



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Y316/01 Britain and Ireland 1791–1921

Friday 9 June 2017 – Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any **two** questions in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

SECTION A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the failure of the 1798 Wolfe Tone Rising. [30]

Passage A

Given the strength and determination of the government forces, the rebellion had no real chance of success, and after General Lake's victory at Vinegar Hill on 21 June, it rapidly petered out. The captured rebel leaders were executed or transported, but the rank-and-file were allowed to return to their homes. Although the rebellion lasted barely a month, it has been estimated that by the end of the summer the death toll on both sides amounted to about 30,000. It has been suggested that 'The 1798 rising was probably the most concentrated episode of violence in Irish history.'

The fact that it was only in August, after the rebellion was more or less over, that the French made their invasion attempt ensured that it was virtually a doomed enterprise from the start. The French General Humbert landed in County Mayo in the west with barely a thousand men and, although he won a brilliant victory over the British at Castlebar—which stimulated another ripple of rebellion—he was eventually forced to surrender early in September. The local rebellion was then brutally stamped out. By that time another French expedition had set sail for Ireland, including Wolfe Tone, but it was scattered by a British naval force and most of the French ships were captured. Wolfe Tone was one of the prisoners taken. He was condemned to death as a rebel but he cheated the hangman's noose by committing suicide. He was only 35.

Adapted from: Paul Adelman, *Great Britain and the Irish Question 1800–1922*, published in 1996.

Passage B

The rebels failed because they lacked coordination and because, with one or two exceptions, their leaders had no time to instil even a modicum of military discipline and training into the numbers that flocked to them. In addition, the arrests during the 'pre-rebellion' had been very disruptive, for the rebels, thereafter, had generally lacked both a leadership structure and a coherent strategy. The result was that it was often difficult or impossible, so the youthful Wexford rebel, Miles Byrne, later claimed in his memoirs, to know who had given which order and for what reason, and this indecision caused confusion and led to a loss of morale. The rebel failure to take Dublin at the outset had been crucial, depriving the rebellion of a focus and preventing the formation of some sort of representative assembly in the capital. From that point on the staggered outbreak of the rebellion played into the government's hands.

The failure of the French to intervene decisively had contributed to the rebel defeat. A substantial French force would have offered discipline, leadership, weaponry, recognition and perhaps, an overall strategy; the absence of the French had deprived the rebels of all of these.

Finally, the rebellion failed because Catholic Ireland, by and large, had sided with the government. The Catholic hierarchy, in particular, had offered strong support to the government: no word of criticism was voiced of the government policy of 'the bayonet, the gibbet and the lash'; the rebels had been immediately excommunicated; and those priests who sided with the rebels—a derisory 70 out of 1,800 in the country—were denounced as troublemakers and drunks.

Adapted from: Thomas Bartlett, *Ireland: A History*, published in 2010.

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** Assess the view that, from 1791 to 1921, the success of revolutionary nationalism depended on the quality of its leadership. **[25]**
- 3*** 'Tory and Conservative governments were the most effective British administrations in dealing with Irish issues from 1791 to 1921.' How far do you agree? **[25]**
- 4*** 'Land reforms were the most important reforms in preserving the Union in the period from 1791 to 1921.' How far do you agree? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Copyright Information

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website (www.ocr.org.uk) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact the Copyright Team, First Floor, 9 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1GE.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group; Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.