

The Great Famine

2.7 INVESTIGATE the causes, course and consequences, nationally and internationally, of the Great Famine, and examine the significance of the Irish Diaspora



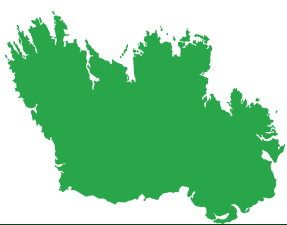
- 17.1 Timeline
- 17.2 Cornell Notes
- 17.3 Keywords
- 17.4 Knowledge Organiser
- 17.5 Questions

In this chapter, you'll learn about the causes, impact, and response to the Great Irish Famine, including the role of the British government and the impact on Irish society.

The Great Irish Famine



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The second crop dies
Sir Robert Peel resigns as Prime Minister

Year of Revolutions
Evictions start to take place
Young Islander Rising

The Famine comes to an end.



The Great Famine begins in Ireland as the first blight causes the potato crop fails

Black '47 – Worst Year of the Famine: Soup Kitchens and Workhouses are set up as relief; **Mass Chain** Emigration rapidly increases

Potato Crop fails again. Famine is accompanied by **cholera outbreaks**.

The island is largely blight-free. Population has decreased massively.



The Great Irish Famine (1845-1850)

Headings	Notes
IRISH LIFE IN THE 1840s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1841, more than 70% of the Irish population still lived in the countryside. In under a century, the Irish population had doubled to over 8.2 million. This was mainly down to two reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish people tended to marry young and have large families at the time. Agricultural improvements meant more food was available. Most land was owned by landlords and was worked by tenant farmers. Large farmers were able to rent more than 30 acres while small farmers rented between 5 and 30 acres. Poorer people worked as labourers with some able to rent one acre from a farmer. These were known as cottiers. By 1845, there was about 1 million Irish cottiers.
THE CAUSES OF THE GREAT FAMINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potato blight is a fungus that spreads in damp and humid weather and destroys potato crops. In 1845, blight arrived in Ireland, causing the potato crop to fail. There were several factors which helped to make the arrival of the blight into a national catastrophe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of Irish people lived rurally and were dependant on farming. Widespread poverty meant people were already very vulnerable. The rise in population and the subdivision of land meant that, over time, people had to live off smaller and smaller plots of land with very large families. The poor were reliant on the potato for food. A small plot of land was more than enough to grow enough potatoes to feed a family as well as potatoes being easy to harvest and store. Cottiers worked in exchange for rent so they had no cash to buy other food.
THE FAMINE YEARS: 1845-1850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1845 – Farmers noticed the potato stalks turning black. The potatoes had rotted but some of the previous harvest that had been in storage was able to be used. 1846 – Two-thirds of the year's crop was lost to blight. The potatoes in storage had been used up. The poorest began to starve and diseases spread easily. 1847 – Black '47 – The worst year of the famine. People had very few seeds to plant so the crop was very small. An estimated 300,000-500,00 died and over 250,000 emigrated. 1848-1850 – Starvation and diseases (such as typhus and cholera) worsened. Roughly 40,000 more people died in 1850 than in 1846.
THE COURSE OF THE FAMINE	
Keywords	Summary
The Great Famine Tenant farmers Cottiers Potato Blight Poverty Subdivision of land Starvation Black 47'	Between 1845 and 1850, Ireland suffered the events of the Great Famine . Many Irish farmers were tenant farmers , renting land to farm in exchange for rent. Cottiers rented 1 acre – by 1845, there were over 1 million cottiers in Ireland. Poverty , reliance on farming & the potato, and the subdivision of land made Ireland a breeding ground for the potato blight that thrived in the Irish climate. Potato blight arrived in Ireland in 1845 which turned potato stalks black. There was enough potatoes in storage to support the first year but 1846 saw two-thirds of the potato crop lost to blight . Black '47 was considered the worst year of the famine as people had very few seeds resulting in a small crop. Starvation and disease became widespread between 1846-50.

The Great Irish Famine (1845-1850)

Headings	Notes
THE COURSE OF THE FAMINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many tenant farmers and cottiers could not pay their rent and, as a result, were evicted (forcibly removed from their homes). Those who could afford to leave emigrated and were considered lucky although they faced a hard and uncertain journey. The ships were unsuitable, unstable and in poor condition. They became known as coffin ships as so many died on board of disease and starvation. The middle and upper classes were almost untouched by hunger, homelessness and disease.
FAMINE RELIEF EFFORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially, the British government took a laissez-faire ('let it be') attitude, believing that they should not interfere in the economy as it would correct itself in time. Britain did not rely on the potato for food as Ireland did, believing the blight would only affect one year of crops. As a result, Britain continued to export food from Ireland. As it became apparent that the blight would not end as quickly as believed, some help was put in place by the British government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel sent aid in the form of maize in November 1845, at cost price. Most people could not afford it nor did they know how to cook it. Public works schemes were set up for people to earn money building roads, walls or bridges for one shilling per day. This wasn't enough as prices continued to rise. Workhouses (large buildings where people worked in return for basic accommodation and food) had been established for those who had nowhere else to go in the early 1840s. By 1847, 200,000 people were in these workhouses where disease spread quickly and easily. Most aid came from charities and volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Quakers (Religious Society of Friends) set up soup kitchens in a number of towns in 1846. These soup kitchens gave hot soup to starving people who were not in workhouses. Money was raised by the Quakers and others to give practical and financial help to the Irish. Donations came from at least 19 different countries. Queen Victoria donated money, the Ottoman Sultan sent both money and food while Pope Pius IX gave Roman coins from his private income. The Choctaw Nation also raised money for those starving in Ireland.
Keywords	Summary
Eviction Soup kitchens Emigration Workhouses Coffin Ships Queen Victoria Laissez-faire Ottoman Sultan Sir Robert Peel Maize Pope Pius IX Public Work Schemes Quakers Choctaw Nation	<p>The events of the famine saw many tenant farmers evicted from their homes as they could not afford rent. Emigration rose as those who could afford to leave boarded coffin ships to escape the suffering in Ireland. The British government had a laissez-faire approach to the famine. Sir Robert Peel sent maize in Nov. 1845 but people could not afford or cook it. Public work schemes were set up but pay wasn't enough for rising costs. Workhouses were established for people who had nowhere else to go where they worked for food and accommodation. Charities such as the Quakers set up soup kitchens to feed the poor. Donations came from Queen Victoria, the Ottoman Sultan, Pope Pius IX and the Choctaw Nation to help the poor.</p>

The Great Irish Famine (1845-1850)

Headings	Notes
THE IMPACT OF THE GREAT FAMINE IN IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in population – From 1845 to 1850, the population dripped from 8 million to about 6 million as roughly 1 million died from disease or starvation while a further 1 million emigrated. • Changes in farming practices – subdivision of land was ended; the eldest son would now inherit the entire farm when his father died which resulted in larger farms but forced younger children to emigrate. Many landlords changed from tillage (crops) to pasture (cattle) farming. • Rise in anti-British feeling – Many blamed the British government for the great suffering experienced during the famine. This would lead to a boost in support for nationalist groups and a desire for Home Rule, paving the way for the upcoming uprisings and rebellions. • Decline of the Irish language – Irish-speaking areas were the worst affected by death and emigration. People began to speak English instead of Irish as it would help them find work. • New emigration trends –emigration from Ireland existed from as early as the Irish Plantations but the events of the Great Famine exacerbated the issue. In the 1881 census, the population of the island had fallen by over 3 million (37%) since 1841.
THE IRISH DIASPORA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emigration from Ireland soared from the 1840s onwards. Destinations included Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the US. The Irish diaspora refers to Irish migrants and their descendants scattered across the world.
THE IRISH DIASPORA IN BRITAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish emigration to British cities such as Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow was not new as it was cheap to travel to Britain. People sailed aboard crowded steamships that were built for transporting animals and grain. The Irish migrants were among the poorest people, living in the slums of British cities and towns. Unsanitary and overcrowded living conditions led to the spread of diseases such as cholera, typhus and tuberculosis. • At the same time as the Great Famine, Britain was experiencing its Industrial Revolution. The Irish were willing to work for low wages, making them unpopular with many British people. Later the Irish would become part of the industrial working class as publicans or shopkeepers. • The Irish were heavily involved in the building trade and transport, building the British canal, road and rail networks in the nineteenth century. • Today, up to 6 million people (10%) in the UK have an Irish-born grandparent.
Keywords	Summary
<p>Decreased population</p> <p>Changes in farming practices</p> <p>Anti-British feeling</p> <p>Decline of the Irish language</p> <p>Emigration Low wages</p> <p>Steamships Irish diaspora</p> <p>Building trade</p>	<p>The Great Famine had a massive impact on the island of Ireland. It led to a decreased population (due to 1 million emigrating and another 1 million dying), changes in farming practices (tillage to pasture as well as larger farms), a rise in anti-British feeling (and the rise of nationalism), the decline of the Irish language and new emigration trends. It also led to the Irish diaspora as emigration to Britain, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand increased.</p> <p>The Irish in Britain worked for low wages in the Industrial Revolution for jobs in the building trade after arriving there on steamships. Up to 6 million people in Britain have Irish ancestry.</p>

The Great Irish Famine (1845-1850)

Headings	Notes
<p>THE IRISH DIASPORA IN THE UNITED STATES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emigration to the US was expensive while the journey was long and difficult with strict immigration rules. • The main point of entry into the US was at New York City. Until 1890, its main immigration centre was at Castle Garden; a new immigration centre was open in 1892 at Ellis Island. • Famine immigrants were Catholic and most spoke Irish. The largely Protestant American population were not welcoming with signs such as 'No Irish Need Apply' and 'No Blacks. No Dogs. No Irish' especially when the economy was suffering. • The Irish mostly worked at manual labour jobs. Many were later recruited by the US Army to serve in the American Civil War and afterwards to build cities such as Kansas City and the Union Pacific Railroad. • Many Irish-Americans had a deep hatred towards the British government which would lead to their support of Irish nationalist movements (The Fenians and the Irish Republican Brotherhood) both politically and financially. • In 1841-1850, around 910,000 Irish emigrated to the US. Today, over 41 million Americans claim Irish ancestry including 22 US Presidents such as Barack Obama and Joe Biden, as well as actors such as Chris Evans and Robert Downey Jr.
<p>Keywords</p> <p>Expensive Labour jobs</p> <p>New York City US Army</p> <p>Castle Garden The Union Pacific Railroad</p> <p>Ellis Island</p> <p>Catholic The Fenians</p> <p>Protestant The IRB</p> <p>No Irish Need Apply</p> <p>No Blacks. No Dogs. No Irish</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>Unlike travelling to the UK, emigrating to the US was expensive. Irish emigrants arriving in the US arrived in New York City at Castle Garden (1820-1890) and then to Ellis Island (1892-1954). Most Irish faced discrimination due to being Catholic in a Protestant-majority country as well as not speaking Irish. Signs such as 'No Irish Need Apply' and 'No Blacks. No Dogs. No Irish' were common. The Irish were employed in manual labour jobs before serving in the US Army during the American Civil War and building the Union Pacific Road. Many Irish-Americans held a deep hatred towards Britain for what had happened in the Great Famine, leading to the rise in Nationalist support for groups such as the IRB and the Fenians.</p>

The Great Irish Famine (1845-1850)

Keywords	Definitions
Absentee landlords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property owners who did not live on their estates. They lived in Dublin or England and left the running of their estates to stewards.
Coffin ships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name given to the ships that carried the famine-era Irish abroad because so many starving passengers died on board.
Conacre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sub-letting of small plots of ground to grow crops, such as potatoes.
Cottier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labourers who worked for a farmer in return for one acre of land.
Emigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movement of people from their birth country to settle in another country.
Eviction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When someone is forced out of their home.
Irish diaspora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the Irish people and descendants of Irish people who live outside Ireland.
Laissez-faire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The belief that a government should intervene as little as possible in economic affairs.
Landless labourers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who lived in one-roomed cabins on the outskirts of towns and villages and found work on other people's land. Wandering labourers were called spalpeens.
Large farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers who rented more than 30 acres.
Lazy beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parallel rows of earthen ridges used to grow potatoes.
Lumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most common type of potato grown in Ireland in the 1840s.
Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The movement of people within or between countries.
Peel's brimstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name given to the maize (corn) imported by Peel's government to feed the starving Irish. It was yellow like brimstone (sulfur), hard and unpalatable.
Potato Blight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fungus that rots potatoes in the ground and makes them inedible.
Public works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government work schemes to build roads and piers
Small farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers who rented between 5 and 30 acres.
Soup kitchens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places that gave soup to starving people who were not in workhouses.
Subsistence farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing enough food to pay the rent and provide meals with almost nothing left over.
Tenant farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who rented the land they farmed. For most, crops were grown to pay rent, and potatoes were grown to feed themselves.
Workhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place where poor people could get food and shelter in return for their labour. Families were kept apart and conditions were terrible.



The Great Irish Famine



Definition

Term	Definition
Absentee landlords	Property owners who did not live on their estates. They lived in Dublin or England and left the running of their estates to stewards.
Coffin ships	Name given to the ships that carried the famine-era Irish abroad because so many starving passengers died on board.
Conacre	The sub-letting of small plots of ground to grow crops, such as potatoes.
Cottier	Labourers who worked for a farmer in return for one acre of land.
Emigration	Movement of people from their birth country to settle in another country.
Eviction	When someone is forced out of their home.
Irish diaspora	All the Irish people and descendants of Irish people who live outside Ireland.
Laissez-faire	The belief that a government should intervene as little as possible in economic affairs.
Landless labourers	People who lived in one-roomed cabins on the outskirts of towns and villages and found work on other people's land. Wandering labourers were called spailpkins.
Large farmers	Farmers who rented more than 30 acres.
Lazy beds	Parallel rows of earthen ridges used to grow potatoes.
Lumper	The most common type of potato grown in Ireland in the 1840s.
Migration	The movement of people within or between countries.
Peel's brimstone	Have given to the maize (corn) imported by Peel's government to feed the starving Irish. It was yellow like brimstone (sulphur), hard and unpalatable.
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Public works	Government work schemes to build roads and piers
Small farmers	Farmers who rented between 5 and 30 acres.
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Tenant farmers	People who rented the land they farmed. For most, crops were grown to pay rent, and potatoes were grown to feed themselves.
Workhouse	Place where poor people could get food and shelter in return for their labour. Families were kept apart and conditions were terrible.

2.7 INVESTIGATE the causes, course and consequences, nationally and internationally, of the Great Famine, and examine the significance of the Irish Diaspora

Causes

In 1841, more than 70% of the Irish population still lived in the countryside. In under a century, the Irish population had doubled to over 8.2 million. This was mainly down to two reasons: Irish people tended to marry young and have large families at the time while agricultural improvements meant more food was available. Most land was owned by landlords and was worked by tenant farmers. Large farmers were able to rent more than 30 acres while small farmers rented between 5 and 30 acres. Poorer people worked as labourers with some able to rent one acre from a farmer. These were known as cottiers. By 1845, there was about 1 million Irish cottiers. Potato blight is a fungus that spreads in damp and humid weather and destroys potato crops. In 1845, blight arrived in Ireland, causing the potato crop to fail. There were several factors which helped to make the arrival of the blight into a national catastrophe:

- The majority of Irish people lived rurally and were dependant on farming while widespread poverty meant people were already very vulnerable.
- The rise in population and the subdivision of land meant that, over time, people had to live off smaller and smaller plots of land with very large families.
- The poor were reliant on the potato for food. A small plot of land was more than enough to grow enough potatoes to feed a family as well as potatoes being easy to harvest and store.
- Cottiers worked in exchange for rent so they had no cash to buy other food.

Course

1845 - A potato blight, caused by a fungus, begins to spread across Ireland as farmers noticed the potato stalks turning black. The potatoes rot but some of the previous harvest that had been in storage was able to be used. The British government, under Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel, establishes a scientific commission to investigate the cause of the potato blight.

1846 - Two-thirds of the year's crop was lost to blight. The potatoes in storage had been used up. The poorest began to starve and diseases spread easily. The British government passes the Importation of Corn Act, which abolishes duties on imported grain in an attempt to alleviate the food shortage in Ireland.

1847 - **Black '47**: The worst year of the famine. People had very few seeds to plant so the crop was very small. An estimated 300,000-500,000 died and over 250,000 emigrated. The government's relief efforts are inadequate to address the scale of the crisis as many Irish people are forced to seek assistance from workhouses, which are overcrowded and unsanitary, leading to the spread of disease and high mortality rates.

Consequences

Decrease in population - From 1845 to 1850, the population dropped from 8 million to about 6 million as roughly 1 million died from disease or starvation while a further 1 million emigrated.

Changes in farming practices - subdivision of land was ended; the eldest son would now inherit the entire farm when his father died which resulted in larger farms but forced younger children to emigrate. Many landlords changed from tillage (crops) to pasture (cattle) farming.

Rise in anti-British feeling - Many blamed the British government for the great suffering experienced during the famine. This would lead to a boost in support for nationalist groups and a desire for Home Rule, paving the way for the upcoming uprisings and rebellions.

Decline of the Irish language - Irish-speaking areas were the worst affected by death and emigration. People began to speak English instead of Irish as it would help them find work.

New emigration trends - emigration from Ireland existed from as early as the Irish Plantations but the events of the Great Famine exacerbated the issue. In the 1881 census, the population of the island had fallen by over 3 million (37%) since 1841.

Historical Significance

Irish migrants faced challenges such as discrimination and poverty in their new homes, but they also played important roles in shaping the culture and politics of their adopted countries. In the United States, the Irish diaspora was a significant political force, particularly in urban areas such as New York City and Boston. Irish immigrants played a key role in the labour movement, and many prominent politicians, including multiple U.S. Presidents, were of Irish descent. Irish culture also had a significant influence on American music, literature, and sports. 32 million Americans claim Irish ancestry. In Britain, the Irish diaspora played a significant role in industrialization and the development of the railway system. However, the relationship between the Irish and British was often tense, and discrimination against Irish migrants was common. The Irish diaspora also had a significant impact on British politics, with many Irish politicians playing prominent roles in the Labour Party and other left-wing movements. 6 million British people claim Irish grandparents and/or Irish ancestry/origins.

The British government establishes the Poor Law Extension Act, which increases funding for relief efforts.

1848 - Starvation and diseases (such as typhus and cholera) worsened. The Young Ireland movement, which advocates for Irish independence, stages a failed uprising against British rule.

1849 - The potato crop begins to recover, and the famine slowly abates. The British government passes the Irish Poor Law Extension Act, which shifts responsibility for relief efforts from local to central government. The British government also establishes the Board of Works, which funds public works projects to provide employment for the unemployed.

1850 - Roughly 40,000 more people died in 1850 than in 1846.



The Great Irish Famine

Doodle Revision Page or Sketch Notes
Include heading(s), short notes, keywords, timelines,
images (maps, drawings, diagrams) as needed

CAUSES OF THE GREAT FAMINE

- **Overpopulation:** Ireland's population reached over 8 million by 1841, leading to **subdivision of land** and smaller farms.
- **Reliance on the Potato:** Most of the population, especially **tenant farmers** and **cottiers**, depended on the potato as their primary food source.
- **Poverty:** Many worked in exchange for rent rather than cash, leaving them vulnerable if crops failed.
- **Potato Blight:** A fungal disease that wiped out the potato crop, spreading rapidly in Ireland's damp climate.

THE FAMINE YEARS (1845-1850)

- **1845:** First signs of **potato blight**, but the early harvest prevented mass starvation.
- **1846:** Two-thirds of the crop failed, leading to widespread **starvation** and the outbreak of diseases like **typhus** and **cholera**.
- **Black '47 (1847):** No blight, but too few potatoes were planted. This was the deadliest year of the famine, with **300,000-500,000 deaths** and **mass emigration**.
- **1848-1850:** Continued starvation and disease, especially in the west of Ireland. Many faced **eviction** or were forced into **workhouses**.

FAMINE RELIEF EFFORTS

- **British Government Response:** Slow to act due to a **laissez-faire** attitude, believing the economy would correct itself.
 - **Maize:** Imported from the USA but too expensive for many.
 - **Public Works Schemes:** Employed the poor to build roads and bridges but wages were too low.
 - **Workhouses:** Overcrowded institutions where families were separated and conditions were harsh.
- **Voluntary Aid:**
 - **Soup Kitchens:** Set up by **Quakers** and later the government, offering free soup to the starving.
 - Donations came from countries and groups worldwide, including **Queen Victoria**, **Sultan Abdülmecid I**, and the **Choctaw Nation**.

IMPACT OF THE FAMINE

- **Population Decline:** Over **1 million people died** and **1 million emigrated**. Ireland's population has never returned to pre-famine levels.
- **Farming Changes:** The **subdivision** of land ended, with only the eldest son inheriting the land, and many landlords switched from **tillage farming** to **pastoral farming**.
- **Rise in Anti-British Sentiment:** The British government's slow response led to anger and a rise in **nationalist movements**.
- **Decline of the Irish Language:** The worst-hit areas were in the **Irish-speaking** west and south-west, leading to the decline of the language as English became more useful for emigration.

THE IRISH DIASPORA

- **Mass Emigration:** Irish people emigrated to countries like **Britain**, the **USA**, and **Canada**. By the **1880s**, Ireland had lost **3 million people** to emigration.
- **Life in Britain:** Irish emigrants worked as **labourers** and **dockers**, often facing discrimination. However, they gradually became part of the British working class.
- **Life in the USA:** Irish emigrants faced poverty and **discrimination** but later contributed to building **railroads** and were involved in **American politics**. Today, over **41 million Americans** claim Irish ancestry.

Ch. 17 - The Great Irish Famine

Source A is an anonymous cartoon that appeared on 24 February 1849 in the British magazine *Punch*. It shows an English labourer struggling under the weight of a grinning Irish peasant.



THE ENGLISH LABOURER'S BURDEN;
OR, THE IRISH OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN.



Source B is a *Punch* cartoon that appeared on 15 July 1848 and seems to be anonymous. It portrays a poor family in Ireland and a prosperous family living abroad.

- (a) What type of source is a political cartoon?
- (b) Give three details from source A.
- (c) What does source A tell you about some people's opinions on the famine relief being given to Ireland?
- (d) Give three details from source B.
- (e) What does source B tell you about some people's opinions about emigration during the Great Famine?
- (f) Based on your studies, describe two famine relief efforts that were used in Ireland.
- (g) Based on your studies, identify two impacts that emigration had on Ireland.

Question 3

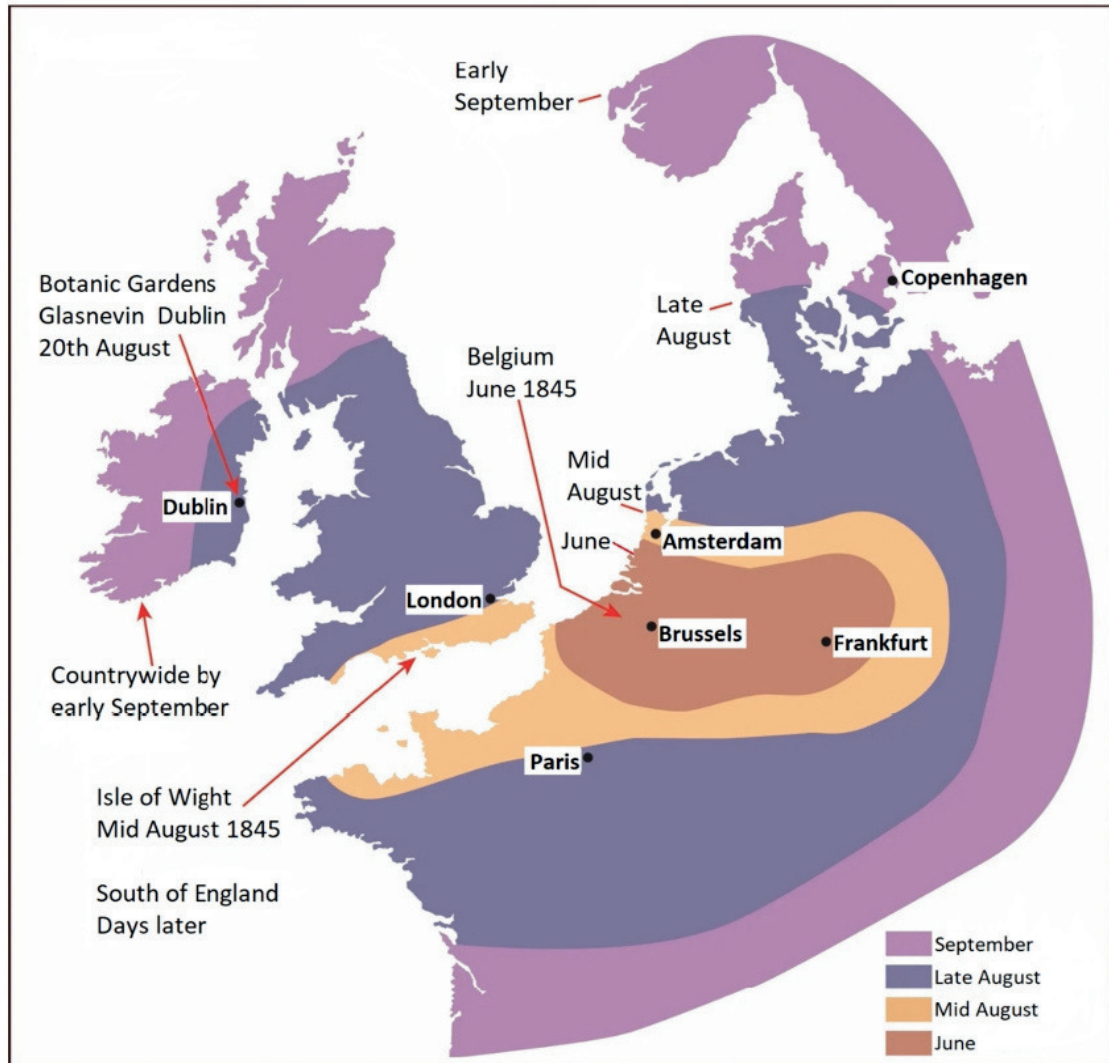
Answer the following questions which deal with the Great Famine in Ireland.

- (a) One of the terms from the list below has been matched with an explanation in the table. Match **six** other terms with explanations in the table below.

- Absentee landlord
- Monoculture
- Workhouse
- Laissez-faire (leave alone)
- Blight
- Arrears
- Cottier
- Eviction
- Conacre
- Famine
- Emigration
- Subdivision

1.	Farmers divided their land between all their sons which meant farm sizes grew smaller as time went on.	
2.	Growing one crop only, (e.g. potatoes).	
3.	A destructive fungal disease which caused potatoes to rot.	
4.	A severe shortage of food, causing illness or death to a large number of people.	
5.	A legal term for rent that is overdue.	Arrears
6.	The legal removal of a tenant from a landlord's property (house and/or land).	
7.	A landlord who lived away from his/her property and who employed an agent to look after the estate.	
8.	An economic policy which meant the government did not interfere in business or markets (e.g. to control the price of food).	
9.	A place where the poor and destitute could find accommodation and food in return for carrying out various forms of work.	
10.	The act of leaving one's own country to settle permanently in another country.	

Study the map below which shows the spread of potato blight in Europe, June - September, 1845.



(b) Name **two** countries, apart from Ireland, which were affected by the potato blight.

(c) Around what **two** cities was the blight recorded in June 1845?

(d) Where, and on what date, was the blight first recorded in Ireland?

- (e) Explain **one** advantage of showing information about the potato blight on a map rather than describing the same information in a written paragraph.

- (f) What were **four** consequences of the Famine?

Question 5

Over one million people emigrated from Ireland in the 1840s/1850s. The following sources relate to a ship containing Irish emigrants which arrived in New York on 30 November 1853. Examine the sources and answer the questions which follow.

Source 1: extract from a newspaper report describing the ship and its passengers.

The ship, *Marathon*, left Liverpool on the 22nd of September, with 522 passengers, mostly Irish. She arrived at New York after a voyage of 59 days, during which she lost 64 persons to an outbreak of cholera.

The passengers were in a state of the most wretched poverty and filth. They were lodged on two decks, one above the other. The decks were covered with reeking filth.

The passengers' provisions [food supplies] were exhausted three weeks before the ship came into port. Had the ship been delayed for a few days longer, the people would have starved.

Source 2: extract from seven columns in the ship's passenger list.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rose Moore	25	Female	Servant	Ireland	U.S.A.	
John Fitzpatrick	24	Male	Labourer	Ireland	U.S.A.	
Mary Fitzpatrick	15	Female	Servant	Ireland	U.S.A.	
Johannah Fitzpatrick	40	Female	Servant	Ireland	U.S.A.	
John Fitzpatrick	50	Male	Labourer	Ireland	U.S.A.	Died
John Fitzpatrick	5	Male	Child	Ireland	U.S.A.	
Mary Reilly	29	Female	Servant	Ireland	U.S.A.	Died
Patrick Reilly	9	Male	Child	Ireland	U.S.A.	Died
Margaret Reilly	7	Female	Child	Ireland	U.S.A.	
Bridget Reilly	5	Female	Child	Ireland	U.S.A.	Died

(a) From where did the *Marathon* set sail and how long did the journey take?

Starting point:
Length of journey:

(b) How many of the passengers survived, and how many died, on the voyage to New York?

Survived:	Died:
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- (c) In Source 1, what were **three** difficulties faced by passengers on the *Marathon*? Support each point with reference to the source.

- (d) Suggest a suitable heading for each column in Source 2. Column 6 has been done for you.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6. Destination
7.

- (e) Margaret Reilly is one of the passengers named in Source 2.
What facts could a historian write about her, using information from **both** sources?

Question 5

Examine this photograph of a sculpture on Dublin's Custom House Quay. The bronze figures represent Famine emigrants walking towards the docks to board ships to take them overseas. The sculpture was made in 1997 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine.



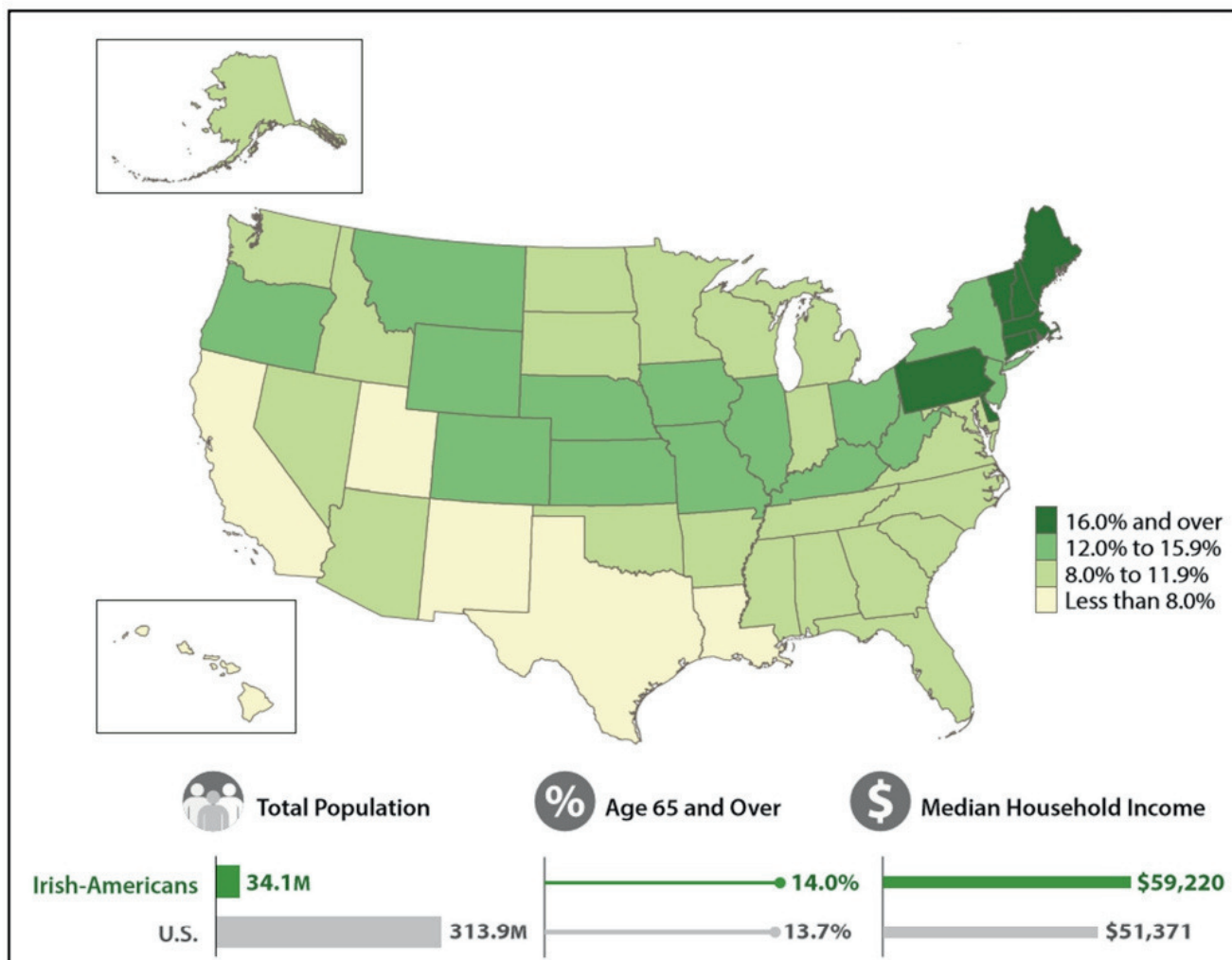
- (a) The sculpture, 'Famine', was made by Rowan Gillespie. How did Rowan Gillespie convey the idea of famine in his sculpture?

- (b) What are two types of sources that could be used to research the appearance of Irish people during the Famine in the 1840s?

- (c) It is now 170 years since the Famine ended. Why is the Famine still commemorated?

- (d) Give two reasons why Irish emigration rates remained high after the Famine ended.

Study this infographic which was produced by the United States Census Bureau in 2014. The map shows the percentage of people in each US state claiming Irish ancestry.



(e) How many Irish-Americans were there in the United States in 2014, according to this source?

(f) In the dark green areas of the map above, the proportion of people claiming Irish ancestry is 16% or higher. What was one reason why Irish immigrants tended to settle in the north-eastern corner of the United States?

- (g) Charts below the map provide US population statistics. Explain the information about age given in the second chart.

- (h) Describe two challenges that faced Irish Famine emigrants when they arrived in the United States in the mid-1800s.

Question 4

Below are ten statements about the causes, course and consequences of the Great Famine.

- (a) One term from the box has been matched with a statement from the table below. Match **eight** terms from the box with the statements from the table below.

workhouse	blight	soup kitchen	laissez faire	coffin ship
typhus	cottiers	public-works-schemes	Irish diaspora	emigration

1.	Government-funded projects to provide jobs for the poorest people. This work included building roads:	Public-work schemes
2.	Disease that caused the deaths of many people:	
3.	An opinion that the government should not become involved in trying to solve economic problems:	
4.	Farm workers who rented the smallest plots of land:	
5.	When people leave their home country to go and live in another country:	
6.	A building where people who had no home or job could go. They had to work there to receive food and shelter:	
7.	The disease that caused potatoes to rot:	
8.	Overcrowded ships on which many emigrants died:	
9.	Method of feeding the starving population:	
10.	Irish emigrants and their descendants who live outside Ireland in other countries around the world:	



Source 1: Extract from an eyewitness account of a visit to Ballydehob in Co. Cork in February 1847.

We passed a crowd of 500 people, half-naked and starving. They were waiting for soup to be distributed among them. A medical man said, 'Not a single one of these you see will be alive in three weeks; it is impossible'. The deaths here average 40 to 50 daily; 20 bodies were buried this morning and they were fortunate in getting buried at all. Fever, dysentery and starvation stare at you in the face everywhere.

- (b) From Source 1, state **three** pieces of evidence that show that people were suffering greatly during the Great Famine.

Source 2: Results of a census from 1849 recorded for the parish of Schull and neighbouring parishes in Co. Cork. Examine the table below and answer the following questions.

Schull Area – Special Census 1849				
Parish	1841	1849	Decrease	%
Kilmoe	7,234	4,778	– 2,456	– 34%
Schull	17,314	10,659	– 6,655	– 38%
Kilcoe	2,339	1,212	– 1,127	– 48%
Total	26,887	16,649	– 10,238	– 38%

- (c) By how much did the population of the parish of Schull fall from between 1841 and 1849?

--

- (d) What was the total decrease in population for the three parishes between 1841 and 1849?

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- (e) Which parish had the largest percentage decrease in population between 1841 and 1849?

--

(f) Write an account of the causes and/or consequences of the Great Famine.

The Great Irish Famine

Question 5

The following source relates to the experiences of emigrants around the time of the Great Famine. It is an extract from the book *An Emigrant's Narrative* by William Smith, which was published in 1850. In it, Smith describes his emigration journey on board the *India*, a Famine ship, from Liverpool to New York during the winter of 1847-1848. Read the extract and answer the questions which follow.

The day advertised for sailing was the 12th of that month, but in consequence of not having got in the cargo, which consisted of pig iron and earthenware, we were detained ten days, and another day to stop a leak, which sprung as the ship was leaving the dock. The immigrants were thus detained eleven days. They were of the poorest class, most of them having families, and they had only a small stock of provisions of the coarsest description, having left Ireland a week or a fortnight before the day fixed for sailing. This delay was severely felt by those poor creatures, many of them having consumed half of their provisions, with no way to obtain any more.

- (a) What were the main items of cargo on board the *India*?

- (b) For how many days in total was the ship delayed?

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- (c) Is this source a primary or secondary source? Give a reason for your answer.

Primary or secondary:
Reason:

(d) Outline the main causes of the Great Famine.

[illegible]

(e) Apart from New York, list **two** other popular city destinations for Irish emigrants during and after the Great Famine.

(f) What is the significance of the Irish Diaspora?

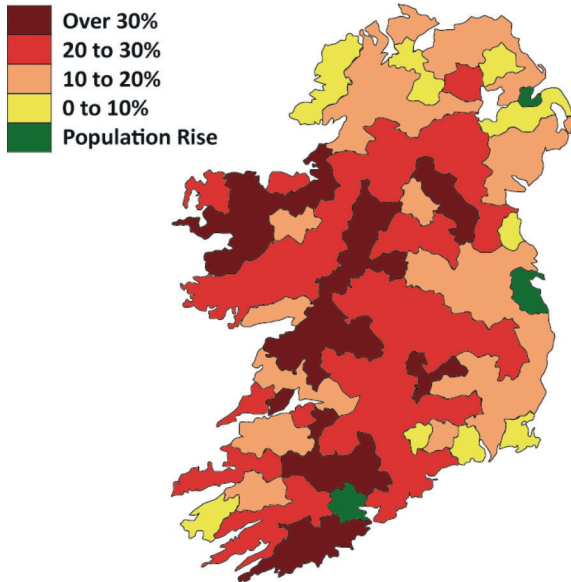
[illegible]

The Irish Plantations and Great Irish Famine

Question 5

Examine the map below relating to population changes in Ireland, 1841-1851 and the table showing the total population of selected Irish counties, 1841-1991.

Population in Ireland 1841-1851



**Population of selected Irish counties
(in thousands), 1841-1991**

Year	Mayo	Louth	Dublin	Leitrim
1841	389	128	373	155
1861	255	91	410	112
1881	245	78	419	90
1901	199	66	448	69
1926	173	63	506	56
1946	148	66	636	45
1961	123	67	718	33
1981	115	89	1003	28
1991	110	91	1025	25

- (a) Name two counties which have shown a constant decline in population from 1841 to 1991.

1.
2.

- (b) Why do you think Dublin is the only county to show consistent growth in population for the same period?

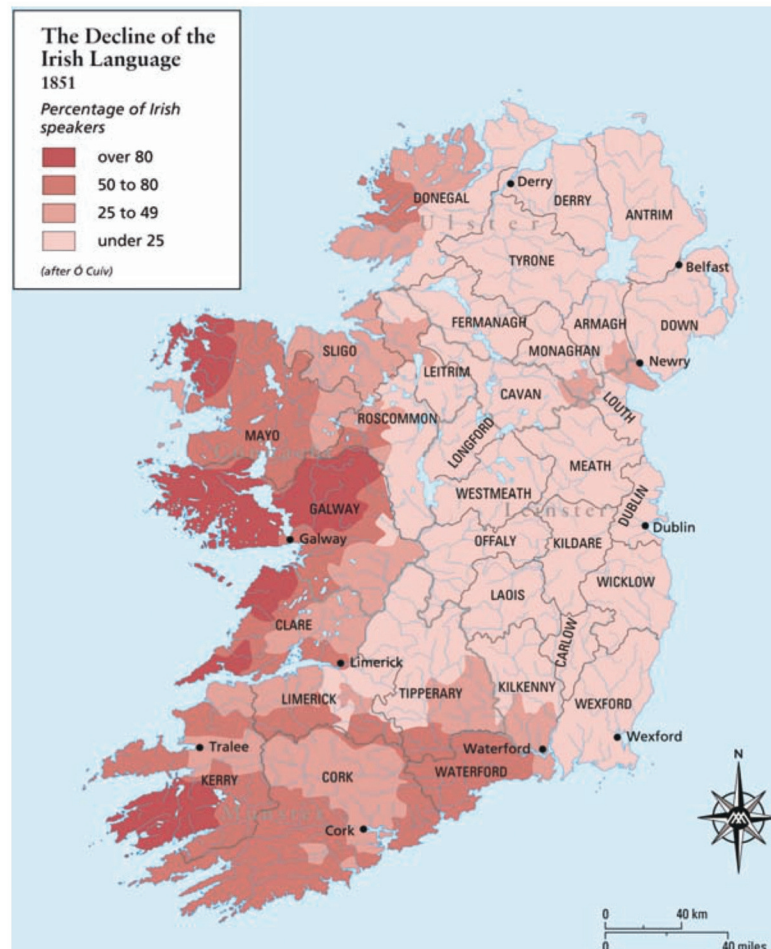
- (c) From your study of history, why does the map show a decline in population for most of Ireland during the period, 1841-1851?

- (d) Give two reasons for the decline in population between 1841 and 1851.

1.
2.

- (e) Explain one source that a historian could use to analyse changes in population for a given area over a period of time.

Study the map below and answer the questions which follow.



(f) Name two counties where the percentage of Irish speakers was over 80% and two counties where the percentage of Irish speakers was under 25%, according to this source.

Over 80% of population speaking Irish	1.
	2.
Under 25% of population speaking Irish	1.
	2.

(g) Give one reason why the decline of the Irish language was slower in certain parts of Ireland.

