



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2025

HISTORY – ORDINARY LEVEL

FIELD OF STUDY: EARLY MODERN, 1492-1815

Written examination: 400 marks

Pre-submitted Research Study Report: 100 marks

WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE – AFTERNOON, 2.00-4.50

Use **ONE** of the following sets of instructions:

1. Usual instructions:

Answer Sections 1, 2 and 3 inside.

- **Section 1 (100 marks)**

Documents-based question (Europe and the wider world: Topic 1)

Answer all parts of this section.

- **Section 2 (200 marks)**

Ireland: Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Answer on each of **two** topics from this section.

- **Section 3 (100 marks)**

Europe and the wider world:

Topics 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Answer on **one** topic from this section.

OR 2. Alternative instructions for 2025 only:

- **Section 1 (100 marks)**

Documents-based question (Europe and the wider world: Topic 1)

Answer all parts of this section.

- **Sections 2 & 3 (300 marks)**

Ireland: Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 *and* Europe and the wider world: Topics 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

- Answer parts A, B, and C from **two** topics in Sections 2 and 3.
- Answer an extra part B and an extra part C from one of your two chosen topics.
- Answer the part A questions on page 15.

SECTION 1: DOCUMENTS-BASED QUESTION

Europe and the wider world: Topic 1 **Europe from Renaissance to Reformation, 1492-1567**

Case study to which the documents relate:

The divorce of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon

Study the documents opposite and answer the questions below.

1. (a) In document A, what happened in 1509?

 (b) What was one reason why Henry VIII needed a son, according to document A?

 (c) Between what two people was a marriage planned in document B?

 (d) How did Henry VIII think God had punished him, according to document B?

 (e) What solution did Henry VIII consider, according to document B?

(40)

2. (a) Do the documents agree on the problem confronting the King?
 Refer to both documents in your answer.

 (b) Which document, A or B, gives more information about Catherine of Aragon?
 Refer to both documents in your answer.

(20)

3. (a) Is document A a primary source or a secondary source?
 Give a reason for your answer.

 (b) Give two reasons why document B would be useful to a historian?
 Refer to the document in your answer.

(20)

4. What steps did Henry VIII take to end his marriage to Catherine of Aragon?

(20)

– Document A –

In this edited extract, a historian writes about the divorce of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon.

In 1509 Henry VIII had married his elder brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. Catherine was five years older than Henry, a pious and loyal wife, to whom he had been genuinely devoted.

The problem was, simply, that she did not provide a son and heir. A daughter, Mary, was born, but five other children died in infancy. After 1518, there were no more pregnancies.

Henry VIII needed a son to secure the succession and to satisfy his pride.

Source: John Lotherington (ed.), *The Tudor Years* (London, Hodder Education Group, second edition, 2003).

– Document B –

This edited extract, from an account written soon after King Henry VIII's death, gives Henry's doubts about his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

The French Ambassador was in England to discuss a marriage between our daughter, Princess Mary, and the son of the King of France. He asked me if our daughter was legitimate because the Queen, Catherine, had been married to my late brother, Prince Arthur.

This troubled my conscience. Was this why God had not sent me sons? There was danger to the Kingdom from not having a male heir to the throne. Should I, therefore, take another wife?

Source: R.S. Sylvester and D.P. Harding (eds.), *The Life and Death of Cardinal Wolsey by George Cavendish* (Oxford, Early English Text Society, 1959).

SECTION 2: IRELAND

Ireland: Topic 1

Reform and Reformation in Tudor Ireland, 1494-1558

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract from an agreement between Fearganainm O'Carroll and Lord Deputy Leonard Grey (12/6/1538) shows the military support for the Deputy expected from O'Carroll. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

On the occasion of each military expedition carried out by the Lord Deputy, Fearganainm should provide 12 good horsemen and 24 good kerne [foot soldiers] with sword, bow and javelin.

He should also provide food-supplies for 40 days and, at his own expense, he should take part in the expedition and obey the commands of the Deputy.

Source: C.G. Ó Háinle and D.E. Meek, *Unity in Diversity: Studies in Irish and Scottish Gaelic Language, Literature and History* (Dublin, Trinity Irish Studies, 2004).

1. With whom had O'Carroll made an agreement?
2. How many horsemen were required?
3. What food-supplies were required?
4. What were two weapons of the foot soldiers?
5. What was one duty of a Lord Deputy?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Family and kin in Gaelic Ireland.
2. Towns and guilds.
3. The monasteries and their dissolution.
4. Manus O'Donnell.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did the House of Kildare decline under Gearóid Óg Fitzgerald?
2. How were students trained in Bardic Schools and how did they earn their living afterwards?
3. What did the policy of Surrender and Regrant seek to achieve and was it successful?
4. How was the Plantation of Laois/Offaly organised and was it successful?

Ireland: Topic 2
Rebellion and conquest in Elizabethan Ireland, 1558-1603

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract, historian Hiram Morgan writes about Grace O'Malley. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Grace O'Malley married first Donal O'Flaherty and later Richard Bourke. She was powerful in her own right due to the considerable naval power of the O'Malleys.

Despite clashes with the Crown, which imprisoned her in 1577-1579, she urged her menfolk to seek agreement with the Tudor state.

While in London in 1593, she petitioned Queen Elizabeth I for a grant of lands because, under Gaelic law, she was not entitled, as a widow, to any part of her husband's estate.

Source: S.J. Connolly (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to Irish History* (Oxford, OUP, 1998).

1. Who was Grace O'Malley's first husband?
2. Why was she powerful in her own right?
3. What did she urge her menfolk to do?
4. Why did she petition the Queen?
5. Briefly, why was Grace O'Malley an important person in the Ireland of her time?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The university question.
2. Agnes Campbell.
3. Tadhg Dall Ó hUiginn.
4. Hugh O'Neill as military leader.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did Shane O'Neill play in Irish affairs?
2. What were the main features of Elizabethan Dublin?
3. How was the Plantation of Munster organised and was it successful?
4. What did you learn about the clerical career of Richard Creagh and/or Meiler Magrath?

Ireland: Topic 3
Kingdom versus colony – the struggle for mastery in Ireland, 1603-1660

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract is from an article by historian Bernadette Cunningham on Geoffrey Keating's *Foras Feasa*. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Geoffrey Keating was associated with the Irish college in Bordeaux, probably as a teacher, before returning to Ireland, as a priest, about 1610.

It is for his narrative history of Ireland 'Foras Feasa ar Éirinn' ['Compendium of Wisdom about Ireland'] that Keating is best known. It told the story of Ireland from the creation of the world down to the coming of the Normans in the 12th century.

It circulated in manuscript [hand-written] form and was first published in printed form in 1723.

It criticised the unfavourable views of Ireland published by earlier writers. Keating excluded from his definition of Irish people those who were not born in Ireland and those who were not Catholics.

Source: *History Ireland*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Spring 2001).

1. From where did Keating return to Ireland?
2. When does the story of Ireland in *Foras Feasa* begin?
3. When does the story end?
4. Name one group excluded by Keating from his definition of the Irish people.
5. In what form did *Foras Feasa* exist between its composition and its first printing?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Trade: imports and exports.
2. Piaras Feiritéar.
3. Oliver Cromwell in Ireland.
4. Elizabeth Butler, Countess of Ormond.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How was the Plantation of Ulster organised and was it successful?
2. What did Richard Boyle (Earl of Cork) and his family contribute to Irish affairs?
3. What was the importance of the Irish College in Louvain?
4. What did Sir Thomas Wentworth (Earl of Strafford) contribute to Irish affairs?

Ireland: Topic 4
Establishing a colonial ascendancy, 1660-1715

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract deals with trade restrictions and how they affected Ireland. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

The Cattle Acts of 1663 and 1667 banned the import of live Irish cattle to England. The Staple Act of 1663 required that certain items from the colonies could not be landed directly in Ireland but had to be shipped to England and re-exported to Ireland.

The main effect of this was to increase the cost of colonial imports into Ireland, in the case of tobacco by 8%. The result was a considerable rise in smuggling. However, the impact was less than expected due to a shift from the export of raw materials to processed goods with a higher value added.

Source: based on material in Raymond Gillespie, *Seventeenth-Century Ireland* (Dublin, Gill & Macmillan Ltd., 2006).

1. What did the Cattle Acts of 1663 and 1667 ban?
2. By the Staple Act what could not be landed directly in Ireland?
3. How did the Staple Act affect prices in Ireland?
4. What shift in exports took place?
5. Briefly, why did smuggling flourish in Ireland?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Samuel Louis Crommelin.
2. Irish brigades abroad.
3. The Duchess of Tyrconnell.
4. Robert Boyle and the emergence of science in Ireland.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What decisions were made at the Irish Parliament of 1689?
2. What were the main features of Restoration Dublin?
3. What was the contribution of Dáibhí Ó Bruadair to Irish affairs?
4. How did penal legislation affect the life and work of Oliver Plunkett?

Ireland: Topic 5
Colony versus kingdom – tensions in mid-18th century Ireland, 1715-1770

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract from the Whiteboy song *Príosún Chluain Meala/The Jail of Clonmel*, a Whiteboy, awaiting execution, laments his fate. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

*O 'tis one year tomorrow my home I deserted
And went to Ard Pádraig my hat done [decorated] with laces
The Whiteboys were there tormenting the cattle
Now I'm grieving and lonely in jail in Clonmel
I'm condemned [to die] and won't live beyond Friday.*

Source: Seán Ó Tuama & Thomas Kinsella, *An Duanaire, 1600-1900: Poems of the Dispossessed* (Dublin, Dolmen Press, 1981).

1. Where is the Whiteboy as he laments his fate?
2. Where did he meet the other Whiteboys?
3. What Whiteboy activity is mentioned?
4. What is to be the Whiteboy's fate?
5. What was one reason for the emergence of the Whiteboys?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The political effects of the Seven Years' War in Ireland.
2. Women and rural society.
3. The trial of Fr. Nicholas Sheehy.
4. Dean Jonathan Swift.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. Who were the Ponsonbys and why were they important?
2. What was the contribution of Arthur Guinness to Irish life?
3. How did Margaret (Peg) Woffington and/or Turlough O'Carolan contribute to Irish cultural life?
4. How did Charles O'Connor and/or Thomas Wyse help towards improving the position of Catholics?

The end of the Irish kingdom and the establishment of the Union, 1770-1815

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract, Mary Anne McCracken keeps her brother, imprisoned in Dublin for his involvement with the United Irishmen, informed of events in Belfast. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

A most extraordinary revolution has taken place in politics. Our female relations, who were brimful of loyalty to the Crown, now favour the United Irishmen.

All the children are good republicans and poor George is so much disliked by loyalist boys, for being a croppy [supporter of the United Irishmen], that they won't play with him.

Source: Angela Bourke, and others (eds.), *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing, Volume V* (Cork, Cork University Press, 2002).

1. Why is the writer's brother in prison?
2. Where is he in prison?
3. To whom were the female relations loyal in the past?
4. How has their loyalty changed?
5. What was one aim of the United Irishmen?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Population change, 1770-1815.
2. The rise of Belfast.
3. Wolfe Tone.
4. Nano Nagle's contribution to education in Ireland.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did Henry Grattan play in Irish affairs?
2. What did Eibhlín Dhubh Ní Chonaill contribute to Irish culture?
3. Why was Maynooth College founded, 1795, and did it achieve its aims?
4. For what reasons did a rebellion break out in Wexford, 1798, and how was it put down?

SECTION 3: EUROPE AND THE WIDER WORLD

Europe and the wider world: Topic 2

Religion and power: politics in the later sixteenth century, 1567-1609

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract is from a report by the Venetian Ambassador to Spain at the time of the Spanish Armada, 1588. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Here, in all the churches, the Spanish pray constantly. King Philip II himself is on his knees two or three hours every day praying for God's favour for the Armada.

Wise men wonder why the King thinks the Armada could be successful. The English are expecting attack. They are well-prepared and show eager courage.

Source: John Lotherington (ed.), *Years of Renewal: European History, 1470-1600* (London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1994).

1. Who wrote this report?
2. From where is he reporting?
3. For what is Philip II praying?
4. What is one reason why the writer doubts the success of the Armada?
5. What was one action taken by England to defeat the Spanish Armada?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The decisions reached at the Council of Trent.
2. Jacobus Arminius.
3. Sir Walter Raleigh.
4. The rise of Muscovy.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What were the reasons for the decline of the port of Antwerp?
2. What was the part played by Catherine de Medici and/or Admiral Coligny in the French Wars of Religion?
3. What methods were used by the Jesuits in their mission in China to achieve their aims and were they successful?
4. What were the achievements of Michel de Montaigne and/or Tycho Brahe?

Europe and the wider world: Topic 3
The eclipse of Old Europe, 1609-1660

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract notes Puritan attempts to promote 'godliness and virtue' in the England of Oliver Cromwell. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

*Religious practice on the Sabbath Day [Sunday] was enforced.
Anti-gambling laws were introduced, ale houses were closed and, for a time, theatres.
Race meetings were banned, as well as cockfights and duels.
'Rowdy' and 'superstitious' practices became illegal, like dancing around the maypole or celebrating Christmas.*

Source: based on material in Asa Briggs, *A Social History of England* (London, Book Club edition, by arrangement with Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1984).

1. What did Puritans attempt to promote?
2. What was enforced on Sundays?
3. How were theatres affected?
4. What was one practice that became illegal?
5. What was one reason for the restoration of Charles II to the throne of England, 1660?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Why the Catalans revolted, 1640.
2. Peter Paul Rubens.
3. Witch-hunting.
4. The rise of Sweden.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What were the aims of Marie de' Medici and did she achieve her aims?
2. Why was Galileo put on trial by the Inquisition and what was the outcome?
3. What part did Albrecht von Wallenstein play in the Thirty Years War?
4. What were the achievements of Claudio Monteverdi and/or Hugo Grotius?

Europe and the wider world: Topic 4
Europe in the age of Louis XIV, 1660-1715

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract refers to Sébastien le Prestre de Vauban. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

De Vauban was Louis XIV's main military engineer. He was commissioned in the French army in 1655. In 1669, he compiled an influential treatise on siege-warfare.

Over the period 1672-1678 he carried out nearly twenty successful sieges. He used a succession of parallel trenches to give advancing troops protection. His fortifications took advantage of local geography to enable defenders to pour a cross-fire into attackers. He developed the use of the bayonet, first used at Bayonne in 1650.

In spite of enjoying royal favour for most of his career, he died in disgrace, after writing a pamphlet on taxation of which Louis XIV disapproved.

Source: *Oxford Encyclopedia of World History* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1998).

1. What did de Vauban produce in 1669?
2. What did he carry out over the period 1672-1678?
3. What weapon did he promote?
4. Why did he lose the King's favour?
5. What was one way in which Louis XIV strengthened France's frontiers?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The Restoration of the monarchy in England.
2. John Sobieski.
3. Sir Henry Morgan.
4. The court of Versailles.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What were the main aims of the English East India Company and what steps were taken to achieve them?
2. What were the achievements of Peter the Great, at home and abroad?
3. What did Isaac Newton contribute to the advance of science?
4. What did you learn about the Grand Tour?

Europe and the wider world: Topic 5
Establishing empires, 1715-1775

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract refers to the Boston Tea Party. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

The Tea Act, 1773, was an attempt to relieve the financial stresses of the East India Company by permitting it to export tea to the American colonies directly and to sell it there.

It would make tea cheaper for the consumer. But it threatened the interests of both colonial merchants and smuggling rings, so those two powerful groups opposed it.

In Boston, on 16 December, 1773, a body of men, disguised as Indians, and directed by Sam Adams, boarded the tea-ships and threw their cargoes into the harbour.

Source: M.A. Jones, *The Limits of Liberty: American History, 1607-1980* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1987).

1. What did the Tea Act seek to do?
2. Name one group whose interests were threatened by the Act.
3. How were the men in Boston disguised?
4. What did the men in Boston do?
5. What was the 'Boston Massacre' (5 March, 1770)?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Changes in farming in the eighteenth century.
2. The influence of the salon.
3. Robert Clive.
4. The Duke of Bridgewater.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What were the main achievements, at home and abroad, of Maria Theresa of Austria?
2. What were the main features of life on a West Indian slave plantation?
3. What ideas did Voltaire and/or Rousseau put forward?
4. For what reasons has Frederick II of Prussia become known as 'Frederick the Great'?

Europe and the wider world: Topic 6
Empires in revolution, 1775-1815

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract, historian Simon Schama notes conditions, for better-off prisoners, in the Bastille prison, Paris. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

No one wanted to be in the Bastille. But, once there, life – for the more privileged – could be made bearable.

Alcohol and tobacco were allowed and, under King Louis XVI, card games were introduced for anyone sharing a cell. Also, a billiard table was allowed for the Breton gentry who requested one.

Some of the literary inmates even thought that a spell in the Bastille would make them famous as champions of liberty. The Abbé Morellet, for example, wrote: ‘I would be better known and make my fortune.’

Source: Simon Schama, *The Bastille Falls* (London, Penguin, 1989).

1. What and where was the Bastille?
2. What was allowed for those sharing a cell?
3. What were the Breton gentry allowed?
4. For what did some of the literary inmates hope?
5. Why was the Bastille attacked on 14 July, 1789?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The abolition of the Atlantic slave trade.
2. The emancipation of the Jews.
3. Maximilien de Robespierre.
4. Ludwig van Beethoven.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What problems arose from the growth of Manchester?
2. What did you learn about the Civil Constitution of the Clergy?
3. What was the influence of Mary Wollstonecraft and/or Madame de Staël?
4. What resistance did Napoleon face from Britain and/or the German states?

Leaving Certificate 2025

Answer the questions below if you are following the **Alternative Instructions for 2025 only** on the front cover of this examination paper.

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract gives the views of Alonso Morales, recently arrived in the New World. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Alonso Morales, still under twenty, has recently arrived in the New World. He came in the company of his cousin who paid his fare from Spain. Alonso is now working to pay off the debt as a tailor in his cousin's shop.

Food is cheap and plentiful, he claims. Every Spaniard has a horse. There is plenty of work and workers are paid very well. Goods from Spain are scarce and expensive, however.

Source: J. Lockhart and E. Otte (eds.), *Letters and Peoples of the Spanish Indies* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1976).

1. Where had Alonso Morales recently arrived?
2. How had his cousin helped him get there?
3. How was Morales working off his debt?
4. What is one advantage of his new life mentioned by Morales?
5. Why were goods from Spain expensive in the New World?

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Leaving Certificate - Ordinary Level

History

Wednesday 11 June
Afternoon 2:00 - 4:50