



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2026

HISTORY – ORDINARY 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:

Answer Sections 1, 2 and 3 inside.

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

- **Section 3 (200 marks)**

Europe and the wider world: Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Answer on each of **two** topics from this section.

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 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.

Do not hand up this question paper.

It will not be returned to the State Examinations Commission.

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) What did the bands play, according to document A?
 - (b) According to document A, who swarmed onto the field?
 - (c) According to document A, against whom did Moycarkey compete?
 - (d) How did the Tipperary teams travel to Cork, according to document B?
 - (e) According to document B, who won overall?

(40)

2.
 - (a) Do both documents depict a lively, well-supported event?
Explain your answer, referring to both documents.
 - (b) Do both documents criticise the behaviour of the Cork supporters?
Explain your answer, referring to both documents.

(20)

3.
 - (a) Do you think that document A is a reliable historical source?
Give a reason for your answer, referring to the document.
 - (b) Give one example of how historian Paul Rouse made use of evidence from document A to write about the history of the GAA in document B.
Explain your answer, referring to both documents.

(20)

4. In what ways did the GAA develop in the years 1884 to 1891?

(20)

– Document A –

In this edited extract, *The Cork Examiner* newspaper records an event from the early history of the GAA.

The biggest crowd probably ever seen in Cork Park came together to witness a series of contests between Cork teams and teams from Tipperary. The Tipperary players marched from the train station to the Park and were accompanied by five bands playing national airs.

It was a good-humoured crowd – although some of its members swarmed onto the field of play, obstructing the efforts of the Tipperary players. Not a single cheer was raised for the visiting teams, while the applause for the local men was deafening.

This was particularly the case when Moycarkey [Co. Tipperary] was competing against the Cork National Hurling Club. We venture to remark that, if the crowd had kept off the field and given fair play to the visitors, the contest would have provided the best hurling ever seen.

Source: *The Cork Examiner* (30 August, 1886).

– Document B –

In this edited extract, historian Paul Rouse comments on the same event from the early history of the GAA.

The informal growth of challenge matches between clubs from separate counties through 1886 brought a new energy to the GAA. A case in point was a tournament between teams from Cork and Tipperary in August, 1886.

On a warm summer's day five Tipperary teams took the train south for a series of matches against the best of Cork clubs, drawing a crowd of more than 20,000 to Cork Park. It was a remarkable occasion, full of pageantry and music.

The Cork teams were declared to be victorious overall; but even the local papers felt the need to note how the behaviour of the home-town supporters, and their continuous interference with play, had hurt the chances of the Tipperary men.

Source: Paul Rouse, *The Hurlers* (London, Penguin Books, 2019).

SECTION 2: IRELAND

Ireland: Topic 1 **Ireland and the Union, 1815-1870**

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract, *The Freeman's Journal* (August, 1850) describes the opening procession of the Synod of Thurles. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Every window in the neighbouring houses was crowded with spectators during the procession of bishops and priests.

The large bell of the chapel and the chimes of the convent were heard at intervals.

Despite the immense crowds, so complete was the respectful silence that, even at a considerable distance, the organ of the chapel could be heard.

Source: quoted in Ó Corráin & O'Regan (eds.), *Ireland, 1815-1870* (Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2011).

1. The opening of what event is described?
2. Who took part in the procession?
3. What religious buildings are mentioned?
4. What sounds were to be heard?
5. What was one decision reached at the Synod of Thurles?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The Tithe War.
2. William Carleton.
3. Charles Kickham.
4. Industrial development in Belfast.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. During the period 1815-1870, what was the impact of emigration on Ireland?
2. What were successes and failures in the career of Daniel O'Connell?
3. What was the importance of Thomas Davis and/or James Stephens?
4. What did Asenath Nicholson and/or Mother Mary Aikenhead contribute to Irish life?

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 the diary of Kathleen O'Connell (Éamon de Valera's personal secretary), 7 December 1921, the day after the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Treaty published in all the papers this morning. President de Valera in an awful state. Oh what a disappointment to our bright hopes. What a farce.

Cabinet meeting at 11. De Valera was thinking of recalling the delegation from London and asking for the resignation of Ministers Griffith, Collins and Barton.

Griffith's statement that Ireland has achieved freedom is such a farce. Partition of our country and remaining as British subjects is the "freedom" we are to have.

Source: cited in Patrick Murray and Paul Murray, *The Life and Times of Kathleen O'Connell* (Dublin, Edmund Burke Publisher, 2022).

1. What position was held by Kathleen O'Connell?
2. In what condition was de Valera?
3. What was de Valera thinking of asking for?
4. What did Kathleen O'Connell think of Griffith's version of Irish freedom?
5. What was one political organisation associated with Arthur Griffith?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Patrick Pearse.
2. The War of Independence, 1919-1921.
3. The Eucharistic Congress, 1932.
4. The fortunes of the Irish language, 1922-1949.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What was the role of Countess Markievicz and/or Evie Hone in Irish affairs?
2. What part did Michael Collins play in negotiating and defending the Anglo-Irish Treaty?
3. How did Éamon de Valera handle Anglo-Irish relations, 1932-1939?
4. What problems did Belfast experience during World War II?

Ireland: Topic 4
The Irish diaspora, 1840-1966

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract deals with the Five Points district, a poor quarter of New York. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

The two poorest groups of New Yorkers – Irish Catholic immigrants and African-Americans – quickly came to dominate Five Points. The neighbourhood's raucous saloons and dancehalls made it notorious. So, too, did the drunken brawls that the two groups engaged in.

However, its drunks and crooks were outnumbered by hardworking, law-abiding immigrants, who saved money to support aged parents back in Ireland and to bring more of their countrymen to America. They also sought to protect themselves against the contagious diseases, such as cholera and measles, that spread like wildfire.

Source: Tyler Anbinder, *City of Dreams* (Boston/New York, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016).

1. What two groups came to dominate Five Points?
2. What was one feature of the life there that became notorious?
3. What was one reason why immigrants saved money?
4. Why was Five Points an unhealthy place in which to live?
5. Give one reason why so many Irish people emigrated to the US in 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.
3. Mother Mary Martin.
4. Maureen O'Hara.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What were the achievements of Archbishop Daniel Mannix and/or Bishop Edward Galvin?
2. How successful was Éamon de Valera's mission to America, June 1919-December 1920?
3. What problems faced Irish immigrants in Britain, 1920-1966?
4. What was the impact of Joe Kennedy and/or John F. Kennedy?

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

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract, from a report prepared for the Dublin government, anticipated problems linked to the activities of Apprentice Boys in Derry in August 1969. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

The immediate problem is Derry. We are gravely concerned at the possibility of widespread discord [conflict] and bloodshed in Derry on 12th August.

We understand that at the Apprentice Boys march on that day there are plans for 73 bands, compared with the usual 17 or so. This will mean a presence of some 30,000 persons, representing the extreme Protestant element.

We feel that the British government, with the Northern authorities, should take all possible action in advance, to ensure that bloodshed does not occur.

Source: Michael Kennedy and others (eds.), *Documents in Irish Foreign Policy, Volume XIV, 1969-1973* (Dublin, Royal Irish Academy, 2024).

1. What problem was expected to arise in Derry?
2. When was it feared trouble would arise?
3. How many people would be in Derry for the march?
4. What did the Apprentice Boys represent, according to the writer?
5. What was one aim of the Apprentice Boys of Derry?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Conn and Patricia McCluskey.
2. Seamus Heaney.
3. Why the power-sharing executive collapsed, 1974.
4. The impact of the “Troubles” on the economy of Northern Ireland.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did Terence O’Neill attempt to bring about change in Northern Ireland?
2. Why did the establishment of a university at Coleraine provoke controversy?
3. What influence had Bernadette Devlin and/or Gerry Adams on the affairs of Northern Ireland?
4. How did Margaret Thatcher respond to the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland?

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 journalist Patsy McGarry recalls the impact of Vatican II. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

The second Vatican Council had begun in 1962. Every Sunday when he was back in Ballaghaderreen from Rome, Bishop James Fergus would celebrate the Children's Mass at 10 o'clock.

He would tell us about what was happening at the Council and the changes it might bring. I was excited by the opening of the Catholic Church to the world and by the promise of greater social justice.

I saw the gloom of the Cathedral eliminated by bright colours, with the priest facing us at Mass and speaking in English or Irish, instead of Latin.

Source: Patsy McGarry, *Well, Holy God: My life as an Irish Catholic*, Agnostic Correspondent (Newbridge, Co. Kildare, Merrion Press, 2024).

1. Who celebrated the 10 o'clock Mass?
2. What news did the celebrant bring?
3. What was one development that excited the writer?
4. What was one change in the Mass welcomed by the writer?
5. What was one impact of Archbishop John Charles McQuaid on Irish life?

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. Sylvia Meehan.
4. Garret FitzGerald.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What was the contribution of T.K. Whitaker to Irish affairs?
2. What was the impact of the EEC on Irish fisheries?
3. What was the contribution of Gay Byrne and/or Breandán Ó hEithir to Irish cultural life?
4. What problems faced Jack Lynch as Taoiseach and how did he respond to them?

SECTION 3: EUROPE AND THE WIDER WORLD

Europe and the wider world: Topic 1

Nationalism and state formation in Europe, 1815-1871

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract refers to Haussmann's Paris. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

The most famous project of urban renewal was begun by Baron Haussmann soon after his appointment as Prefect of the Seine in 1853. His aim was to rid Paris of its ancient narrow streets and replace them with broad boulevards. This would remove what had been ideal sites for the construction of barricades by revolutionary crowds and open the city to the forces of order.

His grand schemes reduced the Île de la Cité's population from 15,000 to 5,000, devastating nearly all the private dwellings there at one stroke. 'It was the gutting of Old Paris,' he boasted in his memoirs. Now the way was open for the construction of grand public buildings, such as the Opéra and the creation of the major railway stations.

Source: based on material in Richard J. Evans, *The Pursuit of Power: Europe, 1815-1914* (London, Penguin Random House UK, 2016).

1. What position was held by Baron Haussmann?
2. What was his aim?
3. How was the Île de la Cité affected?
4. What was one way in which Haussmann's work improved transport in Paris?
5. What was one way in which Haussmann's work improved sanitation in Paris?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The system of Metternich.
2. Karl Marx.
3. Robert Owen's New Lanark.
4. Serfdom in Russia.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. Why did the 1848 revolution in Germany fail?
2. What did Giuseppe Mazzini contribute to Italian unity?
3. During the years 1815-1871, what important changes took place in one or more of the following: music; art; literature?
4. What key developments took place in science and technology, 1815-1871?

Europe and the wider world: Topic 2
Nation states and international tensions, 1871-1920

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract, German Chancellor Bernhard von Bülow, in a speech to the Reichstag, 11 December 1899, explains the background to the naval policy of Wilhelm II. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Recent decades have brought power and prosperity to Germany. This has not been welcomed by others. There is a great deal of envy of us in the world, political envy and economic envy.

We shall retain our power only if we realise that without a strong army and a strong navy, there can be no security for us.

We are a nation soon to have a population of sixty million. We live in the centre of Europe – but we hope to expand in all directions.

Source: quoted in Gordon Martel, *The Origins of the First World War* (Harlow, Essex, Pearson Education Ltd., 2003).

1. How had Germany changed in recent decades, according to Bülow?
2. What two things did Germany need for its security?
3. What was the population of Germany?
4. What did Germany hope to do?
5. Briefly, how did Britain respond to Wilhelm II's naval policy?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Anti-Semitism in Russia.
2. The Second International, 1889-1914.
3. Marie Curie.
4. Wilfred Owen.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What were successes and failures of Otto von Bismarck as Chancellor of Germany?
2. What did women contribute to the war effort during World War I?
3. What were the achievements of the Krupp family and/or Karl Benz?
4. What was Woodrow Wilson's contribution to the affairs of Europe?

Europe and the wider world: Topic 3
Dictatorship and democracy in Europe, 1920-1945

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract describes Moscow in the 1930s. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Moscow was transformed in a few years from a rundown city of churches into an imperial capital with apartment blocks, department stores, places of culture, parks and sporting arenas.

Streets were cleared to build broad avenues for cars that rolled off the production lines. The metro stations were like cathedrals, with spacious halls, marble floors, chandeliers and depictions of the achievements of the Five Year Plans.

All of this stood in stark contrast to the people's squalid living conditions in apartments where several families shared a few divided rooms and a kitchen.

Source: Orlando Figes, *The Story of Russia* (London, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022).

1. How had transport improved?
2. How were the metro stations shown to be impressive?
3. What was provided for those who wished to lead a healthy life?
4. What was one hardship endured by the poor?
5. What was one achievement of the Five Year Plans?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. J.M. Keynes.
2. Hitler's foreign policy, 1933-1939.
3. The fall of France, 1940.
4. Josef Stalin as war leader during World War II.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did Benito Mussolini manage church-state relations in Italy?
2. Why did the Jarrow March take place, October 1936, and did it achieve its aims?
3. What was the contribution of Joseph Goebbels and/or Leni Riefenstahl to Nazi Germany?
4. How did Charlie Chaplin and/or Bing Crosby contribute to popular culture?

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

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

On the morning of 4 November 1956, the Soviet army invaded Budapest, Hungary. This edited extract notes what a journalist could see and hear from the windows of a newspaper building. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

At the moment there is silence. It may be the silence before the storm. We have no heavy weapons, only light machine-guns and rifles.

People are jumping up at the tanks, throwing hand grenades and then slamming the drivers' windows. The Hungarian people are not afraid of death. It is only a pity that they cannot resist for long.

The Soviet tanks are getting nearer and there is heavy artillery. What is the United Nations doing? Give us a little encouragement.

Source: Martin Gilbert, *Challenge to Civilization: a history of the 20th century, 1952-1991* (London, Harper Collins, 1999).

1. When did the Soviet army arrive in Budapest?
2. How was it suggested that the Hungarians were not well-armed?
3. What would be the outcome of the battle, according to the writer?
4. What did the Hungarians want from the outside world, according to the writer?
5. Briefly, what part did Imre Nagy play in the affairs of Hungary?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. Marshall Aid.
2. The development of nuclear power.
3. John Lennon.
4. Pope John Paul II.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did Berlin become a divided city and what was the importance of the Berlin Blockade, 1948-1949?
2. What was the 1973 Oil Crisis and how did it affect life and work in Europe?
3. What was the impact of Jacques Delors and/or Margaret Thatcher on European affairs?
4. How successful a leader was Mikhail Gorbachev, at home and abroad?

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

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract, Harold Macmillan, then UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, recalls a meeting with a US delegation that took place in London a couple of days after Egypt's Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

I met the Americans at 6.30. We had an hour's talk. I told them as plainly as I could, that we must get Nasser out, either by diplomacy or war. It was a question not only of honour but of survival for us.

I think they were quite alarmed for they had hoped to find me less extreme. If we keep the Americans really frightened, they will help us get what we want – international control of the Suez Canal and the collapse of Nasser.

Source: Peter Catterall (ed.), *The Macmillan Diaries, The Cabinet Years, 1950-1957* (London, Macmillan, 2003).

1. What position was held by Harold Macmillan at the time of writing?
2. Where, and for how long, did Macmillan meet his visitors?
3. Why, according to Macmillan, were recent developments important for the UK?
4. What did Macmillan hope the Americans would help him to achieve?
5. Briefly, what was the outcome of the Suez Crisis?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. British withdrawal from India, 1945-1947.
2. The Lomé Conventions.
3. Ho Chi Minh.
4. Achmad Sukarno.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What challenges were faced by development workers in Africa?
2. Why did Katanga secede from the Congo and in what ways did this affect the region?
3. How did developments in Algeria and/or race relations at home cause problems for France?
4. What were the main achievements of Chinua Achebe?

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

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from a letter from the religious leader Billy Graham to President Eisenhower (2 December 1957). Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Sacrifice and renewed dedication will be needed if the American way of life is to be preserved. We Americans are growing soft. Our amusements and greed for money are acting as a sedative.

We almost need compulsory scientific training in all our schools, as well as compulsory physical training for all our young people.

The American people need to be encouraged to look to God who is the source of all our spiritual and moral strength.

Source: quoted in Gerard DeGroot, *Dark Side of the Moon* (New York, New York University Press, 2006).

1. What did Billy Graham want preserved?
2. Why did he think Americans were growing soft?
3. What was needed in schools?
4. Where could American people find spiritual and moral strength?
5. What, briefly, was one achievement of Billy Graham?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

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

1. The US economy, 1945-1968.
2. Marilyn Monroe.
3. Muhammad Ali.
4. Multiculturalism in the US, 1968-1989.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How and why did Joe McCarthy become a controversial figure?
2. What was the role of Martin Luther King in the Montgomery bus boycott?
3. How did the US achieve a moon landing in 1969 and what was its importance?
4. In what ways did Betty Friedan criticise aspects of American life?

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

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract, Parnell announces Gladstone's acceptance of Home Rule. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

In March, 1886, when we were on the eve of the Home Rule Bill, Parnell summoned a few of us to the Westminster Palace Hotel, London, to hear the result of his conversation with Gladstone.

We met on a raw, foggy night with our hearts on fire. The thought that a British Prime Minister had agreed to our dream quickened our pulses.

As Parnell revealed details, however, we grew disheartened at the meanness of Gladstone's offer, especially as regards finance. Towards midnight, disappointed, we went out into the fog and frost.

Source: T.M. Healy, *Letters and Leaders of My Day, Volume 1* (London, Thornton Butterworth, 1928).

1. When and where did the meeting take place?
2. What was to be revealed at the meeting?
3. Why were those present enthusiastic at first?
4. Why were they disappointed by the end of the meeting?
5. What was the outcome of the vote on the First Home Rule Bill, 8 June 1886?

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Leaving Certificate - Ordinary Level

History

Wednesday 10 June
Afternoon 2:00 - 4:50