

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
Winter Examinations 2002

History HI304. Cultural revival and state-formation in Ireland, c.1880-1939

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Answer *three* questions.

Two hours available.

1. 'Cultural nationalists should be seen, therefore, as moral innovators who seek by 'reviving' an ethnic historicist vision of the nation to redirect traditionalists and modernists away from conflict and instead to unite them in the task of constructing an integrated, distinctive and autonomous community, capable of competing in the modern world'. (John Hutchinson).

Apply this definition to any major figure or movement in the cultural revival in Ireland in the late 19th and early 20th century.

2. What impact, if any, did the fall and death of Parnell have on the cultural ferment of the late 19th and early 20th century in Ireland ?

3. 'The attitude of government towards demands that the Irish language be given recognition and a presence in the education system was generally permissive or concessionary during the period 1876-1910'. Discuss.

4. What was the attitude of the leaders of the Catholic Church in Ireland to the Irish-language revival movement - and specifically to the Gaelic League's demands - in the period 1893-1914 ?

or

'As the Fr. O'Hickey affair and the controversy over obligatory Irish for entry to the new National University of Ireland revealed, the fault-line on the 'identity' debate within Nationalist Ireland by the early 20th century was between language essentialists and sentimentalists'. Discuss.

5. Was there any common ground between constructive Unionism and the cultural revivalists in the period c.1891-1906 ?

6. 'In Ulster, 'cultural revival' in the generation before 1914 expressed itself principally in the language of class politics or of religious fervor'. Discuss.

7. ' The Gaelic League's search for an Irish identity was one that soon found itself accommodated to the making of the twentieth-century Roman Catholic nation. D.P. Moran was a key figure in reinterpreting the Gaelic movement to the coming times'. (D.G. Boyce). Discuss.

8. 'For the elements of the Anglo-Irish ascendancy who embarked on leading projects of cultural revival, it was to be their 'last heroic stand' at leading anything; their political and economic power having already gone or being rapidly eroded'. Discuss.

9. What was the significance of a 'national theatre' for Yeats and Lady Gregory and their circle ?

or

Discuss the significance and implications of the 'Playboy' riots of 1907.

10. 'Militant labor was as marginal as republican separatism to the moderate, bourgeois Catholic nationalist mainstream which, by 1912, seemed poised to gain its Home Rule state under Redmond'. Discuss.

11. Compare and contrast the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant and the 1916 Proclamation as cultural texts (documents appended).

or

'The militarisation of political disagreement in the years 1911-1914 represents, in a sense, 'the strange death of liberal Ireland'. Discuss.

12. '...the upheaval was a nationalist revolution rather than a social one; a central theme was to take over the apparatus of the state, either from outside by agitation and propaganda, aggression and manipulation, or from inside by bureaucratic infiltration' (Tom Garvin). Is this a fair verdict on the nationalist journey towards an Irish Free State in 1922 ?

or

Had a Home Rule government under Redmond been established in Dublin in 1914, do you think that its cultural 'agenda' would have differed significantly from that of the Cumann na nGaedheal government in the early years of the Irish Free State?

13. 'The dominant cultural mark of both states established in Ireland in 1920-22 was their strong confessional character'. Discuss.

or

In what ways was the 'Britishness' of Northern Ireland encoded in State cultural policy and practice in the first twenty years after 1920 ?

14. What were the objectives, and what was the success, of the 'Gaelicization' policy of successive Irish governments of the period 1922-39 ?

or

What, if any, were the consequences for cultural policy and practice within the Irish state of the change of government from Cumann na nGaedheal to Fianna Fáil in 1932?
