



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2026

HISTORY - HIGHER LEVEL

FIELD OF STUDY: LATER MODERN, 1815-1993

Written examination: 400 marks

Pre-submitted Research Study Report: 100 marks

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE - AFTERNOON, 2.00-4.50

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

1. Usual instructions:

- **Section 1 (100 marks)**
Documents-based question (Ireland: Topic 2)
Answer all parts of this section.
- **Section 2 (100 marks)**
Ireland: Topics 1, 3, 4, 5, 6. Answer **one** question from **one** topic.
- **Section 3 (200 marks)**
Europe and the wider world:
Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Answer **one** question from each of **two** topics.

OR

2. Alternative instructions:

- **Section 1 (100 marks)**
Documents-based question (Ireland: Topic 2)
Answer all parts of this section.
- **Sections 2 and 3 (300 marks)**
Ireland: Topics 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 *and* Europe and the wider world: Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Answer **three** questions from any **two** topics in Sections 2 & 3.

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SECTION 1: DOCUMENTS-BASED QUESTION

Ireland: Topic 2

Movements for political and social reform, 1870-1914

Case study to which the documents relate:

The GAA to 1891

Study the documents opposite and answer the questions below.

1.
 - (a) Why did the writer travel to Kilkenny in document A?
 - (b) What were people doing in secret in document A?
 - (c) What would strike people about the appearance and discipline of the hurlers, according to document B?
 - (d) What was one form of decoration in Charleville reported in document B?

(20)
2.
 - (a) What contrasting views of hurlers and hurling are offered in the documents? Refer to both documents in your answer.
 - (b) To what extent do both documents suggest that the writers were concerned about matters other than sport? Refer to both documents in your answer.

(20)
3.
 - (a) Would you consider document A to be an objective source? Give reasons for your answer, referring to the document.
 - (b) In what ways is document B a useful source for the historian investigating the history of the GAA? Refer to the document in your answer.

(20)
4. What political problems faced the GAA during the years 1884-1891 and how successfully did it handle them?

(40)

- Document A -

This is an edited extract from a report by Michael Cusack on a visit to Kilkenny in April, 1887.

I travelled to Kilkenny last Sunday to see how conditions had improved since the foundation of the GAA. The sights which met my eyes filled me with dismay. I saw a group of idle, pale, emaciated people. On the steps of the Bank of Ireland a group of persons – who probably call themselves men – was lazily reclining. In High Street the pillars of the Town Hall supported the dead weight of others. If the officers of the GAA in the city had been carrying out their duties, all would have been practising the games of their fathers.

In a field, two teams of hurlers, about thirty men altogether, were at play. There were no spectators, showing how little hold the GAA has taken in Kilkenny. The hurling of both teams was, I believe, the worst ever witnessed. In the centre of the field there were, at times during the contest, half a dozen hurlers lying with their faces on the ground, resting themselves.

The people sneaked about the corners, with humps on them, to pay flying visits to the shebeen [a place where alcohol was sold illegally], or to make a quiet entrance by the back door of a friendly publican.

Source: *The Celtic Times* (16 April, 1887).

- Document B -

This is an edited extract from an account of a visit by Archbishop T.W. Croke to Charleville, Co. Cork, in July, 1887.

A notable feature of the occasion was the presence of half a dozen branches of the Gaelic Athletic Association of which his Grace, the Archbishop, is a patron. The men were dressed in the uniforms of their clubs and carried their hurleys on their shoulders. They presented a formidable appearance. Everyone was struck by the discipline with which they preserved their order of two abreast, and carried out to the letter the commands of their captains.

‘The Association has progressed amazingly in a short time, with branches over the length and breadth of Ireland,’ the Archbishop declared. ‘At one time I feared three disastrous outcomes,’ he revealed, ‘bad blood [fighting], drink and the neglect of Sunday worship. But my fears have, for the most part, proved groundless. No angry blows are struck by the contestants. Drink has been taken at meetings, sometimes rather freely, but nowhere to any notable excess. And the young athletes always hear Sunday Mass.’

Then a procession formed, headed by a brass band. The hurlers formed up in line and marched before the Archbishop’s carriage. Almost every house was decorated with evergreens and flags. Overall, Charleville presented a spectacle of festivity and rejoicing.

Source: *The Freeman’s Journal* (26 July, 1887).

SECTION 2: IRELAND

Refer to the instructions on the front cover when choosing which question(s) to answer.

Ireland: Topic 1

Ireland and the Union, 1815-1870

1. How did Daniel O’Connell wage his campaign for Catholic Emancipation and to what extent was it successful? (100)
2. How effective were government and private responses to the Famine? (100)
3. How successful, at home and abroad, was Fenianism? (100)
4. During the years 1815-1870, what were key developments in the creation of cultural and religious identities in Ireland? (100)

Ireland: Topic 3

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

1. How important was the contribution of Patrick Pearse and/or Countess Markievicz to Irish affairs? (100)
2. How did Cumann na nGaedheal and Fianna Fáil contribute to the consolidation of democracy in the Irish Free State, 1923-1937? (100)
3. How effectively did the Unionist Party in power respond to the challenges it faced, 1920-1939? (100)
4. What was the impact of World War II on Ireland, North and South? (100)

Ireland: Topic 4

The Irish diaspora, 1840-1966

1. During the years 1840-1920, what challenges faced the Irish in Britain? (100)
2. How successful were the Protestant churches and the Orange Order in fostering Ulster-Scottish identity abroad? (100)
3. What did you learn about the participation of the Irish diaspora in US affairs from your study of one or more of the following: Boss Croker; Joe Kennedy; Paul O’Dwyer? (100)
4. What was the impact of the Holy Ghost mission to Nigeria, 1945-1966? (100)

Ireland: Topic 5
Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993

1. In what ways did communities in Northern Ireland express their cultural identities, 1949-1993? (100)
2. What was the Sunningdale Agreement, 1973, and why did the power-sharing executive collapse? (100)
3. What was the social and economic impact of the “Troubles” on Northern Ireland? (100)
4. What influence did Gerry Adams have on the affairs of Northern Ireland? (100)

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

1. How effectively did Irish governments respond to the social and economic problems they faced, 1949-1959? (100)
2. To what extent did television and Vatican II contribute to change in Irish society? (100)
3. Why did the Republic of Ireland join the EEC in 1973 and to what extent was the Irish experience of membership positive? (100)
4. What was the contribution to Irish affairs of Jack Lynch and/or Charles Haughey? (100)

SECTION 3: EUROPE AND THE WIDER WORLD

Refer to the instructions on the front cover when choosing which question(s) to answer.

Europe and the wider world: Topic 1

Nationalism and state formation in Europe, 1815-1871

1. What factors contributed to the outbreak of revolutions in Europe in 1848? (100)
2. How successful was Robert Owen and/or Robert Peel in advancing his aims? (100)
3. During the years 1815-1871, what developments took place in city planning with particular reference to Haussmann's Paris? (100)
4. During the years 1815-1871, how did cultural nationalism develop in Europe? (100)

Europe and the wider world: Topic 2

Nation states and international tensions, 1871-1920

1. Who had the more successful foreign policy, Otto von Bismarck or Kaiser Wilhelm II? Argue your case, referring to both. (100)
2. How did anti-Semitism develop in France and Russia, 1871-1920? (100)
3. What was the contribution of Douglas Haig and/or Woodrow Wilson to war and peace in Europe? (100)
4. From your study of women, 1871-1920, what was the importance of two of the following: Marie Curie; women in the workforce during World War I; Rosa Luxemburg? (100)

Europe and the wider world: Topic 3

Dictatorship and democracy in Europe, 1920-1945

1. During the years 1920-1945, what were the social and economic problems facing Britain in peace and war? (100)
2. How did church-state relations develop under Mussolini and Hitler? (100)
3. How did communism develop in the Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin? (100)
4. What was the contribution of radio and cinema to popular culture, 1920-1945? (100)

Europe and the wider world: Topic 4
Division and realignment in Europe, 1945-1992

1. What is meant by the “Sovietisation” of Eastern Europe and how was it carried out? (100)
2. What was the political and economic impact on Europe of Marshall Aid and the 1973 Oil Crisis? (100)
3. How effective a leader was Margaret Thatcher at home and abroad? (100)
4. During the years 1945-1992, what developments took place in youth and popular culture (including sport)? (100)

Europe and the wider world: Topic 5
European retreat from empire and the aftermath, 1945-1990

1. To what extent was Mohandas Gandhi and/or Achmad Sukarno successful in achieving his aims? (100)
2. During the years, 1945-1990, what was Europe’s role in Arab-Israeli conflict? (100)
3. What immigration patterns and policies do you associate with France, 1945-1990? (100)
4. What did you learn about the social and economic consequences of decolonisation from your study of one or more of the following: the problems faced by development workers in Africa; Julius Nyerere and the policy of ujamaa; the Lomé Conventions? (100)

Europe and the wider world: Topic 6
The United States and the world, 1945-1989

1. To what extent did the US economy prosper during the years 1945-1989? (100)
2. Which had the greater impact on the US, the Cold War in Europe or the Cold War in Asia? Argue your case, referring to both. (100)
3. During the years 1945-1989, what attempts were made to resolve racial inequality in the US? (100)
4. What was the contribution to US society of Billy Graham and/or Betty Friedan? (100)

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Leaving Certificate - Higher Level

History

Wednesday 10 June
Afternoon 2:00 - 4:50