. Breandán Ó hEithir.
4. Ireland and the UN.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What was the impact of RTÉ on Irish society between 1962 and 1972?
2. What did Jack Lynch achieve as Taoiseach?
3. Did membership of the EEC help or hinder the development of Irish fisheries? Explain your answer.
4. How did Garrett FitzGerald and /or Sylvia Meehan influence Irish affairs?

2009

Section 2-question 6

Ireland: Topic 6

Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from T.K. Whitaker's introduction to *Economic Development* (1958). Study it and answer the questions which follow.

After 35 years of native government people are asking whether we can achieve an acceptable degree of economic progress.

The common talk among people in the towns, as in rural Ireland, is of their children having to emigrate as soon as their education is completed, in order to be sure of a reasonable livelihood.

To the children themselves, and to many already in employment, the jobs available at home look unattractive by comparison with those obtained, in such variety and so readily, elsewhere.

All this seems to be setting up a vicious circle of increasing emigration, resulting in a smaller domestic market, increased unemployment and a lowering of living standards.

1. What were people asking?
2. Why was emigration taking place?
3. What was the effect of emigration?
4. What was required to improve the situation?
5. What position did T.K. Whitaker hold in 1958?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Changes in Irish education, 1949-1989.
2. Irish involvement in the United Nations (UN).
3. Archbishop John Charles McQuaid.
4. Sylvia Meehan.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What did Seán Lemass achieve as Taoiseach?
2. What was the impact of RTÉ and Gay Byrne on Irish life?
3. What was the impact of the EEC on Irish fisheries and/or other aspects of Irish life?
4. What did Charles Haughey contribute to Irish life?

2008

Section 2-Question 6

Ireland: Topic 6

Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This extract from a speech by Michael O'Leary, Minister for Labour, in Dáil Éireann on 8 May, 1975 outlines the changes he has introduced to benefit the status of women. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

The main thrust of Government commitment in this area is summed up in the terms of the Anti-Discrimination (Pay) Act, 1974, which gives women the rights to equal pay to come into effect at the end of this year...

The social welfare code has been greatly improved. Mothers are now paid their children's allowances as of right. . . An unmarried mother who keeps her child is now entitled to a welfare allowance. An allowance is made to the wives of long-term prisoners . . . most women are now covered for maternity benefit.

Married women may avail of their pre-marriage contributions (stamps/PRSI) to qualify for unemployment, disability, dental and optical benefits.

1. What did the Anti-Discrimination (Pay) Act, 1974 give to women?
2. Under the social welfare code, which parent may now receive their children's allowances as of right?
3. How did the social welfare code benefit the wives of long-term prisoners?
4. Having made pre-marriage contributions, what benefits could married women obtain?
5. What contribution did Sylvia Meehan make to the status of women?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Changes in education after 1966.
2. Changing attitudes towards the Irish language since the 1960s.
3. The impact of Vatican II on the Irish clergy and lay people.
4. Irish involvement in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What were the aims of the First Programme for Economic Expansion, 1958-1963?
2. Did membership of the E.E.C. help or hinder the development of Irish fisheries? Argue your case.
3. What impact had Garret FitzGerald on Irish life during the period, 1973-1987?
4. In what ways did Breandán Ó hEithir contribute to Irish culture and communications?

2007

Section 2-Question 6

Ireland: Topic 6
Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes.

This is a cartoon from *Dublin Opinion*, June 1961 on Ireland's application to join the E.E.C.



"You go first, Macmillan, and see how deep it is."

1. From the cartoon, give one piece of evidence to suggest that there is risk involved in joining the E.E.C.
2. Which person in the cartoon is the Irish Taoiseach?
3. How does the cartoon suggest that both Ireland and Britain intend joining the E.E.C. together?
4. Was the 1961 application successful?
5. Mention one advantage to Ireland of membership of the E.E.C.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time 10 minutes

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

1. The impact of Vatican II on Ireland.
2. Jack Lynch.
3. The importance of free secondary education.
4. Sylvia Meehan or Breandán Ó hEithir.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What did Seán Lemass achieve as Taoiseach?
2. How did membership of the E.E.C. affect Irish fisheries?
3. What was the impact of RTE and Gay Byrne on Irish society?
4. How significant was Archbishop John Charles McQuaid?

2006

Section 2-Question 6

Ireland: Topic 6
Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes.

This edited extract is a tribute to Seán Lemass from T. K. Whitaker. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

I must say it was a very pleasant surprise when the Fianna Fáil Government, committed so much to self-sufficiency and protection, abandoned it all so readily. There is no doubt that Lemass was the great moving spirit in all of this. There was grudging recognition that without Lemass' drive and also probably without de Valera's blessing, change would not have come about so quickly. Lemass was a nationalist in the sense of wanting to see Ireland have a respectable place in the world, but I don't think he was opposed to Dev's traditionalist outlook. He simply had some impatience with it as it might be a hindrance to change, the change he wanted. Lemass didn't have a programme of cultural change. His aim, as indeed my own, was focussed on improving the economic and social scene.
J. F. McCarthy, ed. 'Planning Ireland's Future: The Legacy of T. K. Whitaker', Dublin, 1990.

1. Why was Whitaker pleasantly surprised with the action of the Fianna Fáil Government?
2. Who does Whitaker credit with bringing about change so quickly?
3. In what way did the views of Lemass differ from those of de Valera?
4. In what areas did Lemass and Whitaker have the same aims?
5. Why was change so urgently needed in the Republic in the late 1950s?

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time 10 minutes

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

1. Changes in education and/or in health and welfare provision.
2. Archbishop John Charles McQuaid.
3. Irish involvement in the UN.
4. The impact of the EEC on Irish fisheries.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What effect had the First Programme for Economic Expansion, 1958-1963, on the economy of the Republic?
2. How important were Sylvia Meehan and/or Mary Robinson in bringing about change in the status of women since the 1960s?
3. How important was the impact of RTE between 1962 and 1972 on Irish society?
4. What contribution did Garret FitzGerald and/or Charles Haughey make to public affairs?