

History's long legacy

Paying careful attention to detail will earn you lots of points in your history paper. Here are some questions – and answers – from past exams

SAMPLE ANSWERS

The following section contains a selection of sample answers.

Question 1:

The two pictures are from 2007.

PICTURE B

Picture B shows a motte and bailey.

(i) Give one defensive feature of this motte and bailey.

(1) Tower (Keep) on top of the hill. Fence around the castle. Water (moat) surrounding the castle.

(ii) Why were they mostly built in the southeast of Ireland?

(2) That's where the Normans first settled in Ireland and it is close to Wales.

(iii) Give two reasons why they were replaced by stone castles.

(2) Stone castles were better for defence against attack. Wooden castles could be burned more easily.

PICTURE C

Picture C shows a page from the first book printed on a movable-type press.

(i) Who invented the movable-type press?

(1) (Johann) Gutenberg

(ii) How did the movable-type press differ from earlier methods of printing?

(2) Earlier method was wooden block. Individual letters were now used and they were now made of metal.

(iii) Give two important results of this invention. [Tip: this is a very common question.]

(2) Books became more common and cheaper. Helped to spread new ideas, such as the Reformation. Encouraged the development of literature in the vernacular – that is, the language ordinary people spoke.

Question 3

Selection of questions on Political Developments in Ireland in the 20th Century. [Tip: If asked for two reasons, don't be afraid to give three.]

2007

Mention two reasons why Unionists opposed Home Rule in Ireland.

Afraid that Ireland would be dominated by Catholics; Home Rule = Rome Rule.

Ulster had prospered economically under the Union.

Unionists felt Home Rule would weaken the Empire.

2006

Name the founder of Sinn Féin in 1905.

Griffith

Give two reasons why Ireland was neutral during the Emergency, 1939-1945.

Wanted to avoid the damage and horrors of war.

Partition of the country made it very difficult for the South to fight for Britain.

Decision showed that we were independent of Britain.

2005

What was the Solemn League and Covenant, 1912?

Document signed by Unionists to show opposition to Home Rule.

Promise by Unionists to resist Home Rule.

Give two reasons why there was a Civil War in Ireland during the years 1922-1923.

Many people opposed the Treaty.

Anti-Treaty forces occupied buildings in Dublin.

2004

Give two reasons why there was an economic war between Britain and Ireland during the 1930s.

DeValera refused to pay the Land Annuities.

Imposition of tariffs on each other's exports.

There was distrust between the British and Irish governments.

During the period 1959-1966, mention two important decisions taken by the government of Seán Lemass.

They implemented the First Programme for Economic Expansion.

Improved relations with Northern Ireland.

They applied to join the EEC.



Picture B: a motte and bailey, from 2007's exam



Picture C: a page printed using movable type, also from 2007

2003

Name two Unionist politicians who opposed the Third Home Rule Bill, 1912.

Andrew Bonar Law; Edward Carson; James Craig

2002

Mention two reasons why the 1916 Rising was a military failure.

O'Neill cancelled order for Volunteers to rebel.

The Aud was captured and there was little rebel activity outside Dublin.

Tactic of occupying buildings and waiting for attack was a mistake.



Question 4

2007

An archaeologist working on a dig.

[Tip: this answer tells us many things, including how sites are discovered; how a dig is organised; how objects are unearthed; what archaeologists can learn from the soil; how they are dated.]

Archaeologists look for evidence about the past by digging up objects in the ground. Where they look for objects is called a site or an excavation or a dig. A site can be discovered by accident or it may be examined before it is built upon. Road building creates the largest number of sites for archaeologists.

They make a detailed plan of the site before they dig. The site is then divided into squares and each is numbered. The topsoil is cleared with tools such as spades and pickaxes.

The objects they find are called artefacts. When something is discovered it is photographed where it lies. Archaeologists use tools such as trowels, sieves and brushes to carefully remove it from the soil. They do not want to break it. It is then cleaned and clearly labelled.

Often the soil can tell an archaeologist a lot about the past. Timber poles used for building houses leave dark round patches called post holes in the soil. A square dark patch suggests a fireplace. A layer of darker soil may mean that the site was destroyed by fire.

One of the most important jobs archaeologists have is trying to date the objects they have found. Some important methods of dating are stratigraphy and carbon dating.

Stratigraphy dates objects by the depth at which they are found.

Carbon dating is used to find the age of an object that once lived, like a human skeleton; this is done by measuring the amount of carbon 14 left in the artefact.

In recent years, archaeologists have used DNA testing to find out more about skeletons that they have discovered. The artefacts are then stored or put on display in museums.

2006

A sailor on a voyage of discovery during the Age of Exploration.

[Tip: Remember, the examiner is looking for detail on an explorer – do not write a story about a sailor.]

My name is Martin Pinzon. I am a sailor on a voyage of discovery led by Christopher Columbus. He was born in Genoa in 1451. An experienced sailor, he believed that by sailing westwards from Europe he could reach Asia.

The king of Portugal refused to sponsor his voyage, but after a long delay, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to finance his voyage.

They hoped that this voyage might provide Spain with great riches, an empire, and converts to Christianity.

He set sail on the 3rd of August, 1492 with three ships, the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria (his flagship). I was the captain of the Pinta.

Many of the crew believed that the world was flat and if they sailed too far out to sea, they would fall off the edge. Columbus had to lie about the distance travelled to stop the crew forcing him to turn back.

Land was sighted on the 11th of October. Columbus landed on an island which he named San Salvador. Because he thought he had reached Asia, he named the native people Indians. However, he had in fact discovered islands off of an unknown continent, which later became known as America.

He discovered more islands, including Haiti and Cuba. When we returned to Spain, we received a hero's welcome, although we had only brought home six Indians and a small amount of gold.

As a reward for his services, Ferdinand and Isabella made him Governor General of the lands he discovered. He sailed on three further voyages in all, during which he discovered Trinidad, Jamaica, Panama and the mouth of the Orinoco River in South America.