

LEAVING CERT HISTORY PAST PAPERS ESSAY QUESTIONS

Ireland: Topic 6

Government, Economy and Society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989

Note: Government, Economy and Society was the topic for the Documents-Based Question (DBQ) in 2018 and 2019.

2024

- To what extent did the role of women change during the years 1949-1989?
- During the years 1949-1957, how effective were Irish governments in tackling the problems they faced?
- What was the impact on the Irish economy of either the First Programme for Economic Expansion, 1958-1963, or membership of the EEC, 1973-1989?
- From your study of culture in the Republic of Ireland, what did you learn about two of the following: RTÉ; changes in education; changing attitudes to the Irish language?

2023

- During the period 1949-1989, what changes took place in one or more of the following: attitudes towards Irish language and culture; the status of women; housing, schools and amenities?
- How well did Seán Lemass and/or Jack Lynch tackle the problems he faced?
- What was the contribution to Anglo-Irish relations of Charles Haughey and/or Garret FitzGerald?
- What was the impact of Archbishop John Charles McQuaid and Vatican II on Irish life?

2022

- How did Lemass and Whitaker strengthen the economy and/or seek to improve relations with Northern Ireland?
- During the period 1973-1989, how did involvement in the EEC affect the Republic of Ireland?
- What was the influence on Irish life of Archbishop John Charles McQuaid and Vatican II?
- During the period 1949-1989, what developments took place in two of the following: education; housing; broadcasting?

2021

- From your study of the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989, what did you learn about two of the following: changing attitudes towards Irish language and culture; the impact of Vatican II; the influence of television?
- What problems faced Seán Lemass and/or Jack Lynch as Taoiseach?
- Which affected the Republic of Ireland more, membership of the UN or membership of the EEC? Argue your case, referring to both.
- What was the contribution to Irish life of Sylvia Meehan and/or Garret FitzGerald?

2020

- During the period 1949-1959, how effective were Irish governments in tackling the challenges they faced?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of Seán Lemass as a political leader?
- How did Anglo-Irish relations develop during the period 1949-1989?
- What was the impact of RTÉ or EEC membership on Irish society?

2019

- [DBQ] To what extent did the First Programme for Economic Expansion, 1958-1963, achieve its aims?

2018

- [DBQ] During the period 1962-1972, to what extent did RTÉ both entertain and challenge its viewers?

2017

- How well did Irish governments cope with the social and economic problems they faced, 1949-1989?
- What did Jack Lynch and/or Charles Haughey contribute to Irish affairs?
- During the period 1949-1989, what was the importance of one or more of the following: changing attitudes towards Irish language and culture; the impact of RTÉ, 1962-1972; Archbishop John Charles McQuaid?
- To what extent did the status of women change during the period 1949-1989?

2016

- During the period 1949-1959, how effective were Irish governments in tackling the problems they faced?
- What did Seán Lemass achieve in internal and external affairs, and what did he leave undone?
- Which had the greater impact on Irish society, Vatican II or the EEC? Argue your case, referring to both in your answer.
- How did one or more of the following contribute to change in the Republic of Ireland: Sylvia Meehan; Mary Robinson; Garret FitzGerald?

2015

- How did Anglo-Irish relations develop during the period, 1949-1989?
- How did T. K. Whitaker and Seán Lemass respond to the challenges of their time?
- How did involvement in the EEC, 1973-1989, affect the Republic of Ireland?
- During the period, 1949-1989, what developments took place in one or more of the following: education; the status of women; broadcasting?

2014

- How was Ireland affected by the First Programme for Economic Expansion, 1958-1963, and/or EEC membership?
- How effective was Jack Lynch as Taoiseach in his handling of internal and external affairs?
- How did Garret FitzGerald and/or Mary Robinson help to bring about change in the Republic of Ireland?

- From your study of culture and religion, 1949-1989, how important was one or more of the following: changing attitudes towards the Irish language and Irish culture; Archbishop John Charles McQuaid; the impact of the communications revolution?

2013

- Is the term 'wasted years' a fair description of the period 1949-1959 in the Republic of Ireland? Give reasons for your answer.
- What were the main social and economic changes that took place in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989?
- Which contributed to greater change in the Republic of Ireland, Vatican II or RTÉ? Argue your case, referring to both.
- What did Charles Haughey and/or Garret FitzGerald contribute to Irish affairs?

2012

- To what extent did the status of women change during the period 1949-1989?
- Who faced the greater challenges as Taoiseach, Seán Lemass or Jack Lynch? Argue your case, referring to both.
- How did Anglo-Irish relations develop during the period 1949-1989?
- What was the impact of the EEC on Irish fisheries and/or what was the impact of television on Irish society?

2011

- During the period 1949-1989, what were the main developments in one or more of the following: education; health; social welfare?
- Which affected the Republic of Ireland more, membership of the UN or membership of the EEC? Argue your case, referring to both.
- What was the contribution to Irish affairs of Charles Haughey and/or Garret FitzGerald?
- What did one or more of the following contribute to changing attitudes in the Republic of Ireland: T.K. Whitaker; Gay Byrne; Mary Robinson?

2010

- During the period 1949-1959, how successful were the social and economic policies of Irish governments?
- How effective was Seán Lemass as Taoiseach in his management of internal and external affairs?
- What were the main challenges facing Irish governments in the 1970s and 1980s, and how well did they deal with them?
- What was the impact of television and/or Vatican II on the Republic of Ireland?

2009

- What was the contribution of T.K. Whitaker and/or Seán Lemass to economic change in Ireland?
- How did membership of the UN and/or the EEC affect the Irish Republic?
- During the period 1949-1989, what changes took place in education and/or attitudes towards Irish language and culture?
- What impact had one or more of the following on Irish society: Archbishop J.C. McQuaid; Garret FitzGerald; Mary Robinson?

2008

- What were the main social and economic challenges facing Ireland in the period, 1949-1959?
- What did people such as Sylvia Meehan and/or Mary Robinson contribute to the changing role of woman in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989?
- How effective was Jack Lynch as Taoiseach in his management of Ireland's internal and external affairs?
- What was the impact of the communications revolution (including television) on Ireland?

2007

- What were the main features of the First Programme for Economic Expansion, 1958-1963, and how successful was it for the economy and society?
- What changes did the government introduce in one or more of the following during the period, 1949-1989: education; health; social welfare?
- What impact had membership of the EEC on economy and society in Ireland after 1973?
- What impact had one or more of the following on Irish society: Archbishop John Charles McQuaid; Gay Byrne; Breandán Ó hEithir; Mary Robinson?

2006

- How do you account for the political instability and the economic problems of the period, 1949-1959?
- To what extent do you agree that Seán Lemass, as Taoiseach, transformed the country and its foreign relations?
- In what ways were attitudes towards the Irish language and Irish culture changing during the period, 1949-1989?
- What were the social and economic effects of Irish membership of the EEC during the period, 1973-1989?